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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 26, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend James Stoeger, S.J., President, Jesuit Secondary Education Association, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of love, bless the Members of this House. Please help those who labor here recognize how You are present in their service and leadership. Guide them as they seek to be effective for the good of all Your people.

Loving God, may our leaders be alert to the cares, hurts, and challenges of our citizens and our communities. Help those leaders choose well directions and actions that benefit those likely to be left out and all who express and strengthen our Nation's values, which are our greatest assets.

May we hear and pursue Your sacred message, merciful God, that we be women and men with the capacity of peacemakers, realistic and also deeply thoughtful and wise.

Finally, gentle God, bring to those who serve here a participation in Your own gifts, such as rich insight and also joy, in their care for the well-being of our country and the world.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the

point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, President Obama seems hell-bent on striking a nuclear deal with Iran, a deal that would hurt our national security interests and sell out our proven ally and friend, Israel.

Let's be clear: Iran is a foe, not a friend. Just consider: last week, Iran's supreme leader said "death to America"; the regime has blood of American soldiers on its hands; and Iran is working overtime to expand influence in the region.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is determined to be a nuclear power, period. Unfortunately, the President seems intent to ignore the majority of American people who believe this deal would not prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Speaker, the President is going rogue. That is wrong. He needs to stop.

Nothing less than our national security is at stake.

### HONORING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Miami Beach in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Incorporated on March 26, 1915, Miami Beach took its place on the map with only a handful of residents. Now home to nearly 100,000 people, the city of Miami Beach has not only grown in population, but in reputation. This vacation paradise is an internationally recognized tourist destination visited by millions each year, a hub for business, and a trendsetter in the areas of arts, culture, fine dining, and entertainment.

This week, Miami Beach celebrated its centennial with 100 hours of showcasing its history and all that the city has to offer, culminating in an ocean-front concert by Miami Beach residents and cultural icons Gloria Estefan, Barry Gibb, and Andrea Bocelli.

It is a great honor for me to represent the city of Miami Beach in our Nation's Capitol. I thank Mayor Philip Levine, the members of the city commission, and the city's staff for their many accomplishments that have made the city of Miami Beach a wonderful place to work, live, visit, and raise a family.

### CONGRATULATING THE WICHITA STATE SHOCKERS

(Ms. JENKINS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wichita State Shockers on their victory against the Kansas Jayhawks this

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

past weekend. Despite a valiant effort by the Jayhawks, the Shockers and Coach Gregg Marshall prevailed, just as my friend Congressman POMPEO predicted.

In Kansas, we are proud of our State's rich basketball tradition, from James Naismith to Dean Smith, to Adolph Rupp, to Gene Smithson, to Jack Gardner, to Wilt Chamberlain, to Xavier McDaniel, to Mitch Richmond. I could go on and on and on.

However, as two proud Kansas schools, the real victor here is the State of Kansas. We love the competition, but after the game is over, we are all one big family. My daughter currently attends Wichita State, I attended K-State, and I represent KU, so I know full well the pride we have in all our teams.

So as the Shockers move on to the Sweet 16 for the second time in 3 years, I wish them the best of luck tonight and beyond.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IS KILLING HUMANITY

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise because the majority is making worse the one issue that can kill humanity as a species—climate change. The majority's budget exacerbates America's overdependence on foreign oil and reliance on the dirty and unsafe fuels of the 19th century.

But there is a better way. We need to produce more energy-saving appliances and machines that are designed, manufactured, and installed by American workers. It is time to invest in new and renewable energies that never go away, such as wind, solar, and biofuels. It is time to do what is best for America, not what is best for coal companies.

Mr. Speaker, let me end by saying: Go, UCLA.

#### WISHING SCOTT KELLY THE BEST AS HE EMBARKS ON AMERICA'S YEARLONG SPACE ADVENTURE

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the American people's attention to NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly as he prepares to make history tomorrow when he embarks on a yearlong mission to the International Space Station.

As the proud representative of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kelly several times to discuss his historic mission. This will mark the first time that an American has spent an entire year continuously in space.

On the eve of this important moment, I would like to thank Mr. Kelly

for his heroic commitment, leadership, and dedication to advancing America's human spaceflight program.

Mr. Speaker, his mission to the International Space Station provides a tremendous boost to our human spaceflight program, while furthering our understanding of the effects that longer term exposure to weightlessness has on the body. This understanding will pave the way for crewed missions to Mars.

On behalf of a proud American public, Scott, we wish you all the best, and thank you.

#### CALIFORNIA AEROSPACE WEEK

(Mr. KNIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, this is California Aerospace Week.

California is rich in our history of flight. In my district alone, we have seen the sound barrier broken for the first time and the ultimate airspeed record set, and many other flights from the F-80 through our beloved F-22. We have also seen my district build all of the space shuttles, all of the B-1s, all of the B-2s, and most of the fighters that fly over our friendly skies.

Our State has had an over 100-year history in flight, and Aerospace Week culminates that production and that test. Our State and my district have continued to put America in the lead over the skies, and we will continue to do so in the future.

#### KEEPING OUR COMMITMENTS TO OUR RURAL COUNTIES

(Mr. WALDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, we have a great opportunity before us today to not only provide certainty for healthcare providers and seniors by repealing the flawed SGR for Medicare, but also to fund rural schools and rural forested counties. So I commend my colleagues for their work on this with me.

Included in this legislation is 2 years' worth of funding for the Secure Rural Schools program. Now, this is like one of those cans of Fix-A-Flat, if you will. It is an emergency repair on the side of the road to solve a short-term problem, when what we really need is a permanent fix for our forested counties. But this is an emergency, and what we are doing here today is providing that lifeline to our schoolchildren in the classrooms in our rural counties that are forested under Federal land and making sure that our local law enforcement folks have the resources they need and, in my own State of Oregon, protecting some counties from actually going bankrupt because of lack of manage-

ment and lack of activity on our Federal lands.

So I remain fully committed to working on forestry legislation that puts people back to work in the woods, reduces the threat of wildfire, and produces the revenue to allow for self-sustaining counties and the people in them. I just hope this time with a new Senate we will be able to move forward.

#### A BUDGET IS A VALUES STATEMENT

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on the budget that was passed yesterday out of this House by the Republicans.

I come from Scranton, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of our Vice President. Our Vice President is often heard to say that people talk about family values all the time, family values this, family values that. He says: Look, don't talk to me about your values. Show me your budget, and I will tell you what your values are.

This Republican budget was something that I could not support because it will have the effect of cutting over 1 million jobs over the next year. Even worse than that, it will turn Medicare into, effectively, a voucher program. If you are on Medicare and you need treatment and they give you a voucher, you had better hope that that voucher covers the services you need; otherwise, you are out of luck.

So if your values include increasing jobs and employment in this country and taking care of our seniors, that Republican budget was not the one to vote for.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 27, 2015, THROUGH APRIL 10, 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 173 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 173

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall

be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from March 27, 2015, through April 10, 2015—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. The Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means each may, at any time before 5 p.m. on April 6, 2015, file reports to accompany measures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 0915

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 173 provides for consideration of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, under a closed rule, reflecting the careful, intricate, bipartisan negotiations which brought this legislation to the floor.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided among the chairs and ranking members of the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

As is customary, the rule allows the minority to offer a motion to recommit on the bill.

Finally, the rule provides for the customary district work period authority.

This bill, H.R. 2, resolves an issue that many of us have worked on for our entire congressional careers.

This bill reflects years of bipartisan work, work across committees, and even work across the Capitol with the other body. We brought together Members of all ideological groups, as well as diverse outside groups. We coalesced around a policy that will help patients, help doctors, help providers to get out from under the constant threat of payment cuts under the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula.

Everyone agrees that Medicare's sustainable growth formula has got to go. Today, we are considering a bill to realistically accomplish that goal.

The SGR formula was enacted as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 in an attempt to restrain Federal spending in Medicare part B. We now know that that is not working.

The SGR consists of expenditure targets which apply a growth rate designed to bring spending in line.

Since 2002, the SGR formula has resulted in a reduction in physician reimbursement rates. However, even though Congress has consistently passed legislation to override the formula, these patches have resulted in hundreds of billions of spent funds that could have gone to improving the Medicare system.

If Congress were to let the formula continue, physicians would face a 21 percent reduction in reimbursement rates on April 1. The sustainable growth rate's unrealistic assumptions of spending inefficiency have plagued the healthcare profession and our Medicare beneficiaries for over 13 years.

The bill before us repeals the sustainable growth rate formula, avoiding potentially devastating across-the-board cuts slated to go into effect next week. We do so at a cost lower than what Congress has already spent or is likely to spend over the next 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office has found that enacting H.R. 2 will cost less than if we patched this formula over the next 10 years.

The bill before us today provides 5 years of payment transition. It allows improved beneficiary access and allows medicine to concentrate on moving to broad adoption of quality reporting and, most importantly, allows Congress to move past the distraction of the SGR formula and to begin identifying Medicare reforms that can further benefit our citizens. This will also allow providers the time to develop and test quality measures and clinical practice improvement activities, which will be used for performance assessment during phase II.

During the stability period, physicians will receive annual increases of one half of 1 percent. It seems small, but it is above what has been provided over the past several years.

The quality measures are implemented in what is called the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System. That will be evidence-based and developed through a transparent process that values input from provider groups. Quality reporting will measure providers against their peers rather than a one-size-fits-all generic standard. Providers will also self-determine their measures.

The bill consolidates three reporting programs into this incentive payment system, easing administrative burdens and furthering the congressionally established goals of quality, resource use, and meaningful use.

This new reimbursement structure ensures continued access to high-quality care while providing physicians with certainty and security in their reimbursements. They will be aware of the benchmark they are competing against and, unlike current law, all penalties assessed on those not meeting the benchmark will go to those who do, keeping the dollars in the Medicare system.

Provider standards will be developed by professional organizations in conjunction with existing programs and will incorporate ongoing feedback to physicians, further ensuring that optimal care is provided to the patient.

Realtime feedback will be gained through registries and performance data. Physicians will be encouraged to participate in the process through data reporting. For eligible professionals who choose to opt out of the fee-for-service program, alternative payment models will be available.

These alternative payment models may include a patient-centered medical home, whether they are in primary or specialty care, bundled care, or episodes of care. Qualifying practices that move a significant amount of their patients into these alternative payment models could see a 5 percent quality bonus. By encouraging alternative payment models and care coordination, this legislation will foster and facilitate innovation.

It is important to note that while taking these important steps toward ensuring quality care, the bill specifically states that these quality measures are not creating a Federal right of action or a legal standard of care.

Mr. Speaker, from beginning to end, this bill is about access: access for our seniors, access for those who utilize the Nation's 9,000 community health centers, and, very importantly, the over 8 million children who receive their care at some point during the year through the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The bill also addresses health programs that have become known as "extenders." Most are extended for 2 years under the bill. By resolving the SGR, Congress will have the ability to commit itself to working through these policies in the future.

The bill also puts into place important structural reforms to Medicare that are the first steps toward starting the Medicare program on a really long-term trajectory towards fiscal stability.

The bill is consistent in its themes throughout: payment stability; reduce and streamline the administrative burden; increase predictability and provider's interactions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; build transparency into systems; encourage innovation of delivery of services; and keep providers in the driver's seat.

Most importantly, we provide access to care for our Nation's patients.

America's providers agree:

"The American Osteopathic Association views this bipartisan legislation as a clear and definitive approach toward comprehensive reforms in our health care system for children, seniors, and our Nation's physicians."

Here is one from the American Academy of Family Physicians:

"This legislation is the result of bipartisan negotiations that have produced legislative responses to some of our Nation's most pressing health care issues."

America's Essential Hospitals praised this bill, stating:

"This legislation represents the first truly bipartisan major health care legislation in years. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by—approve H.R. 2 as swiftly as possible."

This is just a small sampling of the close to 800 organizations spanning the political spectrum who have come together to endorse this bill. From primary care, to specialists, to surgeons, to organized nursing, our Nation's hospitals, and everyone in between, they have supported this policy.

For that reason, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the underlying bills.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for the customary 30 minutes. I also want to thank him for his work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Congress has shirked its responsibility when it came to permanently fixing the sustainable growth rate formula. Since its inception, our Nation's doctors and hospitals were held hostage to a misguided funding formula that was included as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

I voted against the Balanced Budget Act back then when I was a new Member of Congress. It was plain to me that the Medicare cuts and proposed financing included in that bill were simply impossible to sustain. I am glad that 18 years later Congress is finally doing the right thing and repealing the sus-

tainable growth rate formula and replacing it with a payment system based on value.

It is past time that we repeal this misguided formula that has wreaked havoc throughout our healthcare system. Year after year after year, Congress, whether controlled by Democrats or Republicans, was forced to temporarily patch this formula. And year after year after year, Congress did the bare minimum, providing a temporary fix without actually addressing the real problem and permanently repealing the formula.

Today, Congress is finally doing the right thing. That alone is worth supporting. But this bill does more than just repeal the sustainable growth rate formula. Instead, it provides a clearly defined schedule of payment adjustments that will give physicians and healthcare providers the stability they need while ensuring quality and value in the services patients require.

In addition, H.R. 2 also provides critical funding through September 2017 for our Nation's community health centers, funding that was initially provided under the Affordable Care Act, and it also provides support for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

I have already started to hear from hospitals in my district about why this bill is good for them and good for their patients. UMass Memorial Medical Center, in my hometown of Worcester, is one of the Nation's most distinguished academic healthcare systems and is the safety net hospital for all of central Massachusetts. The folks there are pleased to see the delay in additional cuts to safety net hospitals and the delay in the implementation of the two-midnight rule.

Now, this bill is not perfect—nothing around here is ever perfect—but this is the result of long and careful bipartisan negotiation. Even though there are many very positive aspects of this bill, there are some provisions that are more problematic, and I would be remiss if I didn't at least mention some of them.

Most troubling is the inclusion of the Hyde amendment and its application to the funding for the community health centers. It is important to clarify that this language is not a permanent extension or codification of the Hyde amendment. It only applies to the funding for community health centers and expires when that funding expires. It does not affect non-Federal funds. In fact, it is the same language that has been included in annual appropriations bills for nearly three decades.

Let me be clear: I do not support the Hyde amendment. However, the language in this bill mirrors both President Obama's executive order and the language included in the annual appropriations bills.

And I wish the CHIP extension was for 4 years rather than 2. But in this

environment, I think that having a 2-year extension is a good thing, is an accomplishment, is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important accomplishment, and I want to thank both Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI for their work in reaching this compromise, a deal that will finally enable this House to move away from annual doc-fix patches and toward providing stability and certainty for Medicare physicians and patients.

I am encouraged by the process taken to reach this agreement. For a Congress that I might say accurately has been called "broken," "hopeless," "helpless"—a Congress plagued by gridlock and extreme partisanship—this bill represents what I hope will be a renewed commitment by my friends in the majority to work across the aisle with Democrats to address some of our country's most pressing issues. It is, and has always been, the way Congress passes important, substantive, and even historic legislation.

This place can work when we work together. Just look at what this House has done over the past few weeks. We responsibly kept the Department of Homeland Security open, and now we are on the verge of passing an incredibly vital bipartisan bill to repeal the sustainable growth rate, fund community health centers, and reauthorize CHIP.

I hope this bipartisan approach is contagious. I hope this is not the exception but becomes the rule. Every Member represents the same number of constituents, and every voice in this House needs and deserves to be heard.

Today—thanks to the leadership of Leader PELOSI and Speaker BOEHNER and so many others—we are doing something that we can feel good about, something more than a campaign slogan, something that is more than red meat for the political base.

□ 0930

This is something that will help seniors, kids, and low-income families. It deserves our support.

Before I reserve my time, Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy, which begins with the following:

"The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 2 because it would reform the flawed Medicare physician payment system to incentivize quality and value" and "would make reforms that could help slow health care cost growth, and would extend other important programs such as health care coverage for children."

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2—MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(Rep. Burgess, R-Texas, and 10 cosponsors)

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 2 because it would reform the flawed Medicare physician payment system



to incentivize quality and value (a proposal called for in the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget), would make reforms that could help slow health care cost growth, and would extend other important programs such as health care coverage for children.

Medicare payments to physicians are determined under a formula, commonly referred to as the "sustainable growth rate" (SGR). This formula has called for reductions in physician payment rates since 2002, which the Congress has overridden 17 times. Under the SGR, physician payment rates would be reduced by about 21 percent on April 1, 2015. A cut of this magnitude could reduce access to physicians for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the country. H.R. 2 would replace this system with one that offers predictability and accelerates participation in alternative payment models that encourage quality and efficiency. The proposal would advance the Administration's goal of moving the Nation's health care delivery system toward one that achieves better care, smarter spending, and healthier people through the expansion of new health care payment models, which could contribute to slowing long-term health care cost growth.

The Administration also supports the legislation's inclusion of a continuation of policies and funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The President's Budget includes a four-year extension of this program, which has provided meaningful health coverage to over eight million children; extending CHIP would ensure continued, comprehensive, affordable coverage for these children. H.R. 2 also includes other important proposals in the President's Budget, such as an extension of the Home Visiting Program and additional funding for the Community Health Center (CHC) Fund, although the legislation includes restrictions on the use of the CHC Fund which would be unnecessary given Executive Order 13535. The Administration supports the legislation's provision to make permanent the Qualifying Individual program, which pays the Medicare Part B premiums for certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

The legislation would pay for costs above what is needed to hold Medicare payments to physicians fixed at their current level. The savings would come from sensible reforms, which are expected to cover a larger share of the bill's costs over the long run. These include cost-saving changes to Medicare provider payments as well as increases in the income-related premium for certain high-income Medicare beneficiaries, who represent about five percent of those covered by Medicare. A similar proposal was included in the President's Budget to help improve the financial stability of the Medicare program by reducing the Federal subsidy of Medicare costs for those who need the subsidy the least. The bill also would, starting in 2020, prohibit Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Medigap) policies from covering the Part B deductible (currently \$147) for new beneficiaries. This would encourage more efficient health care choices, lowering Medicare costs and Medigap premiums.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING. I would like to thank my good friend, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2. As a family physician who has been in private practice since 1982, I have

seen a lot of things happen with Medicare, and this idea of sustainable growth rate, SGR, which came up in 1997—a Republican idea—is not only flawed, it is idiotic.

It requires physicians to control throughout the country the entire volume of services provided, something that is absolutely impossible to do. It actually has had the opposite effect that was desired, and it has actually increased the amount of activity because of the loss of the valuable economic foundations that are necessary to make this system work.

What this repeal of SGR will do is, number one, actually show what the cost of this is. We have been hiding it, like a shell game, for years with temporary patches that last, oh, maybe a year and sometimes less.

Not only will this pay for itself in the second decade, but it actually begins to lower that cost even in the first decade, and it does so by using several mechanisms but with two important reforms that my colleagues need to know about.

One, it reforms Medigap policies, which gives patients skin in the game. It makes patients, once again, a part of the decision team so that they, by having some element of price sensitivity, can work with the doctors to decide what is necessary and what is not, what is affordable and what is not; also, it asks higher-income seniors to do their share.

Remember that the current Medicare system is a highly subsidized system for everybody, including for Warren Buffett, a \$40 billion billionaire who gets his health care subsidized.

I urge my colleagues to support this. This will increase patient care.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA).

Mr. BERA. I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor who has cared for hundreds of seniors on Medicare, this is an important step forward because, for over a decade, we have had this flawed formula that has put the security of seniors' health care access at risk.

I want to applaud Dr. BURGESS, and I want to applaud the bipartisan Doctors Caucus. You will hear from a lot of doctors here in Congress that this is a step forward because, when we took our oath to practice medicine, we took an oath to put our patients first.

This is a good bill that puts our patients first: our seniors, folks who have worked their whole lives and who now, in retirement, need that security of being able to see their doctors. This bill repeals a flawed formula that has been patched 17 times over the years, and it replaces it with a better formula, a formula that moves us away from this fee-for-service model and

that moves us toward practicing higher quality care and putting our patients first.

It is not a perfect bill. Like many, I am disappointed to see the Hyde amendment included in this bill. I have always stood against the Hyde amendment and against other attempts to restrict a woman's right to make her own reproductive health decisions.

The Hyde amendment is a temporary rider that expires every year; and we, along with many women across this country, look forward to the day when it will end. I came to Congress to put people first. I came to Congress to work across the aisle in a bipartisan way and to put our country first, and this is a great attempt.

Again, I applaud the doctors in Congress. I applaud the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Speaker, and the leader of the Democratic Party here in the House for working together to put people first.

This is a good bill as 7.4 million patients will still have access to care at community health centers, 8 million low-income children and pregnant women will still have access to care through the CHIP program, 49 million patients are enrolled in Medicare, and another 10,000 baby boomers enroll every day. This is a good thing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, we have got to honor the promises that we have made to our constituents and to the people of America. We have got to honor the promises that we have made to our patients and doctors. This is a good bill.

I look forward to voting for and passing this bill today and to continuing to move America forward.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for all of your good work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule for H.R. 2.

Since the current flawed Medicare payment rate was enacted in 1997, Congress has kicked the can down the road and has passed 17 different patches to avoid devastating cuts to Medicare. These patches have cost the taxpayers almost \$170 billion, more money than it will cost to permanently fix this problem right now.

Today, we have the opportunity to actually fix a major problem and pass meaningful legislation that will help keep Medicare solvent and ensure that seniors are able to get the medical care they deserve.

As a doctor who has taken care of patients in northern Michigan for over 30

years, I know how terrible it would be if we failed to act today and how seniors would bear the brunt of that failure. Today's legislation may not be perfect; it is a bipartisan compromise that will ensure that Medicare continues to provide necessary health care for my constituents in northern Michigan.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense and long overdue fix.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan compromise that we will address this afternoon over SGR will strengthen Medicare by lowering costs and by ensuring that seniors have the doctors of their choice. While this agreement has important provisions, including critical programs to help low-income seniors, families, and children, it does fall short in a few ways.

As a member of the Pro-Choice Caucus, I am disappointed that this deal both ignores the need for women to have access to their healthcare providers and that it includes an antichoice provision. Today's bill falls short of measures to increase women's access to necessary health measures, such as annual exams or prescription medications.

The other troubling aspect of today's bill is the inclusion of the Hyde amendment, as the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned. This is clearly another attack to block access to reproductive care. The inclusion of this language is disappointing because it permits antichoice language in an otherwise pragmatic, bipartisan compromise in exchange for community health center funding.

I plan to support this bipartisan compromise because it solves longstanding problems and is a step in the right direction.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 18½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Massachusetts has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, which is a bill to repeal and replace the sustainable growth rate.

This bill presents an historic opportunity for Congress to end the doc fix and comprehensively reform the Medicare physician payment system once and for all. SGR has been broken for over a decade, and Congress has passed a temporary patch for this law 17 times. The price of putting off a perma-

nent fix has cost the taxpayers almost \$170 billion and has masked the insolvency of Medicare.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Mr. BURGESS' legislation to repeal SGR would save \$900 million over the next decade, compared to freezing payment rates for physician services.

After a decade of Congress patching the flawed SGR formula, it is finally time to permanently repeal and replace the system once and for all. I urge my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to pass this bill and finally fix the doc fix.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include the following statements for the RECORD in support of H.R. 2: the statement by the Massachusetts Hospital Association, a statement by the Massachusetts Medical Society, a list of a number of groups in support of H.R. 2, statements by the American Hospital Association, SEIU, and others. They are all in support of this bill.

MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
(MHA) STATEMENT ON H.R. 2  
March 25, 2015

The Massachusetts Hospital Association gives its full support to H.R. 2, the U.S. House bipartisan package to permanently repeal the Medicare physician Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).

We are especially relieved because there have been 17 short-term SGR fixes over the past few years, nearly all of which included significant reimbursement cuts to hospitals and other providers for nothing more than a couple-month band aid. This bill draws these short term patches to an end. We are relieved that Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding, community health center funding, and a continued delay to enforcement of the two-midnight rule are included.

We support the bill not only for what it does, but also for what it does not do; it rejects cuts to graduate medical education, Medicare bad debt, site neutral cuts to hospital outpatient departments and inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and it does not include unsound and inequitable area wage index and rural floor policies.

Obviously, we would prefer not to be part of the offsets to help pay for the package, but we are realistic and especially so because we realize that if this deal falls through and Congress must consider another one-year SGR delay, then these cuts to providers will still be in play to pay for a meaningless, additional one-year delay. We strongly prefer a permanent SGR fix and therefore give our full support to this bill.

Most importantly, we thank our congressional delegation for their efforts on behalf of hospitals. Given the political environment that has been a barrier to collaboration on major legislation, this bill represents an exceptional accomplishment that benefits hospitals, physicians, other providers, and most notably, the long term health of the Medicare program.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
Waltham, MA, March 25, 2015.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,  
Cannon House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: I am writing you as President of the Massachu-

setts Medical Society to urge you to vote in support of HR 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. Your support for this legislation will be critical to its success and our members' ability to continue to treat Medicare and Tricare patients who need and deserve quality health care. Moreover this bill will continue funding for the CHIP program at increased levels for two years and provide necessary funds for our Community Health Centers, a vital component of our health care system.

We have been extremely grateful for your ongoing support for SGR reforms in the past. As you are well aware, Congress has passed 17 temporary measures which ultimately have cost the government more money than a permanent solution. We believe the time has finally come to pass permanent Medicare physician payment reform.

The importance of the SGR reforms extends well beyond the 26,000 members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It will impact the nearly 71,597 military families who receive their health insurance through Tricare, the 74,525 people employed by physicians and the over 1,104,483 Medicare beneficiaries who live in the Commonwealth. This bill will also impact every hospital in the state that employs physicians, every medical device manufacturer who sells products to physicians' offices and the myriad of organizations that rely on Medicare dollars. This bill is about ensuring seniors and military families' access to care. It is about sustaining physician practices. Of equal importance, this legislation will significantly foster and reward changes in the health care delivery system that we all hope to achieve.

We also strongly support provisions reauthorizing the CHIP program. The MMS has been a strong supporter of this program since its inception. This legislation provides an opportunity for Congress to address the health care needs of children and low-income Americans by extending funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and providing critical support for Community Health Centers. We believe a straightforward 2 year reauthorization of the CHIP program at the 23% increased rates set by the ACA would be critically important to the patients served by this program. Should the program not be reauthorized at these levels it is estimated that Massachusetts could lose millions of dollars—funds that this state desperately needs.

We knew that passage of final SGR repeal would never be easy. But we are truly at that point where we believe the leadership has developed a SGR strategy that is achievable.

As President of the Massachusetts Medical Society I want to thank you for your ongoing support for Medicare payment reform and urge you to continue your support by voting for HR 2 when it comes to the House floor.

Sincerely,

RICHARD S. PIETERS, M.D.

SOME OF THE GROUPS SUPPORTING H.R. 2,  
MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Center for American Progress, Families USA, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), National Coalition on Health Care (coalition of over 80 groups), Healthcare Leadership Council, March of Dimes, JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes), Georgetown Center for Children and Families, National Association of Community Health Centers, Third Way, Bipartisan Policy Center, American Medical Association, American College of Physicians,

American College of Surgeons, American College of Cardiology, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Family Physicians.

American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, American Association of Medical Colleges, Digestive Health Physicians Association, American College of Radiology, Council of Academic Family Medicine, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, America's Essential Hospitals, Children's Hospital Association, Catholic Health Association of the United States, American Health Care Association, National Center for Assisted Living.

American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American College of Nurse-Midwives, Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, Medical Group Management Association, Premier Group Management Association, VHA Inc., LUGPA (Large Urology Group Practice Association), National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, National Retail Federation.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, March 24, 2015.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the nearly 5,000 members of the American Hospital Association, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2, bipartisan legislation to repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula for physician payments under the Medicare program. We believe Congress should move forward and address this issue on a permanent basis.

While we are disappointed that hospitals would be looked to as an offset given that Medicare already pays less than the cost of delivering services to beneficiaries, the package strikes a careful balance in the way it funds the SGR repeal and embraces a number of structural reforms to the Medicare program. Equally important, the legislation rejects a number of flawed policy options, including reductions to outpatient hospital services (so-called "site-neutral" cuts), Medicare bad debt payments, graduate medical education, critical access hospitals and certain services provided in rehabilitative hospitals. Moreover, the bill rejects a further delay in the ICD-10 program, and prevents a potential 0.55 percent coding offset previously proposed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The legislation also eliminates cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital program in fiscal year 2017. Finally, the bill includes a needed extension of a number of expiring provision (so-called extenders), including the Medicare Dependent Hospital program, the rural low-volume adjustment, the rural ambulance add-on, the partial enforcement delay on Medicare's "two-midnight" policy, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

We commend the House Republican and Democratic leadership in their design of this package, and urge the House to pass it.

Sincerely,

RICH UMBDENSTOCK,  
President and CEO.

SEIU,  
March 25, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) ex-

presses its support for H.R. 2, legislation that would permanently replace the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula used to determine Medicare payments to doctors. We appreciate the bipartisan negotiations that led to this compromise, and, at this point in the process, urge House members to vote yes to move the process forward.

Tens of millions of Americans, and approximately one million of SEIU members, have jobs that depend on a strong health care economy, and many work in environments that face considerable strains as a result of the uncertainty created by the SGR. For example, due to short-term SGR patches, hospitals face the threat of problematic payment changes every several months, creating an unpredictable landscape that adversely affects the ability of hospitals to provide care as well as their ability to support the health care workforce. Long-term, the pressure that the SGR creates will continue to grow because the cost of replacing the policy, in both patches and in its entirety, only increases radically over time. H.R. 2 permanently replaces the SGR formula, offsetting \$70 billion in costs, preventing significantly higher and potentially more harmful cuts to Medicare and other health care programs now and in the future.

In addition to relieving the burden that the costs of SGR patches and replacement place on the health care system, this legislation extends, and in some case makes permanent, programs that are essential to low- and moderate-income families. H.R. 2 extends full funding under current law for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for an additional two years. CHIP funding is set to expire in September 2015. Millions of families, including those of our members, depend on CHIP to provide health care coverage for their children. Though we support extending CHIP funding under current law for four years, extending CHIP funding under current law for two years does provide predictability that states need to appropriately administer the program and prevents problematic changes in eligibility and coverage that would limit access to care or increase costs for the CHIP population. In addition, this legislation provides an additional funding for Community Health Centers, a critically important source of health care for millions of families. Finally, the legislation makes permanent the Qualifying Individual (QI) program, which covers the cost of Medicare Part B premiums for low-income people with Medicare, and the Transitional Medicaid Assistance (TMA) program, which supports families losing coverage. These important programs that protect low-income populations are set to expire and, without passage of this legislation, face an uncertain future, as historically they have been extended only on a temporary basis.

Like any compromise, this package has serious flaws. As previously stated, House Republican leaders should have agreed to fund CHIP under current law for an additional four years and should not have required changes to Medicare benefits in order to reach an agreement. While some of the changes to Medicare are mitigated because they only apply to consumers with truly higher incomes, we have concerns about the precedents set by these changes and changes to Medicaid coverage policies. In addition, we continue to oppose any language that expands policies that deny millions of women the right to access the full range of reproductive health care services. Lastly, in order to avoid policy changes that put additional financial burdens on beneficiaries and pro-

viders—who have already faced significant SGR-related cuts—other stakeholders should have been required to contribute more in terms of offsets. However, despite these concerns, when considering the potential impact of this package versus the adverse consequences that non-resolution of both the SGR and CHIP funding may have on all health programs and the populations they serve, we believe that this is an acceptable solution that House members should support.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote yes on this compromise legislation. If you have any questions, please call Ilene Stein, SEIU Assistant Legislative Director.

Sincerely,

MARY KAY HENRY,  
International President.

STATEMENT BY SENIOR FELLOW ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, SENIOR FELLOW DR. ZEKE EMANUEL, AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH POLICY TOPHER SPIRO

The Center for American Progress supports the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, or MACRA. This bipartisan legislation represents a significant achievement because it reforms Medicare's payment system and maintains critical funding for health care for millions of low-income children, families, and seniors. While we urge Congress to offer amendments that would improve the bill, enactment of this legislation would be far better than resorting to another short-term fix that could put these programs in jeopardy. The addition of the Hyde language restricting abortions is unnecessary and frankly offensive, but we believe the deal is an important step forward.

Unless Congress extends funding for these programs now, they will face tremendous uncertainty and risk and could be held hostage in partisan legislation later in the year. MACRA addresses this serious risk by including the following:

The bill extends the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, for two years. Without this extension, about 2 million children would become uninsured, while millions more would lose their current coverage and face higher costs. Importantly, this is a "clean" extension that maintains policies and funding included in the Affordable Care Act—and that does not include detrimental policies or cuts proposed by the Republican leadership in Congress. This clean extension would be a significant feat given the political realities of this Congress and should not be discounted. Even so, we strongly urge Congress to amend MACRA to extend CHIP for at least four years.

The bill extends funding for community health centers included in the Affordable Care Act. Without this funding, 7.4 million low-income patients—including 4.3 million women—would lose access to health care. While not a change to current policy, the bill applies the Hyde Amendment, which restricts funding for abortions, to this funding. CAP opposes the Hyde Amendment, which harms low-income women, and ultimately wants this temporary restriction to expire for good. The application of the Hyde Amendment is, at best, unnecessary and, at worst, an indication that Republican leadership in Congress will attempt to use every bill to restrict access to abortion, which is unacceptable. In this case, the offensive language does not change policy and—similar to the Hyde Amendment that has always applied to funding for community health centers—is temporary and expires along with the funding to which it applies. Even so, we

strongly urge Congress to amend MACRA to remove this language.

The bill extends the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program for two years. This funding supports evidence-based programs that have been proven to reduce health care costs, improve school readiness, and increase family self-sufficiency and economic security. We strongly urge Congress to amend MACRA to extend this program for at least four years.

The bill extends the Qualifying Individual Program—which subsidizes Medicare premiums for low-income beneficiaries—permanently.

By permanently correcting Medicare payments to physicians, MACRA at long last provides much-needed certainty and stability to the Medicare program. Importantly, the bill provides financial incentives to reinforce the country's path toward a health care system that rewards value and quality of care.

We recognize that any bipartisan compromise that could be enacted by Congress would need to pay for at least a portion of the additional spending that would result—and that the pay-fors would need to include a roughly equal mixture of cuts to providers and cuts to beneficiaries. We also recognize that the alternative—a never-ending series of short-term patches that are fully paid for—would likely result in deeper and more painful cuts to the Medicare program over time.

On the beneficiary side, MACRA increases Medicare premiums by \$82.50 per month for couples with incomes from \$267,000 to \$428,000 and singles with incomes from \$133,500 to \$214,000. Because this premium increase is targeted to the top 2 percent of beneficiaries, it is the least objectionable beneficiary cut that could have been included in such a package. The bill does not otherwise increase premiums across the board by \$58 billion, as some have asserted, compared to premium levels under current policy.

MACRA's other beneficiary cut causes us more concern. Currently, about 12 percent of beneficiaries purchase Medigap supplemental policies to cover their out-of-pocket costs. The bill prohibits these policies from covering the deductible for physician services, which is \$147 in 2015. The effect of this change is limited because it goes into effect in 2020 and applies only to new beneficiaries. In addition, because Medigap policies would no longer cover the deductible, premiums for these policies would go down. For most affected beneficiaries, the savings from lower Medigap premiums would actually exceed the costs from deductibles. However, it is possible that hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries with incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty line would face net costs of less than \$100 per year. We strongly urge Congress to amend MACRA to protect low-income beneficiaries from this change—either by exempting primary care from their deductibles or by expanding cost-sharing subsidies for this targeted group.

While we would like to see this legislation strengthened, as we have recommended above, this compromise legislation takes an important step in Medicare payment reform and ensures continued funding that improves the health and welfare of millions of children, families, and seniors. We urge Congress to enact it.

BPC URGES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO REFORM MEDICARE AND EXTEND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

[Press Release, March 25, 2015]

WASHINGTON, DC.—The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) issued the following statement

by BPC President Jason Grumet; Senior Vice President Bill Hoagland; and Health Policy Director Katherine Hayes regarding the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015:

"We urge Congress to act swiftly to pass H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act introduced this week by chairmen and ranking members of the House Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees. This bill would permanently replace Medicare's sustainable growth rate (SGR) physician payment system, extend funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and implement structural reforms in Medicare to improve care delivery and slow rising costs.

"Like any good bipartisan compromise, this legislation strikes a careful balance that will draw both praise and criticism. By reconciling these competing views, the proposed legislation offers a set of politically viable solutions that deserve broad bipartisan support.

"A permanent SGR repeal—coupled with new incentives to improve quality and value in Medicare—would end the senseless perennial series of temporary patches to prevent payment cuts to physicians; it would also enable Congress to move forward on a broader set of reforms.

"A two-year extension of full CHIP funding with no programmatic changes, would provide near-term certainty to states and low-income families who rely upon this essential program.

"A balanced package of policy 'offsets'—including cuts from providers and 2% of high-income seniors—would pay for a significant portion of the legislation. Additional savings from improved Medicare payment incentives may accrue over the long term.

"A provision to make permanent the Medicare Qualifying Individual program would provide extra help to lower income seniors in paying their Medicare Part B premiums.

"We urge U.S. Senators and House members to act now to extend and improve these critical programs for our nation's seniors, children, and health care providers."

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as I said, it is not a perfect bill, but it represents, I think, a major accomplishment.

If I could inquire of the gentleman as to how many additional speakers he has.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional speakers at this time. I am prepared to close after the gentleman closes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself the balance of my time, and I will take this opportunity to close my side of the debate, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking all of those who have been involved in this compromise, especially Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI. I want to thank Mr. BURGESS. I want to thank all of the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I am grateful to the staffs of all of the relevant committees for all of the work that they have put into this.

I especially want to acknowledge the incredible work of the staff who works in the Office of Legislative Counsel. They don't always get thanked, but they do so much of the work around

here, not only on important and complicated legislation like what we are debating here today, but on all legislation, so we are grateful to them.

I don't really know what else to say here except that I am happy we are doing something, and I am happy that we are actually putting forward a bill, a bipartisan bill, that will help a lot of the people who most need help.

As Mr. BURGESS said, in reality, this bill is about access, making sure our senior citizens have the access to the doctors and to the health care that they want. We are making that possible through this bill, as well as helping countless children and low-income families and supporting our community health centers.

This has been kind of an incredible week. It is hard to believe. First, we read that TED CRUZ signs up for ObamaCare, and now, we have this bipartisan compromise on the doc fix, and it reauthorizes CHIP and provides money to our community health centers.

Who knows. I mean, if this is contagious, maybe next week, we will deal with climate change, so I am feeling good as we close this week. Again, I hope this is a coming attraction of what we can see in the future: more bipartisan cooperation, more give and take.

If we follow what we did here, we actually can accomplish a lot more for the American people, and I think that would be a good thing.

Let's get this done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Today's rule provides for the consideration of legislation addressing the pernicious sustainable growth rate formula, the most threatening issue in Medicare, risking patient access to care for our seniors.

As I close, I would like to note that each committee's work is represented in H.R. 2. The base policy of H.R. 2 has the backing of the House and Senate negotiators and of all three committees of jurisdiction.

I certainly want to thank the Speaker and the minority leader and their staffs for building off of the policy work accomplished by the committees to present a political pathway forward for this bipartisan bill.

I thank the chairmen and ranking members of the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means, as well as of the Senate Finance Committee, for coming together for our Nation's doctors and seniors.

I must note Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Chairman RYAN, Chairman BRADY, and former Chairman Camp, as well as Ranking Members PALLONE, GENE GREEN, SANDER LEVIN, JIM McDERMOTT, and former Ranking Member Henry Waxman.

I would also like to thank all of the staffs who have worked on this issue—

who have labored on this issue—for years. I know I will miss some people, but I do want to mention a few at the committee level who have dedicated themselves to getting us here today.

□ 0945

Some have left or switched their roles, but their work from the beginning deserves recognition. Certainly I want to thank Clay Alspach, Robert Horne, Ryan Long, Dr. John O'Shea, Dr. Steve Ferrara, Amy Hall, Eddie Garcia, Tiffany Guarascio, Arielle Woronoff, Brett Baker, Brian Sutter, Matt Hoffmann, Erin Richardson, and J. P. Paluskiewicz on my staff.

I also want to thank the unsung heroes at the House Legislative Counsel, namely, Jessica Shapiro, Ed Grossman, and Jesse Cross.

Every success we have had at each point in this process was further than we had ever come before, and that involved a lot of work, a lot of negotiation, and a lot of overwhelming desire to see the process through to the end.

Ultimately, if this is a package that can go to the White House, all of this will be worth it. I certainly do look forward to passage and hope that, given the positive signs evidenced over the past several days, the other Chamber will quickly embrace this package and ultimately get this badly needed policy into law.

I certainly want my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. This bill funds Community Health Centers for two years at \$7.2 billion dollars. These community health centers serve many of the newly insured people in my district. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, they have health insurance, but thanks to community health centers, they have health care.

H.R. 2 also extends the CHIP program and keeps over 8 million low-income children and pregnant women in families from losing their health insurance.

Lastly, H.R. 2 finally fixes the SGR, the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate. The SGR was an ill-conceived plan to control the growth in health care costs by slashing doctor pay. We were in danger of doctors dropping Medicare patients, putting seniors' access to critical medical care at risk. The yearly short-term fixes have cost us more over the years than it would have to get rid of it, so I am pleased we are finally doing the right thing today in a way that moves us toward quality health care for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify a provision in H.R. 2 and how it differs from S. 178—the Senate Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (JVTA).

As you know, the Senate is having a debate about a provision to make the Hyde Amendment part of permanent law and to apply it to non-taxpayer funds. As co-chair of the Pro Choice Caucus, I want to make this clear: the Senate bill creates a new Domestic Trafficking

Victims' Fund that would be funded—not by taxpayer dollars—but through fines imposed on defendants convicted of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and human smuggling crimes. The Hyde Amendment only applies to taxpayer dollars. Hyde Amendment restrictions have never been applied on a federal fund containing zero taxpayer dollars. This new fund is not federal dollars and therefore not eligible for Hyde. The pro-choice senators who are fighting against this expansion have my full support.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 12, answered “present” 5, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 143]

YEAS—402

Abraham	Chabot	Ellmers (NC)
Adams	Chaffetz	Emmer (MN)
Aderholt	Chu, Judy	Engel
Aguiar	Clark (MA)	Eshoo
Allen	Clarke (NY)	Esty
Amodei	Clawson (FL)	Farenthold
Ashford	Clay	Farr
Babin	Cleaver	Fattah
Barletta	Clyburn	Fincher
Barr	Coffman	Fitzpatrick
Barton	Cohen	Fleischmann
Bass	Cole	Fleming
Beatty	Collins (GA)	Flores
Becerra	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Benishek	Comstock	Fortenberry
Bera	Conaway	Foster
Beyer	Connolly	Fox
Bilirakis	Cook	Frankel (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (MI)	Costello (PA)	Fudge
Bishop (UT)	Courtney	Gabbard
Black	Cramer	Garamendi
Blackburn	Crawford	Garrett
Blum	Crenshaw	Gibbs
Blumenauer	Crowley	Gibson
Bonamici	Cuellar	Gohmert
Bost	Culberson	Goodlatte
Boustany	Cummings	Gowdy
Boyle, Brendan F.	Curbelo (FL)	Granger
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Graves (GA)
Brady (TX)	Davis, Danny	Graves (LA)
Brat	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Bridenstine	DeFazio	Grayson
Brooks (IN)	DeGette	Green, Al
Brown (FL)	Delaney	Green, Gene
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Buchanan	DeBene	Grothman
Buck	Denham	Guinta
Bucshon	Dent	Guthrie
Burgess	DeSantis	Gutiérrez
Bustos	DeSaulnier	Hahn
Butterfield	DesJarlais	Hanna
Byrne	Deutch	Hardy
Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Harper
Capps	Dingell	Harris
Capuano	Doggett	Hartzler
Cárdenas	Dold	Hastings
Carney	Doyle, Michael F.	Heck (NV)
Carson (IN)	Duckworth	Heck (WA)
Carter (GA)	Duffy	Hensarling
Carter (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Cartwright	Duncan (TN)	Hice, Jody B.
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Higgins
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Hill

Holding	McNerney	Sanford
Honda	McSally	Sarbanes
Hoyer	Meadows	Scalise
Hudson	Meehan	Schakowsky
Huffman	Meng	Schiff
Huizenga (MI)	Messer	Schock
Hultgren	Mica	Schrader
Hunter	Miller (FL)	Scott (VA)
Hurd (TX)	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin
Hurt (VA)	Moolenaar	Scott, David
Israel	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner
Issa	Moore	Serrano
Jackson Lee	Moulton	Sessions
Jenkins (KS)	Mullin	Sewell (AL)
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (FL)	Sherman
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (PA)	Shimkus
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Shuster
Johnson, Sam	Napolitano	Simpson
Jolly	Neal	Sinema
Jordan	Neugebauer	Sires
Joyce	Newhouse	Slaughter
Kaptur	Noem	Smith (MO)
Katko	Nolan	Smith (NE)
Keating	Norcross	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (IL)	Nugent	Smith (TX)
Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Speier
Kennedy	O'Rourke	Stefanik
Kildee	Olson	Stewart
Kilmer	Pallone	Stivers
Kind	Palmer	Swalwell (CA)
King (IA)	Pascrell	Takai
King (NY)	Paulsen	Takano
Kinzinger (IL)	Pearce	Thompson (CA)
Kirkpatrick	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Kline	Perlmutter	Thompson (PA)
Knight	Perry	Thornberry
Kuster	Peters	Tiberi
LaMalfa	Peterson	Tipton
Lamborn	Pingree	Titus
Lance	Pittenger	Torres
Larsen (WA)	Pitts	Trott
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Turner
Latta	Poe (TX)	Upton
Lawrence	Poliquin	Valadao
Lee	Polis	Van Hollen
Levin	Pompeo	Vargas
Lewis	Posey	Veasey
Lieu, Ted	Price (NC)	Vela
Lipinski	Price, Tom	Velázquez
LoBiondo	Quigley	Visclosky
Loebach	Ratcliffe	Wagner
Lofgren	Reed	Walberg
Long	Reichert	Walden
Loudermilk	Renacci	Walker
Love	Ribble	Walorski
Lowenthal	Rice (NY)	Walters, Mimi
Lowe	Rice (SC)	Walz
Lucas	Richmond	Wasserman
Luetkemeyer	Rigell	Schultz
Lujan Grisham	Roby	Waters, Maxine
(NM)	Roe (TN)	Watson Coleman
Luján, Ben Ray	Rogers (AL)	Weber (TX)
Lucas	Rogers (KY)	Webster (FL)
Lummis	Rohrabacher	Welch
Lynch	Rokita	Wenstrup
MacArthur	Rooney (FL)	Westerman
Maloney	Ros-Lehtinen	Westmoreland
Carolyn	Roskam	Whitfield
Maloney, Sean	Ross	Williams
Marchant	Rothfus	Wilson (FL)
Marino	Rouzer	Wilson (SC)
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Wittman
McCarthy	Royce	Womack
McCaul	Ruppersberger	Woodall
McClintock	Rush	Yarmuth
McCollum	Russell	Yoder
McDermott	Ryan (OH)	Yoho
McGovern	Ryan (WI)	Young (IA)
McHenry	Salmon	Young (IN)
McKinley	Sánchez, Linda T.	Zeldin
McMorris	Sanchez, Loretta	Zinke
Rodgers		

NAYS—12

Amash	Gallego	Massie
Boyle (AL)	Graham	Rangel
Cicilline	Huelskamp	Tonko
Cooper	Jones	Tsongas

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—5

Gosar	Labrador	Stutzman
Griffith	Mulvaney	

## NOT VOTING—13

Conyers	Langevin	Schweikert
Franks (AZ)	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Hinojosa	Palazzo	Young (AK)
Jeffries	Payne	
Johnson (GA)	Ruiz	

□ 1011

Mr. AMASH changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. BISHOP of Georgia, WALZ, LOEBSACK, MCNERNEY, CAPUANO, O’ROURKE, HANNA, and SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 143. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 143, I voted “no” and I intended to vote “yes.”

#### MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 173, I call up the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Pursuant to House Resolution 173, the amendment printed in House Report 114-50 is considered adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

#### H.R. 2

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION

Sec. 101. Repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and improving Medicare payment for physicians’ services.

Sec. 102. Priorities and funding for measure development.

Sec. 103. Encouraging care management for individuals with chronic care needs.

Sec. 104. Empowering beneficiary choices through continued access to information on physicians’ services.

Sec. 105. Expanding availability of Medicare data.

Sec. 106. Reducing administrative burden and other provisions.

#### TITLE II—MEDICARE AND OTHER HEALTH EXTENDERS

##### Subtitle A—Medicare Extenders

Sec. 201. Extension of work GPCI floor.

Sec. 202. Extension of therapy cap exceptions process.

Sec. 203. Extension of ambulance add-ons.

Sec. 204. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.

Sec. 205. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.

Sec. 206. Extension for specialized Medicare Advantage plans for special needs individuals.

Sec. 207. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.

Sec. 208. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.

Sec. 209. Extension and transition of reasonable cost reimbursement contracts.

Sec. 210. Extension of home health rural add-on.

##### Subtitle B—Other Health Extenders

Sec. 211. Permanent extension of the qualifying individual (QI) program.

Sec. 212. Permanent extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA).

Sec. 213. Extension of special diabetes program for type I diabetes and for Indians.

Sec. 214. Extension of abstinence education.

Sec. 215. Extension of personal responsibility education program (PREP).

Sec. 216. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.

Sec. 217. Extension of health workforce demonstration project for low-income individuals.

Sec. 218. Extension of maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs.

Sec. 219. Tennessee DSH allotment for fiscal years 2015 through 2025.

Sec. 220. Delay in effective date for Medicaid amendments relating to beneficiary liability settlements.

Sec. 221. Extension of funding for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers.

#### TITLE III—CHIP

Sec. 301. 2-year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Sec. 302. Extension of express lane eligibility.

Sec. 303. Extension of outreach and enrollment program.

Sec. 304. Extension of certain programs and demonstration projects.

Sec. 305. Report of Inspector General of HHS on use of express lane option under Medicaid and CHIP.

#### TITLE IV—OFFSETS

##### Subtitle A—Medicare Beneficiary Reforms

Sec. 401. Limitation on certain medigap policies for newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

Sec. 402. Income-related premium adjustment for parts B and D.

##### Subtitle B—Other Offsets

Sec. 411. Medicare payment updates for post-acute providers.

Sec. 412. Delay of reduction to Medicaid DSH allotments.

Sec. 413. Levy on delinquent providers.

Sec. 414. Adjustments to inpatient hospital payment rates.

#### TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

##### Subtitle A—Protecting the Integrity of Medicare

Sec. 501. Prohibition of inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

Sec. 502. Preventing wrongful Medicare payments for items and services furnished to incarcerated individuals, individuals not lawfully present, and deceased individuals.

Sec. 503. Consideration of measures regarding Medicare beneficiary smart cards.

Sec. 504. Modifying Medicare durable medical equipment face-to-face encounter documentation requirement.

Sec. 505. Reducing improper Medicare payments.

Sec. 506. Improving senior Medicare patrol and fraud reporting rewards.

Sec. 507. Requiring valid prescriber National Provider Identifiers on pharmacy claims.

Sec. 508. Option to receive Medicare Summary Notice electronically.

Sec. 509. Renewal of MAC contracts.

Sec. 510. Study on pathway for incentives to States for State participation in Medicaid data match program.

Sec. 511. Guidance on application of Common Rule to clinical data registries.

Sec. 512. Eliminating certain civil money penalties; gainsharing study and report.

Sec. 513. Modification of Medicare home health surety bond condition of participation requirement.

Sec. 514. Oversight of Medicare coverage of manual manipulation of the spine to correct subluxation.

Sec. 515. National expansion of prior authorization model for repetitive scheduled non-emergent ambulance transport.

Sec. 516. Repealing duplicative Medicare secondary payor provision.

Sec. 517. Plan for expanding data in annual CERT report.

Sec. 518. Removing funds for Medicare Improvement Fund added by IMPACT Act of 2014.

Sec. 519. Rule of construction.

##### Subtitle B—Other Provisions

Sec. 521. Extension of two-midnight PAMA rules on certain medical review activities.

Sec. 522. Requiring bid surety bonds and State licensure for entities submitting bids under the Medicare DMEPOS competitive acquisition program.

Sec. 523. Payment for global surgical packages.

Sec. 524. Extension of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Sec. 525. Exclusion from PAYGO scorecards.

#### TITLE I—SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION

SEC. 101. REPEALING THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) AND IMPROVING MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES.

(a) STABILIZING FEE UPDATES.—



(1) REPEAL OF SGR PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(I) by inserting “and ending with 2025” after “beginning with 2001”; and

(II) by inserting “or a subsequent paragraph” after “paragraph (4)”; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in the heading, by inserting “AND ENDING WITH 2014” after “YEARS BEGINNING WITH 2001”; and

(II) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and ending with 2014” after “a year beginning with 2001”; and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “through 2014” after “of each succeeding year”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and ending with 2014” after “beginning with 2000”.

(2) UPDATE OF RATES FOR 2015 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—Subsection (d) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by adding at the end the following: “There shall be two separate conversion factors for each year beginning with 2026, one for items and services furnished by a qualifying APM participant (as defined in section 1833(z)(2)) (referred to in this subsection as the ‘qualifying APM conversion factor’) and the other for other items and services (referred to in this subsection as the ‘nonqualifying APM conversion factor’), equal to the respective conversion factor for the previous year (or, in the case of 2026, equal to the single conversion factor for 2025) multiplied by the update established under paragraph (20) for such respective conversion factor for such year.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting “(or, beginning with 2026, applicable conversion factor)” after “single conversion factor”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (16) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(16) UPDATE FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE OF 2015.—Subject to paragraphs (7)(B), (8)(B), (9)(B), (10)(B), (11)(B), (12)(B), (13)(B), (14)(B), and (15)(B), in lieu of the update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2015 for the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on June 30, 2015, the update to the single conversion factor shall be 0.0 percent.

“(17) UPDATE FOR JULY THROUGH DECEMBER OF 2015.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for the period beginning on July 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015, shall be 0.5 percent.

“(18) UPDATE FOR 2016 THROUGH 2019.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2016 and each subsequent year through 2019 shall be 0.5 percent.

“(19) UPDATE FOR 2020 THROUGH 2025.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2020 and each subsequent year through 2025 shall be 0.0 percent.

“(20) UPDATE FOR 2026 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—For 2026 and each subsequent year, the update to the qualifying APM conversion factor established under paragraph (1)(A) is 0.75 percent, and the update to the nonqualifying APM conversion factor established under such paragraph is 0.25 percent.”.

(3) MEDPAC REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2017, the Medicare Payment Advisory Com-

mission shall submit to Congress a report on the relationship between—

(i) physician and other health professional utilization and expenditures (and the rate of increase of such utilization and expenditures) of items and services for which payment is made under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4); and

(ii) total utilization and expenditures (and the rate of increase of such utilization and expenditures) under parts A, B, and D of title XVIII of such Act.

Such report shall include a methodology to describe such relationship and the impact of changes in such physician and other health professional practice and service ordering patterns on total utilization and expenditures under parts A, B, and D of such title.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2021, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the relationship described in subparagraph (A), including the results determined from applying the methodology included in the report submitted under such subparagraph.

(C) REPORT ON UPDATE TO PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.—Not later than July 1, 2019, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(i) the payment update for professional services applied under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the period of years 2015 through 2019;

(ii) the effect of such update on the efficiency, economy, and quality of care provided under such program;

(iii) the effect of such update on ensuring a sufficient number of providers to maintain access to care by Medicare beneficiaries; and

(iv) recommendations for any future payment updates for professional services under such program to ensure adequate access to care is maintained for Medicare beneficiaries.

(b) CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN CURRENT LAW PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS WITH NEW MERIT-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) EHR MEANINGFUL USE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—

(A) SUNSETTING SEPARATE MEANINGFUL USE PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 1848(a)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “2015 or any subsequent payment year” and inserting “each of 2015 through 2018”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)(III), by striking “each subsequent year” and inserting “2018”; and

(iii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS”;

(II) by striking “and each subsequent year”; and

(III) by striking “, but in no case shall the applicable percent be less than 95 percent”.

(B) CONTINUATION OF MEANINGFUL USE DETERMINATIONS FOR MIPS.—Section 1848(o)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(o)(2)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “For purposes of paragraph (1), an” and inserting “An”; and

(II) by inserting “, or pursuant to subparagraph (D) for purposes of subsection (q), for a performance period under such subsection for a year” after “under such subsection for a year”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR PURPOSES OF MIPS.—With respect to 2019 and each subsequent payment year, the Secretary shall,

for purposes of subsection (q) and in accordance with paragraph (1)(F) of such subsection, determine whether an eligible professional who is a MIPS eligible professional (as defined in subsection (q)(1)(C)) for such year is a meaningful EHR user under this paragraph for the performance period under subsection (q) for such year.”.

(2) QUALITY REPORTING.—

(A) SUNSETTING SEPARATE QUALITY REPORTING INCENTIVES.—Section 1848(a)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(a)(8)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “2015 or any subsequent year” and inserting “each of 2015 through 2018”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “and each subsequent year” and inserting “, 2017, and 2018”.

(B) CONTINUATION OF QUALITY MEASURES AND PROCESSES FOR MIPS.—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended—

(i) in subsection (k), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR PURPOSES OF MIPS AND FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEERING TO REPORT.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (q)(1)(F), carry out the provisions of this subsection—

“(A) for purposes of subsection (q); and

“(B) for eligible professionals who are not MIPS eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (q)(1)(C)) for the year involved.”;

and

(ii) in subsection (m)—

(I) by redesignating paragraph (7) added by section 10327(a) of Public Law 111-148 as paragraph (8); and

(II) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR PURPOSES OF MIPS AND FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEERING TO REPORT.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (q)(1)(F), carry out the processes under this subsection—

“(A) for purposes of subsection (q); and

“(B) for eligible professionals who are not MIPS eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (q)(1)(C)) for the year involved.”.

(3) VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS.—

(A) SUNSETTING SEPARATE VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS.—Clause (iii) of section 1848(p)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(p)(4)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall apply the payment modifier established under this subsection for items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2015, with respect to specific physicians and groups of physicians the Secretary determines appropriate, and for services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, with respect to all physicians and groups of physicians. Such payment modifier shall not be applied for items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2019.”.

(B) CONTINUATION OF VALUE-BASED PAYMENT MODIFIER MEASURES FOR MIPS.—Section 1848(p) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(p)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR PURPOSES OF MIPS.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (q)(1)(F), carry out subparagraph (B) for purposes of subsection (q).”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following: “With respect to 2019 and each subsequent year, the Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (q)(1)(F), carry out



this paragraph for purposes of subsection (q).”

(c) MERIT-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) MERIT-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish an eligible professional Merit-based Incentive Payment System (in this subsection referred to as the ‘MIPS’) under which the Secretary shall—

“(i) develop a methodology for assessing the total performance of each MIPS eligible professional according to performance standards under paragraph (3) for a performance period (as established under paragraph (4)) for a year;

“(ii) using such methodology, provide for a composite performance score in accordance with paragraph (5) for each such professional for each performance period; and

“(iii) use such composite performance score of the MIPS eligible professional for a performance period for a year to determine and apply a MIPS adjustment factor (and, as applicable, an additional MIPS adjustment factor) under paragraph (6) to the professional for the year.

Notwithstanding subparagraph (C)(ii), under the MIPS, the Secretary shall permit any eligible professional (as defined in subsection (k)(3)(B)) to report on applicable measures and activities described in paragraph (2)(B).

“(B) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—The MIPS shall apply to payments for items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2019.

“(C) MIPS ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL DEFINED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, subject to clauses (ii) and (iv), the term ‘MIPS eligible professional’ means—

“(I) for the first and second years for which the MIPS applies to payments (and for the performance period for such first and second year), a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)), a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and clinical nurse specialist (as such terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)), a certified registered nurse anesthetist (as defined in section 1861(bb)(2)), and a group that includes such professionals; and

“(II) for the third year for which the MIPS applies to payments (and for the performance period for such third year) and for each succeeding year (and for the performance period for each such year), the professionals described in subclause (I), such other eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (k)(3)(B)) as specified by the Secretary, and a group that includes such professionals.

“(ii) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘MIPS eligible professional’ does not include, with respect to a year, an eligible professional (as defined in subsection (k)(3)(B)) who—

“(I) is a qualifying APM participant (as defined in section 1833(z)(2));

“(II) subject to clause (vii), is a partial qualifying APM participant (as defined in clause (iii)) for the most recent period for which data are available and who, for the performance period with respect to such year, does not report on applicable measures and activities described in paragraph (2)(B) that are required to be reported by such a professional under the MIPS; or

“(III) for the performance period with respect to such year, does not exceed the low-

volume threshold measurement selected under clause (iv).

“(iii) PARTIAL QUALIFYING APM PARTICIPANT.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘partial qualifying APM participant’ means, with respect to a year, an eligible professional for whom the Secretary determines the minimum payment percentage (or percentages), as applicable, described in paragraph (2) of section 1833(z) for such year have not been satisfied, but who would be considered a qualifying APM participant (as defined in such paragraph) for such year if—

“(I) with respect to 2019 and 2020, the reference in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph to 25 percent was instead a reference to 20 percent;

“(II) with respect to 2021 and 2022—

“(aa) the reference in subparagraph (B)(i) of such paragraph to 50 percent was instead a reference to 40 percent; and

“(bb) the references in subparagraph (B)(ii) of such paragraph to 50 percent and 25 percent of such paragraph were instead references to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively; and

“(III) with respect to 2023 and subsequent years—

“(aa) the reference in subparagraph (C)(i) of such paragraph to 75 percent was instead a reference to 50 percent; and

“(bb) the references in subparagraph (C)(ii) of such paragraph to 75 percent and 25 percent of such paragraph were instead references to 50 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

“(iv) SELECTION OF LOW-VOLUME THRESHOLD MEASUREMENT.—The Secretary shall select a low-volume threshold to apply for purposes of clause (ii)(III), which may include one or more or a combination of the following:

“(I) The minimum number (as determined by the Secretary) of individuals enrolled under this part who are treated by the eligible professional for the performance period involved.

“(II) The minimum number (as determined by the Secretary) of items and services furnished to individuals enrolled under this part by such professional for such performance period.

“(III) The minimum amount (as determined by the Secretary) of allowed charges billed by such professional under this part for such performance period.

“(v) TREATMENT OF NEW MEDICARE ENROLLED ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONALS.—In the case of a professional who first becomes a Medicare enrolled eligible professional during the performance period for a year (and had not previously submitted claims under this title such as a person, an entity, or a part of a physician group or under a different billing number or tax identifier), such professional shall not be treated under this subsection as a MIPS eligible professional until the subsequent year and performance period for such subsequent year.

“(vi) CLARIFICATION.—In the case of items and services furnished during a year by an individual who is not a MIPS eligible professional (including pursuant to clauses (ii) and (v)) with respect to a year, in no case shall a MIPS adjustment factor (or additional MIPS adjustment factor) under paragraph (6) apply to such individual for such year.

“(vii) PARTIAL QUALIFYING APM PARTICIPANT CLARIFICATIONS.—

“(I) TREATMENT AS MIPS ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL.—In the case of an eligible professional who is a partial qualifying APM participant, with respect to a year, and who, for the performance period for such year, reports on applicable measures and activities de-

scribed in paragraph (2)(B) that are required to be reported by such a professional under the MIPS, such eligible professional is considered to be a MIPS eligible professional with respect to such year.

“(II) NOT ELIGIBLE FOR QUALIFYING APM PARTICIPANT PAYMENTS.—In no case shall an eligible professional who is a partial qualifying APM participant, with respect to a year, be considered a qualifying APM participant (as defined in paragraph (2) of section 1833(z)) for such year or be eligible for the additional payment under paragraph (1) of such section for such year.

“(D) APPLICATION TO GROUP PRACTICES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the MIPS:

“(I) QUALITY PERFORMANCE CATEGORY.—The Secretary shall establish and apply a process that includes features of the provisions of subsection (m)(3)(C) for MIPS eligible professionals in a group practice with respect to assessing performance of such group with respect to the performance category described in clause (i) of paragraph (2)(A).

“(II) OTHER PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES.—The Secretary may establish and apply a process that includes features of the provisions of subsection (m)(3)(C) for MIPS eligible professionals in a group practice with respect to assessing the performance of such group with respect to the performance categories described in clauses (ii) through (iv) of such paragraph.

“(ii) ENSURING COMPREHENSIVENESS OF GROUP PRACTICE ASSESSMENT.—The process established under clause (i) shall to the extent practicable reflect the range of items and services furnished by the MIPS eligible professionals in the group practice involved.

“(E) USE OF REGISTRIES.—Under the MIPS, the Secretary shall encourage the use of qualified clinical data registries pursuant to subsection (m)(3)(E) in carrying out this subsection.

“(F) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—In applying a provision of subsection (k), (m), (o), or (p) for purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(i) adjust the application of such provision to ensure the provision is consistent with the provisions of this subsection; and

“(ii) not apply such provision to the extent that the provision is duplicative with a provision of this subsection.

“(G) ACCOUNTING FOR RISK FACTORS.—

“(i) RISK FACTORS.—Taking into account the relevant studies conducted and recommendations made in reports under section 2(d) of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014, and, as appropriate, other information, including information collected before completion of such studies and recommendations, the Secretary, on an ongoing basis, shall, as the Secretary determines appropriate and based on an individual’s health status and other risk factors—

“(I) assess appropriate adjustments to quality measures, resource use measures, and other measures used under the MIPS; and

“(II) assess and implement appropriate adjustments to payment adjustments, composite performance scores, scores for performance categories, or scores for measures or activities under the MIPS.

“(2) MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES UNDER PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES.—

“(A) PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES.—Under the MIPS, the Secretary shall use the following performance categories (each of which is referred to in this subsection as a performance category) in determining the composite performance score under paragraph (5):

“(i) Quality.

“(ii) Resource use.

“(iii) Clinical practice improvement activities.

“(iv) Meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

“(B) MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES SPECIFIED FOR EACH CATEGORY.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A) and subject to subparagraph (C), measures and activities specified for a performance period (as established under paragraph (4)) for a year are as follows:

“(i) QUALITY.—For the performance category described in subparagraph (A)(i), the quality measures included in the final measures list published under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year and the list of quality measures described in subparagraph (D)(vi) used by qualified clinical data registries under subsection (m)(3)(E).

“(ii) RESOURCE USE.—For the performance category described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the measurement of resource use for such period under subsection (p)(3), using the methodology under subsection (r) as appropriate, and, as feasible and applicable, accounting for the cost of drugs under part D.

“(iii) CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—For the performance category described in subparagraph (A)(iii), clinical practice improvement activities (as defined in subparagraph (C)(v)(III)) under subcategories specified by the Secretary for such period, which shall include at least the following:

“(I) The subcategory of expanded practice access, such as same day appointments for urgent needs and after hours access to clinician advice.

“(II) The subcategory of population management, such as monitoring health conditions of individuals to provide timely health care interventions or participation in a qualified clinical data registry.

“(III) The subcategory of care coordination, such as timely communication of test results, timely exchange of clinical information to patients and other providers, and use of remote monitoring or telehealth.

“(IV) The subcategory of beneficiary engagement, such as the establishment of care plans for individuals with complex care needs, beneficiary self-management assessment and training, and using shared decision-making mechanisms.

“(V) The subcategory of patient safety and practice assessment, such as through use of clinical or surgical checklists and practice assessments related to maintaining certification.

“(VI) The subcategory of participation in an alternative payment model (as defined in section 1833(z)(3)(C)).

In establishing activities under this clause, the Secretary shall give consideration to the circumstances of small practices (consisting of 15 or fewer professionals) and practices located in rural areas and in health professional shortage areas (as designated under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act).

“(iv) MEANINGFUL EHR USE.—For the performance category described in subparagraph (A)(iv), the requirements established for such period under subsection (o)(2) for determining whether an eligible professional is a meaningful EHR user.

“(C) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

“(i) EMPHASIZING OUTCOME MEASURES UNDER THE QUALITY PERFORMANCE CATEGORY.—In applying subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary shall, as feasible, emphasize the application of outcome measures.

“(ii) APPLICATION OF ADDITIONAL SYSTEM MEASURES.—The Secretary may use measures used for a payment system other than for physicians, such as measures for inpatient hospitals, for purposes of the performance categories described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A). For purposes of the previous sentence, the Secretary may not use measures for hospital outpatient departments, except in the case of items and services furnished by emergency physicians, radiologists, and anesthesiologists.

“(iii) GLOBAL AND POPULATION-BASED MEASURES.—The Secretary may use global measures, such as global outcome measures, and population-based measures for purposes of the performance category described in subparagraph (A)(i).

“(iv) APPLICATION OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO NON-PATIENT-FACING PROFESSIONALS.—In carrying out this paragraph, with respect to measures and activities specified in subparagraph (B) for performance categories described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

“(I) shall give consideration to the circumstances of professional types (or subcategories of those types determined by practice characteristics) who typically furnish services that do not involve face-to-face interaction with a patient; and

“(II) may, to the extent feasible and appropriate, take into account such circumstances and apply under this subsection with respect to MIPS eligible professionals of such professional types or subcategories, alternative measures or activities that fulfill the goals of the applicable performance category.

In carrying out the previous sentence, the Secretary shall consult with professionals of such professional types or subcategories.

“(v) CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(I) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—In initially applying subparagraph (B)(iii), the Secretary shall use a request for information to solicit recommendations from stakeholders to identify activities described in such subparagraph and specifying criteria for such activities.

“(II) CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES PERFORMANCE CATEGORY.—In applying subparagraph (B)(iii), the Secretary may contract with entities to assist the Secretary in—

“(aa) identifying activities described in subparagraph (B)(iii);

“(bb) specifying criteria for such activities; and

“(cc) determining whether a MIPS eligible professional meets such criteria.

“(III) CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘clinical practice improvement activity’ means an activity that relevant eligible professional organizations and other relevant stakeholders identify as improving clinical practice or care delivery and that the Secretary determines, when effectively executed, is likely to result in improved outcomes.

“(D) ANNUAL LIST OF QUALITY MEASURES AVAILABLE FOR MIPS ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the MIPS, the Secretary, through notice and comment rule-making and subject to the succeeding clauses of this subparagraph, shall, with respect to the performance period for a year, establish an annual final list of quality measures from which MIPS eligible professionals may choose for purposes of assessment under this subsection for such performance period. Pursuant to the previous sentence, the Secretary shall—

“(I) not later than November 1 of the year prior to the first day of the first performance period under the MIPS, establish and publish in the Federal Register a final list of quality measures; and

“(II) not later than November 1 of the year prior to the first day of each subsequent performance period, update the final list of quality measures from the previous year (and publish such updated final list in the Federal Register), by—

“(aa) removing from such list, as appropriate, quality measures, which may include the removal of measures that are no longer meaningful (such as measures that are topped out);

“(bb) adding to such list, as appropriate, new quality measures; and

“(cc) determining whether or not quality measures on such list that have undergone substantive changes should be included in the updated list.

“(ii) CALL FOR QUALITY MEASURES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Eligible professional organizations and other relevant stakeholders shall be requested to identify and submit quality measures to be considered for selection under this subparagraph in the annual list of quality measures published under clause (i) and to identify and submit updates to the measures on such list. For purposes of the previous sentence, measures may be submitted regardless of whether such measures were previously published in a proposed rule or endorsed by an entity with a contract under section 1890(a).

“(II) ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘eligible professional organization’ means a professional organization as defined by nationally recognized specialty boards of certification or equivalent certification boards.

“(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting quality measures for inclusion in the annual final list under clause (i), the Secretary shall—

“(I) provide that, to the extent practicable, all quality domains (as defined in subsection (s)(1)(B)) are addressed by such measures; and

“(II) ensure that such selection is consistent with the process for selection of measures under subsections (k), (m), and (p)(2).

“(iv) PEER REVIEW.—Before including a new measure in the final list of measures published under clause (i) for a year, the Secretary shall submit for publication in applicable specialty-appropriate, peer-reviewed journals such measure and the method for developing and selecting such measure, including clinical and other data supporting such measure.

“(v) MEASURES FOR INCLUSION.—The final list of quality measures published under clause (i) shall include, as applicable, measures under subsections (k), (m), and (p)(2), including quality measures from among—

“(I) measures endorsed by a consensus-based entity;

“(II) measures developed under subsection (s); and

“(III) measures submitted under clause (ii)(I).

Any measure selected for inclusion in such list that is not endorsed by a consensus-based entity shall have a focus that is evidence-based.

“(vi) EXCEPTION FOR QUALIFIED CLINICAL DATA REGISTRY MEASURES.—Measures used by a qualified clinical data registry under subsection (m)(3)(E) shall not be subject to the requirements under clauses (i), (iv), and (v).

The Secretary shall publish the list of measures used by such qualified clinical data registries on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“(vi) EXCEPTION FOR EXISTING QUALITY MEASURES.—Any quality measure specified by the Secretary under subsection (k) or (m), including under subsection (m)(3)(E), and any measure of quality of care established under subsection (p)(2) for the reporting period or performance period under the respective subsection beginning before the first performance period under the MIPS—

“(I) shall not be subject to the requirements under clause (i) (except under items (aa) and (cc) of subclause (II) of such clause) or to the requirement under clause (iv); and

“(II) shall be included in the final list of quality measures published under clause (i) unless removed under clause (i)(II)(aa).

“(viii) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.—Relevant eligible professional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including State and national medical societies, shall be consulted in carrying out this subparagraph.

“(ix) OPTIONAL APPLICATION.—The process under section 1890A is not required to apply to the selection of measures under this subparagraph.

“(3) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Under the MIPS, the Secretary shall establish performance standards with respect to measures and activities specified under paragraph (2)(B) for a performance period (as established under paragraph (4)) for a year.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS IN ESTABLISHING STANDARDS.—In establishing such performance standards with respect to measures and activities specified under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall consider the following:

“(i) Historical performance standards.

“(ii) Improvement.

“(iii) The opportunity for continued improvement.

“(4) PERFORMANCE PERIOD.—The Secretary shall establish a performance period (or periods) for a year (beginning with 2019). Such performance period (or periods) shall begin and end prior to the beginning of such year and be as close as possible to such year. In this subsection, such performance period (or periods) for a year shall be referred to as the performance period for the year.

“(5) COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE SCORE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this paragraph and taking into account, as available and applicable, paragraph (1)(G), the Secretary shall develop a methodology for assessing the total performance of each MIPS eligible professional according to performance standards under paragraph (3) with respect to applicable measures and activities specified in paragraph (2)(B) with respect to each performance category applicable to such professional for a performance period (as established under paragraph (4)) for a year. Using such methodology, the Secretary shall provide for a composite assessment (using a scoring scale of 0 to 100) for each such professional for the performance period for such year. In this subsection such a composite assessment for such a professional with respect to a performance period shall be referred to as the ‘composite performance score’ for such professional for such performance period.

“(B) INCENTIVE TO REPORT; ENCOURAGING USE OF CERTIFIED EHR TECHNOLOGY FOR REPORTING QUALITY MEASURES.—

“(i) INCENTIVE TO REPORT.—Under the methodology established under subparagraph

(A), the Secretary shall provide that in the case of a MIPS eligible professional who fails to report on an applicable measure or activity that is required to be reported by the professional, the professional shall be treated as achieving the lowest potential score applicable to such measure or activity.

“(ii) ENCOURAGING USE OF CERTIFIED EHR TECHNOLOGY AND QUALIFIED CLINICAL DATA REGISTRIES FOR REPORTING QUALITY MEASURES.—Under the methodology established under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(I) encourage MIPS eligible professionals to report on applicable measures with respect to the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) through the use of certified EHR technology and qualified clinical data registries; and

“(II) with respect to a performance period, with respect to a year, for which a MIPS eligible professional reports such measures through the use of such EHR technology, treat such professional as satisfying the clinical quality measures reporting requirement described in subsection (o)(2)(A)(iii) for such year.

“(C) CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES PERFORMANCE SCORE.—

“(i) RULE FOR CERTIFICATION.—A MIPS eligible professional who is in a practice that is certified as a patient-centered medical home or comparable specialty practice, as determined by the Secretary, with respect to a performance period shall be given the highest potential score for the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii) for such period.

“(ii) APM PARTICIPATION.—Participation by a MIPS eligible professional in an alternative payment model (as defined in section 1833(z)(3)(C)) with respect to a performance period shall earn such eligible professional a minimum score of one-half of the highest potential score for the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii) for such performance period.

“(iii) SUBCATEGORIES.—A MIPS eligible professional shall not be required to perform activities in each subcategory under paragraph (2)(B)(iii) or participate in an alternative payment model in order to achieve the highest potential score for the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).

“(D) ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.—

“(i) TAKING INTO ACCOUNT IMPROVEMENT.—Beginning with the second year to which the MIPS applies, in addition to the achievement of a MIPS eligible professional, if data sufficient to measure improvement is available, the methodology developed under subparagraph (A)—

“(I) in the case of the performance score for the performance category described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A), shall take into account the improvement of the professional; and

“(II) in the case of performance scores for other performance categories, may take into account the improvement of the professional.

“(ii) ASSIGNING HIGHER WEIGHT FOR ACHIEVEMENT.—Subject to clause (i), under the methodology developed under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may assign a higher scoring weight under subparagraph (F) with respect to the achievement of a MIPS eligible professional than with respect to any improvement of such professional applied under clause (i) with respect to a measure, activity, or category described in paragraph (2).

“(E) WEIGHTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the methodology developed under subparagraph (A), subject to subparagraph (F)(i) and clause (ii), the composite performance score shall be determined as follows:

“(I) QUALITY.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—Subject to item (bb), thirty percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (i) of paragraph (2)(A). In applying the previous sentence, the Secretary shall, as feasible, encourage the application of outcome measures within such category.

“(bb) FIRST 2 YEARS.—For the first and second years for which the MIPS applies to payments, the percentage applicable under item (aa) shall be increased in a manner such that the total percentage points of the increase under this item for the respective year equals the total number of percentage points by which the percentage applied under subclause (II)(bb) for the respective year is less than 30 percent.

“(II) RESOURCE USE.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—Subject to item (bb), thirty percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(A).

“(bb) FIRST 2 YEARS.—For the first year for which the MIPS applies to payments, not more than 10 percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(A). For the second year for which the MIPS applies to payments, not more than 15 percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(A).

“(III) CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Fifteen percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (iii) of paragraph (2)(A).

“(IV) MEANINGFUL USE OF CERTIFIED EHR TECHNOLOGY.—Twenty-five percent of such score shall be based on performance with respect to the category described in clause (iv) of paragraph (2)(A).

“(ii) AUTHORITY TO ADJUST PERCENTAGES IN CASE OF HIGH EHR MEANINGFUL USE ADOPTION.—In any year in which the Secretary estimates that the proportion of eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (o)(5)) who are meaningful EHR users (as determined under subsection (o)(2)) is 75 percent or greater, the Secretary may reduce the percent applicable under clause (i)(IV), but not below 15 percent. If the Secretary makes such reduction for a year, subject to subclauses (I)(bb) and (II)(bb) of clause (i), the percentages applicable under one or more of subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (i) for such year shall be increased in a manner such that the total percentage points of the increase under this clause for such year equals the total number of percentage points reduced under the preceding sentence for such year.

“(F) CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY FOR WEIGHTING PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES, MEASURES, AND ACTIVITIES.—Under the methodology under subparagraph (A), if there are not sufficient measures and activities (described in paragraph (2)(B)) applicable and available to each type of eligible professional involved, the Secretary shall assign different scoring weights (including a weight of 0)—

“(i) which may vary from the scoring weights specified in subparagraph (E), for each performance category based on the extent to which the category is applicable to the type of eligible professional involved; and

“(ii) for each measure and activity specified under paragraph (2)(B) with respect to each such category based on the extent to which the measure or activity is applicable and available to the type of eligible professional involved.

“(G) RESOURCE USE.—Analysis of the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) shall include results from the methodology described in subsection (r)(5), as appropriate.

“(H) INCLUSION OF QUALITY MEASURE DATA FROM OTHER PAYERS.—In applying subsections (k), (m), and (p) with respect to measures described in paragraph (2)(B)(i), analysis of the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) may include data submitted by MIPS eligible professionals with respect to items and services furnished to individuals who are not individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under part B.

“(I) USE OF VOLUNTARY VIRTUAL GROUPS FOR CERTAIN ASSESSMENT PURPOSES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of MIPS eligible professionals electing to be a virtual group under clause (ii) with respect to a performance period for a year, for purposes of applying the methodology under subparagraph (A) with respect to the performance categories described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A)—

“(I) the assessment of performance provided under such methodology with respect to such performance categories that is to be applied to each such professional in such group for such performance period shall be with respect to the combined performance of all such professionals in such group for such period; and

“(II) with respect to the composite performance score provided under this paragraph for such performance period for each such MIPS eligible professional in such virtual group, the components of the composite performance score that assess performance with respect to such performance categories shall be based on the assessment of the combined performance under subclause (I) for such performance categories and performance period.

“(ii) ELECTION OF PRACTICES TO BE A VIRTUAL GROUP.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with the requirements under clause (iii), establish and have in place a process to allow an individual MIPS eligible professional or a group practice consisting of not more than 10 MIPS eligible professionals to elect, with respect to a performance period for a year to be a virtual group under this subparagraph with at least one other such individual MIPS eligible professional or group practice. Such a virtual group may be based on appropriate classifications of providers, such as by geographic areas or by provider specialties defined by nationally recognized specialty boards of certification or equivalent certification boards.

“(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements for the process under clause (ii) shall—

“(I) provide that an election under such clause, with respect to a performance period, shall be made before the beginning of such performance period and may not be changed during such performance period;

“(II) provide that an individual MIPS eligible professional and a group practice described in clause (ii) may elect to be in no more than one virtual group for a performance period and that, in the case of such a group practice that elects to be in such virtual group for such performance period, such election applies to all MIPS eligible professionals in such group practice;

“(III) provide that a virtual group be a combination of tax identification numbers;

“(IV) provide for formal written agreements among MIPS eligible professionals electing to be a virtual group under this subparagraph; and

“(V) include such other requirements as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(6) MIPS PAYMENTS.—

“(A) MIPS ADJUSTMENT FACTOR.—Taking into account paragraph (1)(G), the Secretary shall specify a MIPS adjustment factor for each MIPS eligible professional for a year. Such MIPS adjustment factor for a MIPS eligible professional for a year shall be in the form of a percent and shall be determined—

“(i) by comparing the composite performance score of the eligible professional for such year to the performance threshold established under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year;

“(ii) in a manner such that the adjustment factors specified under this subparagraph for a year result in differential payments under this paragraph reflecting that—

“(I) MIPS eligible professionals with composite performance scores for such year at or above such performance threshold for such year receive zero or positive payment adjustment factors for such year in accordance with clause (iii), with such professionals having higher composite performance scores receiving higher adjustment factors; and

“(II) MIPS eligible professionals with composite performance scores for such year below such performance threshold for such year receive negative payment adjustment factors for such year in accordance with clause (iv), with such professionals having lower composite performance scores receiving lower adjustment factors;

“(iii) in a manner such that MIPS eligible professionals with composite scores described in clause (ii)(I) for such year, subject to clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (F), receive a zero or positive adjustment factor on a linear sliding scale such that an adjustment factor of 0 percent is assigned for a score at the performance threshold and an adjustment factor of the applicable percent specified in subparagraph (B) is assigned for a score of 100; and

“(iv) in a manner such that—

“(I) subject to subclause (II), MIPS eligible professionals with composite performance scores described in clause (ii)(II) for such year receive a negative payment adjustment factor on a linear sliding scale such that an adjustment factor of 0 percent is assigned for a score at the performance threshold and an adjustment factor of the negative of the applicable percent specified in subparagraph (B) is assigned for a score of 0; and

“(II) MIPS eligible professionals with composite performance scores that are equal to or greater than 0, but not greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the performance threshold specified under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year, receive a negative payment adjustment factor that is equal to the negative of the applicable percent specified in subparagraph (B) for such year.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘applicable percent’ means—

“(i) for 2019, 4 percent;

“(ii) for 2020, 5 percent;

“(iii) for 2021, 7 percent; and

“(iv) for 2022 and subsequent years, 9 percent.

“(C) ADDITIONAL MIPS ADJUSTMENT FACTORS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.—For 2019 and each subsequent year through 2024, in the case of a MIPS eligible professional with

a composite performance score for a year at or above the additional performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(ii) for such year, in addition to the MIPS adjustment factor under subparagraph (A) for the eligible professional for such year, subject to subparagraph (F)(iv), the Secretary shall specify an additional positive MIPS adjustment factor for such professional and year. Such additional MIPS adjustment factors shall be in the form of a percent and determined by the Secretary in a manner such that professionals having higher composite performance scores above the additional performance threshold receive higher additional MIPS adjustment factors.

“(D) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE THRESHOLDS.—

“(i) PERFORMANCE THRESHOLD.—For each year of the MIPS, the Secretary shall compute a performance threshold with respect to which the composite performance score of MIPS eligible professionals shall be compared for purposes of determining adjustment factors under subparagraph (A) that are positive, negative, and zero. Such performance threshold for a year shall be the mean or median (as selected by the Secretary) of the composite performance scores for all MIPS eligible professionals with respect to a prior period specified by the Secretary. The Secretary may reassess the selection of the mean or median under the previous sentence every 3 years.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE THRESHOLD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.—In addition to the performance threshold under clause (i), for each year of the MIPS, the Secretary shall compute an additional performance threshold for purposes of determining the additional MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (C). For each such year, the Secretary shall apply either of the following methods for computing such additional performance threshold for such a year:

“(I) The threshold shall be the score that is equal to the 25th percentile of the range of possible composite performance scores above the performance threshold determined under clause (i).

“(II) The threshold shall be the score that is equal to the 25th percentile of the actual composite performance scores for MIPS eligible professionals with composite performance scores at or above the performance threshold with respect to the prior period described in clause (i).

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR INITIAL 2 YEARS.—With respect to each of the first two years to which the MIPS applies, the Secretary shall, prior to the performance period for such years, establish a performance threshold for purposes of determining MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (A) and a threshold for purposes of determining additional MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (C). Each such performance threshold shall—

“(I) be based on a period prior to such performance periods; and

“(II) take into account—

“(aa) data available with respect to performance on measures and activities that may be used under the performance categories under subparagraph (2)(B); and

“(bb) other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(E) APPLICATION OF MIPS ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.—In the case of items and services furnished by a MIPS eligible professional during a year (beginning with 2019), the amount otherwise paid under this part with respect to such items and services and MIPS eligible professional for such year, shall be multiplied by—

“(i) 1, plus

“(ii) the sum of—

“(I) the MIPS adjustment factor determined under subparagraph (A) divided by 100, and

“(II) as applicable, the additional MIPS adjustment factor determined under subparagraph (C) divided by 100.

“(F) AGGREGATE APPLICATION OF MIPS ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.—

“(i) APPLICATION OF SCALING FACTOR.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—With respect to positive MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (A)(i)(I) for eligible professionals whose composite performance score is above the performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year, subject to subclause (II), the Secretary shall increase or decrease such adjustment factors by a scaling factor in order to ensure that the budget neutrality requirement of clause (ii) is met.

“(II) SCALING FACTOR LIMIT.—In no case may the scaling factor applied under this clause exceed 3.0.

“(ii) BUDGET NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), the Secretary shall ensure that the estimated amount described in subclause (II) for a year is equal to the estimated amount described in subclause (III) for such year.

“(II) AGGREGATE INCREASES.—The amount described in this subclause is the estimated increase in the aggregate allowed charges resulting from the application of positive MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (A) (after application of the scaling factor described in clause (i)) to MIPS eligible professionals whose composite performance score for a year is above the performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year.

“(III) AGGREGATE DECREASES.—The amount described in this subclause is the estimated decrease in the aggregate allowed charges resulting from the application of negative MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (A) to MIPS eligible professionals whose composite performance score for a year is below the performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year.

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(I) In the case that all MIPS eligible professionals receive composite performance scores for a year that are below the performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(i) for such year, the negative MIPS adjustment factors under subparagraph (A) shall apply with respect to such MIPS eligible professionals and the budget neutrality requirement of clause (ii) and the additional adjustment factors under clause (iv) shall not apply for such year.

“(II) In the case that, with respect to a year, the application of clause (i) results in a scaling factor equal to the maximum scaling factor specified in clause (i)(II), such scaling factor shall apply and the budget neutrality requirement of clause (ii) shall not apply for such year.

“(iv) ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), in specifying the MIPS additional adjustment factors under subparagraph (C) for each applicable MIPS eligible professional for a year, the Secretary shall ensure that the estimated aggregate increase in payments under this part resulting from the application of such additional adjustment factors for MIPS eligible professionals in a year shall be equal (as estimated by the Secretary) to \$500,000,000 for each year beginning with 2019 and ending with 2024.

“(II) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS.—The MIPS addi-

tional adjustment factor under subparagraph (C) for a year for an applicable MIPS eligible professional whose composite performance score is above the additional performance threshold under subparagraph (D)(ii) for such year shall not exceed 10 percent. The application of the previous sentence may result in an aggregate amount of additional incentive payments that are less than the amount specified in subclause (I).

“(7) ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT OF ADJUSTMENTS.—Under the MIPS, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days prior to January 1 of the year involved, make available to MIPS eligible professionals the MIPS adjustment factor (and, as applicable, the additional MIPS adjustment factor) under paragraph (6) applicable to the eligible professional for items and services furnished by the professional for such year. The Secretary may include such information in the confidential feedback under paragraph (12).

“(8) NO EFFECT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The MIPS adjustment factors and additional MIPS adjustment factors under paragraph (6) shall apply only with respect to the year involved, and the Secretary shall not take into account such adjustment factors in making payments to a MIPS eligible professional under this part in a subsequent year.

“(9) PUBLIC REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in an easily understandable format, make available on the Physician Compare Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services the following:

“(i) Information regarding the performance of MIPS eligible professionals under the MIPS, which—

“(I) shall include the composite score for each such MIPS eligible professional and the performance of each such MIPS eligible professional with respect to each performance category; and

“(II) may include the performance of each such MIPS eligible professional with respect to each measure or activity specified in paragraph (2)(B).

“(ii) The names of eligible professionals in eligible alternative payment models (as defined in section 1833(z)(3)(D)) and, to the extent feasible, the names of such eligible alternative payment models and performance of such models.

“(B) DISCLOSURE.—The information made available under this paragraph shall indicate, where appropriate, that publicized information may not be representative of the eligible professional's entire patient population, the variety of services furnished by the eligible professional, or the health conditions of individuals treated.

“(C) OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND SUBMIT CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary shall provide for an opportunity for a professional described in subparagraph (A) to review, and submit corrections for, the information to be made public with respect to the professional under such subparagraph prior to such information being made public.

“(D) AGGREGATE INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall periodically post on the Physician Compare Internet website aggregate information on the MIPS, including the range of composite scores for all MIPS eligible professionals and the range of the performance of all MIPS eligible professionals with respect to each performance category.

“(10) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with stakeholders in carrying out the MIPS, including for the identification of measures and activities under paragraph (2)(B) and the methodologies developed under paragraphs (5)(A) and (6) and regarding the

use of qualified clinical data registries. Such consultation shall include the use of a request for information or other mechanisms determined appropriate.

“(11) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL PRACTICES AND PRACTICES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts or agreements with appropriate entities (such as quality improvement organizations, regional extension centers (as described in section 3012(c) of the Public Health Service Act), or regional health collaboratives) to offer guidance and assistance to MIPS eligible professionals in practices of 15 or fewer professionals (with priority given to such practices located in rural areas, health professional shortage areas (as designated under in section 332(a)(1)(A) of such Act), and medically underserved areas, and practices with low composite scores) with respect to—

“(i) the performance categories described in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (2)(A); or

“(ii) how to transition to the implementation of and participation in an alternative payment model as described in section 1833(z)(3)(C).

“(B) FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—For purposes of implementing subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide for the transfer from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account of \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020. Amounts transferred under this subparagraph for a fiscal year shall be available until expended.

“(12) FEEDBACK AND INFORMATION TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning July 1, 2017, the Secretary—

“(I) shall make available timely (such as quarterly) confidential feedback to MIPS eligible professionals on the performance of such professionals with respect to the performance categories under clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A); and

“(II) may make available confidential feedback to such professionals on the performance of such professionals with respect to the performance categories under clauses (iii) and (iv) of such paragraph.

“(ii) MECHANISMS.—The Secretary may use one or more mechanisms to make feedback available under clause (i), which may include use of a web-based portal or other mechanisms determined appropriate by the Secretary. With respect to the performance category described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), feedback under this subparagraph shall, to the extent an eligible professional chooses to participate in a data registry for purposes of this subsection (including registries under subsections (k) and (m)), be provided based on performance on quality measures reported through the use of such registries. With respect to any other performance category described in paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary shall encourage provision of feedback through qualified clinical data registries as described in subsection (m)(3)(E)).

“(iii) USE OF DATA.—For purposes of clause (i), the Secretary may use data, with respect to a MIPS eligible professional, from periods prior to the current performance period and may use rolling periods in order to make illustrative calculations about the performance of such professional.

“(iv) DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION.—Feedback made available under this subparagraph

shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

“(v) RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary may use the mechanisms established under clause (i) to receive information from professionals, such as information with respect to this subsection.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning July 1, 2018, the Secretary shall make available to MIPS eligible professionals information, with respect to individuals who are patients of such MIPS eligible professionals, about items and services for which payment is made under this title that are furnished to such individuals by other suppliers and providers of services, which may include information described in clause (ii). Such information may be made available under the previous sentence to such MIPS eligible professionals by mechanisms determined appropriate by the Secretary, which may include use of a web-based portal. Such information may be made available in accordance with the same or similar terms as data are made available to accountable care organizations participating in the shared savings program under section 1899.

“(ii) TYPE OF INFORMATION.—For purposes of clause (i), the information described in this clause, is the following:

“(I) With respect to selected items and services (as determined appropriate by the Secretary) for which payment is made under this title and that are furnished to individuals, who are patients of a MIPS eligible professional, by another supplier or provider of services during the most recent period for which data are available (such as the most recent three-month period), such as the name of such providers furnishing such items and services to such patients during such period, the types of such items and services so furnished, and the dates such items and services were so furnished.

“(II) Historical data, such as averages and other measures of the distribution if appropriate, of the total, and components of, allowed charges (and other figures as determined appropriate by the Secretary).

“(13) REVIEW.—

“(A) TARGETED REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a process under which a MIPS eligible professional may seek an informal review of the calculation of the MIPS adjustment factor (or factors) applicable to such eligible professional under this subsection for a year. The results of a review conducted pursuant to the previous sentence shall not be taken into account for purposes of paragraph (6) with respect to a year (other than with respect to the calculation of such eligible professional's MIPS adjustment factor for such year or additional MIPS adjustment factor for such year) after the factors determined in subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (C) of such paragraph have been determined for such year.

“(B) LIMITATION.—Except as provided for in subparagraph (A), there shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of the following:

“(i) The methodology used to determine the amount of the MIPS adjustment factor under paragraph (6)(A) and the amount of the additional MIPS adjustment factor under paragraph (6)(C) and the determination of such amounts.

“(ii) The establishment of the performance standards under paragraph (3) and the performance period under paragraph (4).

“(iii) The identification of measures and activities specified under paragraph (2)(B) and information made public or posted on

the Physician Compare Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services under paragraph (9).

“(iv) The methodology developed under paragraph (5) that is used to calculate performance scores and the calculation of such scores, including the weighting of measures and activities under such methodology.”.

(2) GAO REPORTS.—

(A) EVALUATION OF ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL MIPS.—Not later than October 1, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the eligible professional Merit-based Incentive Payment System under subsection (q) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4), as added by paragraph (1). Such report shall—

(i) examine the distribution of the composite performance scores and MIPS adjustment factors (and additional MIPS adjustment factors) for MIPS eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (q)(1)(c) of such section) under such program, and patterns relating to such scores and adjustment factors, including based on type of provider, practice size, geographic location, and patient mix;

(ii) provide recommendations for improving such program;

(iii) evaluate the impact of technical assistance funding under section 1848(q)(11) of the Social Security Act, as added by paragraph (1), on the ability of professionals to improve within such program or successfully transition to an alternative payment model (as defined in section 1833(z)(3) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (e)), with priority for such evaluation given to practices located in rural areas, health professional shortage areas (as designated in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act), and medically underserved areas; and

(iv) provide recommendations for optimizing the use of such technical assistance funds.

(B) STUDY TO EXAMINE ALIGNMENT OF QUALITY MEASURES USED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(I) compares the similarities and differences in the use of quality measures under the original Medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Medicare Advantage program under part C of such title, selected State Medicaid programs under title XIX of such Act, and private payer arrangements; and

(II) makes recommendations on how to reduce the administrative burden involved in applying such quality measures.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under clause (i) shall—

(I) consider those measures applicable to individuals entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under such part A, or enrolled under such part B and individuals under the age of 65; and

(II) focus on those measures that comprise the most significant component of the quality performance category of the eligible professional MIPS incentive program under subsection (q) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4), as added by paragraph (1).

(C) STUDY ON ROLE OF INDEPENDENT RISK MANAGERS.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report examining whether entities that pool financial risk for

physician practices, such as independent risk managers, can play a role in supporting physician practices, particularly small physician practices, in assuming financial risk for the treatment of patients. Such report shall examine barriers that small physician practices currently face in assuming financial risk for treating patients, the types of risk management entities that could assist physician practices in participating in two-sided risk payment models, and how such entities could assist with risk management and with quality improvement activities. Such report shall also include an analysis of any existing legal barriers to such arrangements.

(D) STUDY TO EXAMINE RURAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.—Not later than October 1, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that examines the transition of professionals in rural areas, health professional shortage areas (as designated in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act), or medically underserved areas to an alternative payment model (as defined in section 1833(z)(3) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (e)). Such report shall make recommendations for removing administrative barriers to practices, including small practices consisting of 15 or fewer professionals, in rural areas, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas to participation in such models.

(3) FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of implementing the provisions of and the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the transfer of \$80,000,000 from the Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Program Management Account for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Amounts transferred under this paragraph shall be available until expended.

(d) IMPROVING QUALITY REPORTING FOR COMPOSITE SCORES.—

(1) CHANGES FOR GROUP REPORTING OPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(m)(3)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(m)(3)(C)(ii)) is amended by inserting “and, for 2016 and subsequent years, may provide” after “shall provide”.

(B) CLARIFICATION OF QUALIFIED CLINICAL DATA REGISTRY REPORTING TO GROUP PRACTICES.—Section 1848(m)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(m)(3)(D)) is amended by inserting “and, for 2016 and subsequent years, subparagraph (A) or (C)” after “subparagraph (A)”.

(2) CHANGES FOR MULTIPLE REPORTING PERIODS AND ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA FOR SATISFACTORY REPORTING.—Section 1848(m)(5)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(m)(5)(F)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and subsequent years” and inserting “through reporting periods occurring in 2015”; and

(B) by inserting “and, for reporting periods occurring in 2016 and subsequent years, the Secretary may establish” after “shall establish”.

(3) PHYSICIAN FEEDBACK PROGRAM REPORTS SUCCEEDED BY REPORTS UNDER MIPS.—Section 1848(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) REPORTS ENDING WITH 2017.—Reports under the Program shall not be provided after December 31, 2017. See subsection



(q)(12) for reports under the eligible professionals Merit-based Incentive Payment System.”.

(4) COORDINATION WITH SATISFYING MEANINGFUL EHR USE CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section

1848(o)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(o)(2)(A)(iii)) is amended by inserting “and subsection (q)(5)(B)(ii)(II)” after “Subject to subparagraph (B)(ii)”.

(e) PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.—

(1) INCREASING TRANSPARENCY OF PHYSICIAN-FOCUSED PAYMENT MODELS.—Section 1868 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) PHYSICIAN-FOCUSED PAYMENT MODELS.—

“(1) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an ad hoc committee to be known as the ‘Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Committee’).

“(B) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(i) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Committee shall be composed of 11 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(ii) QUALIFICATIONS.—The membership of the Committee shall include individuals with national recognition for their expertise in physician-focused payment models and related delivery of care. No more than 5 members of the Committee shall be providers of services or suppliers, or representatives of providers of services or suppliers.

“(iii) PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—A member of the Committee shall not be an employee of the Federal Government.

“(iv) ETHICS DISCLOSURE.—The Comptroller General shall establish a system for public disclosure by members of the Committee of financial and other potential conflicts of interest relating to such members. Members of the Committee shall be treated as employees of Congress for purposes of applying title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-521).

“(v) DATE OF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The initial appointments of members of the Committee shall be made by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(C) TERM; VACANCIES.—

“(i) TERM.—The terms of members of the Committee shall be for 3 years except that the Comptroller General shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

“(ii) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member’s term until a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(D) DUTIES.—The Committee shall meet, as needed, to provide comments and recommendations to the Secretary, as described in paragraph (2)(C), on physician-focused payment models.

“(E) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

“(ii) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at

rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

“(F) OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation shall provide technical and operational support for the Committee, which may be by use of a contractor. The Office of the Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall provide to the Committee actuarial assistance as needed.

“(ii) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, such amounts as are necessary to carry out this paragraph (not to exceed \$5,000,000) for fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year. Any amounts transferred under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year shall remain available until expended.

“(G) APPLICATION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Committee.

“(2) CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF PHYSICIAN-FOCUSED PAYMENT MODELS.—

“(A) CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING PHYSICIAN-FOCUSED PAYMENT MODELS.—

“(i) RULEMAKING.—Not later than November 1, 2016, the Secretary shall, through notice and comment rulemaking, following a request for information, establish criteria for physician-focused payment models, including models for specialist physicians, that could be used by the Committee for making comments and recommendations pursuant to paragraph (1)(D).

“(ii) MEDPAC SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS.—During the comment period for the proposed rule described in clause (i), the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission may submit comments to the Secretary on the proposed criteria under such clause.

“(iii) UPDATING.—The Secretary may update the criteria established under this subparagraph through rulemaking.

“(B) STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSION OF PHYSICIAN-FOCUSED PAYMENT MODELS.—On an ongoing basis, individuals and stakeholder entities may submit to the Committee proposals for physician-focused payment models that such individuals and entities believe meet the criteria described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) COMMITTEE REVIEW OF MODELS SUBMITTED.—The Committee shall, on a periodic basis, review models submitted under subparagraph (B), prepare comments and recommendations regarding whether such models meet the criteria described in subparagraph (A), and submit such comments and recommendations to the Secretary.

“(D) SECRETARY REVIEW AND RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall review the comments and recommendations submitted by the Committee under subparagraph (C) and post a detailed response to such comments and recommendations on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impact the development or testing of models under this title or titles XI, XIX, or XXI.”.

(2) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(z) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.—

“(1) PAYMENT INCENTIVE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of covered professional services furnished by an eligible professional during a year that is in the period beginning with 2019 and ending with 2024 and for which the professional is a qualifying APM participant with respect to such year, in addition to the amount of payment that would otherwise be made for such covered professional services under this part for such year, there also shall be paid to such professional an amount equal to 5 percent of the estimated aggregate payment amounts for such covered professional services under this part for the preceding year. For purposes of the previous sentence, the payment amount for the preceding year may be an estimation for the full preceding year based on a period of such preceding year that is less than the full year. The Secretary shall establish policies to implement this subparagraph in cases in which payment for covered professional services furnished by a qualifying APM participant in an alternative payment model—

“(i) is made to an eligible alternative payment entity rather than directly to the qualifying APM participant; or

“(ii) is made on a basis other than a fee-for-service basis (such as payment on a capitated basis).

“(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Payments under this subsection shall be made in a lump sum, on an annual basis, as soon as practicable.

“(C) TREATMENT OF PAYMENT INCENTIVE.—Payments under this subsection shall not be taken into account for purposes of determining actual expenditures under an alternative payment model and for purposes of determining or rebasing any benchmarks used under the alternative payment model.

“(D) COORDINATION.—The amount of the additional payment under this subsection or subsection (m) shall be determined without regard to any additional payment under subsection (m) and this subsection, respectively. The amount of the additional payment under this subsection or subsection (x) shall be determined without regard to any additional payment under subsection (y) and this subsection, respectively. The amount of the additional payment under this subsection or subsection (x) shall be determined without regard to any additional payment under subsection (y) and this subsection, respectively.

“(2) QUALIFYING APM PARTICIPANT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualifying APM participant’ means the following:

“(A) 2019 AND 2020.—With respect to 2019 and 2020, an eligible professional for whom the Secretary determines that at least 25 percent of payments under this part for covered professional services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year) were attributable to such services furnished under this part through an eligible alternative payment entity.

“(B) 2021 AND 2022.—With respect to 2021 and 2022, an eligible professional described in either of the following clauses:

“(i) MEDICARE PAYMENT THRESHOLD OPTION.—An eligible professional for whom the Secretary determines that at least 50 percent of payments under this part for covered professional services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year) were attributable to such services furnished under this part through an eligible alternative payment entity.



“(ii) COMBINATION ALL-PAYER AND MEDICARE PAYMENT THRESHOLD OPTION.—An eligible professional—

“(I) for whom the Secretary determines, with respect to items and services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year), that at least 50 percent of the sum of—

“(aa) payments described in clause (i); and

“(bb) all other payments, regardless of payer (other than payments made by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other than payments made under title XIX in a State in which no medical home or alternative payment model is available under the State program under that title),

meet the requirement described in clause (iii)(I) with respect to payments described in item (aa) and meet the requirement described in clause (iii)(II) with respect to payments described in item (bb);

“(II) for whom the Secretary determines at least 25 percent of payments under this part for covered professional services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year) were attributable to such services furnished under this part through an eligible alternative payment entity; and

“(III) who provides to the Secretary such information as is necessary for the Secretary to make a determination under subclause (I), with respect to such professional.

“(iii) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of clause (ii)(I)—

“(I) the requirement described in this subclause, with respect to payments described in item (aa) of such clause, is that such payments are made to an eligible alternative payment entity; and

“(II) the requirement described in this subclause, with respect to payments described in item (bb) of such clause, is that such payments are made under arrangements in which—

“(aa) quality measures comparable to measures under the performance category described in section 1848(q)(2)(B)(i) apply;

“(bb) certified EHR technology is used; and

“(cc) the eligible professional participates in an entity that—

“(AA) bears more than nominal financial risk if actual aggregate expenditures exceeds expected aggregate expenditures; or

“(BB) with respect to beneficiaries under title XIX, is a medical home that meets criteria comparable to medical homes expanded under section 1115A(c).

“(C) BEGINNING IN 2023.—With respect to 2023 and each subsequent year, an eligible professional described in either of the following clauses:

“(i) MEDICARE PAYMENT THRESHOLD OPTION.—An eligible professional for whom the Secretary determines that at least 75 percent of payments under this part for covered professional services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year) were attributable to such services furnished under this part through an eligible alternative payment entity.

“(ii) COMBINATION ALL-PAYER AND MEDICARE PAYMENT THRESHOLD OPTION.—An eligible professional—

“(I) for whom the Secretary determines, with respect to items and services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year), that at least 75 percent of the sum of—

“(aa) payments described in clause (i); and

“(bb) all other payments, regardless of payer (other than payments made by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other than payments made under title XIX in a State in which no medical home or alternative payment model is available under the State program under that title),

meet the requirement described in clause (iii)(I) with respect to payments described in item (aa) and meet the requirement described in clause (iii)(II) with respect to payments described in item (bb);

“(II) for whom the Secretary determines at least 25 percent of payments under this part for covered professional services furnished by such professional during the most recent period for which data are available (which may be less than a year) were attributable to such services furnished under this part through an eligible alternative payment entity; and

“(III) who provides to the Secretary such information as is necessary for the Secretary to make a determination under subclause (I), with respect to such professional.

“(iii) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of clause (ii)(I)—

“(I) the requirement described in this subclause, with respect to payments described in item (aa) of such clause, is that such payments are made to an eligible alternative payment entity; and

“(II) the requirement described in this subclause, with respect to payments described in item (bb) of such clause, is that such payments are made under arrangements in which—

“(aa) quality measures comparable to measures under the performance category described in section 1848(q)(2)(B)(i) apply;

“(bb) certified EHR technology is used; and

“(cc) the eligible professional participates in an entity that—

“(AA) bears more than nominal financial risk if actual aggregate expenditures exceeds expected aggregate expenditures; or

“(BB) with respect to beneficiaries under title XIX, is a medical home that meets criteria comparable to medical homes expanded under section 1115A(c).

“(D) USE OF PATIENT APPROACH.—The Secretary may base the determination of whether an eligible professional is a qualifying APM participant under this subsection and the determination of whether an eligible professional is a partial qualifying APM participant under section 1848(q)(1)(C)(iii) by using counts of patients in lieu of using payments and using the same or similar percentage criteria (as specified in this subsection and such section, respectively), as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.—The term ‘covered professional services’ has the meaning given that term in section 1848(k)(3)(A).

“(B) ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘eligible professional’ has the meaning given that term in section 1848(k)(3)(B) and includes a group that includes such professionals.

“(C) ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODEL (APM).—The term ‘alternative payment model’ means, other than for purposes of subparagraphs (B)(ii)(I)(bb) and (C)(ii)(I)(bb) of paragraph (2), any of the following:

“(i) A model under section 1115A (other than a health care innovation award).

“(ii) The shared savings program under section 1899.

“(iii) A demonstration under section 1866C.

“(iv) A demonstration required by Federal law.

“(D) ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible alternative payment entity’ means, with respect to a year, an entity that—

“(i) participates in an alternative payment model that—

“(I) requires participants in such model to use certified EHR technology (as defined in subsection (o)(4)); and

“(II) provides for payment for covered professional services based on quality measures comparable to measures under the performance category described in section 1848(q)(2)(B)(i); and

“(ii)(I) bears financial risk for monetary losses under such alternative payment model that are in excess of a nominal amount; or

“(II) is a medical home expanded under section 1115A(c).

“(4) LIMITATION.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, 1878, or otherwise, of the following:

“(A) The determination that an eligible professional is a qualifying APM participant under paragraph (2) and the determination that an entity is an eligible alternative payment entity under paragraph (3)(D).

“(B) The determination of the amount of the 5 percent payment incentive under paragraph (1)(A), including any estimation as part of such determination.”.

(3) COORDINATION CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is further amended—

(A) in subsection (x)(3), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The amount of the additional payment for a service under this subsection and subsection (z) shall be determined without regard to any additional payment for the service under subsection (z) and this subsection, respectively.”; and

(B) in subsection (y)(3), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The amount of the additional payment for a service under this subsection and subsection (z) shall be determined without regard to any additional payment for the service under subsection (z) and this subsection, respectively.”.

(4) ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF CERTAIN MODELS.—Section 1115A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(xxi) Focusing primarily on physicians’ services (as defined in section 1848(j)(3)) furnished by physicians who are not primary care practitioners.

“(xxii) Focusing on practices of 15 or fewer professionals.

“(xxiii) Focusing on risk-based models for small physician practices which may involve two-sided risk and prospective patient assignment, and which examine risk-adjusted decreases in mortality rates, hospital readmissions rates, and other relevant and appropriate clinical measures.

“(xxiv) Focusing primarily on title XIX, working in conjunction with the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)(viii), by striking “other public sector or private sector payers” and inserting “other public sector payers, private sector payers, or statewide payment models”.

(5) CONSTRUCTION REGARDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Nothing in the provisions of, or amendments made by, this title shall be construed as precluding an alternative payment

model or a qualifying APM participant (as those terms are defined in section 1833(z) of the Social Security Act, as added by paragraph (1) from furnishing a telehealth service for which payment is not made under section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)).

(6) **INTEGRATING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS.**—Not later than July 1, 2016, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a study that examines the feasibility of integrating alternative payment models in the Medicare Advantage payment system. The study shall include the feasibility of including a value-based modifier and whether such modifier should be budget neutral.

(7) **STUDY AND REPORT ON FRAUD RELATED TO ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**—

(A) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, shall conduct a study that—

(i) examines the applicability of the Federal fraud prevention laws to items and services furnished under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for which payment is made under an alternative payment model (as defined in section 1833(z)(3)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(z)(3)(C)));

(ii) identifies aspects of such alternative payment models that are vulnerable to fraudulent activity; and

(iii) examines the implications of waivers to such laws granted in support of such alternative payment models, including under any potential expansion of such models.

(B) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A). Such report shall include recommendations for actions to be taken to reduce the vulnerability of such alternative payment models to fraudulent activity. Such report also shall include, as appropriate, recommendations of the Inspector General for changes in Federal fraud prevention laws to reduce such vulnerability.

(f) **COLLABORATING WITH THE PHYSICIAN, PRACTITIONER, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE RESOURCE USE MEASUREMENT.**—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(r) **COLLABORATING WITH THE PHYSICIAN, PRACTITIONER, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE RESOURCE USE MEASUREMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to involve the physician, practitioner, and other stakeholder communities in enhancing the infrastructure for resource use measurement, including for purposes of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System under subsection (q) and alternative payment models under section 1833(z), the Secretary shall undertake the steps described in the succeeding provisions of this subsection.

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF CARE EPISODE AND PATIENT CONDITION GROUPS AND CLASSIFICATION CODES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to classify similar patients into care episode groups and patient condition groups, the Secretary shall undertake the steps described in the succeeding provisions of this paragraph.

“(B) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF EXISTING EFFORTS TO DESIGN AN EPISODE GROUPER.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary

shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a list of the episode groups developed pursuant to subsection (n)(9)(A) and related descriptive information.

“(C) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—The Secretary shall accept, through the date that is 120 days after the day the Secretary posts the list pursuant to subparagraph (B), suggestions from physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders for episode groups in addition to those posted pursuant to such subparagraph, and specific clinical criteria and patient characteristics to classify patients into—

“(i) care episode groups; and

“(ii) patient condition groups.

“(D) **DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION CODES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Taking into account the information described in subparagraph (B) and the information received under subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall—

“(I) establish care episode groups and patient condition groups, which account for a target of an estimated ½ of expenditures under parts A and B (with such target increasing over time as appropriate); and

“(II) assign codes to such groups.

“(ii) **CARE EPISODE GROUPS.**—In establishing the care episode groups under clause (i), the Secretary shall take into account—

“(I) the patient's clinical problems at the time items and services are furnished during an episode of care, such as the clinical conditions or diagnoses, whether or not inpatient hospitalization occurs, and the principal procedures or services furnished; and

“(II) other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(iii) **PATIENT CONDITION GROUPS.**—In establishing the patient condition groups under clause (i), the Secretary shall take into account—

“(I) the patient's clinical history at the time of a medical visit, such as the patient's combination of chronic conditions, current health status, and recent significant history (such as hospitalization and major surgery during a previous period, such as 3 months); and

“(II) other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary, such as eligibility status under this title (including eligibility under section 226(a), 226(b), or 226A, and dual eligibility under this title and title XIX).

“(E) **DRAFT CARE EPISODE AND PATIENT CONDITION GROUPS AND CLASSIFICATION CODES.**—Not later than 270 days after the end of the comment period described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a draft list of the care episode and patient condition codes established under subparagraph (D) (and the criteria and characteristics assigned to such code).

“(F) **SOLICITATION OF INPUT.**—The Secretary shall seek, through the date that is 120 days after the Secretary posts the list pursuant to subparagraph (E), comments from physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders, including representatives of individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under this part, regarding the care episode and patient condition groups (and codes) posted under subparagraph (E). In seeking such comments, the Secretary shall use one or more mechanisms (other than notice and comment rulemaking) that may include use of open door forums, town hall meetings, or other appropriate mechanisms.

“(G) **OPERATIONAL LIST OF CARE EPISODE AND PATIENT CONDITION GROUPS AND CODES.**—Not later than 270 days after the end of the comment period described in subparagraph (F), taking into account the comments received under such subparagraph, the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services an operational list of care episode and patient condition codes (and the criteria and characteristics assigned to such code).

“(H) **SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS.**—Not later than November 1 of each year (beginning with 2018), the Secretary shall, through rulemaking, make revisions to the operational lists of care episode and patient condition codes as the Secretary determines may be appropriate. Such revisions may be based on experience, new information developed pursuant to subsection (n)(9)(A), and input from the physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders, including representatives of individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under this part.

“(3) **ATTRIBUTION OF PATIENTS TO PHYSICIANS OR PRACTITIONERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to facilitate the attribution of patients and episodes (in whole or in part) to one or more physicians or applicable practitioners furnishing items and services, the Secretary shall undertake the steps described in the succeeding provisions of this paragraph.

“(B) **DEVELOPMENT OF PATIENT RELATIONSHIP CATEGORIES AND CODES.**—The Secretary shall develop patient relationship categories and codes that define and distinguish the relationship and responsibility of a physician or applicable practitioner with a patient at the time of furnishing an item or service. Such patient relationship categories shall include different relationships of the physician or applicable practitioner to the patient (and the codes may reflect combinations of such categories), such as a physician or applicable practitioner who—

“(i) considers himself to have the primary responsibility for the general and ongoing care for the patient over extended periods of time;

“(ii) considers himself to be the lead physician or practitioner and who furnishes items and services and coordinates care furnished by other physicians or practitioners for the patient during an acute episode;

“(iii) furnishes items and services to the patient on a continuing basis during an acute episode of care, but in a supportive rather than a lead role;

“(iv) furnishes items and services to the patient on an occasional basis, usually at the request of another physician or practitioner; or

“(v) furnishes items and services only as ordered by another physician or practitioner.

“(C) **DRAFT LIST OF PATIENT RELATIONSHIP CATEGORIES AND CODES.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a draft list of the patient relationship categories and codes developed under subparagraph (B).

“(D) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—The Secretary shall seek, through the date that is 120 days after the Secretary posts the list pursuant to subparagraph (C), comments from physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders, including representatives of individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under this part, regarding the patient relationship categories and codes posted under

subparagraph (C). In seeking such comments, the Secretary shall use one or more mechanisms (other than notice and comment rule-making) that may include open door forums, town hall meetings, web-based forums, or other appropriate mechanisms.

“(E) OPERATIONAL LIST OF PATIENT RELATIONSHIP CATEGORIES AND CODES.—Not later than 240 days after the end of the comment period described in subparagraph (D), taking into account the comments received under such subparagraph, the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services an operational list of patient relationship categories and codes.

“(F) SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS.—Not later than November 1 of each year (beginning with 2018), the Secretary shall, through rule-making, make revisions to the operational list of patient relationship categories and codes as the Secretary determines appropriate. Such revisions may be based on experience, new information developed pursuant to subsection (n)(9)(A), and input from the physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders, including representatives of individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under this part.

“(4) REPORTING OF INFORMATION FOR RESOURCE USE MEASUREMENT.—Claims submitted for items and services furnished by a physician or applicable practitioner on or after January 1, 2018, shall, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, include—

“(A) applicable codes established under paragraphs (2) and (3); and

“(B) the national provider identifier of the ordering physician or applicable practitioner (if different from the billing physician or applicable practitioner).

“(5) METHODOLOGY FOR RESOURCE USE ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to evaluate the resources used to treat patients (with respect to care episode and patient condition groups), the Secretary shall, as the Secretary determines appropriate—

“(i) use the patient relationship codes reported on claims pursuant to paragraph (4) to attribute patients (in whole or in part) to one or more physicians and applicable practitioners;

“(ii) use the care episode and patient condition codes reported on claims pursuant to paragraph (4) as a basis to compare similar patients and care episodes and patient condition groups; and

“(iii) conduct an analysis of resource use (with respect to care episodes and patient condition groups of such patients).

“(B) ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS OF PHYSICIANS AND PRACTITIONERS.—In conducting the analysis described in subparagraph (A)(iii) with respect to patients attributed to physicians and applicable practitioners, the Secretary shall, as feasible—

“(i) use the claims data experience of such patients by patient condition codes during a common period, such as 12 months; and

“(ii) use the claims data experience of such patients by care episode codes—

“(I) in the case of episodes without a hospitalization, during periods of time (such as the number of days) determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(II) in the case of episodes with a hospitalization, during periods of time (such as the number of days) before, during, and after the hospitalization.

“(C) MEASUREMENT OF RESOURCE USE.—In measuring such resource use, the Secretary—

“(i) shall use per patient total allowed charges for all services under part A and this part (and, if the Secretary determines appropriate, part D) for the analysis of patient resource use, by care episode codes and by patient condition codes; and

“(ii) may, as determined appropriate, use other measures of allowed charges (such as subtotals for categories of items and services) and measures of utilization of items and services (such as frequency of specific items and services and the ratio of specific items and services among attributed patients or episodes).

“(D) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—The Secretary shall seek comments from the physician specialty societies, applicable practitioner organizations, and other stakeholders, including representatives of individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under this part, regarding the resource use methodology established pursuant to this paragraph. In seeking comments the Secretary shall use one or more mechanisms (other than notice and comment rulemaking) that may include open door forums, town hall meetings, web-based forums, or other appropriate mechanisms.

“(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that the Secretary contracts with an entity to carry out any part of the provisions of this subsection, the Secretary may not contract with an entity or an entity with a subcontract if the entity or subcontracting entity currently makes recommendations to the Secretary on relative values for services under the fee schedule for physicians' services under this section.

“(7) LIMITATION.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of—

“(A) care episode and patient condition groups and codes established under paragraph (2);

“(B) patient relationship categories and codes established under paragraph (3); and

“(C) measurement of, and analyses of resource use with respect to, care episode and patient condition codes and patient relationship codes pursuant to paragraph (5).

“(8) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to this section.

“(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) PHYSICIAN.—The term ‘physician’ has the meaning given such term in section 1861(r)(1).

“(B) APPLICABLE PRACTITIONER.—The term ‘applicable practitioner’ means—

“(i) a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and clinical nurse specialist (as such terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)), and a certified registered nurse anesthetist (as defined in section 1861(bb)(2)); and

“(ii) beginning January 1, 2019, such other eligible professionals (as defined in subsection (k)(3)(B)) as specified by the Secretary.

“(10) CLARIFICATION.—The provisions of sections 1890(b)(7) and 1890A shall not apply to this subsection.”

#### SEC. 102. PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR MEASURE DEVELOPMENT.

Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4), as amended by subsections (c) and (f) of section 101, is further amended by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

“(s) PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR MEASURE DEVELOPMENT.—

“(1) PLAN IDENTIFYING MEASURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND TIMELINES.—

“(A) DRAFT MEASURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—Not later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary

shall develop, and post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a draft plan for the development of quality measures for application under the applicable provisions (as defined in paragraph (5)). Under such plan the Secretary shall—

“(i) address how measures used by private payers and integrated delivery systems could be incorporated under title XVIII;

“(ii) describe how coordination, to the extent possible, will occur across organizations developing such measures; and

“(iii) take into account how clinical best practices and clinical practice guidelines should be used in the development of quality measures.

“(B) QUALITY DOMAINS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘quality domains’ means at least the following domains:

“(i) Clinical care.

“(ii) Safety.

“(iii) Care coordination.

“(iv) Patient and caregiver experience.

“(v) Population health and prevention.

“(C) CONSIDERATION.—In developing the draft plan under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider—

“(i) gap analyses conducted by the entity with a contract under section 1890(a) or other contractors or entities;

“(ii) whether measures are applicable across health care settings;

“(iii) clinical practice improvement activities submitted under subsection (q)(2)(C)(iv) for identifying possible areas for future measure development and identifying existing gaps with respect to such measures; and

“(iv) the quality domains applied under this subsection.

“(D) PRIORITIES.—In developing the draft plan under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to the following types of measures:

“(i) Outcome measures, including patient reported outcome and functional status measures.

“(ii) Patient experience measures.

“(iii) Care coordination measures.

“(iv) Measures of appropriate use of services, including measures of over use.

“(E) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—The Secretary shall accept through March 1, 2016, comments on the draft plan posted under paragraph (1)(A) from the public, including health care providers, payers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

“(F) FINAL MEASURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—Not later than May 1, 2016, taking into account the comments received under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall finalize the plan and post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services an operational plan for the development of quality measures for use under the applicable provisions. Such plan shall be updated as appropriate.

“(2) CONTRACTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR QUALITY MEASURE DEVELOPMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts or other arrangements with entities for the purpose of developing, improving, updating, or expanding in accordance with the plan under paragraph (1) quality measures for application under the applicable provisions. Such entities shall include organizations with quality measure development expertise.

“(B) PRIORITIZATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In entering into contracts or other arrangements under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to the development of the types of measures described in paragraph (1)(D).

“(ii) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting measures for development under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

“(I) whether such measures would be electronically specified; and

“(II) clinical practice guidelines to the extent that such guidelines exist.

“(3) ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a report on the progress made in developing quality measures for application under the applicable provisions.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

“(i) A description of the Secretary’s efforts to implement this paragraph.

“(ii) With respect to the measures developed during the previous year—

“(I) a description of the total number of quality measures developed and the types of such measures, such as an outcome or patient experience measure;

“(II) the name of each measure developed;

“(III) the name of the developer and steward of each measure;

“(IV) with respect to each type of measure, an estimate of the total amount expended under this title to develop all measures of such type; and

“(V) whether the measure would be electronically specified.

“(iii) With respect to measures in development at the time of the report—

“(I) the information described in clause (ii), if available; and

“(II) a timeline for completion of the development of such measures.

“(iv) A description of any updates to the plan under paragraph (1) (including newly identified gaps and the status of previously identified gaps) and the inventory of measures applicable under the applicable provisions.

“(v) Other information the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(4) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—With respect to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek stakeholder input with respect to—

“(A) the identification of gaps where no quality measures exist, particularly with respect to the types of measures described in paragraph (1)(D);

“(B) prioritizing quality measure development to address such gaps; and

“(C) other areas related to quality measure development determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(5) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable provisions’ means the following provisions:

“(A) Subsection (q)(2)(B)(i).

“(B) Section 1833(z)(2)(C).

“(6) FUNDING.—For purposes of carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$15,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Amounts transferred under this paragraph shall remain available through the end of fiscal year 2022.

“(7) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information for the development of quality measures.”.

### SEC. 103. ENCOURAGING CARE MANAGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC CARE NEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) ENCOURAGING CARE MANAGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC CARE NEEDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to encourage the management of care for individuals with chronic care needs the Secretary shall, subject to subparagraph (B), make payment (as the Secretary determines to be appropriate) under this section for chronic care management services furnished on or after January 1, 2015, by a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1)), physician assistant or nurse practitioner (as defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A)), clinical nurse specialist (as defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(B)), or certified nurse midwife (as defined in section 1861(gg)(2)).

“(B) POLICIES RELATING TO PAYMENT.—In carrying out this paragraph, with respect to chronic care management services, the Secretary shall—

“(i) make payment to only one applicable provider for such services furnished to an individual during a period;

“(ii) not make payment under subparagraph (A) if such payment would be duplicative of payment that is otherwise made under this title for such services; and

“(iii) not require that an annual wellness visit (as defined in section 1861(hhh)) or an initial preventive physical examination (as defined in section 1861(ww)) be furnished as a condition of payment for such management services.”.

(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—

(1) CAMPAIGN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subsection referred to as the “Secretary”) shall conduct an education and outreach campaign to inform professionals who furnish items and services under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act and individuals enrolled under such part of the benefits of chronic care management services described in section 1848(b)(8) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a), and encourage such individuals with chronic care needs to receive such services.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Such campaign shall—

(i) be directed by the Office of Rural Health Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Minority Health of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

(ii) focus on encouraging participation by underserved rural populations and racial and ethnic minority populations.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the use of chronic care management services described in such section 1848(b)(8) by individuals living in rural areas and by racial and ethnic minority populations. Such report shall—

(A) identify barriers to receiving chronic care management services; and

(B) make recommendations for increasing the appropriate use of chronic care management services.

### SEC. 104. EMPOWERING BENEFICIARY CHOICES THROUGH CONTINUED ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis (beginning with 2015), the Secretary shall make publicly available, in an easily understandable format, information with respect to physicians and, as appropriate, other eligible professionals on items and services furnished

to Medicare beneficiaries under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(b) TYPE AND MANNER OF INFORMATION.—The information made available under this section shall be similar to the type of information in the Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Physician and Other Supplier Public Use File released by the Secretary with respect to 2012 and shall be made available in a manner similar to the manner in which the information in such file is made available.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The information made available under this section shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Information on the number of services furnished by the physician or other eligible professional under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.), which may include information on the most frequent services furnished or groupings of services.

(2) Information on submitted charges and payments for services under such part.

(3) A unique identifier for the physician or other eligible professional that is available to the public, such as a national provider identifier.

(d) SEARCHABILITY.—The information made available under this section shall be searchable by at least the following:

(1) The specialty or type of the physician or other eligible professional.

(2) Characteristics of the services furnished, such as volume or groupings of services.

(3) The location of the physician or other eligible professional.

(e) INTEGRATION ON PHYSICIAN COMPARE.—Beginning with 2016, the Secretary shall integrate the information made available under this section on Physician Compare.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL; PHYSICIAN; SECRETARY.—The terms “eligible professional”, “physician”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given such terms in section 10331(i) of Public Law 111-148.

(2) PHYSICIAN COMPARE.—The term “Physician Compare” means the Physician Compare Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (or a successor website).

### SEC. 105. EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF MEDICARE DATA.

(a) EXPANDING USES OF MEDICARE DATA BY QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—

(1) ADDITIONAL ANALYSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), to the extent consistent with applicable information, privacy, security, and disclosure laws (including paragraph (3)), notwithstanding paragraph (4)(B) of section 1874(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)) and the second sentence of paragraph (4)(D) of such section, beginning July 1, 2016, a qualified entity may use the combined data described in paragraph (4)(B)(iii) of such section received by such entity under such section, and information derived from the evaluation described in such paragraph (4)(D), to conduct additional non-public analyses (as determined appropriate by the Secretary) and provide or sell such analyses to authorized users for non-public use (including for the purposes of assisting providers of services and suppliers to develop and participate in quality and patient care improvement activities, including developing new models of care).

(B) LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANALYSES.—

(i) EMPLOYERS.—Any analyses provided or sold under subparagraph (A) to an employer

described in paragraph (9)(A)(iii) may only be used by such employer for purposes of providing health insurance to employees and retirees of the employer.

(ii) **HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUERS.**—A qualified entity may not provide or sell an analysis to a health insurance issuer described in paragraph (9)(A)(iv) unless the issuer is providing the qualified entity with data under section 1874(e)(4)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)(4)(B)(iii)).

(2) **ACCESS TO CERTAIN DATA.**—

(A) **ACCESS.**—To the extent consistent with applicable information, privacy, security, and disclosure laws (including paragraph (3)), notwithstanding paragraph (4)(B) of section 1874(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)) and the second sentence of paragraph (4)(D) of such section, beginning July 1, 2016, a qualified entity may—

(i) provide or sell the combined data described in paragraph (4)(B)(iii) of such section to authorized users described in clauses (i), (ii), and (v) of paragraph (9)(A) for non-public use, including for the purposes described in subparagraph (B); or

(ii) subject to subparagraph (C), provide Medicare claims data to authorized users described in clauses (i), (ii), and (v), of paragraph (9)(A) for non-public use, including for the purposes described in subparagraph (B).

(B) **PURPOSES DESCRIBED.**—The purposes described in this subparagraph are assisting providers of services and suppliers in developing and participating in quality and patient care improvement activities, including developing new models of care.

(C) **MEDICARE CLAIMS DATA MUST BE PROVIDED AT NO COST.**—A qualified entity may not charge a fee for providing the data under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(3) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an analysis or data that is provided or sold under paragraph (1) or (2) shall not contain information that individually identifies a patient.

(B) **INFORMATION ON PATIENTS OF THE PROVIDER OF SERVICES OR SUPPLIER.**—To the extent consistent with applicable information, privacy, security, and disclosure laws, an analysis or data that is provided or sold to a provider of services or supplier under paragraph (1) or (2) may contain information that individually identifies a patient of such provider or supplier, including with respect to items and services furnished to the patient by other providers of services or suppliers.

(C) **PROHIBITION ON USING ANALYSES OR DATA FOR MARKETING PURPOSES.**—An authorized user shall not use an analysis or data provided or sold under paragraph (1) or (2) for marketing purposes.

(4) **DATA USE AGREEMENT.**—A qualified entity and an authorized user described in clauses (i), (ii), and (v) of paragraph (9)(A) shall enter into an agreement regarding the use of any data that the qualified entity is providing or selling to the authorized user under paragraph (2). Such agreement shall describe the requirements for privacy and security of the data and, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, any prohibitions on using such data to link to other individually identifiable sources of information. If the authorized user is not a covered entity under the rules promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the agreement shall identify the relevant regulations, as determined by the Secretary, that the user shall comply with as if it were acting in the capacity of such a covered entity.

(5) **NO REDISCLOSURE OF ANALYSES OR DATA.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an authorized user that is provided or sold an analysis or data under paragraph (1) or (2) shall not redisclose or make public such analysis or data or any analysis using such data.

(B) **PERMITTED REDISCLOSURE.**—A provider of services or supplier that is provided or sold an analysis or data under paragraph (1) or (2) may, as determined by the Secretary, redisclose such analysis or data for the purposes of performance improvement and care coordination activities but shall not make public such analysis or data or any analysis using such data.

(6) **OPPORTUNITY FOR PROVIDERS OF SERVICES AND SUPPLIERS TO REVIEW.**—Prior to a qualified entity providing or selling an analysis to an authorized user under paragraph (1), to the extent that such analysis would individually identify a provider of services or supplier who is not being provided or sold such analysis, such qualified entity shall provide such provider or supplier with the opportunity to appeal and correct errors in the manner described in section 1874(e)(4)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)(4)(C)(ii)).

(7) **ASSESSMENT FOR A BREACH.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of a breach of a data use agreement under this section or section 1874(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)), the Secretary shall impose an assessment on the qualified entity both in the case of—

(i) an agreement between the Secretary and a qualified entity; and

(ii) an agreement between a qualified entity and an authorized user.

(B) **ASSESSMENT.**—The assessment under subparagraph (A) shall be an amount up to \$100 for each individual entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act or enrolled for benefits under part B of such title—

(i) in the case of an agreement described in subparagraph (A)(i), for whom the Secretary provided data on to the qualified entity under paragraph (2); and

(ii) in the case of an agreement described in subparagraph (A)(ii), for whom the qualified entity provided data on to the authorized user under paragraph (2).

(C) **DEPOSIT OF AMOUNTS COLLECTED.**—Any amounts collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t).

(8) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Any qualified entity that provides or sells an analysis or data under paragraph (1) or (2) shall annually submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

(A) a summary of the analyses provided or sold, including the number of such analyses, the number of purchasers of such analyses, and the total amount of fees received for such analyses;

(B) a description of the topics and purposes of such analyses;

(C) information on the entities who received the data under paragraph (2), the uses of the data, and the total amount of fees received for providing, selling, or sharing the data; and

(D) other information determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(9) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection and subsection (b):

(A) **AUTHORIZED USER.**—The term “authorized user” means the following:

(i) A provider of services.

(ii) A supplier.

(iii) An employer (as defined in section 3(5) of the Employee Retirement Insurance Security Act of 1974).

(iv) A health insurance issuer (as defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act).

(v) A medical society or hospital association.

(vi) Any entity not described in clauses (i) through (v) that is approved by the Secretary (other than an employer or health insurance issuer not described in clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively, as determined by the Secretary).

(B) **PROVIDER OF SERVICES.**—The term “provider of services” has the meaning given such term in section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(u)).

(C) **QUALIFIED ENTITY.**—The term “qualified entity” has the meaning given such term in section 1874(e)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)).

(D) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(E) **SUPPLIER.**—The term “supplier” has the meaning given such term in section 1861(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(d)).

(b) **ACCESS TO MEDICARE DATA BY QUALIFIED CLINICAL DATA REGISTRIES TO FACILITATE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.**—

(1) **ACCESS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent consistent with applicable information, privacy, security, and disclosure laws, beginning July 1, 2016, the Secretary shall, at the request of a qualified clinical data registry under section 1848(m)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(m)(3)(E)), provide the data described in subparagraph (B) (in a form and manner determined to be appropriate) to such qualified clinical data registry for purposes of linking such data with clinical outcomes data and performing risk-adjusted, scientifically valid analyses and research to support quality improvement or patient safety, provided that any public reporting of such analyses or research that identifies a provider of services or supplier shall only be conducted with the opportunity of such provider or supplier to appeal and correct errors in the manner described in subsection (a)(6).

(B) **DATA DESCRIBED.**—The data described in this subparagraph is—

(i) claims data under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act; and

(ii) if the Secretary determines appropriate, claims data under the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act and the State Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act.

(2) **FEE.**—Data described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be provided to a qualified clinical data registry under paragraph (1) at a fee equal to the cost of providing such data. Any fee collected pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be deposited in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account.

(c) **EXPANSION OF DATA AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED ENTITIES.**—Section 1874(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “MEDICARE”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: “Beginning July 1, 2016, if the Secretary determines appropriate, the data described in this paragraph may also include standardized extracts (as determined by the Secretary) of claims data

under titles XIX and XXI for assistance provided under such titles for one or more specified geographic areas and time periods requested by a qualified entity.”; and

(B) in the last sentence, by inserting “or under titles XIX or XXI” before the period at the end.

(d) REVISION OF PLACEMENT OF FEES.—Section 1874(e)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(e)(4)(A)) is amended, in the second sentence—

(1) by inserting “, for periods prior to July 1, 2016,” after “deposited”; and

(2) by inserting the following before the period at the end: “, and, beginning July 1, 2016, into the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account”.

#### SEC. 106. REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN AND OTHER PROVISIONS.

(a) MEDICARE PHYSICIAN AND PRACTITIONER OPT-OUT TO PRIVATE CONTRACT.—

(1) INDEFINITE, CONTINUING AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF OPT OUT ELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1802(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395a(b)(3)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “during the 2-year period beginning on the date the affidavit is signed” and inserting “during the applicable 2-year period (as defined in subparagraph (D))”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “during the 2-year period described in subparagraph (B)(ii)” and inserting “during the applicable 2-year period”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) APPLICABLE 2-YEAR PERIODS FOR EFFECTIVENESS OF AFFIDAVITS.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable 2-year period’ means, with respect to an affidavit of a physician or practitioner under subparagraph (B), the 2-year period beginning on the date the affidavit is signed and includes each subsequent 2-year period unless the physician or practitioner involved provides notice to the Secretary (in a form and manner specified by the Secretary), not later than 30 days before the end of the previous 2-year period, that the physician or practitioner does not want to extend the application of the affidavit for such subsequent 2-year period.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall apply to affidavits entered into on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON OPT-OUT PHYSICIANS AND PRACTITIONERS.—Section 1802(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395a(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) OPT-OUT PHYSICIAN OR PRACTITIONER.—The term ‘opt-out physician or practitioner’ means a physician or practitioner who has in effect an affidavit under paragraph (3)(B).”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) POSTING OF INFORMATION ON OPT-OUT PHYSICIANS AND PRACTITIONERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary shall make publicly available through an appropriate publicly accessible website of the Department of Health and Human Services information on the number and characteristics of opt-out physicians and practitioners and shall update such information on such website not less often than annually.

“(B) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED.—The information to be made available under sub-

paragraph (A) shall include at least the following with respect to opt-out physicians and practitioners:

“(i) Their number.

“(ii) Their physician or professional specialty or other designation.

“(iii) Their geographic distribution.

“(iv) The timing of their becoming opt-out physicians and practitioners, relative, to the extent feasible, to when they first enrolled in the program under this title and with respect to applicable 2-year periods.

“(v) The proportion of such physicians and practitioners who billed for emergency or urgent care services.”.

(b) PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEMS.—

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACHIEVING WIDESPREAD EHR INTEROPERABILITY.—

(A) OBJECTIVE.—As a consequence of a significant Federal investment in the implementation of health information technology through the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs, Congress declares it a national objective to achieve widespread exchange of health information through interoperable certified EHR technology nationwide by December 31, 2018.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) WIDESPREAD INTEROPERABILITY.—The term “widespread interoperability” means interoperability between certified EHR technology systems employed by meaningful EHR users under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs and other clinicians and health care providers on a nationwide basis.

(ii) INTEROPERABILITY.—The term “interoperability” means the ability of two or more health information systems or components to exchange clinical and other information and to use the information that has been exchanged using common standards as to provide access to longitudinal information for health care providers in order to facilitate coordinated care and improved patient outcomes.

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF METRICS.—Not later than July 1, 2016, and in consultation with stakeholders, the Secretary shall establish metrics to be used to determine if and to the extent that the objective described in subparagraph (A) has been achieved.

(D) RECOMMENDATIONS IF OBJECTIVE NOT ACHIEVED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that the objective described in subparagraph (A) has not been achieved by December 31, 2018, then the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report, by not later than December 31, 2019, that identifies barriers to such objective and recommends actions that the Federal Government can take to achieve such objective. Such recommended actions may include recommendations—

(i) to adjust payments for not being meaningful EHR users under the Medicare EHR incentive programs; and

(ii) for criteria for decertifying certified EHR technology products.

(2) PREVENTING BLOCKING THE SHARING OF INFORMATION.—

(A) FOR MEANINGFUL USE EHR PROFESSIONALS.—Section 1848(o)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(o)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and the professional demonstrates (through a process specified by the Secretary, such as the use of an attestation) that the professional has not knowingly and willfully taken action (such as to disable functionality) to limit or restrict the compatibility or interoperability of the certified EHR technology”.

(B) FOR MEANINGFUL USE EHR HOSPITALS.—Section 1886(n)(3)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(n)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and the hospital demonstrates (through a process specified by the Secretary, such as the use of an attestation) that the hospital has not knowingly and willfully taken action (such as to disable functionality) to limit or restrict the compatibility or interoperability of the certified EHR technology”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to meaningful EHR users as of the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO COMPARE CERTIFIED EHR TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.—

(A) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to examine the feasibility of establishing one or more mechanisms to assist providers in comparing and selecting certified EHR technology products. Such mechanisms may include—

(i) a website with aggregated results of surveys of meaningful EHR users on the functionality of certified EHR technology products to enable such users to directly compare the functionality and other features of such products; and

(ii) information from vendors of certified products that is made publicly available in a standardized format.

The aggregated results of the surveys described in clause (i) may be made available through contracts with physicians, hospitals, or other organizations that maintain such comparative information described in such clause.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on mechanisms that would assist providers in comparing and selecting certified EHR technology products. The report shall include information on the benefits of, and resources needed to develop and maintain, such mechanisms.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term “certified EHR technology” has the meaning given such term in section 1848(o)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(o)(4)).

(B) The term “meaningful EHR user” has the meaning given such term under the Medicare EHR incentive programs.

(C) The term “Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs” means—

(i) in the case of the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the incentive programs under section 1814(l)(3), section 1848(o), subsections (l) and (m) of section 1853, and section 1886(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(l)(3), 1395w-4(o), 1395w-23, 1395ww(n)); and

(ii) in the case of the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, the incentive program under subsections (a)(3)(F) and (t) of section 1903 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b).

(D) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) GAO STUDIES AND REPORTS ON THE USE OF TELEHEALTH UNDER FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND ON REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING SERVICES.—

(1) STUDY ON TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the following:

(A) How the definition of telehealth across various Federal programs and Federal efforts



can inform the use of telehealth in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(B) Issues that can facilitate or inhibit the use of telehealth under the Medicare program under such title, including oversight and professional licensure, changing technology, privacy and security, infrastructure requirements, and varying needs across urban and rural areas.

(C) Potential implications of greater use of telehealth with respect to payment and delivery system transformations under the Medicare program under such title XVIII and the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(D) How the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services monitors payments made under the Medicare program under such title XVIII to providers for telehealth services.

(2) STUDY ON REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(i) of the dissemination of remote patient monitoring technology in the private health insurance market;

(ii) of the financial incentives in the private health insurance market relating to adoption of such technology;

(iii) of the barriers to adoption of such services under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act;

(iv) that evaluates the patients, conditions, and clinical circumstances that could most benefit from remote patient monitoring services; and

(v) that evaluates the challenges related to establishing appropriate valuation for remote patient monitoring services under the Medicare physician fee schedule under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) in order to accurately reflect the resources involved in furnishing such services.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

(i) REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING SERVICES.—The term “remote patient monitoring services” means services furnished through remote patient monitoring technology.

(ii) REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING TECHNOLOGY.—The term “remote patient monitoring technology” means a coordinated system that uses one or more home-based or mobile monitoring devices that automatically transmit vital sign data or information on activities of daily living and may include responses to assessment questions collected on the devices wirelessly or through a telecommunications connection to a server that complies with the Federal regulations concerning the privacy of individually identifiable health information promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as part of an established plan of care for that patient that includes the review and interpretation of that data by a health care professional.

(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress—

(A) a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (2).

A report required under this paragraph shall be submitted together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate. The Comptroller General may submit one report containing the re-

sults described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and the recommendations described in the previous sentence.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the development, recognition, or implementation of any guideline or other standard under any Federal health care provision shall not be construed to establish the standard of care or duty of care owed by a health care provider to a patient in any medical malpractice or medical product liability action or claim.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

(A) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROVISION.—The term “Federal health care provision” means any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), or title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(B) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term “health care provider” means any individual, group practice, corporation of health care professionals, or hospital—

(i) licensed, registered, or certified under Federal or State laws or regulations to provide health care services; or

(ii) required to be so licensed, registered, or certified but that is exempted by other statute or regulation.

(C) MEDICAL MALPRACTICE OR MEDICAL PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTION OR CLAIM.—The term “medical malpractice or medical product liability action or claim” means a medical malpractice action or claim (as defined in section 431(7) of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11151(7))) and includes a liability action or claim relating to a health care provider’s prescription or provision of a drug, device, or biological product (as such terms are defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262)).

(D) STATE.—The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and any other commonwealth, possession, or territory of the United States.

(3) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) or any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), or title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) shall be construed to preempt any State or common law governing medical professional or medical product liability actions or claims.

## TITLE II—MEDICARE AND OTHER HEALTH EXTENDERS

### Subtitle A—Medicare Extenders

#### SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF WORK GPCI FLOOR.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “January 1, 2018”.

#### SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF THERAPY CAP EXCEPTIONS PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(A), in the first sentence, by striking “March 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2017”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(A) by striking “March 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2017”; and

(B) by striking “2012, 2013, 2014, or the first three months of 2015” and inserting “2012 through 2017”.

(b) TARGETED REVIEWS UNDER MANUAL MEDICAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(g)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by inserting “, subject to subparagraph (E),” after “manual medical review process that”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E)(i) In place of the manual medical review process under subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall implement a process for medical review under this subparagraph under which the Secretary shall identify and conduct medical review for services described in subparagraph (C)(i) furnished by a provider of services or supplier (in this subparagraph referred to as a ‘therapy provider’) using such factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(ii) Such factors may include the following:

“(I) The therapy provider has had a high claims denial percentage for therapy services under this part or is less compliant with applicable requirements under this title.

“(II) The therapy provider has a pattern of billing for therapy services under this part that is aberrant compared to peers or otherwise has questionable billing practices for such services, such as billing medically unlikely units of services in a day.

“(III) The therapy provider is newly enrolled under this title or has not previously furnished therapy services under this part.

“(IV) The services are furnished to treat a type of medical condition.

“(V) The therapy provider is part of group that includes another therapy provider identified using the factors determined under this subparagraph.

“(iii) For purposes of carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$5,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, to remain available until expended. Such funds may not be used by a contractor under section 1893(h) for medical reviews under this subparagraph.

“(iv) The targeted review process under this subparagraph shall not apply to services for which expenses are incurred beyond the period for which the exceptions process under subparagraph (A) is implemented.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to requests described in section 1833(g)(5)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)(5)(C)(i)) with respect to which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has not conducted medical review under such section by a date (not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act) specified by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AMBULANCE ADD-ONS.

(a) GROUND AMBULANCE.—Section 1834(l)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(13)(A)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “January 1, 2018” each place it appears.

(b) SUPER RURAL GROUND AMBULANCE.—Section 1834(l)(12)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(12)(A)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “January 1, 2018”.



**SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.**

Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “in fiscal year 2015 (beginning on April 1, 2015), fiscal year 2016, and subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “in fiscal year 2018 and subsequent fiscal years”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “fiscal years 2011 through 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1, 2015),” and inserting “fiscal years 2011 through 2017,” each place it appears; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “fiscal years 2011 through 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1, 2015),” and inserting “fiscal years 2011 through 2017.”

**SEC. 205. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2017”; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2017.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2015” and inserting “October 1, 2017”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “through fiscal year 2014 and the portion of fiscal year 2015 before April 1, 2015” and inserting “through fiscal year 2017.”

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking “through the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2015” and inserting “through fiscal year 2017.”

**SEC. 206. EXTENSION FOR SPECIALIZED MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS.**

Section 1859(f)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-28(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2019.”

**SEC. 207. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENROLLMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.**

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended by striking “and \$15,000,000 for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2015” and inserting “and \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017.”

**SEC. 208. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.**

(a) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note), as amended by section 3306 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), section 610 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240), section 1110 of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67), and section 110 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by striking clause (v); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(v) for fiscal year 2015, of \$7,500,000;

“(vi) for fiscal year 2016, of \$13,000,000; and

“(vii) for fiscal year 2017, of \$13,000,000.”

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by striking clause (v); and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clauses:

“(v) for fiscal year 2015, of \$7,500,000;

“(vi) for fiscal year 2016, of \$7,500,000; and

“(vii) for fiscal year 2017, of \$7,500,000.”

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by striking clause (v); and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clauses:

“(v) for fiscal year 2015, of \$5,000,000;

“(vi) for fiscal year 2016, of \$5,000,000; and

“(vii) for fiscal year 2017, of \$5,000,000.”

(d) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONTRACT WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BENEFITS AND OUTREACH ENROLLMENT.—Subsection (d)(2) of such section 119, as so amended, is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by striking clause (v); and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clauses:

“(v) for fiscal year 2015, of \$5,000,000;

“(vi) for fiscal year 2016, of \$12,000,000; and

“(vii) for fiscal year 2017, of \$12,000,000.”

**SEC. 209. EXTENSION AND TRANSITION OF REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS.**

(a) ONE-YEAR TRANSITION AND NOTICE REGARDING TRANSITION.—Section 1876(h)(5)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395mm(h)(5)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “For any” and inserting “Subject to clause (iv), for any”;

(2) in clause (iii)(I), by inserting “cost plan service” after “With respect to any portion of the”;

(3) in clause (iii)(II), by inserting “cost plan service” after “With respect to any other portion of such”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(iv) In the case of an eligible organization that is offering a reasonable cost reimbursement contract that may no longer be extended or renewed because of the application of clause (ii), or where such contract has been extended or renewed but the eligible organization has informed the Secretary in writing not later than a date determined appropriate by the Secretary that such organization voluntarily plans not to seek renewal of the reasonable cost reimbursement contract, the following shall apply:

“(I) Notwithstanding such clause, such contract may be extended or renewed for the two years subsequent to 2016. The final year in which such contract is extended or renewed is referred to in this subsection as the ‘last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract.’

“(II) The organization may not enroll a new enrollee under such contract during the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract (but may continue to enroll new enrollees through the end of the year immediately preceding such year) unless such enrollee is any of the following:

“(aa) An individual who chooses enrollment in the reasonable cost contract during

the annual election period with respect to such last year.

“(bb) An individual whose spouse, at the time of the individual’s enrollment is an enrollee under the reasonable cost reimbursement contract.

“(cc) An individual who is covered under an employer group health plan that offers coverage through the reasonable cost reimbursement contract.

“(dd) An individual who becomes entitled to benefits under part A, or enrolled under part B, and was enrolled in a plan offered by the eligible organization immediately prior to the individual’s enrollment under the reasonable cost reimbursement contract.

“(III) Not later than a date determined appropriate by the Secretary prior to the beginning of the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract, the organization shall provide notice to the Secretary as to whether the organization will apply to have the contract converted over, in whole or in part, and offered as a Medicare Advantage plan under part C for the year following the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract.

“(IV) If the organization provides the notice described in subclause (III) that the contract will be converted, in whole or in part, the organization shall, not later than a date determined appropriate by the Secretary, provide the Secretary with such information as the Secretary determines appropriate in order to carry out section 1851(c)(4) and to carry out section 1854(a)(5), including subparagraph (C)(ii) of such section.

“(V) In the case that the organization enrolls a new enrollee under such contract during the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract, the organization shall provide the individual with a notification that such year is the last year for such contract.

“(v) If an eligible organization that is offering a reasonable cost reimbursement contract that is extended or renewed pursuant to clause (iv) provides the notice described in clause (iv)(III) that the contract will be converted, in whole or in part, the following shall apply:

“(I) The deemed enrollment under section 1851(c)(4).

“(II) The special rule for quality increase under section 1853(o)(4)(C).

“(III) During the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year for the contract and the year immediately preceding such year, the eligible organization, or the corporate parent organization of the eligible organization, shall be permitted to offer an MA plan in the area that such contract is being offered and enroll Medicare Advantage eligible individuals in such MA plan and such cost plan.”

(b) DEEMED ENROLLMENT FROM REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS CONVERTED TO MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Such elections” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (4), such elections”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DEEMED ENROLLMENT RELATING TO CONVERTED REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the first day of the annual, coordinated election period under subsection (e)(3) for plan years beginning on

or after January 1, 2017, an MA eligible individual described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) is deemed, unless the individual elects otherwise, to have elected to receive benefits under this title through an applicable MA plan (and shall be enrolled in such plan) beginning with such plan year, if—

“(i) the individual is enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract under section 1876(h) in the previous plan year;

“(ii) such reasonable cost reimbursement contract was extended or renewed for the last reasonable cost reimbursement contract year of the contract (as described in subclause (I) of section 1876(h)(5)(C)(iv)) pursuant to such section;

“(iii) the eligible organization that is offering such reasonable cost reimbursement contract provided the notice described in subclause (III) of such section that the contract was to be converted;

“(iv) the applicable MA plan—

“(I) is the plan that was converted from the reasonable cost reimbursement contract described in clause (iii);

“(II) is offered by the same entity (or an organization affiliated with such entity that has a common ownership interest of control) that entered into such contract; and

“(III) is offered in the service area where the individual resides;

“(v) in the case of reasonable cost reimbursement contracts that provide coverage under parts A and B (and, to the extent the Secretary determines it to be feasible, contracts that provide only part B coverage), the difference between the estimated individual costs (as determined applicable by the Secretary) for the applicable MA plan and such costs for the predecessor cost plan does not exceed a threshold established by the Secretary; and

“(vi) the applicable MA plan—

“(I) provides coverage for enrollees transitioning from the converted reasonable cost reimbursement contract to such plan to maintain current providers of services and suppliers and course of treatment at the time of enrollment for a period of at least 90 days after enrollment; and

“(II) during such period, pays such providers of services and suppliers for items and services furnished to the enrollee an amount that is not less than the amount of payment applicable for such items and services under the original Medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B.

“(B) MA ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—

“(i) WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE.—An MA eligible individual described in this clause, with respect to a plan year, is an MA eligible individual who is enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract under section 1876(h) in the previous plan year and who is not, for such previous plan year, enrolled in a prescription drug plan under part D, including coverage under section 1860D-22.

“(ii) WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE.—An MA eligible individual described in this clause, with respect to a plan year, is an MA eligible individual who is enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract under section 1876(h) in the previous plan year and who, for such previous plan year, is enrolled in a prescription drug plan under part D—

“(I) through such contract; or

“(II) through a prescription drug plan, if the sponsor of such plan is the same entity (or an organization affiliated with such entity) that entered into such contract.

“(C) APPLICABLE MA PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘applicable MA plan’

means, in the case of an individual described in—

“(i) subparagraph (B)(i), an MA plan that is not an MA-PD plan; and

“(ii) subparagraph (B)(ii), an MA-PD plan.

“(D) IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION OF DEEMED INDIVIDUALS.—Not later than 45 days before the first day of the annual, coordinated election period under subsection (e)(3) for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, the Secretary shall identify and notify the individuals who will be subject to deemed elections under subparagraph (A) on the first day of such period.”.

(2) BENEFICIARY OPTION TO DISCONTINUE OR CHANGE MA PLAN OR MA-PD PLAN AFTER DEEMED ENROLLMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) SPECIAL PERIOD FOR CERTAIN DEEMED ELECTIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—At any time during the period beginning after the last day of the annual, coordinated election period under paragraph (3) in which an individual is deemed to have elected to enroll in an MA plan or MA-PD plan under subsection (c)(4) and ending on the last day of February of the first plan year for which the individual is enrolled in such plan, such individual may change the election under subsection (a)(1) (including changing the MA plan or MA-PD plan in which the individual is enrolled).

“(ii) LIMITATION OF ONE CHANGE.—An individual may exercise the right under clause (i) only once during the applicable period described in such clause. The limitation under this clause shall not apply to changes in elections effected during an annual, coordinated election period under paragraph (3) or during a special enrollment period under paragraph (4).”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) PLAN REQUIREMENT FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT.—Section 1851(e)(6)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “paragraph (1),” and inserting “paragraph (1), during the period described in paragraph (2)(F).”.

(ii) PART D.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(I) in clause (ii), by adding “and paragraph (4)” after “paragraph (3)(A)”; and

(II) in clause (iii) by striking “and (E)” and inserting “(E), and (F)”.

(3) TREATMENT OF ESRD FOR DEEMED ENROLLMENT.—Section 1851(a)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(a)(3)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following flush sentence: “An individual who develops end-stage renal disease while enrolled in a reasonable cost reimbursement contract under section 1876(h) shall be treated as an MA eligible individual for purposes of applying the deemed enrollment under subsection (c)(4).”.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1851(d)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(d)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “NOTIFICATION TO NEWLY ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS” and inserting the following: “NOTIFICATIONS REQUIRED.—

“(i) NOTIFICATION TO NEWLY ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) NOTIFICATION RELATED TO CERTAIN DEEMED ELECTIONS.—The Secretary shall require a Medicare Advantage organization

that is offering a Medicare Advantage plan that has been converted from a reasonable cost reimbursement contract pursuant to section 1876(h)(5)(C)(iv) to mail, not later than 30 days prior to the first day of the annual, coordinated election period under subsection (e)(3) of a year, to any individual enrolled under such contract and identified by the Secretary under subsection (c)(4)(D) for such year—

“(I) a notification that such individual will, on such day, be deemed to have made an election with respect to such plan to receive benefits under this title through an MA plan or MA-PD plan (and shall be enrolled in such plan) for the next plan year under subsection (c)(4)(A), but that the individual may make a different election during the annual, coordinated election period for such year;

“(II) the information described in subparagraph (A);

“(III) a description of the differences between such MA plan or MA-PD plan and the reasonable cost reimbursement contract in which the individual was most recently enrolled with respect to benefits covered under such plans, including cost-sharing, premiums, drug coverage, and provider networks;

“(IV) information about the special period for elections under subsection (e)(2)(F); and

“(V) other information the Secretary may specify.”.

(d) TREATMENT OF TRANSITION PLAN FOR QUALITY RATING FOR PAYMENT PURPOSES.—Section 1853(o)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-23(o)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST 3 PLAN YEARS FOR PLANS THAT WERE CONVERTED FROM A REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT.—For purposes of applying paragraph (1) and section 1854(b)(1)(C) for the first 3 plan years under this part in the case of an MA plan to which deemed enrollment applies under section 1851(c)(4)—

“(i) such plan shall not be treated as a new MA plan (as defined in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)(II)); and

“(ii) in determining the star rating of the plan under subparagraph (A), to the extent that Medicare Advantage data for such plan is not available for a measure used to determine such star rating, the Secretary shall use data from the period in which such plan was a reasonable cost reimbursement contract.”.

## SEC. 210. EXTENSION OF HOME HEALTH RURAL ADD-ON.

Section 421(a) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; 117 Stat. 2283; 42 U.S.C. 1395fff note), as amended by section 5201(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171; 120 Stat. 46) and by section 3131(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 428), is amended by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “January 1, 2018” each place it appears.

### Subtitle B—Other Health Extenders

## SEC. 211. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL (QI) PROGRAM.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) is amended by striking “(but only for premiums payable with respect to months during the period beginning with January 1998, and ending with March 2015)”.

(b) ALLOCATIONS.—Section 1933(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-3(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—  
(A) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (H);

(B) in subparagraph (V), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (W), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (W) as subparagraphs (A) through (O), respectively; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(P) for the period that begins on April 1, 2015, and ends on December 31, 2015, the total allocation amount is \$535,000,000; and

“(Q) for 2016 and, subject to paragraph (4), for each subsequent year, the total allocation amount is \$980,000,000.”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “(P), (R), (T), or (V)” and inserting “or (P)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) ADJUSTMENT TO ALLOCATIONS.—The Secretary may increase the allocation amount under paragraph (2)(Q) for a year (beginning with 2017) up to an amount that does not exceed the product of the following:

“(A) MAXIMUM ALLOCATION AMOUNT FOR PREVIOUS YEAR.—In the case of 2017, the allocation amount for 2016, or in the case of a subsequent year, the maximum allocation amount allowed under this paragraph for the previous year.

“(B) INCREASE IN PART B PREMIUM.—The monthly premium rate determined under section 1839 for the year divided by the monthly premium rate determined under such section for the previous year.

“(C) INCREASE IN PART B ENROLLMENT.—The average number of individuals (as estimated by the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in September of the previous year) to be enrolled under part B of title XVIII for months in the year divided by the average number of such individuals (as so estimated) under this subparagraph with respect to enrollments in months in the previous year.”.

#### SEC. 212. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (TMA).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1925 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-6) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1902(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Beginning April 1, 1990, for provisions relating to the extension of eligibility for medical assistance for certain families who have received aid pursuant to a State plan approved under part A of title IV and have earned income, see section 1925.”.

#### SEC. 213. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR TYPE I DIABETES AND FOR INDIANS.

(a) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

(b) SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

#### SEC. 214. EXTENSION OF ABSTINENCE EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), striking “2015” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by inserting “and an additional \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017” after “2015”.

(b) BUDGET SCORING.—Notwithstanding section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the baseline shall be calculated assuming that no grant shall be made under section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) after fiscal year 2017.

(c) REALLOCATION OF UNUSED FUNDING.—The remaining unobligated balances of the amount appropriated for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 by section 510(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710(d)) for which no application has been received by the Funding Opportunity Announcement deadline, shall be made available to States that require the implementation of each element described in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of the definition of abstinence education in section 510(b)(2). The remaining unobligated balances shall be reallocated to such States that submit a valid application consistent with the original formula for this funding.

#### SEC. 215. EXTENSION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP).

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1)(A) and (4)(A) of subsection (a), by striking “2015” and inserting “2017” each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (a)(4)(B)(i), by striking “, 2013, 2014, and 2015” and inserting “through 2017”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

#### SEC. 216. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (vi); and

(2) by adding after clause (v) the following new clause:

“(vi) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017.”.

#### SEC. 217. EXTENSION OF HEALTH WORKFORCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.

Section 2008(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397g(c)(1)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

#### SEC. 218. EXTENSION OF MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

Section 511(j)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711(j)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by striking “for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on March 31, 2015” and inserting “for fiscal year 2015”; and

(B) by striking “an amount equal to the amount provided in subparagraph (E)” and inserting “\$400,000,000”; and

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(G) for fiscal year 2016, \$400,000,000; and

“(H) for fiscal year 2017, \$400,000,000.”.

#### SEC. 219. TENNESSEE DSH ALLOTMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2025.

Section 1923(f)(6)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(6)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) ALLOTMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2025.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, any other provision of law, or the terms of the TennCare Demonstration Project in effect for the

State, the DSH allotment for Tennessee for fiscal year 2015, and for each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2025, shall be \$53,100,000 for each such fiscal year.”.

#### SEC. 220. DELAY IN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR MEDICAID AMENDMENTS RELATING TO BENEFICIARY LIABILITY SETTLEMENTS.

Section 202(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (division A of Public Law 113-67; 42 U.S.C. 1396a note), as amended by section 211 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93; 128 Stat. 1047) is amended by striking “October 1, 2016” and inserting “October 1, 2017”.

#### SEC. 221. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS.

(a) FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—

(1) COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017”.

(2) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017”.

(b) EXTENSION OF TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS PROGRAM.—Section 340H(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)) is amended by inserting “and \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017” before the period at the end.

(c) APPLICATION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 are subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 113-235 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-256).

### TITLE III—CHIP

#### SEC. 301. 2-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) FUNDING.—Section 2104(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (18)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(19) for fiscal year 2016, \$19,300,000,000; and

“(20) for fiscal year 2017, for purposes of making 2 semi-annual allotments—

“(A) \$2,850,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on March 31, 2017; and

“(B) \$2,850,000,000 for the period beginning on April 1, 2017, and ending on September 30, 2017.”.

(b) ALLOTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “THROUGH 2015” and inserting “AND THEREAFTER”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2014” and inserting “2016”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

“(B) FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND EACH SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR.—Subject to paragraphs (5) and (7), from the amount made available under

paragraphs (16) through (19) of subsection (a) for fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, respectively, the Secretary shall compute a State allotment for each State (including the District of Columbia and each commonwealth and territory) for each such fiscal year as follows:

“(i) **REBASING IN FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND EACH SUCCEEDING ODD-NUMBERED FISCAL YEAR.**—For fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding odd-numbered fiscal year (other than fiscal years 2015 and 2017), the allotment of the State is equal to the Federal payments to the State that are attributable to (and countable toward) the total amount of allotments available under this section to the State in the preceding fiscal year (including payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year as well as amounts redistributed to the State in such preceding fiscal year), multiplied by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6) for such odd-numbered fiscal year.

“(ii) **GROWTH FACTOR UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND EACH SUCCEEDING EVEN-NUMBERED FISCAL YEAR.**—Except as provided in clauses (iii) and (iv), for fiscal year 2014 and each succeeding even-numbered fiscal year, the allotment of the State is equal to the sum of—

“(I) the amount of the State allotment under clause (i) for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(II) the amount of any payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year,

multiplied by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6) for such even-numbered fiscal year.

“(iii) **SPECIAL RULE FOR 2016.**—For fiscal year 2016, the allotment of the State is equal to the Federal payments to the State that are attributable to (and countable toward) the total amount of allotments available under this section to the State in the preceding fiscal year (including payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year as well as amounts redistributed to the State in such preceding fiscal year), but determined as if the last two sentences of section 2105(b) were in effect in such preceding fiscal year and then multiplying the result by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6) for fiscal year 2016.

“(iv) **REDUCTION IN 2018.**—For fiscal year 2018, with respect to the allotment of the State for fiscal year 2017, any amounts of such allotment that remain available for expenditure by the State in fiscal year 2018 shall be reduced by one-third.”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or 2017” after “2015”;

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “or fiscal year 2014” and inserting “fiscal year 2014, or fiscal year 2016”;

(E) in paragraph (8)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FISCAL YEAR 2015” and inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2017”; and

(ii) by inserting “or fiscal year 2017” after “2015”;

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (8) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively; and

(G) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017.**—

“(A) **FIRST HALF.**—Subject to paragraphs (5) and (7), from the amount made available under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (20) of

subsection (a) for the semi-annual period described in such paragraph, increased by the amount of the appropriation for such period under section 301(b)(3) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, the Secretary shall compute a State allotment for each State (including the District of Columbia and each commonwealth and territory) for such semi-annual period in an amount equal to the first half ratio (described in subparagraph (D)) of the amount described in subparagraph (C).

“(B) **SECOND HALF.**—Subject to paragraphs (5) and (7), from the amount made available under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (20) of subsection (a) for the semi-annual period described in such paragraph, the Secretary shall compute a State allotment for each State (including the District of Columbia and each commonwealth and territory) for such semi-annual period in an amount equal to the amount made available under such subparagraph, multiplied by the ratio of—

“(i) the amount of the allotment to such State under subparagraph (A); to

“(ii) the total of the amount of all of the allotments made available under such subparagraph.

“(C) **FULL YEAR AMOUNT BASED ON REBASED AMOUNT.**—The amount described in this subparagraph for a State is equal to the Federal payments to the State that are attributable to (and countable towards) the total amount of allotments available under this section to the State in fiscal year 2016 (including payments made to the State under subsection (n) for fiscal year 2016 as well as amounts redistributed to the State in fiscal year 2016), multiplied by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6) for fiscal year 2017.

“(D) **FIRST HALF RATIO.**—The first half ratio described in this subparagraph is the ratio of—

“(i) the sum of—

“(I) the amount made available under subsection (a)(20)(A); and

“(II) the amount of the appropriation for such period under section 301(b)(3) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015; to

“(ii) the sum of the—

“(I) amount described in clause (i); and

“(II) the amount made available under subsection (a)(20)(B).”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) Section 2104(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(m)(4)” and inserting “(m)(5)”.

(B) Section 2104(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)), as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “paragraph (4)” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting “paragraph (5)”; and

(II) by striking “the allotment increase factor determined under paragraph (5)” each place it appears and inserting “the allotment increase factor determined under paragraph (6)”;

(iii) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “the allotment increase factor under paragraph (5)” and inserting “the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6)”;

(iv) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking “paragraphs (4) and (6)” and inserting “paragraphs (5) and (7)” each place it appears; and

(II) by striking “the allotment increase factor under paragraph (5)” and inserting “the allotment increase factor under paragraph (6)”;

(v) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(F)), by striking “paragraph (1),

(2), or (3)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4)”;

(vi) in paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(F)), by striking “subject to paragraph (4)” and inserting “subject to paragraph (5)”; and

(vii) in paragraph (9), (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(F)), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (3) or (4)”.

(C) Section 2104(n)(3)(B)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(n)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “subsection (m)(5)(B)” and inserting “subsection (m)(6)(B)”.

(D) Section 2111(b)(2)(B)(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397kk(b)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “section 2104(m)(4)” and inserting “section 2104(m)(5)”.

(3) **ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017.**—There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$14,700,000,000 to accompany the allotment made for the period beginning on October 1, 2016, and ending on March 31, 2017, under paragraph (20)(A) of section 2104(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) (as added by subsection (a)(1)), to remain available until expended. Such amount shall be used to provide allotments to States under paragraph (4) of section 2104(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)) (as amended by paragraph (1)(G)) for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2017 in the same manner as allotments are provided under subsection (a)(20)(A) of such section 2104 and subject to the same terms and conditions as apply to the allotments provided from such subsection (a)(20)(A).

(c) **EXTENSION OF QUALIFYING STATES OPERATION.**—Section 2105(g)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(g)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

(d) **EXTENSION OF THE CHILD ENROLLMENT CONTINGENCY FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2104(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(n)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016”; and

(II) by inserting “and fiscal year 2017” after “2015”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016”; and

(II) by inserting “and fiscal year 2017” after “2015”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “fiscal year 2009, fiscal year 2010, fiscal year 2011, fiscal year 2012, fiscal year 2013, fiscal year 2014, or a semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2015” and inserting “any of fiscal years 2009 through 2014, fiscal year 2016, or a semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2015 or 2017”.

#### SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF EXPRESS LANE ELIGIBILITY.

Section 1902(e)(13)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(13)(I)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”.

#### SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.

Section 2113 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397mm) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “2015” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by inserting “and \$40,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 and 2017” after “2015”.

#### SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

(a) CHILDHOOD OBESITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Section 1139A(e)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–9a(e)(8)) is amended by inserting “, and \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 and 2017” after “2014”.

(b) PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES PROGRAM.—Section 1139A(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–9a(i)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and there is appropriated for the period of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, \$20,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section (other than subsections (e), (f), and (g))”.

#### SEC. 305. REPORT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF HHS ON USE OF EXPRESS LANE OPTION UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report that—

(1) provides data on the number of individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (referred to in this section as “Medicaid”) and the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act (referred to in this section as “CHIP”) through the use of the Express Lane option under section 1902(e)(13) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(13));

(2) assesses the extent to which individuals so enrolled meet the eligibility requirements under Medicaid or CHIP (as applicable); and

(3) provides data on Federal and State expenditures under Medicaid and CHIP for individuals so enrolled and disaggregates such data between expenditures made for individuals who meet the eligibility requirements under Medicaid or CHIP (as applicable) and expenditures made for individuals who do not meet such requirements.

### TITLE IV—OFFSETS

#### Subtitle A—Medicare Beneficiary Reforms

##### SEC. 401. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN MEDIGAP POLICIES FOR NEWLY ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.

Section 1882 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ss) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(z) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN MEDIGAP POLICIES FOR NEWLY ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, on or after January 1, 2020, a Medicare supplemental policy that provides coverage of the part B deductible, including any such policy (or rider to such a policy) issued under a waiver granted under subsection (p)(6), may not be sold or issued to a newly eligible Medicare beneficiary.

“(2) NEWLY ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘newly eligible Medicare beneficiary’ means an individual who is neither of the following:

“(A) An individual who has attained age 65 before January 1, 2020.

“(B) An individual who was entitled to benefits under part A pursuant to section 226(b) or 226A, or deemed to be eligible for

benefits under section 226(a), before January 1, 2020.

“(3) TREATMENT OF WAIVERED STATES.—In the case of a State described in subsection (p)(6), nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the State from modifying its alternative simplification program under such subsection so as to eliminate the coverage of the part B deductible for any medical supplemental policy sold or issued under such program to a newly eligible Medicare beneficiary on or after January 1, 2020.

“(4) TREATMENT OF REFERENCES TO CERTAIN POLICIES.—In the case of a newly eligible Medicare beneficiary, except as the Secretary may otherwise provide, any reference in this section to a Medicare supplemental policy which has a benefit package classified as ‘C’ or ‘F’ shall be deemed, as of January 1, 2020, to be a reference to a Medicare supplemental policy which has a benefit package classified as ‘D’ or ‘G’, respectively.

“(5) ENFORCEMENT.—The penalties described in clause (ii) of subsection (d)(3)(A) shall apply with respect to a violation of paragraph (1) in the same manner as it applies to a violation of clause (i) of such subsection.”.

##### SEC. 402. INCOME-RELATED PREMIUM ADJUSTMENT FOR PARTS B AND D.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1839(i)(3)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(i)(3)(C)(i)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “IN GENERAL.—” the following:

“(I) Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), for years before 2018”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) Subject to paragraph (5), for years beginning with 2018:

#### “If the modified adjusted gross income is:

	The applicable percentage is:
More than \$85,000 but not more than \$107,000 .....	35 percent
More than \$107,000 but not more than \$133,500 .....	50 percent
More than \$133,500 but not more than \$160,000 .....	65 percent
More than \$160,000 .....	80 percent.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1839(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “(or, beginning with 2018, \$85,000)” after “\$80,000”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by inserting “applicable” before “table”;

(3) in paragraph (5)(A)—

(A) in the matter before clause (i), by inserting “(other than 2018 and 2019)” after “2007”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “(or, in the case of a calendar year beginning with 2020, August 2018)” after “August 2006”; and

(4) in paragraph (6), in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “2019” and inserting “2017”.

#### Subtitle B—Other Offsets

##### SEC. 411. MEDICARE PAYMENT UPDATES FOR POST-ACUTE PROVIDERS.

(a) SNFS.—Section 1886(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy(e))—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “clause (ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii)”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “subject to clause (iii),” after “each subsequent fiscal year,”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.—For fiscal year 2018 (or other similar annual period specified in clause (i)), the skilled

nursing facility market basket percentage, after application of clause (ii), is equal to 1 percent.”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “paragraph (5)(B)(ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (5)(B)” each place it appears.

(b) IRFs.—Section 1886(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “clause (ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii)”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “After” and inserting “Subject to clause (iii), after”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.—The increase factor to be applied under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2018, after the application of clause (ii), shall be 1 percent.”; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A)(i), by striking “paragraph (3)(D)” and inserting “subparagraphs (C)(iii) and (D) of paragraph (3)”.

(c) HHAs.—Section 1895(b)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff(b)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by adding at the end the following: “Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the home health market basket percentage increase for 2018 shall be 1 percent.”; and

(2) in clause (vi)(I), by inserting “(except 2018)” after “each subsequent year”.

(d) HOSPICE.—Section 1814(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(A) in clause (ii)(VII), by striking “clause (iv),” and inserting “clauses (iv) and (vi),”; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking “clause (iv),” and inserting “clauses (iv) and (vi),”; and

(C) in clause (iv), by striking “After determining” and inserting “Subject to clause (vi), after determining”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vi) For fiscal year 2018, the market basket percentage increase under clause (ii)(VII) or (iii), as applicable, after application of clause (iv), shall be 1 percent.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(A)(i), by striking “paragraph (1)(C)(iv)” and inserting “clauses (iv) and (vi) of paragraph (1)(C)”.

(e) LTCHS.—Section 1886(m)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(m)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “In implementing” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (C), in implementing”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL RULE.—For fiscal year 2018, the annual update under subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year, after application of clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), shall be 1 percent.”.

**SEC. 412. DELAY OF REDUCTION TO MEDICAID DSH ALLOTMENTS.**

Section 1923(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(A)—  
(A) in clause (i), by striking “2017 through 2024” and inserting “2018 through 2025”;

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause:

“(ii) AGGREGATE REDUCTIONS.—The aggregate reductions in DSH allotments for all States under clause (i)(I) shall be equal to—

“(I) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;  
“(II) \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;  
“(III) \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;  
“(IV) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;  
“(V) \$6,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;  
“(VI) \$7,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;  
“(VII) \$8,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and  
“(VIII) \$8,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.”;

and  
(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) DISTRIBUTION OF AGGREGATE REDUCTIONS.—The Secretary shall distribute the aggregate reductions under clause (ii) among States in accordance with subparagraph (B).”; and

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

**SEC. 413. LEVY ON DELINQUENT PROVIDERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 6331(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “30 percent” and inserting “100 percent”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 414. ADJUSTMENTS TO INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT RATES.**

Section 7(b) of the TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-90), as amended by section 631(b) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “, 2009, or 2010” and inserting “or 2009”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) make an additional adjustment to the standardized amounts under such section 1886(d) of an increase of 0.5 percentage points for discharges occurring during each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023 and not make the adjustment (estimated to be an increase of 3.2 percent) that would otherwise apply for discharges occurring during fiscal year 2018 by reason of the completion of the adjustments required under clause (ii).”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “shall be construed” and all that follows through “providing authority” and inserting “shall be construed as providing authority”; and

(B) by inserting “and each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2023” after “2017”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not make an additional prospective adjustment (estimated to be a decrease of 0.55 percent) to the standardized amounts under such section 1886(d) to offset the amount of the increase in aggregate payments related to documentation and coding changes for discharges occurring during fiscal year 2010.”.

**TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

**Subtitle A—Protecting the Integrity of Medicare**

**SEC. 501. PROHIBITION OF INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON MEDICARE CARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) by moving clause (x), as added by section 1414(a)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, 6 ems to the left;

(2) by redesignating clause (x), as added by section 2(a)(1) of the Social Security Number Protection Act of 2010, and clause (xi) as clauses (xi) and (xii), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(xiii) The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish cost-effective procedures to ensure that a Social Security account number (or derivative thereof) is not displayed, coded, or embedded on the Medicare card issued to an individual who is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII or enrolled under part B of title XVIII and that any other identifier displayed on such card is not identifiable as a Social Security account number (or derivative thereof).”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing clause (xiii) of section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a)(3), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall do the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Establish a cost-effective process that involves the least amount of disruption to, as well as necessary assistance for, Medicare beneficiaries and health care providers, such as a process that provides such beneficiaries with access to assistance through a toll-free telephone number and provides outreach to providers.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF MEDICARE BENEFICIARY IDENTIFIED.—Consider implementing a process, similar to the process involving Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries, under which a Medicare beneficiary identifier which is not a Social Security account number (or derivative thereof) is used external to the Department of Health and Human Services and is convertible over to a Social Security account number (or derivative thereof) for use internal to such Department and the Social Security Administration.

(c) FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of implementing the provisions of (b) and the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the following transfers from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i) and from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t), in such proportions as the Secretary determines appropriate:

(1) To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Program Management Account, transfers of the following amounts:

(A) For fiscal year 2015, \$65,000,000, to be made available through fiscal year 2018.

(B) For each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, \$53,000,000, to be made available through fiscal year 2018.

(C) For fiscal year 2018, \$48,000,000, to be made available until expended.

(2) To the Social Security Administration Limitation on Administration Account, transfers of the following amounts:

(A) For fiscal year 2015, \$27,000,000, to be made available through fiscal year 2018.

(B) For each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, \$22,000,000, to be made available through fiscal year 2018.

(C) For fiscal year 2018, \$27,000,000, to be made available until expended.

(3) To the Railroad Retirement Board Limitation on Administration Account, the following amount:

(A) For fiscal year 2015, \$3,000,000, to be made available until expended.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (xiii) of section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a)(3), shall apply with respect to Medicare cards issued on and after an effective date specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, but in no case shall such effective date be later than the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) REISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall provide for the reissuance of Medicare cards that comply with the requirements of such clause not later than four years after the effective date specified by the Secretary under paragraph (1).

**SEC. 502. PREVENTING WRONGFUL MEDICARE PAYMENTS FOR ITEMS AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, INDIVIDUALS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT, AND DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.**

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR THE SECRETARY TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND CLAIMS EDITS RELATING TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, INDIVIDUALS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT, AND DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—Section 1874 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) REQUIREMENT FOR THE SECRETARY TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND CLAIMS EDITS RELATING TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, INDIVIDUALS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT, AND DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain procedures, including procedures for using claims processing edits, updating eligibility information to improve provider accessibility, and conducting recoupment activities such as through recovery audit contractors, in order to ensure that payment is not made under this title for items and services furnished to an individual who is one of the following:

“(1) An individual who is incarcerated.

“(2) An individual who is not lawfully present in the United States and who is not eligible for coverage under this title.

“(3) A deceased individual.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, and periodically thereafter as determined necessary by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, such Office shall submit to Congress a report on the activities described in subsection (f) of section 1874 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk), as added by subsection (a), that have been conducted since such date of enactment.

**SEC. 503. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES REGARDING MEDICARE BENEFICIARY SMART CARDS.**

To the extent the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that it is cost effective and technologically viable to use electronic Medicare beneficiary and provider



cards (such as cards that use smart card technology, including an embedded and secure integrated circuit chip), as presented in the Government Accountability Office report required by the conference report accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), the Secretary shall consider such measures as determined appropriate by the Secretary to implement such use of such cards for beneficiary and provider use under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.). In the case that the Secretary considers measures under the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Finance of the Senate, a report outlining the considerations undertaken by the Secretary under such sentence.

**SEC. 504. MODIFYING MEDICARE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(a)(11)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(11)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “the physician documenting that”; and

(2) by striking “has had a face-to-face encounter” and inserting “documenting such physician, physician assistant, practitioner, or specialist has had a face-to-face encounter”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by subsection (a) by program instruction or otherwise.

**SEC. 505. REDUCING IMPROPER MEDICARE PAYMENTS.**

(a) MEDICARE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTOR IMPROPER PAYMENT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Section 1874A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraph:

“(G) IMPROPER PAYMENT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Having in place an improper payment outreach and education program described in subsection (h).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) IMPROPER PAYMENT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to reduce improper payments under this title, each medicare administrative contractor shall establish and have in place an improper payment outreach and education program under which the contractor, through outreach, education, training, and technical assistance or other activities, shall provide providers of services and suppliers located in the region covered by the contract under this section with the information described in paragraph (2). The activities described in the preceding sentence shall be conducted on a regular basis.

“(2) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH ACTIVITIES.—The information to be provided under such payment outreach and education program shall include information the Secretary determines to be appropriate, which may include the following information:

“(A) A list of the providers’ or suppliers’ most frequent and expensive payment errors over the last quarter.

“(B) Specific instructions regarding how to correct or avoid such errors in the future.

“(C) A notice of new topics that have been approved by the Secretary for audits conducted by recovery audit contractors under section 1893(h).

“(D) Specific instructions to prevent future issues related to such new audits.

“(E) Other information determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(3) PRIORITY.—A medicare administrative contractor shall give priority to activities under such program that will reduce improper payments that are one or more of the following:

“(A) Are for items and services that have the highest rate of improper payment.

“(B) Are for items and service that have the greatest total dollar amount of improper payments.

“(C) Are due to clear misapplication or misinterpretation of Medicare policies.

“(D) Are clearly due to common and inadvertent clerical or administrative errors.

“(E) Are due to other types of errors that the Secretary determines could be prevented through activities under the program.

“(4) INFORMATION ON IMPROPER PAYMENTS FROM RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTORS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to assist medicare administrative contractors in carrying out improper payment outreach and education programs, the Secretary shall provide each contractor with a complete list of the types of improper payments identified by recovery audit contractors under section 1893(h) with respect to providers of services and suppliers located in the region covered by the contract under this section. Such information shall be provided on a time frame the Secretary determines appropriate which may be on a quarterly basis.

“(B) INFORMATION.—The information described in subparagraph (A) shall include information such as the following:

“(i) Providers of services and suppliers that have the highest rate of improper payments.

“(ii) Providers of services and suppliers that have the greatest total dollar amounts of improper payments.

“(iii) Items and services furnished in the region that have the highest rates of improper payments.

“(iv) Items and services furnished in the region that are responsible for the greatest total dollar amount of improper payments.

“(v) Other information the Secretary determines would assist the contractor in carrying out the program.

“(5) COMMUNICATIONS.—Communications with providers of services and suppliers under an improper payment outreach and education program are subject to the standards and requirements of subsection (g).”.

(b) USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS RECOVERED BY RACS.—Section 1893(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or paragraph (10)” after “paragraph (1)(C)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) USE OF CERTAIN RECOVERED FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After application of paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall retain a portion of the amounts recovered by recovery audit contractors for each year under this section which shall be available to the program management account of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for purposes of, subject to subparagraph (B), carrying out sections 1833(z), 1834(1)(16), and 1874A(a)(4)(G), carrying out section 514(b) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, and implementing strategies (such as claims processing edits) to help re-

duce the error rate of payments under this title. The amounts retained under the preceding sentence shall not exceed an amount equal to 15 percent of the amounts recovered under this subsection, and shall remain available until expended.

“(B) LIMITATION.—Except for uses that support claims processing (including edits) or system functionality for detecting fraud, amounts retained under subparagraph (A) may not be used for technological-related infrastructure, capital investments, or information systems.

“(C) NO REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS TO RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTORS.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall reduce amounts available for payments to recovery audit contractors under this subsection.”.

**SEC. 506. IMPROVING SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL AND FRAUD REPORTING REWARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall develop a plan to revise the incentive program under section 203(b) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-5(b)) to encourage greater participation by individuals to report fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. Such plan shall include recommendations for—

(1) ways to enhance rewards for individuals reporting under the incentive program, including rewards based on information that leads to an administrative action; and

(2) extending the incentive program to the Medicaid program.

(b) PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—The plan developed under subsection (a) shall also include recommendations for the use of the Senior Medicare Patrols authorized under section 411 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032) to conduct a public awareness and education campaign to encourage participation in the revised incentive program under subsection (a).

(c) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the plan developed under subsection (a).

**SEC. 507. REQUIRING VALID PRESCRIBER NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIERS ON PHARMACY CLAIMS.**

Section 1860D-4(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) REQUIRING VALID PRESCRIBER NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIERS ON PHARMACY CLAIMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan year 2016 and subsequent plan years, the Secretary shall require a claim for a covered part D drug for a part D eligible individual enrolled in a prescription drug plan under this part or an MA-PD plan under part C to include a prescriber National Provider Identifier that is determined to be valid under the procedures established under subparagraph (B)(i).

“(B) PROCEDURES.—

“(i) VALIDITY OF PRESCRIBER NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIERS.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall establish procedures for determining the validity of prescriber National Provider Identifiers under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) INFORMING BENEFICIARIES OF REASON FOR DENIAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that, in the case that a claim for a covered part D drug of an individual described in subparagraph (A) is denied because the claim does not meet the requirements of this paragraph, the individual is properly informed at the point of service of the reason for the denial.



“(C) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2018, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the procedures established under subparagraph (B)(i).”.

**SEC. 508. OPTION TO RECEIVE MEDICARE SUMMARY NOTICE ELECTRONICALLY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1806 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) FORMAT OF STATEMENTS FROM SECRETARY.—

“(1) ELECTRONIC OPTION BEGINNING IN 2016.—Subject to paragraph (2), for statements described in subsection (a) that are furnished for a period in 2016 or a subsequent year, in the case that an individual described in subsection (a) elects, in accordance with such form, manner, and time specified by the Secretary, to receive such statement in an electronic format, such statement shall be furnished to such individual for each period subsequent to such election in such a format and shall not be mailed to the individual.

“(2) LIMITATION ON REVOCATION OPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may determine a maximum number of elections described in paragraph (1) by an individual that may be revoked by the individual.

“(B) MINIMUM OF ONE REVOCATION OPTION.—In no case may the Secretary determine a maximum number under subparagraph (A) that is less than one.

“(3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that, in the most cost effective manner and beginning January 1, 2017, a clear notification of the option to elect to receive statements described in subsection (a) in an electronic format is made available, such as through the notices distributed under section 1804, to individuals described in subsection (a).”.

(b) ENCOURAGED EXPANSION OF ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS.—To the extent to which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines appropriate, the Secretary shall—

(1) apply an option similar to the option described in subsection (c)(1) of section 1806 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–7) (relating to the provision of the Medicare Summary Notice in an electronic format), as added by subsection (a), to other statements and notifications under title XVIII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(2) provide such Medicare Summary Notice and any such other statements and notifications on a more frequent basis than is otherwise required under such title.

**SEC. 509. RENEWAL OF MAC CONTRACTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1874A(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk–1(b)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to contracts entered into on or after, and to contracts in effect as of, the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY.—Section 1874A(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk–1(b)(3)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY.—To the extent possible without compromising the process for entering into and renewing contracts with medicare administrative contractors under this section, the Secretary shall make available to the public the performance of each medicare administrative contractor with respect to such

performance requirements and measurement standards.”.

**SEC. 510. STUDY ON PATHWAY FOR INCENTIVES TO STATES FOR STATE PARTICIPATION IN MEDICAID DATA MATCH PROGRAM.**

Section 1893(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INCENTIVES FOR STATES.—The Secretary shall study and, as appropriate, may specify incentives for States to work with the Secretary for the purposes described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii). The application of the previous sentence may include use of the waiver authority described in paragraph (2).”.

**SEC. 511. GUIDANCE ON APPLICATION OF COMMON RULE TO CLINICAL DATA REGISTRIES.**

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a clarification or modification with respect to the application of subpart A of part 46 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, governing the protection of human subjects in research (and commonly known as the “Common Rule”), to activities, including quality improvement activities, involving clinical data registries, including entities that are qualified clinical data registries pursuant to section 1848(m)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(m)(3)(E)).

**SEC. 512. ELIMINATING CERTAIN CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES; GAINSHARING STUDY AND REPORT.**

(a) ELIMINATING CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR INDUCEMENTS TO PHYSICIANS TO LIMIT SERVICES THAT ARE NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1128A(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–7a(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “medically necessary” after “reduce or limit”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to payments made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) GAINSHARING STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, shall submit to Congress a report with options for amending existing fraud and abuse laws in, and regulations related to, titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), through exceptions, safe harbors, or other narrowly targeted provisions, to permit gainsharing arrangements that otherwise would be subject to the civil money penalties described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1128A(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–7a(b)), or similar arrangements between physicians and hospitals, and that improve care while reducing waste and increasing efficiency. The report shall—

(1) consider whether such provisions should apply to ownership interests, compensation arrangements, or other relationships;

(2) describe how the recommendations address accountability, transparency, and quality, including how best to limit inducements to stint on care, discharge patients prematurely, or otherwise reduce or limit medically necessary care; and

(3) consider whether a portion of any savings generated by such arrangements (as compared to an historical benchmark or other metric specified by the Secretary to determine the impact of delivery and payment system changes under such title XVIII on expenditures made under such title)

should accrue to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

**SEC. 513. MODIFICATION OF MEDICARE HOME HEALTH SURETY BOND CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT.**

Section 1861(o)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(o)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) provides the Secretary with a surety bond—

“(A) in a form specified by the Secretary and in an amount that is not less than the minimum of \$50,000; and

“(B) that the Secretary determines is commensurate with the volume of payments to the home health agency; and”.

**SEC. 514. OVERSIGHT OF MEDICARE COVERAGE OF MANUAL MANIPULATION OF THE SPINE TO CORRECT SUBLUXATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(z) MEDICAL REVIEW OF SPINAL SUBLUXATION SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement a process for the medical review (as described in paragraph (2)) of treatment by a chiropractor described in section 1861(r)(5) by means of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation (as described in such section) of an individual who is enrolled under this part and apply such process to such services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, focusing on services such as—

“(A) services furnished by a such a chiropractor whose pattern of billing is aberrant compared to peers; and

“(B) services furnished by such a chiropractor who, in a prior period, has a services denial percentage in the 85th percentile or greater, taking into consideration the extent that service denials are overturned on appeal.

“(2) MEDICAL REVIEW.—

“(A) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION MEDICAL REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall use prior authorization medical review for services described in paragraph (1) that are furnished to an individual by a chiropractor described in section 1861(r)(5) that are part of an episode of treatment that includes more than 12 services. For purposes of the preceding sentence, an episode of treatment shall be determined by the underlying cause that justifies the need for services, such as a diagnosis code.

“(ii) ENDING APPLICATION OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION MEDICAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall end the application of prior authorization medical review under clause (i) to services described in paragraph (1) by such a chiropractor if the Secretary determines that the chiropractor has a low denial rate under such prior authorization medical review. The Secretary may subsequently reapply prior authorization medical review to such chiropractor if the Secretary determines it to be appropriate and the chiropractor has, in the time period subsequent to the determination by the Secretary of a low denial rate with respect to the chiropractor, furnished such services described in paragraph (1).

“(iii) EARLY REQUEST FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REVIEW PERMITTED.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent such a chiropractor from requesting prior authorization for services described in paragraph (1) that are to be furnished to an individual before the chiropractor furnishes the twelfth such service to such individual for an episode of treatment.

“(B) TYPE OF REVIEW.—The Secretary may use pre-payment review or post-payment review of services described in section 1861(r)(5) that are not subject to prior authorization medical review under subparagraph (A).”

“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may determine that medical review under this subsection does not apply in the case where potential fraud may be involved.

“(3) NO PAYMENT WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.—With respect to a service described in paragraph (1) for which prior authorization medical review under this subsection applies, the following shall apply:

“(A) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a determination, prior to the service being furnished, of whether the service would or would not meet the applicable requirements of section 1862(a)(1)(A).

“(B) DENIAL OF PAYMENT.—Subject to paragraph (5), no payment may be made under this part for the service unless the Secretary determines pursuant to subparagraph (A) that the service would meet the applicable requirements of such section 1862(a)(1)(A).

“(4) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—A chiropractor described in section 1861(r)(5) may submit the information necessary for medical review by fax, by mail, or by electronic means. The Secretary shall make available the electronic means described in the preceding sentence as soon as practicable.

“(5) TIMELINESS.—If the Secretary does not make a prior authorization determination under paragraph (3)(A) within 14 business days of the date of the receipt of medical documentation needed to make such determination, paragraph (3)(B) shall not apply.

“(6) APPLICATION OF LIMITATION ON BENEFICIARY LIABILITY.—Where payment may not be made as a result of the application of paragraph (2)(B), section 1879 shall apply in the same manner as such section applies to a denial that is made by reason of section 1862(a)(1).

“(7) REVIEW BY CONTRACTORS.—The medical review described in paragraph (2) may be conducted by medicare administrative contractors pursuant to section 1874A(a)(4)(G) or by any other contractor determined appropriate by the Secretary that is not a recovery audit contractor.

“(8) MULTIPLE SERVICES.—The Secretary shall, where practicable, apply the medical review under this subsection in a manner so as to allow an individual described in paragraph (1) to obtain, at a single time rather than on a service-by-service basis, an authorization in accordance with paragraph (3)(A) for multiple services.

“(9) CONSTRUCTION.—With respect to a service described in paragraph (1) that has been affirmed by medical review under this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the subsequent denial of a claim for such service that does not meet other applicable requirements under this Act.

“(10) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may implement the provisions of this subsection by interim final rule with comment period.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to medical review under this subsection.”

(b) IMPROVING DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in consultation with stakeholders (including the American Chiropractic Association) and representatives of medicare administrative contractors

(as defined in section 1874A(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk-1(a)(3)(A))), develop educational and training programs to improve the ability of chiropractors to provide documentation to the Secretary of services described in section 1861(r)(5) in a manner that demonstrates that such services are, in accordance with section 1862(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(1)), reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.

(2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall make the educational and training programs described in paragraph (1) publicly available not later than January 1, 2016.

(3) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available under paragraph (10) of section 1893(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(h)), as added by section 505, to carry out this subsection.

(c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the process for medical review of services furnished as part of a treatment by means of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation implemented under subsection (z) of section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l), as added by subsection (a). Such study shall include an analysis of—

(A) aggregate data on—

(i) the number of individuals, chiropractors, and claims for services subject to such review; and

(ii) the number of reviews conducted under such section; and

(B) the outcomes of such reviews.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than four years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1), including recommendations for such legislation and administrative action with respect to the process for medical review implemented under subsection (z) of section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

#### SEC. 515. NATIONAL EXPANSION OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION MODEL FOR REPETITIVE SCHEDULED NON-EMERGENT AMBULANCE TRANSPORT.

(a) INITIAL EXPANSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the model described in paragraph (2) proposed to be tested under subsection (b) of section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall revise the testing under subsection (b) of such section to cover, effective not later than January 1, 2016, States located in medicare administrative contractor (MAC) regions L and 11 (consisting of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia).

(2) MODEL DESCRIBED.—The model described in this paragraph is the testing of a model of prior authorization for repetitive scheduled non-emergent ambulance transport proposed to be carried out in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

(3) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall allocate funds made available under section 1115A(f)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(f)(1)(B)) to carry out this subsection.

(b) NATIONAL EXPANSION.—Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(16) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR REPETITIVE SCHEDULED NON-EMERGENT AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2017, if the expansion to all States of the model of prior authorization described in paragraph (2) of section 515(a) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 1115A(c), then the Secretary shall expand such model to all States.

“(B) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available under section 1893(h)(10) to carry out this paragraph.

“(C) CLARIFICATION REGARDING BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit or modify the application of section 1115A(b)(3)(B) to models described in such section, including with respect to the model described in subparagraph (A) and expanded beginning on January 1, 2017, under such subparagraph.”

#### SEC. 516. REPEALING DUPLICATIVE MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYOR PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1862(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(5)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) END DATE.—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to information required to be provided on or after July 1, 2016.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to information required to be provided on or after January 1, 2016.

#### SEC. 517. PLAN FOR EXPANDING DATA IN ANNUAL CERT REPORT.

Not later than June 30, 2015, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means of the House of Representatives—

(1) a plan for including, in the annual report of the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program, data on services (or groupings of services) (other than medical visits) paid under the physician fee schedule under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) where the fee schedule amount is in excess of \$250 and where the error rate is in excess of 20 percent; and

(2) to the extent practicable by such date, specific examples of services described in paragraph (1).

#### SEC. 518. REMOVING FUNDS FOR MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND ADDED BY IMPACT ACT OF 2014.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)), as amended by section 3(e)(3) of the IMPACT Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-185), is amended by striking “\$195,000,000” and inserting “\$0”.

#### SEC. 519. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Except as explicitly provided in this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle, including the amendments made by this subtitle, shall be construed as preventing the use of notice and comment rulemaking in the implementation of the provisions of, and the amendments made by, this subtitle.

#### Subtitle B—Other Provisions

#### SEC. 521. EXTENSION OF TWO-MIDNIGHT PAMA RULES ON CERTAIN MEDICAL REVIEW ACTIVITIES.

Section 111 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93; 42 U.S.C. 1395ddd note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “the first 6 months of fiscal year 2015” and inserting “through the end of fiscal year 2015”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “March 31, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2015”; and  
(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the Secretary’s authority to pursue fraud and abuse activities under such section 1893(h) or otherwise.”.

**SEC. 522. REQUIRING BID SURETY BONDS AND STATE LICENSURE FOR ENTITIES SUBMITTING BIDS UNDER THE MEDICARE DMEPOS COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**

(a) BID SURETY BONDS.—Section 1847(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(G) REQUIRING BID BONDS FOR BIDDING ENTITIES.—With respect to rounds of competitions beginning under this subsection for contracts beginning not earlier than January 1, 2017, and not later than January 1, 2019, an entity may not submit a bid for a competitive acquisition area unless, as of the deadline for bid submission, the entity has obtained (and provided the Secretary with proof of having obtained) a bid surety bond (in this paragraph referred to as a ‘bid bond’) in a form specified by the Secretary consistent with subparagraph (H) and in an amount that is not less than \$50,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each competitive acquisition area in which the entity submits the bid.

“(H) TREATMENT OF BID BONDS SUBMITTED.—

“(i) FOR BIDDERS THAT SUBMIT BIDS AT OR BELOW THE MEDIAN AND ARE OFFERED BUT DO NOT ACCEPT THE CONTRACT.—In the case of a bidding entity that is offered a contract for any product category for a competitive acquisition area, if—

“(I) the entity’s composite bid for such product category and area was at or below the median composite bid rate for all bidding entities included in the calculation of the single payment amounts for such product category and area; and

“(II) the entity does not accept the contract offered for such product category and area,

the bid bond submitted by such entity for such area shall be forfeited by the entity and the Secretary shall collect on it.

“(ii) TREATMENT OF OTHER BIDDERS.—In the case of a bidding entity for any product category for a competitive acquisition area, if the entity does not meet the bid forfeiture conditions in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) for any product category for such area, the bid bond submitted by such entity for such area shall be returned within 90 days of the public announcement of the contract suppliers for such area.”.

(b) STATE LICENSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1847(b)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(b)(2)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) The entity meets applicable State licensure requirements.”.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be construed as affecting the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to require State licensure of an entity under the Medicare competitive acquisition program under section 1847 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3) before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) GAO REPORT ON BID BOND IMPACT ON SMALL SUPPLIERS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that

evaluates the effect of the bid surety bond requirement under the amendment made by subsection (a) on the participation of small suppliers in the Medicare DMEPOS competitive acquisition program under section 1847 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date contracts are first awarded subject to such bid surety bond requirement, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under paragraph (1). Such report shall include recommendations for changes in such requirement in order to ensure robust participation by legitimate small suppliers in the Medicare DMEPOS competition acquisition program.

**SEC. 523. PAYMENT FOR GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES.—

“(A) PROHIBITION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE REGARDING GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not implement the policy established in the final rule published on November 13, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 67548 et seq.), that requires the transition of all 10-day and 90-day global surgery packages to 0-day global periods.

“(ii) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i) shall be construed to prevent the Secretary from revaluing misvalued codes for specific surgical services or assigning values to new or revised codes for surgical services.

“(B) COLLECTION OF DATA ON SERVICES INCLUDED IN GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall through rulemaking develop and implement a process to gather, from a representative sample of physicians, beginning not later than January 1, 2017, information needed to value surgical services. Such information shall include the number and level of medical visits furnished during the global period and other items and services related to the surgery and furnished during the global period, as appropriate. Such information shall be reported on claims at the end of the global period or in another manner specified by the Secretary. For purposes of carrying out this paragraph (other than clause (iii)), the Secretary shall transfer from the Federal Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 \$2,000,000 to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for fiscal year 2015. Amounts transferred under the previous sentence shall remain available until expended.

“(ii) REASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL SUNSET.—Every 4 years, the Secretary shall reassess the value of the information collected pursuant to clause (i). Based on such a reassessment and by regulation, the Secretary may discontinue the requirement for collection of information under such clause if the Secretary determines that the Secretary has adequate information from other sources, such as qualified clinical data registries, surgical logs, billing systems or other practice or facility records, and electronic health records, in order to accurately value global surgical services under this section.

“(iii) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall audit a sample of the information reported under clause (i) to verify the accuracy of the information so reported.

“(C) IMPROVING ACCURACY OF PRICING FOR SURGICAL SERVICES.—For years beginning with 2019, the Secretary shall use the information reported under subparagraph (B)(i) as appropriate and other available data for the purpose of improving the accuracy of valuation of surgical services under the physician fee schedule under this section.”.

(b) INCENTIVE FOR REPORTING INFORMATION ON GLOBAL SURGICAL SERVICES.—Section 1848(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) INFORMATION REPORTING ON SERVICES INCLUDED IN GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES.—With respect to services for which a physician is required to report information in accordance with subsection (c)(8)(B)(i), the Secretary may through rulemaking delay payment of 5 percent of the amount that would otherwise be payable under the physician fee schedule under this section for such services until the information so required is reported.”.

**SEC. 524. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.**

(a) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.—

(1) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended by striking “2013” both places it appears and inserting “2015”.

(2) PROMPT PAYMENT.—Payments for fiscal year 2014 under title I of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.), as amended by this section, shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) REDUCTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014 PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF PREVIOUS 25- AND 50-PERCENT PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 PAYMENTS.—

“(1) STATE PAYMENT.—If an eligible county in a State that will receive a share of the State payment for fiscal year 2014 has already received, or will receive, a share of the 25-percent payment for fiscal year 2014 distributed to the State before the date of the enactment of this subsection, the amount of the State payment shall be reduced by the amount of that eligible county’s share of the 25-percent payment.

“(2) COUNTY PAYMENT.—If an eligible county that will receive a county payment for fiscal year 2014 has already received a 50-percent payment for that fiscal year, the amount of the county payment shall be reduced by the amount of the 50-percent payment.”.

(4) SHARES OF CALIFORNIA STATE PAYMENT.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2015”.

(b) USE OF FISCAL YEAR 2013 ELECTIONS AND RESERVATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.—Section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EFFECT OF LATE PAYMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.—The election otherwise required by subparagraph (A) shall not apply for fiscal year 2014 or 2015.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “If such

two-fiscal year period included fiscal year 2013, the county election to receive a share of the 25-percent payment or 50-percent payment, as applicable, also shall be effective for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2013” the second place it appears and inserting “2015”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by adding at the end of paragraph (1) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) EFFECT OF LATE PAYMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.—The election made by an eligible county under subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) for fiscal year 2013, or deemed to be made by the county under paragraph (3)(B) for that fiscal year, shall be effective for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.”; and

(B) by adding at the end of paragraph (3) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EFFECT OF LATE PAYMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.—This paragraph does not apply for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.”.

(c) SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 203(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. 7123(a)(1)), by striking “September 30 for fiscal year 2008 (or as soon thereafter as the Secretary concerned determines is practicable), and each September 30 thereafter for each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2013” and inserting “September 30 of each fiscal year (or a later date specified by the Secretary concerned for the fiscal year)”;

(2) in section 204(e)(3)(B)(iii) (16 U.S.C. 7124(e)(3)(B)(iii)), by striking “each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013” and inserting “fiscal year 2010 and fiscal years thereafter”;

(3) in section 207(a) (16 U.S.C. 7127(a)), by striking “September 30, 2008 (or as soon thereafter as the Secretary concerned determines is practicable), and each September 30 thereafter for each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2013” and inserting “September 30 of each fiscal year (or a later date specified by the Secretary concerned for the fiscal year)”;

(4) in section 208 (16 U.S.C. 7128)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “2013” and inserting “2017”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “2014” and inserting “2018”.

(d) COUNTY FUNDS.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2013” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2014” and inserting “2018”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 402 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7152) is amended by striking “for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013”.

#### SEC. 525. EXCLUSION FROM PAYGO SCORECARDS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Com-

merce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

□ 1015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, sponsored by Congressman BURGESS of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2, the bill I just referenced. Four years ago, upon taking leadership of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I made it one of my goals to end the patchwork of doc fixes and repeal the sustainable growth rate.

Now, we are here on the floor of the House with a bipartisan policy and a bipartisan set of pay-fors. There are many who thought that this day would never come.

We are replacing the SGR, once and for all, with a system that allows greater freedom for physicians to practice medicine. We do this without threatening access to health care for seniors. Instead of unrealistic price controls, we are instituting a cooperative process to make our healthcare dollars go farther.

We are also replacing a portion of the projected savings with real entitlement reforms, reforms that could reduce spending by \$295 billion in the coming decades.

Let's not make the mistake of saying that this is saving Medicare. The bill makes important reforms that put the program on a better path, but there is much work to do before we achieve that goal.

Future generations of Americans have understandable doubts about whether Medicare will be there when they retire. They pay into the program just as my generation did, but the current system of funding the program will not deliver on that promise for them. The extraordinary progress represented by the bill before us today is the result of a vision for the future and years of hard work.

That vision was wholeheartedly supported by Speaker BOEHNER, and there

are many more to thank: Chairman UPTON, for his persistence in leadership; current Ranking Member PALLONE and former Ranking Member Waxman for working with us to get a policy we could all agree on; also Dr. BURGESS, the primary sponsor of today's bill and the vice chairman of the Health Subcommittee in the two past Congresses.

I would especially like to thank the dedicated staff that spent countless hours and sacrificed weekends to make this happen: Dr. John O'Shea, Robert Horne, Josh Trent, Clay Alspach, Michelle Rosenberg, Heidi Stirrup, and Monica Volente, on my personal staff.

Finally, we should see this bill as a first step toward strengthening and saving Medicare. This can't be the end of the road.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

For more than 10 years, Congress has had to temporarily fix the flawed sustainable growth rate, SGR, nearly 20 times since it was enacted. Well, today is the last time I will have to talk about the broken SGR. The House has come together to fix it once and for all.

This bill is the result of a lot of hard work by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees and our leadership. Many of our Members have made important contributions to this bill, and I want to thank them all for being so diligent.

This bill not only repeals the SGR, it replaces it with a reformed system that pays providers based on quality and value. It rewards health outcomes. It allows providers to give more focus to their patients, and most importantly, it provides stability and predictability to the Medicare Program for years to come. This is good for doctors, and it is good for seniors.

This bill also extends critical funding for programs that improve the health and welfare of millions of children, families, and seniors. It makes permanent the qualified individual program which helps low-income seniors pay their Medicare part B premiums.

It makes permanent the Transitional Medical Assistance program, which allows low-income families to maintain their Medicaid coverage for up to 1 year as they transition from welfare to work.

It includes \$8 billion in funding for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers. This funding will help serve 28 million patients, and all three, together, strengthen access to primary and preventative health care in communities throughout America.

The bill includes a fully funded 2-year extension of CHIP, maintaining

all of the improvements in the Affordable Care Act, but this is not just a 2-year extension; it is a robust extension. It keeps the promise made to States by maintaining the 23 percent bump in Federal matching rates and ensures that States, in turn, keep their promise to CHIP kids by leaving maintenance of effort requirements for child enrollment through 2019 untouched.

This bill is not perfect. I wish my Republican colleagues would have agreed to fund CHIP for 4 years. I also remain concerned about the provisions that affect Medicare beneficiaries, but such is the nature of compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work of my committee and of both of our leaderships. This agreement took courage from both sides, but what we have accomplished is truly significant. It is balanced and a thoughtful product, and I urge Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), an outstanding member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a good advocate on health issues.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act represents years of bipartisan effort to eliminate the fatally flawed sustainable growth rate formula and implement new payment and delivery models that will promote higher-quality care while reducing costs.

In addition to stabilizing the Medicare Program for our Nation's seniors, the bill addresses the healthcare needs of children and low-income Americans, while promoting the long-term sustainability of the Medicare Program through significant structural reforms to the Medicare Program.

There is no question, Medicare must be modernized in order to avoid the program's projected financial shortfalls. Republicans and Democrats have worked together to advance a blueprint to begin to place Medicare programs on a sound financial footing for both today's and future retirees.

Now is the time to end this failed policy once and for all and protect access to care for seniors. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), the ranking member of our Health Subcommittee.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue and many others in our committee.

I rise in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. As an original cosponsor of this landmark legislation, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

H.R. 2 will reform the flawed Medicare physician payment system that will reward quality and value over vol-

ume, make reforms to slow the growth of healthcare costs, and extend other critical programs, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and the funding for community health centers.

Since 2003, Congress has intervened 17 times to prevent steep payment cuts caused by the flawed SGR formula in order to preserve seniors' access to care.

Repealing the SGR is the responsible choice, both fiscally and logically. More money has now been spent on short-term patches than the full cost of the permanent repealing of the SGR.

We are closer than we have ever come to repealing the flawed SGR formula and enacting meaningful reform that will strengthen the Medicare system for generations to come.

I want to highlight the additional 2 years of funding for the community health centers program included in the package. These dedicated mandatory funds will avert an impending fiscal cliff set to take place in September. Without this extension, funding for health centers would be slashed by 70 percent, and 7.4 million patients would lose access to care.

Also included in the agreement are funding for the National Health Service Corps and the teaching health center program. Both programs further the goals of improving and strengthening access to primary and preventative care in our communities.

Like any good bipartisan compromise, the legislation strikes a balance and offers a set of viable solutions that should have broad bipartisan support.

I want to thank Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee and Ways and Means Committee for their leadership in working across the aisle to craft this commonsense, landmark legislation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for America's seniors. After years of flawed Medicare policy, we are finally creating a stable system that ensures Medicare patients will have access to their doctors.

This new policy will move our Medicare system to one that is based on quality of care that is provided to our Nation's seniors. In fact, for the first time in decades, we actually achieve real structural reforms in the program that will help save this critical program for future seniors.

I would also like to highlight that this legislation repeals CMS' policy to eliminate bundled surgical payments. Eliminating surgical payment bundles would force doctors to spend more time billing CMS that could be used for caring for patients.

I would like to thank Chairman PITTS, and I would also like to congratulate Speaker BOEHNER, Minority Leader PELOSI, Chairman UPTON, and Ranking Member PALLONE for putting politics aside and putting America's seniors first.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am proud to be here today to support real bipartisan compromise to finally repeal and replace this flawed SGR formula.

I would like to give my congratulations to Congressman BURGESS and, frankly, former Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz also worked very hard for many years to make this thing a reality.

This long-term solution is going to bring stability to Medicare, so seniors will actually be able to continue to see their doctors. Meanwhile, the bill also allows physicians to focus on value and quality of care rather than quantity of care and extends, of course, the vital CHIP program aiding so many children in this country.

Now, though I would prefer to see this bill completely paid for, like many others in this Chamber, I recognize the nature of compromise means you don't get everything you want, whether you are a House Member or a Senate Member.

I am glad, however, that it has been pointed out that at least part of the cost of this bill is covered by implementing crucial reforms to Medicare that will help improve its solvency for future generations, certainly compared to our current policy.

I congratulate my colleagues on the both sides of the aisle for coming together on this agreement. It is long overdue and will greatly improve our system. I hope we vote for this bill.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman PITTS for the work that he has done on this, as well as the other members of our committee.

I do rise today in support of H.R. 2.

I think every one of us have constituents who are Medicare enrollees who tell us the stories and the stress that comes with not being able to see a doctor because they are no longer taking Medicare patients.

What this does is go to the heart of the problem, the SGR, the sustainable growth rate. It was a big part of the problem—the sword of Damocles, if you will—because doctors never knew if they were going to get paid or what they were going to get paid or if it was going to be a double-digit or a single-

digit cut. Let's get that off the table and provide some certainty.

H.R. 2 is finally going to eliminate the flawed SGR. It will be replaced with commonsense legislation which will provide healthcare providers with the predictability that is necessary to meet the needs of Medicare enrollees.

In addition, H.R. 2 takes an important step to rein in healthcare spending, incentivizing doctors on quality, as opposed to quantity, getting at part of the problem of our entitlement programs.

I congratulate all involved. I encourage a "yes" vote.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

□ 1030

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2.

I have always believed that our physician workforce deserves to be fairly compensated. The flawed SGR formula has failed to do this for over a decade, and it isn't right that physicians have faced looming Medicare cuts year after year. Therefore, I am pleased that House Democrats and Republicans have come together to craft a fair, bipartisan compromise to this longstanding and expensive problem.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want us to end gridlock. They want us to meet in the middle, and we are doing that today. I want to commend Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI. And while I would have liked to have seen a 4-year extension of CHIP funding and I am upset that unnecessary Hyde language has been attached to much-needed community health center funding, overall, this is a good agreement.

Medicare beneficiaries, their physicians, children, and our entire health care system will benefit from seeing CHIP and health center funding extended, SGR repealed, and quality-based physician reimbursement incentivized.

So I urge my colleagues both here in the House and in the Senate to support this compromise legislation, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), the chairman of the Doctors Caucus, who should be recognized for his tireless efforts to build support for this bill.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, which will permanently repeal the flawed SGR formula and replace it with meaningful reform that will ensure seniors' access to Medicare.

This agreement is one of the most important things we have accomplished since I have been in Congress, and I couldn't be prouder of the work done by the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Commit-

tees, along with the GOP Doctors Caucus.

I want to give a special thank-you to Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and Leader NANCY PELOSI, without whose leadership this agreement would never have happened.

This bill will ensure Medicare recipients have access to quality care and helps pave the way for entitlement reform by making important structural changes to the program. That is an important point. People over the years have referred to this as the "doc fix," but it really should be called the "senior fix." The cuts required by SGR were so severe that, had they been allowed to go into effect, seniors' access to a Medicare physician almost assuredly would have been curtailed.

After 12 years, 17 patches, and \$170 billion spent to keep a flawed formula from doing lasting damage to Medicare, we are finally acting in a responsible manner, in a way that should give the American people renewed confidence in Congress' ability to act on important matters.

I thank all involved.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader, and I thank her for what she accomplished here today working with the Speaker.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank Mr. PALLONE and Mr. LEVIN, our ranking members on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, for their leadership and cooperation on this issue, as well as Chairman RYAN of the Ways and Means Committee and Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This is a day that we really have to salute our staff. They have worked so hard. It was my honor to work with Speaker BOEHNER on this important issue to do what we came here to do—to legislate. We are the legislative branch. We are legislating. We are working together to get the job done for the American people.

From Speaker BOEHNER's staff, I especially want to thank Charlotte Ivancic, who was extremely knowledgeable about health policy and was smart and fair about all of this. Wendell Primus of my staff was a strong voice for the concerns of seniors and children and the rest in those discussions.

Ed Grossman and his team at House Legislative Counsel—for all the ideas that Members churned up, Legislative Counsel had to translate that into what the possibility was for legislative language. They worked 24/7, weekends included.

Megan O'Reilly, Bridget Taylor, and the technical teams at CMS and HHS worked 24/7 for many days.

Holly Harvey and Tom Bradley and the team at the Congressional Budget

Office, having to score every change of idea that we may have had.

Again, the staff both at the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee on both sides of the aisle, I take the time to recognize them because in recognizing them, I really want to recognize the work that is done by staff on all that we do here.

All of these individuals, again, have been working 18-hour days for the past few weeks, and we thank them for their tireless hard work.

This package includes many important victories for low-income seniors, children, and families. There are many reasons to support this bill, four of which I would like to point out:

We are strengthening the quality of care for many older Americans with additional funding for initiatives that help low-income seniors pay their Medicare part B premiums.

We have added almost \$750 million for training more urgently needed nurses and physicians.

We have secured the health care of poor children with a 2-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program at the same rates set by the Affordable Care Act. Many people wanted more, as did I. That does not diminish the importance of the 2-year extension.

Lastly, we have secured critical funding for community health centers over the next 2 years, expanding a vital investment in underserved communities.

I am proud to rise in support of this historic, bipartisan package. It represents bold, necessary progress for our country. And it is not just about enabling our seniors to see their doctors, which was the original purpose of the bill. It is about how we can increase performance and lower cost; it is about value, not volume of service; it is about quality, not quantity of procedures; and this legislation is transformative in how it rewards the value, not the volume. So I am proud to support it.

At long last, we will replace the broken SGR formula and transition Medicare away from a volume-based system toward one that rewards values, ensures the accuracy of payments, and improves the quality of care.

With this legislation, we give America's seniors confidence that they will be able to see the doctors they need and the doctors they like, liberating them and their families from the shadow of needless, annual crises.

And as a woman, during Women's History Month, I am very proud of what the legislation means to women and their health issues.

So for these and other reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye."

It was my privilege to work with the Speaker in a bipartisan way on this legislation. I hope it will be a model of things to come.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I join in thanking the minority leader for her role in achieving this bipartisan compromise. It is really historic. I think it



is appropriate that this is happening on her birthday, and I join my colleagues in wishing her a happy birthday today.

Mr. Speaker, could I inquire of the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), another member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2, to repeal and replace the SGR.

This bill will replace the SGR with the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System, or MIPS. MIPS means physicians are practicing better medicine to keep their patients healthier. Healthier people utilize less health care, which means a lower cost to the taxpayer.

Nearly 150,000 seniors live in my district. This bill gives them certainty that their doctor will see them. It provides seniors with better care.

H.R. 2 includes a 2-year extension for community health centers funding, which is very important to my constituents. This bill is pro-senior, pro-doctor, and pro-patient.

This is a historic moment, nearly 20 years in the making. We have a chance to make a huge difference for seniors. The benefits of repealing the SGR are clear. Support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important, bipartisan, landmark bill.

Our parents and grandparents who rely on Medicare and the doctors that take care of them can breathe easier today because of this bill. Medicare will be stronger, and it will be more efficient. We are going to put “modern” into modern medicine by transitioning the Medicare health system into one that focuses on quality rather than quantity.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE, Mr. PITTS and Mr. GREEN, and Speaker BOEHNER and Minority Leader PELOSI for also adding into this important package new assurance for children across America, for our community health centers. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program now gets a very significant boost, along with our health centers that take care of so many of our neighbors.

Thanks again to the professional staff, to the great public servants in the Obama administration.

I urge a “yes” vote on this important, landmark bill.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield at this time 1 minute

to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS), another valued member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I just want to extend my thanks to all of the members who have worked so hard, both on the Energy and Commerce Committee, but my Democratic colleagues across the aisle, those who we are working with in the Senate.

I just want to say to the American people, don’t look now, but we are actually governing. And this is what the American people want to see.

I have a speech here to read, but I am actually going to go offline and tell you from my heart what this means for our seniors.

This is about certainty. This is about governing. This is about giving solutions to a problem. Yes, it comes with a price tag. But when we continuously look at things from a one-dimensional perspective on something so important as health care—it is so multidimensional—we can’t stop ourselves from moving forward.

Imagine a year from now where we will be when we are not trying to come up with another billion-dollar bandaid to continue the SGR failed formula, when we can actually be looking forward for solutions in health care, continuing our work on 21st century cures, and showing our seniors and every American family in this country how important it is in the work that we are doing.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. Speaker, this is a good day for medical providers and for our seniors. This is also a good day for the House of Representatives. This is bipartisanship at its best.

With the passage of H.R. 2, seniors will no longer have to worry about losing their physicians. Providers will have the certainty to continue to serve their Medicare patients.

But this bill, Mr. Speaker, is about more than fixing Medicare. It also includes a 2-year extension of the CHIP program, which is children’s health insurance, and funding for community health centers that is set to expire this fall. Both programs are vital to the low-income vulnerable and rural communities that I represent in North Carolina.

The CHIP program covers more than 8 million children across the country, including many in my State. It helps provide health coverage to children who are not eligible for Medicaid but cannot afford other insurance.

The community health center program funds 1,300 health centers across the country. Without this extension, the program would expire, and care for

7.4 million patients would be jeopardized.

Supporting this bill is about providing access to care for the most vulnerable Americans. I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to vote “yes” on H.R. 2.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), our Speaker, who deserves a lot of credit in coming up with this bipartisan compromise.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Let me say a big thank you to Chairman UPTON, Chairman RYAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LEVIN, and their staffs for all of the work that has gone into this product. Also, I want to thank Wendell Primus with Leader PELOSI’s staff; Charlene MacDonald with Mr. HOYER’s staff; and, of course, Charlotte Ivancic on my team, all who have worked together to create this product that we have today. Thanks to their hard work and the work of this House, we expect to end the so-called doc fix once and for all.

Many of you know that we have patched this problem 17 times over the last 11 years, and I decided about a year ago that I had had enough of it. In its place, we will deliver for the American people the first real entitlement reform in nearly two decades. I think this is good news for America’s seniors, who will benefit from a more stable and reliable system for seeing their doctor.

□ 1045

It is good news for hard-working families who will benefit from a stronger Medicare program to help care for their elderly parents. It is good news for the taxpayers who, according to the CBO and a number of other fiscal experts, will save money now and well into the future. That means it is especially good news for our kids and grandkids, because today it is about a problem much bigger than any doc fix or any deadline. It is about beginning the process of solving our spending problem, and it is about strengthening and saving Medicare, which is at the heart of that problem.

Normally, we would be here to admit that we are just going to kick the can down the road one more time. But today, because of what we are doing here, we are going to save money 20, 30, and 40 years down the road. Not only that, we are strengthening Medicare’s ability to fight fraud, waste, and abuse.

As was mentioned earlier, this bill also extends the Children’s Health Insurance Program for another 2 years and extends the authorization for community health centers for another 2 years.

My colleagues, this is what we can accomplish when we are focused on finding common ground. But we can’t

become complacent. We know more serious entitlement reform is needed. It shouldn't take another two decades to do it, and, frankly, I don't think we have got that much time. But I am here today to urge all of our Members to begin that process, and the process begins by voting "yes" on H.R. 2 today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.

As this legislation was under negotiation, several of our colleagues tried to add unnecessary language that would have expanded the Hyde amendment to embed this harmful policy into the Affordable Care Act and the Public Health Services Act. Thanks to the commitment of leaders for women's health care rights, we secured important changes to this language. Current appropriation policies concerning the use of funds at community health centers will not change, and when the funding in this bill for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers expires, so will the funding restrictions. Also, this language is free-standing, and it does not amend the Affordable Care Act or the Public Health Services Act.

Let me be clear. I oppose the Hyde amendment. It is backwards policy because it denies full reproductive coverage to poor women who need it the most of everybody in this society; but this bill does not restrict their access any further than current law, and the Pro-Choice Caucus will continue to fight for health parity in this country for all women.

In the meantime, we have a bill here that has real advances in finally fixing the physician reimbursement, extending the important Children's Health program, extending the special diabetes fund that helps so many Americans, and gives \$7 billion to extend the important community health centers for the next 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work we did in a bipartisan way. I want to thank the majority, and I want to thank my colleagues on my side of the aisle for working together and only showing, as the Speaker just said, what we can do when we really do the job that Congress is supposed to do. I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), the prime sponsor of the legislation, who deserves a great deal of credit for where we are today.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health on Energy and Commerce. Mr. Speaker, I omitted one of the people that should have been thanked earlier in my remarks from

the House Legislative Counsel, Michelle Vanek, who worked so hard on the language that is before us today.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago I came to this floor, we had a similar vote, and I talked about how important it was to send a positive message, because last year it was the key that would get us through the door. Well, guess what, Mr. Speaker. This year, not only will the key get us through the door; we are going to knock the darned door down.

We do need a strong vote today. We saw it evidenced on the rule. I urge all of my colleagues to get behind this legislation. It may not have been everything you want, it may not have been what you would have done if you had done it by yourself, but this is a collaborative body. This is the work of a collaborative body. Now we need to send it over to the world's greatest deliberative body. Let them deliberate for only a short period of time because of the thunderous approval that has come from the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the SGR. Let us never speak of this issue again.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as an aside, I was inclined to get up and ask that the gentleman's words be taken down. Of course, when we do that, we do it in a different context. With those words, we ought to all be happy today. Whether we are for or against, the Congress is working today as the American people would have the Congress work.

Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, our extraordinary staffs on both sides of the aisle, and Members have come together and dealt with some difficult issues. As the gentleman, Dr. BURGESS indicated—and I have worked with him on SCHIP for a very, very long period of time as I recall—we are making progress. We are not where we all want to be, but we are making progress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and thank the Democratic leader as well as Speaker BOEHNER, Ranking Members PALLONE and LEVIN, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. PITTS, and others for getting us to where we are today.

This bill will permanently replace the broken Medicare sustainable growth rate formula that, frankly, I have been working to get rid of for almost a decade, if not longer, which has created uncertainty and instability in the Medicare program for over a decade. I am pleased that the parties were able to come together and craft a bipartisan bill that will ensure seniors' access to their doctors and incentivize high-quality, high-value care.

I am also glad that this bill includes a robust reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program,

known as CHIP, which has been a bipartisan success story. This is an issue, Mr. Speaker, I worked hard on when I was majority leader, and I am glad that we are moving forward today in a bipartisan way that recognizes how important the CHIP program is for children and for families.

Another major component of this bipartisan compromise is the \$7.2 billion in funding for community health centers. These centers serve some of our most needy citizens. These centers, in my home State of Maryland and throughout our country, provide essential health services for millions of underserved families. That is good for all of us.

This, of course, as I said, is not a perfect bill. No compromise is ever perfect from everybody's perspective. There are some parts I and other Democrats would have liked to see improved, just as there are some parts my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would change, but this compromise will provide much-needed relief and certainty to seniors, children, and families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort. It will be a good day for the Congress of the United States, and it will be a good day for America. I thank all of those whose leadership—Members and staff—who got us to this point for the work that they have done.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself my 30 seconds remaining.

I want to recognize one person in particular, Ira Burney, a career civil servant who, for more than 30 years, has worked tirelessly on Medicare issues at CMS. There is not one Medicare bill in this time that he has not been a part of. His hard work and technical knowledge have been instrumental in supporting our work here in Congress.

So I want to thank Ira and all those on both sides of the aisle who worked so hard to make this day possible. This is an important and incredibly significant bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman, and I yield to my friend on the other side of the aisle, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend, who has a magic minute that I dearly miss. I forgot to articulate, and I should have articulated, I want to congratulate FRED UPTON.

FRED UPTON is my friend. FRED UPTON is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. FRED UPTON is one of those Members in this House who represents this institution so well because he is committed to working in a bipartisan fashion. We

find ourselves sometimes not able to do that. But I want to say thank you to Mr. UPTON from Michigan for his leadership and his commitment to making sure this institution works as the American people want it to work.

I thank my friend, the majority leader, for yielding.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words, and I hope all that are watching today see that this is a pattern of what works inside Washington.

In Washington, Mr. Speaker, there is a common cycle: you have a problem, you kick the can down the road; you hit a cliff, then you rush to a short-term fix that doesn't actually fix the problem; then the cycle starts all over again.

This isn't a good way to govern. With this cycle, problems usually get worse, and a lot of times the short-term fixes get packed with add-ons that increase the size of government and cost people more and more. We have seen this with this doc fix again and again, 17 times over the last decade. Every single year I have served in this body, less than a decade, that has been the solution, to kick the can down the road. But today the House will vote on a bipartisan bill to end the cliff for good, stop the cycle, and, most importantly, provide stability to the Medicare program for the seniors and their doctors.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big moment for Congress, and I think we should all realize it. The bill before us today will, once and for all, repeal and replace the flawed Medicare physician payment system. It will move us away from volume-based care to care based on quality, value, and accountability.

Everyone knows that we need to reform programs like Medicare to save it for the future, but for so long, nothing has been done in this House—that is until today. Today marks the first step of what I hope will be many more to save our safety nets from collapse and to ensure it for a future generation. These reforms are permanent, they are bipartisan, and they lay the foundation for a Medicare that lasts.

We wouldn't be here to make all these big reforms without a lot of hard work.

First, I want to thank the Doctors Caucus. There are many times I was in a meeting with frustration wanting to find a solution, and the first place to find a solution is policy. They spent their time together to find that policy. Then it was: How are we going to pay for it and how are we going to move forward? That is where the leadership of chairmen come through in FRED UPTON and PAUL RYAN. They not only helped build with the Doctors Caucus, they led their own committees.

Today, when this vote is taking place, it is going to be different from others. People aren't going to sit and watch the sides to wonder whether it

gets there and how close does it pass? People are going to watch how big the overall vote is going to be.

After this vote today, we will go back to our districts. We will go back to our districts, hopefully in a different thought and a different time, that yes, we can solve a problem; yes, we can pick a problem that has lasted over a decade, that every Congress before it has kicked it down the road, but no, we found common ground. We found the ability to come together to solve something that many believed we could not.

We hope the Senate will see the same value. Today is a good day, but today should not be the last day. We should look for the other problems—and there are many—and ways that we can solve them permanently like we will do today.

□ 1100

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield such time as he may consume to close to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chair of the Energy and Commerce, a master of bipartisan compromise who deserves a great deal of credit for being here today.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it couldn't be bipartisan if we didn't have good people on both sides of the aisle to get things done. I appreciate all the leadership on this side and this side to really get this to a finish point today.

Today, we do come together, we really do—Republicans and Democrats—to finally, finally fix Medicare's broken payment system, protect seniors' access to care, and, yes, strengthen Medicare and extend the Children's Health Insurance Program.

For way too long, the so-called SGR has been an axe over Medicare physicians and the seniors that they care for. It has sparked crisis after crisis for nearly 20 years, forcing this Congress to pass some 17 temporary measures to undo its faulty math and protect seniors' access to their trusted doctors. Those 17 patches also served as a ready-made vehicle for bigger government. Today, we put a stop to that gravy train, leave the SGR in the past, and begin to put Medicare on the right track.

This bill is good for seniors and for doctors who treat them. We repeal the flawed SGR formula and replace it with a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on a new system that promotes innovation and higher quality care. It removes the hassle and worry that so many seniors and physicians face from the cycle of repeated patches.

We also take steps to strengthen Medicare for current and future seniors with structural reforms, which will not only provide cost savings today, but the CBO has confirmed those savings will grow over time. And the budget that we passed last night fully accounts for the cost of those permanent reforms.

This package also extends benefits for millions of low-income families and children by extending the Children's Health Insurance Program for 2 years. This program provides high-quality, affordable coverage for roughly 8 million children and pregnant women and has been an example of sound bipartisan success.

I want to thank the bill's sponsor, Dr. BURGESS, for his leadership on this issue from day one. He came to Congress to solve this problem and, today, we have a bill with his name on it to do just that.

I also commend the great subcommittee chair, JOE PITTS. Four years ago, we embarked together on this effort to end the SGR, and that hard work has brought us to this point.

I want to thank the full committee and the Health Subcommittee ranking members, Mr. PALLONE, my good friend, and Mr. GREEN, for working, again, across the aisle from day one. We wouldn't be standing here together if we hadn't started together.

Also, a big thanks to the folks at the House Legislative Counsel, CBO, and the committee staff: Clay Alspach, Robert Horne, Josh Trent, Paul Edattel, and Noelle Clemente.

Finally, I want to thank my friends on the Ways and Means Committee and our leadership on both sides, from JOHN BOEHNER and KEVIN MCCARTHY to NANCY PELOSI and STENY HOYER. We are, together, getting this done.

This is a long time coming. Most of us came to Congress to fight for our Nation's kids, seniors, and their families. Today's vote is a defining moment for this Congress and for Medicare. Those who vote "no" are not only voting against seniors but against the future of the critical safety net. That is why we all need to vote "yes."

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise on behalf of Chairman PAUL RYAN, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, in support of H.R. 2, a bill led by Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS, and I am joined by many of our colleagues, both here in the House and throughout the country.

This bill is critical because of this problem. Imagine you are a senior. You desperately need to see a doctor, but you learn that there are no local doctors who can treat you because they simply can't afford to treat Medicare patients. Or they have been throughout the years faced each year with a 10, 20, 30 percent cut in their reimbursements and, as the sole practitioner or as a small business, have rethought their relationship with Medicare and are no longer, frankly, able to do that. That

scenario has been played out across this country for far too long. If there is any group in America who needs to see doctors they know and who know them, it is our seniors.

This bill takes the first real permanent step to ensuring our seniors can see local doctors when they need to see them, and it takes the first real step in saving Medicare not just for these seniors, not just for the next generation, but for generations to come.

I commend the work that has been done by the leaders of the Ways and Means Committee; Chairman RYAN; Chairman FRED UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee; our physicians caucus, led by Dr. PHIL ROE and Dr. JOHN FLEMING; as well as those in this Chamber who have come together to make this historic step today.

So this is about helping our seniors. This is about taking those first reforms permanently to save Medicare. And it really is about ending a formula and a reimbursement that simply works against our seniors.

The flawed—they call it the “sustainable growth rate,” it dictates huge cuts to our physicians through Medicare. Congress had to intervene 17 times in recent years to stave off these cuts with short-term fixes. This flawed formula regularly threatens access to care for seniors and really distracts Congress from making real reforms that are needed.

The bipartisan agreement that we face today would repeal that SGR once and for all and replace it with a value-based system that provides certainty to our seniors and, really, finally reimburses doctors not on the number of procedures but on the quality they provide, and determined not by Washington but by our local physicians and practitioners themselves.

This reform alone, if that was the only thing this did, is significant. It begins to move its way from that flawed fee-for-service system. And it does in a way. The sole practitioner in rural Pennsylvania, as well as a doctor in a major institution in downtown Houston, can both practice to their highest capability and continue to practice until they decide to retire, not until Medicare or some flawed formula encourages them to retire early.

In addition, this bill has two important reforms, and I think critical reforms, to strengthen the Medicare Program and offset the costs of this measure. Similar reforms have been included in the House Republican budget for years. This is a bipartisan effort to work together with absolute dedication to make sure Medicare is around for our seniors.

First, it restricts first dollar coverage in Medigap plans. These are bipartisan recommendations experts believe will help reduce unnecessary costs and really strengthen programs over the years.

Second, the agreement includes increased means testing for premiums in Medicare parts B and D, our doctors, and our medicines, with the wealthiest seniors paying higher premiums. And then there are savings from a broad range of other healthcare providers.

I want to make clear, this bipartisan reform alone will not save Medicare, but it takes us in the right direction for the very important first step, and the savings from this will grow over the long term.

The alternative we refuse to pass is yet another cycle of short-term fixes, leaving behind bipartisan structural reforms to Medicare and delaying the opportunity to actually save this program for our seniors.

So, today, we end the SGR, we begin the important reform, and we stand up for seniors who need to see doctors.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Well, this is, indeed, a rare event. It was an event really waiting to happen because, a year ago, our committee, Ways and Means, chaired by Dave Camp, alongside the Energy and Commerce and Senate Finance Committees, reached a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to move the physician reimbursement system to one based more on quality, not quantity. This helped pave the way for the package in front of us today, negotiated with the key help of the Speaker and our Leader.

The SGR has been hanging over our heads for more than a decade. We have paid close to \$170 billion in short-term patches. With each patch, it becomes harder to find offsets, putting seniors in our healthcare system increasingly at risk. This is being done—and I emphasize that—while maintaining the basic structure of Medicare. Talk otherwise is mistaken.

Our approach to paying for this reform is a reasonable one. We are paying for additional benefits, but not to dig out of the hole created by the flawed budget formula.

This package includes a number of improvements across the healthcare landscape. It fully funds a 2-year extension of CHIP at the increased level of funding that we included in the Affordable Care Act. It permanently extends the qualifying individual program that pays Medicare premiums for low-income seniors. It permanently extends the transitional Medicare Medical Assistance Program, which helps Medicaid beneficiaries transitioning back to work to keep their insurance. It secures \$7.2 billion in funding for community health centers, ensuring that 7 million Americans who depend on these establishments for care can get it. And it makes progress in fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare.

What I would like to do—it will take a little more time—is to thank the

staff. We don't do that enough. So I want to thank Wendell Primus, Charlene MacDonald, Clay Alspach, and Matt Hoffmann. And, of course, the Ways and Means Committee health staff, particularly Amy Hall and Erin Richardson.

And we need to thank the excellent drafters from the House Legislative Counsel Office, led by Ed Grossman, who I think is here today, along with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Legislation, particularly Ira Burney, who is known for his deep knowledge of Medicare and who helped put the package together in a technically sound manner. And the CBO health team led by Tom Bradley, who worked expeditiously to meet our timetable.

And I want to close my remarks by paying tribute to a Member who is not with us today, who worked for years on these issues, John Dingell of Michigan, for the years he put in protecting and strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, including trying to fix SGR.

We are fixing SGR today, and we are strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. This is a day where there was common ground, and today we stand on it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a successful small business person who has provided health care to his more than 100 employees for years, a key leader of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

We rise today. Really, this is not so much a doc fix as a senior fix. And while our lives are usually defined by wins and losses, I would think that really in our lives we remember the losses far more than we remember the wins. And the reason I say that is, I have been there for the birth of my four children, and I have celebrated the birth of our 10 grandchildren. Those are great moments. But I have also sat by the bedside of my mother, my sister, and my father as they lay dying and were transitioning.

□ 1115

Those losses are things that you can never truly regain. Those are the times when, if you just had 1 minute left with those folks, wouldn't you love to have that? Wouldn't you love to be there with them to give them peace of mind? This bill gives them peace of mind, Mr. Speaker. That is what this bill does. This is a senior fix.

I will tell you, when I have watched people as they have passed—both friends and family—what they have wanted at their bedtimes at that time is to have their faith with them so that they know they are surrounded by their God, so that they know that where they are going is best, and so

that they know that somehow their futures are going to be okay.

They also want the comfort of knowing that their families are there with them, helping them to get through the toughest parts of their lives, when they are at their most vulnerable, whenever they need the most help.

Lastly, they want their doctors. They want to know that that person who has guided them through the last several months and through their lives—the person they have always gone to for their health care—is going to be there and is not going to be taken away because of some government program that didn't work.

I would say, as we sit in America's House, whether we are Republicans or Democrats—and our gallery is filled with people—we are people who are representing people and the best interests of people.

This piece of legislation today is truly a senior fix, but it is a fix for the most vulnerable. I can think of nothing that we could do that is more important than giving peace of mind to those who have given so much to us as families, as States, and as a country. This is a brilliant piece of legislation.

While it may not satisfy all, it serves the needs of so many.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), who is the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today is, in a sense, an historic event. We are finally putting to rest a problem that has festered around here for as long as I have been here.

Every year, as the deadline approached, providers faced draconian cuts, and Congress passed an eleventh hour patch that delayed the implementation of SGR. Doctors, patients, Congress—nobody—liked it. Nevertheless, 17 times, we have made temporary fixes. We have spent \$174 billion in inadequate ways in dealing with the real problem that SGR was all about, which is cost control.

This is a first step today. We can celebrate, but we have to go on because cost control is still a question, and we have replaced SGR with a system that we hope will make Medicare pay for value rather than for volume. That is not an issue that is for sure. We know that we are trying it.

I thought of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who once said:

I will try something. If it doesn't work, I will stop it and try something else.

That is really where we are today, looking at the future of cost control in health care.

The most important thing today, though, is that we have gotten back to regular order. The Republicans put this in 16 years ago. Some of us voted "no" because we knew it wouldn't work, but we had all of our 17 years. Now, we

come together to fix it together, and we have to fix things together in this House. Compromise is the essence of what we have here.

For my friends on the other side, just so you understand, I have already had a phone call from a group in Washington State who told me they are going to take me off the board if I vote for this.

It isn't as though this is a nice thing for one side or the other side. It is a compromise, where some people get what they want and where some people don't get what they want. Some people think it is not enough, and some think it is too much.

That is the essence of compromise, and that is how the Congress has to work. It is what is going to have to work with the ACA, the Affordable Care Act. It is going to have to work on transportation. It is going to have to work on a whole series of issues if we, as a Congress, are going to function on behalf of the American people.

This is a great day. This ought to be a unanimous vote today. When you look at all of the things that are in it and at all of the things we have dealt with, it ought to be unanimous. My view is that, when you reach a compromise, that is the kind of thing you can expect because nobody in this House ever gets all he wants. Nobody has the right to say: it is my way or the highway.

When we do that, we damage the American people. We have been damaging the healthcare system with these patches, spending all of that money, and not getting what we want. We hope this is the start of a better day for cost control in health care. Everyone should vote for this.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), who is a champion in health care and whose district has a large number of seniors.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This is the product of several years of sustained bipartisan work, and, today, we can finish the job. This is a critically important piece of legislation for seniors because it is going to strengthen and preserve the Medicare Program, and it is going to put an end to the perennial drills that threaten seniors' access to high-quality care, the care that they deserve.

H.R. 2 is a result of bipartisan compromise. I am sure my friends on both sides of the aisle can agree, as my good friend from Oregon identified, that it isn't perfect, but I am pleased that they will also extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. Just like our seniors, we need to make sure that our kids have access to high-quality, affordable care. We also con-

tinue to support community health centers, which provide quality care for those of lesser means.

Since 2002, Congress has passed 17 patches to avert the SGR's draconian cuts. These patches avoid crisis, but they don't do anything to preserve or improve the Medicare Program for current and future seniors, so I am delighted that, together, we can finally forge a lasting solution.

This isn't just good for seniors' care and for our healthcare workforce; it is a sign that partisan differences in Washington can be bridged to address our biggest challenges. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I hope the Senate will send it to the President and get it signed quickly.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time is there, please, on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 8 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, as I appreciate his leadership on this.

Mr. Speaker, I have sat on the floor for the entire debate—of both the Commerce and Ways and Means Committees—and it is really exciting. I was one of those people who didn't vote for the balanced budget agreement back in the day, but I have been frustrated by this as much as anybody. I had legislation that would just simply reset the baseline, but, actually, this is better.

It is better because we have had Ways and Means, Commerce, and Finance Committees come together for several years and develop a reform that will strengthen opportunities for better payment. It is better because we have seen the minority leader and the Speaker of the House come together to empower the committees to do their job.

I was struck by the words of Majority Leader McCARTHY when he said this was a good day, and he thinks that this will not be the last such day. I sincerely hope that that is the case, that it signals opportunities for us all to go forward.

I like the fact that we have added things in here like the SCHIP. We have even gotten Secure Rural Schools, funding extended which makes a big difference for people in the West, especially Oregon.

I am hopeful that we can step forward. We have got another cliff that is facing us in 2 months: the transportation cliff. People are talking about 17 SGR fixes here when we have had 23 short term extensions for the transportation system.

I would hope that we could take the same spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship and listen to people in the outside world—organized labor, the AFL—

CIO, the U.S. chamber, contractors, local government, environmentalists—who are all speaking with one voice: Congress, get your act together; give us funding to be able to fund the transportation bill for the first time in years and rebuild and renew America, to put people to work—and to show the same sort of bipartisan cooperation that I find really invigorating today.

I hope the next thing we do is have the Ways and Means Committee, the committee of jurisdiction, step forward to solve the transportation problem. It is even easier than the SGR.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), who has spent more than 40 years in health care as a nurse and as a small-business owner.

She is a member of the Doctors Caucus here and is a key leader in health care on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank my colleague, who is someone who has worked tirelessly on this issue and who is a leader on our healthcare committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This bipartisan legislation offers a permanent solution to strengthen the Medicare Program that our Nation's seniors and their doctors rely on. It would repeal the flawed SGR formula that dictates draconian cuts to Medicare reimbursements, and it would do so in a fiscally responsible way that would provide important offset savings.

Since 2003, Congress has spent \$170 billion on short-term fixes that has staved off these cuts without making the real reforms that are needed, and this cycle has done nothing to address the real problems of our entitlement spending.

I have been a nurse for more than 40 years, as has been said, and I know that you can't put a bandaid on a problem that needs to be corrected by surgery. The problems impacted and affected by these looming cuts were my patients and my colleagues.

I urge this body to end the SGR crisis once and for all. Adopt these structural reforms, and help us move forward together to strengthen Medicare for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a very vocal member of our committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. I have got to say this to Chairman BRADY and to our leader, Mr. LEVIN: you guys did a great job in keeping us together, and I think the words that I will take away are what Dr. BURGESS said about this being a collaborative effort.

Mr. Speaker, if someone came down from Mars today into this Chamber, he would be shocked by the camaraderie. This is great. This is a good feeling.

You have got to admit it is a good feeling. I know it is before Palm Sunday, but I have got a good feeling today, on Thursday.

This effort, I think, establishes a very good precedent for revitalizing the integrity of this Congress, of this institution. We here, Mr. BRADY and Mr. LEVIN, got out of our echo chambers. We love to hear ourselves. You know that. It is part of the DNA of being a Congressperson.

We got out of those echo chambers, and we actually listened to each other. That is shocking. If we can rise above our own attempts to be ideologues, we can accomplish a hell of a lot here for the people of the United States. They deserve no less.

The repeal and the replacement of SGR ends the constant looming of deep payment cuts to Medicare physicians, which, as we have heard, jeopardizes the participation in the program and jeopardizes seniors' access to their doctors. As a result of this law, our Medicare payment system will finally be rooted in the quality of services provided as opposed to the quantity, results rather than fee for service.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation. It is good for America.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO), a new Member of Congress who is passionate about health care, reforming Medicare, and helping seniors.

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Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, and I would like to thank the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Energy and Commerce for taking bold leadership on such a critical issue.

Sustainable growth rate is a budget cap on physician services passed into law in 1997 to control spending. Unfortunately, the SGR formula is fundamentally broken. Since 2003, Congress has spent nearly \$150 billion in 17 separate short-term patches to prevent significant Medicare reimbursement rate cuts. This uncertainty is detrimental to providing our seniors and our doctors with the confidence that they deserve.

This bill before us today repeals the outdated SGR formula and replaces it with a new permanent system that rewards quality and value and guarantees stability to Medicare beneficiaries and the physicians providing their treatment.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our leaders for allowing us to have this special moment. Today, the American people have the Congress that they deserve, a Congress that is focused on advancing an agenda that can make the American people proud.

Let us continue walking down this path together.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), another active member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of time, energy, effort, hard work, and study to become a physician. I think they ought to be adequately compensated for the services they provide, especially when they serve the most needy health population in our country—our senior citizens.

We call this the doctor fix, but it is really not about the doctor fix. It is about fixing health care. It is about CHIP. It is about community health centers that serve more than 23 million low- and moderate-income citizens each and every year. It is about the National Health Service Corps training physicians. It is about the home visiting program.

I represent a district that has 24 hospitals, four outstanding medical schools, and so we train and educate many doctors, nurses, and other health personnel.

This is not just a good day for the doctors; it is a good day for health care, and it is a good day for America.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 is a bill that determines how doctors get adequate pay for providing medical services to Medicare recipients. For the past 12 years, the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula has impeded stability in the Medicare program for providers and beneficiaries. Seventeen times Congress have done short term fixes, known as patches, that range from 3 to 12 months. Physicians should and deserve equitable reimbursement and not a lower reimbursement rate for the services they provide to our seniors. This is one of the leading reasons why physicians are leaving their practice or not accepting Medicare patients. We should repeal SGR and establish a legislative long-term fix that offers payment stability for our doctors. H.R. 2 will do just that and allow doctors to develop long-term strategic planning for their practice and time to invest in electronic health information technology and other medical systems to improve access and quality care for their patients.

Now is the time to capitalize on the lower offset now projected for the permanent repeal of the SGR formula otherwise failure to do so may cause problems for many providers to see Medicare patients. Ten thousand new enrollees enter Medicare each day. Access to physicians will suffer for the Medicare population as the gap between payments and practice costs continue to grow.

H.R. 2 fully fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for two years. CHIP is a partnership between the federal government and the States to provide healthcare coverage for over eight million children. Also, this legislation extends funding for two years to Community Health Centers to avoid draconian cuts to their services and operations in their communities. Community health centers play a critical role in the delivery of care to our most



financially and medically vulnerable populations, and thus play an instrumental role in efforts to achieve health equity. Health centers serve one in seven Medicaid beneficiaries, one in seven uninsured, and one in three individuals living below poverty. African Americans, Asians/Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and persons with multi-racial and ethnic backgrounds account for 36 percent of all health center patients. Approximately 34 percent of health center patients are Hispanic/Latino, and health centers serve one in four racial and ethnic minorities living in poverty.

Community health centers are a local solution to the delivery of primary care—which is precisely how care works best—and services that are tailored to meet local needs, specific to each community. Health centers save the health care system money by keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, coordinating care amongst providers of different health disciplines, and effectively managing chronic conditions. Recent independent research shows that health centers currently save the health care system \$24 billion annually in reduced emergency, hospital, and specialty care costs, including an estimated \$6 billion annually in combined state and federal Medicaid savings. Despite serving traditionally at-risk populations, community health centers meet or exceed national practice standards for chronic condition treatment and ensure that their patients receive more recommended screening and health promotion services than patients of other providers. Health centers also have a substantial and positive economic impact on their communities. In 2009 alone, health centers across the country generated \$20 billion in total economic benefit and produced 189,158 jobs in the nation's most economically challenged neighborhoods.

H.R. 2 includes the MIECHV home visiting program, which I worked in a bipartisan and bicameral way in Congress to establish a national program that serves approximately 115,000 parents and children. Under this legislation this program will be extended to improve child health, child development, and readiness to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 2 and encourage all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I include in the RECORD a list of over 100 healthcare organizations throughout America—and growing—who support the passage of this legislation today. I would like to point out that these represent physicians and healthcare providers who truly want to treat our seniors, to see them when they need to see them, but can't today because of the way Medicare pays them.

So we start with a fresh start, and I enter into the RECORD this list.

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM); AMDA The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI); American Academy of Dermatology Association; American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Neurology (AAN); American Academy of

Ophthalmology; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Action Forum; American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD); American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE); American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons; American Association of Nurse Anesthetists; American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP); American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons; American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI); American College of Cardiology (ACC); American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST); American College of Physicians (ACP); American College of Radiology.

American College of Rheumatology (ACR); American College of Surgeons; American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Gastroenterological Association (AGA); American Geriatrics Society (AGS); American Health Care Association; American Hospital Association; American Medical Association; American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM); American Osteopathic Association (AOA); American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT); American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE); American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO); American Society of Clinical Oncology; American Society of Hematology (ASH); American Society of Nephrology (ASN); American Thoracic Society (ATS); Americans for Tax Reform; Association of Departments of Family Medicine; Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors.

Aurora Health Care; Billings Clinic; Bipartisan Policy Center; California Medical Association; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); College of American Pathologists; Digestive Health Physicians Association; Endocrine Society (ES); Essential Health; Federation of American Hospitals; Grace Marie Turner for the Galen Institute; Greater New York Hospital Association; Gundersen Health System; Healthcare Association of New York State; Healthcare Leadership Council; Healthcare Quality Coalition; HealthPartners; HealthSouth; Hospital Sisters Health System; Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

Iowa Medical Society; Let Freedom Ring; Louisiana Rural Health Association; LUGPA; March of Dimes; Marshfield Clinic Health System; Mayo Clinic; McFarland Clinic PC; Medical Group Management Association; Mercy Health; Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Minnesota Hospital Association; Minnesota Medical Association; National Association of Community Health Centers; National Association of Spine Specialists; National Association of Urban Hospitals; National Coalition on Health Care; National Retail Federation; North American Primary Care Research Group; Novo Nordisk.

Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems; PhRMA; Premier Inc.; Renal Physicians Association; Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative; Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM); Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM); Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM); Society of Teachers of Family Medicine; Tennessee Medical Association; Texas Medical Association; The 60 Plus Association; The American College of Gastroenterology; The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania; The Iowa Clinic; The Society of Interventional Radiology; ThedaCare; Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality; Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority; Wisconsin Hospital Association; Wisconsin Medical Society.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan and my friend from Texas, and what a celebration of Members coming together, Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on this floor to ensure and insist that I am here to protect seniors and to ensure that the vote taken today does not undermine the protection of Medicaid and Medicare, in particular Medicare for our seniors, and that any vote does not in any way hinder those and provide a burden for those who cannot pay.

This provides a pathway for providing for our medical providers with the SGR fix; it provides seniors with quality healthcare services so they can go to the doctor they want; and, yes, it provides quality funding for our children and for our low-income families.

It supports our federally qualified health clinics, and coming from the city of Houston with the Texas Medical Center, there are a lot of doctors. Those doctors serve the poor and they serve seniors, and I want to make sure they are able to do so. The CHIP program will be protected that has been a vital program to provide for those families for our children to be healthy.

Let me agree with my colleague, brother PASCRELL, this is good for America. I am delighted to support this, and we are going to help physician-owned hospitals and look forward to a better day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2, the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015," and the underlying bill.

H.R. 2 repeals and replaces the Medicare Physician Payment System and incentivizes quality care for seniors, children and low income-families.

I thank Chairman RYAN and Ranking Member LEVIN for their work in shepherding this legislation, which enjoys bipartisan support to the floor.

I support the bill before us because it protects our seniors, our children, low-income families, and equitably compensates physicians who provide critically needed health services.

This bipartisan legislation represents a significant achievement because it reforms Medicare's payment system and maintains critical funding for health care for millions of seniors, low-income children, and families.

Compensating our medical providers adequately to enable them to continue providing much needed services to our seniors is a moral imperative.

Assuring that our seniors receive quality health services is a moral imperative.

Providing critical healthcare funding for children and low income families is also a moral imperative.

Physicians from my congressional district in Texas, and others across the country, serve

and provide remarkable healthcare to our seniors, children, and low income families.

The 70,000 seniors in my congressional district are entitled to the security that comes from knowing that healthcare will be available to them when they need it the most.

The 4.4 million low income families and children in the state of Texas and the 130,000 children in Harris County will benefit from this bill because it provides the resources needed to improve their quality of health.

It is important that physicians who are willing to serve our seniors, children, and low income families not have to go broke doing so.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly list several of the more important aspects of this bill which I wholeheartedly support:

For our seniors, the bill repeals the sustainable growth rate (also known as SGR) formula and phases in a value based payment system for physicians serving Medicare patients for the quality of care they provide.

For our seniors, children and low-income families, the new payment incentives in the bill encourage physicians to move towards alternative payment models such as bundled payment and shared savings which foster alignment of high-quality and cost effective healthcare.

This bill extends the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, for two years.

Over 928,000 children are in CHIP in Texas, and 130,000 in Harris County, will benefit from this bill.

For our children, "clean" extensions in the bill maintain policies and funding that does not include detrimental policies or cuts.

This funding supports evidence-based programs that have been proven to reduce health care costs, improve school readiness, and increase family self-sufficiency and economic security.

This bill extends the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for two years.

This bill extends funding for 1,300 federally funded community health centers located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six U.S. territories, distributed evenly between urban and rural areas, that serve 28 million patients.

A third of those patients are children, and 93 percent of patients served have incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.

The vast majority of the 90 million patient visits to community health centers were for primary medical care.

Without the funding, 7.4 million low-income patients—including 4.3 million women provided by this bill would lose access to health care.

This bill extends the Qualifying Individual Program—which subsidizes Medicare premiums for low-income beneficiaries—permanently.

This bill permanently corrects Medicare payments to physicians an provides much-needed certainty and stability to the Medicare program.

Importantly, the bill provides financial incentives to reinforce the country's path toward a health care system that rewards value and quality of care.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation is a step in the right direction in Medicare payment

reform and ensures continued funding that improves the health and welfare of millions of seniors, children, and families.

H.R. 2 is important because it reforms our flawed Medicare physician payment system; incentivizes quality and value for our seniors; and extends coverage for our children and low income families.

For all these reasons, I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to likewise.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. LEVIN has additional speakers, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important moment. As I look back, it has been decade after decade of a struggle for health care for all Americans, a real struggle.

Today, we have legislation that covers kids from infancy through seniors, for seniors throughout their years. That is the importance, really, of these provisions. I simply want to express, I think, the feeling of so many of us on this side. So we have this moment of coming together, and I hope in the days ahead that these notes of harmony will not be disturbed by notes of dissonance. We owe more, and all the bodies, all the institutions owe it to the people of this country to continue on this path so what should be a right is a reality.

I don't think anybody in this institution can imagine going to bed any night worried about having health care, and the same for their families, their kids, and their grandchildren. I hope we will take these few minutes when we come together and reassert the importance in this country of joining together so that everybody from birth until their last days has the ability to have what is so precious—the ability to have access to health care. I hope that is the significance of this vote. I hope, as a result, it will be a very strong vote, and I think it is a vote for health care for every American.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with being passionate about your ideas and principles, and nowhere is that more evident than in health care. When you can find, though, common ground on those principles that help our seniors, encourage our doctors to treat them, and make the first reforms to really save Medicare for the long term, we ought to do that. That is what this bill does.

But it just isn't a common ground as far as our lawmakers. We have dedicated staff who came together to work out the tough issues for us as well. On behalf of the Committee on Ways and Means Chairman PAUL RYAN and myself, I would like to thank our staff on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on

Health—Matt Hoffmann, Brett Baker, Amy Hall, and Erin Richardson—for their tremendous work.

The Speaker and former Speaker PELOSI also led the effort to find this common ground, and for Speaker BOEHNER, Charlotte Ivancic, and for Leader PELOSI, Wendell Primus, we thank you, as well as legislative counsel; and for the Congressional Budget Office, Tom Bradley and Holly Harvey contributed greatly to this day.

The other day, my neighbor, who has just retired from Continental, now United, walked over to my front porch and told me that after years of seeing his local doctor, his local doctor can't see him anymore because he can't afford to treat Medicare patients.

The other day—it was a tough winter for illnesses—I had an ear infection, and my local doctor I have known since he started his practice snuck me in at 6 at night. His staff had been there since 8 in the morning working and just looked frazzled. He just said, look, he doesn't drive a fancy car, doesn't live in a fancy home; he doesn't have a fancy office; he just wants to help treat patients. But this formula just makes it harder and harder for him. My main physician, who is 66, told me the other day that he would like to practice for 5 more years. He said: I think probably just 1 more year. He said: I can't handle the way Medicare pays today.

Look, we can't allow that to continue. Today, a simple question on this bill: Will you stand with our seniors, who need to see a local doctor and a doctor they know? Will you stand with our doctors, who want to treat our seniors, who don't want to retire early or sell out to larger institutions? Will you take the first real step to save Medicare for the long term? That is the question we face today.

On behalf of Chairman RYAN and those who have come together on this bill, I urge a "yes" vote on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, here's what it all comes down to: This is a step toward patient-centered health care.

And what that means is, we're starting to focus on what's best for patients.

Medicare is supposed to help seniors get the best health care possible.

And the way to do that is to reward what works.

Reward the doctors who help you recover faster and live longer.

Reward the doctors who put seniors and their health first.

That's what it means to have a patient-centered system. That's how you strengthen Medicare.

And that's what this bill does. This bill changes how Medicare pays doctors.

Right now, you get paid for every single treatment you perform—no matter how effective you are.

So what we say to doctors is, "From now on, we're going to reward quality work. Do a

good job, make people better, keep them out of the hospital, and you'll get paid more."

I think we all can agree that's better than just paying for the amount of care.

And we can all agree that's better than one more year of a manufactured crisis.

Now I want to add that we make a couple of other good reforms in this bill.

These reforms will save money. And those savings will build up over time.

We ask the wealthy to contribute more to their care.

We discourage unnecessary doctor visits with some insurance reforms.

And we tell Medicare to share data with experts to help providers figure out what works.

You all know I think we have a long way to go to save Medicare.

I think this is just a start.

But this is a firm step in the right direction.

It's a firm step toward a patient-centered system.

And I ask all my colleagues to support it.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 20, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1021, Protecting the Integrity of Medicare Act of 2015, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on February 26, 2015. I appreciate your decision to facilitate prompt consideration of the bill by the full House. I understand that by foregoing a mark-up of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its interest in the provisions within its jurisdiction.

Per your request, I will include a copy of our exchange of letters with respect to H.R. 1021 in the Congressional Record during House consideration of this bill. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the Congress.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,  
Chairman.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment that Hyde Amendment language was included in H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

The Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding for abortion, has prevented women from accessing needed reproductive health care for decades. While the Hyde Amendment remains in law through the yearly appropriations process, every attempt to insert Hyde Amendment language into other legislation damages efforts to protect women's health.

It is unfortunate that today's historic bipartisan deal—which will strengthen Medicare for millions of Floridians—was used as a vehicle to chip away at women's access to reproductive health care. Every woman deserves the right to make her own personal health decisions.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our leaders for working so tirelessly to find a compromise to fix the SGR. For too many years this arbitrary budget device has worked to up-end Medicare doctors and patients alike, creating turmoil when what was

needed was common sense. Thankfully, today common sense wins out.

But I have to say as well that I am disappointed that the bill includes unnecessary language on restricting women's reproductive rights. The inclusion of a statutory reference to the Hyde amendment is bothersome in the least and very possibly a dangerous precedent-setting salvo by anti-choice opponents to codify the Hyde language.

Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why Hyde had to be referenced at all in this bill. Everyone already knows that community health centers are already subject to Hyde restrictions. Including it in this SGR bill is redundant. Unfortunately, it is all too typical of this Tea Party-infused Congress to sow discord rather than accommodation. Adding the Hyde language to the bill only causes heartburn in a bill that could much more easily have satisfied our hunger for bipartisanship.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. This legislation is a long overdue remedy to the flawed Medicare physician payment formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate, or SGR. I look forward to putting an end to the temporary patches that Congress has repeatedly passed in place of a permanent fix.

Replacing the SGR and bringing predictability to Medicare will encourage more providers to enter and remain in the program, which in turn will improve health care access and affordability for seniors. Additionally, H.R. 2 marks an important shift from fee-for-service payments to a system that rewards quality outcomes.

This bill also includes several important re-authorizations to crucial programs, including the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Qualifying Individual program, and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Although I would have supported a longer authorization of CHIP, which would bring more certainty to our states and the children and families they serve through the program, I hope we can work together during the next two years to develop a strong authorization before it expires in two years.

I am also very pleased that this legislation includes an extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Hundreds of jurisdictions across the country—including timber-dependent counties all across Oregon—rely on this essential funding for their schools, government services, and law enforcement.

Lastly, H.R. 2 provides continued authorization for Community Health Centers, which provide important services in underserved communities. Although support for community health centers will prevent millions of patients from losing access to primary care, the funding will unfortunately remain subject to the Hyde Amendment—a harmful provision that undermines women's health. I am deeply troubled with the continuation of this public law.

I am also troubled by the precedent set in this bill where we will begin charging some seniors more for their premiums. Medicare, like Social Security, is an earned benefit paid for over a lifetime.

Despite these serious objections, I will support this bipartisan legislation. Congress must

preserve access to primary care for vulnerable individuals and bring long sought stability to Medicare for our seniors. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this comprehensive legislation and permanently fix the SGR.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House has an opportunity to make historic reforms to Medicare that will provide certainty to doctors and patients across the country.

I spent 30 years practicing as a heart surgeon, fighting to save lives on the operating table every day.

I know firsthand that the cycle of temporary patches and extensions injects tremendous uncertainty into the process, making it much more difficult to run a successful practice.

Last week, I stood with a bipartisan group of Representatives and Senators to introduce the replacement legislation under consideration.

This bill repeals the unworkable SGR, consolidates duplicative programs, and improves transparency for patients and doctors. It is a historic solution to a problem that has plagued doctors and providers for over a decade.

But no solution is one hundred percent perfect.

I believe we must continue working toward full repeal of the unworkable Medicare outpatient therapy cap, something I've introduced legislation to address and will continue to work with my colleagues to make this law.

That's something I'll continue to fight for.

But today, it's time for Congress to do what we are elected to do: come together, find common ground, and pass a solution.

This is the first meaningful opportunity to fix this broken system in years—let's not bypass this moment.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this permanent doc fix.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, which repeals once and for all the flawed Medicare physician reimbursement formula, known as the SGR, and replaces it with a payment system based on quality of care, value and accountability.

Since 2003, Congress has spent nearly \$170 billion on short-term patches to temporarily avoid cuts under the SGR. This bipartisan, bicameral agreement will finally stabilize payments for medical providers and remove the persistent threat of rate cuts that have jeopardized access to care for our seniors.

Also contained in this legislation is a crucial two-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Although I would have preferred to see CHIP extended for four years, this measure allows us to take immediate action instead of waiting until the program expires in September, providing certainty to states like Rhode Island that are preparing their budgets for next year, while ensuring that over eight million children continue receiving the health coverage they need at increased funding levels set forth under the Affordable Care Act.

I am also pleased to see the inclusion of over \$7 billion for community health centers that provide front line care to millions of families across the country, as well as \$620 million for the National Health Service Corps and \$120 million for Teaching Health Centers.

Of course, this legislation is not perfect. It includes provisions I do not support, such as

reforms to Medigap deductibles for new Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2020. However, this measure seeks to protect our most vulnerable citizens by permanently extending the Qualifying Individual (QI) program that helps low-income seniors pay their Medicare Part B premiums, and the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program that assists families on Medicaid maintain their coverage for one year as they transition from welfare to work.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will end the decade-long cycle of annual SGR patches, restore certainty Medicare providers, and extend vital health care programs our constituents depend on. I am pleased that members on both sides of the aisle have come together to address this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and provide continued health security for our seniors, children and families.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.

I came to Congress because Washington was in the midst of a culture of excess—excessive spending, excessive regulation and excessive government.

Today, we have the opportunity to repeal and replace Medicare's SGR, an outdated reimbursement system that for over a decade Congress has passed patch after patch to fix the flawed formula while hiding the true state of Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will take crucial steps to change spending and improve health care for America.

Today, we are voting to enact policy and reforms that generate savings and finally incentivize quality of care over quantity.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. This bill is not perfect but on its whole, it extends critical funding to ensure that kids in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) don't lose access to health insurance and to keep community health centers open to serve hardworking American families. It funds the successful Home Visiting Program, makes permanent a program to assist low-income seniors afford their Medicare premiums, and supports families on Medicaid who are transitioning to work. On top of preventing massive cuts to these programs, the legislation replaces a flawed payment system that wasn't working for people in Medicare, their physicians, or taxpayers.

In some areas—specifically in extending funding for CHIP for two years—I don't think the bill goes far enough. As a longtime supporter of CHIP, I advocated to extend funding for four years and included a four-year extension in the budget I offered in the House. House Democratic leadership fought for a four-year extension but was met with resistance from Republicans who have made quite clear that they would rather roll back coverage for kids in CHIP. Despite the two-year compromise, I'm pleased that the legislation funds CHIP at current levels and maintains the safeguards we set in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure coverage for every eligible child in the nation. Failure to pass this bill and fund CHIP would cause millions of kids to be-

come uninsured or lose access to services, or would cause their parents to face higher out-of-pocket costs.

The bill also includes two years of additional funding for community health centers which provide primary care to families, seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans in Maryland and across the nation. Health centers keep people healthy and working by responding to the unique needs of their communities, create good-paying jobs, and train the next generation of the health care workforce. Without this bill, funding for health centers would be cut by 70 percent and over 7 million Americans could be at risk of losing critical health services. Not funding very cost-effective health providers is irresponsible and unfair to hardworking American families.

It comes as no surprise that my Republican colleagues would have liked to hijack this bill for their arsenal in their unending assault on women's health. If you need any evidence, just look at what Republicans did in the Senate trying to use the human trafficking bill to expand the Hyde amendment to permanent funds and non-taxpayer funds. I applaud the Democratic Senators blocking that Republican anti-choice effort. Let me be clear; this bill does not do that. I worked with Leader PELOSI and the co-chairs of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, of which I am a member, to counter attempts to codify the Hyde amendment. As a result, this bill continues the current policy for funding for community health centers. Just like the Hyde language included in annual appropriations bills, the provision is limited to taxpayer funds and temporary—terminating when the funding expires in 2017. I strongly share the ongoing concerns of the reproductive health community and I remain deeply committed to protecting a woman's fundamental right to choose her health care.

Finally, the bill repeals and replaces a deeply flawed physician payment system for paying physicians that basically penalizes doctors for participating in Medicare. For more than ten years, doctors have faced the threat of steep rate cuts required by a mindless formula in the law. Congress has repeatedly adopted short-term patches to prevent these cuts from taking effect. This crisis-driven approach to paying physicians makes it difficult for doctors to participate in Medicare, which ultimately is unfair to their patients—the seniors and disabled workers who rely on Medicare for access to the health care services they need. The bill rights this wrong with a smarter physician payment system that improves quality of care for people with Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill is not perfect but Congress must move forward with this bipartisan agreement to protect the health of America's families, children and seniors. I urge support H.R. 2.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act, H.R. 2.

I commend Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON and ranking member FRANK PALLONE as well as Ways and Means Chairman PAUL RYAN and ranking member SANDER LEVIN for their hard work in putting this bill together.

The sustainable growth rate (SGR) was part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 but has proven to be far less than sustainable.

In fact, according to the Congressional Research Service, since 2003 Congress passed 17 laws overriding the SGR-mandated reductions in the Medicare physician fee schedule.

This bill may not be perfect but it seems to strike enough compromises that many of us are willing to support a good bill rather than hold out for a perfect one.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a two year extension of the Health Center Fund, which will provide an additional \$3.6 billion per year to the nation's community health centers.

Created under the Affordable Care Act to expand the health centers program and increase access to care, the fund is set to expire after 2015.

Should it expire, health centers would be facing a 70% cut in funding which would force devastating reductions and closures at many of the more than 9,000 health centers nationwide.

We simply cannot allow that to happen.

Community health centers are critical to the health care equation, meeting the needs of approximately 23 million people every year. They provide access to primary and preventative health services that keep patients from seeking or eventually needing more costly care. And that benefits all of us.

The 1,300 federally funded health centers are located in every corner of our country and are distributed evenly between urban and rural areas. I am fortunate in my own district to have 7 community health centers treating more than one hundred thousand patients every year. In fact, as we recognize the 50th anniversary of our health centers, I am proud to acknowledge that the first community health center in the United States, Geiger Gibson, is located in my district.

Health centers serve all our constituents, Democrat and Republican, young and old, black, white or brown. They are vital to all our communities, and that is why this program has strong bipartisan support.

Whether you supported the Affordable Care Act or not, I think we all can agree that access to affordable health care helps to keep health costs down. Our community health centers provide that access. They are doing a terrific job for people across the nation.

That is why I strongly support our health centers and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2 will repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and replace it with a bipartisan agreement to improve the Medicare payment system and return stability to physician payments.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created SGR in an attempt to control spending in the Medicare program, and it was adopted for TRICARE as well. For years, this methodology has consistently produced unrealistic expenditure targets that trigger untenable reductions in payment rates to doctors providing services to Medicare patients.

Congress has repeatedly buried the true cost of this policy through annual Congressional overrides of these scheduled cuts. Each of these short-term "doc fixes" has achieved the important goal of averting an immediate crisis in access to physicians for Medicare beneficiaries, but has exacerbated a longer-term crisis in Medicare financing.

Continued reliance on short-term patches creates instability in the health care system and the economy as a whole. Doctors have been hamstrung by yearly doubt about what reimbursement rates will be, and patients have had to pay the eventual price in uneven, sub-standard quality of care. Enactment of H.R. 2 will bring stability back to our health care system.

I voted for H.R. 2 because this legislation not only repeals the SGR, but also preserves and extends the Children's Health Insurance Program and provides funding for Community Health Centers through 2017. These programs are important in ensuring that those who need it most have access to health care. I remain concerned that the bill included an unnecessary provision restating current law on abortion coverage restrictions. The Hyde Amendment language, which has been included in annual appropriations bills since 1976, restricts women's access to health care and disproportionately discriminates against women of color, immigrants, and young people. Moving forward, we must work to ensure that women get access to health care, not continue policies that limit it.

Medicare has guaranteed essential health protections to seniors and certain disabled persons for nearly four decades. Fixing the physician Medicare reimbursement system is important to ensuring continued high quality care for Americans. I believe Medicare is more than just a program; it is a covenant that exists between the government and the American people, and I supported H.R. 2 to keep that covenant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 173, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 37, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 144]

YEAS—392

Abraham	Barton	Bishop (UT)
Adams	Bass	Black
Aderholt	Beatty	Blackburn
Aguilar	Becerra	Blumenauer
Allen	Benishek	Boehner
Amodei	Bera	Bonamici
Ashford	Beyer	Bost
Babin	Bilirakis	Boustany
Barletta	Bishop (GA)	Boyle, Brendan
Barr	Bishop (MI)	F.

Brady (PA)	Frelinghuysen	Lynch
Brady (TX)	Fudge	MacArthur
Brooks (IN)	Gabbard	Maloney,
Brown (FL)	Gallo	Carolyn
Brownley (CA)	Garamendi	Maloney, Sean
Buchanan	Gibbs	Marino
Bucshon	Gibson	Matsui
Burgess	Goodlatte	McCarthy
Bustos	Gosar	McCaul
Butterfield	Gowdy	McCollum
Byrne	Graham	McDermott
Calvert	Granger	McGovern
Capps	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Capuano	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Cardenas	Grayson	McMorris
Carney	Green, Al	Rodgers
Carson (IN)	Green, Gene	McNerney
Carter (GA)	Griffith	McSally
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	Meehan
Cartwright	Guinta	Meeks
Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Meng
Castro (TX)	Gutiérrez	Messer
Chabot	Hahn	Mica
Chaffetz	Hanna	Miller (FL)
Chu, Judy	Hardy	Miller (MI)
Ciциlline	Harper	Moolenaar
Clark (MA)	Harris	Mooney (WV)
Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	Moore
Clawson (FL)	Hastings	Moulton
Clay	Heck (NV)	Mullin
Cleaver	Heck (WA)	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Hensarling	Murphy (PA)
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Napolitano
Cohen	Hice, Jody B.	Neal
Cole	Higgins	Neugebauer
Collins (GA)	Hill	Newhouse
Collins (NY)	Himes	Noem
Comstock	Holding	Nolan
Conaway	Honda	Norcross
Connolly	Hoyer	Nugent
Conyers	Hudson	Nunes
Cook	Huffman	O'Rourke
Costa	Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo
Costello (PA)	Hunter	Pallone
Courtney	Hurd (TX)	Pascarell
Cramer	Hurt (VA)	Paulsen
Crawford	Israel	Pearce
Crenshaw	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Crowley	Jeffries	Perlmutter
Cuellar	Jenkins (KS)	Perry
Culberson	Jenkins (WV)	Peters
Cummings	Johnson (GA)	Peterson
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (OH)	Pingree
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pittenger
Davis, Danny	Joyce	Pitts
Davis, Rodney	Kaptur	Pocan
DeFazio	Katko	Poe (TX)
DeGette	Keating	Poliquin
Delaney	Kelly (IL)	Polis
DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Pompeo
DelBene	Kennedy	Posey
Denham	Kildee	Price (NC)
Dent	Kilmer	Price, Tom
DeSaulnier	Kind	Quigley
Deutch	King (NY)	Rangel
Diaz-Balart	Kinzingler (IL)	Reed
Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Reichert
Doggett	Kline	Renacci
Dold	Knight	Ribble
Doyle, Michael	Kuster	Rice (NY)
F.	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)
Duckworth	Lamborn	Richmond
Duffy	Lance	Rigell
Duncan (SC)	Langevin	Roby
Duncan (TN)	Larsen (WA)	Roe (TN)
Edwards	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Ellison	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Ellmers (NC)	Lawrence	Rohrabacher
Emmer (MN)	Lee	Rokita
Engel	Levin	Rooney (FL)
Eshoo	Lewis	Ros-Lehtinen
Esty	Lieu, Ted	Roskam
Farenthold	Lipinski	Ross
Farr	LoBiondo	Rothfus
Fattah	Loebbsack	Rouzer
Fincher	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Fitzpatrick	Long	Royce
Fleischmann	Love	Ruppersberger
Fleming	Lowenthal	Rush
Flores	Lowey	Russell
Forbes	Lucas	Ryan (OH)
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (WI)
Foster	Lujan Grisham	Salmon
Fox	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Frankel (FL)	Lujan, Ben Ray	T.
Franks (AZ)	(NM)	

Sanchez, Loretta	Swalwell (CA)	Walz
Sarbanes	Takai	Wasserman
Scalise	Takano	Schultz
Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Waters, Maxine
Schock	Thompson (MS)	Watson Coleman
Schrader	Thompson (PA)	Weber (TX)
Scott (VA)	Thornberry	Webster (FL)
Scott, Austin	Tiberi	Welch
Scott, David	Tipton	Wenstrup
Serrano	Titus	Westerman
Sessions	Tonko	Westmoreland
Sewell (AL)	Torres	Whitfield
Sherman	Trott	Williams
Shimkus	Tsongas	Wilson (FL)
Shuster	Turner	Wilson (SC)
Simpson	Upton	Wittman
Sinema	Valadao	Womack
Sires	Van Hollen	Woodall
Slaughter	Vargas	Yarmuth
Smith (MO)	Veasey	Yoder
Smith (NE)	Vela	Yoho
Smith (NJ)	Velázquez	Young (AK)
Smith (TX)	Wagner	Young (IA)
Speier	Walberg	Young (IN)
Stefanik	Walden	Zeldin
Stewart	Walker	Zinke
Stivers	Walorski	
Stutzman	Walters, Mimi	

NAYS—37

Amash	Huelskamp	McClintock
Blum	Hultgren	Meadows
Brat	Issa	Mulvaney
Bridenstine	Johnson, Sam	Nadler
Brooks (AL)	Jolly	Palmer
Buck	Jones	Ratcliffe
Cooper	Jordan	Sanford
DeSantis	King (IA)	Schakowsky
DesJarlais	Labrador	Schweikert
Garrett	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner
Gohmert	Lummis	Visclosky
Graves (GA)	Marchant	
Grothman	Massie	

NOT VOTING—4

Hinojosa	Ruiz
Payne	Smith (WA)

□ 1207

Messrs. MULVANEY and SCHWEIKERT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□ 1215

## THE MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, moments ago, the House passed a historic piece of bipartisan legislation that will put an end to the flawed Medicare sustainable growth rate, the so-called doc fix, and extend

the Children's Health Insurance Program.

For more than a decade, Congress has used a bandaid to address the sustainable growth rate, rather than offering permanent reforms. Having served in a nonprofit health care setting for nearly three decades, I experienced firsthand the uncertainty and the anxiety that patients and their providers experienced annually, wondering if draconian cuts to reimbursements would occur. This bipartisan, permanent solution will replace the sustainable growth rate with a more stable system that will ensure our seniors do not lose access to their healthcare providers.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is by no means perfect, but it is a move in the right direction for children, seniors, and our medical providers.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we just passed a bipartisan bill that addressed an issue, as the previous speaker said, that needed to be addressed.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court handed down a decision in *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama* which ought to give every Member pause regarding the position that Federal voting protections are no longer needed to ensure that all Americans can register and vote.

The Court found that Alabama legislators may have drawn congressional districts after the last census in a manner that diluted the voting strength of African American citizens. The Court raised disturbing questions, Mr. Speaker, about how African Americans are represented in Alabama's congressional districts and returned the case to a lower court for further consideration.

Mr. Speaker, we are a nation that prides itself on its unflinching willingness to confront its sins of segregation and voter suppression that kept millions of Americans from participating equally for generations.

On the same day the Court ruled, we marked the 50th anniversary of the Selma marchers finally reaching Montgomery. Such anniversaries are reminders of how much—or how little progress—we have made to realize the principles and rights embodied in our Constitution.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I urge us to proceed, as we did today, in a bipartisan fashion to restore the Voting Rights Act to its full force and effect to protect all Americans. And I urge my colleagues to work together to bring the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act to the floor and restore the full power of the Voting Rights Act without delay.

We acted in a bipartisan fashion today. Let's do it tomorrow on the Voting Rights Act.

#### BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Brain Awareness Week.

Last week, neuroscientists from around the world reached out to students and the public with educational activities that helped illustrate the wonders of the human brain. Since 1996, organizations around the world have come together during Brain Awareness Week to inform us about brain research and brain awareness, about brain disorders and diseases that affect nearly 100 million Americans.

The National Science Foundation has supported a number of projects that have led to discoveries in neuroscience. These projects include gene editing that allows scientists to understand the biological origins of complex brain disorders and provide new potential treatments. On another front, increasing the resolution of optical microscopes has allowed scientists to view the brain in more detail and helped them understand Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Brain Awareness Week and to support researchers in their own districts who are working to improve public health worldwide.

#### HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we just witnessed an opportunity that should not be singular, and that is the coming together of Members of the United States Congress to address some very important issues.

I have already spoken on the importance of providing for the Children's Health Insurance Program that this legislation, H.R. 2, has provided for and securing Medicare for our seniors and ensuring funding for our federally qualified health clinics, the very clinics that I advocated for so many years ago. And we have seen a growth in them. The ones that are in my congressional district, they opened their doors to low-income and those without insurance in years past.

We are trying to get in front of the issue and the crisis of health care in America. But I want to make sure that as we pass this legislation, we do not forget physician-owned hospitals, which are prevalent in the State of Texas, and there are many in my neighborhood. These are doctors who have sacrificed to open the doors of hospitals in low-income areas. It is important for CMS to make sure that their applications are expeditiously and efficiently reviewed and that they have the opportunity to expand. This is

language that we have put into the Affordable Care Act so the doors of these hospitals can remain open to the sick and those who are in neighborhoods where access to health care is not strong.

I ask my colleagues to continue to push forward on good health care in America and to help physician-owned hospitals in the way that they should be under the Affordable Care Act.

#### REMEMBERING MARY EDWARDS

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a longtime friend, Mary Edwards, a State Democratic executive committeewoman and board member for Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats.

Mary was born in Clarksville, a little town next to Paris, and moved to Fort Worth with her family when she was a kid.

She dedicated her time to helping others and making a difference to anyone she came across. I can personally attest to the leadership and activism she displayed throughout the years in the Fort Worth community, as well as when she worked alongside longtime former State Representative Lon Burnam.

Mary also served in various roles in the community. She was very active in the LGBT community and was very proud of her work. She was also a member of the Communications Workers of America. And she was very active in the neighborhood that she lived in.

My heartfelt sympathies goes out to her younger brother, Longe, and her niece, whom she greatly adored.

I can tell you, personally, that it is going to be sad to go to the Democratic meetings and pull up into the parking lot and not see Mary's big red truck there. But I can attest to you that while Mary was here, on this side, she did everything she could to make life better for others and truly, truly cared for the community.

#### MISCONDUCT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL TODD ZINSER, COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress relies upon inspectors general, IGs, as a key component of the Federal accountability community. When IGs themselves engage in illegal, unethical, or inappropriate behavior, Congress has an obligation to investigate them.

In the last Congress, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology



launched a bipartisan investigation of the Department of Commerce Inspector General Todd Zinser. The evidence the committee obtained regarding Mr. Zinser's personal misconduct and professional mismanagement of his office is overwhelming.

Any one of the multiple issues highlighted in my extended remarks would be sufficient to justify the removal of this IG. This serious step is made necessary by the abundant and deeply disturbing evidence that I am making public today. It gives me no pleasure to provide this account to the Congress, but I believe it is my obligation to report on what we have found.

Todd J. Zinser has been the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce (DOC) since December 2007. Prior to his present post, he served as Acting IG and Deputy IG at the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (OIG). He has had a thirty year career in the federal accountability community.

Our Committee relies on the Commerce IG's office to identify and investigate issues of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement within agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which encompasses the National Weather Service (NWS) and National Hurricane Center, as well as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Committee also has wide-ranging oversight jurisdiction over all non-military research and development, which touches upon other components of the Department of Commerce.

Issues relating to Mr. Zinser's conduct in office first came to the attention of the Committee in 2012. As some of you may recall, the Chief Financial Officer at the National Weather Service was removed after it was found that he had established an improper and illegal process for moving tens of millions of dollars across appropriated accounts at NWS in violation of the Anti-deficiency Act. Subsequently, the then-head of the NWS also retired as a result of this scandal. The Committee learned of this improper conduct the same way the rest of the world did: we read about it in the Washington Post on May 28, 2012.

However, Inspector Generals are required by the Inspector General Act to notify Congress when they become aware of significant problems in their agency. The Inspector General Act of 1978 as amended says very clearly that it is a purpose of the establishment of inspector generals that they are "to provide a means for keeping the head of the establishment and the Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of" that agency.

That act also directs that "[e]ach Inspector General shall report immediately to the head of the establishment involved whenever the Inspector General becomes aware of particularly serious or flagrant problems, abuses, or deficiencies relating to the administration of programs and operations of such establishment. The head of the establishment shall transmit any such report to the appropriate committees or subcommittees of Congress within seven calendar days, together with a report by the

head of the establishment containing any comments such head deems appropriate." Mr. Zinser never suggested that he had followed this provision and there is no evidence that the IG ever communicated any report to the Secretary of Commerce regarding ongoing violations of the Anti-deficiency Act within the National Weather Service.

In this case, Mr. Zinser did not notify our Committee by any means that NWS had been running a huge, illegal accounting scam. That failure to notify came as a grave disappointment to me and to other Members of the Committee. When staff met with Mr. Zinser to understand what had happened in this case, and the role of his office in the investigation, they were astonished to learn that in November 2011 the IG had concluded that a violation of the Anti-deficiency Act had likely occurred. That meant that the IG went six months without mentioning this significant matter to the Congress, letting us instead learn of the issue in the press.

In that meeting with staff, Mr. Zinser disclosed that he had no idea that his office had received multiple tips regarding financial misconduct at NWS. He admitted that his office had actually misplaced some of these allegations. The Commerce OIG received its first of several Hotline complaints about this issue in June 2010. Mr. Zinser also claimed he had no idea that his audit staff were conducting an examination of these allegations until a memorandum on the topic—eleven months in the making—hit his desk on November 18, 2011. It seemed impossible that, with his years of experience, he would have established a system for receiving whistleblower tips that could actually lose those tips. It also seemed impossible that he could not know that his staff was conducting a "preliminary audit" on matters involving possible illegal activity by one of the top officials at the NWS.

At the time, his office only had about 120 employees and misconduct at the National Weather Service would be a very, very high profile matter. Even if Mr. Zinser's account is true—and my staff have gathered significant evidence that Mr. Zinser is actually a micro-manager who has been personally involved in assignments of hotline complaints and held weekly reviews of ongoing work at the time, back in 2011—such failings suggest an extraordinary lack of personal engagement in the work of his office and a serious lack of competence in Mr. Zinser's management of significant, potentially criminal, allegations.

Most surprising of all the things staff learned in this meeting was that Mr. Zinser declined to conduct a formal investigation into these financial improprieties even after he said he became aware of them. Instead, the IG gave the investigation back to the agency. Given the vast scope of the financial shenanigans that occurred at NWS over many years, it is reasonable to question whether others in the agency knew about this conduct or played some role in allowing it to go on. In letting the agency essentially investigate itself on this violation of the law, the IG created a situation where there could have been a cover-up. In the end, the agency's report on this incident found only one official—the NWS Chief Financial Officer—to have been responsible for years of illegal accounting practices.

IGs exist to carry out investigations precisely when allegations of illegal activity have been made. Members and staff found it impossible to understand why the IG had failed in what can only be described as a "core responsibility" to investigate this misconduct and to keep the Congress informed. My staff has posed this scenario to several other IGs who work at agencies in our jurisdiction, every one of them has said they would never have given such an investigation back to the agency. Such a decision is inexplicable.

These failures to investigate a violation of law, to inform the Congress of significant issues at his agency, or to effectively manage his own office led to doubts among Committee Members regarding Mr. Zinser's reliability as an IG. As a result, our staff began to examine the work of Mr. Zinser's office in more detail.

Let me be clear: Mr. Zinser came to our attention because of Mr. Zinser's own misconduct. We know from sources on other Committees as well as correspondence he has sent, that he has tried to explain away our interest in his conduct as the result of former IG staff with an ax to grind coming to us with false stories, or even that my own Committee staff are personally hostile to Mr. Zinser. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Zinser has only himself to blame for drawing our attention to him.

In the wake of a hearing in which Members heard directly from Mr. Zinser regarding his mishandling of the NWS Anti-Deficiency Act violations, my staff began looking into the IG's hotline system. How could tips involving illegal activity and the potential waste of millions of dollars get set aside without any action? While the staff and Members were wondering how this bizarre conduct on the NWS could be explained, another item in the Washington Post caught our eye. Mr. Zinser's office was the subject of a whistleblower retaliation complaint that had been taken up by the Office of Special Counsel (OSC)—the Federal government's whistleblower protection office.

On December 3, 2012 the Washington Post reported on this case because the OSC had to take the extraordinary step of issuing instructions that Inspector General Zinser vacate a gag agreement with the complainants. This gag agreement, which OSC ultimately found had been essentially extorted from the complainants, had barred them from communicating about their experiences in Mr. Zinser's office to the press, OSC or Congress.

This press account was every bit as shocking as the revelations Mr. Zinser had made to the Committee regarding his mishandling of the NWS case. It seemed impossible that an IG, or his top aides, would establish a gag order to silence former staff from talking to the press, the OSC, or Congress. That such a gag order was the result of retaliation for suspected whistleblowing conduct by the former employees made this situation even more disturbing. By law, IG offices are to be a safe haven for whistleblowers. That an IG, or his senior staff, would attempt to punish and silence whistleblowers within their own office flies in the face of everything we expect of an IG.

This story opened up new lines of communication between whistleblowers remaining in Mr. Zinser's office and our staff. For the remainder of the 113th Congress we worked to

understand how the office operated and why so many problems seemed to emerge from the IG's office. Over time, this initiative expanded from work done solely by the Minority staff of the Committee to become a fully bipartisan investigation with participation by the Majority as well. My friend from Wisconsin, the then-Vice Chairman of the Committee, Representative SENSENBRENNER, was particularly important in driving the investigation forward and forging a bipartisan effort. Mr. SENSENBRENNER has a long history of taking action to protect whistleblowers.

I want to touch on some of the most outrageous things that we uncovered during the two years of our work. I may depart from a chronological treatment in an effort to bring the most disturbing elements to the attention of the House in the most expeditious way.

For those who wonder how I know what I am saying is true, let me share a summary of the work our staff engaged in.

The staff interviewed more than 70 officials who have worked for or with Mr. Zinser, including more than 60 current or former Commerce OIG employees. The Committee has also obtained thousands of pages of supporting documentation, court records and other evidence from informed sources. Most of the material that has informed our investigation has come to the staff through whistleblowers sharing materials. Despite two bipartisan document request letters in the last Congress, Mr. Zinser provided very little responsive material, particularly to our second request in August 2014 that specifically focused on the conduct of Mr. Zinser and some of his senior most officials targeting whistleblowers in his own office.

Coincidentally, and I will discuss this in more detail later, six days—let me repeat, six days—after Mr. Zinser received the Committee's bipartisan document request regarding efforts to identify and retaliate against whistleblowers in his office, he was seen using his personal hand-cart to remove two bankers boxes of materials from his office to his car on a holiday weekend. Although we don't know what was in those boxes, the timing of this removal is extremely suspicious.

Committee staff has built a network of sources that provided accurate, contemporaneous insights into actions within the office. The stories and documents these whistleblowers provided paint a deeply disturbing picture of an IG's office ruled by fear and intimidation, where unethical conduct is rewarded at the top, while the line staff are largely prevented from conducting the good work expected of an IG's office.

Let me start by acknowledging two apparent public successes of Mr. Zinser's: he produced two reports in 2014 on misconduct at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) that received extensive press coverage and inspired a joint hearing by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the House Judiciary Committee. Each of these seeming successes, though, points to core problems in the credibility of Mr. Zinser and the work of his office.

On July 8, 2014, Mr. Zinser's office released an investigative report about the conduct of Deborah Cohn, the Commissioner for Trademarks at PTO. The report found that Commis-

sioner Cohn violated several federal laws regarding federal officials using their public office for an individual's private gain (5 C.F.R. 2635.702 and 702(a)), providing preferential treatment to an applicant (5 U.S.C. 2302(b), and 5 C.F.R. 2635.101(b)(8)), and violating federal ethics violations (5 C.F.R. 2635.501(a)). What was Ms. Cohn's offense? She had intervened in a hiring decision to assist her daughter's fiancé in getting a job.

In September, in the wake of the report, Deborah Cohn announced plans to retire by the end of 2014. According to her online biography, she worked at PTO for over 30 years, and retired in January, 2015. At the time of the release of the report, IG Zinser was quoted in the press as saying the OIG investigation found Ms. Cohn exerted "undue influence in the hiring process" and "intervened and created an additional position specifically for the applicant." The Commerce OIG report also said that beyond the letter of the law, the PTO official's actions "reflected poor judgment." The take away quote for the press: "As a long-term senior manager in the federal government, she should have known about the federal laws governing hiring and should have steered clear of any appearance of impropriety," the report said.

Ms. Cohn was wrong to have intervened in this hiring case in the manner that she did, but she is to be congratulated for choosing to retire in the face of these significant findings that called her judgement into question. But as my staff learned, Mr. Zinser is really not in a very credible position to lecture anyone on hiring irregularities.

Mr. Zinser has his own rather astounding record of inappropriate hiring in the Commerce IG's office. For example, since coming to the IG post in December of 2007, he personally intervened to save the career of one of his closest friends as it was imploding at the Department of Transportation due to mismanagement issues. This person is one of the same people who ultimately had the OSC complaint lodged against him that I referenced above. Mr. Zinser also personally intervened to get his own son's friend an internship position in the OIG and then directed his senior staff to push the Department of Commerce Security Office to issue credentials for the young man when a security issue arose. The friend of Mr. Zinser's son was eventually hired into a permanent position in the OIG with a starting salary of more than \$42,000.

Most disturbingly, Mr. Zinser hired a woman that substantial evidence and witness testimony reveals was involved in a "romantic" relationship with Mr. Zinser at the time he hired her in August 2010. At that time, she was in the middle of her probationary year as a candidate for the Senior Executive Service (SES) at an office within the Department of Commerce. Notified by her managers that she would be removed from her SES probationary position immediately due to significant conduct problems, she asked her supervisor if she could have an extra day because "Todd Zinser" would hire her. Mr. Zinser then personally intervened to have her detailed to his office within days. This required a frantic push among all levels of his office to get the paperwork done and signed before her SES position at DOC was vacated—which would have

washed her out of the SES probationary program.

Witnesses in the Commerce IG's office who had been involved in the transfer say there was an extreme, personal urgency in Mr. Zinser's actions to have this employee detailed to his office. In addition, the Committee has confirmed that Mr. Zinser never contacted this woman's former supervisors at the other DOC agency where she worked to ascertain why she was in the process of being removed from her SES position. This would seem to have been a reasonable action for anyone hiring a person into an SES position, even more so for an IG who routinely handles sensitive personal information and criminal investigations.

The morning before the Department of Commerce "officially" approved her detail to the IG's office, she was provided with a window office, desk, computer and phone in the Commerce Office of Inspector General, according to former OIG employees and contemporaneous emails. In the wake of this effort, the then-Director of Human Resources in the IG's office e-mailed the Counsel to the IG: "you can add illegal appointments to my annual performance discussion. With [Todd's son's friend] and this one, I am going to be an entire series in the Washington post [sic]."

Within five weeks of being brought to the OIG on detail, Mr. Zinser appointed his friend to the position of Assistant Inspector General for Administration—a SES position that paid \$150,000 a year. Subsequently, Mr. Zinser directly approved three SES Performance Bonuses for her from January 2011 to October 2012 totaling \$28,199.

Let me be clear, I am not making any comment on the qualifications or skills of the woman hired by Mr. Zinser, and I am attempting to limit my comments about the broader situation of their relationship out of sensitivity for the feelings of innocent parties. However, Mr. Zinser's personal conduct in this case is deplorable. His conduct undermined the integrity of the SES process and the Federal hiring system more generally.

It is clear that he hired this intimate friend to do her a favor given her difficult professional circumstances. No one interviewed by the Committee staff who worked in the IG's office at the time of her detail or subsequent appointment believes that she was hired because there was a pressing need for someone with her skill set. The universal reaction among the staff was that this behavior was highly irregular, and right from the beginning there were some in the office who had knowledge of his relationship with this person. The result was that rumors began immediately regarding this person's special status. Witnesses indicate she wielded unusual authority in the office due to the close nature of her relationship to Mr. Zinser. This is the kind of personnel action that destroys the effectiveness of an organization and that IGs themselves often investigate.

The Committee has no more interest in Mr. Zinser's private affairs than the Congress would have in Ms. Cohn's daughter's fiancé. However, Todd Zinser just as blatantly entangled his personal affairs with his public duties as Ms. Cohn had done when he used his position of trust to advance a romantic partner's

position. This has created not simply ethically troubling behavior on his part but potential violations of federal law. His actions to further the career of a romantic interest compromises the credibility of the IG and his office to investigate inappropriate hiring by others, even when justified.

Mr. Zinser's press comment about Ms. Cohn applies to him as well: "As a long-term senior manager in the federal government, (h)e should have known about the federal laws governing hiring and should have steered clear of any appearance of impropriety." It should go without saying that such a statement is even more true of a person who the Congress has placed in a law enforcement position. The difference between Cohn and Zinser is that there is no IG to hold Mr. Zinser accountable. That is a job for the Congress and the President.

There is one more twist in this tale. In January 2011, an anonymous complaint about Mr. Zinser's inappropriate hiring of the Assistant IG for Administration was received by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). The complaint went to their Integrity Committee to investigate. On February 22, 2011, CIGIE's Integrity Committee wrote to Mr. Zinser regarding the complaint asking that he respond within 30 days. On April 11, 2011, Mr. Zinser provided a written response completely denying that there was anything improper in his hiring of this woman. He told CIGIE that he had a critical need to hire someone with her skills. In the letter Mr. Zinser wrote, "... her assignment was based solely on business necessity, not on a personal relationship."

As I mentioned, no one interviewed by Committee staff who worked in the Commerce IG's office at the time believes she was hired because there was a pressing need for someone with her skill set. The position of Assistant IG for Administration had been vacant in the Commerce OIG for over two years before it was given to Mr. Zinser's romantic interest, and numerous former OIG employees recall that Zinser had refused to fill that position on a number of occasions claiming he did not see a need for it. Not until his close friend was in desperate need of a job did Mr. Zinser discover a necessity to fill the post.

In addition, not a single record provided by the Commerce IG in response to our Committee's July 2014 document request regarding records related to Mr. Zinser's hiring of this person supports IG Zinser's declaration to CIGIE that he hired her into the position of Assistant IG for Administration "based solely on business necessity, not a personal relationship." There is no contemporaneous record confirming that Mr. Zinser had been pushing for filling that position prior to the quick detail of his intimate friend to the office.

In his written response to CIGIE, Mr. Zinser acknowledged that he did have a personal relationship with his new Assistant Inspector General for Administration, and that they were "avid long distance runners and trained together on a fairly regular basis." "Contrary to the insinuations of the anonymous complaint," he wrote, "our relationship is neither romantic nor sexual in nature," and while he said there are no rules "against maintaining personal friendships with colleagues or subordinates, to

minimize any potential appearance of impropriety, we curtailed our running together" after she came to his office. It may be true that their running relationship was "curtailed", but the staff has convincing evidence that other aspects of their relationship, more pertinent to the allegation, continued outside of the work place after her hiring and were ongoing at the time of the CIGIE inquiry.

In his response Mr. Zinser also suggested to CIGIE that the anonymous complaint they received was from his friend's husband who was attempting to use the complaint "as a tool to gain advantage in divorce proceedings." It is true that this woman's husband filed for divorce in March 2011—the divorce was granted in January 2012—but it is not true that her now-former husband was the source of the CIGIE complaint. Despite Zinser's speculation, designed to throw the CIGIE Integrity Committee off his trail, Committee staff has spoken at length on multiple occasions to the individual who filed the anonymous complaint. The complainant is a person in the IG community not related to either Zinser's girlfriend or her former husband. This counter-allegation by Mr. Zinser fits with a long pattern of behavior he has displayed in trying to deflect criticism or questions by making assertions about the motivations or integrity of those who question or challenge him.

As to the relationship between Mr. Zinser and his Assistant IG for Administration, The Washington Post asked Mr. Zinser about it for an article they wrote about him on July 17, 2014. According to that article, "Zinser said there was nothing improper about him hiring a highly qualified manager who was a close personal friend. He said the romantic nature of their relationship predated her coming to work for him." Mr. Zinser seems to have forgotten that he told CIGIE that there was no romantic element to their relationship.

The combination of misleading claims Mr. Zinser made to CIGIE regarding both his relationship with the close friend he hired and the "business" necessity of hiring her into his office appears to be an intentionally false narrative spun by Mr. Zinser to cover up his own unethical behavior. CIGIE's Integrity Committee accepted Mr. Zinser's explanation on April 28, 2011 and closed the complaint without further investigation. The Integrity Committee was operating in the dark regarding the extensive evidence my own Committee's staff has obtained that this hiring was improper and that Mr. Zinser was misleading them as to the real facts of his conduct.

What have we learned from this case? That Mr. Zinser has corrupted the Federal hiring process and the Senior Executive Service appointment process. That Mr. Zinser was willing to make false allegations about another to avoid having to answer for his own actions. That Mr. Zinser was willing to mislead the Integrity Committee of CIGIE, a body established to investigate questionable activities or mismanagement of IGs. That Mr. Zinser was willing to lecture another senior official for conduct that is no more disturbing than his own. All in all, this does not sound like the conduct we should expect from an Inspector General. We also have learned that Ms. Cohn was willing to act with accountability for her actions—she retired in the wake of the IG's report—

while Mr. Zinser clings to his position in the face of substantial evidence that he is not fit to serve.

The second 2014 PTO report by the DOC IG's office to capture public attention involved abuse of time and attendance practices. In July 2014, the DOC OIG released a report entitled, "Review of Waste and Mismanagement at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board," OIG Case 13-1077-I, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, July 28 2014. In a memorandum dated the same day, Zinser wrote to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property regarding their findings. Mr. Zinser's summary of findings said, "Our investigation uncovered waste in the PTAB that persisted for more than four years (2009-13) and resulted in the misuse of federal resources totaling more than \$5 million. The bulk of the wasted resources related to PTAB's paralegals, who had insufficient workloads and considerable idle time during those years."

According to the July 2014 OIG report as many as 95% of the PTAB paralegals were involved in the PTO's Patent Hoteling Program (PHP), the agency's largest telework program.

This apparent successful report takes on a different light when one realizes that in February 2012 the Commerce OIG released an audit of the PTO's Patent Hoteling Program that labelled it a great success. The title of the IG's audit report, "The Patent Hoteling Program Is Succeeding as a Business Strategy," and news headlines at the time reporting on the IG's findings described how the IG audit praised the PTO's telework program: "Teleworking PTO employees process more patents, less expensive," declared one headline.

It is difficult to know how auditors from the IG's office could have so completely missed the signs of waste, fraud and abuse that have now been widely identified in this program. Just as hard to explain is why Mr. Zinser initially turned these allegations over to the agency to investigate, just as he had in the NWS financial misconduct case. Again, there may have been violations of law, and the sums of money involved were not insignificant.

On November 18, 2014 the House Oversight and Government Reform and Judiciary Committees held a joint congressional hearing about the PTO's telework program. During his sworn testimony Mr. Zinser was asked by my friend, Ms. Lofgren of California, why his office turned the PTAB investigation back to the PTO. His response was because "none of those allegations made specific allegations against specific individuals that would warrant us opening up a criminal investigation," he said.

Mr. Zinser's statement was not accurate, however. One complaint that the IG's office received on its Hotline in February 2013 identified ONE DOZEN specific individuals at the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) by name, including the chief judge of the Board and two administrators, who were knowingly approving non-production time of PTO employees, according to the allegation. Despite the fact that "specific allegations" were made "against specific individuals" this complaint was referred to PTO by the Commerce OIG, which requested PTO conduct an administrative inquiry.

The Committee has learned that the PTO did a thorough evaluation of the PTAB time and attendance issues, substantiated the allegations, concluded that there were problems with time and attendance reporting, and that steps should be taken to clean up the system with significant savings possible.

The IG's staff received the PTO's audit report of the PTAB time and attendance issues, and senior leadership at the IG's office realized they could not claim the significant monetary savings, in the millions of dollars, associated with the PTO report because they can only claim savings associated with their own work. To attempt to take credit for those savings, the OIG launched an audit that re-did the PTO's work. That OIG report was released in July 2014 and received widespread media coverage with story titles such as "IG uncovers substantial waste at USPTO, says paralegals 'paid to do nothing,'" and "This May Be The Worst Abuse of Federal Telework Ever." Thus, to claim savings already identified by the agency, the IG wasted staff time and resources on a repetitive audit, and then worked the press to claim the credit for finding the problem. All this while conveniently forgetting that nearly 2½ years earlier, the IG was praising the very same telework program that he later said had wasted money during that same time period.

What does this case teach us? That Mr. Zinser was willing to spend taxpayer dollars to get the credit for saving taxpayer dollars. It also shows that he was willing to mislead a senior Member of the House regarding why he had initially passed on carrying out this investigation. Finally, Mr. Zinser promised to provide documentation in response to Ms. Lofgren's questions, but in his submission for the record he went back on that promise by saying he would only provide those materials if he received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee.

Identifying savings is important for this IG because, on balance, Mr. Zinser is one of the least productive IGs in the federal government. According to the GAO, which is working to report on this office's productivity based on my request, the average Cabinet-level IGs recovered \$22.64 for each dollar they spent from 2011 to 2013. By comparison, the Commerce OIG recovered just \$4.18 for each dollar it spent. In addition, 95% of the Commerce OIG's savings came from joint investigations with other federal law enforcement agencies, and so much of these savings were claimed on work that may have been led by another IG or office.

Now, let me return to the story that gave additional momentum to our investigative activities: the fate of the whistleblower retaliation case before OSC. As I said, I learned of that case through reading of it in the press in December of 2012. Much of my staff's subsequent work was about getting more information regarding that case, which was being investigated by OSC. Everyone in this institution knows that the Congress relies on whistleblowers to do our oversight work. IGs are in the same position: they must be trusted by whistleblowers or they will not learn of problems in their agency. Congress feels so strongly about this that there is an entire section in the IG Act, Section 7, which addresses

the role of IGs in receiving allegations and in protecting whistleblowers from retaliation. The idea that senior officials in the IG's office would retaliate against whistleblowers is inconceivable, but that is what the OSC case suggested happened in Mr. Zinser's office.

To its credit, OSC worked that case very, very diligently. The OSC issued a report in September 2013 that found Mr. Zinser's two closest aides—his legal counsel and the Principal Assistant Inspector General for Investigations and Whistleblower Protection—had engaged in what amounted to a coordinated effort to gag whistleblowers in the IG's own office from reporting misconduct to the OSC, the Congress or the press.

The OSC's "Report on Prohibited Personnel Practices" concluded: "In this matter, OSC's investigation uncovered willful, concerted acts of retaliation that necessitate disciplinary action. Holding management accountable for engaging in prohibited personnel practices is essential to assuring employees that they can blow the whistle or engage in other protected activity without fear of reprisal."

According to the OSC report: "The record is also replete with evidence establishing that PAIGI [Rick] Beitel retaliated against the whistleblowers by drafting their unfounded failing interim performance appraisals. . . . The evidence demonstrates that PAIGI Beitel was motivated to retaliate against the whistleblowers for their engagement in protected activity and/or their perceived whistleblowing. . . . PAIGI Beitel's behavior is particularly egregious based on his position as the OIG's expert on whistleblower protection," the OSC determined.

While the OSC could find no "documentary evidence" that Mr. Zinser was involved in the case, every member of Mr. Zinser's staff that the Committee staff has spoken with who had experience of Mr. Zinser's management practices indicates that he rarely writes his directions down, instead relying on face-to-face meetings and oral directions. These witnesses also indicate that the PAIGI, Mr. Beitel, would never act on something this significant without clearing it with the IG. This is the same close, personal friend whose career Mr. Zinser saved by bringing him in from the Department of Transportation. The two had worked together since the early 1990s and were perceived by staff across both IG offices to have a very close working relationship of a mentor and mentee. In court documents unrelated to their federal employment Rick Beitel acknowledged that Todd Zinser was his "close friend and personal confidant" and that they routinely socialize with one another outside of work.

Mr. Zinser took no significant steps to punish either his good friend Rick Beitel or the other Commerce OIG official after receiving the OSC report. As a result of the OSC investigation and findings IG Zinser agreed to take twelve minimal actions, including the destruction of the coerced "interim performance appraisals" the whistleblowers were forced into signing. Mr. Beitel was removed from "supervisory" duties for one year, both officials were required to take "performance counseling," and the Commerce OIG was required to hire an "employee relations" specialist.

But two officials who had used their position to threaten to destroy the professional careers

of whistleblowers if they did not agree to gag orders denying them access to the Congress or the OSC should really not be in senior leadership positions in any office of the government, and especially not in an IG's office. That is my strong view, and I am not alone in thinking so.

After receiving a copy of this report and learning that no significant punishment had been meted out by Mr. Zinser, all seven Members of our Subcommittee on Oversight—four Republicans and three Democrats—wrote to Mr. Zinser on April 1, 2014. The real driving force in pushing this letter was my friend, Mr. Sensenbrenner. The letter said that Mr. Zinser should "immediately terminate" the two senior Commerce OIG officials who were found by OSC to have engaged in prohibited personnel practices against whistleblowers in his office.

Mr. Zinser responded on April 15, 2014, expressing doubts about the credibility of OSC's work and the legal basis for their findings. Incredibly, Mr. Zinser reiterated all of the knowingly inaccurate claims about the whistleblowers—essentially repeating the lies that OSC had found Mr. Beitel to have concocted to damage their careers and reputations. OSC thoroughly documented those claims to be inappropriate, misleading and simply false. Nevertheless, Mr. Zinser knowingly used those false claims again, further defaming his former employees.

This was not the first time Mr. Zinser had used these false, derogatory allegations to protect his office from tough questions. On January 7, 2013, Mr. Zinser wrote a 52 page letter to then Congressman Frank Wolf, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. Wolf had raised questions regarding the OSC investigation that was then underway.

Mr. Zinser's letter defended the actions of his two top aides and reiterated the false allegations they had made against whistleblowers in the IG's office as if those claims were unshakable truths. For someone who claimed to OSC that he knew nothing about his aides' actions, Zinser seemed very comfortable defending their behavior and attacking the victims.

It is important to note that even after the OSC report found that there was no merit to any of these allegations, Mr. Zinser continued to leave his letter to Chairman Wolf up on his public web site, perpetuating false claims that defamed innocent former employees, and standing as a warning sign to other whistleblowers that their reputations were at risk should they challenge Mr. Zinser.

After this spirited defense of his closest staff and his refusal to take any noteworthy steps to punish them for their significant misdeeds even in the wake of OSC's findings, Mr. Zinser suddenly changed direction in August 2014 when he announced that both officials were to be placed on leave and a decision about termination would be made within 30 days. In the end, Mr. Zinser's legal counsel was terminated and his PAIGI—and close friend—was allowed to retire. This was a dramatic 180 degree turn from his previous public statements about the actions of these top aides.

Despite his outrageous conduct and botched management choices, Mr. Zinser was

not found by OSC in their 2013 report to have known about the treatment of the whistleblowers. The OSC, however, was careful to say they found no “documentary evidence” regarding Mr. Zinser’s knowledge of the actions of his two senior most staff. This lack of documentation saved him from any personal consequences as a result of the OSC report.

However, I believe it is important to tell my colleagues that Mr. Zinser had been named in a prior OSC report. That earlier report found he had personally engaged in retaliation against a whistleblower in his office. The similarities between the 1996 case and this 2013 case—both built around a concocted tissue of lies to remove or silence a whistleblower—are striking enough to suggest that perhaps OSC should have looked harder for evidence of Mr. Zinser’s involvement in the more recent case.

The Committee has uncovered a 1996 case in which Todd Zinser, then the Deputy Assistant IG for Investigations at the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (DOT OIG), personally retaliated against Mr. John Deans. We have all the relevant filings and my staff has even spoken with Mr. Deans. Retired from law enforcement now, at the time of this case Mr. Deans was a former FBI agent working as a DOT OIG GS-12 Special Agent, criminal investigator. Deans was assigned to the Denver office, and while there he found what he believed to be compelling evidence that federal funding for the Denver International Airport was being illegally redirected to support local projects.

Deans briefed Mr. Zinser and two other DOT OIG officials on his case. Importantly, Deans suggested to others that very senior Federal officials may have been aware of this possible diversion of federal funds.

Mr. Zinser travelled to Denver a few days after he learned of Deans’ comments about the potential knowledge of senior Federal officials regarding this alleged diversion. Soon after, Mr. Zinser flew to San Francisco to see if the Special-Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of the San Francisco office of the DOT OIG would be willing to have Deans detailed to his office. It is not clear what Zinser told the Special Agent in Charge about Deans but the Special Agent advised Zinser to have an “impartial investigator” look into the allegations against Deans. Instead, Mr. Zinser decided to investigate the Deans matter himself. Zinser had Mr. Deans transferred to San Francisco, then had him placed on administrative leave and ultimately had him fired.

In response to Mr. Zinser’s actions, Deans appealed to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which supported his complaint that this was retaliation for his work. OSC sought a stay of the transfer of Deans to San Francisco. On the same day the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) ordered that Mr. Deans be returned to his post in Denver, Mr. Zinser placed Deans on administrative leave.

Todd Zinser’s behavior was considered so outlandish by the OSC that the Office filed a “Petition for Enforcement” against Todd Zinser with MSPB. OSC asked that, “The [Merit Systems Protection] Board should order Zinser to immediately assign Deans the duties of his former GS-12 special agent, criminal investigator, position. Moreover . . . the Board should order that Todd Zinser not receive pay-

ment for service as an employee from May 23, 1996, until Deans is returned to his former position, i.e., until the agency complies with the Board’s May 23, 1996, Opinion and Order.”

What did OSC think of the substance of the case Mr. Zinser had made against Deans to justify his actions? They thoroughly investigated Mr. Zinser’s claims—reinterviewed witnesses, collected documents and deposed the principal players. OSC found, “(A)s addressed in detail below, the evidence established that the specific charges that formed the basis for Deans’ removal are unsupportable. . . . The evidence does not support any of these allegations. On the other hand, it is clear that Deans’ removal was ordered at the behest of Deputy Assistant Inspector General (DAIG) for Investigations Tod[d] Zinser, who strongly objected to Deans’ protected conduct.” OSC investigators in 1996 concluded that Mr. Zinser’s actions towards Deans were “draconian in nature” and “motivated by animus.” They determined Mr. Zinser took these actions because Deans “discovered violations and politically embarrassing information about high-level government officials and community leaders.”

As a result of these findings against Mr. Zinser, Deans had to be rehired and restored to a post in Denver. Deans was repaid almost a year of back pay and benefits. On top of this, the government had to pay over \$10,000 in Mr. Deans’ attorney fees. In short, the taxpayer had to pay the bill for Mr. Zinser’s outrageous and indefensible conduct towards this whistleblower.

Mr. Speaker, it is reasonable for Members to wonder how someone with this kind of history of abuse against a whistleblower could possibly have been confirmed by the Senate to the post of Inspector General. I wondered that too. It turns out, based on witness testimony and extant documents, that Mr. Zinser never disclosed the OSC case to either the White House or the Senate during his confirmation process.

The Senate routinely submits questionnaires to potential IGs with questions that must be filled out. That questionnaire asks about legal, ethical or other cases that the Committee should be aware of in considering his nomination. In response to that specific question Mr. Zinser wrote, “I have never been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics.” The questionnaire also asked: “Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.” Mr. Zinser wrote simply “None.”

None? A potential IG does not think it is relevant to the confirmation process to acknowledge that he was found to have engaged in prohibited personnel practices? Mr. Zinser was asked by a Washington Post reporter why he did not disclose this case during his confirmation. In a story on Mr. Zinser published by the Washington Post on July 17, 2014, Mr. Zinser told the Post that he did not disclose the case because, “I just never thought of myself as a subject [of the investigation], although maybe I was.”

More recently, in January 2015, Mr. Zinser responded to a Question For the Record (QFR) from my friend, Ms. LOFGREN, regarding the same matter. In that response, Mr. Zinser gave a lawyerly answer, “it is my under-

standing that the subject [of the investigation] was the Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General.” Technically that is true because under the law, cases filed with the OSC name the office that is responsible for the alleged misconduct, not the individual. Similarly, lawsuits filed against an agency name the head of the agency in their official capacity regardless of whether that official has any personal knowledge of the matter or not. However, this artful response suggests that the case had nothing to do with Mr. Zinser. Let me be clear: The case only existed because of Mr. Zinser’s personal misconduct, and he was squarely the subject of the allegations of prohibited personnel practices.

The OSC’s key document in the John Deans case—the OSC’s “request for stay”—refers to Todd Zinser BY NAME 53 separate times in a 26-page report. In addition, this document makes it exceedingly evident that Todd Zinser was the sole individual in the Department of Transportation IG’s office who was believed to have retaliated against John Deans. Looking at the OSC records, it is evident that the Office found Mr. Zinser personally investigated Deans, personally constructed unsupported findings against Deans to be used to justify adverse employment actions, personally ordered those actions, and personally resisted setting things right when OSC and the MPRB ordered the DOT OIG to do so. Of all the employees at the DOT OIG’s office, only Todd Zinser was singled out by OSC for punishment by way of seeking that his salary be withheld.

The 1996 case was specifically built on Mr. Zinser’s misconduct just as the 2013 report by OSC is specifically about misconduct by Mr. Zinser’s two closest (now former) aides. Had Mr. Zinser divulged his role in the Deans case at the time of his confirmation, it is highly unlikely he would have been confirmed as the Commerce Inspector General. The actions taken by Mr. Zinser in the John Deans case, and described in detail in the OSC documents, are all antithetical to the behavior and ethical grounding that the public deserves and that Congress expects of an Inspector General. He showed no remorse about his conduct at that time. Similarly, he showed no sympathy for the victims of his aides’ abuse in 2013. His initial reaction to the 2013 report was to protect those officials from the consequences of their actions as documented in the OSC report. He maintained that position for months, even under pressure from the Committee on Science, Space & Technology where I am the Ranking Member.

For any IG to be associated with two whistleblower retaliation cases of this kind would be an indelible stain on their reputation. However, as my staff talked to more employees of the IG’s office, we learned that these two cases do not mark the end of whistleblower retaliation at his office. We know of other recent instances of Mr. Zinser expressing his belief that specific individuals that he personally named were cooperating with our Committee or making protected complaints to OSC. We also know that these individuals were targeted in different ways for adverse actions in order to convince them to leave or to remove them from the office. Separately, one senior OIG official was placed on “Administrative Leave” immediately after they contacted

the Office of Special Counsel. That individual has since left the IG's office for another federal agency. We also know that the current Deputy Inspector General had, as of several months ago, obtained and retained the entire email records of two former and one current high level IG staff, including two of her predecessors—all of whom were viewed by Mr. Zinser as disloyal to him or untrustworthy with the secrets of his office. One of those predecessors is a sitting, Senate-confirmed Inspector General at another Federal agency.

There is no legitimate reason to have collected and then retained the emails of those three senior staff, including two former Deputy IGs. There is certainly no justification for the current Deputy IG, widely viewed as being the closest current personal aide to Mr. Zinser, to be carrying those records on her laptop computer's hard drive. What would such records be used for? It is impossible to know, but we do know that there was a search and analysis of one of those former Deputy IG's email records. A memorandum was prepared based on that search documenting the exchanges between the former-Deputy and a woman who had applied for a position within the OIG, who was a family friend. Mr. Zinser was clearly aware of this relationship since the woman was a reference for the former Deputy IG who was called as a reference by Mr. Zinser when the former Deputy IC applied for his job.

Based on information obtained by Committee staff it seems clear that Mr. Zinser was simply searching for anything he might uncover in his former Deputy's emails that Mr. Zinser might be able to use against him, since the former Deputy had fallen out of favor with Mr. Zinser.

When employee emails are to be pulled, there is a policy in place at the DOC Office of Inspector General that requires Mr. Zinser to personally sign a memorandum to the Chief Information Officer requesting specific materials be produced. This policy has been in place since October 2012. However, in the last year, in particular, this policy has been largely set aside, permitting other OIG staff in Mr. Zinser's chain of command to authorize the collection of Commerce OIG employees' e-mails invoking Zinser's authority and with his clear knowledge and, in some cases, specific direction but without his actual signature. That occurred in the case of the former Deputy IG.

The IT staff in the IG's office has had to comply with these requests even though they violate a policy Mr. Zinser himself put in place. This is an example of a long-standing issue in Mr. Zinser's management style—he establishes policies and then ignores or stretches them without any warning to those who work for him. This creates an environment where it is easy for the IG to claim someone has violated policy if he wants to punish them because the policy environment is constantly and mysteriously shifting.

The pulls of email records, the targeting of suspected whistleblowers, the adverse employee actions taken in retaliation for protected disclosures are all widely known and discussed by employees within the Department of Commerce OIG's office. We have heard from many whistleblowers that they fear that if Mr. Zinser is not removed, there will be—in the words of more than one of these individ-

uals—"a bloodbath"—in the office. As soon as Mr. Zinser believes no one is looking, he will begin to take steps to invent allegations against individuals he wants to retaliate against—as he did against Mr. Deans and as his close aides did against OIG investigative staff in 2011—the case which led to the 2013 OSC report—and then take steps to remove them. People are frightened, and given Mr. Zinser's prior conduct they have good reason to fear him and his potential actions.

The last whistleblower issue I wish to raise, Mr. Speaker, is that Mr. Zinser has let his office fall out of compliance with the U.S. Code 33 specifically, 5 U.S. Code § 2302 (prohibited personnel practices). That provision establishes the Office of Special Counsel's (OSC's) 2302(c) Certification Program and requires that Federal agency managers participate in training regarding the rights of whistleblowers and their right to make protected disclosures.

Last year the White House directed agencies to take affirmative steps to complete the OSC certification program. According to the Commerce OIG's own web-site "That provision charges '[t]he head of each agency' with responsibility for "ensuring (in consultation with the Office of Special Counsel) that agency employees are informed of the rights and remedies available to them" under the prohibited personnel practice and whistleblower retaliation protection provisions of Title 5." As the head of the IG's office it is Todd Zinser's responsibility to ensure his office is certified under this program. The Commerce OIG website currently states "OIG has been certified by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) for conducting training and promoting awareness of provisions of the Whistleblower Protection Act, 5 U.S.C. § 2302(c)."

However, the OSC has confirmed to Committee staff that the Commerce OIG's whistleblower protection certification required under 5 U.S. Code § 2302 lapsed in September 2014. Six months later the Commerce IG's office still has made no attempts to recertify. According to multiple Commerce OIG sources as well as documentary evidence obtained by the Committee, Mr. Zinser's new Deputy IG Morgan Kim has specifically directed multiple OIG staff not to attempt to recertify.

I wish that I could provide more definitive accounts of all the misconduct that has been going on in Mr. Zinser's office, but the truth is that Mr. Zinser refused to comply with the Committee's document requests. Mr. Zinser and his Deputy IG actively worked to obstruct the Committee's investigation. These two top officials have been behind a campaign to intimidate staff into not cooperating with the Committee by pushing some to get lawyers, even though they were not the target of the investigation, and by reminding people that if they say something quotable during interviews with the Committee it may end up in the Washington Post or a Committee Report.

One individual widely known within the office to be particularly close to Mr. Zinser pressured OIG staff to call the Committee to report the "positive" aspects of Mr. Zinser's management. Several individuals have told the Committee they felt this was both completely inappropriate and an attempt to coerce individuals into taking part in these efforts to obstruct the Committee's investigation.

IG Zinser has also attempted to "paper" the Committee with a voluminous production of materials wildly unresponsive to our document requests. Since the Committee's August 2014 request letter, the Committee has received less than two boxes of responsive materials and 17 boxes of completely unresponsive material. Some material provided showed a complete lack of concern for their contents for they included sensitive personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers of Commerce OIG employees, private phone numbers and birthdates.

Meanwhile, we know that the materials we were seeking were going through an extraordinarily slow search and review process within the OIG. None of that material was ever delivered to the Committee. Committee investigators cannot recall any comparable example of such a complete failure to comply with a document request—even from private parties—across a quarter century of Committee investigations. The idea that an Inspector General, who has an obligation to cooperate with Congress that goes beyond that expected of any other Executive branch official, would fail to comply with a request from a Committee of the House is simply unfathomable.

The Committee sent two bipartisan document request letters to IG Todd Zinser on July 16, 2014 and August 26, 2014. The July letter requested documents related to Mr. Zinser's inappropriate hiring of the former Assistant IG for Administration and Rick Beitel, including copies of relevant records from his personal work journals. The letter warned Mr. Zinser: "These journals represent official records and we remind you that such records should not be removed from the office nor tampered with in any way. The Committee intends to continue to examine the conduct and productivity of your office, and we consider your journals to be important evidence in that effort," the letter said. On August 26th the Committee sent a second letter to IG Zinser demanding documents concerning multiple allegations that Mr. Zinser was inappropriate collecting and monitoring his employees' e-mails in a hunt for potential whistleblowers in his office.

Six days after IG Todd Zinser received that second letter informing him of the Committee's knowledge that he was hunting for whistleblowers in his own office, the Inspector General was seen using his personal hand-truck to remove two banker's boxes of materials to his car. This occurred on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2014, a federal holiday when few witnesses would have been on site at the Department of Commerce. Furthermore, the Committee has evidence that IG Zinser conducted his removal of this material with great haste. He was in and out of his office with his two boxes of material inside of 30 minutes. Although there is no way to know what Mr. Zinser removed from his office over Labor Day weekend, the timing of his actions is highly suspicious and raises serious questions about his efforts to obstruct the Committee's investigation.

The Committee is aware of at least one more incident where records were removed from his office and destroyed. Since he is under a microscope, actions of removing or destroying records cannot help but be seen as obstructionist in nature and his cavalier disregard for the effects of this on his reputation



and the opinion of others—even senior members of a Committee with broad jurisdiction over his Department—highlights the serious mismatch between Mr. Zinser and the ethical and professional requirements of serving as an Inspector General.

Mr. Zinser also invoked attorney-client privilege to prevent witnesses from fulfilling their obligation to speak to the Committee, and to withhold materials responsive to our request. As a common law, non-Constitutionally derived concept, attorney-client privilege is not recognized by Congress as a legitimate reason to withhold information during Congressional inquiries. While I understand that private parties sometimes have a particular concern with defending this privilege, I cannot fathom how a Senate-confirmed government employee, using government lawyers paid with tax dollars, can think that the work of those attorneys could be considered privileged from review by Congress.

Never in the last quarter century of Committee investigations has an official in a statutorily-established Federal office attempted to withhold materials or testimony using this claim of attorney-client “privilege.” The usual accommodation is for an agency to provide the records or testimony, while noting that they believe the materials should be treated with care. Frankly, OIG attorneys are routinely released from this privilege in order to cooperate with OSC and EEO investigations. The Congress should not be treated any less cooperatively than those offices, but Mr. Zinser would not release the attorneys to answer questions. His former counsel, who had been found by OSC to have engaged in prohibited personnel practices, very much wanted to speak with the Committee as he believed he had evidence that might exonerate him as well as implicate Mr. Zinser. IG Zinser specifically intervened to prevent this former employee from talking to Committee staff about illegal activities that he believes he had witnessed during his work for Mr. Zinser. This misuse of attorney-client privilege, with a hidden threat to seek punishment by the Bar if an attorney decided their obligation to the Constitution outweighed Mr. Zinser’s personal desire, is clearly abusive and appears motivated by a desire to hide evidence of his misconduct from the Congress.

I have not reached the end of the account of failed management and misconduct by Mr. Zinser. Just last month, the Department of Commerce’s Office of Civil Rights issued its findings in an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) case related to age discrimination and retaliation filed by a former Commerce OIG employee. The detailed 282-page report found that the Commerce OIG discriminated against the complainant in violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and retaliated against him for filing his EEOC complaint “in violation of non-retaliation provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and “in violation of the EEOC regulations prohibiting retaliation.” In sworn testimony to EEOC investigators regarding the monitoring and examination of the former employee’s e-mails and files, the EEOC also found that Mr. Zinser’s “testimony does not fully mesh with the documentary evidence. . . .”

The Commerce OIG has been ordered to compensate the employee for “backpay to remedy the change to lower grade he took due to the hostile work environment” in the IG’s office; expunge its official files of the inaccurate interim performance appraisal the employee was coerced into signing and any related document; provide all supervisors in the Commerce OIG, including the IG and Deputy IG, with at least 8 hours of EEO training and require IG Todd Zinser to sign and post (for 60 days) a notice to all OIG employees that the office has been found in violation of age discrimination and retaliated against former Commerce OIG employee. The notice states that the OIG will abide by federal requirements, equal employment opportunity laws and will not retaliate against employees who file EEO complaints in the future. The notice is supposed to be placed in center within the IG’s office or on the OIG intranet and is required to be signed by IG Zinser. Mr. Zinser refused for two solid weeks to sign that notice. Only after my friend, Mr. Honda, asked IG Zinser about this matter during an appearance before the Appropriations Committee did Mr. Zinser finally sign the notice on February 25.

Not for the first time, Mr. Zinser is going to rely on the taxpayer to cover the costs of his misconduct. There are more claims out there that will also cost the taxpayer to defend against and settle. In fact, during the last two years six employees in the IG’s office have filed complaints of retaliation with the Office of Special Counsel. The Department of Energy’s OIG, which is nearly twice as large as the Commerce IG’s office has had zero complaints of retaliation filed with OSC during this same period. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) OIG, which has a staff of more than 1,200 people and is nearly seven times the current size of the Commerce OIG had a single alleged case of retaliation filed with OSC in the same time frame.

The issues I have identified reveal an endemic failing in Mr. Zinser’s leadership. There is a sustained pattern of misconduct and malfeasance that would be unacceptable in any senior federal official but is particularly troubling for an Inspector General. Based on the exhaustive work by Committee staff, as well as Mr. Zinser’s representations to other Members, we have convincingly shown that:

During his Senate confirmation for the Commerce IG post, Mr. Zinser failed to disclose a significant case against him involving his personal retaliation against a whistleblower;

Over a period of many years, Mr. Zinser and his closest staff have engaged in efforts to identify and retaliate against whistleblowers in his office;

Mr. Zinser has repeatedly misled the Congress about his conduct, and took steps to obstruct the Committee’s investigation into allegations of misconduct;

Mr. Zinser has been disingenuous in his official correspondence with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) regarding inappropriate hiring in his office;

Mr. Zinser has failed to conduct himself by ethical standards expected of an Inspector General;

Mr. Zinser has engaged in inappropriate hiring practices that undermine the integrity of federal hiring; and,

Mr. Zinser has failed to establish policies and procedures in his office that would guarantee accountability and efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, how can this person still hold a high position of public trust? His continued presence in Federal service stands as a blot on our record, in that we have tolerated such conduct by an IG. We could impeach him, and I believe there is adequate information to justify that. However, it would be time consuming and expensive, and while we worked through that process, the taxpayer would still be paying the senior leadership of DOC OIG, and whistleblowers would still be legitimately worried for their careers. That is unacceptable.

We could ask CIGIE to redo the investigation my staff and the Committee did in the 113th Congress. I respect the CIGIE, but the cold truth is that CIGIE’s Integrity Committee is slow moving, and their prior failure to do diligent work into a serious allegation against Mr. Zinser leads me to question their responsiveness—or at least the responsiveness they displayed four years ago. And as with impeachment, it would be slow and expensive and whistleblowers would stand in danger every day the process dragged on.

The law provides that the President can remove an IG without any requirement that CIGIE has first done an investigation. If an IG conducts themselves in an outrageous and disreputable way, it would be irresponsible to leave them in office once that has been established. I believe that Mr. Zinser’s wide-ranging misconduct, supported by just a tiny coterie of current senior staff, is sufficient in and of itself to justify immediate removal. I intend to ask the President to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have established the need for immediate change in the senior leadership of this office. The current leadership must be replaced with individuals who can serve as beacons of integrity and stewards of appropriate and diligent federal oversight. If any Member wants a fuller recounting of the evidence in this case, I will be happy to provide them with additional information.

That information provides as much documentation for my account as we can provide without compromising the position of whistleblowers whose careers still stand at risk so long as Mr. Zinser and his closest senior leaders remain in their positions. I will extend that same offer to the President as I believe that his role under law complements my own obligations as a Member to reveal significant violations of law that I believe we have uncovered.

#### THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I haven’t been in this office very long, but it doesn’t take long to pick up certain patterns of my Republican colleagues. They find a way to hamstring immigration reform or prevent women from getting the right to choose at every possible opportunity. In the case of the SGR fix, a very important bill that I am proud to have also voted for, Republicans have chosen the latter.

At the risk of pointing out the obvious, Mr. Speaker, this is 2015. We can talk to our TV remotes. We have phones that show us in 3-D the nearest restaurants, and printers that print prosthetic limbs.

In 1973, Motorola gave us the world's first mobile phone. But 1973 was also the last time there was any question of whether or not a woman had the right to make her own decisions about her health, according to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am not the youngest Member of Congress, but I am one of the newest. So I would like to take this opportunity to invite my Republican colleagues to join me in the 21st century. Moving forward, I urge my colleagues to stop waging war on women's right to make their own choices.

#### 194TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 194th anniversary of Greek independence, to recall the day that the Greek people established modern Greece as a free and independent nation.

America's Founding Fathers drew upon the example of the ancient Greeks in forming our constitutional Republic. The relationship between Greece and the United States is based on shared democratic values and respect for individual freedom. The spirit that guided the Greek people in securing their freedom nearly 200 years ago resides with them still.

Today Greece faces tremendous challenges. We all acknowledge that. But I am confident that Greece will ultimately overcome its economic and humanitarian crisis and thrive again. A strong Greece will be able to take full advantage of new opportunities that are emerging in the eastern Mediterranean and move forward as a vital economic and cultural resource for a critical region of the world.

As we say each year when celebrating Greek Independence Day, long live Greece, long live America, long live freedom—Zito Ellada, Zito Ameriki, Zito Eleftheria.

#### BOKO HARAM

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, April 14 will mark 1 year since Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 Nigerian schoolgirls. Since the schoolgirls' kidnapping, Boko Haram has continued to torment and commit atrocities.

Boko Haram has declared its allegiance to ISIS. They are beheading,

raping, and stoning their victims, ramping up their use of social media, and making surprise attacks to inflict maximum casualties and spread fear.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning, ABC News reported that Boko Haram is using hundreds of civilians as human shields, and the terrorist group reportedly abducted another 500 women and children just 48 hours before the Nigerian Presidential elections. Nigerian officials remain very concerned about Boko Haram's impact on Saturday's Presidential election. President Obama issued a statement calling for calm in Nigeria.

We cannot stand by, Mr. Speaker, while Boko Haram aligns itself with ISIS. Mr. Speaker, I call on my fellow Members of the House to join me in condemning the actions of Boko Haram.

We will be watching what happens in Nigeria closely. And by tweeting #bringbackourgirls, #joinrepwilson, the world will know we have not forgotten.

Tweet, tweet, tweet.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 10) providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

#### H.J. RES. 10

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of David M. Rubenstein of Maryland on May 7, 2015, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on May 8, 2015, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.*

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 171, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 171

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

(a) JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration and the chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations:

- (1) Mr. Harper.
- (2) Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania.
- (3) Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California.

(b) JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee on Printing, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration:

- (1) Mr. Harper.
- (2) Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.
- (3) Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania.
- (4) Mr. Vargas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 31

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, March 26, 2015, through Friday, April 10, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader

of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 32

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, March 27, 2015, through Monday, March 30, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 13, 2015, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate recesses or adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand recessed or adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015, TO MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 31, in which case the House shall

stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NA- TIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MU- SEUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 3056 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum:

Mrs. Kathy Wills Wright, Arlington, Virginia

The Honorable Marilyn Musgrave, Fort Morgan, Colorado

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution:

Mr. SAM JOHNSON, Texas

Mr. COLE, Oklahoma

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER- PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida, Chairman

Mr. LATTA, Ohio

Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama

Mr. HOLDING, North Carolina

Mr. WHITFIELD, Kentucky

Mr. ROE, Tennessee

#### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE HONOR TO SERVE THE 18TH DIS- TRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, I entered this Chamber and raised my right arm to take the oath of office as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. I remember feeling so excited about the opportunity that lay ahead. I remember vividly this Chamber and all that it meant to me and to the country: the men and women debating the big issues of the day, not always agreeing, but always fighting without apology for what they believe in.

Over the past 6 years, I have come to understand that this institution is far bigger than any one person, and that freedom itself is even more important than this institution. Some of the world's greatest debates have occurred right here in this Chamber, for what happens here affects more than just the people of my district or even my country.

Over those 6 years, I have done my best to contribute constructively to the process and to serve the people of my district and my country. My guiding principle has always been rooted in the belief that Washington should only do what people cannot do for themselves.

I fought and opposed the billion-dollar surplus bill, the government takeover of our health care, and the massive new regulations put on small businesses. But, more importantly, I fought for the people of my district so that their voice would be heard and respected by my colleagues, for I heard that voice in every vote that I have cast.

But I also knew that being in the majority was key to making a difference. So I am proud of the work I have done to contribute to a Republican majority here in Congress—to begin to scale back the overreaches of a bloated Federal Government and to begin to bend the curve on out-of-control spending. That has only happened because of a Republican majority, and I am proud to have played a role in building it.

During this time, I saw how slow the Federal Government can be and how frustrating Congress can get, but I also learned that one man can make a difference. Working with my Republican colleagues and across the aisle with my Democrat friends, we have been able to pass legislation that helped businesses across America create millions of jobs. Some of them have been located in my home district, but many more across this great country. There was, is, and will be so much to do, and I am honored to have played a small part in making a real difference.

But these accomplishments come with some frustrations as well, that this body doesn't move quickly enough or as efficiently as it could to confront the challenges facing our country. I regret that I won't be here when we finally pass a smarter, simpler Tax Code so that every hard-working taxpayer in

my district and across the country will know that Washington not only cares about them, but respects them and their sacrifice. And I will miss joining my colleagues in saving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare that will directly improve the quality of life for millions of Americans for generations to come.

To my constituents back home, the good, hard-working taxpayers whom I have been lucky enough to call friends, I will never be able to thank you enough for the opportunity you have given me to serve. Together we have tackled some of the big problems at home, like economic development projects, helping businesses expand, improving our locks and dams along our riverways, and so much more, projects that have helped improve the quality of life in our community.

We have also tackled some small problems, but big problems to the people who have been facing them—folks looking for help adopting children overseas or simply trying to get answers from an unresponsive bureaucracy here in D.C. Solving those individual cases has been extremely fulfilling.

I am particularly grateful to have played a role in helping so many veterans get the respect they deserve and the benefits that they earned.

I am proud of the good work that my team has delivered to the tens of thousands of constituents who have turned to our office in their time in need. My staff delivered for me because they delivered for you every day, 24/7.

I was never more excited than the day I walked into this Chamber 6 years ago. I leave here with sadness and humility. For those whom I have let down, I will work tirelessly to make it up to you.

I know that God has a plan for my life. The Good Book tells us that before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. I also know that every person faces adversity in life. Abraham Lincoln held this seat in Congress for one term, but few faced as many defeats in his personal, business, and public life as he did. His continual perseverance in the face of these trials, never giving up, is something all of us Americans should be inspired by, especially when going through a valley in life.

I believe that through life's struggles, we learn from our mistakes, and we learn more about ourselves. And I know that this is not the end of a story but, rather, the beginning of a new chapter.

Thank you for the honor to serve. I look forward to keeping in touch with my friends in this Chamber and my friends across the 18th District. May God continue to bless this awesome institution and the important role that it plays for America and the rest of the world.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### BUDGET WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, and I would like to start our time tonight by yielding to my friend from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

WE BROUGHT BACK FIVE OF THE KIDNAPPED GIRLS

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Thank you, Representative WOODALL, for this honor and this pleasure. I am indebted to you forever. Thank you.

I just finished making a speech about Boko Haram and girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria. Five of them are in the gallery today, and I thought it not robbery to recognize them and ask you who are listening to please tweet #bringbackourgirls and tweet #joinrepwilson. These young ladies were kidnapped, and they had the courage—the courage—to come to America to continue their education. They are right there in the gallery.

Thank you, Representative WOODALL.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this is the conclusion of budget week here. I sit on the Budget Committee. I enjoy budget week. It is a statement of our values as a nation. Where you put your money is where you are putting your emphasis. A lot of folks don't want to put their money where their mouth is. We have a lot of mouths in this town. This is the week where everybody gets to put their money where their mouth is.

One of those issues that we have been struggling with has been the issue of transportation funding. I come from a very conservative district in Georgia, Mr. Speaker, and one of the counties—I only represent two—one of those counties, Forsyth County, just voted to tax itself with a \$200 million bond initiative to widen a highway. Because we are the fastest growing county in the State, we sit in traffic hour upon hour upon hour.

It is not that conservatives don't want to tax themselves. It is that conservatives don't want to tax themselves and then throw that money down a rat hole. If we can develop a trust that, if you tax a family a dollar that they will get a dollar's worth of services—needed services, desired services—for that dollar, we would have a very different relationship with the Federal Government.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, I have up here a reference to article I, section 8, clause 7 of the United States Constitution which says:

The Congress shall have the power to establish post offices and post roads.

Commerce, at the time of the writing of our Constitution, Mr. Speaker, took

place through the post office and those post roads. There was an obligation that our Founding Fathers recognized to develop routes of commerce so that goods could travel, so that messages could travel, so that people could travel.

I say that because too often the conversation in Washington devolves into: Should we spend money at all, or should we spend obscene amounts of it that we have to borrow from our children? That is not the conversation we are having. We have a constitutional obligation to maintain, establish and maintain the post roads, those corridors of commerce around this Nation. The Federal Government took that responsibility on in one of the great building projects of our history, building the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System.

I want to build things, Mr. Speaker. So often this Congress gets involved in doing things that my community is doing just fine back home, that my county is doing just fine back home, that my State is doing just fine back home. And for some reason we think when the 435 of us gather together, we are going to come up with a better idea about how to better serve my community back home than my community back home has about how to serve my community. I think we get off track there. I think we get into those unconstitutional uses of power. Establishing post roads—one of those things our Founding Fathers asked the government to do, because, quite simply, no one else can build an interstate highway system. It does no good for Georgia to have 12 lanes running to the Alabama border if Alabama doesn't have a road when we get there. This is a collaborative decision, and rightfully so.

So how do we fund these highways, Mr. Speaker? We fund them primarily through what is called the highway trust fund, and the highway trust fund is funded through taxes on users of the highway system. I am a huge fan of user fees. If you don't like to sit in traffic every morning, if you want to build an extra lane on your highway, as we are in Forsyth County, you should pay to build that extra lane on your highway. You shouldn't ask somebody in Wyoming to pay to build the road in Georgia. We should build the road in Georgia. Users of the roads should pay for the roads. So that is what we do.

What you can't see here, Mr. Speaker, is a graph of how the highway trust fund is funded. Primarily, it is through a gas tax. It is 18.4 cents that comes out of every gallon of gas that Americans buy. That gas tax is primarily the funding mechanism.

But we also tax diesel, so all the truckers who are on the road, every time you are driving down that two-lane highway and you wish the guy in front of you was going a little bit faster, just know that he is paying a lot in

taxes while he is on that road. He is helping to build that road. Diesel taxes are higher than gasoline taxes, but because there are fewer diesel vehicles on the road, bring in less revenue.

We also have a tax on all trucks and trailers. We have a tax in this blue line on heavy vehicles, and we have a tax on tires. Again, all of these taxes come together not to tax one group of people to pay for another, but to tax users of our roads to pay for our roads. It has been a system that has served us fairly well in this Nation.

But we haven't raised that gas tax since the early 1990s. In the early 1990s, we set the gas tax at 18.4 cents a gallon, and we haven't raised it since. Mr. Speaker, I am not in favor of raising taxes. I am in favor of paying less taxes. I am in favor of taking on more of that responsibility back home.

But, again, in the case of post roads, we have to take on this responsibility. And the reason I am having this Special Order tonight, Mr. Speaker, is because the highway trust fund expires in May. We have about 2 months to sort out all of the challenges of how do we fund the Interstate Highway System going forward.

And for folks who say, Well, we have been funding it with an 18.4 cent gas tax for 25 years, why isn't that good enough today? The answer is, it may be; it may be good enough today. But understand that the buying power that we are getting out of that 18.4 cents has declined each and every year. Of course it has. The price of a Big Mac has gone up over the past 20 years, the price of a car has gone up over the past 20 years, the price of a home has gone up, the price of building roads has gone up, so the purchasing power that we are getting for our gas tax has gone down and down and down and down. Right now we are getting about 60 percent of the value out of that gas tax that we were getting when it was last changed in the early 1990s.

Now, what is the impact of that? Well, it is not just that the value of the purchasing power is going down; the mileage we are getting in our cars is going up.

My first car, Mr. Speaker—I don't know what your first car was—mine was a 1971 Volkswagen camper. I had 59 horsepower in the back of that camper to drive me anywhere I wanted to go. If I coasted downhill and only used the accelerator a little bit uphill, I would max out about 35 miles an hour. But I could get 14 miles a gallon if I tried. If I tried to drive that camper as efficiently as I could, I could get 14 miles to the gallon.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am driving a Chevy Volt. Most of my driving is free. It is coming off the battery. I am not paying any gas taxes at all. When I do have to turn on the electric generator in that Chevy Volt, I am getting 40 miles to the gallon. Just in my life-

time, the fuel efficiency is either triple, based on an engine, or no gas tax at all because I am using electricity.

This is what has happened. You go back to 1975, Mr. Speaker, this is the average miles per gallon that passenger cars and light trucks were getting. You get into the last half of the last decade, you see that fuel efficiency is driving sharply forward, and the Obama administration wants to drive that fuel efficiency even higher. I am in favor of using private industry to create more efficient solutions. I am in favor of being able to reduce the fuel costs of families across this country. But what that is going to do as families are buying fewer and fewer gallons of gasoline is that the highway trust fund is going to get smaller and smaller and smaller.

Take a look at what has happened with the highway trust fund, Mr. Speaker. Beginning back in, I would say, the early 1990s, when folks were buying lots of gasoline and fuel costs were relatively low, the economy was doing well. We were running a trust fund surplus. Again, all of this gas tax money is coming in from all of these sources. We were spending it on those priorities that we have in the Interstate Highway System. Some of those priorities were building new interstate highways, some of those priorities were maintaining old interstate highways, some of those priorities were simply widening part of the Interstate Highway System. But we operated with a bit of a surplus in the transportation trust fund.

The reason this conversation has to happen today, Mr. Speaker, is that folks are returning to their districts for 2 weeks, where they are going to be hearing from folks who are sitting in that traffic, where they are going to be hearing from folks whose contracts to build those highways are about to expire. They are going to hear from their Governors and their state legislators who are no longer able to let the contracts for needed projects. Why? Because the money is expiring in 2 months. We are starting to run a trust fund deficit. There is not enough money coming in to meet the current needs.

Mr. Speaker, I don't really enjoy talking about the current needs. I didn't run for Congress to be in the maintenance business. I ran for Congress to be in the transformation business. I am more than a little embarrassed that what we are talking about here is, How do we maintain and improve the Eisenhower Interstate Highway System. Eisenhower was long gone from office before I was even born.

We are talking about how to maintain this infrastructure. I would like to be in the driverless car infrastructure business. I would like to be in the hypersonic jet infrastructure business. But where we are, because the calendar dictates it, is: How do we continue to

maintain safe highways just 2 months from now?

You can't see these tick marks, Mr. Speaker, but we are talking about in the ballpark of \$50 billion a year that goes into this effort, thousands and thousands and thousands of miles of interstate highways around the country, about \$50 billion a year. The deficits are running down ultimately, by the end of our 10-year budget window, to almost \$130 billion in highway deficits. We have to find a way to meet those needs.

We had a hearing in our committee just the other day, the Transportation Committee, Mr. Speaker, and I want to quote the mayor of Salt Lake City. He was there on behalf of the National League of Cities. This is not a notoriously conservative organization. Mayors are a practical bunch by nature. They have to respond to the needs of all of their citizens. They are a relatively liberal bunch by nature. But he says this:

I can tell you as someone who has spent a career working as a NEPA planner and lawyer that what has happened with what I view as an absolutely great environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act, is truly unfortunate. We have gone from processes that should be a year or year and a half to processes that are 5 to 7 years in many big transportation projects.

NEPA is the Environmental Policy Act. That is what federally regulates all environmental decisions across the country, particularly as it relates to construction.

Time is money, Mr. Speaker, in transportation projects. There is not a Member in this Chamber who wants to see environmental degradation in this country. There is not a Member in this Chamber who wants to see the sky is less blue or the grass less green. Every Member in this Chamber cares about children and grandchildren and the next generation.

But here we have an advocate for the environmental protection laws that are available to us in this country and he says: Something has gone awry. We wrote this wonderful law in order to protect our environment, but now, instead of being able to complete needed projects in a year or 18 months, with litigation, special interest groups, these processes get dragged on for 5, 6, or 7 years, and that time means more money out of the highway trust fund in order to complete that project.

So what are we going to do, Mr. Speaker, about these coming trust fund deficits? Well, one thing we can do is help to address the policy failures that are delivering less than a dollar's worth of value to my constituents and your constituents for their dollar's worth of gas tax. If I could build a project today with that dollar, I could get a dollar's worth of value out of it,

if I have to litigate the issue for 7 years, the value of that dollar is going to erode. I am going to have to waste that dollar on litigation costs.

We can change the law, and we can do so in a bipartisan way that absolutely respects all of our commitments to environmental protection but allows us to complete these needed taxes. Because I will tell you what doesn't help global warming, Mr. Speaker, and that is folks sitting on Atlanta highways for an hour every day not moving. If you are concerned about the use of fossil fuels in this country, I promise you that having people move slower in Atlanta is not helping. We need those folks to be able to move more quickly to their goal. We will reduce emissions as a result.

What else can we do, Mr. Speaker, as a body? What I have here—and I just chose the State of Georgia because it is that area that I know best—these are the Georgia statewide designated freight corridors. I live right up here, just outside of Atlanta, Mr. Speaker. I am right off I-85. That is Interstate 85, Federal Interstate 85, and that is designated as a freight corridor.

Our use of the roads is not just to get to and from the grocery store, of course, not just to get to and from school, but for farmers to get their produce from Iowa to our grocery store, for manufacturers to get their products from the computer factory in California to our schools. We had a national interest in these freight corridors.

One of these freight corridors runs out I-16. It runs out to the Port of Savannah. The Port of Savannah, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you know, it is the fastest-growing container port in the country, a container port being those ports that specialize in getting those 18-wheeler cargo containers off the ships, onto a chassis, delivering goods to where they need to go. Fastest-growing container port in the country, it sits out here at the end of I-16. We have major construction projects to get all the product off those ships out across the southeastern United States.

So this map of red lines, Mr. Speaker, represents not only interstate highways, but also some major Federal roads. I have got U.S. 1 listed here. U.S. 1, Mr. Speaker, as you may know, runs about, golly, about 2½ miles from this building. About 2½ miles west from this building you are going to hit U.S. 1.

□ 1300

U.S. 1 runs all the way down the eastern coast, from the great Northeast all the way down to Florida. It is a Federal transportation corridor. What is not on this list, Mr. Speaker, for example, is U.S. Highway 29. It runs right past my house in Gwinnett County.

It is a U.S. highway, and it consumes U.S. transportation dollars. While once

upon a time it was a major corridor for moving nationally important equipment—freight, produce—today, it has become a sidebar.

My question is: If we are limited with our dollars, can we be more discriminating in choosing which roads have national importance?

I told you the tale of Forsyth County, which I represent, Mr. Speaker, and of its having the \$200 million bond initiative to expand its major highway. Georgia 400 is its major highway. We don't need the Federal Government to take care of every single square inch of pavement in this country.

When we talked about establishing postal roads in 1787, there was kind of the understanding that—of course, they had not contemplated pavement at all—if this were going to be a major maintained thoroughfare, we might have a Federal interest in it—not so anymore.

I talked about U.S. 1, Mr. Speaker. U.S. 1 is right out here, about 2½ miles away, but it is just between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. The Federal Government, with Federal tax dollars that are collected from all across the Nation, maintains three separate Federal roads.

We maintain the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, which is a National Park Service road. We take care of U.S. 1, and we take care of Interstate 95. Those roads are never more than 5 miles from each other; yet, because tradition dictates it, we are spending national dollars to maintain three relatively duplicative pieces of highway.

We have got to have that conversation. Maybe there is a reason unbeknownst to me why it is we can't just maintain one of those roads and why we have to maintain them all.

The Federal Government doesn't have to do everything for everybody, Mr. Speaker. We just have to make sure that those interstate corridors are being maintained, that those primary nationally designated freight corridors are being maintained.

It is okay to leave the rest for communities and States to handle. I want to give you an example. I am not picking on anybody in particular. These projects go on all across the country, Mr. Speaker.

You can see someone's home right here. They have got some holly bushes out in front and a little maple tree here that has been planted on the right-of-way. What you see here are brand-new curbs and sidewalks and about a 3½-foot bike lane that we spent a million Federal dollars to build.

Now, assuming this family wants a giant curb and a big sidewalk and a bike lane in their front yard, I am glad they were able to get it. I am glad that we are planting maple trees in the right-of-way there. We are not quite mowing the grass in that space, but I hope the community is going to take on that challenge.

This is not a major freight corridor. This is not an Interstate Highway System. This is a small, small road somewhere in America that \$1 million worth of Federal taxpayer dollars are going to in order to beautify a street.

Mr. Speaker, it comes from a program called the Transportation Alternatives Program. Over the last 2 years, that has been more than \$1 billion going towards these kinds of projects, almost \$2 billion.

Let me tell you what kinds of big, important Federal projects are kind of rising to that constitutional level of building post roads for commerce.

Anything that you build that relates to a sidewalk counts. Anything that you create relating to bicycle infrastructure counts. Traffic calming techniques—I don't know what a traffic calming technique is, but if you can identify one, Mr. Speaker, we can pay for it out of this multibillion-dollar trust fund.

The construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas—Mr. Speaker, you do not want to be behind me when I am riding through a national park. You do not want to be behind me while I am going down that beautiful highway in Virginia that is running all the way down to the great State of Georgia because I am driving slowly, sucking it all in, and am turning in to every turnout along the way and am taking pictures.

I love a good drive, particularly in the fall, but I promise you I do not need one taxpayer dollar paying for one turnout on one highway so that I can get a better picture. We have got an entire Georgia transportation and tourism board, Mr. Speaker.

If we need a turnout in the great State of Georgia, if it is going to bring more tourist traffic to our area, if it is going to allow us to put in a small restaurant where folks can stop and eat and enjoy our beautiful scenery, we will build that because tourists will demand it, and it will grow our economy.

At a time when trust fund dollars have been eroded by inflation, at a time when we know we don't have enough money coming in to maintain our current Interstate Highway System, at a time that we are talking about raising taxes on the American consumer in order to provide those resources, isn't it also time to end the non-Federal priority spending that is currently embedded in the Federal gas tax, like turnouts?

Mr. Speaker, one of the projects that was built with that multibillion-dollar trust fund was down in the great State of Georgia. It is called the Silver Comet Trail. The truth is that we only have one really good, long bike trail in the entire metropolitan Atlanta area. It is the Silver Comet Trail, and it is fabulous. It is absolutely fabulous.

If you go out there on any beautiful day, you are going to have joggers; you



are going to have walkers; you are going to have bike riders; folks are going to be pushing strollers. It is a festival of humanity there on that bike trail. It is a wonderful, wonderful way to spend your day. We spent 3.7 million Federal dollars so that my neighbors and I could have a fabulous biking and walking trail in our backyard. It was not my idea. I was not in Congress at the time.

We have got to ask ourselves: Is it worth raising taxes on the American driver and on American industry, which uses our roads, so that more local communities can build more fabulous bike trails in their own backyards?

I don't ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, whether bike trails are valuable or not. I believe them to be so. I ask my colleagues whether or not metropolitan Atlanta, which is the most prosperous major metropolitan city in the entire Southeastern United States, can afford to build its own bike trails or whether or not we need to call on the rest of the Nation to aid us in that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I have got another project here. It was only \$60,000. Isn't that sad when we get to this place where we start talking about projects that are only thousands and thousands of dollars? When you are managing a \$3.8 trillion budget, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to keep track of the thousands. That is why we don't want a big Federal budget. We don't want to be in the business of wasting money.

\$60,000 went to a project called Ped Flag. Now, this is in a small downtown area out West, and there is a crosswalk going across the street, and folks are concerned about pedestrian safety. There are pedestrian tragedies every year in this country and every year in my community. We certainly want to do everything we can to stop them.

The \$60,000 Ped Flag program goes to each end of a crosswalk, and it puts yellow flags in big buckets on each end of the crosswalk, Mr. Speaker, so that, when you are prepared to walk across the street, you can grab one of these flags, and you can wave it as you cross the street.

The street is two lanes, but you can wave it as you cross those two lanes to make sure that drivers coming down that low speed limit thoroughfare don't run into you. I think that is fabulous. I like a good parade, Mr. Speaker, and I love waving flags.

My question to you is: With all of the challenges facing this Chamber—we have got Social Security that is going bankrupt; we have got Medicare that is going bankrupt; we live in a dangerous world with ISIS and Russia and Iran—is it the priority for the tax dollars that we have been entrusted with—really, that we have confiscated from the American people—to spend 60,000 of those tax dollars to have buckets of flags on both sides of a two-lane street

so that pedestrians can wave them as they cross?

If folks love parades as much as I do, Mr. Speaker, that local community can put those flags in place. A Federal grant program is not necessary to do so.

I have got an article here, Mr. Speaker, from just last month. It is talking about this program that allows these grant dollars to go out for all of these non-high-priority Federal purposes. They cite a \$112,000 grant for a white squirrel sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing against white squirrels. I will slow down when I am driving as the gray squirrels in my community cross the street, but I have no interest in confiscating Federal tax dollars that were intended to maintain a critically important national highway infrastructure and having a local community who views that as free money spend it to create a white squirrel sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, these dollars are going to build boardwalks in our beach communities. They are going to resurface bike trails. They are even going to buy driving simulators at car museums because that is kind of peripherally related to transportation.

In my day, Mr. Speaker, it was just that Atari 2600 on which you could do the night driving program. Today, we can spend 198,000 Federal gas tax dollars to buy driving simulators to go into museums so that, when folks come by—after they have driven on the ratty roads that were unmaintained to get to the museum—they can have a wonderful driving experience inside the federally taxpayer paid simulator.

Mr. Speaker, I don't fault museums for wanting simulators. I don't fault communities for wanting bike trails. I don't fault communities for wanting flag-waving crosswalks. I fault this Congress for facing a fiscal challenge of: How do we complete our constitutional responsibility to maintain our roads and to even have the discussion of raising tax dollars before we have completed making the current accounts more effective, more efficient, and more accountable?

Mr. Speaker, I do not value Members who simply talk about everything that is wrong and who make no recommendations about how to fix it. We need to narrow the number of roads that qualify for Federal support. We need to prioritize what are those roads that fall into that constitutional responsibility and which ones, obviously, do not. Prioritize that spending. Take care of only those mission critical roads. Leave the rest to local communities.

Two, deal with our environmental regulations that are slowing needed construction, not abolish our environmental regulations, not ignore our environmental stewardship responsibilities, but recognize that advocates for

the environment, advocates for the NEPA Act—as the mayor of Salt Lake City suggested, even those advocates realize we have gone far afield from what was intended as we have years of expense and delay for projects that we ought to be able to complete in a year and in 18 months. Let's streamline that. That is two.

Three, take all of these feel-good projects that every one of us has heard of in our districts—those projects that don't have anything to do with major national thoroughfares, those projects that don't have anything to do with our constitutional responsibility to maintain our interstate corridors—and abolish those altogether.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, they did a poll the other day amongst young people in this country. Young people, of course, when you get your first job at 16, you get that paycheck, you thought you were making \$8 an hour. It turns out after the government gets its share you are only making about \$5 an hour. We find out we get lots of new voters when they get their first paycheck because folks realize the importance of having your voice heard.

The largest tax that 80 percent of American families pay, Mr. Speaker, is that payroll tax that is taken out of that paycheck before you even see it, that FICA line in your paycheck. The largest tax that 80 percent of American families pay, it goes to fund Social Security and Medicare; and yet in a recent poll among young people, more American young people believed they would see a UFO in their lifetime than believed they would see a Social Security check in their lifetime. Mr. Speaker, you cannot break promises to taxpayers in that way.

We have serious responsibilities in this Chamber. They do not include feel-good projects in local communities. They do not include squirrel sanctuaries, flag-waving projects, and boardwalk resurfacings. What they include is maintaining those mission-critical interstate corridors.

As we gather together to reauthorize the surface transportation bill, as we gather together to sort out the diminishing value of the highway trust fund, let us come together to restore some of that faith with the American taxpayer that we will be accountable, that we will be efficient, and that we will be effective in the use of every one of their taxpayer dollars. We cannot ask them for more until we have proven to them that we have used responsibly what they sent to us yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked transportation on the surface level. I want to briefly talk transportation at a port level.

I mentioned the port of Savannah, Mr. Speaker, that fastest growing container port in the world. You can't see

it here on the map, but I have got one of those container ships coming into the port of Savannah, just loaded full. These giant cranes, it is amazing how quickly they can load and unload these giant container ships.

Funding for these kind of nationally important projects, these kind of projects that deliver value to the American taxpayer, that allow them to get the goods and products that they want from around the globe into their local markets for a lower cost—we are dredging the Savannah River right now in order to expand the Savannah harbor, this port, so that it can handle the New Panamax ships that are going to come through the new Panama Canal. These ships are giant, Mr. Speaker. If you haven't been to see them, you should take a look. They can bring in the order of three times more cargo in one ship. When you are taking a multiweek voyage across the Pacific Ocean, that is a big deal.

This project is going to cost \$706 million, and it will benefit the entire eastern seaboard in greater value and lower costs. But it is going to benefit Georgia more than it is going to benefit most places. Why? Because we are going to have workers there, because our rest stops are going to be full, because our gasoline stations are going to be full. So the State of Georgia, even though this is a nationally significant project, is funding 40 percent of it out of our local coffers. We believe it is important to put your money where your mouth is.

Thinking about those delays that run up costs, we first started talking about doing this in the late 1990s, Mr. Speaker. We finally got Federal approval to begin last year. This was not a \$700 million project 17 years ago when we wanted to begin it, but we couldn't begin it 17 years ago. We have only been able to begin it now. About \$100 million is going to go out the door, Mr. Speaker, to get this project under way. If all goes well, we can finish this in about 5 years, but we are going to have to have that Federal-State partnership. For these projects that are not uniquely Federal, for these projects that are not uniquely State, we need both entities putting skin in the game to make these projects successful.

Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about is about \$100 million from the State coming this year, about \$100 million from the Feds coming next year. What I want to ask my colleagues, as we talk about how to prioritize funding, how can we get together to squeeze out those projects that are of local import—and leave those to local dollars and local concerns—and include these projects that are of national import to make sure we get them done on time and under budget?

Mr. Speaker, back-of-the-envelope calculating that folks doing the construction at the port have done tell us

that it is about \$174 million annually in lost benefits as this project is delayed—lost benefits on the one hand, added costs on the other. I am always skeptical when somebody says: ROB, if you will only spend \$1 on this project, I will get you \$18 in return. I say: Good news. We have got an \$18 trillion Federal debt. Let me give you \$1 trillion for your project this year; you can give me back \$18 trillion next year.

A lot of funny numbers go on in this Washington, D.C., math game that folks play.

But, undeniably, if we cannot compete at a local level, if American products begin to cost more to export relative to their foreign competitors because we can't handle the big Panamax ships, American workers will lose; American consumers will lose. These are national priorities that bring people together.

I want to set expectations, Mr. Speaker, on how we are going to get this done. Again, I want to go back. 1996 was when we first had this conversation, completed the very first study of getting this done; the very first conditional approval at the Federal level, 1999. In 2012, folks finally made the decision; South Carolina and Georgia sorted out their issues in May of 2013; final project permits came out in July of 2013; State of Georgia, Johnny on the spot, funding it with \$266 million. Another round of bond initiatives will go out this summer.

Mr. Speaker, 2019 is when this project is expected to be done. A project that could have started in 1997, a project that could have been done by 2003, a project that could have been a nation-leading project so that American goods could get out to the world in a competitive way as the new Panama Canal comes on line for us to be ready to go as a nation, what could have been a story of planning ahead and of success has become a story of decades-long delay and being behind.

Mr. Speaker, those are not academic conversations. Those are conversations that are represented with dollars and cents. It is American jobs lost; it is American productivity lost; it is international competitiveness lost. Item after item after item after item. We are in the midst of a surface transportation reauthorization bill and our highway trust fund; we are in the midst of an FAA reauthorization bill and our aviation funding mechanisms. Hopefully, we will be back to a water resources development bill again, as we were last year, dealing with developing our water resources.

The question in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, is never will we be involved in generating American productivity or will we not. The question is we will be involved, but on what and how. Let us move these low-priority projects off of the Federal budget, off of the Federal taxpayer, and back into local hands,

where they can be accomplished more quickly and more efficiently at a lower dollar cost. Before we decide to raise taxes on the American people, let us ensure that every single dollar that we raise today is giving a dollar's worth of value for a dollar's worth of tax.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. We have big things in store for this year. They will be collaborative things. These are not Republican concerns; these are not Democratic concerns; these are American concerns. These are concerns of America's most deliberative and engaging body, the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### UPLIFTING STORIES FROM THE CINCINNATI AREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. I will not take that much time.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a lot of bad news these days and negative stories, but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some uplifting stories from the Cincinnati area, the area that I happen to represent here in the United States Congress.

First, I would like to congratulate a Cincinnati broadcasting legend on a storied career. A week from tomorrow, Friday, April 3, Cincinnati will say good-bye to a longtime morning show host, Jim Scott, who is retiring after 47 years on the radio in Cincinnati.

Over the years, Mr. Scott has been synonymous with mornings, as hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Cincinnatians started their day listening to him cover the topics of the day. From politics and local news to entertainment and sports, Jim Scott covered every story in a style uniquely his own. His excellence was recognized back in 2002 when he won the Marconi Award for large market personality of the year.

Jim Scott has also been a pillar of the community, helping out with numerous charities and community service organizations, activities I am sure that he will continue. He has become a staple of the opening day parade for the Cincinnati Reds, who I hope have a great year this year.

I want to congratulate Jim Scott on his retirement and his outstanding career. Mornings in Cincinnati will not be the same without him.

Mr. Speaker, Cincinnati has also been blessed by the inspiring stories of two young ladies battling pediatric cancer, and I would like to take a moment to thank each of them for the example that they have provided and the hope that they have given to millions.

First, I would like to talk about Lauren Hill. For those who haven't heard Lauren's story, there really aren't words to describe her courage and resiliency in the face of insurmountable odds. Lauren loves to play basketball, a sport she had planned to play throughout her college years at Mount St. Joseph University. Unfortunately, Lauren was diagnosed with a rare form of inoperable, terminal brain cancer, DIPG, and doctors really weren't sure how long she would live.

For most people, the story would end there, but not for Lauren. She was determined to play in a college basketball game, and back on November 2, she joined her teammates on the court, and in front of a sold-out crowd at Xavier University's Cintas Center, she scored the opening basket.

That wasn't enough for Lauren. She also wanted to dedicate her remaining time to raising awareness of pediatric cancer. Through Layup 4 Lauren and other charitable efforts, she has helped raise over \$1 million for research to combat pediatric cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I like to believe that each one of us is put on this Earth for a reason, and it is clear to me that Lauren's purpose was to inspire a city and a nation and to raise awareness for a terrible disease, a purpose she has fulfilled with a dignity and grace that is an inspiration to me and countless others. I am deeply grateful for Lauren's spirit and the example that she has provided for our community and for our Nation.

□ 1330

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lauren and her family.

But Lauren is not the only young lady with Cincinnati ties inspiring our Nation. We have also been blessed to learn the story of Leah Still, the 4-year-old daughter of Cincinnati Bengals' defensive lineman Devon Still.

Last year, Leah was also diagnosed with a rare form of pediatric cancer. Faced with this devastating news, Devon Still was determined to help his little girl in whatever way he could. Part of his effort was to use their story to help raise money to combat pediatric cancer and give hope to other families facing the same struggle they were.

The Cincinnati Bengals and the NFL joined Mr. Still in his efforts by agreeing to donate the proceeds of sales of Devon's number 75 Bengals jersey to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, which, by the way, is the number one children's hospital in the Nation in combating pediatric cancer. Together, they also raised over \$1 million for pediatric cancer research.

While that is certainly great news, the story has an even happier ending. Yesterday, I, along with millions of others, was thrilled to learn that Leah's cancer was in remission.

Leah still has treatments ahead of her, and she should remain in our thoughts and prayers. But that was wonderful news, and a reason to be grateful.

May God bless all three of the remarkable people that I have just talked about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to address this. The bill we passed today is something that needed to be addressed. It was a problem that has been growing for about 16 years, or so.

The cut that was put into law has been changed 17 times in the last 16 or so years. It made cuts to healthcare providers. We have caused some healthcare providers to retire early.

It was \$716 billion that ObamaCare took from Medicare in order to, supposedly, fund 30 million or so that we were told didn't have insurance. Now we have cost millions their health insurance policy they liked. And I say "we." Not a single Republican voted for that bill. It has cost Americans, millions of Americans, the doctor that they wanted to use.

We have seen promise after promise that was made about ObamaCare that was broken. It absolutely wasn't true. Then we find out that there were advisers around the White House who were advising all along: They are not going to be able to keep their insurance policy. They are not going to be able to keep their doctors.

Maybe we want to change the way that kind of thing is said. It did major damage—and continues to do major damage—to health care.

So, on top of that overlay, we had these ongoing cuts to the healthcare providers. If we didn't step in each year and temporarily pause them, it would have put so many healthcare providers out of business and made it extremely difficult for Americans to get the health care they need, even more than it already is, even more than ObamaCare has jeopardized. So something needed to be done.

My friend, Dr. MIKE BURGESS, had pushed through a fix, a remedy, last year of 63 pages. It was very well thought out. He is a very bright, terrific doctor, a great Congressman, and a friend. We have spent a lot of time this week talking about the fix to the cuts to reimbursement for physicians.

And the bill today, on the good side, provided a permanent fix. If this becomes law, if the Senate passes what we did, it stops the slow deletion of

some healthcare providers' efforts and work.

This provides a framework from which Medicare can be reformed for the future. It is valued at \$175 billion. And the best estimate we have gotten is that \$140 billion of the \$175 billion is not offset with any cuts anywhere else. This would be a straight addition of \$140 billion to our children's and grandchildren's enormous debt—what some refer to as "intergenerational theft."

It does have Henry Hyde language protecting against Federal funds being used for abortion. I have always thought the world of Henry Hyde and was honored to overlap with him 2 years. His work in standing for the unborn children, the most innocent among us, is just an extraordinary life's work that he did.

I don't know that Federal funds for abortions for people on Medicare is as big an issue as some might think. Anyway, the Hyde language is in there. It puts it in the Tax Code. That is a big deal. Some of my Democratic friends were not big on that.

There is also reauthorization for CHIP. There are the secure rural schools. Our rural schools, especially those in national parks, have been cheated for many years from the income that they were supposed to have by giving up land they couldn't tax any more, by giving up other sources of revenue from the land.

They agreed to allow land to be used or become national forests, and they were to be reimbursed by proceeds from the sale of timber. But we have a Forest Service administration—not just this one; it has been going for a while—where production has either slowed dramatically or completely been eliminated, even though pine trees where I live are an entirely renewable resource. You plant them, and you are ready to harvest them in 15, 20 years. We are not talking sequoias. We are just talking a renewable resource. It is well managed in east Texas and other places around the country.

But since production has stopped and we are buying so much lumber from other countries now, it is not good for America, not good for our trade imbalance, but it has been a Federal Government policy. And it has put schools in an extremely detrimental position, especially in rural areas, especially in areas where there have been national forests.

So it is nice to have another bandaid, so to speak, to address that issue. It should have been in here. It should have been done before now.

But, on the other side, getting back to \$140 billion that is not offset by cuts anywhere else, adding it into the intergenerational theft—and it also concerns me, we had 212 Republicans today that voted for this SGR fix. It would have been so easy to have enough of an adjustment into this bill

that we could add six more Republicans, and it would have been able to pass without any Republican leader begging for support from the Democrats, without coming to support from conservatives.

With the vote on DHS funding, we saw 167 Republicans voted against it because it didn't keep our promise to stop the illegal, unconstitutional amnesty that DHS had done, as ordered by the President; and there were 75 Republicans, some of whom are very conservative, but they did vote with the Speaker on that bill and with the majority of Democrats to pass that funding.

But I think that gives us an indication that out of the Republican Conference—the massive portion of the Republican Conference represents very conservative districts, and there are Republicans that, thank God, we have that are from more moderate areas, but somewhere between one-fourth and one-third, perhaps.

It just seems like this bill today was one of those bills where we would be better off if we negotiated a deal among the Republicans and go through regular order. That is what we promised. You put us in the majority; we will go through regular order. We will have hearings on this entire bill. There will be open opportunities to discuss it, to amend it, to have legislative hearings, before you even do the votes on it in committee. We didn't do that.

The bill was filed 2 days ago, on the 24th. We had a couple of days with this bill. That is not adequate for something this important.

It does add some means testing for seniors. It appears very clear it is going to cause healthcare providers to have to add more clerical workers—people that don't do health care; they just do paperwork. So there will be more costs.

So we didn't have a chance to adequately investigate the terminology of this bill and the long-term effects it will have on health care. It is kind of important.

This also came 1 day after we voted for a budget that was important to get to the point where we could have reconciliation that let us deal with important issues like ObamaCare. We passed the budget easily, and we had a number of different budgets we could vote for. I thought TOM PRICE did a good job of marshalling the efforts on that.

But the point is most of us were so focused on the budget through the vote yesterday that we really had one night to prepare on this SGR with the actual language that was filed on Tuesday.

I was good with the 63 pages Dr. BURGESS had used last year, but there were over 200 pages. I really don't know the long-term effects of what we did; and that is why, though I have been clamoring for an SGR fix, I couldn't vote for it.

This isn't how we do things. We are supposed to first do no harm. We don't know what harm we may have done in that bill. We know we did some good, but we don't know what harm. We should have had some more time to analyze this and take the language back to our physicians, our healthcare providers, and say: You're the one doing this, you're the one trying to save lives, enhance lives, what will this do to you? What will this language do to you? Then come back and have the vote.

So I appreciate the work for those that have been spending so much time on what is often referred to as the "doctor fix." We definitely needed that as another fix. This is more permanent. We don't know what the Senate will do, and that is another one of our problems.

There is some rather breathtaking news that has come out today about what the Obama administration has done in the way of damage to the nation of Israel—it sounds like this action was extremely petty—in an effort to slap Israel, without proper regard for the fact that they are the most important ally we have anywhere in the Middle East and one of the very most important allies we have in the world.

□ 1345

It is just breathtaking what was done. Actually, to put this in perspective, this article, March 23, from Joel Pollak, says, "Obama's Chief of Staff Fires up J Street: Israel's Occupation Must End."

The article says:

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough earned raucous cheers from the leftwing activists gathered at J Street's fifth annual conference in Washington on Monday when he attacked Israel's occupation of the West Bank. "An occupation that has lasted almost 50 years must end."

J Street was founded to disrupt the close U.S.-Israel alliance and to serve as an alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the powerful pro-Israel group.

Well, that is interesting. If we use Mr. McDonough's rationale about the Israel occupation and how it must end, then that would mean that, at the turn of the 20th century, if he had been around clamoring for, on behalf of this President—were he President around the end of the 1800s—he would have been saying: it is time to end America's occupation of Texas.

Had he been around in, say, 1823, speaking for President Obama back then, had he been President then, if he used this same reasoning, he would have been saying: it is time for the occupation of our Thirteen Colonies to stop, and we give all the land back to England. This is no time for the Thirteen Colonies to continue to occupy what we are calling the United States.

It is time to give that back to England. It was theirs originally. The French had some at one time. There

were differing claims, but basically time to quit occupying the United States and give this all back to England.

It is time to give the West of the United States, you might have heard him say, if he had been around in the early 20th century, time to give back all the West to whoever had it before, whether it was Mexico, Spain, whoever may have been claiming it; we have been occupying it.

That is not the way the world works. That is not the way the United States worked. Native American tribes were constantly taking each other on, different parts of the country, taking over others' land. That has gone on around the world.

When you have a group of people living in the nation of Israel saying, We refuse to ever recognize Israel's right to exist, we want to wipe the Jewish people off the map, we want to wipe Israel off the map, then that is not a nation that you sit down with.

Then when you have a nation like Iran, that is doing—they make clear, even as of last week, that the top leaders in Iran want death to America. Well, apparently, when this administration hears a religious fanatic that has killed American soldiers, killed American civilians, has really been at the lead of killing Americans wherever they could find them and have an opportunity to kill them and want to wipe Israel off the map, as the Little Satan, and wipe America off the map, as the Great Satan—they have continued to pursue nuclear weapons, and while this administration was rushing and continue to rush to talk to the leaders in Iran, it leaves some of us aghast at how blind the administration can be as to who is our friend and who is our enemy.

It was Denis McDonough, this article talks about, speaking to the group, according to this article, that was founded to disrupt the close relationship between U.S. and Israel, and he fired them up, saying the occupation that lasted almost 50 years must end.

It reminded me, oh, yeah, I remember another speech he gave, and this transcript is from the White House Web site. This was March 6 of 2011, and Denis McDonough, the same guy that thinks we need to run Israel out of the land of Israel, he said this—and I am quoting from the speech from the White House Web site.

"Thank you, Imam Magid, for your very kind introduction and welcome. I know that President Obama was very grateful that you led the prayer at last summer's Iftar dinner at the White House which, as the President noted, is a tradition stretching back more than two centuries to when Thomas Jefferson hosted the first Iftar at the White House. Thank you also for being one of our"—I might parenthetically interject here into Mr. McDonough's speech,

glowing praise for Imam Magid, that actually this is Imam Magid who was president of the Islamic Society of North America.

The Islamic Society of North America, a little background on them, they were named as a coconspirator to fund terrorism in the largest prosecution in the United States history for funding of terrorism—this was in a United States district court in Dallas—in short, referred to as the Holy Land Foundation trial. They were the main defendant, their principals.

The list of unindicted coconspirators from that trial included the Council on American Islamic Relations, CAIR; the Islamic Society of North America, ISNA; and the North American Islamic Trust, NAIT. These coconspirators were not tried in the first round of prosecutions in Dallas under the Bush administration, but in November of 2008, all five defendants were convicted on a massive number of charges of supporting terrorism.

The evidence utilized in the first round of the prosecutions, some that participated anticipate would be used in another trial against other named coconspirators if they were successful in getting the first convictions, which they did.

However, before the convictions were finalized, there was an election. President Obama was elected President, and we got a new Attorney General, and they decided, despite what the evidence showed, despite what the courts had found, they are not going to prosecute the Islamic Society of North America and CAIR—CAIR has a very lovely building just down the street from us here. I can see CAIR from my window.

In the case in Dallas, CAIR, NAIT, ISNA, they filed pleadings demanding that the judge remove their names as coconspirators in supporting terrorism. The judge reviewed all the evidence, had the hearing, and he ruled that their names would not be struck as coconspirators because there was plenty of evidence to support them as coconspirators supporting terrorism.

They appealed that to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for the United States, and the fifth circuit, in their order, confirmed that there was a *prima facie* case made that the entities, CAIR, NAIT, ISNA, those associations have strong associations with the Muslim Brotherhood, namely Hamas, its Palestinian branch, which was specifically designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. Government.

Anyway, the organization here that the Federal courts found had plenty of evidence to make a case against them, as supporters of terrorism, have become partners with this administration, and that is why Denis McDonough, who was getting the acclaim for demanding Israel leave part of Israeli territory, he was there back in 2011, giving praise to Imam Magid,

thanking him for his wonderful prayers at the White House.

This is a guy that is president of what two Federal courts have said had plenty of evidence to show they are coconspirators in supporting terrorism.

This business about, oh, the long tradition going back to Thomas Jefferson of Iftar at the White House, Iftar is the celebration during the month of August—or after the fasting during the month of August for the religious observance of Muslims, and Iftar is the feast after the fasting.

If you go back to what they say was the first Iftar under Thomas Jefferson, it doesn't appear to me that Jefferson realized he was having an Iftar dinner. He wanted to have a dinner with a Muslim leader, and he couldn't do it until the fasting was over, and so when he could eat, they had a meal.

It is kind of like hearing people say: Well, Thomas Jefferson, having a copy of the Koran shows how open-minded it was.

No, it shows the fact that he had been a diplomat negotiating with radical Islamists called Barbary pirates as to why they kept capturing United States Navy—not Navy—but seamen and holding them for ransom.

They had so many of our sailors that they held in captivity, we were paying a massive part of our budget for ransom to get these back. Jefferson was one of those that went over and negotiated and apparently asked: Why do you keep attacking us? We don't even have a navy. Why you are attacking us? We are not a threat to you.

He was reportedly told: In our religion, we believe that if we die while attacking you, an infidel, we go to paradise.

Jefferson was so well read, he couldn't believe there was a religion that thought you could go to paradise if you die killing innocent people, so he got his own English translation of the Koran.

His ultimate action was to create and send a new thing called United States Marines to the shores of Tripoli because he realized there is not going to be any negotiation that is adequate to deal with these radical Islamists. There is only one way to beat them, and that is to physically beat them in a fight to the finish. It kept them off our backs for some time.

Well, that is Denis McDonough, speaking for the President in 2011 and now. Then we know that the White House is doing everything it can to bend over backwards, the State Department: Oh, Iran, what can we do for you?

Okay. Now, we find out today they are going to let them have centrifuges spinning in their secret facility they didn't even disclose until we found out about it, and they are going to let them keep having centrifuges spin there.

Look, they will almost do anything to get them to sign some kind of agreement, bending over backwards; but they can't spare a minute to meet with the leader of Israel, can't spare the President, Vice President, or one of the Cabinet to come listen to Netanyahu—oh, no.

Then, today, this outrage has come to light, that the United States, the Obama administration, has declassified a document that reveals Israel's nuclear program to the world, especially to Iran and to those who want to destroy Israel, so they will know exactly what they are after, what they are up against.

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What has happened, what has come to light today of this administration declassifying a document, obviously, it is a slap at Netanyahu. It is a slap at the Israeli people for coming out in droves to support a group of representatives that this President doesn't approve of.

We are betraying this great ally of ours: Israel. If you believe the Bible, judgment will be coming down on our country for what our elected officials and appointed officials have done in betraying Israel. There will be problems for this.

If you don't believe the Bible, then just use common sense. When you betray your most trusted ally in this torn-apart Middle East, then you are going to have problems galore.

I have talked with leaders in those countries. I can't now because the Speaker won't let me go talk to them overseas anymore. That is what you call retribution if you don't support the Speaker. I get that. I am fine with that. As a result of him canceling my trip this weekend, I get to be on FOX News. Anyway, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Somebody needs to be friendly to our allies and stand up against our enemies, and this administration is not doing it.

This betrayal is going to do more damage in the world than the snotty little act that was intended to slap at Netanyahu and the Israeli voters than we could possibly imagine. This is just unbelievable.

Now, if you believe that there are lessons worth noting in the Bible, you could go back to King Hezekiah, who entertained the Babylonian leaders. If you believe the account in the Bible, God sent Isaiah to Hezekiah and asked him: What have you done?

He already knew; but Hezekiah said, in effect—and this is Texas paraphrase—well, we met with these lovely, wonderful leaders from Babylon, and we showed them all of our treasure.

In the most correct translation, he adds: And we showed them all of the defenses we have in our arsenal.

Isaiah basically says: Because you have done that, you fool, you will lose the country.

This is the kind of thing that brings down nations. It was petty, and it was a betrayal, and people need to be called to account for it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of foot surgery.

### PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, March 26, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit the Rules of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 114th Congress for publication in the Congressional Record. On January 21, 2015, the Committee on Homeland Security met in open session and adopted these Committee Rules by unanimous consent, a quorum being present; on March 26, 2015, the Committee agreed to modify the Committee Rules, by voice vote, a quorum being present. Attached are the Rules of Committee on Homeland Security for the 114th Congress, as amended.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman.

Enclosure.

Adopted January 21, 2015  
Modified March 26, 2015

#### RULE I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(A) *Applicability of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.*—The Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives (the “House”) are the rules of the Committee on Homeland Security (the “Committee”) and its subcommittees insofar as applicable.

(B) *Applicability to Subcommittees.*—Except where the terms “Full Committee” and “subcommittee” are specifically mentioned, the following rules shall apply to the Committee’s subcommittees and their respective Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members to the same extent as they apply to the Full Committee and its Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.

(C) *Appointments by the Chairman.*—Clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the House shall govern the designation of a Vice Chairman of the Full Committee.

(D) *Recommendation of Conferees.*—Whenever the Speaker of the House is to appoint a conference committee on a matter within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee, the Chairman shall recommend to the Speaker of the House conferees from the Full Committee. In making recommendations of Minority Members as conferees, the Chairman shall do so with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(E) *Motions to Disagree.*—The Chairman is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

(F) *Committee Website.*—The Chairman shall maintain an official Committee web site for the purposes of furthering the Committee’s legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee’s activities to Committee Members, other Members, and the public at large. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar web site for the same purposes. The official Committee web site shall display a link on its home page to the web site maintained by the Ranking Minority Member.

(G) *Activity Report.*—Not later than January 2 of each odd numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee. After adjournment *sine die* of the last regular session of a Congress, or after December 15 of an even-numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the report with the Clerk at any time and without approval of the Committee provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee.

#### RULE II.—COMMITTEE PANELS

(A) *Designation.*—The Chairman of the Full Committee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of Members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that warrant enhanced consideration and to report to the Committee.

(B) *Duration.*—No panel appointed by the Chairman shall continue in existence for more than six months after the appointment.

(C) *Party Ratios and Appointment.*—The ratio of Majority to Minority Members shall be comparable to the Full Committee, consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, with all Majority members of the panels appointed by the Chairman of the Committee and all Minority members appointed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall choose one of the Majority Members so appointed who does not currently chair another Subcommittee of the Committee to serve as Chairman of the panel. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall similarly choose the Ranking Minority Member of the panel.

(D) *Ex Officio Members.*—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each committee panel but are not authorized to vote on matters that arise before a committee panel and shall not be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for any purpose other than taking testimony.

(E) *Jurisdiction.*—No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(F) *Applicability of Committee Rules.*—Any designated panel shall be subject to all Committee Rules herein.

#### RULE III.—SUBCOMMITTEES.

(A) *Generally.*—The Full Committee shall be organized into the following six standing subcommittees and each shall have specific responsibility for such measures or matters as the Chairman refers to it:

(1) Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence;

(2) Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security;

(3) Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies;

(4) Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency;

(5) Subcommittee on Transportation Security; and

(6) Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications.

(B) *Selection and Ratio of Subcommittee Members.*—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall select their respective Members of each subcommittee. The ratio of Majority to Minority Members shall be comparable to the Full Committee, consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, except that each subcommittee shall have at least two more Majority Members than Minority Members.

(C) *Ex Officio Members.*—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall be *ex officio* members of each subcommittee but are not authorized to vote on matters that arise before each subcommittee. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall only be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(D) *Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.*—Except as otherwise directed by the Chairman of the Full Committee, each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the Full Committee on all matters within its purview. Subcommittee Chairmen shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chairman of the Full Committee. To the greatest extent practicable, no more than one meeting and hearing should be scheduled for a given time.

(E) *Special Voting Provision.*—If a tie vote occurs in a Subcommittee on the question of forwarding any measure to the Full Committee, the measure shall be placed on the agenda for Full Committee consideration as if it had been ordered reported by the Subcommittee without recommendation.

#### RULE IV.—TIME OF MEETINGS.

(A) *Regular Meeting Date.*—The regular meeting date and time for the transaction of business of the Full Committee shall be at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday that the House is in Session each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

(B) *Additional Meetings.*—At the discretion of the Chairman, additional meetings of the Committee may be scheduled for the consideration of any legislation or other matters pending before the Committee or to conduct other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(C) *Consideration.*—Except in the case of a special meeting held under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI, the determination of the business to be considered at each meeting of the Committee shall be made by the Chairman.

#### RULE V.—NOTICE AND PUBLICATION.

(A) *Notice.*—

(1) *Hearings.*—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing before the Full Committee or subcommittee, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice. However, if the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a



quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The names of all witnesses scheduled to appear at such hearing shall be provided to Members no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of such hearing.

(2) *Meetings.*—The date, time, place and subject matter of any meeting, which could be a briefing, other than a hearing or a regularly scheduled meeting, may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof except in the case of a special meeting called under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. These notice requirements may be waived if the Chairman with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business.

(a) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of announcement of the meeting, if less than 48 hours under Rule V(A)(2), the text of such legislation to be marked up shall be provided to the Members, made publicly available in electronic form, and posted on the official Committee web site.

(b) Not later than 24 hours after concluding a meeting to consider legislation, the text of such legislation as ordered forwarded or reported, including any amendments adopted or defeated, shall be made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee web site.

(3) *Publication.*—The meeting or hearing announcement shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest portion of the Congressional Record. To the greatest extent practicable, meeting announcements shall be entered into the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources.

#### RULE VI.—OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS; BROADCASTING.

(A) *Open Meetings.*—All meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by Rule XI of the Rules of the House or when the Committee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by recorded vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, compromise sensitive law enforcement information, tend to defame, degrade or incriminate a witness, or violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives.

(B) *Broadcasting.*—Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, the Committee shall permit that hearing or meeting to be covered by television broadcast, internet broadcast, print media, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. Operation and use of any Committee operated broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House. Priority shall be given by the Committee to members of the Press Galleries. Pursuant to clause 2(e) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain

the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(C) *Transcripts.*—A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during a Committee hearing. All transcripts of meetings or hearings that are open to the public shall be made available.

#### RULE VII.—PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.

(A) *Opening Statements.*—At any meeting of the Committee, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member shall be entitled to present oral opening statements of five minutes each. Other Members may submit written opening statements for the record. The Chairman presiding over the meeting may permit additional opening statements by other Members of the Full Committee or of that subcommittee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

(B) *The Five-Minute Rule.*—The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee shall not exceed five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chairman, except that this time limit may be extended when permitted by unanimous consent.

(C) *Postponement of Vote.*—The Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time, provided that all reasonable steps have been taken to notify Members of the resumption of such proceedings, including circulation of notice by the Clerk of the Committee, or other designee of the Chair. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(D) *Contempt Procedures.*—No recommendation that a person be cited for contempt of Congress shall be forwarded to the House unless and until the Full Committee has, upon notice to all its Members, met and considered the alleged contempt. The person to be cited for contempt shall be afforded, upon notice of at least 72 hours, an opportunity to state why he or she should not be held in contempt prior to a vote of the Full Committee, with a quorum being present, on the question whether to forward such recommendation to the House. Such statement shall be, in the discretion of the Chairman, either in writing or in person before the Full Committee.

(E) *Record.*—Members may have 10 business days to submit to the Chief Clerk of the Committee their statements for the record, and, in the case of a hearing, additional questions for the hearing record to be directed towards a witness at the hearing.

#### RULE VIII.—WITNESSES.

##### (A) *Questioning of Witnesses.*—

(1) Questioning of witnesses by Members will be conducted under the five-minute rule unless the Committee adopts a motion permitted by clause 2(j)(2) of House Rule XI.

(2) In questioning witnesses under the five-minute rule, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall first be recognized. In a subcommittee meeting or hearing, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee are then recognized. All other Members who are present before the commencement of the meeting or hearing

will be recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee, alternating between Majority and Minority Members. Committee Members arriving after the commencement of the hearing shall be recognized in order of appearance, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, after all Members present at the beginning of the hearing have been recognized. Each Member shall be recognized at least once before any Member is given a second opportunity to question a witness.

(3) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit an extension of the period of questioning of a witness beyond five minutes but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority party and the Minority and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(4) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit Committee staff of the Majority and Minority to question a witness for a specified period of time, but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority and Minority staff and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(B) *Minority Witnesses.*—Whenever a hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the Minority party Members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those Minority Members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(C) *Oath or Affirmation.*—The Chairman of the Committee or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

##### (D) *Statements by Witnesses.*—

(1) Consistent with the notice given, and to the greatest extent practicable, witnesses shall submit a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings (including, where practicable, an electronic copy) with the Clerk of the Committee no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness's appearance before the Committee. Unless the 48 hour requirement is waived or otherwise modified by the Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of the written testimony from the hearing record and/or the barring of an oral presentation of the testimony. The Clerk of the Committee shall provide any such prepared or written statement submitted to the Clerk prior to the hearing to the Members of the Committee prior to the commencement of the hearing.

(2) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vita and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. Such disclosures shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing, and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such statements, with the appropriate redactions to protect

the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

#### RULE IX.—QUORUM.

*Quorum Requirements.*—Two Members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence. One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business, except for (1) reporting a measure or recommendation; (2) closing Committee meetings to the public, pursuant to Committee Rule IV; (3) any other action for which an actual majority quorum is required by any rule of the House of Representatives or by law. The Chairman's staff shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member's staff when scheduling meetings and hearings, to ensure that a quorum for any purpose will include at least one Minority Member of the Committee.

#### RULE X.—DECORUM.

(A) *Breaches of Decorum.*—The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, by censure and exclusion from the hearing; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(B) *Access to Dais.*—Access to the dais before, during, and after a hearing, markup, or other meeting of the Committee shall be limited to Members and staff of the Committee. Subject to availability of space on the dais, Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the dais during a hearing if their employing Member is seated on the dais and during a markup or other meeting if their employing Member is the author of a measure or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the measure or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chairman, or of the Ranking Minority Member for personal staff employed by a Minority Member.

(C) *Wireless Communications Use Prohibited.*—During a hearing, markup, or other meeting of the Committee, ringing or audible sounds or conversational use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the Committee room.

#### RULE XI.—REFERRALS TO SUBCOMMITTEES.

*Referral of Bills and Other Matters by Chairman.*—Except for bills and other matters retained by the Chairman for Full Committee consideration, each bill or other matter referred to the Full Committee shall be referred by the Chairman to one or more subcommittees within two weeks of receipt by the Committee. In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Full Committee. Bills or other matters referred to subcommittees may be reassigned or discharged by the Chairman.

#### RULE XII.—SUBPOENAS.

(A) *Authorization.*—The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chairman of the Full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays. The Chairman of the Full Committee shall notify Members of the Committee of the authoriza-

tion and issuance of a subpoena under this rule as soon as practicable, but in no event later than one week after service of such subpoena.

(B) *Disclosure.*—Provisions may be included in a subpoena with the concurrence of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, or by the Committee, to prevent the disclosure of the Full Committee's demands for information when deemed necessary for the security of information or the progress of an investigation, including but not limited to prohibiting the revelation by witnesses and their counsel of Full Committee's inquiries.

(C) *Subpoena duces tecum.*—A subpoena *duces tecum* may be issued whose return to the Committee Clerk shall occur at a time and place other than that of a regularly scheduled meeting.

#### RULE XIII.—COMMITTEE STAFF.

(A) *Generally.*—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X and must be eligible to be considered for routine access to classified information.

(B) *Staff Assignments.*—For purposes of these rules, Committee staff means the employees of the Committee, detailees, fellows, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee. All such persons shall be either Majority, Minority, or shared staff. The Chairman shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Majority staff. The Ranking Minority Member shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Minority staff. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman may appoint, supervise, determine remuneration of and may remove shared staff that is assigned to service of the Committee. The Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments, including appointments by the Ranking Minority Member, as required.

(C) *Divulgence of Information.*—Prior to the public acknowledgement by the Chairman or the Committee of a decision to initiate an investigation of a particular person, entity, or subject, no member of the Committee staff shall knowingly divulge to any person any information, including non-classified information, which comes into his or her possession by virtue of his or her status as a member of the Committee staff, if the member of the Committee staff has a reasonable expectation that such information may alert the subject of a Committee investigation to the existence, nature, or substance of such investigation, unless authorized to do so by the Chairman or the Committee.

#### RULE XIV.—COMMITTEE MEMBER AND COMMITTEE STAFF TRAVEL.

(A) *Approval of Travel.*—Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any Committee Member or Committee staff shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Committee Member or Committee staff only in connection with official Committee business, such as the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and meetings, conferences, site visits, and investigations that involve activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Full Committee.

(1) *Proposed Travel by Majority Party Committee Members and Committee Staff.*—In the

case of proposed travel by Majority party Committee Members or Committee staff, before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following: (a) the purpose of the travel; (b) the dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made; (c) the location of the event for which the travel is to be made; (d) the estimated total cost of the travel; and (e) the names of Members and staff seeking authorization. On the basis of that information, the Chairman shall determine whether the proposed travel is for official Committee business, concerns a subject matter under the jurisdiction of the Full Committee, and is not excessively costly in view of the Committee business proposed to be conducted.

(2) *Proposed Travel by Minority Party Committee Members and Committee Staff.*—In the case of proposed travel by Minority party Committee Members or Committee staff, the Ranking Minority Member shall provide to the Chairman a written representation setting forth the information specified in items (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of subparagraph (1) and his or her determination that such travel complies with the other requirements of subparagraph (1).

(B) *Foreign Travel.*—Committee Member and Committee staff requests for foreign travel must include a written representation setting forth the information specified in items (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of subparagraph (A)(1) and be submitted to the Chairman and, absent extenuating circumstances, to the Ranking Minority Member, not fewer than ten business days prior to the start of the travel. Within thirty days of the conclusion of any such foreign travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the Chairman a written report summarizing the information gained as a result of the travel in question, or other Committee objectives served by such travel. The requirements of this section may be waived or abridged by the Chairman.

(C) *Compliance with Committee Travel Policy and Guidelines.*—Travel must be in accordance with the Committee Travel Policy and Guidelines, as well as with House Rules, the Travel Guidelines and Regulations and any additional guidance set forth by the Committee on Ethics and the Committee on House Administration. Committee Members and staff shall follow these rules, policies, guidelines, and regulations in requesting and proceeding with any Committee-related travel.

#### RULE XV.—CLASSIFIED AND CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(A) *Security Precautions.*—Committee staff offices, including Majority and Minority offices, shall operate under strict security precautions administered by the Security Officer of the Committee. A security officer shall be on duty at all times during normal office hours. Classified documents and controlled unclassified information (CUI—formerly known as sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information—may be destroyed, discussed, examined, handled, reviewed, stored, transported and used only in an appropriately secure manner in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities. Such documents may be removed from the Committee's offices only in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures, as determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall govern the handling of such documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(B) *Temporary Custody of Executive Branch Material.*—Executive branch documents or other materials containing classified information in any form that were not made part of the record of a Committee hearing, did not originate in the Committee or the House, and are not otherwise records of the Committee shall, while in the custody of the Committee, be segregated and maintained by the Committee in the same manner as Committee records that are classified. Such documents and other materials shall be returned to the Executive branch agency from which they were obtained at the earliest practicable time.

(C) *Access by Committee Staff.*—Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know, as determined by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member, and under the direction of the Majority or Minority Staff Directors.

(D) *Maintaining Confidentiality.*—No Committee Member or Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, to any person who is not a Committee Member or authorized Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, any testimony given before the Committee in executive session except for purposes of obtaining an official classification of such testimony. Classified information and controlled unclassified information (CUI) shall be handled in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities and consistently with the provisions of these rules and Committee procedures.

(E) *Oath.*—Before a Committee Member or Committee staff may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Committee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House.

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk of the Committee as part of the records of the Committee.

(F) *Disciplinary Action.*—The Chairman shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any Committee Member or Committee staff member fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to Minority staff, the Chairman shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

#### RULE XVI.—COMMITTEE RECORDS.

(A) *Committee Records.*—Committee Records shall constitute all data, charts and files in possession of the Committee and shall be maintained in accordance with clause 2(e) of House Rule XI.

(B) *Legislative Calendar.*—The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee Member showing any procedural or legislative measures considered or scheduled to be considered by the Committee, and the status of such measures and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The

calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of such revisions shall be made available to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(C) *Members Right To Access.*—Members of the Committee and of the House shall have access to all official Committee Records. Access to Committee files shall be limited to examination within the Committee offices at reasonable times. Access to Committee Records that contain classified information shall be provided in a manner consistent with these rules.

(D) *Removal of Committee Records.*—Files and records of the Committee are not to be removed from the Committee offices. No Committee files or records that are not made publicly available shall be photocopied by any Member.

(E) *Executive Session Records.*—Evidence or testimony received by the Committee in executive session shall not be released or made available to the public unless agreed to by the Committee. Such information may be made available to appropriate government personnel for purposes of classification. Such information Members may examine the Committee's executive session records, but may not make copies of, or take personal notes from, such records.

(F) *Availability of Committee Records.*—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action including recorded votes and attendance at hearings and meetings. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of each amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, including the name of the Member who offered the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against each such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, as well as the names of those Members present but not voting. Such record shall be made available to the public at reasonable times within the Committee offices and also made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee web site within 48 hours of such record vote.

(G) *Separate and Distinct.*—All Committee records and files must be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the Members serving as Chairman and Ranking Minority Member. Records and files of Members' personal offices shall not be considered records or files of the Committee.

(H) *Disposition of Committee Records.*—At the conclusion of each Congress, non-current records of the Committee shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House.

(I) *Archived Records.*—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

#### RULE XVII.—COMMITTEE RULES.

(A) *Availability of Committee Rules in Electronic Form.*—Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the Committee shall make its rules publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee web site and shall submit such rules for publication in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Chairman of the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

(B) *Changes to Committee Rules.*—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Full Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken and such changes are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 30, 2015, at 1 p.m., unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 31, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

856. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a letter notifying the Congress that the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 114-4) does not breach the current discretionary spending limits, pursuant to Sec. 254(g) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; to the Committee on Appropriations.

857. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's 2015 Major Automated Information System Annual Reports, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2445b(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

858. A letter from the Staff performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals for the proposed legislation titled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

859. A letter from the Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on Training of Special Operations Forces for the period ending September 30, 2014, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2011(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

860. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Reserve Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report for Fiscal Year 2016, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 1054i; to the Committee on Armed Services.

861. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Text Implementing 10 U.S.C. 2323 (DFARS Case 2011-

D038) (RIN: 0750-AH45) received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

862. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD(AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Military Construction Funds (DFARS Case 2015-D006) (RIN: 0750-AI52) received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

863. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Housing Trust Fund (RIN: 2590-AA73) received March 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

864. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on discretionary appropriations legislation for the Department of Homeland Security Appropriation Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 114-4), pursuant to Sec. 251(a)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended; to the Committee on the Budget.

865. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Technical and Administrative Changes to Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation (RIN: 1991-AC07) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

866. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

867. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Antiviral Drugs Advisory Committee; Termination [Docket No.: FDA-2012-N-0218] received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

868. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments to Regulation Listing Substances Temporarily Controlled under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act [Docket No.: DEA-406] received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-methylpropyl ester, homopolymer; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0677; FRL-9924-33] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Revisions to Emission Inventory Requirements, and General Provisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0636; FRL-9925-11-Region 6] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

871. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Plan Approval and Operating Permit Fees [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0634; FRL-9925-17-Region 3] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

872. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0804; FRL-9925-13-Region 6] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

873. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval, Disapproval, and Limited Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0746; FRL-9924-49-Region 9] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

874. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0209; FRL-9924-60] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

875. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0624, 0625; FRL-9924-32-OSWER] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

876. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0083; FRL-9924-73-Region 9] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

877. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2014-0712; FRL-9924-83-Region 4] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

878. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiram; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0632; FRL-9924-86] received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

879. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Withdrawal of Partial Exemption for Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0809; FRL-9924-84] (RIN: 2070-

AK01) received March 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

880. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Mobility Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules [WP Docket No.: 07-100] received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

881. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Laboratory Investigations of Soils and Rocks for Engineering Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants [Regulatory Guide RG 1.138, Revision 3] received March 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

882. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Support Document Requirements for License Applications under the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 131018874-5199-02] (RIN: 0694-AG00) received March 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

883. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-140); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

884. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-121); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

885. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-147); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

886. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-153); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

887. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-151); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

888. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: 14-141); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

889. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: 14-110); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

890. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with Title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002

(Pub. L. 107-115), Executive Order 12163, as amended by Executive Order 13346, and further delegations of authority, the Deputy Secretary has extended the waiver of Sec. 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, Pub. L. 102-511, with respect to the Government of Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

891. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, prepared in accordance with Sec. 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

892. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

893. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Oversight Improvements Must Continue to Ensure Accountability in Use of Public Funds by D.C. Public Charter Schools"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

894. A letter from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Sec. 522 Privacy Report for FY 2014, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000ee-2; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

895. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, transmitting the 2014 management reports for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, pursuant to Sec. 306 of the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (31 U.S.C. 9106); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

896. A letter from the Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

897. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's annual report, pursuant to the Buy American Act (Pub. L. 108-447, Sec. 641); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

898. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the National Science Foundation's FY 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

899. A letter from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Office of Personnel Management regulation 5 CFR Sec. 724.302: No FEAR Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

900. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Certain Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AN10) received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

901. A letter from the Chief Human Resources Officer and Executive Vice President, Postal Service, transmitting the Service's annual report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2014, in compliance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

902. A letter from the Chairman, Labor Member, and Management Member, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a report in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(j), the annual report for Calendar Year 2014, of the United States Railroad Retirement Board, in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

903. A letter from the Director, Government Publishing Office, transmitting the annual report of the U.S. Government Publishing Office for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014; to the Committee on House Administration.

904. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mississippi Abandoned Mine Land Plan [SATS No.: MS-024-FOR; Docket No.: OSM-2014-0005; SID1SSS08011000SX066A00067F154S180110; S2D2SSS08011000SX066A00033F15XS501520] received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

905. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands (RIN: 1004-AE26) received March 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

906. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD761) received March 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

907. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XD813) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

908. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XD587) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

909. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD516) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

910. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Expansion of Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, and Regulatory Changes [Docket No.: 130405335-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-BD18) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

911. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Regulations on Introduced Species [Docket No.: 120809321-4999-03] (RIN: 0648-BC26) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

912. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Regulations; Correction [Docket No.: 140903747-4747-01] (RIN: 0648-BE48) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

913. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Increase [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XD790) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

914. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140117 052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XD778) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

915. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Longline Component [Docket No.: 120404257-3325-02] (RIN: 0648-XD735) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

916. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20B; Correction [Docket No.: 131211999-5045-02] (RIN: 0648-BD86) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

917. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Jig Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD800) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

918. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD803) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

919. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office Protected Resources Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan; Sea Turtle Conservation; Modification to Fishing Activities [Docket No.: 110812495-4999-03] (RIN: 0648-BB37) received March 25, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

920. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's Article III judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 114th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

921. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Implement the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs [Docket No.: PTO-P-2013-0025] (RIN: 0651-AC87) received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

922. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending June 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

923. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's bankruptcy judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 114th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

924. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Major final rule — Submission of Evidence in Disability Claims [Docket No.: SSA-2012-0068] (RIN: 0960-AH53) received March 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

925. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Annual Report on the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for FY 2014, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395i of the Social Security Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

926. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on counter-ISIL train and equip program and regional strategy, pursuant to Sec. 1209(b)(2) of Pub. L. 113-291; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

927. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during

the first session of the 114th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Education and the Workforce, and Oversight and Government Reform.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WALDEN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 1641. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide incentives for the reallocation of Federal Government spectrum for commercial use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1642. A bill to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1643. A bill to promote neutrality, simplicity, and fairness in the taxation of digital goods and digital services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 1644. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 1645. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to urbanized area formula grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1646. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to research how small and medium sized unmanned aerial systems could be used in an attack, how to prevent or mitigate the effects of such an attack, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 1647. A bill to recognize States' authority to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 1648. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Interior to establish the Ronald Reagan Birthplace National Historic Site in Tam-

pico, Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 1649. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into partnerships with Israel and other allies of the United States to develop technology to detect tunnels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 1650. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 1651. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. NEAL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. JONES, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1652. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1653. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage for hearing aids and examinations therefor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MENG, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ISSA):



H.R. 1654. A bill to authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 1655. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and modernize the Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 1656. A bill to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1657. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent claims of the earned income tax credit by individuals receiving work authorizations pursuant to deferred action programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PITTEMBER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 1658. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the circumstances in which official time may be used by a Federal employee; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 1659. A bill to amend certain provisions of the securities laws relating to the treatment of emerging growth companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROTHFUS (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 1660. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to allow Federal savings associations to elect to operate as national banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROTHFUS (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 1661. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to allow mutual capital certificates to satisfy capital requirements for mutual depositories; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LEE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 1662. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to replace the mortgage interest deduction with a nonrefundable credit for indebtedness secured by a residence, to provide affordable housing to extremely low-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1663. A bill to greatly enhance America's path toward energy independence and economic and national security, to rebuild our Nation's aging roads, bridges, locks, and

dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Rules, the Budget, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 1664. A bill to authorize health insurance issuers to continue to offer for sale current group and individual health insurance coverage in satisfaction of the minimum essential health insurance coverage requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1665. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the excise tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 1666. A bill to require the use of two-phase selection procedures when design-build contracts are suitable for award to small business concerns; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia):

H.R. 1667. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 1668. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide for suspension of application of the Act to water releases by Federal and State agencies in river basins that are affected by drought, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 1669. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for transparency of payments made from the Judgment Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. JONES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 1670. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MULVANEY (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. YODER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. TROTT, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WALKER, Mr.

WALBERG, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 1671. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 1672. A bill to provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1673. A bill to amend the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 to establish a secondary reserve fund for a housing enterprise under conservatorship to protect taxpayers against loss in the event of a housing downturn, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 1674. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to modify the dischargeability of debts for certain educational payments and loans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 1675. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1676. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays during the school year; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. FARR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 1677. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure health care coverage value and transparency for dental benefits under group health plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 1678. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a backup for the global positioning system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1679. A bill to ensure the safe transportation of Bakken crude oil by rail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1680. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 1681. A bill to extend the authorization for the major medical facility project to replace the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage the construction of such project, to transfer the authority to carry out future major medical facility projects of the Department from the Secretary to the Army Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 1682. A bill to preserve knowledge and promote education about jazz in the United States and abroad; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr.

HUNTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COLE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HARPER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. DENT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LATTI, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SIRE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. HAHN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mis-

issippi, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LONG, Mr. VISLOSKY, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 1683. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SIRE, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 1684. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BOST, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 1685. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 1686. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the occurrence of diabetes in Medicare beneficiaries by extending coverage under Medicare for medical nutrition therapy services to such beneficiaries with pre-diabetes or with risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 1687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, to dedicate the revenues from such tax to the prevention, treatment, and research of diet-related health conditions in priority populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 1688. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to designate 20 graduate medical education residency positions specifically for the study of optometry; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 1689. A bill to prohibit the provision of certain foreign assistance to countries receiving certain detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1690. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 1691. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education located in the United States from participating in student assistance programs under title IV of such Act if the institution bans the display of the flag of the United States on its campus; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1692. A bill to require public employees to perform the inspection of State and local surface transportation projects, and related essential public functions, to ensure public safety, the cost-effective use of transportation funding, and timely project delivery; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 1693. A bill to rescind unobligated amounts for White House salaries and expenses; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1694. A bill to amend MAP-21 to improve contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LATTI, Mr. JONES, and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 1695. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unemancipated minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GRAHAM (for herself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 1696. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to extend the tariff preference level on imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber, fabric, apparel, and made-up goods from Bahrain under the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 1697. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the tax credit for electric vehicle recharging property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1698. A bill to amend design and content requirements for certain gold and silver coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1699. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require Federal Prison Industries to compete for its contracts minimizing its unfair competition with private sector firms and their non-inmate workers and empowering Federal agencies to get the best

value for taxpayers' dollars, to provide a five-year period during which Federal Prison Industries adjusts to obtaining inmate work opportunities through other than its mandatory source status, to enhance inmate access to remedial and vocational opportunities and other rehabilitative opportunities to better prepare inmates for a successful return to society, to authorize alternative inmate work opportunities in support of non-profit organizations and other public service programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 1700. A bill to amend section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for unaccompanied alien children and aliens with serious mental disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JORDAN:

H.R. 1701. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 1702. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that for purposes of computing the annuity of certain law enforcement officers, any hours worked in excess of the limitation applicable to law enforcement availability pay and administratively uncontrollable overtime shall be included in such computation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1703. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to create protected credit reports for minors and protect the credit of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1704. A bill to establish a national data breach notification standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTI (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 1705. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist municipalities and regional sewer authorities that would experience a significant hardship raising the revenue necessary to finance projects and activities for the construction of wastewater treatment works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr.

FARR, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 1706. A bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion of comprehensive sexual health and healthy relationships, the reduction of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and the prevention of dating violence and sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOEBACK (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KIND, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 1707. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Frontline Providers Loan Repayment Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1708. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of research regarding the risks posed by the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, chemical fragrances, and other components of feminine hygiene products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1709. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risks of drought to drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1710. A bill to amend the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 to provide additional financing options for water infrastructure projects carried out in States in which the Governor of the State has issued a state of drought emergency declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YOHIO, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 1711. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to employee protective arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 1712. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to exempt providers of broadband Internet access service from Federal universal service contributions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from Federal income taxation certain employer-provided student loan assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DOLD, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HANNA, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LATTI, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENT, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. SEN-SENRENNER):

H.R. 1714. A bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WALKER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. BRAT):

H.R. 1715. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to carry out certain immigration-related memoranda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JONES, Mr. LATTI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POMPEO, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. LUTKEMEYER):

H.R. 1716. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exclude from creditable wages and self-employment income wages earned for services by aliens illegally performed in the United States and self-employment income derived from a trade or business illegally conducted in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BASS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 1717. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. LONG, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 1718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1719. A bill to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HANNA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 1720. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. HANNA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 1721. A bill to reauthorize appropriations for the National Women's Rights History Project Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 1722. A bill to require a demonstration program on the accession as Air Force officers of candidates with auditory impairments; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 1723. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise Form S-1 so as to permit smaller reporting companies to use forward incorporation by reference for such form; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 1724. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reduce Federal spending on surface transportation programs by limiting State and local taxation on purchases of construction materials made with funds made available from the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. PAL-LONE):

H.R. 1725. A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 1726. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 1727. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage, as supplies associated with the injection of insulin, of containment, removal, decontamination and disposal of home-generated needles, syringes, and other sharps through a sharps container, decontamination/destruction device, or sharps-by-mail program or similar program under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 1728. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1729. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaskan Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1730. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of consecutive terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single law by requiring that each law enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject and that the subject be clearly and descriptively expressed in the title of the law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself and Mr. BABIN):

H.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. JONES):

H. Con. Res. 30. Concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the International Year of Soils and supporting locally led soil conservation; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. WALKER):

H. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal excise tax on heavy-duty trucks should not be increased; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H. Res. 175. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 2015 as "National Cheerleading Safety Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ESTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr.

CROWLEY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 176. A resolution recognizing the significance of women in education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. GABBARD):

H. Res. 177. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that specialty crops are a vital part of agriculture in the United States, and that Congress should fund programs that support specialty crops as a growing and important part of agriculture in the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GALLEGU, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SIREN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 178. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of César Estrada Chávez; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 179. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Defense should review section 504 of title 10, United States Code, for purposes related to enlisting certain aliens in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H. Res. 180. A resolution congratulating the University of Kansas for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Kansas, the United States, and the world; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. LANCE):

H. Res. 181. A resolution calling for the immediate extradition or rendering to the United States of convicted felon William Morales and all other fugitives from justice who are receiving safe harbor in Cuba in order to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. FARR):

H. Res. 182. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H. Res. 183. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 13,

2015, through April 17, 2015, as National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Awareness Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS:

H. Res. 184. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the House to meet 5 days a week for 39 weeks each year; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MARINO):

H. Res. 185. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for the consideration of reported bills or joint resolutions that have not been considered by the House within 60 calendar days; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Res. 186. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Ms. LEE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VELA, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 187. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. MENG, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 188. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to promoting energy security of European allies through the opening of the Southern Gas Corridor; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 1641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 1642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution—known as the Commerce Clause, and Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 1644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 1645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, sec. 8 cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art.1 Sec. 8 cl. 18)

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 1647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 1648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 1649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Medicare is a health care program under current law that is operated by the federal government. This bill would improve the efficiency, accessibility and fairness of the operations of this federal program, especially the purchase of services and freedom to contract between doctors and Medicare recipients. This bill directly affects interstate commerce, which Congress has the power to regulate under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 1651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 1655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 1, under the "Power To lay and collect Taxes";

Amd. 16, under the "power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration";

Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 4, under the power "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization"; and

Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 18, under the power to "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ROTHFUS:

H.R. 1660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States "[t]o regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. ROTHFUS:

H.R. 1661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States "[t]o regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 and Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to the Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 1664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 1665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 1666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

“ . . . and provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . . ”

“ . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . . ”

This legislation seeks to reform federal government contracting procedures under Section 3309 of title 41, U.S. Code.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 1667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 1668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause), which confers on Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to enact this legislation.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 1671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 1672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, the Congress shall have the power “[t]o regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 1675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is being introduced in order to amend ERISA—which was passed based on a combination of Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 (commerce clause) and Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 (the necessary and proper clause).

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 1680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The United States Constitution:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 1681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I Sec. 8

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: Congress shall have the Power to . . . coin Money, regulate the

Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures . . .

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 1684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Commercial Activity Regulation

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause. The bill is constitutionally authorized under the Necessary and Proper Clause, which supports the expansion of congressional authority beyond the explicit authorities that are directly discernible from the text.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 1686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 3 and 18.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 1688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 1689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of Particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 1692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is authorized to enact this legislation under the Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, “to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.” Additionally, Congress has the authority to enact



this legislation pursuant to the Preamble of the Constitution, "to promote the general welfare."

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 1693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18:

"The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carry into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 1694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States." The Parental Notification and Intervention Act specifically establishes a federal nexus in that it applies to "any person or organization in or affecting interstate commerce."

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The Parental Notification and Intervention Act also establishes a federal nexus in that it specifically applies "any person or organization . . . who solicits or accepts federal funds." The power to appropriate money and make laws to execute this power, gives Congress the authority to make laws affecting persons or entities that accept federal funds.

By Ms. GRAHAM:

H.R. 1696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 1697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 1698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin,

and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 1699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Amendment X—Nothing in the Constitution authorizes the Federal government to do anything other than those things enumerated (coin money, enter into treaties, conduct a Census—which are inherently governmental). Thus, under Amendment X, the right to carry out commercial activities is reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JORDAN:

H.R. 1701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 1705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 1706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 1707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which reads: to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and within Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 1711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, which states, "The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 1712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 & Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 1714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.R. 1715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to "establish a uniform rule of naturalization."

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 1716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 1717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 1718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, impost, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution ("The Congress shall have the Power of Congress to dispose of and make all

needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .").

By Ms. SINEMA:

H.R. 1720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 1723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 1724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 1725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 1726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

AND

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 1727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MARINO:

H.J. Res. 39.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution . . . which . . . shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof.

By Mr. MARINO:

H.J. Res. 40.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution . . . which . . . shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.J. Res. 41.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution, which grants Congress the authority, whenever two thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, to propose amendments to the Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 24: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 121: Mr. Russell.

H.R. 131: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 156: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 160: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 167: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 200: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 232: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 235: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 267: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 292: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 313: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 413: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 423: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 463: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 465: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 472: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 511: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 542: Mr. WALZ and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 546: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 572: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 592: Mr. PETERS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 594: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 597: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 612: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 625: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 628: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 650: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 656: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 661: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 681: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 685: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 696: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 703: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 704: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 711: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 712: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 723: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 727: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 735: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 738: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FARR, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 766: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 767: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 797: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 816: Mr. MICA, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 824: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 845: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 893: Mr. STEWART, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. HILL, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MICA, Mr. TURNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DENT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LOEBACK, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 903: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 911: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 928: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BOST, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 973: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 981: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 985: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 990: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 999: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SENBRENNER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1062: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1088: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1089: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1091: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1095: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 1101: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1105: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 1139: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 1143: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1148: Mr. BABIN and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1174: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1192: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POMPEO, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1194: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1195: Mr. MESSER.  
 H.R. 1199: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. HANNA.  
 H.R. 1215: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1218: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
 H.R. 1221: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. VIS-CLOSKY.  
 H.R. 1247: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. LOBIONDO.  
 H.R. 1250: Mr. GOHMERT and Mr. FORTEN-BERRY.  
 H.R. 1266: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
 H.R. 1269: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. FORBES.  
 H.R. 1288: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 1295: Mr. REED.  
 H.R. 1298: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. HARRIS.  
 H.R. 1300: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 1301: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BARLETTA.  
 H.R. 1314: Mr. REED.  
 H.R. 1323: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.  
 H.R. 1331: Mr. ASHFORD.  
 H.R. 1338: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORTEN-BERRY, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. ROTHFUS.  
 H.R. 1342: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
 H.R. 1344: Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 1346: Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 1365: Mr. BABIN, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. BYRNE.  
 H.R. 1387: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. ABRAHAM.  
 H.R. 1391: Ms. HAHN.  
 H.R. 1397: Mr. BLUM.  
 H.R. 1413: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 1427: Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 1435: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H.R. 1462: Mr. BARR, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. YARMUTH.  
 H.R. 1466: Mr. CAPUANO.  
 H.R. 1470: Mr. BENISHEK.  
 H.R. 1479: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mrs. WAGNER.  
 H.R. 1492: Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 1500: Mr. YOHO.  
 H.R. 1506: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.  
 H.R. 1511: Mr. MESSER.  
 H.R. 1529: Mr. POSEY.  
 H.R. 1530: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. KING of New York.  
 H.R. 1538: Ms. NORTON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. HANNA.  
 H.R. 1545: Mr. PIERLUISI.  
 H.R. 1548: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. SPEIER.  
 H.R. 1552: Ms. GABBARD.  
 H.R. 1553: Mr. BLUM and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.  
 H.R. 1559: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1567: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 1585: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 1594: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. TAKAI.  
 H.R. 1599: Mr. LONG, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
 H.R. 1619: Mr. CLAY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. PIERLUISI.  
 H.R. 1622: Mr. HONDA.  
 H.R. 1627: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
 H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BILL-RAKIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ROSKAM.  
 H. Res. 28: Mr. SIRES, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
 H. Res. 54: Ms. GABBARD.  
 H. Res. 102: Mr. HASTINGS.  
 H. Res. 122: Mr. PERRY.  
 H. Res. 154: Mr. WALZ.

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#### PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

7. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Robbinsdale, Minnesota, relative to Resolution No. 7402, opposing the proposed CP-BNSF connection because of the significant impact it would have to public safety, commerce, and quality of life; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**SENATE—Thursday, March 26, 2015**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Master of our hopes and dreams, who constantly works for the good of those who love You, teach us to strive to be faithful. As we anticipate a long and challenging day, remind us that You call us not to success but to faithfulness.

Give our Senators and the members of their staffs the wisdom to make the commitment to be true to You and to serve Your purposes. Let not discordant notes destroy the melody of their labors as they seek Your counsel and wisdom.

Lord, guide our great Nation. Help it to be a lighthouse to a dark and turbulent world. Prosper the works of our hands until the kingdoms of this world become the springboard for Your eternal reign.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

**A BALANCED BUDGET**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for years, the Democrat-led Senate refused to pass a balanced budget. It usually failed to produce any budget at all. Maybe this made the special interests happy, but it was infuriating for many in the middle class. These Americans called for change.

Today, a Senate under new management is delivering that change. The new Senate is prepared to pass a balanced budget with ideas that could boost jobs, raise annual wages by as much as \$5,000 per family, and drive economic growth for hard-working Americans. That is what the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office tells us, and it is no wonder.

This balanced budget would embrace the energy revolution and allow for

more environmentally responsible innovations. It would repeal unfair taxes such as those in ObamaCare and set the table for more comprehensive replacement of the outdated Tax Code with one that is simpler and more effective. And it would provide tools finally to repeal and replace ObamaCare itself, leaving the law's higher costs and broken promises where they belong—in the past—in favor of a fresh start and the opportunity for real health reform.

So while this balanced budget might upset special interests, that is OK, because it is focused on the middle class instead. It is focused on helping the most vulnerable too.

Here is what we know about important programs such as Medicare. We can make commonsense improvements to save these programs today or we can allow draconian cuts to fall on the most vulnerable in the years ahead. These are essentially our only two options. We can't tax the problem away. Denying the facts won't help either.

So we invite all of our friends to join us as positive reformers, not insensitive deniers. Let's work together to improve Medicaid as this balanced budget proposes. While our balanced budget cannot solve every challenge, it will move us further down the path of positive reform. It will make government more efficient, more effective, and more accountable to the middle class.

The budget also contains a good-faith compromise to begin the legislative process for the Defense authorization bill we will consider later this year, when additional OCO funds can be prudently reallocated against the actual procurement and modernization needs of our military, if only for the coming fiscal year. This is the best strategy, short of revising the BCA, for keeping faith with our armed services, and it is the best option we currently have for leaving the next President in a better position to face global challenges.

So I wish to thank Chairman ENZI for all of his good work in putting this balanced budget together. It certainly wasn't easy. It is a good balanced budget that everyone should want to support.

That is especially true when we compare it to the other alternatives here. It is the only alternative, actually, since our friends still don't seem to be in the habit of producing a budget of their own.

The alternative on offer was the budget we voted on Tuesday from President Obama. Someone called it the left's dream budget. But that dream ended up being so unserious and embarrassing that not more than a sin-

gle Democrat could muster the courage to vote for it. In a way, it is hard to blame our friends. It would be pretty embarrassing and insensitive to support a budget that contains trillions more in overspending, almost \$2 trillion more in taxes, and hardly any serious ideas to save the programs for the most vulnerable.

No wonder this budget went down in flames 98 to 1—98 to 1. That was the vote on the President's budget. That 98, by the way, was against the President's budget.

So only one budget remains. It is a balanced budget that will focus on growth, common sense, and the middle class. It isn't perfect, but it does represent honest compromise and the promise of a better tomorrow.

If Senators would prefer to amend it, they will have that opportunity this evening. Members of both parties will be able to offer amendments. I know many of our friends across the aisle are eager to do that. Republicans will have their chance too. There is a lot we expect to consider.

For instance, do Senators want to be seen supporting a policy that costs up to a million jobs or will they stand tall for American jobs instead? Will Senators support more tired tax hikes or will they support the jobs those higher taxes threaten to destroy? And do Senators want to raise the cost of energy or do they want to see the American people reap benefits of our energy revolution?

So tonight, the American people will have their voices heard again in the Senate under new management. They will see a new Congress that is back to work again and on their behalf. After considering all of these amendments, we will take a vote. When the budget passes, we will conference with the House. That is how this process has worked historically. It is what the American people have a right to expect now, and that is what we hope to see again shortly.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

**THE VOTE-ARAMA**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Republican leader leaves, in the weather reports today, they forecast snow starting late today. Maybe that will calm down the generosity of the offering of amendments today, because snow is going to continue until tomorrow.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would say to my friend, the Democratic leader, the history of this exercise is that the lateness of the evening affects the number of amendments we have, and we will finish the process just as early as Members would like to finish the process.

I know the Democratic leader and I both look forward to it.

### THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation between Senator SANDERS and Senator ENZI in our arriving at the point we are now. The Republicans have a totally different vision of what the country is and should be than we have, but the debate between these two good Senators has been civil. It has been very polite. It is the way things should happen around here. So I appreciate that very much.

The Republican budget makes clear the priorities of the Republicans. Republicans would get two-thirds of their cuts from low-income Americans, but they would not plug one single loophole for corporations or the rich—and I mean the mega rich—not a penny. They would double down on harmful sequestration, which is when automatic cuts occur across the board. We know how disastrous this has been.

For the 1 year it was in effect—take, for example, the National Institutes of Health—almost \$2 billion they lost that 1 year.

On the floor is the senior Senator from the State of Illinois. I have heard him speak here on the floor about what a difficult time the people at NIH are having because they don't have enough money to do basic research. The sequestration that was put upon us last time caused the NIH to stop their research on a universal flu vaccine. Hundreds of thousands of people die around the world every year, and tens of thousands of people die every year in the United States because of flu. They were close to having a universal flu vaccine that would take care of this.

Sequestration is awful. It is part of the Republican budget. They are doubling down on this harmful sequestration on health, education, and even national defense.

Talk about a gimmick. This is a doozy, what they are trying to do with defense, to try to pretend they are going to put \$38 billion more in the Defense budget. But it is pretend, because even looking at the Republican budget, it is not possible to do. Once even the Republican hawks look at this, they will say: Well, maybe we are not going to get that \$38 billion.

So their budget has lots of gimmicks—lots of gimmicks. It has been written about all over the country in editorials from east to west and from north to south.

Fortunately for the country, the Republican budget will not become law.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

Pending:

Enzi (for Kirk) amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.

Rounds/Inhofe amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties.

Rubio modified amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050).

Daines amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments.

Daines amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget.

Moran amendment No. 356, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran.

Roberts/Flake amendment No. 352, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Federal employee performance awards.

Roberts amendment No. 462, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to over-the-counter medications.

Vitter amendment No. 515, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty.

Vitter amendment No. 811, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Gardner amendment No. 443, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Coats/Warner amendment No. 595, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Coats amendment No. 368, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to pro-

viding States the Medicaid flexibility they need to implement innovative reforms to improve care and enhance access for our Nation's most vulnerable.

Daines amendment No. 465, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Second Amendment rights.

Daines amendment No. 387, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to postal reform.

Wyden/Crapo amendment No. 434, to provide for an adjustment to committee allocations for wildfire suppression funding.

Paul amendment No. 940, to increase new budget authority for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050) with offsets.

Sanders (for Murray/Alexander) amendment No. 697, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation that reforms and strengthens elementary and secondary education.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 798, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time.

Sanders (for Cantwell) amendment No. 800, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a comprehensive approach to crude-by-rail safety.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 812, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide women with affordable access to comprehensive health care, including preventive services (such as contraception and breast cancer screenings), improve maternal health, and ensure that a woman has the same benefits and services no matter what part of the United States she lives in, all of which is critical to improving the health and well-being of women, children, their families, and society as a whole, and is an essential part of a woman's economic security and opportunity.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 951, to establish and fund a new Federal-State partnership to expand access to high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families, offset with revenue from closing loopholes.

Sanders (for Durbin/Coons) amendment No. 345, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for Federal investments in biomedical and basic scientific research.

Sanders (for Durbin) amendment No. 817, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide tax benefits to patriot employers that invest in American jobs and provide fair pay and benefits to workers and to eliminate tax benefits for corporations that ship jobs or profits overseas.

McCain/Flake amendment No. 360, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Wyden/Bennet amendment No. 708, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education to boost student attendance and completion.

Wyden amendment No. 791, to strike reconciliation instructions to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Finance and require regular order.

Wyden amendment No. 870, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to extending tax provisions expiring in 2013 or 2014 for 2 years, such as those contained in the EXPIRE Act of 2014.

Heller amendment No. 453, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of Transportation

prioritizes the construction of projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors on the National Highway System, which will improve the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods through the United States and facilitate economic development and create jobs in the United States.

Heller amendment No. 452, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of the Interior enters into candidate conservation agreements with each of the relevant 11 Western States before the United States Fish and Wildlife Service makes a listing determination on the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Heller amendment No. 457, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibition of Veterans Benefits Administration executive bonuses until the backlog of disability claims for veterans is eliminated.

Heller amendment No. 456, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the privacy, dignity, and safety needs of women veterans.

Coons/Bennet amendment No. 343, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preserving mandatory appropriations for agricultural conservation programs.

Coons amendment No. 391, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the expansion of access to the income tax credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

Coons/Rubio amendment No. 392, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts while students are in elementary school and secondary school.

Coons amendment No. 394, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies.

Coons amendment No. 802, to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Baldwin amendment No. 432, to provide additional resources to create the opportunity for more Americans to obtain a higher education and advanced job skills by supporting two free years of community college paid for by raising revenue through requiring millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.

Baldwin amendment No. 436, to preserve the point of order against reconciliation legislation that would increase the deficit or reduce a surplus.

Manchin amendment No. 694, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development.

Manchin amendment No. 578, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States.

Whitehouse amendment No. 700, to ensure high-income earners pay a fair share in taxes and to use the revenue to invest in repairing our Nation's bridges, coastal infrastructure, and damage from wildfires.

Whitehouse/Udall amendment No. 867, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to making it more difficult for corporations and billionaires to secretly influence elections by making unlimited undisclosed campaign expenditures, and to prevent such entities from evading campaign finance law, including through making false statements to government agencies.

Whitehouse amendment No. 895, to prohibit budget resolutions that support cutting

over \$1,000,000,000,000 in spending without identifying specific programmatic effects.

Casey amendment No. 632, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

Casey amendment No. 633, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing the child and dependent care tax credit.

Merkley/Coons amendment No. 842, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to consumer financial protection.

Merkley amendment No. 843, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to restoring reductions in the Republican budget to the Stafford loan program that would mandate that students currently in college pay interest on their loans before they have received their education benefits, to make college more affordable, to reduce the debt burden of students, and to help graduates afford to pay back student loans.

Merkley/Brown amendment No. 952, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a more level playing field in trade agreements.

Merkley amendment No. 953, to save student financial aid and reduce the student loan debt levels in the Republican budget by 15 percent by eliminating new mandated interest charged while students are still in school.

Blumenthal amendment No. 825, to expand the deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Cassidy amendment No. 341, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the promotion of United States offshore energy production.

Cassidy amendment No. 539, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving Medicaid based on successful and bipartisan State demonstration projects.

Cassidy amendment No. 795, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to authorizing Federal permitting for manufacturing and energy construction projects relating to national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone lower than a certain existing standard.

Coons (for Bennet) amendment No. 715, to create clean energy jobs through predictable and fair incentives for renewable energy.

Murkowski (for Thune) amendment No. 607, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for the permanent elimination of the Federal estate tax.

Murkowski (for Thune) amendment No. 743, to reduce funding for the General Services Administration by \$1,000,000 until 50 percent of counties in nonattainment for the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone as of January 30, 2015, achieve the air quality standard set forth in the 1997 NAAQS, and direct those funds to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of helping municipalities reach attainment with the 2008 NAAQS for ground-level ozone, acknowledging that (1) given limited State and Federal resources and the delay of the Administrator in issuing to States implementation guidance for the 2008 ground-level ozone NAAQS, priority should be given to achieving the 2008 standard, (2) the Administrator has not sufficiently implemented that standard, (3) focusing by the Administrator on the most polluted areas that are in nonattainment with that standard would benefit public health, and (4) promulgating a lower standard at this time would impose undue costs on the economy and workforce of the United States.

Murkowski/Sullivan amendment No. 838, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.

Murkowski amendment No. 770, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 485, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 490, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community banks.

Gardner (for Ayotte) amendment No. 852, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing small business regulatory relief and preventing duplicative regulations for investment advisors.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this has been an important week for the Senate as we work to set spending goals for our Nation. Before this year, the Senate has only been able to pass two budgets in the past 6 years. Now that Congress is under new management, we are on track to pass a budget after only 3 months.

The reason we are working so hard is to restore the trust of the American people, who want and deserve more effective and efficient government. This week, as part of the Senate's regular order, we have been debating and offering amendments and have actually voted more than a dozen times on how best to set spending limits and make government live within its means, including votes to protect property rights of all Americans and to save Medicare.

The spending goals and limits we have set are why passing a budget is so important to our Nation. They let congressional policymakers who actually allocate the dollars get to work by following our spending limits. Without that, they are delayed.

We have had that situation for a number of years, in which the fiscal year actually ends and we don't have the spending bills done. That is what happens with government shutdowns. That is what happens with extending its ability to operate without having a budget. That shouldn't happen.

So we want to get a budget passed by April 15 so that the spending committees can get busy looking at their areas of jurisdiction, their specific areas of interest, to come up with the best policies possible that have a total spending package that will keep government operating and meeting its objectives as the people expect.

But today is the day for which we all have been waiting. Today the Senate will begin voting on many amendments offered this week by way of what is affectionately known as a vote-arama. We will start voting early this afternoon, and we will continue until we are exhausted, until we are done, until people think their amendments have been



covered sufficiently. That is the way we do it in the Senate.

The Senate debate on this balanced budget demonstrates that Congress is doing its part to deliver a healthy economy for each and every American. The important first steps we have taken this week will help deliver a government that is more accountable, which is absolutely essential for strong job growth and job creation. This budget will help every American who wants to find a good-paying job and a fulfilling career.

I am incredibly proud of my colleagues who are working together to deliver real solutions, real results, and real progress for hard-working taxpayers.

I find this a little bit stressful. I am an accountant. I have found a way to escape some of that tension. I have been reading the Tax Code, and it is time for us to reform the Tax Code. There are hundreds of pages on minor decisions, on different ways of calculating it, and I am excited that we are going to do that. One of the things both sides of the aisle have talked about is speculation on tax reform. Tax reform needs to be done in a bipartisan way. I know the chairman of the Finance Committee and the ranking member on the Finance Committee have already been working on it. We have subgroups set up to solve different parts of the Tax Code, and I am confident we can do that. There are general instructions in the budget bill that allow some latitude to the Finance Committee in a number of different ways, and I am hoping we can wind up with a simpler Tax Code, one that will not take care of my frustrations in future years, but will ease the frustrations of the American people as to taxes.

There has been a lot of speculation on where budget cuts are being made. I know there is a lot of frustration on the other side. Our budget sets limits for the different spending groups. It doesn't get into the details. The people who know the details in those areas are on the committees, and they can make better decisions than we as the Budget Committee can make. I do point out frequently that part of my discovery during this process was that there are 260 programs whose authorizations have expired. That means the specific committees that came up with the idea for these programs haven't looked at them for some time, and that didn't stop us from going ahead and funding them anyway. They have expired, but in some cases we are spending four times as much as what was originally envisioned for that particular program. Does it amount to much money? It amounts to \$293 billion a year—\$293 billion a year. If the committees do their work, there is a lot of money available for the areas outside of defense.

Defense has its authorization done every year, so they are in a different

category from all of the rest of the Federal Government programs. So if you are thinking there are a lot of hands tied on what can be done, there is \$293 billion out there that is being spent that has expired and ought to be looked at. In businesses, they have to look at their expenses every single year and see where they can cut in order to continue the business. Around here one of those programs hasn't been looked at since 1983.

So there is a lot of work for us to do. It is all included in the budget. I hope we can finish the budget tonight and put everybody to work on these extra tasks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I heard my friend from Wyoming say he is relieving his stress over the budget by reading the Tax Code. In my religion, when you go to confession, you are given a penance for your sins. I cannot think of a more awesome penance than reading the Tax Code. I certainly hope it gives my friend from Wyoming a good frame of mind as he attacks this vote-arama.

I am going to be brief because our ranking member on the budget has arrived on the floor, but I do want to say this: Budgets make choices, and there are one or two choices—certainly more than one or two but one or two that I would like to highlight that I think are worrisome.

The Republican budget eliminates health insurance for 27 million Americans. That is 9 percent of people in America who would lose their health insurance protection because of the Republican budget. Part of it is the passionate refusal of the Republicans to accept the Affordable Care Act, which now in itself protects 15 to 16 million Americans. We have said to them, if you don't like the Affordable Care Act, give us an alternative, and they have yet to do so—and, frankly, because it is fairly difficult, as it was passing this bill. But to take health insurance away from 27 million Americans and say that is going to make a better life for working families? No, it will not. It will make a bigger challenge for these families which will be extremely difficult.

Secondly, I am worried and I think other Members from both sides of the aisle share concerns about sequestration cuts when it comes to areas such as biomedical research. How in the world can we justify cutting research from the National Institutes of Health to find cures for diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes—the list goes on. If we believe we are making a better America by cutting back research and innovation, particularly biomedical research, it is extremely shortsighted. When I take a look at the 200 or so pending amendments on budget resolution, it looks like there are 10

of them—including one I am going to offer—relative to medical research. Democrats and Republicans are saying spare this area of Federal spending. I would like to propose that all of us who share this goal on both sides of the aisle join in an effort to make sure this is treated differently in our budget. It shouldn't be subject to mindless and deep cuts in biomedical research, which will deny to a lot of suffering people the hope they need and deny cures that will not only save lives but save dramatic amounts of money.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, when we look at budgets, we look essentially at two things. First off, we look at what the budget actually does, because it is a set of priorities, and we look at what the budget does not do.

Any sensible group of people, whether it is a family, whether it is local government, State government, whether it is a business—people sit around the table and say, OK, these are our needs, this is what we have to address or this is no longer relevant or this is wasteful and we have to get rid of it. That is what a budget process is about.

When you examine the Republican budget, it almost seems they turn that equation upside down and they do everything we should not be doing and they don't do what we should be doing. The overall reality of America that most people understand is the middle class of this country for the last 40 years has been shrinking. Yes, we are in a lot better shape today than we were when President Bush left office, but real unemployment is 11 percent. We have the highest rate of childhood poverty in the industrialized world. Despite the modest gains to the Affordable Care Act, 35 million Americans still have no health insurance. Millions of families—whether it is in Nevada or Vermont—are wondering how in God's name they are going to be able to send their kids to college when school is so expensive. What happens to those young people when they leave school deeply in debt?

People are working in Vermont, in Nevada, in Wyoming for horrendously low wages because we have a minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, and people are wondering why it is that they work 40 hours a week and still have to go to the emergency food shelf to put food on the table. Those are some of the issues the American people are talking about and they are thinking about, and they wonder, How does it happen that while they are working longer hours for low wages, the people on top and the large profitable corporations are doing phenomenally well? How does it happen that in the last 2 years, 14 of the wealthiest people in this country have seen a \$157 billion increase in their wealth? How does it happen that one

family, the Walton family, owns more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of the American people? How does it happen that 99 percent of all new income generated in America since the Wall Street crash goes to the top 1 percent?

Those are the issues the American people are wondering about. Why, with an increase in productivity, am I working longer hours for lower wages? Why, if I am a woman worker, do I make 78 cents on the dollar compared to a male worker? Those are the questions.

Then you look at the Republican budget. The Republican budget does nothing to address the real problems except to make them worse. One of the problems, to be very frank, and works to the Republicans' advantage—and I have to say this, frankly—the Republican budget is so outrageous that when we explain it, people don't believe what we are saying. Senator DURBIN made the point—no debate here—if I am wrong, somebody jump up and correct me. The Republican budget eliminates the Affordable Care Act, right? It does that, and 16 million Americans lose their health insurance—16 million people have no health insurance. But that is not enough. The Republican budget cuts over \$400 billion in Medicaid. That is another 11 million people losing their health insurance—16 plus 11 is 27 million people losing health insurance.

Does anybody in America think that makes any sense at all? These are men, women, children. You cut Medicaid and you throw people off. These are pregnant women who need to go to the doctor to make sure the baby they are carrying is healthy or little babies who are born. That is what they do.

But meanwhile, here is something they do not do. When they get up there and say this budget does not include any tax increases, they are right. I can see that. They are right. But what they are really saying is: We will not—we will never ask the billionaires in this country to pay a nickel more in taxes. We will not ask the one out of four major corporations that pay nothing in taxes to start paying their fair share of taxes. We will make it harder for kids to go to college, we will throw people off of health insurance, but we will not ask the rich and the powerful to pay more in taxes.

That is what this budget debate is about, and I hope the American people pay attention to that.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 689

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 689.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 689.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the dynamic scoring provision)

On page 104, line 16, after "shall provide" insert "", in addition to the estimate of budgetary effects without macroeconomic effects, an estimate of the budgetary effects from changes in economic output, employment, capital stock, interest rates, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from the major legislation and"

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we had an energetic discussion this morning about the budget that is before us. The amendment I am going to offer will help us have a better process to get to pro-growth tax reform to actually get this economy growing.

My colleague, Senator SANDERS, talked about the fact that real unemployment is far higher than the numbers that are officially reported. I agree with him on that. I agree with him that the economy is not out of the woods, and I agree with him that a lot of people are left behind and will continue to be until we get this economy growing the way you normally see an economy grow during a recovery. It is the weakest economic recovery, economists tell us, since the Great Depression; that is, measured in terms of economic growth, GDP, and in terms of job growth.

So what this budget does is it puts in place the process for us to actually get pro-growth on policies: yes, on health care; yes, on taxes, on regulations, and so on to be able to move the economy forward. It was President John F. Kennedy who said that "a rising tide lifts all boats." Now, some people get stuck on the shoals and we need to take care of them too. That is why this budget also has a strong safety net necessary to get economic growth—not sufficient but necessary. That is what this budget does.

By the way, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office—not the Republicans, not I—the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office looks at this budget and says, you know what. By balancing the budget in 10 years—balancing the budget—therefore, reducing the amount of deficits and the huge debt overhang—a record level of debt we have in our country right now—that will result in more economic growth and more jobs. That is what the Congressional Budget Office said. So this notion that somehow by actually dealing with the debt and deficit and by actually having a balanced budget is bad for the economy—it is just the opposite. This is a first but incredibly important step to getting this economy

back on track and to bringing back these jobs.

By the way, this is about not just economic growth but about better jobs, about rising wages, and it is about getting to a situation where instead of having wages going down—which is what has been happening over the last 6 years—we can actually see wages go up. On average, wages have gone down about 8 percent. So for working families in Ohio and around this country, we have seen wages go down 8 percent. By the way, half of that reduction in wages came during the so-called recovery. So something is not working. Part of what is not working is running these hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit every year and spending more than this place takes in every year and building up these levels of debt that are unprecedented—over \$18 trillion.

We did vote on the President's budget yesterday. It is the only alternative we have to be able to compare what this side of the aisle wants to do and what the other side of the aisle wants to do. In the budget the President put out, there was an \$8 trillion increase—increase—in the debt over the next 10 years. That is adding to the over \$7 trillion of debt that has been added over the last 6 years under the Obama administration. That may be why not a lot of people voted for the budget that the President presented. In fact, only one person did—1 out of 100. The reason is, it adds so much more debt and so much more in annual deficits that it actually puts that wet blanket over the economy and doesn't enable us to see the economic growth we want.

So one element of growth, as the chairman of the Budget Committee talked about this morning, is tax reform. I think everybody acknowledges that our Tax Code is antiquated. It is out of date. It is inefficient. It does not let us compete around the world. So workers in Ohio are competing with one hand tied behind their backs because our Tax Code is so inefficient that it does not let them compete effectively around the world.

So let's reform the Tax Code. Everybody who looks at it—economists right, left, or center—agrees the Tax Code does not work. They have different ideas on how to fix it, but they all say: if you could fix this Tax Code, you would see more growth.

By the way, you would see not just more jobs but better jobs. If you look at the issue of business tax reform—there is actually a lot of similarity between what the administration is talking about and what Members of Congress on my side of the aisle are talking about. The economic analysis there is that the No. 1 impact of having the highest business tax rate in all the developed world is on wages and benefits. The No. 1 beneficiary will be workers because they are going to see their wages go up and they are going to see

their benefits go up. These are the middle-class jobs we want to create in this country.

So let's have this tax reform. Let's make sure it is pro-growth.

Now back to this amendment and why it is so important to that. This is an amendment that says: Let's require the Joint Committee on Taxation—that is the group who handles scoring those tax reform proposals—to give us the right analysis so we can come up with pro-job, pro-growth tax reform that will actually enable us to bring back these good middle-class jobs. That is what this amendment says. It requires them to provide us what is called macroeconomic scoring.

Right now, unbelievably, when you provide a tax reform proposal on the floor of the Senate, what you get back is just a static score that has no relationship to what the impact will be on the economy. It assumes there will be zero impact on the economy. Now, nobody believes that. Everyone knows tax changes will have some impact on the economy—good, bad, indifferent—yet we do not have that information to be able to ensure that we are writing the right tax reform to get to the result we all want. It seems absurd, I know, but that is the current situation.

What this amendment says is, let's have a requirement that the Joint Committee on Taxation provide to the Senate a dynamic score, a macroeconomic score. By the way, they already do it. They already have a model to do it. They just do not provide it to us. Would there be a so-called static score, too, that shows no economic changes? Yes, you would have that too. I cannot imagine that any Member of this body, Republican or Democrat, would not want to have that information, would not want to know what the actual impact is on the economy.

Think about this: If McDonald's raises the price of its Big Mac to \$10 or \$12, what is going to happen? Under a static score, it would say: McDonald's will get more revenue. We know what will happen. We will not go to McDonald's and our kids will not go to McDonald's because it is too expensive. The revenue will go down.

We need to have that kind of commonsense analysis here on the floor of the Senate so we can, indeed, put forward tax reform that makes sense for the economy and makes sense to the American people and helps to do precisely what Senator SANDERS talks about, which is to get that unemployment number down and provide better jobs, higher paying jobs. If we do not do that, we are letting down the people we are elected to represent.

I hope this amendment No. 689 is supported by Democrats and Republicans alike as a commonsense approach to this. Let's apply macroeconomic analysis to anything that is a tax reform proposal over \$15 billion. That is the

right level. The House has similar analysis in their legislation, so this could actually end up being something on which the House and Senate can agree.

Let's ensure that we have the information we need to write the right kind of legislation to get this economy moving and to deal with both sides of the coin. One, spending restraint—and we all know that has to happen—and two, growth, get this economy moving. If we do that, we will see more gross revenues and be able to make this objective we have set out in this budget, which is to actually, for the American people, who cannot understand why we cannot do it, balance this budget. They have to balance their budgets. We have to in our families. We have to in our businesses. We have to in our States. We ought to do it here in the Congress as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from West Virginia.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 415 AND 416 EN BLOC

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendments Nos. 415 and 416 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 415

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to a requirement that any new environmental agreement signed by the United States with any foreign country or countries not result in serious harm to the economy of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO A REQUIREMENT THAT ANY NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY NOT RESULT IN SERIOUS HARM TO THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a requirement that any new environmental agreement signed by the United States with any foreign country or countries not result in serious harm to the economy of the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 416

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to briefly address these two amendments. The first amendment simply says that the United States should not sign an international environmental agreement that would do serious harm to our own economy. That commonsense principle passed the Senate by a vote of 95 to 0 in 1997.

Last year, the administration announced the climate agreement with China. That agreement requires significant short-term carbon emission reductions here in the United States, but China is allowed to continue increasing its carbon emissions until 2030. That disparity could place the United States at a significant economic disadvantage. In November, global talks began in Paris on a broader international agreement.

My amendment simply states what every Senator who voted in 1997 said: No agreement should cause serious harm to the American economy.

My second amendment protects the reliability of our electricity grid. North American Electric Reliability Corporation released a report that found that the targets set forward in the President's Clean Power Plan will be difficult if not impossible to achieve without degrading the reliability of the grid.

We all want to have our lights turn on and our heat and air-conditioning work. This is in peril. My amendment simply makes sure families and businesses have the reliable electricity they expect by blocking the EPA from finalizing, proposing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid.

I ask my colleagues to support these amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 437

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up Peters amendment No. 437.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 437.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENHANCING AND IMPROVING THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE APPLICATION BACKLOG.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, the amendment that I have just called up that is pending before the Senate deals with what I think is a critical issue for this country; that is, making sure we can continue to move forward with innovation to grow the economy.

There certainly are many debates that are going to be held as to how we get the productivity in this country to increase, how we create more middle-class jobs and grow the economy from the top to the bottom. But I think there is broad consensus that what has really driven our economy—really through the centuries but certainly most recently in the United States—has been innovation. It is about innovation, creating the next big thing, the big products that transform people's lives. In order to do that, companies that come up with these ideas need to have patent protection so that the effort they put into that product, the money they put into that product, they are able to protect as they market that product and get a return on their investments. Unfortunately, however, the backlog of patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has become completely unacceptable.

The America Invents Act made a number of very important changes to our patent system that targeted the reducing of the backlog and driving innovation. At the time that act was passed, there were more than 700,000 patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Those applica-

tions had an average review time of 3 years or longer before the applications were granted patent protection. Three years is simply an unacceptable amount of time to wait as these inventors who are trying to get their patent protections—they have to wait several years before they can bring those products to the market and have the protections of patents.

What makes it even more unacceptable is that these folks who are applying for these patents pay a user fee. They pay a fee in order to have this work done. Yet, with sequestration and other types of budget maneuvering, the patent office actually cannot fully utilize the fees that are generated by the people who are paying these fees. So, in a sense, this is an innovation tax. People who are innovating pay a tax while they are innovating, when what we should be doing is accelerating their ability to bring these products to market, create jobs, and advance the economy.

The backlog now, after the passage of the act, still stands at 600,000, with an average review time of 2.3 years. So we have made some progress, but we still have a long way to go.

So in order to reduce the patent application backlog, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office needs the ability to access all of the fees it receives in order to hire additional examiners and administrative patent judges. That is what this amendment before us does—it gives the patent office the resources it needs in order to do its job effectively. The end result is a stronger American economy. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 521

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and call up Peters amendment No. 521.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 521.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in science, technology, and basic research in the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND BASIC RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolu-

tions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to investment in science, technology, and basic research in the United States, which may include educational or research and development initiatives, public-private partnerships, or other programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, this amendment is similar to the previous amendment in that it focuses on innovation. It focuses on what this country does best, which is create new products and advance the knowledge with scientific discoveries and new inventions.

This amendment, however, deals specifically with scientific discovery and technological breakthroughs that drive our economy. We have known throughout human history that the drivers of that have been the big breakthroughs, whether it is the cotton gin or the internal combustion engine or the railroads. These have been inventions that have transformed the entire planet.

We need to continue to have those innovations, but in order to do that, we need to invest in basic scientific research. Investments in basic research have resulted in countless innovations that improve our day-to-day lives and support the Nation's overall productivity and competitiveness.

The Federal Government has long played a crucial role. This has always been, in the past, a very bipartisan issue, that the Federal Government invest in this basic, cutting-edge research and development. However, we have seen a very I think disturbing trend over the last few decades as R&D spending has fallen. The amount of money which the Federal Government puts into basic scientific research now is less than 1 percent of GDP. This is simply unacceptable. We have to look at basic scientific research as the seed corn for our economy. We need to invest in seed corn so we can harvest the rewards of that investment.

This amendment would strengthen Congress's ongoing commitment to responsibly increasing investments in science, technology, and basic research and help ensure U.S. science and technology leadership in an increasingly competitive world.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment to show our commitment to investing in basic scientific research so we can continue to make the U.S. economy the strongest in the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 639

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and call up Peters amendment No. 639.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. PETERS] proposes an amendment numbered 639.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING TRADE AND TRAVEL AT PORTS OF ENTRY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry, which may include construction at ports of entry or increased staffing at ports of entry, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, this amendment deals with another critical aspect of growing our economy. Certainly innovation and basic scientific research are the real drivers of long-term economic growth, but another very important aspect of that is international trade. The United States has the best workers in the world. We have the best entrepreneurs. We have the best innovators. We need to be in a position that we can continue to promote trade across the world.

So I rise to offer an amendment that will support trade and travel through our U.S. ports of entry. As we all know, trade and travel drive economic development. In fact, they generate over \$2 trillion in economic impact and support nearly 15 million jobs nationwide. However, it is unfortunate to say that many of our busiest ports of entry are in need of modernization in order to safely and efficiently process travelers and goods.

I speak about this with firsthand experience. In Michigan, our manufacturers and agricultural producers rely on efficient trade with Canada, which is our Nation's largest export market, our top customer, as well as our closest ally. However, existing infrastructure at our ports of entry often does not allow for the most efficient processing of trucks and cargo. We have two major crossings in Detroit—in Windsor, Canada, as well as Port Huron in Sarnia. Both of those trade areas need additional investment in their customs plazas to efficiently handle the trade between our two countries.

Those investments are important investments in the future of this country and important in order to make sure

we continue to expand trade and economic activity. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. First, Mr. President, I thank Senator PETERS for the amendments he just offered. We had a hearing in the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee in regard to the patent issues. It is clearly a huge concern by the innovators, the small business, biotech, and high-tech firms. I thank the Senator very much for giving us an opportunity to act on that matter.

Secondly, let me compliment the Senator on the research issues. I took to the floor yesterday and talked about the budgets of the National Institutes of Health and how critical that is, not only for their direct mission, which is to find answers to diseases, but also to provide the answers to building blocks for companies that do incredible work.

I was at AstraZeneca in Frederick on Monday, where they do the biologics manufacturing, and they depend very much on the NIH budget.

I thank the Senator for the amendments he offered. I know we will have a chance to act on them a bit later.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, AND 900  
EN BLOC

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Cardin amendments Nos. 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, and 900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. CARDIN] proposes amendments numbered 364, 367, 439, 440, 899, and 900 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 364

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for children and pregnant women under Medicaid)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives that would improve oral health care for children and pregnant women under the Medicaid program by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation

would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 367

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing a funding stream for a voter reinfranchisement initiative)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING A FUNDING STREAM FOR A VOTER REINFRANCHISEMENT INITIATIVE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing a funding stream for a voter reinfranchisement initiative, which may include Bureau of Prisons notifications for released inmates of voting rights, notifications by United States attorneys of voting rights restrictions during plea agreements, and a Department of Justice report on the disproportionate impact of criminal disenfranchisement laws on minority populations, including data on disenfranchisement rates by race and ethnicity, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 439

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mandating a higher threshold that the Small Business Administration may guarantee, through the Surety Bond Guarantee Program, of the bonds that small businesses are required to obtain so that they may be able to better compete successfully for Federal Government contracts)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING THE GUARANTEE THRESHOLD FOR THE SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Surety Bond Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include exploring or raising the range for surety bonds, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 440

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the Family Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program from \$225,000,000 to \$350,000,000, as passed by the Committee in 2013, which is zero subsidy and funded entirely through fees paid by investors and businesses)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RAISING THE FAMILY OF FUNDS LIMIT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 899**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of financial literacy education to allow individuals to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE DECISIONS WITH THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to financial literacy education, which may include improvements to financial literacy education curricula in schools or which may improve the capacity of teachers to provide effective financial literacy education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 900**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of civics and government education)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to civics and government education, which may include improving instruction in civics and government education or which may improve the capacity of teachers to provide effective civics and government education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to talk a little bit about the amendments.

I see Senator PORTMAN on the floor, and I want to talk about amendment No. 899, which provides a deficit-neutral reserve fund for financial literacy.

The two of us have been working for over a decade to increase the amount of savings for Americans, particularly retirement savings. We know that at early ages people need to understand the importance of saving.

I offer this amendment, and Senator PORTMAN has been very helpful to me in developing this amendment. I hope we will be able to act on this a little bit later.

Amendment No. 364 deals with oral health, which establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for pregnant women and children under Medicaid. Let me point out to my colleagues something they may not be aware of; that is, the oral health of a pregnant woman very much impacts the baby. Therefore, it is important pregnant women have attention to their oral health care needs. It is transmitted to their babies.

I urge my colleagues to help us in supporting this effort. We have taken major steps to improve pediatric dental care. This is another step we can take by dealing with pregnant women.

With regard to amendment No. 367, which sets up the deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide for voter enfranchisement initiatives, once again I think my colleagues would be surprised to learn there is an estimated 5.85 million citizens who cannot vote as a result of criminal convictions and nearly 4.4 million of those have already been released from prison.

We have 4.4 million people living in our community whom we expect to be productive citizens, and yet they have been disenfranchised from voting.

Nationwide 1 in 13 African Americans of voting age have lost their right to vote, a rate four times the national average. I think that should give us all concern.

Latino citizens are also impacted because they are disproportionately overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

States have vastly different approaches to people voting with criminal convictions. This patchwork of State laws has caused confusion among the election officials and the public, sometimes resulting in the disenfranchisement of even eligible voters. So this amendment would provide much needed information into the hands of citizens returning from incarceration.

I thank my colleague Senator PAUL for his work with regard to this issue. The two of us are trying to find a way we can bring forward together a workable way that can help many who have been released from our prisons to have the right to vote and participate in our community.

With regard to two amendments I am offering, amendments Nos. 439 and 440, both are related to my work as the ranking Democrat on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

One would set up a deficit reserve fund to deal with surety bonds. We have increased the limit of the surety bond by the SBA for small companies, which is very important. This would help make that a more permanent increase.

The small companies, if they try to get a surety bond, have to pledge just about every one of their assets in order to get it. The SBA program helps with that credit so they can get affordable surety bonds without jeopardizing their ability to raise capital. This amendment calls attention to that need where we can help small businesses in this country.

I also set up the deficit-neutral reserve fund for family funds within the small business investment company.

I thank Senator RISC. He has been working on this issue, and I have been working with him on this issue. I think we will hopefully be able to come together on legislation that will increase the opportunities under the small business investment companies, which is, again, an avenue for capital for small companies, the driving force for job innovation in our community.

This amendment would allow us again to focus on that legislation, which we hope to move through the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Lastly, I have offered a deficit-neutral reserve fund, amendment No. 900, concerning civic education.

I have taken the floor to point out that, yes, we need to stress areas of excellence in the sciences, et cetera, in education, but let's not forget civic education. The bedrock of our country's values are based upon our civic system, and it is important that young people have a full understanding of civic education.

This amendment would give us an opportunity, in this Congress, to move forward in promoting civic education for our school system.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I applaud my colleague from Maryland for these constructive amendments. I am happy to be a cosponsor of the financial literacy amendment, which enables all of our constituents to be able to save and invest more, particularly with regard to retirement savings for retirees.

The savings rate is low. Baby boomers are retiring without having lifetime savings, and financial literacy is critical for them. It is also critical for our young people to give them the opportunity to start saving early with the power of compound interest and to



be able to make wise decisions for their future—whether it is for retirement, whether it is for health care or whether it is for other purposes.

I have enjoyed working with my colleague Senator CARDIN on this issue over the years, and I am proud to co-sponsor his amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 681

I wish to call up another amendment this morning because it is very important for all of us in this Chamber because all of us are affected by it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendment No. 681.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. PORTMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 681.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to demolishing vacant and abandoned homes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEMOLISHING VACANT AND ABANDONED HOMES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding to improve the safety of neighborhoods in the United States, which may include demolishing blighted and abandoned homes, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this is a commonsense amendment that calls for prioritizing the investments to tackle a very important issue for our cities and towns across our country, especially those hardest hit by the housing crisis.

Main Streets, unfortunately, across our country have become littered with abandoned and blighted properties.

In Ohio, there are about 80,000 of these abandoned home; hundreds of thousands, of course, across the country. I have had the opportunity to walk the streets in some of our cities in Ohio with some of our farsighted mayors who are tackling this issue. They are looking for a little bit of help. I have been in Warren, OH, Toledo, OH, and Lima, OH.

When you walk these streets and talk to the people in the neighborhoods,

they let you know how they are feeling about this. They don't like these blighted properties, in part, because it reduces the home values for the whole neighborhood. In fact, there is some evidence out there that these blighted properties can cost neighbors up to 80 percent of their home value. So one of the best things you can do for tumbling home values in America right now in struggling neighborhoods is demolish these abandoned properties.

Second, and this is very important, they become magnets for crime, for arson, and for other dangerous activities that put neighbors at risk. It puts first responders at risk. There are stories around the country. Unfortunately, in my home State of Ohio, some first responders, firefighters, have gone to a fire in an abandoned structure, actually been injured, and in one case lost their life. This is something neighbors feel strongly about.

When I was in Toledo, with the mayor of Toledo, observing one of the demolitions—it was a house that was about 10 feet away from a neighboring home. The mother was there with some of her young children, and she said: Thank goodness this is happening, because every night I go to sleep I put my head on my pillow praying that the house next door is not going to be subject to the arson attacks that have happened in the city of Toledo in these abandoned structures and praying that my children are not going to be injured by an arson next door to me.

It is critical that we provide this help. Land banks in these areas have done a terrific job. Cleveland, in particular, I will hold up as doing a great job. But in States like mine and in other manufacturing States—Florida, Michigan, and other States around the country—these land banks are doing the best they can, but they need additional resources to demolish many of these properties in order to help struggling neighborhoods recover.

This has been a bipartisan issue. We have been able to direct some funding there, including from the hardest hit funds. I want to continue to make progress because it is so important, again, for our neighborhoods and for the safety of those people who live in these neighborhoods that are affected most directly by abandoned homes.

I hope we can get some votes from both sides of the aisle for this amendment today and make it clear to those local officials across our country, and to those neighbors in these communities, that we are going to do what we can to help provide the resources to be able to deal with these blighted and abandoned structures.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 944

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the

pending amendment to call up my amendment No. 944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. NELSON], for himself and Mr. SCHATZ, proposes an amendment numbered 944.

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To create a point of order against legislation that would use tax dollars to censor publicly-funded climate science)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **POINT OF ORDER AGAINST USING TAX DOLLARS TO CENSOR PUBLICLY-FUNDED CLIMATE SCIENCE.**

It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would censor or otherwise limit the ability of any Federal employee or Federal agency to use in official documents or presentations terms common in scientific literature describing atmospheric, climate, weather, or oceanic processes, including terms relevant to changes in the global climate system or other risks to human health, the environment, and the economy related to air pollution.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, what this amendment does is it supports the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: freedom of speech, to prohibit censorship of Federal agencies and Federal employees from speaking in scientific terms about the oceans, the weather, the atmospheres, and the climate.

You would think this is so common sense and so understood under our freedom of speech in our U.S. Constitution, but we have all read news reports at the State level, at the local level, and maybe even at the Federal level that, indeed, some folks are trying to muzzle scientists from speaking about the science involving the oceans, the atmosphere, climate, and the weather.

I have the privilege of knowing something about the space program. When I hear people saying they don't want NASA to get involved in climate, well, NASA builds the satellites, NASA launches the satellites—but then NOAA, in the Department of Commerce, operates these weather satellites—other satellites that are taking measurements of the Earth to understand what is happening to our atmosphere, what is happening to our climate.

When I start talking about the atmosphere, I can't help but flash back 29½ half years ago, looking at our planet out the window of a spacecraft and looking at the rim of the Earth and seeing the thin little film that is the

atmosphere that sustains all of our life.

There is a lot about it that we don't know. There is a lot about it that we, in fact, can measure scientifically. Yet for some reason, there is some commentary going on in America today that we want to muzzle our scientists.

So this amendment is a simple, little, commonsense amendment that says you can't muzzle a Federal agency or a Federal employee, telling them they can't use their First Amendment right of freedom of speech to speak in scientific terms about the oceans, the weather, the atmosphere, and the climate.

Imagine if we were going to muzzle researchers at the National Institutes of Health and censor them, saying they couldn't use medical terms such as asthma or cancer. What if that was off limits? There is not even a question that we would consider that.

Last week, when we got into the matter of climate, a study suggested the massive Antarctic glacier is melting. The water from that melting glacier will impact global sea levels, potentially raising them by 10 feet. This week, researchers tell us the melting of Greenland's ice sheet is slowing the cyclical ocean current that drives the warm gulf stream, which comes right along the southeastern coast of my State and goes out through the middle of the Atlantic and warms parts of Western Europe. To understand all of that, it is critical we have this information, which has the potential to impact all of us, no matter where we live.

At times of seasonal high tide, the streets of Miami Beach are flooded. The mayor of Miami Beach campaigned paddling in a kayak on Alton Road, which is on the west side of the city of Miami Beach. He campaigned in a kayak at the time of seasonal high flood talking about what the city needed to do because of what NASA's scientists tell us.

This is what NASA has testified to before the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. This was not a forecast, they were not projections, but measurements of the rise of the sea level in south Florida over the course of the last 45 years—6 to 8 inches. Again, this was not a forecast but measurements. Do we want to muzzle that NASA scientist who testified before our committee and who, by the way, in this case is also a NASA astronaut? Do we want to muzzle him?

Scientists simply must have the tools and the ability to tell us what they observe without limitation on the terms they can speak. So let us make clear that public science cannot be muzzled, that we won't support censorship, and that the taxpayers deserve an honest return on their investment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, AND 810  
EN BLOC

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, and 810 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] proposes amendments numbered 346, 425, 426, 427, 442, and 810 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 346

(Purpose: To modify the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting jobs in the United States through international trade to include the reauthorization or extension of trade adjustment assistance programs)

On page 58, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(4) reauthorizing or extending trade adjustment assistance programs;

AMENDMENT NO. 425

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING RETIREMENT SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving retirement security by making it easier for small businesses to provide retirement plans for their employees by easing the administrative burden and by encouraging individuals to increase their savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 426

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting economic growth and job creation by making it easier for small businesses to plan their capital investments and reducing the uncertainty of taxation by

the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 427

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investment in Alzheimer's disease research)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTMENT IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing sufficient investment in Alzheimer's disease research, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 442

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to restore a sensible definition of full-time employee for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to the employer penalties under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), which may include changes to the definition of "full time employee" under that Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 810

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program, which may

include allowing for 1 or more additional payment periods during the same award year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there will be very little time later today when we start voting for there to be full explanations of any of these amendments, which I think is very unfortunate. I do want to let my colleagues know about some of these amendments, and I am proud to say that, for the most part, the amendments I have filed and have now called up are bipartisan amendments that enjoy support on both sides of the aisle.

For example, my amendment No. 427 would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to support sufficient investment in Alzheimer's disease research to achieve the goal set by the national plan to address Alzheimer's disease—of having the means to prevent and effectively treat that disease by the year 2025.

This amendment is cosponsored by Senator MORAN, Senator WARNER, Senator McCASKILL, Senator TOOMEY, and Senator DONNELLY. It is modeled very much on a bill that Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have introduced to increase funding for Alzheimer's research.

Just yesterday the Special Committee on Aging, which I lead along with Senator McCASKILL, held an extensive hearing on Alzheimer's disease. We listened to preeminent researchers and individuals such as B. Smith, who unfortunately has been afflicted with early onset Alzheimer's. We listened to a caregiver and to a geriatric physician from Portland, ME. We had testimony from the Mayo Clinic and testimony from the individual who heads the Institutes on Aging at the National Institutes of Health. To a person they pointed out that we are spending \$226 billion a year caring for people with Alzheimer's, yet we are investing less than \$600 million in this disease.

The experts tell us that if our investment were at the level of \$2 billion a year, we could explore the promising breakthroughs, the therapeutic targets that are needed to develop a means of prevention or better treatments or, ultimately, even a cure for Alzheimer's. Think of that. That \$2 billion figure that is recommended by the expert advisory council, headed by Dr. Ron Peterson from the Mayo Clinic, is less than 1 percent of what we are spending caring for people with Alzheimer's.

This disease is going to bankrupt the Medicare and the Medicaid Programs. We are currently spending \$154 billion from those two programs for care of patients with Alzheimer's.

That is one of the amendments I will be proposing.

I see the Senator from Illinois is on the floor, and he has been another real leader in this area.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator from Maine yield for a question?

Ms. COLLINS. Yes, I will be happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. First, I want to thank her. I took a look at the 200 pending amendments on this budget resolution, and I think at least 10 relate to biomedical research from both sides of the aisle. This is clearly a bipartisan issue, and I thank my colleague for speaking out on this Alzheimer's issue, because these victims and advocates for research came this week to visit.

It is stunning, just stunning, to think for a moment that we diagnose a person with Alzheimer's in America once every 68 seconds. When staff told me that, I couldn't believe it. I said, that has to be wrong, but it is right. It is an indication of the rapid development and growth of this terrible disease.

So I thank my colleague for putting in perspective the fact we spend over \$200 billion a year already on it, and that doesn't calculate all of the sacrifices of the caregivers in helping members of the family.

It would seem to me that amidst all this budget debate there should be certain areas that are sacred, and I think biomedical research should be one of them. I thank my colleague for speaking up on Alzheimer's and I hope we can continue this dialog on behalf of NIH and the other agencies doing the research.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague and friend from Illinois for his comments. I happened to catch his speech yesterday. There was a sea of purple at our hearing—purple representing the Alzheimer's cause. I hope one day purple will represent Alzheimer's survivors. Wouldn't that be wonderful.

This is a high priority for me. And I agree with the Senator from Illinois, I believe we should be increasing our investment in biomedical research, particularly for Alzheimer's, but in many other areas as well. The irony is that, ultimately, it will reduce not only human suffering but the cost of health care.

The trajectory of Alzheimer's is such that if we do not develop better treatments, a means of prevention, or a cure, by the year 2050 the estimate is we are going to be spending more than \$1 trillion taking care of people with Alzheimer's.

For all of us in the baby boomer generation, the estimates are that by age 85, nearly 1 out of 2 of us will be afflicted with Alzheimer's, if the current trajectory is unchanged. Frankly, we are going to be spending our golden years either with Alzheimer's or taking care of someone with Alzheimer's. So this is a crisis, and it deserves our attention.

I know Senator MORAN also has a broader amendment on biomedical research, which I am proud to be a sponsor of, and this is an area where I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way, as my colleague has suggested.

Mr. President, there are other amendments I would like to briefly discuss, seeing no one seeking the floor immediately, I don't believe. I will have my staff check on that.

I am also going to offer an amendment to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell grant program, including an innovative idea that I am very interested in, and that the chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, is very interested in, which would allow for year-round Pell grants so that individuals could complete their education more quickly.

Before I was elected to the Senate, I worked at a college in Maine—Hudson University in Bangor, ME—and I saw firsthand the difference that Pell grants made in the lives of these students. Indeed, on my staff today there are highly talented individuals who were able to go to college solely because of the existence of Pell grants. Their families did not have experience with higher education and could not afford higher education. Pell grants made possible a bright future for these two women on my staff.

This is the kind of opportunity that should unite us and that all of us should rally behind. Allowing year-round Pell grants would allow students to complete their education more quickly and join the workforce more quickly, which would help them financially as well. So I hope this is something we can pursue and that will be adopted as well.

Another of my bipartisan amendments, No. 442, would establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to change the definition of full-time employee under ObamaCare so a worker could work for more than 30 hours per week before the employer mandate penalty would be triggered. This, too, is bipartisan. Senator DONNELLY, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator MANCHIN, and I have all been working on this.

I hear from workers who are telling me their hours have been cut to 29 hours a week because of these penalties their employers simply cannot afford. It is not just in the for-profit hospitality industry, it is also in school systems, community colleges. So that is yet another of my amendments that I hope will enjoy support later today.

Mr. President, I see a number of my colleagues on the floor, so I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold her request?

Ms. COLLINS. I am happy to withhold the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 877 AND 878 EN BLOC

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up two of my amendments en bloc: Hirono amendments Nos. 877 and 878.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Ms. HIRONO] proposes amendments numbered 877 and 878 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 877

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Federal Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING COLLEGE COMPLETION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Federal Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 878

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in clean energy and preserving the environment)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the reduction of the dependence of the United States on imported energy and the investment of receipts from domestic energy production, or energy efficiency and renewable energy development, or new or existing approaches to clean energy financing, or reducing greenhouse gas emissions levels, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legis-

lation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, before I briefly outline my amendments, I need to say a few words about the budget before us.

The vision outlined in the budget before us is truly a disaster for the middle class and our economy. This budget lays out priorities that would undermine the gains that millions have made in getting affordable health insurance. It would undermine the ability of millions of students to get a college education. It puts tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of giving even a modest wage boost to those who are working hard to get ahead. This budget would give big corporations the opportunity to write their own rules while reducing the opportunity for the disabled veterans and children to live a decent life.

Democrats have tried to improve this budget. We tried to eliminate the sequester in a fair way. Republicans said no. We tried to make sure our commitments to those on Social Security and Medicare remain ironclad. The Republicans said no. We tried to close a few loopholes to invest in our communities and create jobs. The Republicans said no. We tried to give students the opportunity to get an affordable college education. The Republicans said no.

Given all these problems, I cannot support this budget. This budget favors the wealthy and special interests on the backs of middle-class families, seniors, and students in Hawaii and across the Nation, but I want to offer two ideas that I hope can improve this budget just a little bit.

Amendment No. 877 would restore year-round Pell grants without increasing the deficit. Many college students juggle work and family schedules. To balance these commitments they need to attend college year-round. But Pell grants can only be used in two semesters, currently.

My amendment would allow students to access Pell grants year-round, as they could from 2008 to 2011. This has been a bipartisan idea in the past. In fact, Senator COLLINS just now offered her similar amendment, amendment No. 810, that I also support. We should adopt this commonsense, bipartisan policy.

I thank Senator COLLINS for her work in enabling students to complete their college education in a way that would allow them to do so without disruptions and additional costs. I look forward to working with her as we move forward on this bipartisan-supported idea.

The second amendment I am offering, amendment No. 878, is very simple as well. The budget resolution allows for energy legislation, provided it is paid for only with cuts. It also lays out what I think is a very limited view of

our Nation's energy priorities, particularly the heavy focus on fossil fuel development. My amendment would provide a broader, more forward-looking view of our Nation's energy priorities. My amendment allows for energy legislation that reduces our dependence on foreign oil, increases energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment and innovation, and addresses carbon pollution.

Hawaii relies on imported oil for energy. The U.S. military recognizes that overreliance on fossil fuel is a national security risk. We have to recognize our future can't be based on fossil fuels.

Hawaii and other States are leading the way in transitioning to a clean energy economy. My amendment would ensure that Congress's priorities are more in line with where Hawaii and our Nation are heading in the future. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these two amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 445, 448, AND 449 EN BLOC

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Gardner amendments Nos. 445, 448, and 449.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. GARDNER] proposes amendments numbered 445, 448, and 449 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 445

(Purpose: To prevent labor disputes at seaports in the United States from causing national economic disruptions and crippling businesses across the United States)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS AT SEAPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing economic disruptions at ports in the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 448

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging expedited approval of liquefied natural gas export applications at the Department of Energy)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND  
RELATING TO ENCOURAGING EXPED-  
ITED APPROVAL OF LIQUEFIED  
NATURAL GAS EXPORT APPLICA-  
TIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging approval of liquefied natural gas export applications, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 449**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND  
RELATING TO SUPPORTING EFFI-  
CIENT RESOURCING FOR THE ASIA  
REBALANCE POLICY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding related to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

**AMENDMENT NO. 523**

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendment: Stabenow amendment No. 523.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW], for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 523.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prevent United States companies from getting tax benefits for moving jobs overseas, to end offshore tax loopholes including inversions, and to provide incentives for United States companies to relocate overseas jobs to the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND  
RELATING TO BRINGING JOBS BACK  
TO AMERICA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to tax provisions to encourage United States enterprises to relocate operations from overseas to within the United States, closing offshore tax loopholes (including those relating to inversions), or discouraging United States enterprises from relocating United States operations to other countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I believe every worker, every business deserves a fair shot to get ahead. A basic American principle is creating opportunity. We all know our workers are the best in the world, and when we have a fair fight we can work hard and we can win, but part of that fair fight is making sure we can do something about the broken Tax Code and the system we have. My amendment would address that, the Bring Jobs Home amendment.

We all know there are companies that, unfortunately, are able to game the system to avoid paying their taxes. They move on paper in order to be able to register in another country while still having the benefits of our country or they move overseas and, through the Tax Code, we as communities and their workers pay the cost of the move.

It is important to recognize the revenue that is being given up helps pay for our American way of life—our roads, airports, clean water, clean air, opportunities for education, innovation, medical research, science—all of the things that create the wonderful quality of life we have in our country that everyone contributes toward, those things that we need to do together.

Unfortunately, the Tax Code is rewarding too many companies to be able to take advantage of not doing their fair share. That is what my amendment addresses.

As I indicated, moving their business on paper around to different countries to avoid contributing to our American way of life, our American quality of life, they invert, costing Americans tens of billions of dollars in revenue that could go to support our veterans, our national defense, rebuilding America's roads and bridges, and water and sewer systems.

I believe it is particularly offensive to Americans when people find out that, in fact, a company can decide to pick up and move, and the cost of the move—the cost of packing up and leaving our country—is a cost they can write off on their taxes, which means we all pay the price; the workers who are packing people up, the communities that are losing the jobs, our country, in terms of the lost revenue, and we pay for it.

Over the last 10 years, 2.4 million jobs were shipped overseas, and American taxpayers were asked to foot the bill. It makes no sense. Surely, we can come together on a bipartisan basis and agree to stop that—to stop that right off. That is what this amendment does.

Over 20 million more jobs are at risk of being shipped overseas today. In fact, in Michigan we have lost more than 700,000 jobs to offshoring. Now, I understand we are in a global economy. I understand there are a lot of decisions being made around the globe as to where companies will locate, but our Tax Code should not have loopholes in it that incentivize companies to actually continue to either get the benefits of America while pretending to be someplace else or moving and having us help pay for it.

This is a very serious part of tax reform. As we debate a budget resolution that has over \$400 billion in cuts to Medicare for seniors in it, that has over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid—80 percent of the dollars in Medicaid going for low-income seniors and people in nursing homes—when we look at the fact that we have been trying to pass a bill to create millions of good-paying American jobs by rebuilding America, by rebuilding our roads, by rebuilding our infrastructure, we can't get support to do that. People say we can't afford to pay for it.

This is the opportunity to create the revenue to pay for it, to create the revenue to lower the cost of student loans so more people have a fair shot to go to college, have an opportunity for the American dream, so they are not coming out of college being riddled with all kinds of debt, mounds of debt. It means they can't buy a house, they can't buy a car, they can't get started in life with a family because they are buried in debt. When we raise these issues on the floor, we hear we cannot afford, as a country, to fix those things that affect every family—people struggling to get into the middle class and stay in the middle class.

I think this budget ought to be about the middle class. I think we ought to be saying this is a middle-class budget, and I think if we are going to do that, we have to come together on fair ways to be able to fund those things that benefit everyone, that grow the economy by creating and expanding the middle class. We will not have an economy unless we expand the middle class. That means good-paying jobs here—here. I am all about export. I just want to export our products, not our jobs, and we have a Tax Code that is encouraging the export of our jobs.

So I hope we come together around the Bring Jobs Home amendment, agree there is one area of the Tax Code that everybody ought to support fixing; that is, where folks are using loopholes and games and gimmicks, frankly, to

avoid contributing to the quality of life in our country.

We can create opportunities without adding one more dollar to the costs of middle-class families or small businesses or those who stay in our country and decide they want to continue to be a part of our great American economy. This is about closing for the tax cheaters who are avoiding stepping up and being a part of solving America's problems.

My amendment No. 523 will bring jobs home and invest in the middle class of our country. I hope this is an area we can come together on, and I urge support for my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 781, 565, 562, 552, AND 590 EN BLOC

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments en bloc: amendments Nos. 781, 565, 562, 552, and 590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. RUBIO] proposes amendments numbered 781, 565, 562, 552 and 590 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 781

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority and certain United Nations agencies and increasing foreign assistance for Israel)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REDUCING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND CERTAIN UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND INCREASING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing assistance for the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, and the Palestinian Authority because of these entities' anti-Israel behavior, and increasing foreign assistance for missile defense programs in Israel, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 565

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Medicare is not raided to bailout insurance companies under the President's health care overhaul)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT MEDICARE IS NOT RAIDED TO BAILOUT INSURANCE COMPANIES UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Medicare funds are not used to bailout insurance companies, which may include through the risk corridor program or other programs established in the President's health care law, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 562

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a new outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A NEW OUTCOMES-BASED PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZING INNOVATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a new outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 552

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding for United States embassies, which may include the re-

location of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 590

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the Medicare Advantage program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the Medicare Advantage program, which may include reversing the cuts to the Medicare Advantage program that were enacted under the President's health care law, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. RUBIO. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 991, 636, AND 638 EN BLOC

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up three Warner amendments en bloc: amendments Nos. 991, 636, and 638.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] proposes amendments numbered 991, 636, and 638 en bloc.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, was my amendment No. 991 reported in that bloc as well?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 991

(Purpose: To restore program integrity funding to combat waste, fraud, and abuse)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

AMENDMENT NO. 636

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CONSUMERS FROM DATA BREACHES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches, which may include providing notification to affected consumers or enhancing data security programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 638**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-reduction reserve fund reserve fund for Government reform and efficiency)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-REDUCTION RESERVE FUND FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM AND EFFICIENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving savings through the use of performance data or scientifically rigorous evaluation methodologies for the elimination, consolidation, or reform of Federal programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives, or the sale of Federal property, and reduce the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the deficit reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to speak to these amendments for a couple of moments.

The first amendment, No. 991, targets improper payments and fraud in our largest entitlement programs. It is remarkable—every elected official I have ever met at any level of government often rallies against waste and fraud in government, and that means it so unusual that this budget we have before us leaves out critical funding to fight fraud and abuse in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and disability programs.

The amendment I am offering today would restore all program integrity funding to the Republican budget to the levels allowed in the Budget Control Act. Program integrity activities have a proven track record of saving money. When we invest in programs that track and eliminate overpayments and fraudulent claims, we end up reducing costs and lowering budget deficits.

For example, according to the Social Security actuaries, program integrity

efforts to conduct “continuing disability reviews”—specifically to weed out beneficiaries who have recovered and are no longer defined as “disabled”—saves taxpayers \$10 for every \$1 spent on program integrity efforts.

I am introducing this amendment because this is a good use of taxpayer dollars and a critical way to ensure that the money we invest in important programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security disability goes directly to the beneficiaries who rely on them. Any elected official who has ever said that we ought to root out waste and fraud in entitlement programs should obviously be supporting restoring these critical funds.

The second amendment I wish to raise is a bipartisan measure, No. 636, filed along with Senators CRAPO and KING, dealing with consumer data security.

Recently, we have seen major data breaches that have affected hundreds of millions of American consumers, those who have shopped at Target and Home Depot, have accounts at JPMorgan Chase, or have received health care from Anthem. In the aftermath of the Target breach, working with Senator KIRK, we recommended that various industry groups in the private sector cooperate on information sharing to ward off data thieves.

With continuous advances in technology, it is vitally important that we continue to strengthen our efforts to protect consumers from cyber crime by enacting smart, targeted protections. Our bipartisan amendment simply recognizes that we need to provide reasonable notification to consumers when their personal information is compromised and encourage greater cooperation and enhanced data security programs in the private sector to safeguard that data. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

Finally, I would like to introduce a third amendment, No. 638, along with my colleague Senator AYOTTE, that mirrors language included in the chairman's mark of our last budget resolution. This amendment encourages Congress to act on the recommendations from GAO to improve Federal Government efficiency by reducing fragmentation, overlap, and duplication. The Senate has a bipartisan history of working on these issues, and I think it is important that our budget resolution this year include our continuing commitment to this work.

In 2010, Congress passed the bipartisan Government Performance and Results Modernization Act, or GPRA, which required Federal agencies to report how their money was being spent, as well as top priorities and possible avenues of consolidation within the agency. Last year, we passed the DATA Act, which works in concert with GPRA to further track how agencies are spending money.

It is important that the savings from these actions go toward reducing our deficit. That is why the Warner-Ayotte amendment is actually a deficit-reduction reserve fund.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

I yield to my good friend, the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Virginia for yielding to me.

First of all, I would like to talk for a moment about the budget. I am pleased that the Senate is debating a budget. We are required by law to pass one by April 15. It has been a while since we have been able to accomplish that. I am hopeful that the budget will be reconciled with the House-passed budget, giving us the opportunity to develop 12 appropriations bills within this budgetary outline.

It is unfortunate that by the nature of a budget, it is a partisan endeavor. The expectation is that no Democrat will vote for the budget that ultimately will pass the Senate today. I hope that doesn't continue to be true in another issue that I am encouraging and am encouraged to know will be considered by the Senate, and that is the sustainable growth rate fix, the so-called SGR fix.

Back in 1997, a budget act was passed that created a formula by which physicians are reimbursed under Medicare. That formula has been very damaging to the practice of medicine—the ability to sustain a practice of medicine—particularly in areas of the country in which the population is elderly and patients are generally on Medicare and most of the physicians' income is then derived from reimbursement from the Medicare system.

The SGR has created a series of problems. At least annually, there has been a problem we have had to fix. Over a decade, we have spent millions of dollars—in fact, \$150 billion in short-term so-called doc fixes.

What I hope happens after consideration of the budget today, tonight, in the morning, is that there will be unanimous consent and agreement that we take a vote on finally permanently fixing the problems created by this SGR, the formula.

In my State of Kansas, there are 127 community hospitals across our State that care for patients every day, every hour. Most of those hospitals have a significant volume of Medicare patients. The physicians who admit patients to those hospitals and see patients on an ongoing basis in those communities see a significant portion of their patients, and their bills are paid by Medicare.

In the last several years, the reduction in payment for a physician, that Medicare reimbursement, has been in

the neighborhood of 20 percent to 30 percent. The reality, I think all of us know—in fact, it is evidenced by the fact that every year we do a patch, we fix this issue—what we know is that in the absence of fixing that formula either on a periodic basis or today potentially permanently, physicians will no longer be able to see Medicare patients. In many of the communities I represent, the physicians are employed by the hospital. So this becomes not just a physician issue, not just a hospital issue—the reality is, it is a patient issue. Will you have a doctor in your community who is willing to see, who is able to see a patient who is of the age at which Medicare is providing Medicare health care benefits?

The opportunity we have today is important. We can do so many things by permanently fixing the SGR. The outcome is that communities across our country and communities across my State of Kansas have a much brighter hope that their hospital doors remain open and physicians continue to practice medicine in their communities.

Our health care providers face tremendous challenges today related to the Affordable Care Act, related to the ever-increasing amount of regulatory burden placed upon hospitals and doctors, upon the costs associated with moving toward computerized medical records. Our health care providers in many instances are hanging on by a thread, and whether or not a community has a doctor, has a hospital determines whether that community has a future.

I know that in my own hometown of Plainville, the ability of my parents—who lived into their nineties—to remain in their hometown was determined by whether there was an active, quality medical community, quality physicians who cared about their patients and hospitals, who were there to admit their patients when that care was needed. Only because that existed in our hometown were my parents, into their nineties, able to continue to live in a community they called home.

The SGR fix is a significant component to make certain that no people have to move, no senior citizens have to move someplace closer to a doctor or a hospital because their hospital no longer is in existence or their physician no longer cares for folks who have Medicare.

The SGR, which I did not support when it was created, has caused a volatile and unsustainable system for both patients and health care providers. The uncertainty of knowing when and if Congress is going to fix by a patch creates problems in and of itself, in addition to the ultimate reimbursement rate that physician receives.

The time to act is now. We are as close to a permanent SGR fix as we have been in my time in Congress. It would be a very sad occurrence if we

let this opportunity slip by, and one more time, in a few months, we will be back trying to figure out how to patch the SGR once again. We will spend more money. We will create greater uncertainty. We will hasten the day in which citizens of our country—Medicare recipients—are no longer able to see a physician of their choice or be admitted to the hospital in their community.

I am of the view that we ought not move on to other business. We ought not recess for this April period of time until we make sure that tonight or in the morning the SGR fix is permanently put in place.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 467, 468 EN BLOC

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator BLUNT: amendments Nos. 467 and 468.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follow:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MORAN], for Mr. BLUNT, proposes amendments numbered 467 and 468 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 467

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DIRECT PROVISION OF DEFENSE ARTICLES, DEFENSE SERVICES, AND RELATED TRAINING TO THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 468

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to military aid to Israel)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing grants only in Israel for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services, including research and development to assist Israel in maintaining its qualitative military edge, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 707, 967, 896, 897, AND 573 EN BLOC

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside to call up amendments Nos. 707, 967, 896, 897, and 573 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] proposes amendments numbered 707, 967, 896, 897, and 573 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 707

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing overdose deaths)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REDUCING OVERDOSE DEATHS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prevention of prescription drug and opioid overdose deaths, which may include support of opioid overdose prevention activities, increased surveillance and monitoring for opioid prescription drugs and overdoses, expanded access to evidence-based treatments for opioid addiction, or enhanced research for alternatives to opioid pain medication, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 967

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to domestic medical isotope production)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DOMESTIC MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to nuclear medical isotope production facilities used to produce molybdenum-99 (other than facilities that use highly-enriched uranium), and associated radioisotope processing, waste management, and support facilities which may include ensuring that such facilities are included on the list of eligible projects for the receipt of incentives for innovative technologies under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 896**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the safety of offshore oil drilling in the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the safety of offshore oil drilling in the United States, which may include changes to existing law to increase the liability cap with respect to offshore oil spills, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 897**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting consumers in the United States from price increases due to large-scale natural gas exports)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING CONSUMERS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM PRICE INCREASES DUE TO LARGE-SCALE NATURAL GAS EXPORTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting consumers and businesses in the United States from price increases or other impacts of large-scale natural gas exports, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 573**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the repair and replacement of natural gas distribution pipelines and infrastructure no longer fit for service)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO LONGER FIT FOR SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the repair and replacement of natural gas distribution pipelines and infrastructure no longer fit for service by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. MARKEY. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, a lot of things have happened. We are on the path, I hope, to being able to pass a budget that balances in 10 years. It has some problems, but I think it would be a major change from the course we have been on, and so I will support it. I hope to be able to support it, although things could happen, I guess, between now and our final vote.

One of the things I wish to share with my colleagues is simply that the proposal to fix the doctors' payments—the so-called doc fix, the SGR—which has been around for a long time is one of my highest priorities. It is, indeed, unreasonable and unjustified to require doctors to be uncertain every year as to whether they are going to get a 21-percent or so reduction in their Medicare payments. They can hardly do the work at that fee level. So we do need to fix it.

However, on the same day that we are now declaring that we want to pass a budget that puts us on a financial path to balance in 10 years by a meager \$3 billion—a balanced budget plan, a responsible plan; an idea and goal to achieve—we are also talking about passing an unpaid-for plan, and in my view it is not responsible, to spend and borrow another \$141 billion, after the proposed offsets, to pay for the doc fix. This is what brings this Congress into disrepute. The same day we assert we want to have a balanced budget, and we lay out a plan that will get us there in 10 years, we are now considering passing an unpaid-for increase in spending that will add \$141 billion to the debt. Colleagues, we just can't do that.

To my physician friends, whom I talked to a lot about this and who are

worried about it, let's all work together to lay out a plan that will pay for this expense. We can do that. Maya MacGuineas is at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a well-respected, bipartisan group. They have basically been shocked by this proposal. They submitted papers that said over 20 years it will add \$500 billion to the debt. While, some have said that over 20 years, it will pay for itself. According to Maya MacGuineas' analysis, it won't, and we don't have official data now. So why would we allow this legislation to pass through so fast?

I urge my colleagues, let's do a short-term fix again, but then let's do a permanent fix, one that is responsible, one that is grownup, one that is paid for, and not just one that adds more debt to the credit card of America at a time when we cannot do that anymore.

I am so disappointed that we may not be able to let this legislation clear today because I don't believe it is going to be beneficial to us. We can come back and take action to maintain the appropriate payment levels. Let's do it the right way so we can be proud of it.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

**AMENDMENTS NOS. 435, 473, 593, AND 993 EN BLOC**

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and, on behalf of Senator MENENDEZ, call up amendments Nos. 435, 473, 593, and 993 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes amendments numbered 435, 473, 593, and 993 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 435**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF LETHAL DEFENSIVE ARTICLES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding to support the Government of Ukraine in reestablishing its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 473

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing funding to combat anti-Semitism in Europe)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING FUNDING TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for programs to counter anti-Semitic activity in Europe, which may include efforts to empower civil society, including diverse religious and ethnic groups, civil and human rights organizations, and the business community, to fight anti-Semitism and discrimination and convening regular consultations with Jewish community organizations and non-Jewish civil and human rights organizations to demonstrate visible support, listen to concerns, and solicit recommendations on improving security and supporting victims, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 593

(Purpose: To require consideration of long-term deficits for any legislation relating to repealing or replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010)

Beginning on page 87, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 88, line 4.

## AMENDMENT NO. 993

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the national do-not-call registry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to compliance with the national do-not-call registry, which may include adjusting or increasing fines, providing flexibility for the relevant regulatory agency, or modifying the conditions of the safe harbor provisions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, AND 668  
EN BLOC

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments en bloc: Nos. 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, and 668.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. FLAKE] proposes amendments numbered 665, 677, 678, 667, 666, and 668 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

## AMENDMENT NO. 665

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS BASED ON AWARDEES ENTERING OR NOT ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition on the awarding of construction contracts on behalf of the Government based upon any solicitations, bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents, that require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations or discriminate against or give preference to such bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors based on their entering or refusing to enter into such agreements by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 677

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing political targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of individuals and social welfare organizations exercising free-speech rights)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PREVENTING POLITICAL TARGETING BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS EXERCISING FREE-SPEECH RIGHTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing political targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of individuals and social welfare organizations exercising free-speech rights, which may include maintaining current standards and definitions in defining political activity for the purpose of determining the tax status of individuals and social welfare organizations, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes,

provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 678

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prosecution of first-time illegal border crossers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FIRST-TIME ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to decreasing the recidivism of illegal border crossers, including removing any prohibition on Federal prosecution of first-time border crossers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 667

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and disability insurance benefits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SOLVENCY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the financial solvency of the unemployment compensation program and the social security disability insurance program, which may include ensuring that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and social security disability insurance benefits, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 666

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing the level of Federal premium support for crop insurance policies, which may include eliminating premium support for crop insurance for agricultural producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FEDERAL PREMIUM SUPPORT FOR CROP INSURANCE POLICIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing the level of Federal premium support for crop insurance policies, which may include limiting premium support for crop insurance for agricultural producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 668

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to government reform and efficiency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO GOVERNMENT REFORM AND EFFICIENCY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving savings through the use of performance data or scientifically rigorous evaluation methodologies for the elimination, consolidation, or reform of Federal programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives, the sale of Federal property, or the reduction of improper payments by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the spending reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of spending reduction achieved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 504, 505, 506, 1011

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator SULLIVAN: Nos. 504, 505, 506 and 1011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. SULLIVAN, proposes amendments numbered 504, 505, 506, and 1011 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 504

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to limiting the ability of Environmental Protection Agency personnel to carry guns)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DISARMING THE EPA.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to limiting the ability of Environmental Protection Agency personnel to carry firearms, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 505

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs related to the ground-based midcourse defense and the long-range discrimination radar programs of the Department of Defense)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE AND THE LONG-RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting programs related to the ground-based midcourse defense and the long-range discrimination radar programs of the Department of Defense by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 506

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting vulnerable families from job killing regulations)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING VULNERABLE FAMILIES FROM JOB KILLING REGULATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Federal agencies consider the full cost of regulations, including indirect job losses, prior to enacting or amending any regulation or rule, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1011

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to providing an exemption from certain permitting requirements for routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing, for certain routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure, an exemption from certain requirements, which may include an exemption from the permitting requirements of section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1012

(Purpose: To strike more than \$1.2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, preserving a critical source of comprehensive, affordable health and long-term care coverage for millions of otherwise uninsured low-income adults, parents, and seniors, including millions of nonelderly low-income adults in States that expanded Medicaid as part of health reform)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, on behalf of Senator WYDEN, to call up amendment No. 1012.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], Mr. WYDEN, for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE, proposes an amendment numbered 1012.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SHAHEEN and Senator ISAKSON be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes in order to call up our amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 321, 611, AND 839 EN BLOC

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendments Nos. 321, 611, and 839 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. ISAKSON] proposes amendments numbered 321, 611, and 839 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 321

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget and appropriations process)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a biennial budget and appropriations process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 611

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to subject all fees collected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to the annual appropriations process)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUBJECTING ALL FEES COLLECTED BY U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the use of fees collected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which may include prohibiting the expenditure of any such fees unless such expenditure has been approved through the annual appropriations process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 839

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, IRAN, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 3, 1979, AND JANUARY 20, 1981.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am glad to join the Senator from New Hampshire on a very important piece of legislation that is being proposed as an amendment to the budget today. It is called the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act which 2 years ago passed this Senate with 68 votes. It has bipartisan support this year. It is the right way to solve our biggest problem, which is responsible spending in Washington.

The Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act assumes the following: What we have been doing has been broken for years. Every President since Ronald Reagan has endorsed the biennial budget. Twenty of the fifty States in the United States of America have a biennial budget. It is time we did budgeting and oversight and allowed time for both.

What this bill basically says is that in odd-numbered years we will do our appropriating and in even-numbered years we will do oversight of appropriations.

Wouldn't it be great to change the paradigm in America to where during election years and even years, instead of saying how much bacon we are going to bring home, to instead say how much savings we are going to find in the appropriations process. We can find new money to fund new programs without raising taxes or raising revenues of the Federal Government.

It is a responsible way to run our country, it is a way we ought to run our country, and it is a responsible way for America to return to fiscal accountability.

With an \$18.1 trillion deficit and with spending going haywire and us not being able to do budgeting or appropriating at all, it is time we call time out, fix our problem, and move forward.

I yield to the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, who as Governor of New Hampshire for 6 years did biennial budgeting and has great experience in that effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from

Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, in supporting the biennial budgeting amendment. This is legislation we have been working on—this will be the third session of Congress now—and it is a response to what I think we would all agree is a broken budget process here in Washington.

Since 1980, we have only had two budget processes that have been finished on time, according to established process. In that timeframe, since 1980 when, as Senator ISAKSON pointed out, every President has endorsed biennial budgeting, Congress has resorted to more than 150 short-term funding bills or continuing resolutions. That is no way to govern. While we have made progress in recent years to reduce our deficits, we need reform of our budget process.

Senator ISAKSON pointed out very eloquently how this proposal would work. In New Hampshire, where I served three terms as Governor, I had a legislature of members of the other party and yet we were able to pass biennial budgets 3 years, on time, that were balanced. It worked in New Hampshire. It works in 19 other States. It can work here.

This is an opportunity for us to begin to reform our budget process. It won't fix everything, but it will go a long way in addressing our opportunity to provide oversight in the second year of the budget process.

I hope our colleagues will join us, and that we will again, as we did in 2013, have a majority to support biennial budgeting in this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from New Hampshire for her remarks and thank her for her commitment.

The definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result. It is time we get a different result in Washington, which is balanced budgets, fiscal accountability, and balanced spending, and a biennial budget will do that.

In our remaining time, with the permission of the Senator from New Hampshire, I wish to address one other amendment we have called up to be pending, which is amendment No. 839, which has already been reported.

Amendment No. 839 is very simply an amendment that recognizes the fact that 52 Americans were taken captive in 1979 in Iran at our Embassy. Forty-four of them are still alive. They remain the only American hostages ever taken who were never compensated for their time. We have revenue accumulating because of the Iranian sanctions. Everybody on the Foreign Relations Committee is supportive, and I think the State Department is too, of seeing to it we take a portion of those sanctions and compensate the American



hostages of the Iranian Government from 1979 to 1980.

As the Presiding Officer will remember, it was the day Ronald Reagan was sworn in that Jimmy Carter finally made arrangements to get those hostages out of Tehran. They suffered torture, physical abuse, and terror for 444 days. They deserve to be compensated. We deserve to take the money the Iranians have been paid for sanctions and see to it these Americans are compensated for what they suffered in 1979 and 1980.

I appreciate the time from the Chair and I yield back the remainder of our time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 750, 855, 749, 856, AND 759 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc on behalf of Senator LEE: Amendments Nos. 750, 855, 749, 856, and 759.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. LEE, proposes amendments numbered 750, 855, 749, 856, and 759 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 750

(Purpose: To modify the spending-neutral reserve fund reauthorizing funding for payments to counties and other units of local government to ensure payment at levels roughly equivalent to property tax revenues lost due to the presence of Federal land)

On page 64, lines 10 and 11, strike "Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)" and insert "funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land".

AMENDMENT NO. 855

(Purpose: To prohibit increasing the public debt limit under reconciliation)

At the end of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 202. LIMIT ON SENATE CONSIDERATION OF RECONCILIATION.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution reported pursuant to section 201, or an amendment to, conference report on, or amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, which would increase the public debt limit under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(c) APPEALS.—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on the point of order raised under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 749

(Purpose: To ensure that the reserve fund relating to affordable healthcare choices for all is used to repeal and not further empower the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)

On page 50, line 17, strike "or reforming".

AMENDMENT NO. 856

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to support legislation preventing the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband providers as common carriers under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and from implementing other "net neutrality" provisions)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROHIBIT THE RECLASSIFICATION OF BROADBAND PROVIDERS AS COMMON CARRIERS UNDER TITLE II OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the openness of the Internet, which may include prohibiting the reclassification of broadband providers as common carriers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 759

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to clarifying Federal jurisdiction with respect to intrastate species)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CLARIFYING FEDERAL JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO INTRASTATE SPECIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to limiting the Federal regulation of species found entirely within the borders of a single State by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 925 AND 926 EN BLOC

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 925 and 926 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. TILLIS] proposes amendments numbered 925 and 926 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 925

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the United States civil courts system)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES CIVIL COURTS SYSTEM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the United States civil courts system, including improvements to civil discovery rules that will contribute to the speedy and efficient resolution of disputes while protecting the rights of all litigants to a trial by jury, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 926

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENSURE THAT VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ARE NOT DENIED OR ABRIDGED ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, OR PREVIOUS CONDITION OF SERVITUDE.**

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or

the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, amendment No. 925 recognizes the work that has been done by the Judicial Conference to make discovery in civil cases less cumbersome and costly.

Amendment No. 926 incorporates language from the 15th Amendment—no denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race—into our budget instructions.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 729, 342, AND 588 EN BLOC

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: amendment No. 729, amendment No. 342, and amendment No. 588.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] proposes amendments numbered 729, 342, and 588 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 729

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in surface transportation projects)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTMENTS IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to making changes or providing for the authorization of programs to invest in freight movement, rail, highway, transit, transportation alternatives, and other surface transportation projects, including competitive grant programs, which will drive United States economic competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 342

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Guard State Partnership Program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving theatre security cooperation goals, which may include funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 588

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at air ports of entry)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICERS AT AIR PORTS OF ENTRY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at air ports of entry to reduce wait times and otherwise facilitate travel, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 402, 596, 597, AND 865 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up, on behalf of Senator JOHNSON, amendments Nos. 402, 596, 597, and 865 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes amendments numbered 402, 596, 597, and 865 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 402

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO SUBSTANDARD HEALTH CARE, DELAYED AND DENIED HEALTH CARE, PATIENT DEATHS, OTHER FINDINGS THAT DIRECTLY RELATE TO PATIENT CARE, AND OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 596

(Purpose: To convey clear information in graphic form about projected deficits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. TO CONVEY CLEAR INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED DEFICITS.

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required by section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), the Congressional Budget Office shall—

(1) include a projection of Federal revenues, outlays, and deficits for a 30-year period beginning with the budget year, expressed in terms of dollars and as a percent of gross domestic product; and

(2) publish a graph depicting the magnitude of projected deficits in the Federal budget on a unified basis under current policy, expressed in terms of billions of dollars, arranged appropriately to show—

(A) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the budget year and the 9 subsequent fiscal years;

(B) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the 10th through 19th subsequent fiscal years;

(C) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the 20th through 29th fiscal years; and

(D) the magnitude of the combined projected deficits of the entire period that includes the budget year and the 29 subsequent fiscal years.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 597

(Purpose: To convey clear information to Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenues, surpluses, and deficits)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. TO CONVEY CLEAR INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED FEDERAL OUTLAYS, REVENUES, AND DEFICITS.

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required by section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), and at any other time the Congressional Budget Office releases projections of Federal deficits over any term of

years, the Congressional Budget Office shall publish with its projection a 1-page statement—

(1) summarizing and categorizing total outlays, receipts, surpluses, and deficits of the Federal Government on a unified basis for that same prospective time period;

(2) categorizing and subtotalling separately—

(A) outlays for mandatory programs and for discretionary programs;

(B) outlays, payroll tax revenue, and offsetting receipts for Social Security and for Medicare;

(C) the surplus or deficit of revenues over outlays for Social Security and for Medicare; and

(D) revenues.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 865

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to accommodate legislation that would stop the Federal government from forcing States to pay unemployment compensation benefits to millionaires)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STOP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM FORCING STATES TO PAY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO MILLIONAIRES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to high-income individuals by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 12 noon today be equally divided between the managers or their designees, and that at 12 noon, the Senate vote in relation to the following amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes but with side-by-side amendments allowed to be offered by Senator SANDERS, or his designee, on the Scott amendment No. 692 and the Vitter amendment No. 515, and that the vote occur on the listed amendment second; so that the order then would be Sanders No. 881, Kirk No. 545, Stabenow No. 523, Rubio No. 423, Wyden No. 1012, Paul No. 940, Murray No. 798, Moran No. 356, Baldwin No. 432, Collins No. 810, Franken No. 828, Scott No. 692, Coons No. 966, Blunt No. 928, Durbin No. 817, Vitter No. 515, Bennet No. 947, Murkowski No. 838, and Inhofe No. 649.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to each vote and that all votes after the first in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. For the information of all Senators, this will be the first series of votes today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 932

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 932.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 932.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget resolution process)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET RESOLUTION PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to establishing a biennial budget resolution process, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I urge the Senate to support this amendment. The amendment I am offering along with the Senator from Maryland, the vice chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes the creation of a biennial budget resolution process.

Having a two-year budget could enable the annual appropriations process to run more smoothly, and it might also benefit other committees. The appropriations process often bogs down due to the failure of the budget resolution process. If there is no budget resolution in place, there is no framework to facilitate consideration of appropriations bills.

Establishing a biennial budget process does merit serious consideration, but biennial appropriations are another matter.

Proponents of biennial appropriations argue that having an “off year” in which there are no appropriations bills will mean more oversight during the off year. Well, this ignores the close relationship between oversight and the appropriations process itself. Within each year’s appropriations process, in the hearings before the committee, informal meetings, committee reports, and the bills themselves, Congress provides guidance—admonitions sometimes—and funding adjustments based on program performance and changing priorities. The appropriations process is one of the best tools Congress has to reform, improve, eliminate, and modernize programs under its jurisdiction.

Having an off year would not translate into more oversight. It might well have the opposite effect, as Congress would not possess any hammer or useful tool of the year’s appropriations bill to modify agency actions. So you’re yielding more power to the executive branch to spend money, borrow money, and try new programs without having proper oversight of the appropriations and the authorizations process.

Writing and debating annual appropriations is an essential part of the Congressional oversight responsibility that was contemplated by the Framers of the Constitution. It does not detract from the power of, or minimize or infringe on, authorizing committees’ ability to perform additional oversight. There is no limitation under this process of a legislative committee’s prerogatives. It provides the money, though, as the Constitution contemplates, through an appropriation of funds approved by the people’s representatives—not the Executive’s, not the people who run the Departments, and not the President himself.

We changed things with the King of England during the colonial era. The people recognized they wanted the people in charge. “Here, sir, the people govern” became a watchword of the Revolution and the establishment of the United States of America.

So under this suggestion, which we are criticizing at this moment, Congress would be compelled to do one of two things: either adjust appropriations in the off year through supplemental appropriations, or give agencies themselves greater flexibility to move money around among different programs and activities that are part of the government spending process.

The first defeats the purpose of the biennial appropriations proposal. The second is a further expansion of Executive power. You’re building up the Executive with more tools to do its will without respect to what the people’s representatives in the Congress might prefer. The second is the further expansion of Executive power, generally, that we should be wary of granting.

The Executive has an enormous amount of power, but under our system, we should seek an equally powerful role for the people's representatives, and for the direct election of Members of the U.S. Senate whose responsibility includes the power to help ensure that the States have the funds they need to carry out their responsibilities.

Congress can improve its performance in budgeting, but it does not have to abandon the annual review of the Federal appropriations process. It doesn't have to be part of the answer to the question.

So I hope Senators will carefully review what is at stake and what is being suggested and consider that before you vote. I hope the Senate will support my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, while waiting for the Senator from New Jersey to arrive in his seat, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Mississippi, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. COCHRAN.

I want to be sure we understand that this idea of biennial budgeting is really a bad idea—well intentioned but a bad idea.

The Isakson amendment goes beyond a 2-year budget resolution and calls for establishing 2-year appropriations of bills. The power of the purse is one of Congress's most powerful holds. We shouldn't give it up. What would happen, if we go with the Isakson and Shaheen amendment and not follow Cochran-Mikulski, we need to know we would be putting too much power in the hands of the executive branch, unelected bureaucrats, and OMB. So proponents of biennial appropriating will not approve congressional oversight—just the opposite.

Without annual appropriations bills, agencies will have little incentive to be candid in their testimony and responsive to congressional will and congressional directives. We sacrifice our most important tool.

The other consideration is the practicality. Under biennial appropriations, the timeline between the initial forecast and the actual budget could be 30 months; then, we can't also respond to emergencies. Threats change every day—ISIS, security, the crisis that just happened to our allies in Germany. We have to be able to respond.

Congress should not tie its own hands and limit its ability. Support Cochran-Mikulski, defeat Isakson-Shaheen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 881

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 881, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for himself and Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 881.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting a substantial increase in the minimum wage)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to labor reform, which may include a substantial increase in the minimum wage by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 720, 721, AND 722 EN BLOC

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up my amendments Nos. 720, 721, and 722 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BOOKER], proposes amendments numbered 720, 721, and 722 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 720

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting workforce development through apprenticeship programs)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funds for programs that support workforce development through apprenticeships, and providing additional funds to the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor to expand apprenticeship programs nationally, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 721

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation, including rail, waterways, ports, and highways to promote national connectivity)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING FREIGHT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT THAT INCORPORATES ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING RAIL, WATERWAYS, PORTS, AND HIGHWAYS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation including rail, waterways, ports and highways, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 722

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting payments for conversion therapy or treatments that purport to change the gender identity or sexual orientation of an individual under the Medicare and Medicaid programs)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING PAYMENTS FOR HARMFUL AND FRAUDULENT TREATMENTS UNDER MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting payments for harmful and fraudulent treatments under the Medicare or Medicaid programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I hope to have the opportunity to speak about amendments Nos. 720 and 722 later, but I would like to speak now about No. 721, which is a freight rail amendment.

I am very happy to see the Presiding Officer, Senator RUBIO, whom I have worked with on other legislation. Having bipartisan work on important critical issues is essential. I am happy to join with Senator FISCHER on this important amendment.

It focuses on the urgency to improve the movement of freight and strengthen our competitiveness by investing in a comprehensive multimodal national network that includes not just our major highways but our rails, seaports, local roads, and intermodal facilities.

I am happy to see Senator SANDERS, who has the courage to stand and speak about the infrastructure deficit in our country and calls for bold, fiscally sound investment. I want to make sure, as we move forward, that freight planning and investment as seen by this amendment is prioritized. Along with Senator FISCHER, I support broadening our approach to freight policy that would promote greater national productivity. Why is this important? Hundreds of millions of tons of freight are annually shipped through our ports, rails, and highway networks.

The Great Corridor runs from my State of New Jersey to New York, to Philadelphia, moving over \$55 billion in goods each year, and is one of the most significant chokepoints in the U.S. transportation network that moves \$17 trillion of goods between metropolitan areas each year.

The incredible freight network drives our economy, boosts economic competitiveness, and creates jobs in America, thousands and thousands of jobs. With a slight adjustment of our priorities and a strong national commitment to investing in our infrastructure, we can dramatically reduce congestion, improve the health of our American communities and make sure goods get where they need to go faster, cheaper, all while strengthening our economy and creating jobs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important amendment and look forward to continuing to work on critical transportation and infrastructure priorities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for debate has expired.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and ask for consideration of amendment No. 1024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I object. The vote is set aside for 12 noon. We could have 50 more people coming down and offering additional amendments. They will have an opportunity to offer those amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 881

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sanders amendment No. 881.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this is a very simple, straightforward amendment. It calls for a substantial increase in the minimum wage. The simple truth is that in America, people working full time should not be living in poverty. Since 1968, the real value of the Federal minimum wage has fallen by close to 30 percent. People all over this country and in State after State on their own have voted to raise the minimum wage.

By the way, in State after State where the minimum wage has gone up,

more jobs have been created. Let us stand today with the tens of millions of workers who are struggling to put food on the table, to take care of their families. Let us raise the minimum wage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no." This is not the proper place for this. It can be handled as regular legislation at any time. This budget resolution is focused on balancing the budget in 10 years. That is important in and of itself, because balancing the budget renews job growth and expands opportunity for hard-working families.

CBO analyzed our budget for its economic growth impact. That report makes it clear that the economy grows as the government slows its spending rate. With that growth comes new jobs. Building on CBO's analysis, it is clear that over 1 million new jobs could be created if our budget took full effect. That will create competition for employees. That will increase wages.

The minimum wage was designed to be a training wage that teaches people how to show up for work on time and how to learn a job before transitioning to new jobs, and those that do get advanced really quickly.

I would ask there be a "no" vote on this amendment. It does not belong in this budget.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1024

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 1024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. HEINRICH], for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BENNET proposes an amendment numbered 1024.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To create a point of order against legislation that would provide for the sale of Federal land to reduce the Federal deficit)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ POINT OF ORDER AGAINST THE SALE OF FEDERAL LAND TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill,

joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide for the sale of any Federal land (other than as part of a program that acquires land that is of comparable value or contains exceptional resources or that is conducted under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.)) that uses the proceeds of the sale to reduce the Federal deficit.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 881

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sanders amendment No. 881.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 93 Leg.]

##### YEAS—48

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden

##### NAYS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 881) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I understand there is a bipartisan agreement in the works to modify the Kirk amendment No. 545 and, therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on amendment No. 545 occur after the vote on Inhofe amendment No. 649.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

## AMENDMENT NO. 523

There are now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Stabenow amendment No. 523.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I would hope we could all come together and agree that we want to bring jobs back to America. This is about saying if you are a business in America and you want to pretend to move offshore on paper but have the benefits of clean air and clean water and roads and all of the benefits of our American way of life, you ought to be contributing to that way of life. So this closes tax loopholes being used by companies right now to avoid paying their fair share.

Small businesses are here paying their fair share; individuals are, workers are. Yet we have a code where you can pack up and move overseas and American taxpayers have to foot the bill for the move. The workers losing their jobs have to foot the bill for the move. It makes no sense.

We want to bring jobs back to America. This simply closes egregious loopholes to make sure everybody is a part of America and that everybody is contributing to our quality of life and our way of life in America. I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. Some of Senator STABENOW's tax reform ideas might have merit, but they should be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than as a stand-alone proposal. Otherwise, we would have a whole bunch of these stand-alone proposals that would become part of the budget, instead of empowering committees of jurisdiction to handle them as regular legislation, which they still would have to do.

The U.S. Tax Code is overly complicated. It is inefficient, and it is archaic. The current structure hurts economic growth, frustrates working Americans, and pushes American businesses overseas. Any discussion of international or corporate tax reform should take place in the context of comprehensive tax reform to simplify the whole system.

The budget resolution assumes the tax-writing committees will adopt a tax reform proposal that reduces marginal rates but broadens the tax base to create a fair, efficient, competitive, pro-growth tax regime, and that the revenue is neutral. We look forward to working on that in the Committee on Finance.

I oppose the amendment, and I ask for a "no" vote. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Leg.]

## YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

## NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 523) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on Wyden amendment No. 1012 occur after the vote on the Stabenow amendment No. 523, and that amendment No. 940 be modified with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 940), as modified, is as follows:

On page 14, line 2, increase the amount by \$76,513,000,000.

On page 14, line 3, increase the amount by \$48,578,000,000.

On page 14, line 6, increase the amount by \$112,990,000,000.

On page 14, line 7, increase the amount by \$87,604,000,000.

On page 14, line 11, increase the amount by \$29,603,000,000.

On page 14, line 15, increase the amount by \$11,863,000,000.

On page 14, line 19, increase the amount by \$6,396,000,000.

On page 14, line 23, increase the amount by \$3,274,000,000.

On page 15, line 19, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000,000.

On page 15, line 20, decrease the amount by \$6,300,000,000.

On page 15, line 23, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000,000.

On page 15, line 24, decrease the amount by \$16,800,000,000.

On page 16, line 3, decrease the amount by \$13,020,000,000.

On page 16, line 7, decrease the amount by \$3,570,000,000.

On page 16, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,050,000,000.

On page 17, line 12, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000,000.

On page 17, line 13, decrease the amount by \$9,100,000,000.

On page 17, line 16, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000,000.

On page 17, line 17, decrease the amount by \$11,900,000,000.

On page 17, line 21, decrease the amount by \$4,200,000,000.

On page 17, line 25, decrease the amount by \$2,100,000,000.

On page 18, line 4, decrease the amount by \$700,000,000.

On page 20, line 13, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 14, decrease the amount by \$6,500,000,000.

On page 20, line 17, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 18, decrease the amount by \$8,500,000,000.

On page 20, line 22, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 1, decrease the amount by \$1,500,000,000.

On page 21, line 5, decrease the amount by \$500,000,000.

On page 28, line 20, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 21, decrease the amount by \$16,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 24, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 25, decrease the amount by \$19,600,000,000.

On page 29, line 4, decrease the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 8, decrease the amount by \$400,000,000.

On page 33, line 19, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 20, decrease the amount by \$29,520,000,000.

On page 33, line 23, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 24, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 34, line 3, decrease the amount by \$11,480,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1012

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Wyden amendment No. 1012.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier in this week I was encouraged when Republicans voted with Democrats to approve an amendment I introduced with Senator SANDERS that would protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts under the budget. But when we actually look at the Republican budget on Medicaid, it is impossible to square that budget, which has \$1.2 trillion in cuts, with the vote that was held earlier this week to protect Medicaid. And we can't get those savings without cutting reimbursements for nursing homes and long-term care services. Medicaid pays 40 percent of all nursing home care.

Colleagues, let us be consistent with our Medicaid vote that was cast earlier this week, and support my amendment.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no." The budget before us suggests we modernize the Medicaid program based on the successful and bipartisan model of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The Senate budget strengthens and improves Medicaid and protects the most vulnerable among us who rely on the program. The budget does not cut Medicaid. It slows its rate of growth. The Senate Finance Committee will of course determine the details of any Medicaid reform should legislation on that matter come before this body. And it would require legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this budget makes massive cuts in Medicaid and will throw women, men, and children off of that vitally important program.

I strongly support the Wyden amendment. Let's protect Medicaid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining before the vote.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Leg.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	

#### NAYS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 1012) was rejected.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 423

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Rubio amendment No. 423.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, this is a pretty straightforward amendment. It funds defense fully based on the Gates budget, which was the last defense budget that was put together based solely on the assessment of threats we face and the requisite military needs to deal with those threats. The national security of our country is the predominant obligation of the Federal branch of government. It is the one thing that only the Federal Government can do, and it is the first thing it is tasked with doing. If it cannot protect us from foreign threats and protect our national security, all the other issues we are contemplating become elementary. This is a critical component, given the fact that around the world today there is an increase in threats from radical jihadists and nonstate actors to rogue states such as Iran and North Korea, to massive military buildup on behalf of the Chinese and the Asia-Pacific region, to the challenges faced by NATO and our allies in Europe as Vladimir Putin tries to redraw the post-Soviet order in Europe.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this. It does, once again, put us at the Gates' budget number which was the last number we arrived at, that was presented to us, and that fully funds the needs of our military based truly on the threats of the modern era.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. This is truly a remarkable amendment because it runs directly in opposition to everything the Republicans have been talking about. They say we have to cut Medicare and Medicaid and education because of the terrible deficit. Do you know why we have a deficit and large debt? Because we went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan and we forgot to pay for it.

Now Senator RUBIO says, hey, let's continue spending more money on war but just put it on the credit card. We don't have to pay for it. Enough is enough. If you want to go to war, start paying for that war. Let the American people know what the cost of war is.

Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of my amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 32, nays 68, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Leg.]

#### YEAS—32

Ayotte	Enzi	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Coats	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	McCain	Thune
Crapo	McCaskill	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	

#### NAYS—68

Alexander	Franken	Perdue
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Heller	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Scott
Carper	Klobuchar	Sessions
Casey	Lankford	Shaheen
Cochran	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Vitter
Durbin	Mikulski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Nelson	Wyden
Flake	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 32, the nays are 68.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I wish to remind everyone that these are supposed to be 10-minute votes. I am asking for a little bit closer timing on this. We have hundreds of them to go yet today, so we need to be more responsive in voting. It is a 10-minute vote.

I yield the floor.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 940, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Paul amendment No. 940, as modified.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, national defense is the No. 1 priority of the Federal Government. My amendment increases defense spending, but pays for it with spending cuts. It is irresponsible and dangerous to continue to put America further into debt, even for something we need. We need national defense, but we should pay for it.

America does not project power from bankruptcy court. We need a strong national defense, but we should be honest with the American people and pay for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the Republican budget throws 27 million people off of health care. It denies nutrition programs for hungry kids and pregnant women. It cuts \$90 billion from the Pell program, making it harder for young people to get a college education, and it raises the price of prescription drugs for the elderly. For Senator PAUL, that is apparently not enough. He wants, over a 2-year period, \$189 billion in cuts to discretionary programs, which will be devastating to the working families of this country.

Stop the war against working families. Vote no on the Paul amendment.

I make a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of my amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 4, nays 96, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Leg.]

#### YEAS—4

Enzi	Paul
McConnell	Vitter

#### NAYS—96

Alexander	Donnelly	Markey
Ayotte	Durbin	McCain
Baldwin	Ernst	McCaskill
Barrasso	Feinstein	Menendez
Bennet	Fischer	Merkley
Blumenthal	Flake	Mikulski
Blunt	Franken	Moran
Booker	Gardner	Murkowski
Boozman	Gillibrand	Murphy
Boxer	Graham	Murray
Brown	Grassley	Nelson
Burr	Hatch	Perdue
Cantwell	Heinrich	Peters
Capito	Heitkamp	Portman
Cardin	Heller	Reed
Carper	Hirono	Reid
Casey	Hoeven	Risch
Cassidy	Inhofe	Roberts
Coats	Isakson	Rounds
Cochran	Johnson	Rubio
Collins	Kaine	Sanders
Coons	King	Sasse
Corker	Kirk	Schatz
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cotton	Lankford	Scott
Crapo	Leahy	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shaheen
Daines	Manchin	Shelby

Stabenow  
Sullivan  
Tester  
Thune

Tillis  
Toomey  
Udall  
Warner

Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wicker  
Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 4, the nays are 96.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained and the amendment, as modified, falls.

The Senator from Washington.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 798

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the amendment I am offering today would simply expand access to paid sick days and give our families some much needed economic stability.

Working families should not have to sacrifice a day's pay or sacrifice their job altogether just to take care of themselves or a sick child, but today in this country, 43 million of our Nation's workers do not have access to paid sick days. This amendment would allow workers to earn up to 7 paid sick days over the course of a year.

It will not only help our families, it will be good for business. Paid sick days boost productivity, and in cities and States that already have paid sick leave laws, many employers state that this policy has not affected their revenue.

Allowing workers to earn paid sick days would take us a step closer to having an economy that works for all of our families, and I urge its support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. Under the current law, the Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 work weeks of job-protected unpaid leave for employees following the birth of a child, to care for a seriously ill family member, or for their own serious health issues.

Voluntary paid leave programs work precisely because they are voluntary, thereby offering flexibility to both employees and employers. The one-size-fits-all approach does not permit the flexibility needed to help all kinds of businesses and all kinds of workers. Employers, not the Federal Government, are best situated to know the benefits compensation that should be provided.

This, again, is a bill that should go through committee. It might be very successful if it goes through the committee process, but regardless it ought to, and so I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murray amendment No. 798.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Leg.]

#### YEAS—61

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Ayotte	Heinrich	Nelson
Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Portman
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Reed
Booker	Isakson	Reid
Boxer	Johnson	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Kirk	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Thune
Cassidy	Markey	Toomey
Collins	McCain	Udall
Coons	McCaskill	Warner
Corker	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Franken	Murphy	

#### NAYS—39

Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Capito	Graham	Rounds
Coats	Grassley	Rubio
Cochran	Hatch	Sasse
Cornyn	Heller	Scott
Cotton	Inhofe	Sessions
Crapo	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Vitter
Ernst	Paul	Wicker

The amendment (No. 798) was agreed to.

#### CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 98, I voted nay. I intended to vote yea. Therefore, since it will not affect the outcome of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that I be recorded as voting yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 98, I voted nay. I intended to vote yea. Since it will not affect the outcome of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that I be recorded as voting yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

#### AMENDMENT NO. 356

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Moran amendment No. 356.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the Moran amendment is an attempt to address the issue—in fact it is addressing the issue—of the 40-mile requirement contained in the choice act that Congress passed in August. Senators may recall that in August we were successful in coming together and passing legislation to give veterans greater options if they live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or if they cannot get the services within 30 days, the VA

should provide those services, if they choose, at home.

This amendment makes clear that the VA should provide those services in the circumstance where there is a VA facility within 40 miles, but it does not provide—if it does not provide the service the veteran needs, it does not count against the 40 miles. This is a common-sense, very bipartisan amendment. I ask that it be adopted.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator MORAN raising this issue. Last year we wrote the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. We included language to allow veterans living at least 40 miles from a VA facility to access care in the community.

Like Senator MORAN, I represent a rural State. I am the first to understand the unique needs of rural veterans. I have spoken with Senator MORAN and understand his intention is to ensure that veterans living at least 40 miles from a facility that provides the care they need can seek care in the community through the Choice Program on a case-by-case basis.

If that is his intention, I think it is a good amendment. I think we should all support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

#### YEAS—100

Alexander	Feinstein	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Baldwin	Flake	Murphy
Barrasso	Franken	Murray
Bennet	Gardner	Nelson
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Booker	Grassley	Peters
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Burr	Heller	Risch
Cantwell	Hirono	Roberts
Capito	Hoeven	Rounds
Cardin	Inhofe	Rubio
Carper	Isakson	Sanders
Casey	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Kaine	Schatz
Coats	King	Schumer
Cochran	Kirk	Scott
Collins	Klobuchar	Sessions
Coons	Lankford	Shaheen
Corker	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Cotton	Manchin	Sullivan
Crapo	Markey	Tester
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Daines	McCaskey	Tillis
Donnelly	McConnell	Toomey
Durbin	Menendez	Udall
Enzi	Merkley	
Ernst	Mikulski	

Vitter  
Warner

Warren  
Whitehouse

Wicker  
Wyden

The amendment (No. 356) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 432

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Baldwin amendment No. 432.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, my amendment would create a free community college program, making a bold investment in our Nation's students, its workforce, and the future of our economy.

It pays for this investment in a balanced way, and my amendment would actually reduce the deficit by enacting the Buffett rule, asking millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share of taxes while giving our students a fair shot at the opportunities a higher education brings.

Inspired by programs in Tennessee and Chicago, this spring President Obama proposed a program that would allow students to attend community college for 2 years at no cost. This was a bold step.

Passing my amendment will show that Congress is ready to act to give every student a fair shot at an affordable education. Voting for this amendment means you believe a college education should be a path to the middle class and not a path into debt.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on the Baldwin-Schumer-Sanders-Stabenow amendment to support free community college and invest in our students and our workforce.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the 1 minute in opposition, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. It spends more than \$50 billion and pays for it by raising taxes.

This amendment is again telling the Finance Committee exactly how to do its work. But worse yet, the President's budget proposal for community college tuition free for all is not free for the States.

The Federal Government would pay 75 percent, but the States have to pay 25 percent. That is a 25-percent unfunded mandate. There is no provision for the States to be covered under this thing.

So we are telling them they are going to provide free college, although a lot of them already do. For the poor, the Pell grant is \$5,775, and the average college tuition is \$3,347. But it is not clear exactly what strings the administration would attach to States and community colleges in exchange for a 75-percent match.

Some of Senator BALDWIN's tax reform ideas may have merit, but they should be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than as a stand-alone proposal.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The question is on agreeing to the Baldwin amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

#### YEAS—45

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden

#### NAYS—55

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 432) was rejected.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 810

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Collins amendment No. 810.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I offer this amendment on behalf of myself and Senator HIRONO. Our amendment would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to expand access to higher education for some of our neediest students through the Pell grant program.

The amendment would allow for year-round Pell grants so students who want to accelerate their degrees by taking additional courses, including during the summer, can receive an additional Pell grant when they need it and complete their education more quickly without having to wait for the next academic year to begin.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I want to thank the Senator from Maine. We should be working to make college more affordable, reducing the crushing burden of

student debt, and giving Americans a chance to further their education and training skills.

The underlying budget makes drastic cuts to Pell grants and would increase the average student's debt by thousands of dollars. The amendment of the Senator from Maine would help make college more affordable and accessible by reinstating the year-round Pell grant, which is a much needed investment to improve students' success.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. MURRAY. I urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I think we have an agreement to take this on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 810) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 828

(Purpose: To provide additional resources to save student financial aid and keep college affordable for more than 8,000,000 low- and middle-income students by restoring the \$89,000,000,000 in cuts to Federal Pell Grants in the Republican budget)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Franken amendment No. 828.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, we just voice-voted an amendment to let students use summer Pell grants, but the fact is this budget cuts Pell grants. In Minnesota alone, more than 160,000 students were able to go to college thanks in part to Pell grants, and the same holds for millions around the country.

When my wife Franni and I were in college, a full Pell grant paid for about 80 percent of a public college education. Today it pays for less than 35 percent. Yet this budget would cut this program and make it harder for students to pay for college. My colleagues want to cut it further. We should not be doing that.

That is why I offer this amendment to restore funding for Pell grants.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. FRANKEN. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up his amendment?

Mr. FRANKEN. I would say yes.

I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. FRANKEN], for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DUR-

BIN, and Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 828.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 25, 2015, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

First, this amendment would increase deficits relative to the budget resolution. It increases spending in Function 500, with no offset.

Second, the budget resolution doesn't cut Pell grants, the primary program helping these millions of people.

The budget does encourage restoring the Pell Grant Program to its original status as a discretionary program, subject to annual review by colleagues. The tuition purchasing power of Pell grants is at an all-time low even though Pell grant spending has tripled in the past decade. Since 2008, there has been an effort to maintain and increase the maximum Pell grant, but college tuition increases faster than that.

This is a program that needs to be reviewed by the applicable committee to see what needs to be done. We think there are parameters in the budget to take care of the issue. It provides sufficient funding on the discretionary side to maintain the maximum Pell grant level, which is set to rise to \$5,775 for the upcoming academic year.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no."

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 101 Leg.]

#### YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

#### NAYS—54

Alexander	Corker	Graham
Ayotte	Cornyn	Grassley
Barrasso	Cotton	Hatch
Blunt	Crapo	Heller
Boozman	Cruz	Hoeven
Burr	Daines	Inhofe
Capito	Enzi	Isakson
Cassidy	Ernst	Johnson
Coats	Fischer	Kirk
Cochran	Flake	Lankford
Collins	Gardner	Lee

McCain	Risch	Shelby
McConnell	Roberts	Sullivan
Moran	Rounds	Thune
Murkowski	Rubio	Tillis
Paul	Sasse	Toomey
Perdue	Scott	Vitter
Portman	Sessions	Wicker

The amendment (No. 828) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 692.

The Senator from Oregon.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1026

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside in order to call up my amendment No. 1026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN], for Mrs. MURRAY, for herself and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 1026.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency health premium billing)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO CONSUMER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) taxes or other provisions in health insurance monthly premium statements, including advance premium tax credits, cost sharing reductions, medical loss ratio rebates and savings, free preventive care, coverage of preexisting conditions and prohibitions on premium rating because of gender, the cost of insurance company administrative expenses, and taxes and fees, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, more than 5 years after being signed into law, the Affordable Care Act is improving the health and well-being of millions of Americans. Many of the Affordable Care Act's greatest successes are getting lost in the noise of political attack ads. The Affordable Care Act has expanded health care coverage to millions of Americans. These people no longer have to go to bed at night worried about the possibility of bankruptcy if they get sick.

Americans who had coverage already are benefiting from new protections. Women now pay the same premiums as men. Preexisting conditions can no

longer be used as an excuse to deny coverage, and health plans no longer put lifetime caps on benefits. This amendment would require insurers to disclose all of the benefits afforded to consumers through the Affordable Care Act.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we don't have any problem with this being taken by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1026.

The amendment (No. 1026) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 692

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Scott amendment No. 692.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up the Scott amendment No. 692 in regard to transparency in health insurance costs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. SCOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 692.

Mr. SCOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 692

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH PREMIUM BILLING.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) tax in health insurance monthly premium statements, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, my amendment is a very simple amendment. It simply seeks to make sure insurance companies increase the transparency on the actual cost of the health insurance tax on monthly premiums.

The bottom line is this: When a single mom goes to the grocery store and she gets her receipt, at the bottom of the receipt it reflects the taxes she has paid. When a father of three buys clothes, at the end of his receipt it reflects the taxes that are being paid.

By the year 2018, this invisible tax not seen by the average insurance purchaser will have raised about \$14.3 billion in costs because of this health insurance tax. My amendment makes it easier to understand and appreciate the actual cost of the health insurance tax.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act is a critical step forward in our efforts to build on our progress to put patients first and allows every family to get affordable, quality health care. But the work didn't end when the law passed—far from it. Families across the country are expecting us to keep working to build on that progress and continue to make health care more affordable, accessible, and of higher quality. That is what we are focused on, on this side, and the amendment that just passed did that, but we should not be playing political games in joining to move our health care system backward. It is bad enough that the underlying budget repeals the health care law and cuts patients and families off without proposing an alternative law, but this amendment makes it worse. It means patients and families get skewed, incomplete information about their health care costs. I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Leg.]

#### YEAS—56

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

#### NAYS—44

Baldwin	Booker	Brown
Blumenthal	Boxer	Cantwell

Cardin	King	Reid
Carper	Klobuchar	Sanders
Casey	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Markey	Schumer
Donnelly	McCaskill	Shaheen
Durbin	Menendez	Stabenow
Feinstein	Merkley	Tester
Franken	Mikulski	Udall
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warner
Heinrich	Murray	Warren
Heitkamp	Nelson	Whitehouse
Hirono	Peters	Wyden
Kaine	Reed	

The amendment (No. 692) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the Coons amendment be moved to occur after Kirk amendment No. 545.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 928

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Blunt amendment No. 928.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment, amendment No. 928. It will create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prohibit a fee or tax on carbon emissions. This vote is important to send a clear message to the administration that Americans cannot afford to pay higher utility bills because of bad energy policies.

I thank Senator THUNE for cosponsoring this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up his amendment?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 928.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri, [Mr. BLUNT], for himself and Mr. THUNE, proposes an amendment numbered 928.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the United States from an energy tax)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

# SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CARBON EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to carbon emissions, which may include prohibitions on Federal taxes or fees imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of emissions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield 20 seconds to the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I say to my colleagues that when you put a price on carbon, it works. If you look at my State, we are creating jobs in clean energy. We are balancing our budget better than we ever have before. We have strong support from the people of California. I don't know why on Earth we would say no to something that leads to prosperity, jobs, and a clean and healthy environment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield 20 seconds to the Senator from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the premise of this is that climate change is not real and not urgent, which puts that side of the aisle at odds with NASA, the Department of Defense, every major American scientific society, corporate leaders in their home States, and probably every single State university in their home States.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, climate change—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, 20 plus 20 equals 40 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They spoke for more than 20 seconds.

All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to Blunt amendment No. 928.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Barrasso	Boozman
Ayotte	Blunt	Burr

Capito	Grassley
Cassidy	Hatch
Coats	Heitkamp
Cochran	Heller
Collins	Hoeven
Corker	Inhofe
Cornyn	Isakson
Cotton	Johnson
Crapo	Kirk
Cruz	Lankford
Daines	Lee
Donnelly	Manchin
Enzi	McCain
Ernst	McCaskill
Fischer	McConnell
Flake	Moran
Gardner	Murkowski
Graham	Paul

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Coons	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden

The amendment (No. 928) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 817

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Durbin amendment No. 817.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have a Tax Code in America which creates incentives and rewards to companies all across the United States.

I am proposing what I call the patriot employers' tax credit. It is a tax credit for those American companies that hire Americans and keep their jobs in the United States, for companies that pay at least half of their employees \$15 an hour—and we picked that number because at that wage, one doesn't qualify for the basic safety net programs—companies that provide good health insurance for their employees, good pension programs for their employees, and companies that give a preference to veterans and to those in the Reserve and National Guard who are serving overseas. I think those companies deserve our encouragement, a reward of a tax credit for patriotic employers.

I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for the companies that stand up for America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, here we go again. I will be asking the Senate to vote "no" on this amendment.

Again, Senator DURBIN has some good tax reform ideas. They probably have merit, but we should deal with these ideas through comprehensive tax reform rather than a stand-alone proposal that tells the Finance Committee how to do its work.

So far, we have resisted every one of these amendments. I assume we will resist the rest of them today. But we

can't tell the Finance Committee how to handle comprehensive tax reform if we expect to simplify the whole system.

So I ask for a "no" vote, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there any time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

The question is on agreeing to the Durbin amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 104 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 817) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 515

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Vitter amendment No. 515.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, this amendment, No. 515, the Vitter amendment, is very simple and straightforward but important. It says that the U.S. Department of Education should not be able to bribe or coerce States into any particular set of standards or curriculum or testing, whether it is common core or anything else. That decision should be up to the States. That decision should be up to local education communities, not the Federal Government. The Federal Government, through our Department of Education, should not bribe or coerce States in any direction. That is what the amendment is all about.



I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I think we all believe that in our country all students should have access to a quality public education regardless of where they live or how they learn or how much money they make. Education is one of the smartest investments we can make.

Chairman ALEXANDER and I are working together on a bipartisan process to fix the broken No Child Left Behind law. I believe we are going to make progress in the coming weeks. I appreciate his working with me.

The fact is that this amendment is not needed. The common core was not mandated by the Federal Government. Race to the Top did not mandate adoption of common core. ESEA waivers have not mandated the common core. Federal law already prohibits the Federal Government from requiring States to adopt certain standards or curriculum.

By the way, this is a “spending neutral” reserve fund that I think we all should be aware of for the first time in this Republican budget.

For all of those reasons, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Leg.]

#### YEAS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

#### NAYS—46

Baldwin	Franken	Mikulski
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murphy
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Murray
Booker	Heitkamp	Nelson
Boxer	Hirono	Peters
Brown	Kaine	Reed
Cantwell	King	Reid
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Carper	Leahy	Schatz
Casey	Manchin	Schumer
Coons	Markey	Shaheen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	
Feinstein	Merkley	

Tester  
Udall

Warner  
Warren

Whitehouse  
Wyden

The amendment (No. 515) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Kirk amendment No. 545 and the Inhofe amendment No. 649 be modified with the changes at the desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that a vote on Whitehouse amendment No. 867 occur after the vote on the Murkowski amendment No. 838.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 545), as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REIMPOSING WAIVED SANCTIONS AND IMPOSING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION OR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Iran, which may include efforts to immediately reimpose waived sanctions and impose new sanctions against the Government of Iran if the President cannot make a determination and certify that Iran is complying with the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 947

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Bennet Amendment No. 947.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 947.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. BENNET] proposes an amendment numbered 947.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that small businesses are provided relief as part of tax reform by permanently increasing the maximum amount of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to \$1,000,000 and the investment limitation to \$2,500,000 and indexing them both for inflation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to small business tax relief, which may include a permanent increase of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to \$1,000,000 or an increase in the investment limitation to \$2,500,000, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this is a simple amendment. It increases the amount of money that small businesses can expense in a given year. That makes it easier for them to purchase new equipment and grow the economy.

It is especially important to places such as the State of Colorado, where small businesses make up 97 percent of the employers in our State. Specifically, the amendment increases the section 179 expensing allowance to \$1 million. Right now, it is at \$25,000.

If we ever manage to pass another extenders bill, it will increase to \$500,000. As we all know, many small businesses are pass-through entities. So they pay the individual tax rate even though they may use business tax credits and deductions. So in tax reform they may lose some of their credits but may not see a corresponding drop in their tax rates.

As we begin the process of reforming our Tax Code, we need to ensure that these types of small businesses can continue to grow, invest, and innovate. This amendment takes an important step in achieving this goal.

I am told that there is an agreement—there may be an agreement—to have a voice vote on this amendment. That would certainly be fine with me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I don't think there is any objection on our side to a voice vote. I ask for a voice vote.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to Bennet amendment No. 947.

The amendment (No. 947) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 838

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Murkowski amendment No. 838.

The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 838.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is already pending.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Senator SULLIVAN and I have come together to move forward on this amendment. It provides a spending-neutral reserve fund for the sale, transfer or exchange of Federal lands to State and local governments.

I want to make sure that folks understand. This is not selling any land by itself. Only subsequent legislation can do that. It would require us to come back, just as we do now, with exchanges, conveyances, and sales, to move the legislation through.

What we have done is we have made sure that all lands that are included within national parks, national preserves, and national monuments are excluded so there can be no effort to purchase or exchange there.

Our amendment will allow us to craft balanced, bipartisan legislation to empower States, improve conservation systems, and promote economic growth.

That is exactly what we did last year, when we moved through the NDAA with support from 80 Senators for that package.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, Americans have always had a deep connection to the outdoors. In New Mexico, families go back year after year to fish in the Santa Barbara River, to the Santa Fe National Forest to hunt, and to the Gila National Forest.

Our public lands are part of our American heritage. We cherish passing that tradition on to our children and to our grandchildren. Yet this amendment would make it easier to turn our public lands over to State land commissioners and eventually to sell them outright.

Make no mistake. This amendment will mean more locked gates and more "no trespassing" signs in places that families have used for generation.

Colleagues, this land is your land. I urge Senators to vote no on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murkowski amendment.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. SANDERS. Has the 10-minute limit expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is advised that it has.

Mr. SANDERS. Thank you.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, please, a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There shall be no further inquiries during a rollcall vote.

Mrs. BOXER. And what rule is that that governs that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is advised that we are in a rollcall vote.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, you allowed another parliamentary inquiry. Why wouldn't you allow my parliamentary inquiry? All I want to know is how many minutes we have gone over the vote. I hear it is 11 minutes, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The parliamentary inquiries are at the sufferance of the Chair.

Mrs. BOXER. The sufferance of the Chair?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The sufferance of the Senate.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, the Senate is definitely suffering. But, in any event, we are 11 minutes over. Let's bang the gavel.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Flake	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heller	Rounds
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Vitter
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker

NAYS—49

Alexander	Gardner	Nelson
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Peters
Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	McCaskill	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Franken	Murray	

The amendment (No. 838) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 867

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Whitehouse amendment No. 867.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this amendment would establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund that would make it more difficult for corporations and billionaires to secretly influence our elections through secret contribu-

tions and also to prevent such entities from evading campaign finance law, including by making false statements to Federal authorities and agencies.

I can tell my colleagues, if you are not sick of the secret money floating into our elections, your constituents are. So listen to your constituents. Give this a vote, and let's get started on fixing this grave American disgrace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no." Respectfully, I think we have some skepticism about this proposal, and I want to remind my colleagues this issue was decided by the Supreme Court over 5 years ago. The Citizens United case has nothing to do with corporate-union contributions to campaigns. Those prohibitions remain in place, and the Supreme Court decision reversed what for-profit and not-for-profit corporations can say in elections. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act bans election-related expenditures and communications by American corporations. Proposals like this amendment are not designed to ensure transparency and civility of elections. They are, as Justice Thomas's concurring opinion in Citizens United correctly described, "specifically calculated to curtail campaign-related activities and prevent the lawful, peaceful exercise of First Amendment rights."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 13 seconds.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The Supreme Court specifically left the disclosure of these sources of these secret contributions to Congress. So the Supreme Court actually has given us this job. I urge that we take it up.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, how much time does our side have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

Mr. ENZI. I ask for a "no" vote.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to Whitehouse amendment No. 867.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Leg.]

## YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

## NAYS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Ayotte	Flake	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	
Ernst	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—1

Donnelly

The amendment (No. 867) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

## AMENDMENT NO. 649, AS MODIFIED

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 649 be brought up, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], for himself and Mr. MORAN, proposes an amendment numbered 649, as modified.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY PRIOR TO SENATE RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, agree-

gates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding, which may include prohibiting funding for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat or any international organizations created to support the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 649, as modified.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, everyone in here knows what the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty does. It doesn't infringe upon our Second Amendment rights. We all know that. It also limits our ability to help our allies like Israel in building their weapons system.

President Obama has signed the treaty but has not submitted it for ratification; for one reason, he knows the votes are not there. Two years ago, at 5 a.m. in the morning, 53 Senators, from both parties, voted for my amendment very similar to this. My amendment would prevent funds from going to the treaty Secretariat or any other organization that is working to implement this treaty.

I ask for your support and retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the United States is not a party to the Arms Trade Treaty. It has not even been submitted to the Senate for consideration. Regardless of your position on the treaty itself, prohibiting funding for any international organization anywhere while other countries are implementing a treaty is simply absurd. By the way, the treaty for which we are not a party to ultimately makes the rest of the world live up to the arms export standards of the United States, which is good to prevent proliferation for destabilizing arms that could be used against American soldiers and to help level the playing field for U.S. defense manufacturers. So the amendment actually harms U.S. national security by placing U.S. soldiers at greater risk from armed soldier transfers to our enemies, illegitimately and illegally, without proper oversight by other countries.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 15 seconds.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is very simple. If you are for extreme gun control and against the Second Amendment rights, you ought to vote no on this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Inhofe amendment No. 649, as modified.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Leg.]

## YEAS—59

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heinrich	Rounds
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Rubio
Coats	Heller	Sasse
Cochran	Hoeven	Scott
Collins	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kirk	Tester
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

## NAYS—41

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reid
Booker	King	Sanders
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 649), as modified, was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 545, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Kirk amendment No. 545, as modified.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, the coming amendment is the Kirk-Brown amendment which is the key Iran vote of this session of Congress.

If my colleagues are upset about the intel-sharing arrangement with the State of Israel, if my colleagues feel we should rebalance our policy with regard to the United States potentially voting against Israel in the U.N., this is the time to rebalance our policy with regard to our allies in the State of Israel.

I urge the body to support this Brown-Kirk bipartisan amendment which has been worked out with the

other side. I just talked to the senior Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER, who assured me she supports this amendment. So does the senior Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, with whom I have built such a long, bipartisan partnership on the Iran issue.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I will just take 20 seconds and yield the rest.

I hope we all vote for this because it doesn't do anything to cause disarray in negotiations. What it says is if there is a deal and there is a breakout and it is certified that there is a breakout with Iran, we would have a very quick way to restore sanctions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I thank the Senator from Illinois as well as the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from California.

We are united in our goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; we all know that here. I commend the President for trying to resolve the nuclear dispute diplomatically.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kirk-Brown-Boxer-Menendez amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

All in favor say aye, all opposed, no. The ayes appear to have it.

Mr. KIRK. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we voted. Regular order.

Mr. KIRK. I would like to get the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a point of order. Was the vote called?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The vote was not called.

The yeas and nays have been asked for.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Brown	Collins
Ayotte	Burr	Coons
Baldwin	Cantwell	Corker
Barrasso	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cotton
Blumenthal	Carper	Crapo
Blunt	Casey	Cruz
Booker	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Coats	Donnelly
Boxer	Cochran	Durbin

Enzi	Leahy	Rubio
Ernst	Lee	Sanders
Feinstein	Manchin	Sasse
Fischer	Markey	Schatz
Flake	McCain	Schumer
Franken	McCaskill	Scott
Gardner	McConnell	Sessions
Gillibrand	Menendez	Shaheen
Graham	Merkley	Shelby
Grassley	Mikulski	Stabenow
Hatch	Moran	Sullivan
Heinrich	Murkowski	Tester
Heitkamp	Murphy	Thune
Heller	Murray	Tillis
Hirono	Nelson	Toomey
Hoeven	Paul	Udall
Inhofe	Perdue	Vitter
Isakson	Peters	Warner
Johnson	Portman	Warren
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
King	Reid	Wicker
Kirk	Risch	Wyden
Klobuchar	Roberts	
Lankford	Rounds	

The amendment (No. 545), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMENDMENT NO. 966, AS MODIFIED

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask that my amendment be modified with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up the amendment?

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to call up amendment No. 966, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Delaware [Mr. COONS], for himself and Mr. SANDERS, proposes an amendment numbered 966, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to offsetting the costs of operations against the Islamic State)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO OFFSETTING THE COSTS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing revenue to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, we need to make sure we pay for our war against ISIS. ISIS is a national security threat. We are just now coming to the end of two long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that have cost trillions of dollars, and we didn't pay for them. It is unacceptable. Our country has a long history of paying for our wars, and we need to return to that tradition. As a democracy, we should go to war as a

nation and not put the burden on just the troops and their families.

I am pleased to have the cosponsorship of Senator SANDERS, and I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to raise the revenue necessary to pay for our war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I certainly appreciate the statement of my good friend, and we have talked a good deal about this. I believe we ought to pay for everything we do around here. There are all kinds of ways for paying for things, including reducing spending on things we shouldn't be spending money on. So I would like to work with him in the future. I agree with him 100 percent that the amount of money that goes out the door should be equal to the amount of money that comes in the door, but I oppose this amendment just because of the way it was crafted. I wish he had said it needed to be paid for, and I would agree with that, but the way it is crafted leads me to want to oppose this, and I hope on our side we will do so.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty seconds.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would simply say that I appreciate the sentiment expressed by the Senator from Tennessee. I agree that all wars need to be paid for. I think we need to recognize that revenue is required to do so.

I yield the floor to Senator SANDERS. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. ENZI. I ask my colleagues to vote "no." The Coons amendment is short and simple, but it claims it will offset the cost of the war against ISIS with the President's budget. We didn't pass the President's budget. This \$3.8 billion is divided between the Department of Defense, which executes Operation Inherent Resolve, and the State Department, which provides—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will come to order.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, what this amendment says is that if Senators vote for another war, this time they will have to raise taxes to pay for it. No more wars on the credit card. Vote yes.

Mr. COONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Leg.]

**YEAS—46**

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

**NAYS—54**

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeben	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 966), as modified, was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WICKER). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the information of all my colleagues, it only took us 6 hours 15 minutes to do 17 votes.

The next tranche has 26 votes in it. I need to let you know that you don't have to wait all 10 minutes to turn in your vote. If you vote in 5 minutes, we can finish in 5 minutes.

Otherwise, a 5-minute vote takes us 10 minutes, just like a 10-minute vote takes us 20 minutes, and a 15-minute vote takes us 30 minutes.

We are going to have to cut down the time, or I am sure people are going to give up before they get to some of their amendments.

I do need to announce that there is dinner in the Mansfield Room. It is courtesy of Senator McCONNELL, and it is for both parties.

You also need to know that Senator REID has agreed to provide dinner tomorrow night in the Mansfield Room. So unless we can speed this up, what we are looking for is a volunteer for breakfast and for lunch tomorrow.

Looking at the list of amendments, I am pretty serious about all of that. We need to speed it up.

To do that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the following amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree

amendments in order prior to the votes, with an exception of a side-by-side to the Nelson amendment No. 944 and the McCain amendment No. 360, and that the listed amendments be voted on second.

The first one is Isakson, No. 839; then Stabenow, 1072; Portman, 689; Casey, 632; Thune, 607; Bennet, 1014; McConnell, 836; Merkley, 842; Gardner, 443; Murray, 951; Graham, 763; Blumenthal, 825; Flake, 665; Sanders, 475; Hatch, 1029; Schatz, 1063; Kirk, 1038; Nelson, 944; McCain, 360; Wyden, 968; Lee, 750, as modified; Reed, 919; Cotton, 659; Menendez, 993; Cotton, 664; Brown, 994.

The amendment (No. 750), as modified is as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 750**

On page 64, line 11, insert “, which may include funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land” after “Taxes (PILT)”.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that all the amendments on this list not currently pending be made pending en bloc at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nonpending amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk as follows:

Stabenow, 1072; Bennet, 1014; McConnell, 836; Graham, 763; Sanders, 475; Hatch, 1029; Schatz, 1063; Kirk, 1038; Wyden, 968; Reed, 919; Cotton, 659; Cotton, 664; Brown, 994.

The amendments are as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 1072**

(Purpose: To provide additional resources to reject the Senate Republicans' proposed \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare)

On page 32, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 6, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 7, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 10, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 11, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 14, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 15, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 18, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 19, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 22, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 32, line 23, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 33, line 2, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 3, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 6, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 7, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 10, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 11, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 14, increase the amount by \$84,543,000,000.

On page 33, line 15, increase the amount by \$85,543,000,000.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1014**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to responding to the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change, as highlighted by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing human-induced climate change through increased use of clean energy, energy efficiency, and reductions in carbon pollution by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 836**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REGULATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 763**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to subjecting all Federal spending to sequestration)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUBJECTING ALL FEDERAL SPENDING TO SEQUESTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to subjecting all Federal spending, except spending relating to Social Security, to sequestration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 475**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, and protecting rural service)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service, which may include imposing a moratorium to prevent mail processing plants from closing, reestablishing overnight delivery standards, recognizing the importance of rural delivery, allowing the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1029**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT AMERICAN JOBS FROM BEING MOVED OVERSEAS BY REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing American jobs from being moved overseas, which may include a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1063**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1038**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE WAGES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reaffirming the ability of States to adopt minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage level commensurate with the cost of living in the State, which may include the adoption of pro-employment and wage-increasing policies by providing pro-growth tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 968**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enacting middle class tax relief, including extending and expanding refundable tax credits, such as tax provisions and policies included in legislation like the Working Families Tax Relief Act, American Opportunity Tax Credit Permanence and Consolidation Act, Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, or the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, among other legislation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending and expanding refundable tax provisions that benefit working families, childless workers, and the middle class, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 919**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating deductions for corporate compensation in excess of \$1,000,000)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ELIMINATING DEDUCTIONS FOR CORPORATE COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF \$1,000,000.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to excessive subsidization in the tax code of corporate compensation, which may include eliminating deductions for corporate compensation in excess of \$1,000,000, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 659**

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting the designation of critical habitat)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING PROPER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION IN DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to critical habitat designations, which may include requirements that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service examine the cumulative economic effects of the designation, such as on land or property uses or values, regional employment, or revenue impacts on States and units of local government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 664**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities at the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE DETENTION FACILITIES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.**

(a) FINDING.—The Senate finds that the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are an important tool in the counterterrorism efforts of the United States.

(b) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to construction of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities at the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 994**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to end “too big to fail” bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets))

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END “TOO BIG TO FAIL” BAILOUTS FOR WALL STREET MEGA-BANKS (OVER \$500 BILLION IN TOTAL ASSETS).**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to any bank holding companies with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets to better protect taxpayers, including such measures as capital or leverage requirements, restrictions on the growth, activities, or operations of a company, or divestiture of assets or operations of any company that is unable to present a credible plan to facilitate an orderly bankruptcy or resolution, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to each vote and that all votes after the first in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 827, 1025, 533, 984, AND 535 EN BLOC

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up the following amendments en bloc: Hatch No. 827, Hatch No. 1025, Hatch No. 533, Hatch No. 984, and Hatch No. 535.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. HATCH, proposes amendments numbered 827, 1025, 533, 984, and 535 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

**AMENDMENT NO. 827**

(Purpose: To establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process by enabling retrospective review of existing regulations, improving the process by which new regulations are created, ensuring fair and effective judicial review, and securing an effective role for Congress in the Federal regulatory process through legislation and oversight)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) creating an effective mechanism for the review of the existing Federal regulatory burden to identify rules for repeal or modification that—

(A) impose paperwork burdens that could be reduced substantially without significantly diminishing regulatory effectiveness;

(B) impose disproportionately high costs on small businesses;

(C) could be strengthened in their effectiveness while reducing regulatory costs;

(D) have been rendered obsolete by technological or market changes;

(E) have achieved their goals and can be repealed without target problems recurring;

(F) impose the greatest opportunity costs in terms of economic growth;

(G) are ineffective;

(H) overlap, duplicate, or conflict with other Federal regulations or with State or local regulations; or

(I) impose costs that are not justified by benefits produced for society within the United States;

(2) reforming the process by which new regulations are made by Federal agencies, including independent agencies, for the purposes of—

(A) prioritizing early public outreach in the rulemaking process;

(B) ensuring the use of the best available scientific, economic, and technical data;

(C) preventing the misuse of guidance documents to skirt public input;

(D) ensuring the use of best practices for regulatory analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, into each step of the rulemaking process;

(E) facilitating the adoption by Federal agencies of the least costly regulatory alternative that would achieve the goals of the statutory authorization;

(F) ensuring more careful consideration of proposed high-cost rules;

(G) ensuring effective oversight of the Federal regulatory program, including inde-

pendent regulatory commissions, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs;

(H) improving the consideration of adverse impacts on small businesses;

(I) providing greater transparency in the rulemaking process; and

(J) improving compliance with section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2736A-153) (commonly known as the “Information Quality Act”), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), and chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”);

(3) enhancing accountability by facilitating fair and effective judicial review of agency actions; and

(4) ensuring that Congress can effectively exercise its appropriate role in the regulatory process through legislation and oversight;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1025**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to H-1B visas)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO H-1B VISAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to H-1B visas, which may include increasing the annual cap or exempting advanced STEM degree holders from the H-1B cap or recapturing unused green cards or allowing spouses of H-1B visa holders to work or increasing STEM funding in the United States by raising the H-1B fee paid by employers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 533**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEYS COMPLY WITH DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that all Department of Justice attorneys comply with all legal and ethical obligations in criminal prosecutions, which may include legislation that ensures the disclosure to the defendant in a timely manner of all information known to the Government that tends to negate the guilt of the defendant, mitigate the offense charged or the sentence imposed, or impeach the Government's witnesses or evidence, by the

amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 984

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that patients, including military members and veterans, have access to new antibacterial drugs that treat serious or life-threatening infections through the creation by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway for antibacterial drugs)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIMITED POPULATION APPROVAL FOR ANTIBACTERIAL DRUGS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the treatment of serious or life-threatening infections for which there is an unmet medical need, and which may include the establishment by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway to bring to market new antibacterial drugs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 535

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to balancing the Federal budget)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to balancing the Federal budget, which may include legislation to ensure that total outlays for any fiscal year do not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year and legislation to ensure that total outlays for any fiscal year do not exceed 18 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States for the calendar year ending before the beginning of such fiscal year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 1044, 1047, 724, 713, AND 1005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 1044 on behalf of Senators CARDIN and MCCAIN; and amendments Nos. 1047 and 724 on behalf of Senator KAINE; amendment No. 713 on behalf of

Senators MURPHY and CASSIDY; and amendment No. 1005 on behalf of Senators MURPHY and GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are called up en bloc.

The clerk will report the amendments by number en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for other Members, proposes amendments numbered 1044, 1047, 724, 713, and 1005 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1044

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1047

(Purpose: To provide for sequestration replacement)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REVISE OR REPEAL SEQUESTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the enforcement procedures under section 251A of that Act to revise or repeal the discretionary spending limits and enforcement procedures established under those sections, relating to providing relief from sequestration and the reduction in discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between both the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category, and offsetting such relief through targeted changes in mandatory or discretionary spending programs and tax expenditures by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For purposes of de-

termining deficit-neutrality under this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may include the estimated effects of any amendment or amendments to the discretionary spending limits.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEQUESTRATION REPLACEMENT.**

(a) MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASE IN DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.—If a measure becomes law that amends the discretionary spending limits established under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), the adjustments to discretionary spending limits under section 251(b) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)), or the enforcement procedures established under section 251A of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure, up to the amounts specified and reserved in subparagraph (b).

(b) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED AND RESERVED.—The amounts specified (and to be reserved from the allocation called for in section 302(a) allocation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate until such time as the conditions specified in subsection (a) are met are—

(1) for fiscal year 2016—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(2) for fiscal year 2017—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom).

AMENDMENT NO. 724

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing United States exports and improving the competitiveness of United States businesses)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES BUSINESSES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing United States exports and improving the competitiveness of United States businesses, including through a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 713

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to comprehensive mental health reform)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to comprehensive mental health reform, which may include legislation that provides increased access to individuals suffering from mental illness and greater workforce opportunities for mental health professionals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1005

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding United States counter-propaganda communications to combat misinformation from the Russian Federation or terrorist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for international counter-propaganda communications in order to combat misinformation, undermine ideologies of violence and hatred, and ensure moderate voices are heard, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 839

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Isakson amendment No. 839.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, amendment No. 839 recognizes that on November 4, 1979, 52 brave Americans were taken hostage in Tehran, Iran. They were beaten, they were held in captivity, they were tortured.

Finally, the Algerian accords were negotiated, and they were released in January of 1981. But in the Algerian accords, they were prohibited from ever being compensated by litigation against the nation of Iran.

Now, with the sanction money flowing into the U.S. Treasury and into the State Department, the money is there to compensate these brave individuals, of which there are 44 still remaining alive.

This amendment acknowledges that Congress has the responsibility that the Supreme Court dedicated to make sure these people get compensated for the bravery they exhibited for the United States of America in captivity.

I urge that this amendment be adopted.

I recognize the Senator from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I strongly support Senator ISAKSON's efforts here, which passed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last year, working with the State Department, and moved unanimously to approve this bill.

This is to give 52 Americans, who were held hostage in Iran and denied the opportunity to seek redress for their terrible ordeal, that opportunity. The only way we are going to give them that opportunity for the 444 days that their families were held hostage in Iran, is to have this type of action.

I look forward to working with them, not just today but beyond, to get it passed so we can get these American families their justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this issue. He and I have cosponsored a bill that achieved this goal.

This amendment is vitally important to advance public awareness and make our colleagues more aware of the importance of this very significant issue. I thank him for his leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Isakson amendment.

The amendment (No. 839) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1072

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Stabenow amendment, No. 1072.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to ask support for the Stabenow-Cantwell amendment.

This addresses the cuts to the budget in Medicare. Medicare is a universal health care program, as we know. It is a great American success story. Everybody believes that.

It protects Americans from having their life savings wiped out by a single illness. It guarantees important medical care and quality of life for literally tens of millions of people across our country.

I was very disappointed yesterday that our Republican colleagues voted against providing a point of order that would allow us to object to efforts to privatize Medicare or cut benefits or raise out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs or preventive services. But as a result of that, we now have in

front of us a budget that calls for \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare.

We all know there are ways to work together to create savings through efficiencies and quality measures and other things, but we should not be telling a generation of seniors, and those coming beyond them—who worked hard their whole lives and paid into the programs—that they will not have the health care they need and deserve.

So I ask colleagues to join with us in rejecting the \$435 billion in Medicare cuts that are in this budget resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

In the committee, Senator STABENOW heard several different versions of this amendment. None of them passed muster with the Parliamentarian.

I credit the Senator's instincts to approach the question of Medicare seriously. I am sure she knows we all take Medicare seriously. Why does the budget resolution have the numbers that it has? Because the Republicans and the President agree that we have to act on policies which extend the life of the Medicare trust fund.

The budget does this by adopting the President's goal of extending the life of Medicare's hospital insurance, HI trust fund, by at least 5 years.

While Republicans and the President share the goals of a financially stronger Medicare Program, the Republican budget empowers the Senate Finance Committee, the committee of jurisdiction, to determine how best to extend the life of the trust fund and solve the program's grave financial challenges. Many people have concerns about what the administration has proposed with this new Medicare policy. I do, too, and expect that the Finance Committee, working on a bipartisan basis and in cooperation with the House, can craft a solid, successful legislation to save Medicare from insolvency.

I ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Stabenow amendment.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

## YEAS—46

Baldwin	Coons	King
Bennet	Donnelly	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Durbin	Leahy
Booker	Feinstein	Manchin
Boxer	Franken	Markley
Brown	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Cantwell	Heinrich	Menendez
Cardin	Heitkamp	Merkley
Carper	Hirono	Mikulski
Casey	Kaine	Murphy

Murray	Schatz	Warner
Nelson	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wyden
Reid	Tester	
Sanders	Udall	

## NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeben	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 1072) was rejected.

## AMENDMENT NO. 689

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Portman amendment No. 689.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this amendment is a commonsense reform that allows the Joint Committee on Taxation to provide an accurate score to those of us in the Senate.

Right now we get a static score only, and everybody knows it is not wise to just have a static score, because it doesn't take into account the effect of tax changes on the economy.

I think everyone in the Chamber would agree there is some impact on the economy. We have to know what it is. This is informational. We will still get the static score, but also get a macroeconomic score.

The Joint Committee on Taxation already does the analysis. So they have the information, they are just not allowed to share it with you. I would think everybody in this Chamber should support this.

In the underlying bill, there is already also a macroeconomic analysis on the spending side, which is something new. So spending and taxes will both be analyzed. We will have the macroeconomic score.

The last time we talked about this a couple years ago on the floor, we got a majority vote—some Democrats, all the Republicans. I hope we will get a bipartisan vote today. I think it only makes sense for us to have the best information possible to be able to do the best tax reform possible, for instance, to be sure it does focus on economic growth, jobs, and rising wages.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, dynamic scoring is nothing more than an accounting gimmick that makes tax cuts appear at least partly pay for themselves. It is an attempt to make it seem like the failed policies of

trickledown economics work, but we know better.

According to the CBO, the Bush tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 are responsible for more than 13 percent of the increase in our national debt from 2001 to 2011.

Tax cuts did not grow the economy; they just grew our debt. The fuzzy math of dynamic scoring may get to a different answer, but the reality is that tax cuts for large profitable corporations and the wealthiest Americans do not pay for themselves. They just make the rich richer.

Once again, Republicans are opting for accounting gimmicks to cover up their real intentions. Dynamic scoring will rig the scoring process in favor of legislation that benefits those who are already doing very well.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

The question is on agreeing to the Portman amendment.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 112 Leg.]

## YEAS—59

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Capito	Hoeben	Rounds
Cassidy	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Sasse
Cochran	Johnson	Schatz
Collins	Kaine	Scott
Corker	King	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McCaskill	Vitter
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	

## NAYS—41

Baldwin	Franken	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Sanders
Boxer	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 689) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 632

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). There is now 2 minutes of de-

bate prior to a vote on Amendment No. 632.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I am honored to be working on this amendment with Senator SHAHEEN and Senator MURRAY. This amendment will create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to support efforts to prevent employment discrimination against pregnant workers.

In the United States today, for so many years, we have had a standard set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities. The same should apply to pregnant workers.

We had a Supreme Court case decision just yesterday. Peggy Young was victorious, but the result is that there is no predictable standard for pregnant workers in the workplace. We need a standard so employees know what their rights are and so employers can follow the law.

I yield for my colleague Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, this is about ensuring that women are not discriminated against because they want to have children. This is making sure that women don't have to choose between their jobs and their families. It is about ensuring that all women can be reassured that if they are pregnant, their employer has to provide reasonable accommodations.

I hope my colleagues will vote for this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to declare that Republicans are committed to fair and equal treatment of pregnant women as well. Congress passed the Pregnancy Discrimination Act in 1978 and passed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. Congress may need to enact this specific legislation through committee in order to address this issue. This amendment does confirm the ability of the committee of jurisdiction to draft legislation. We would be happy to accept this on a voice vote.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I request a rollcall vote and ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. ENZI. A rollcall vote has been requested.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the Casey amendment No. 632.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge the Republicans to vote aye.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Leg.]

## YEAS—100

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Roberts
Boxer	Heller	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Sessions
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Vitter
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	

The amendment (No. 632) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 607

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Thune amendment No. 607.

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise in support of my amendment No. 607, to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to repeal the Federal estate tax, better known as the death tax.

My amendment will put the Senate on record in support of eliminating this destructive and ill-conceived tax on American families in their time of grief. It has often been said but it is worth repeating: A death in the family should not be a taxable event.

I agree wholeheartedly with a piece in the newspaper earlier this week by Harry Alford, president of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, who writes that the death tax “disproportionately hampers minority and women-owned businesses across the country” and “creates an unfair situation for minority businesses which have finally started to accumulate wealth within the last 60 years.”

The death tax also hits farmers particularly hard.

According to USDA statistics on cropland values, a significant percentage of farms in my State of South Dakota and States such as North Dakota, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Minnesota, Florida, and Missouri remain subject to this double tax even at the higher estate tax exception limit.

Incremental relief from this unfair tax is not enough. The time has come for full repeal. I urge support for my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this amendment is not about family farms or small business. This amendment benefits exclusively the wealthiest three-tenths of 1 percent of the families in this country—the very, very wealthiest people—and 99.7 percent of the families in America will not benefit by 1 nickel. By the way, for those concerned about the deficit, this will cost us \$250 billion over a 10-year period.

Ironically, the Republican budget raises taxes for lower income families who are on the earned-income tax credit program and the children's tax credit program. So what we are doing now is giving tax breaks to billionaires in the same bill that we are raising taxes for low-income working families, and adding significantly to the deficit.

I think this should be a “no” vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Leg.]

## YEAS—54

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Corker	Johnson	Sessions
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

## NAYS—46

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Donnelly	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	
Franken	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 607) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate on the Bennet amendment No. 1014.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this amendment is very straightforward. The purpose reads “. . . responding to

the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change, as highlighted by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”

The amendment establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing climate change through the increased use of clean energy, the deployment of energy efficiency, and the reduction of carbon pollution.

That is it. That is all it is—simply a statement of all the facts and the suggestions of three common strategies to address the issue.

Climate change is a serious threat to the world, to our country, and to Colorado. Ask anyone whose farm or ranch depends on water from the Colorado River or one of its tributaries.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators time has expired.

Mr. BENNET. I urge a “yes” vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, just Wednesday of this week, the new annual Gallup poll came out. It said very clearly that among the six environmental concerns the Gallup poll included in its survey, global warming polled at the very bottom, right after the loss of the tropical rainforests, I might add. Gallup also found that a majority believe that the seriousness of global warming is overstated.

The Obama administration and others on this side like to claim 97 percent of the world's scientists believe in manmade global warming. Monday's Wall Street Journal op-ed debunked the 97 percent and the survey represents the views of only 79 respondents out of 3,149. Lastly, the agencies they are talking about that claim that 2014 was the warmest year on record, such as NASA—NASA now has reduced that to 38 percent. They have retreated from that position. So the people have caught on to this hysteria, and I ask colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 1014.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Leg.]

## YEAS—53

Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Heller	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Kirk	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

## NAYS—47

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blunt	Flake	Roberts
Boozman	Gardner	Rounds
Burr	Grassley	Rubio
Capito	Hatch	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	

The amendment (No. 1014) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 836

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate on McConnell amendment No. 836.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe the next amendment is No. 836.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me just say to my colleagues that this is an amendment which ought to pass 100 to 0. Let me tell you why. The Administrator of EPA just testified within the last couple of weeks that she does not have the authority under the Clean Power Plan to cut off State roads and bridges funds.

So today, with my friends from Kentucky and Oklahoma, I have offered an amendment that is really quite simple. It says that Washington bureaucrats should not be allowed to punish innocent Americans by threatening the roads and bridges they use just because a citizen's State may take a wait-and-see approach—a wait-and-see approach—as courts rule on massive EPA regulations. These are regulations which would threaten the middle class without having a meaningful impact on the global climate.

The legal issues here will resolve themselves eventually. But whatever our party or ideology, we should be able to agree that the Federal Government should not be punishing hard-working families just to score political points as States await legal clarification.

Let me say it again. The Administrator of the EPA does not believe she

has the authority to do this. We need to make it clear that the Senate opposes any step in that direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to amendment No. 836, which seeks to undercut the President's Clean Power Plan to address climate change and reduce dangerous carbon pollution.

The year 2014 was the single most dangerous year ever recorded in terms of temperatures, the warmest in history. NOAA and NASA continue to chronicle this ever-worsening warming planet. Not only will the President's power plan reduce greenhouse gasses, but it will also reduce the amount of pollution that leads to dangerous smog-related diseases that are contracted by Americans all across our planet.

Instead of debating this amendment, we should be debating the way to reduce the impacts of dangerous greenhouse gases on our planet.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The question is on agreeing to the McConnell amendment No. 836.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Leg.]

## YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Rounds
Coats	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kirk	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

## NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Peters	

The amendment (No. 836) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 842

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Merkley amendment No. 842.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has returned \$5 million to American citizens victimized by predatory scams and unscrupulous practices. If you support ending victimization of our citizens, support this bill. If you support creditors, then vote against it.

I yield to my colleague from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I am proud to join with Senator MERKLEY in advancing this amendment. It is important we continue to have a strong and effective CFPB to protect consumers and ensure transparency and fairness in our financial marketplace.

I urge an "aye" vote by my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is, and always has been, an agency with excessive independence. The agency actually steals funding from the Federal Reserve before it goes to the Federal Government, which takes away from our general fund. There is no control over any part of that agency.

Once it had a Director a year ago, we said there needed to be an inspector general taking a look at this problem. But the inspector general said he has no access to the records, even though he works there.

So this is an agency that is out of control. It is time for us to gain control over the agency, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Merkley amendment.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Leg.]

## YEAS—46

Baldwin	Franken	Mikulski
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murphy
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Murray
Booker	Heitkamp	Nelson
Boxer	Hirono	Peters
Brown	Kaine	Reed
Cantwell	King	Reid
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Carper	Leahy	Schatz
Casey	Manchin	Schumer
Coons	Markey	Shaheen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	
Feinstein	Merkley	



Tester	Warner	Whitehouse
Udall	Warren	Wyden

## NAYS—54

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

The amendment (No. 842) was rejected.

## AMENDMENT NO. 443

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Gardner amendment No. 443.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, this amendment does a very simple thing. It protects State water rights. It creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund to make sure we are protecting privately held water rights from intrusion by the U.S. Forest Service or the ski area water rule, and it makes sure we are keeping private water rights held safe from groundwater rules by the U.S. Forest Service.

This is an effort to make sure we are protecting private water rights, preventing bypass flows, and making sure we are doing everything we can to make sure that State water law is the imminent feature of our water in this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the Gardner amendment would radically change the way water is handled on public lands. There are real concerns about how Federal land management agencies deal with water, particularly in the drought-afflicted West. But this amendment is so broad that it is trying to address these problems in a way that will have numerous unintended consequences. It would make even worse some of the water shortages in the areas of the West, particularly in the Lower Colorado Basin. It would also create havoc in our national parks in both the East and the West.

The amendment would call into question the status of water contracts actually signed by the Bureau of Reclamation throughout the West. Uncertainty is the last thing we need. It would have damaging implications for settlements such as the Yakima Basin where people have come to agreement.

I agree we need to continue to work on the drought issues in the West. But saying that Federal management agencies don't have their obligations, such as helping in the national forests with firefighters—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. CANTWELL. I urge a "no" vote. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, once again, this is about water rights. This is about making sure we protect State-held water rights.

It is a very clear contrast. If you believe water rights should be managed by the Federal Government, then vote against the amendment. But if you believe private water rights are under State law, managed by State law, decided by State law, then vote for this amendment.

Let's protect our private water rights. Let's keep our law clear—that this matter belongs in the hands of the States and not in the hands of the Federal Government.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Gardner amendment No. 443.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Leg.]

## YEAS—59

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

## NAYS—41

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	

The amendment (No. 443) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 951

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Murray amendment No. 951.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as a former preschool teacher, I have seen

firsthand the kind of transformation that early learning can inspire in a child. I believe we should be investing more in our children, not less. So today I am offering an amendment to expand access to early childhood education so more kids can start kindergarten ready to learn. This amendment would expand high-quality early learning opportunities for low- and moderate-income 3- and 4-year-olds and build on the investments that Governors and legislators across the country, regardless of party affiliation, are already making to improve early learning opportunities through public-private partnerships. It is fully paid for by closing wasteful tax loopholes. I hope our colleagues can support this critical amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. All of us know there is a great value to pre-school, and the Federal Government already spends as much as \$20 billion per year on early childhood programs, including Head Start. This amendment would call for \$66 billion over 10 years, so it is just \$6.6 billion per year. But we already spend \$20 billion, which is almost as much as we spend on kindergarten through 12th grade. How many programs do we need? We have 45 at the moment.

One year ago, when we reauthorized the child development block grant, I offered an amendment to reduce the number of programs to five and put them all under one agency. That would save enough money to do this. Elementary and secondary education will be marked up, I think, when we get back. That committee process would be the appropriate place to consider this proposal, not in the budget. I would ask for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Murray amendment No. 951.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Leg.]

## YEAS—46

Baldwin	Donnelly	Leahy
Bennet	Durbin	Manchin
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Markey
Booker	Franken	McCaskill
Boxer	Gillibrand	Menendez
Brown	Heinrich	Merkley
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Mikulski
Cardin	Hirono	Murphy
Carper	Kaine	Murray
Casey	King	Nelson
Coons	Klobuchar	Peters

Reed  
Reid  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer

Shaheen  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Warner

Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

# NAYS—54

Alexander  
Ayotte  
Barrasso  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Coats  
Cochran  
Collins  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Enzi

Ernst  
Fischer  
Flake  
Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hatch  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Kirk  
Lankford  
Lee  
McCain  
McConnell  
Moran

Murkowski  
Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Sessions  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Vitter  
Wicker

The amendment (No. 951) was rejected.

## AMENDMENT NO. 763

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Graham amendment No. 763.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am going to withdraw this amendment, but before I do, I will take a couple of minutes to explain what it would do and what awaits us.

Most Members of the body don't understand, I think, that there are 160 programs which are exempt from sequestration. Our pay is exempt from sequestration, as is Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, food stamps, most all of Medicare, all of Medicaid, and the Veterans' Administration. The military, the intel community, and NIH have had devastating cuts, but we don't include our own pay. At the end of the day, how can we justify making sure we take care of the veterans, but we are putting those who are serving our country in the fight today at risk?

So I will withdraw this amendment for now because I think we are about to get some reason regarding sequestration, but if we don't, I will have an amendment for each of the 160 programs, starting with our pay. We need to feel the pain we are inflicting on other people.

I will withdraw this amendment for now, hoping we can fix sequestration, but if not, we need to take a look at the entire government and let others feel the pain, not just those who wear the uniform and are doing the work this country needs to have done.

## AMENDMENT NO. 763 WITHDRAWN

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is withdrawn.

## AMENDMENT NO. 825

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Blumenthal amendment No. 825.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this amendment helps to keep faith with our veterans and to make sure we leave no veteran behind by reflecting and responding to their voices and the message they have given us about the need for more and better health care relating to post-traumatic stress, treatment for military sexual trauma, and an improvement in the delivery of health care for them around the country.

It also improves the job training and rehabilitation programs for our veterans and makes sure, among other provisions, there is greater accountability and more funds and support for the inspector general of the VA so we can avoid the kinds of gaps and egregious shortcomings we have seen in this past year and also improve the Choice Program this Congress passed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this bipartisan amendment.

I thank Senator MORAN and Senator BALDWIN for their support and cosponsorship and urge that we keep faith with our Nation's heroes and leave no veteran behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we are willing to take this on a voice vote.

We yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the Blumenthal amendment No. 825.

The amendment (No. 825) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 665

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Flake amendment No. 665.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, in 2009, the President signed Executive Order 13502, which states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage executive agencies to consider requiring the use of PLAs, or project labor agreements, in connection with large-scale construction projects.

This Executive order did not mandate the use of PLAs. However, some Federal agencies have interpreted that order to require it, and so all this amendment does is take it back to what the law intended—that the Federal Government is neutral with regard to the awarding of contracts, allowing the free market to work its will, and deliver to taxpayers the best possible product at the best possible price.

I urge adoption of the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Flake amendment—and Senator FLAKE is my friend—strikes the project labor agreement option.

What is a project labor agreement? It is only awarded to a company after

they win the competitive bid. So they have to come in with a low competitive bill.

What does a project labor agreement contain? How much it is going to cost, what wages will be paid, and how disputes will be settled. The net result is that projects cost less and they are done on time.

Why would we want to eliminate the possibility of saving taxpayers money with project labor agreements? I hope my colleagues will vote no so we can put the money we are going to save from the Flake amendment into some important investments in America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of all Senators. At the rate we are going, we could be here until 5 a.m. in the morning, so I think it is a good time to seek some cooperation.

We have a number of amendments lined up here where sponsors will take a voice vote in the tranche we are working on now. If there are any Senators who are not in the current tranche and would like to be considered, I recommend that those Senators come over here and talk to the budget staff and see if we can't take some of them and do it by a voice vote and see if we can move through this process so we can get out of here at a reasonable hour.

I ask my friend the Democratic leader to give us a view of the status on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from South Carolina set a good example by withdrawing his amendment. That is really what the standard should be. Senator BLUMENTHAL was second best when he said he would take a voice vote. The only disagreement I would have with my friend the Republican leader is that if we go through all of these amendments that are pending, it will take 33 more hours. That is the math. That is the truth. We need to move on.

Remember, this budget resolution is a statement of policy. It is not the law. We can say "I gotcha" on this one, "we gotcha" on that one, but that is—we have done that now for 8 hours or whatever it is.

I really do agree with the Republican leader. The staff has worked so hard. They haven't worked just today and yesterday and this week; they have been working for weeks to get us to the position where we are tonight. I know the Republican leader bought dinner tonight, and I appreciate that very much. But if we can get finished here by 11:30, I will buy dinner when we get back, and it will be better than that.

So we have had an ample vote-arama. For all the new Members, they see what it is like. The time has come for Senators to show some restraint.

No one's election is going to be determined—I say that to the world. No one's election is going to be determined by what is taking place here tonight—no election. I defy anyone to show me in any of these vote-aramas where a vote has made any difference. And we are witnesses to that, and I can testify to that. One time, to show my colleagues how meaningless these votes are, we voted against prisoners being able to have Viagra in prison. We actually voted on that. No one lost an election. By the way, it was defeated.

So let's—we can go through all of the Viagra amendments and do all of these things to embarrass each other, but that isn't what we should be doing. The time has come to forgo pressing amendments to votes altogether.

It has been very dignified. Earlier today, I said how proud I am of the two managers of this legislation. They have totally different political outlooks, but they have been gentlemen to each other and gentlemen to each of us.

So I hope we can move forward as quickly as possible. The agreement for the dinner was not a Las Vegas bet; it is something I will do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I will just add, we will finish tonight, and it might help us move quicker, in addition to having voice votes on a lot of amendments, if we sit at our own desks and see if we can just get through this as rapidly as possible without denying anyone their rights.

So I recommend we go ahead, whatever the next amendment is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Flake amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Heller	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

#### NAYS—49

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

The amendment (No. 665) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 475

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sanders Amendment No. 475.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. This amendment establishes a deficit-neutral fund to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. SANDERS. This deficit-neutral reserve fund would prevent the Postal Service from shutting down 82 processing plants in 37 States. It would restore delivery standards which have been slowed down and protect rural postal services.

The Postal Service is vital to the well-being of our Nation and economy. This is especially true in our rural areas. This is an issue that has had bipartisan support for the last number of years.

Senator COLLINS is a cosponsor of this amendment. She has been very active on this issue, and I would hope we could pass it with a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I want to thank Senator COLLINS for all of her efforts in this area and Senator SANDERS for making this a bipartisan amendment, and I would ask to accept this on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sanders amendment No. 475.

The amendment (No. 475) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1029

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Hatch amendment No. 1029.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1029 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, no one believes in tax policy that has the effect of shipping jobs overseas.

My amendment, which is cosponsored by Senator WYDEN—a true bipartisan amendment—goes right to the heart of what amendment No. 523 of my friend

from Michigan and amendment No. 817 of my friend from Illinois claimed to be doing.

Tax policy leaders of all ideological stripes agree on a key point. The U.S. corporate tax rate is the highest among our trading partners and is making American firms less competitive, thereby hurting American workers.

My amendment would put in place a deficit-neutral reserve fund to bring the corporate rate down and to prevent the bleeding of U.S. jobs. Vote for it to preserve and grow U.S. jobs.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the purpose of this amendment, as I understand it, is to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas. I think if we are serious about this, we may want to change our disastrous trade policies, which have led to the shutdown of thousands of factories in this country and millions of decent-paying jobs. In my view, at a time when we have an \$18 trillion national debt, the last thing we need to do is to cut corporate taxes on profitable corporations that in many cases pay little or nothing in Federal taxes.

We have major corporation after major corporation making billions of dollars. They pay zero in Federal income taxes. I don't quite know how you can lower their taxes below zero. We need real tax reform in this country that ends corporate loopholes that is costing us well over \$100 billion a year.

So I would urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think the Senator, through the Chair, would yield to me for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator from Oregon be given 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I support this amendment.

President Obama favors lowering this tax rate, and I believe the reason he does is because he thinks this will provide another opportunity to reduce offshoring. I support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Since this is bipartisan, I would hope we would take this by voice vote. And it is the chairman and ranking member of the committees who have to do the work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 1029.

The amendment (No. 1029) was agreed to.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, yesterday, I corrected the record on the matter of tax expenditures. That statement focused on individual income tax expenditures. According to 2014 Congressional Budget Office data, the individual income tax accounts for 47.1 percent of federal revenue. By contrast, the corporate income tax accounts for 11.9 percent of federal revenue. Today I am going to discuss corporate tax expenditures.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, Congress's nonpartisan official tax scorekeeper, provides scoring and analysis of corporate tax expenditures. What are corporate tax expenditures? In a general sense, they are departures from a regular income tax. A regular income tax records income and provides deductions for expenses related to producing income to arrive at net income. Tax benefits in the form of exclusions, deductions, and credits not connected to the generation of business income are generally treated as corporate tax expenditures. As the tax-writing committee hearings have shown, our business tax system is overloaded with subsidies and other complex special provisions. Those deviations from basic measures of net income can result in economic inefficiencies, slow growth, and an economy that produces fewer jobs than it otherwise would. From a revenue-neutral standpoint, the flip side of that narrower, less-efficient tax base is a higher than optimal tax rate. It is a matter of broad-based consensus of senior tax policymakers from the left to the right that there is a "two-fer" in broadening the tax base and lowering the rate. This applies to both corporate businesses and noncorporate businesses.

To the extent Congress delays translating the bipartisan goal of a broader business base and lower rates into concrete policy, the dangers of further inversion transactions and foreign takeovers looms on the economic horizon. My friends on the left side of the political spectrum should be the most concerned. Why? The reason is the local economies most vulnerable to inversions and foreign takeovers of U.S.-based businesses are in business sectors that dominate in the high cost-of-living, high-tax so-called "Blue States." I am referring to the high-tech, pharmaceutical, and other cutting-edge intellectual property producing business sectors. Those business sectors tend to be based in high-cost, high-tax blue States. My friends on the other side should be very sensitive to threats to their local economies.

For that reason, I continue to be stunned to see many of most liberal friends on the other side take positions on this budget resolution that are at odds with the goal of tax reform. Cherry-picking corporate tax expenditures

to use for new spending, if it were to become viable policy, would starve the resources for tax reform. If my friends on the other side were to prevail on this strategy, you could forget about the bipartisan goal of broadening the business tax base and lowering tax rates. Their policy positions, if enacted, would leave tax policymakers with no resources to engage in reform. In fact, a broader U.S. tax base with rates that are already too high would make U.S.-based businesses less competitive. The tax baggage of being a U.S.-based business would grow, further tipping the balance toward foreign control by inversions and takeovers.

The debate on corporate tax expenditures isn't about the merits of those policies. That debate on the merits of corporate tax expenditures could, should, and will be joined in legislating tax reform. That is a bipartisan goal for a bipartisan policy result that is necessary to build a stronger American economy.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1063

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Schatz amendment No. 1063.

The Senator from Hawaii.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1063, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 1063 be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM AND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse and to benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. SCHATZ. All legally married, same-sex couples deserve equal treatment under the law, regardless of where they live. But right now, eligibility for spousal benefits provided under the Social Security Act and by the Department of Veterans Affairs is determined by a place-of-residence standard. That means that legally married same-sex couples who move to a State that doesn't recognize same-sex

marriage could be denied Social Security and veterans survivor benefits.

Plain and simple, this is wrong, and this doesn't reflect our American values. This amendment will fix this and provide equal protection under the law and the Social Security and veterans benefits that gay Americans have earned. I would be happy to entertain a voice vote in support of this amendment if the majority is amenable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that is not going to be possible on this amendment.

Again, this is a statement that has to be handled by the committee of jurisdiction and has no real effect. So I would ask that everybody vote "no" on this one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Schatz amendment No. 1063, as modified.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Leg.]

#### YEAS—57

Ayotte	Franken	Murphy
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Heller	Portman
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Johnson	Reid
Burr	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Corker	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden

#### NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Risch
Barrasso	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Graham	Rounds
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

The amendment (No. 1063), as modified, was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1038

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Kirk amendment No. 1038.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Illinois, we are offering an alternative to the Sanders amendment that failed earlier today. The Sanders amendment called for a substantial increase in the minimum wage, an action that the Congressional Budget Office has told us could kill up to 1 million jobs.

The Kirk amendment takes a different approach. It reaffirms the ability of the individual States to raise the minimum wage above the Federal level, but only if they choose to do so at their own volition.

It also calls for policies that will result in higher wages for all Americans, pro-growth tax relief and the elimination of burdensome mandates such as ObamaCare.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kirk amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Frankly, I don't quite understand this amendment. This is what it says: This amendment would "establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund" to reaffirm that States can raise minimum wage while providing tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates.

States do not need permission from the Federal Government to raise the minimum wage. In fact, 29 States have already raised the minimum wage. And in the last election, when that question was on the ballot in four States, all four of those States voted to raise the minimum wage.

People all over this country want us to raise the Federal minimum wage, which is now a starvation wage of \$7.25 an hour.

So this amendment, quite frankly, does not make a whole lot of sense to me. I would hope it will be defeated.

States are looking to the Federal Government to raise the minimum wage. We don't have to tell them what to do. They are doing just fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this amendment is a reaffirmation of the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

I ask for the support of our colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Leg.]

#### YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

#### NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Manchin	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Peters	

The amendment (No. 1038) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 944

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

There is 2 minutes of debate on the amendment.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this is an amendment to call a point of order on any legislation that would attempt to muzzle Federal employees in using any scientific language that calls a change—scientific language that would apply to oceans, to weather, to the climate, and to atmospheres.

This is an attempt to make clear that we do not agree with muzzling or censoring Federal agencies or Federal employees when it comes to employing their scientific knowledge.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this amendment is not germane to the budget resolution. It creates a point of order concerning subject matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget, prohibiting Federal employees or agencies from exercising their freedom of speech by prohibiting using terms from atmospheric scientific literature.

While I know many of my colleagues have strong opinions on this topic, it is not appropriate for inclusion in a budget resolution. In fact, this amendment is corrosive. It damages the privilege of the budget. Therefore, when debate

time expires I will raise a point of order that this amendment is not germane to the budget resolution and I encourage my colleagues to sustain it.

I guess that probably concludes the debate.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida has 7 seconds remaining.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this is an issue of freedom of speech, First Amendment rights. This is in fact—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, amendment No. 944 is not germane to the budget resolution now before the Senate. Therefore, I raise a point of order against the amendment under section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I move to waive, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rubio
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Corker	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden

#### NAYS—49

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 49.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained and the amendment fails.

## AMENDMENT NO. 360

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the McCain amendment No. 360.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this amendment is simple. It says that children who show up at our border will not be allowed to stay. They will be returned to the country they came from. Right now they are being transported up by the lowest form of life that ever existed on the Earth. Young women are being raped, people are being killed, people are being molested, and the drug cartels are the ones that are bringing them up. This has got to stop. They can go to the consulate and the embassies in their countries—I am talking about the three Central American countries, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. But to have the drug cartels and parents paying thousands of dollars to have them transported up, many of the young women being raped on the way, is unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

## AMENDMENT NO. 360, AS MODIFIED

Mr. President, I have a modification at the desk and ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETERRING THE MIGRATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FROM EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to deterring the attempted migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in the United States, which may include the expedited removal of unlawful entrants from non-contiguous countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I did raise an objection to the change, although I appreciate the fact that the Senator made that change.

I rise to oppose amendment No. 360 which would roll back critical antitrafficking and humanitarian protections for children from Central America. Last summer I led a congressional delegation to the Rio Grande Valley border to view the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied chil-

dren from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Clearly, concrete cells at Border Patrol stations are no place for children, which is where they likely would be under the expedited deportation proceedings allowed under this amendment. These young children are fleeing danger and violence in their own home countries. It is also no answer to require these children to seek asylum in their home countries while being exposed to the very violence they are trying to escape in the first place.

This is the portion of the amendment the Senator has eliminated. It still doesn't leave out the part about expedited deportation. So let's keep the current law in place that—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. HIRONO. We voted for this law unanimously, signed by President Bush. I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Leg.]

## YEAS—58

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

## NAYS—42

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Coons	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden

The amendment (No. 360), as modified, was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 968

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Wyden amendment No. 968.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 968, and I urge Sen-

ators to support this amendment because it will cut taxes on the middle class and give millions of Americans a new ladder of economic opportunity. This amendment rewards hard work, makes college more affordable, and helps parents who have a tough time making ends meet. Let's create a new path upward for the middle class and those who want to be middle class. Support this amendment.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, once again I have to ask my colleagues to vote "no." This is a tax reform idea that has some merit, but it has to be dealt with in the context of comprehensive tax reform rather than a stand-alone proposal. I know that he and his Finance Committee chairman, Senator HATCH, are working on changing the Tax Code to eliminate some of the overcomplicated, inefficient, and archaic language, so we should address it in the committee of jurisdiction, not in the budget.

Even though the amendment is deficit neutral, it is, again, telling a committee what to do and how to do it, and it is even by the person who has the capability to do that. So I would ask for a "no" vote.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the Wyden amendment No. 968.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Leg.]

## YEAS—73

Ayotte	Grassley	Reed
Baldwin	Heinrich	Reid
Bennet	Heitkamp	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Roberts
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Scott
Cardin	Lee	Sessions
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Shelby
Coats	McCain	Stabenow
Collins	McCaskill	Sullivan
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Corker	Merkley	Thune
Crapo	Mikulski	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Udall
Donnelly	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Franken	Nelson	Wyden
Gardner	Peters	
Gillibrand	Portman	

## NAYS—27

Alexander	Cornyn	Flake
Barrasso	Cotton	Graham
Blunt	Daines	Hatch
Burr	Enzi	Heller
Cassidy	Ernst	Inhofe
Cochran	Fischer	Isakson

Kirk Paul Tillis  
Lankford Perdue Vitter  
McConnell Rounds Wicker

The amendment (No. 968) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 750, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Lee amendment No. 750, as modified.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Federal Government owns almost two-thirds of the land in Utah and almost half of the land in the 11 coterminous States in the Western United States. But unlike other property owners, the Federal Government does not pay property tax. As a result, areas with high concentrations of Federal land, such as most of Utah and most of the Western United States, face budget shortfalls that affect the ability of those States to fund critical education, transportation infrastructure, and emergency services.

To help compensate local governments for this loss of property tax revenue, the Federal Government created the PILT Program—PILT stands for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program—to provide some funding for these revenue shortfalls.

Historically, PILT payments tend to represent just a tiny fraction, just pennies on the dollar for what these jurisdictions could otherwise collect in property tax revenue.

Now to correct the damage caused by this unfair system—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LEE. I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment which would allow us to bring PILT into conformity with what these jurisdictions would otherwise receive from taxation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. While there are many of us who support full funding for PILT, this amendment is impractical. In fact, the Congressional Research Service reports indicate that attempts to set up tax equivalency for PILT would be wrought with errors and gamesmanship. That is because counties routinely tax different land uses at different rates.

Second, my colleagues should note that this may increase PILT payments more than 350 percent of today's authorized level, and that would raise the cost of this program from \$4 to \$5 billion, to \$15 to \$20 billion.

Because the amendment creates a spending-neutral reserve fund, only cuts to other mandatory spending programs could be used to fund the 350 percent rise in payments.

So, Mr. President, I cannot support this amendment. It is unsustainable and unworkable, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

##### YEAS—56

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

##### NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

##### NOT VOTING—1

Feinstein

The amendment (No. 750), as modified, was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 919

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Reed amendment No. 919.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this amendment is based on legislation Senator BLUMENTHAL and I introduced last Congress to close a major loophole in the current corporate tax law by putting an end to unlimited tax write-offs for performance-based executive pay. In 1993, Congress limited the deductibility of executive pay to \$1 million, with an exception for performance-based compensation. But over the last two decades, corporations have made the exception the rule, and we have seen more pay designated as performance based even in some cases where the company is not doing very well for the shareholders.

It has been estimated that between 2007 and 2010, \$121.5 billion in executive pay was deductible, and roughly 55 percent of that was for performance-based compensation. Businesses and shareholders should establish the pay of their officers and employees, but the taxpayers should not be subsidizing excessive pay at corporations. I urge a "yes" vote. It will save more than \$50 billion over 10 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, again I ask my colleagues to vote "no." Tax reform must be handled by the tax committee. Putting it in the budget does not help move the process forward. There are a number of questions the committee needs to address: What does it mean, corporate compensation in excess of \$1 million? Does that include or exclude health care? Does this include baseball players and actors and actresses as well? What are we talking about with limiting compensation? Can you limit compensation for people by a Federal law? If they have earned more than that, what about people who are operating under contract?

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment. It will be handled in the tax committee when we consider tax reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 54, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 127 Leg.]

##### YEAS—44

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	

##### NAYS—54

Alexander	Cassidy	Crapo
Ayotte	Coats	Cruz
Barrasso	Cochran	Daines
Blunt	Collins	Enzi
Boozman	Corker	Ernst
Burr	Cornyn	Fischer
Capito	Cotton	Flake



Gardner	Lee	Rubio
Graham	McCain	Sasse
Grassley	McConnell	Scott
Hatch	Moran	Sessions
Heller	Murkowski	Shelby
Hoeven	Paul	Sullivan
Inhofe	Perdue	Thune
Isakson	Portman	Tillis
Johnson	Risch	Toomey
Kirk	Roberts	Vitter
Lankford	Rounds	Wicker

## NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The amendment (No. 919) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on Cotton amendment No. 659.

The minority leader.

## QUORUM CALL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

## [Quorum No. 5 Leg.]

Alexander	Donnelly	Perdue
Ayotte	Durbin	Peters
Baldwin	Enzi	Portman
Blunt	Ernst	Reed
Booker	Gardner	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Inhofe	Roberts
Brown	Isakson	Rounds
Capito	King	Rubio
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Lankford	Sessions
Cassidy	Leahy	Shaheen
Cochran	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	McConnell	Thune
Corker	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Moran	Vitter
Cotton	Murkowski	Wicker
Crapo	Murphy	Wyden
Daines	Murray	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

## AMENDMENT NO. 659

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Cotton amendment No. 659.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, this amendment establishes a reserve fund to ensure the Fish and Wildlife Service considers the cumulative economic impact of a critical habitat designation and not just the incremental impact when listing a previously designated critical habitat.

A critical habitat designation provides additional protections for endangered species, but States like Arkansas have seen critical habitat designations that do not take into account the full economic impact on farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Previously, the full economic impact of a designation was considered, but that has been modified recently so only the marginal impact between the endangered species listing and the critical habitat designation is considered.

Any reforms should not change the listing process, and I would not suggest we should change the listing process in

this measure. I simply want to account for the full economic impact of such designations, and I urge my colleagues to cast a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, there are two ways to repeal landmark environmental law. One is through the front door, and the amendment would say we abandon the Endangered Species Act. It is gone. And one way is through the back door. This is through the back door.

If radical amendments like this one were in place, we would not have saved the great American Bald Eagle, the symbol of our Nation.

If you believe that God's creations should be preserved, vote no on the Cotton amendment.

I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Cotton amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 128 Leg.]

## YEAS—52

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

## NAYS—42

Ayotte	Donnelly	Merkley
Baldwin	Durbin	Murphy
Bennet	Franken	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Nelson
Booker	Heinrich	Peters
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Kaine	Reid
Cantwell	King	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	
Collins	McCaskill	
Coons	Menendez	

Stabenow	Warner	Whitehouse
Tester	Warren	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—6

Feinstein	Mikulski	Shelby
Kirk	Schatz	Udall

The amendment (No. 659) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 993

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Menendez amendment No. 993.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the Congress came together to create the do-not-call list, and it is time for Congress to come together again to update this important consumer protection legislation and protect Americans as we intended to do. We all know of many of our constituents and our families who are bothered by unwanted phone calls at dinner, at night when we are home with our families.

It makes sense, as we decided then when we passed the law, to decide whether you want to receive soliciting phone calls, and that right should be respected under the law. Unfortunately, a few unscrupulous companies have ignored Americans' wishes and continued to pester people, and they see the penalties as the cost of doing business. That has to stop. We have to stop it, and we can do so by giving the appropriate flexibility to the entities that are supposed to enforce the law to be able to do so.

I think this is a noncontroversial amendment. If it is, I am happy to accept a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is no objection on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Menendez amendment No. 993.

The amendment (No. 993) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 664

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate on the Cotton amendment No. 664.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I know Guantanamo Bay operations are a controversial matter in this Chamber. This amendment does not address that.

I took a group of Senators to Guantanamo Bay a couple of weeks ago. Soldiers are living in substandard barracks. Communication facilities are not adequate. Even if you oppose detention operations at Guantanamo Bay, you should know that, in barely 20 years, there have been five different humanitarian operations at Guantanamo Bay, to include post-Haiti earthquake operations.

This amendment would allow for construction to ensure that Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, regardless of detainee operations, treats our troops to the highest standards they deserve, and preserves it for humanitarian contingency operations in the future.

I urge a "yes" vote.

I ask unanimous consent to modify the amendment with the modifications at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment is not germane to the underlying resolution and would violate section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I move to waive the applicable provision of the Budget Act, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, is there still time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time available.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

#### YEAS—49

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeben	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	King	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	
Donnelly	Moran	

#### NAYS—48

Baldwin	Flake	Murphy
Bennet	Franken	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Nelson
Booker	Heinrich	Peters
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Rounds
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Carpenter	Leahy	Schatz
Casey	Manchin	Schumer
Coons	Markey	Shaheen
Cornyn	McCaskill	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Sullivan
Enzi	Merkley	Tester

Tillis	Warner	Whitehouse
Udall	Warren	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Kirk	Mikulski
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 48.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

The majority leader.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

I will say to my Republican colleagues, we are going to have a conference in the Strom Thurmond Room right now.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:05 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:13 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GARDNER).

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my understanding there will be a vote on the Brown amendment that is pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is right.

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Brown amendment No. 994.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the Brown amendment, which we were just discussing, No. 994, the next amendments in order be the following and that the Senate vote on the amendments in the order listed with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes: Vitter No. 811, Warren No. 1094, Lee No. 855, Cardin No. 367, Rubio No. 552, and Kaine No. 1047, as modified.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the managers or their designees prior to each vote and that all votes after the first in this series be 10 minutes in length.

Let me just say parenthetically that if everyone will stay in their seat—the clerk tells me it takes 7 minutes to call the roll. So if everyone will stay in their seat, we will go straight through. They tell me it takes 7 minutes to do it. This should take us about an hour if we get started.

Further, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the listed amendments and any cleared amendments agreed to by both man-

agers and both leaders, the remaining pending amendments be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 994

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask to call up amendment No. 994.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 18 years ago, the 6 biggest U.S. banks had assets equal to 18 percent of the GDP. Today, those six banks' combined assets are about 63 percent of GDP, with an average of more than 5,000 legal entities operating in 57 different countries.

Dodd-Frank requires large banks to produce an annual living will explaining the bank's plan for its own rapid and orderly resolution through the bankruptcy process in the event of material financial distress or failure. The Brown-Vitter amendment says that if banks cannot credibly explain how they can fail safely, then they are considered too big to fail and they need to have more capital or be restructured until they can go bankrupt without a government bailout.

As Chairman SHELBY told the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday, if a bank is too big to fail, it is probably too big to exist.

I ask support for the Brown-Vitter amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is no objection on our side. We would hope for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Brown amendment.

The amendment (No. 994) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 811

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Vitter amendment No. 811.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, during the ObamaCare debate on the Senate floor, the Senate passed an amendment to the Obama bill saying that all Members of Congress need to go to our exchange for health care, just as other Americans have gone to the exchange—no special deal, no special exemptions, and no special subsidy.

After that was passed into law, a lot of folks didn't like it, and a special rule was applied by the Obama administration to change some of that situation. This amendment would say: No, we are going to live by that statute. We are going to go to the exchange for our health care—no special subsidy, no special deal—and it would also apply to the President, the Vice President, and their political appointees.

This amendment would not change anything at all with regard to congressional staff.

I urge support for my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, colleagues, this is very important. Today, every single Senator is treated like every single person in the country who works for a large employer. Those large employers all make a contribution to their employees' health care. We don't get any subsidies. We don't qualify for subsidies. We are treated like everyone else in this country who has an employer contribution to their health care.

Now, colleagues, you do not have to take that employer contribution. If you don't want it, give it back. You don't need this amendment to give it back. If you feel as strongly as Senator VITTER does that you and your family don't want or need this employer contribution, then give it back to the Treasury, as I assume Senator VITTER does.

Again, we don't need this amendment. If you don't want your employer contribution, you vote yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for debate has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. And if you believe we should be treated like everyone else in the country, vote no. That is how I am voting.

Mr. VITTER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Ayotte	Flake	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Bennet	Graham	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Rounds
Boozman	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Sasse
Capito	Hoeben	Scott
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

#### NAYS—46

Baldwin	Casey	Heinrich
Blumenthal	Coats	Heitkamp
Booker	Collins	Hirono
Boxer	Coons	Kaine
Brown	Donnelly	King
Cantwell	Durbin	Klobuchar
Cardin	Franken	Leahy
Carper	Gillibrand	Manchin

Markey	Peters	Tester
McCaskill	Reed	Udall
Menendez	Reid	Warner
Merkley	Sanders	Warren
Murkowski	Schatz	Whitehouse
Murphy	Schumer	Wyden
Murray	Shaheen	
Nelson	Stabenow	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The amendment (No. 811) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1094, AS MODIFIED

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up my amendment No. 1094, as modified, with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment, as modified.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Ms. WARREN], for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHATZ, proposes an amendment numbered 1094, as modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding Social Security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the sustainable expansion of benefits under the Social Security program and promoting the complete long-term actuarial solvency of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Warren amendment No. 1094, as modified.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, more than ever, our seniors depend on safety and reliability of Social Security. For 15 million seniors, Social Security is the only thing that stands between them and poverty.

For too long in Washington, Social Security has been under assault. Republicans have long argued that we have to gut the program to save it. Well, they are wrong. We shouldn't be talking about gutting Social Security. We should be talking about strengthening Social Security. We should be

talking about protecting Social Security. We should be talking about expanding Social Security.

This amendment supports those goals. We acknowledge the need to make certain the program is solvent—something that people can depend on. We reject the false choice that too many Republicans have put forward to scare our seniors into believing they must absorb drastic cuts in the benefits they depend on. And we believe when two-thirds of the seniors—

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. WARREN. Two minutes? Oh, 1 minute. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, at the present time, Social Security has an unfunded liability of \$25 trillion over the infinite horizon. There is a problem. It is not to scare seniors, it is to preserve and make the program sustainable.

When President Clinton was in office, he and Rick Santorum held a day's seminar on Social Security reform. We broke into Republican-Democratic House and Senate groups the next day. We came up with a blueprint for saving Social Security and to fix it. We recognized it took many different options, just not one option. One option will not solve the problem, and no one party can address the issue alone.

We are prohibited by statute from making changes to Social Security in a budget resolution, and that is probably a good thing. So I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Warren amendment, as modified.

Ms. WARREN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. SCHUMER. May I make a unanimous consent request that we waive the reading of the names?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

#### YEAS—42

Baldwin	Cardin	Heinrich
Bennet	Casey	Hirono
Blumenthal	Coons	Kaine
Booker	Donnelly	King
Boxer	Durbin	Klobuchar
Brown	Franken	Leahy
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Manchin

Markey	Peters	Stabenow
McCaskill	Reed	Tester
Menendez	Reid	Udall
Merkley	Sanders	Warner
Murphy	Schatz	Warren
Murray	Schumer	Whitehouse
Nelson	Shaheen	Wyden

## NAYS—56

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Carper	Heitkamp	Rubio
Cassidy	Heller	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

## NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The amendment (No. 1094), as modified, was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding the reason the clerk reads the names is so the Republican press can determine how we vote.

Would the Chair indicate whether that is true or false?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is for the benefit of the Senate as a body.

Mr. REID. We do have the right if we, by consent, agree to waive the reading of the names; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Would the Senator from New York renew his request?

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

I renew my unanimous consent request that for the rest of the votes we have this evening, except on final passage of the budget, we waive the reading of the names.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The reading of the names will be waived.

## AMENDMENT NO. 855

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Lee amendment No. 855.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this amendment, amendment No. 855, would create a budget point of order—a point of order that would make it clear it is not in order to consider a debt ceiling increase using reconciliation instructions under this budget.

While the language in this budget does not itself expressly authorize the use of reconciliation for this purpose, it does nothing to prohibit such language from being added in conference. So the point of order at issue would impact only legislation that attempts to use reconciliation instructions to pass a debt limit increase, and it would require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members duly sworn and chosen.

This is something the American people deserve to have debated and discussed independently. It is also something that ought to require an enhanced threshold.

I encourage my colleagues to support amendment No. 855.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, deciding whether to increase the debt limit is like putting purchases on your credit card and then deciding whether to pay the bill. Increasing the debt limit is not a license to take on more debt, it simply makes it possible to pay the bills we have already incurred.

Recent history shows that leaving this to the last minute, and even coming close to hitting the debt limit, is extremely dangerous for our country and, in fact, the entire world. Even the remote possibility of default by the U.S. Government is enough to throw markets into turmoil and has resulted in credit rating agencies downgrading our credit worthiness.

Unfortunately, in recent years some of my Republican colleagues have used raising the debt limit as a way to extract policy concessions that invariably include draconian cuts to programs that are important to working families and the middle class. This amendment continues that trend by making it even harder to raise the debt limit and thus easier—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS.—to cause an international panic.

I urge colleagues to oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to Lee amendment No. 855.

Mr. BURR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

## YEAS—54

Ayotte	Daines	Kirk
Barrasso	Enzi	Lankford
Blunt	Ernst	Lee
Boozman	Fischer	Manchin
Burr	Flake	McCain
Capito	Gardner	McConnell
Cassidy	Graham	Moran
Coats	Grassley	Murkowski
Cochran	Hatch	Paul
Corker	Heller	Perdue
Cornyn	Hoeven	Portman
Cotton	Inhofe	Risch
Crapo	Isakson	Roberts
Cruz	Johnson	Rounds

Rubio	Shelby	Tillis
Sasse	Sullivan	Toomey
Scott	Tester	Vitter
Sessions	Thune	Wicker

## NAYS—44

Alexander	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	McCaskill	Warner
Collins	Menendez	Warren
Coons	Merkley	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	

## NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The amendment (No. 855) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 367

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Cardin amendment No. 367.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, there is an estimated 5.85 million citizens who can't vote as a result of criminal convictions and nearly 4.4 million of those have already been released from prison. One out of every 13 African Americans of voting age have lost their right to vote.

This amendment creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund in order to consider voter reenfranchisement initiatives. It is not descriptive as to the type.

Senator PAUL has introduced legislation on this subject. I have introduced legislation on this subject. I would hope this would be accepted by voice vote. It spells out in the amendment that we would like the U.S. attorney to inform during plea agreements the impact on defendants on their rights to vote, and that we would like to have data concerning the impact on minority populations.

I hope we could move forward with this, and I would be willing to accept this on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am going to have to recommend a "no" vote because of States' rights concerns. There are 48 States and the District of Columbia that prohibit voting while incarcerated for a felony offense. I was fascinated to find that only two States—Maine and Vermont—permit persons in prison to vote.

An estimated 5.85 million Americans—one in 40 adults—has currently or permanently lost their voting rights as a result of a felony conviction. But each State has its own process for restoring the voting rights to ex-offenders now. States are best suited to make the judgment call, as they are closest to their citizens.

So I ask for a States' rights vote of "no."

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, is there any time remaining on the Democratic side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No time remains on the Democratic side.

The question is on agreeing to the Cardin amendment No. 367.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

#### YEAS—47

Alexander	Gillibrand	Paul
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Corker	Murkowski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	

#### NAYS—51

Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kirk	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein Mikulski

The amendment (No. 367) was rejected.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 552

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Rubio amendment No. 552.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that is where the United States should have its Embassy. However, since 1995 when Congress passed the Jerusalem Relocation Act, that is how it has been recognized. However, a waiver has been used over the last 20 years to avoid this move. This amendment would allow funding to achieve what is already in the U.S. Code.

I yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as all of you know, the Knesset meets in Jerusalem. Every political party in Israel recognizes Jerusalem as their capital. Both political parties of the United States should do the same. That is where our Embassy should be.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I suggest a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the Rubio amendment No. 552.

The amendment (No. 552) was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1047

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate on the Kaine amendment No. 1047.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1047, AS MODIFIED

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REVISE OR REPEAL SEQUESTRATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the enforcement procedures under section 251A of that Act to revise or repeal the discretionary spending limits and enforcement procedures established under those sections, relating to providing relief from sequestration and the reduction in discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between both the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category, and offsetting such relief through targeted changes in mandatory or discretionary spending programs (not pertaining to Social Security) and tax expenditures by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For purposes of determining deficit-neutrality under this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may include the estimated effects of any amendment or amendments to the discretionary spending limits.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEQUESTRATION REPLACEMENT.

(a) MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASE IN DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.—If a measure becomes law that amends the discretionary

spending limits established under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), the adjustments to discretionary spending limits under section 251(b) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)), or the enforcement procedures established under section 251A of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure, up to the amounts specified and reserved in subparagraph (b).

(b) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED AND RESERVED.—The amounts specified (and to be reserved from the allocation called for in section 302(a) allocation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate until such time as the conditions specified in subsection (a) are met are—

(1) for fiscal year 2016—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(2) for fiscal year 2017—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom).

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the key budget issue that we are grappling with is what will we do about sequester in the budget caps. All of us since March of 2013 have heard in our various committees about the effect these caps are having on our national defense, our law enforcement, medical research, education, and every other priority. This amendment does two simple things. It creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow us to look for a sequester replacement that can analyze mandatory programs other than Social Security, discretionary programs, and tax entitlements—tax expenditures. Second, it creates a mechanism if such a bill is enacted to adjust the budget caps. If we are serious about lifting sequester, we should vote for this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, one of the things the Republicans on the Budget Committee have suggested was that as soon as we finish the budget, which we hope to finish by April 15, that we could begin to look at the Budget Control Act itself. The budget resolution already provides for sequester replacement. There is a reserve fund in place for the sequester to use if the circumstances permit. Additionally this amendment would increase taxes, not to reduce the deficit but to increase spending. At a time when our national debt exceeds \$18 trillion when our debt is bigger than our economy, we need to talk about cutting spending and taxes, not increasing them.

On the last recorded vote for the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Kaine amendment No. 1047, as modified.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Leg.]

#### YEAS—50

Alexander	Franken	Murray
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Nelson
Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Collins	McCain	Warner
Coons	McCaskey	Warren
Corker	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wyden
Durbin	Murphy	

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Cornyn	Johnson	Sessions
Cotton	Kirk	Shelby
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Murkowski	Vitter
Fischer	Paul	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The amendment (No. 1047), as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 950; 647; 485; 780; 765; 348; 425; 624; 422; 595; 651; 604; 885; 346; 456; 597, AS MODIFIED; 449; 534; 339; 693; 770; 830; 538; 1081; 380, AS MODIFIED; 416, AS MODIFIED; 1027; 827; 374, AS MODIFIED; 931; 404; 458, AS MODIFIED; 648; 426; 442; 625; 620; 1039; 482; 402; 490, AS MODIFIED; 491; 822; 533; 1099; 420, AS MODIFIED; 1028; 453; 752, AS MODIFIED; 1073, AS MODIFIED; 1110; 983; 642; 636; 638; 431; 793; 439; 705; 578; 342; 882; 899; 713; 364; 1002; 877; 721; 1067; 643; 437; 1005; 697; 569; 520; 708; 803; 1003; 720; 1033; 482; 1013; 639; 1044; 434; 918; 986; 866; 392; 792; 1105; 1101; 435; 473; 1091; 580; 585; 645; 694; 1104; 586; AND 394

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I send a list of amendments to the desk that has been cleared by both managers and both leaders.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered en bloc and agreed to en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments proposed (Nos. 950; 647; 780; 765; 348; 624; 422; 651; 604; 885; 534; 339; 693; 830; 538; 1081; 380, as modified; 1027; 374, as modified; 931; 404; 458, as modified; 648; 625; 620; 1039; 482; 491; 822; 1099; 420, as modified; 1028; 752, as modified; 1073, as modified; 1110; 983; 642; 431; 793; 705; 882; 1002; 1067; 643; 569; 520; 803; 1003; 1033; 482; 1013; 918; 986; 866; 792; 1105; 1101; 1091; 580; 585; 645; 1104; 586; and 394) are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 950

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are only a plane ride away from becoming United States citizens to their American citizen parents residing in the United States)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING THE RETURN OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LEGALLY ADOPTED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 647

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CRUISE MISSILE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 780

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ELIMINATING THE BACKLOG OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits, which may include auditing the hidden backlog of untested sexual assault kits and ensuring that the collection and processing of DNA evidence by law enforcement agencies from crimes is carried out in an appropriate and timely manner, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 765

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to meeting the obligations outlined in the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement)

At the end of title III, add the following:

#### SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 348

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to installing watchdogs at Federal agencies with extended Inspector General vacancies and strengthening and reforming Offices of Inspectors General to ensure that such Offices are appropriately prioritizing the investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct within Federal agencies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL AND PREVENTING EXTENDED VACANCIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening and reforming Federal Offices of Inspectors General, reducing vacancies in such Offices, and providing for improvements in the overall economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Inspectors General by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 624

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the competitiveness of the United States)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving basic science research and development programs in the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 422

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the conservation of northern long-eared bat populations and local economic development are compatible)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT THE CONSERVATION OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT POPULATIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE COMPATIBLE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), which may include requirements that State conservation plans relating to the northern long-eared bat are given maximum flexibility to be successful so as to preserve and protect local and rural economies before any Federal listing decision is made with respect to the northern long-eared bat, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 651

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO ENTER INTO JOINT TASK FORCES WITH TRIBAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation

entering into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 604

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING COST SAVINGS IN OFFICE SPACE USED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies, which may include encouraging Federal agencies to utilize office space unused by the Federal Government before purchasing or renting additional space, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 885

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 534

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing access to marijuana edibles by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PREVENTING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA EDIBLES BY CHILDREN IN STATES THAT HAVE DECRIMINALIZED MARIJUANA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing access to edible marijuana products by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 339

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING MORTGAGE LENDING TO RURAL AREAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 693

(Purpose: To modify section 431 relating to oversight of Government performance)

In section 431, insert "in the Office of Inspector General semiannual reports and the Office of Inspector General's list of unimplemented recommendations and" before "on the Government Accountability Office's".

## AMENDMENT NO. 830

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RESEARCHING HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES DURING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 538

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the Family Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program from \$225,000,000 to \$350,000,000, as passed by the Committee in 2013, which is zero subsidy and funded entirely through fees paid by investors and businesses)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RAISING THE FAMILY OF FUNDS LIMIT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1081**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF WEBSITES WHO KNOWINGLY ALLOW SUCH WEBSITES TO BE USED TO ADVERTISE COMMERCIAL SEX WITH CHILDREN OVER THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to online child sex trafficking, which may include the detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 380, AS MODIFIED**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to assist the States in carrying out drought prevention plans)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT STATE DROUGHT PREVENTION PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to assisting the States in carrying out drought prevention plans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1027**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to preserve and protect the open Internet in a manner that provides clear and certain rules and does not jeopardize public safety, universal service, privacy, accessibility, consumer protection, competition, innovation, or investment)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE OPEN INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the open Internet and promoting further innovation and investment in Internet services, content, infrastructure, and technologies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 374, AS MODIFIED**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING COVERAGE OF VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPIES AS A COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TEST UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 931**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen waterborne commerce in our ports and harbors, which may include increasing the percentage of the amounts expended from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that are dedicated to port infrastructure and maintenance)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING WATERBORNE COMMERCE IN OUR PORTS AND HARBORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening waterborne commerce in our ports and harbors, which may include increasing the amounts expended from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

that are dedicated to port infrastructure and maintenance in accordance with section 2101(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 404**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the modernization of the nuclear command, control, and communications architecture of the United States)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to modernizing the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems, the nuclear command and control system, and the nuclear weapons stockpile, and supporting related infrastructure, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 458, AS MODIFIED**

(Purpose: To protect the American people and strengthen our national security by fully funding the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BARDA AND THE BIO-SHIELD SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening our national security, which may include fully funding the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AMENDMENT NO. 648**

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the nuclear forces and missions of the Air Force)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE NUCLEAR FORCES AND MISSIONS OF THE AIR FORCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 625

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 620

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to expedite awards under the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO EXPEDITE AWARDS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the processing of award submissions, which may include the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1039

(Purpose: To provide to the Indian Health Service an additional \$25,000,000 for contract support costs and to provide to the Bureau of Indian Affairs an additional \$26,000,000 for contract support costs)

On page 27, line 2, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 27, line 3, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 30, line 11, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 30, line 12, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 43, line 19, decrease the amount by \$51,000,000.

On page 43, line 20, decrease the amount by \$51,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 482

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE INCREASED USE OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 491

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the Corporation for National and Community Service)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Corporation for National and Community Service, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 822

(Purpose: To eliminate Federal duplication and consolidate the 94 Federal green building programs spread across 11 different Federal agencies)

On page 81, line 12, strike “or”.

On page 81, line 15, insert “or” at the end.

On page 81, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(4) the reduction of duplicative Federal green building programs;

## AMENDMENT NO. 1099

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to support investments in precision medicine, biomedical research, and the National Institutes of Health)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in precision medicine and biomedical research, which may include increasing funding to account for inflation, to support finding ways to pre-

vent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, and to provide long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 420, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to efforts to combat the increase abuse of heroin and methamphetamines in the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS THE HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to expanding efforts to combat heroin and methamphetamine abuse in the United States without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1028

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing access to necessary equipment for Medicare beneficiaries)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to equipment like eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and speech generating devices by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 752, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES' NATO ALLIES TO REVERSE DECLINES IN DEFENSE SPENDING AND BEAR A MORE PROPORTIONATE BURDEN FOR ENSURING THE SECURITY OF NATO.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1073, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the investigation and recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the investigation and to the extent practicable the recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government to ensure that such items are not in the possession of or used by radical extremist groups operating in the country by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 1110

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving higher education data and transparency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving higher education data and transparency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 983

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs that keep low-income older individuals healthy and able to live at home, such as those programs funded through the Older Americans Act of 1965)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965, which may include supporting congregate and home-delivered meals programs, or other programs of assistance to low-income older individuals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 642

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the establishment of a commission on Native children)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO NATIVE CHILDREN.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Native children, which may include establishing a commission to examine existing Federal programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services delivered to Native children to improve outcomes, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 431

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to medical treatment and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families injured and made ill by the 9/11 attacks)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES INJURED AND MADE ILL BY THE 9/11 ATTACKS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the September 11th terrorism attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville Crash site, which may include legislation that extends medical monitoring and treatment services and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 793

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of Native American schools)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to construction of Native American schools, which may include replacement school construction that replaces the entirety or majority of a school campus or replacement facility construction that replaces individual buildings that are beyond cost-effective repair measures, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 705

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Indo-Pacific partner capacity building and strategy)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INDO-PACIFIC PARTNER CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRATEGY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting a comprehensive multi-year partner capacity building and security cooperation plan in the Indo-Pacific region, including for a regional maritime domain awareness architecture and for bilateral and multilateral exercises, port calls, and training activities of the United States Armed Forces and Coast Guard to further a comprehensive strategy to strengthen United States alliances and partnerships, freedom of navigation, and the unimpeded access to the maritime commons of the Asia-Pacific by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 882

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving prevention and treatment measures to mitigate agricultural impacts from virus outbreaks, such as impacts seen from the avian influenza poultry outbreak)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURAL VIRUS OUTBREAKS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the improvement of prevention and treatment measures to mitigate agricultural impacts from an agricultural virus outbreak, such as the impacts seen from the avian influenza outbreak, which may include investments in vaccine development or research in pathway analysis, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1002

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Park Service Centennial)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the protection, preservation, or restoration of the National Park System, which may include a National Park Centennial Fund or other dedicated funding, for infrastructure or natural, cultural, or historic resource preservation and programs in units of the National Park System, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1067

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to supporting at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries that have received economic disaster assistance)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR FULL FUNDING FOR AT-SEA AND DOCKSIDE MONITORING FOR CERTAIN FISHERIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries that have received economic disaster assistance by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 643

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to training and resources for first responders responding to hazardous materials incidents on railroads)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS RESPONDING TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS ON RAILROADS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the establishment of a public-private partnership tasked with reviewing training and funding allocations for first responders responding to hazardous materials incidents on railroads, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 569

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in rural and tribal water infrastructure)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN RURAL AND TRIBAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to designate funds for water projects, which may include authorized rural water projects or tribal water rights settlements or irrigation projects, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 520

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to sexual assault at institutions of higher education, which may include the implementation of an independent and standardized online survey tool developed and administered by the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, to measure the prevalence of sexual assault at institutions of higher education)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to sexual assault at institutions of higher education, which may include the implementation of an independent and standardized online survey tool developed and administered by the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, to measure the prevalence of sexual assault at institutions of higher education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 803

(Purpose: To ensure that the deficit-neutral reserve fund for infrastructure includes investment in rural broadband deployment)

On page 56, line 16, insert after "United States" the following: ", including programs that expedite the deployment of broadband to rural areas;".

## AMENDMENT NO. 1003

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to authorizing children who are eligible to receive health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain such eligibility until age 26)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO AUTHORIZING CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RETAIN SUCH ELIGIBILITY UNTIL AGE 26.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting children who are eligible to receive health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, including by allowing such children to retain such eligibility until age 26, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1033

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the prioritization of broad-based criminal justice reform)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE PRIORITIZATION OF BROAD-BASED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to broad-based criminal justice reform by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1013

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY BY ACCELERATING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES FROM LABORATORIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE MARKETPLACE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 918

(Purpose: To include legislation concerning weatherization and energy efficiency retrofit programs in a deficit-neutral reserve fund)

On page 81, line 10, insert before the semicolon “, which may include weatherization and energy efficiency retrofit programs for low-income individuals”.

On page 81, line 12, insert before the semicolon “, which may include seasonal assistance, crisis fuel assistance, or other assistance to low-income individuals”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 986

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming student loan programs, which may include risk-sharing by institutions of higher education)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to student loan reform, which may include establishing a policy of risk-sharing to require institutions of higher education to assume some of the risk for student loans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 866

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the Department of Transportation for the TIGER discretionary grant program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (“TIGER”) discretionary grant program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 792

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to innovation in higher education)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A NEW OUTCOME-BASED PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZING INNOVATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting innovation in higher education, which may include establishing a new outcome-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1105

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving community relations with law enforcement officers)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to community policing, which may include increasing the number of law enforcement officers who walk patrols that enable them to interact and build relationships with community members, increasing and improving training for law enforcement officers, encouraging the responsible and carefully considered use of body cameras and their recordings by law enforcement officers, encouraging law enforcement to de-escalate confrontations whenever feasible, and ensuring that prosecutions of law enforcement officers are fair and impartial, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1101

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to support investments in research and development and to improve the competitiveness of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in scientific

research and development, which may include supporting biomedical research to find ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, providing long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, and supporting national security, basic energy research, innovative solutions, and American competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1091

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing students and families with transparent, easily understood information about postsecondary education financial aid)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH TRANSPARENT, EASILY UNDERSTOOD POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing students and families with transparent, easily understood information about postsecondary education financial aid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 580

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing adequate funding for the Contract Tower Program of the Federal Aviation Administration)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing full and dedicated funding for the Contract Tower Program of the Federal Aviation Administration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 585

(Purpose: To modify the deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers to improve outreach, access, and services for rural veterans)

On page 55, strike line 4 and insert the following:

(8) improving outreach, access, and services for rural veterans;

## AMENDMENT NO. 645

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to underground and surface coal mining safety and health research)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO UNDERGROUND AND SURFACE MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to underground and surface mining safety and health research by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1104

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption and to encourage the Secretary of State to add additional names to the Magnitsky List)

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUNDS RELATING TO FOREIGN PERSONS.**

(a) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to interagency cooperation, which may include expedited interagency cooperation to identify foreign nationals subject to sanctions under title IV of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-208), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 586

(Purpose: To modify the deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers to address specifically the growing backlog of appeals of decisions regarding claims for disability compensation)

On page 54, line 9, insert “, including the growing backlog of appeals of decisions regarding claims for disability compensation” after “veterans”.

The amendments (Nos. 950; 647; 485; 780; 765; 348; 425; 624; 422; 595; 651; 604; 885; 346; 456; 597, as modified; 449; 534; 339; 693; 770; 830; 538; 1081; 380, as modified; 416, as modified; 1027; 827; 374, as modified; 931; 404; 458, as modified; 648; 426; 442; 625; 620; 1039; 482; 402; 490, as modified; 491; 822; 533; 1099; 420, as modified; 1028; 453; 752, as modified; 1073, as modified; 1110; 983; 642; 636; 638; 431; 793; 439; 705; 578; 342; 882; 899; 713; 364; 1002; 877; 721; 1067; 643; 437; 1005; 697; 569; 520; 708; 803; 1003; 720; 1033; 1013; 639; 1044; 434; 918; 986; 866; 392; 792; 1105; 1101; 435; 473; 1091; 580; 585; 645; 694; 1104; 586; and 394) were agreed to en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Very briefly. I thank all Members of the Senate for their cooperation. I know it has been a trying day, and we appreciate everybody's cooperation in getting this important measure to the finish line. It will be a good day for the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the pending amendments are withdrawn and the question occurs on adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

## SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I, too, wish to express my appreciation to everyone who worked today. The thing I enjoyed most of all was the recess subject to the call of the Chair.

One thing we all acknowledge that we need to do is to prevent automatic cuts to doctors under Medicare because it is not only important to the doctors, it is also important to the patients—the so-called sustainable growth rate, or SGR—and we need to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program.

There is a lot of stuff in the bill that passed the House. They got 392 votes on that. That is a rare vote over there. I am pleased they did that. We are willing, over here, to proceed with this matter tonight.

As I indicated to the leader earlier on today, we had hoped we could get this done, but I understand it is late, whatever day it is. It is a bill that is 362 pages long. We are willing to move forward. I am disappointed we may not be able to get it done tonight. I sure wish we could. If we can't, I hope the majority leader will move to this matter as soon as we get back here after the re-

cess. It is a very important piece of legislation that we all acknowledge we need to do.

I understand we want to help the physicians. I acknowledge that, but remember, those Medicare physicians take care of people who are badly in need of health care. It is not only for the doctors that we need to do this, we need to do it for their patients.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, just to reassure my colleagues, CMS indicates that they can handle this for up to 2 weeks. It was encouraging that this passed the House with such a large bipartisan majority, and I want to reassure everyone who is interested in this legislation that we will move to it very quickly when we get back. As I indicated, once again, they can handle a 2-week gap here. We will turn to this legislation very quickly when we get back. I think there is every reason to believe it will pass the Senate by a very large majority.

Mr. REID. Finally, it is my understanding that when we come back, we could have a very limited number of amendments to try to dispose of this.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am sorry. I didn't hear the Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I said when we come back after 2 weeks, I hope the majority leader will consider a very limited number of amendments with time agreements on them.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Democratic leader and I will discuss the way forward. But I wanted to reassure everyone that this 2-week delay will not impact this, and I believe we will be able to figure out a way to go forward very quickly on something that is so overwhelmingly popular on a bipartisan basis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, as amended.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. BOOZMAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 135 Leg.]

## YEAS—52

Alexander	Cassidy	Crapo
Ayotte	Coats	Daines
Barrasso	Cochran	Enzi
Blunt	Collins	Ernst
Boozman	Corker	Fischer
Burr	Cornyn	Flake
Capito	Cotton	Gardner

Graham	McCain	Scott
Grassley	McConnell	Sessions
Hatch	Moran	Shelby
Heller	Murkowski	Sullivan
Hoeven	Perdue	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Tillis
Isakson	Risch	Toomey
Johnson	Roberts	Vitter
Kirk	Rounds	Wicker
Lankford	Rubio	
Lee	Sasse	

## NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Merkley	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Mikulski
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The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), as amended, was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, as amended, will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, after I finish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## THE BUDGET

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Teddy Roosevelt once noted that one of his life's great prizes was to work hard at work worth doing. Well, I believe the work we have done this week to boost our Nation's economy, support our national defense, and expand opportunity for hard-working families is work truly worth doing.

The budget we have been debating in the Senate this week will boost the Nation's economic growth by more than \$500 billion over the next 10 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It also will balance the budget in 10 years, with no tax hikes, protect the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, strengthen America's national defense, and improve economic growth and opportunity for hard-working families.

This budget's economic growth dividend means that more jobs will be created across the country in all 50 States. In fact, the Senate Budget Committee estimates that nationwide there will be more than 1.3 million additional jobs in 2025. And this is only the spending reductions included in

this budget. If the Senate takes the additional step and adds the recommended tax and regulatory reforms to these spending reductions, the economic and job benefits will be even bigger.

This balanced budget is an important first step to help Washington live within its means, just as hard-working families have to do every day. A balanced budget means real accountability in Washington and ensures that programs actually accomplish what they set out to deliver.

I wish to thank my colleagues for their consideration, cooperation, and patience to bring us to this point. I wish to particularly thank Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for allowing the Senate and Senators to actually do our job, both in committee and on the floor of the Senate. Under Majority Leader MCCONNELL, we have received support and backing from the Senate Republican leadership, and it has been a great leadership team. It is because of this leadership that we have come to this result—the first Senate Republican resolution since 2006.

This commitment to an open, honest, and transparent legislative process is crucial to helping Congress restore the trust of the American people.

I also owe thanks to the outstanding Republican members of the Senate Budget Committee, who worked long and fought so hard and tenaciously to outline a plan that can balance the budget over the next 10 fiscal years. Thanks also are due to the many Members on this side who came and spoke on the budget's behalf, offered amendments to make it better—well, almost always to make it better—and worked with us and each other to move through the resolution's debate and voting process together.

I have enjoyed my partnership with Senator SANDERS since we both took on our new roles just a few months ago at the beginning of the 114th Congress. We have known each other a long time, served on some of the same Senate committees, and to have him across the aisle managing this bill with me has been an enjoyable part of acting on my first budget resolution. I also appreciate his staff who worked with him so diligently.

I also wish to focus for a moment on some of the staff who helped lead us here. I thank the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee, including the director, Eric Ueland; my deputy staff director Dan Kowalski; parliamentarian Tori Gorman; chief economist Bill Beach; director of budget review Matt Giroux; senior budget analysts Peter Warren and Steve Robinson; budget analysts Greg D'Angelo, Chris Cook, John Selden, and Andrew Herther; junior budget analyst Kaitlin Vogt; chief counsel Greg Dean and assistant counsel Clint Brown; editor Elizabeth Keys; Susan Eckerly; com-

munications director Joe Brenckle; executive assistant Kim Proctor, and staff assistant Katie Wachob. Without all their work, which began last year, we would not be here this evening standing on the verge of passing the Senate's fiscal year 2016 budget resolution.

I have to mention that they didn't even change offices when we got the majority so that they could be working on this budget, knowing that since it is always our first opportunity in the majority, we had a lot of work to do.

In addition, thanks are owed to the chief clerk of the committee, Adam Kamp, and his dedicated staff, who worked tirelessly supporting us in our efforts.

As well, thanks to my personal staff, including my legislative director Tara Shaw, and the personal office legislative team of Travis Jordan, Becky Cole, Clint Lohse, Renee Bender, Bart Massey, Kristin Chapman, and Elizabeth Schwartz. I particularly have to mention my chief of staff, Flip McConnaughey.

We have been supported by the great work of our floor and cloakroom staff, led by Laura Dove and Robert Duncan; the Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough and her team, along with our bill and amendment clerks who keep us on the straight and narrow. Key staff from Senator MCCONNELL's office have been very helpful, including his chief of staff Sharon Soderstrom, his policy director Hazel Marshall, and his budget and appropriations policy adviser John Burks.

Also, I wish to thank Russ Sullivan, Monica Popp, and Johnny Slemrod from Senator CORNYN's Whip Office.

After 5 days of consideration and 50 hours of debate on our budget resolution, truly everything that can be said has probably been said by everybody who can say it. But I don't think anyone said this yet: I want to thank the people who voted for the final passage of S. Con. Res. 11, the fiscal year 2016 Senate budget resolution. We now move on to conferencing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the ranking member of the Budget Committee is not on the floor, so let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Democratic members of the Budget Committee to express my appreciation to our chairman. We obviously disagree on the substance of this budget, as the votes reflect. Indeed, we think it is an awful budget. But I think I speak for all of us when I say how impressed we have been by the calm and civil and courteous and patient manner in which the chairman has led us through a very substantively difficult issue. I wish to join him on behalf of the Democrats on the Budget Committee in thanking all of the relevant staff—the parliamentary staff, the committee staff, the



floor staff—who have supported us through this process.

Our chairman is a very courteous gentleman.

Mr. ENZI. Thank you.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to join Americans of Thai descent across this country and millions of people in Thailand—the United States' oldest ally in Asia—in celebrating on April 2 the 60th birthday anniversary of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Fondly called by Thais as “Princess Angel”, she is known for her life-long dedication to the cause of humanitarianism, education and human development, especially for the disadvantaged and marginalized, in Thailand and beyond. I am sure my colleagues in this Chamber will join me in paying tribute to her remarkable contributions.

Following closely in her parents' footsteps, Her Royal Highness has traveled with their Majesties throughout Thailand listening to their subjects' problems and responding with royal development projects. When not engaged in her official duties, she was pursuing her studies, attaining a Ph.D. in Development Education and a master's degree in History.

Since 1980, she has launched her own development projects. At first, Her Royal Highness focused on assisting disadvantaged and malnourished children. Aside from providing immediate aid, she also promoted integrated farming as a means to increase overall resilience and sustainable sources of nutrition. Public health has been a life-long concern. The Princess is the President of the Thai Red Cross Society and Chairperson of the Prince Mahidol Foundation, which bestows globally recognized awards for achievements in public health and medicine.

She soon expanded her charity projects to encompass education, working to increase access for children so as to improve their opportunities in life. Her approach and philosophy in this endeavor are deeply rooted in human rights and self-sufficiency. Specifically, Her Royal Highness has said:

“Those at the margins of society have rights to a good standard of living. Access to education is a funda-

mental human right. Education provides opportunities to learn and live sufficiently. Knowledge can be valued resources to help others or the community.”

In fact, Her Royal Highness has supported more than 100 projects aimed at improving lives, raising the status of women, helping the disabled, and protecting the environment and wildlife. Many of these have won the support and funding of agencies such as UNESCO, FAO, WHO and Johns Hopkins University.

The scholarships she grants to students are helping to nurture and create new generations of talented Thais dedicated to public service. As someone who is tech savvy and up-to-date on information technology, the Princess promotes Thailand's traditional culture and arts among the younger generation.

Through her selfless dedication and hard work for the benefit of humanity, she has earned love and respect from the Thai people and those beyond Thailand, including the United States. Therefore, I wish to join them in celebrating this auspicious occasion of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday anniversary and wishing her happiness, good health and longevity.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. MARGARET HAMBURG

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with both sadness and appreciation that I recognize Dr. Margaret Hamburg as she leaves her post as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Hamburg has been a wonderful colleague and partner during her tenure at FDA. She has a collaborative and effective leadership style that has truly improved the health, safety, and quality of life here in our country. Over the nearly 6 years she has spent as Commissioner, Dr. Hamburg has worked tirelessly to ensure that Americans remain healthy and safe for years to come.

Dr. Hamburg has presided over significant milestones, strengthening the agency's commitment to science and advancing biomedical innovation. The personalized medicine initiative prioritized under her leadership has led to more targeted, effective treatments for cancer patients, in addition to diagnostic tests that are faster and more accurate—crucial factors in tailoring optimal treatment for each particular patient. Dr. Hamburg also worked with me and several of my colleagues in launching expedited review of “breakthrough therapies” to accelerate help for patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses. Thanks to her efforts, the United States is more competitive and better positioned to accommodate the astounding pace of medical innovation as we move forward in the 21st century.

In the area of food safety, Dr. Hamburg's leadership helped to build a more modern food protection system that will prevent foodborne illness and improve the safety of the food Americans consume for years to come. She has also worked with Congress in creating important steps to ensure product safety, implementing new standards that will protect the American people from the dangers of counterfeit, stolen, contaminated, or otherwise harmful drugs.

These are just a few highlights from Dr. Hamburg's tenure. Dr. Hamburg has rendered our country a tremendous service, and I know that she will continue to have success in all of her future endeavors. I wish her the best of luck.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DIRK T. SHELTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a brave young Kentuckian who served our country in uniform and whose life has been tragically cut short. SSgt Dirk T. Shelton, of Corbin, KY, died in Washington, DC, from wounds received July 13, 2014 on a training mission. The U.S. airman was 29 years old.

Staff Sergeant Shelton enlisted in the Air Force in 2005, after graduating from Corbin High School in 2004. He served multiple overseas tours, including four to Afghanistan and one each to Somalia and Kuwait. He was a member of Joint Special Operations Command and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC.

Staff Sergeant Shelton was the recipient of many medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He was honored to be a Bronze Star recipient at such a young age. He had recently completed training in HALO parachute jumps. HALO stands for high altitude, low opening.

Staff Sergeant Shelton had wanted to fly as a young child. He loved to make people laugh and his coworkers remember that Dirk made work fun. He leaves behind his wife, Maria. Together they would have celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on July 20, 2014.

He also leaves behind his parents, Tom and Jenny Shelton; his sister and her husband, Morgan and David Taylor; his niece, Reagan; his aunts and uncles, Mike and Vicki Moore, John and Penny Hammons, and Joe and Missy Shelton; his cousins, Jon Moore, Amy Hammack, Johnny Hammons, Julie Hendrickson, Whitney Pratt, Emily, Jamie and Joey Shelton, and Jake, Brett and Allie Pennington; his parents-in-law, Israel and Nimfa Ocasio; and his sisters-in-law, Melanie, Marissa, and Mia Ocasio.

The local Times-Tribune newspaper published an article detailing SSgt

Dirk T. Shelton's funeral service. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Times-Tribune, July 25, 2014]

HUNDREDS ATTEND MILITARY FUNERAL  
SERVICE FOR DIRK SHELTON

(By Jeff Noble)

Whenever America needed him, Staff Sergeant Dirk Thomas Shelton always answered the call.

Those calls took him to corners of the world where very few people—even his own family at times—had any idea where he was.

After serving honorably to fight for and preserve our nation's freedom and way of life, Dirk returned to Corbin to rest forever.

Hundreds of people paid homage to Dirk during a stirring and poignant funeral service Thursday evening at Grace on the Hill United Methodist Church. The full military funeral began around 6:10 p.m., and followed the visitation that went on from 2-6 p.m.

A Corbin native, Dirk was a Radio Frequency Transmission Journeyman assigned to the Joint Communications Unit in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was also a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, a sub-unified command of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Sgt. Dirk Shelton passed away in Washington, D.C. last Monday, July 14. He was on a training mission in Fairfax, Virginia, and suffered a traumatic brain injury last Sunday, July 13. At the time of his death, he was 29 years old.

The military plane carrying his body left Washington, D.C., Wednesday evening and landed at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport later that night. A hearse brought the body south to Corbin where it was taken to Hart Funeral Home, who handled the arrangements.

Around 12:35 p.m. Thursday, the hearse left the funeral home as part of a small procession that took Dirk's body to the church for the visitation.

A long, steady line of people paying their respects to Dirk lined outside and inside the chapel for much of the afternoon. Inside, an open casket with an American flag draped to the casket's side stood in the middle, just below the stage.

Above the casket, on either side were pictures and mementos of Dirk.

Looking down from the balcony to the right, a black and white picture of him with his sister, Morgan Shelton Taylor, stood out as a memory of earlier times. To the left was a large picture of Dirk free falling from an airplane during maneuvers—a favorite print of the Shelton family.

Overhead, above the choir loft, two large video screens on the left and right displayed pictures and tape of Dirk, his wife Maria, his parents Tom and Jenny, and moments capturing the life of a man who lived it like there was no tomorrow.

Two poems and an essay written by Dirk were read at the funeral. And, as people came inside for the service, there was this comment, written on a small program card.

"All my life I have been pushed towards different goals. Not all of these goals were goals I had necessarily set for myself, but they were goals all the same. The reason for this 'push' is because people who are for me want me to succeed in life. I would like nothing better than to be a successful person and that brings about my fear. My fear is that I might not be successful in life. . . . The way

I see it, the only real way that I could get rid of my fear completely is to actually become successful at something in my life, which leads me to believe that my fear may be around for a long time. If I could change my fear, I wouldn't. It's what gets me by. If it were gone, there would be a void in my life and I would inevitably turn out to be what I fear—unsuccessful."

Dirk Shelton wrote those words in an essay.

His friend Johnny B. Hammons read them at the service.

"He was a hero to me, he was a hero to his family, and he was a hero to his community," Hammons said.

According to his friends and comrades in the military, he went beyond and above success at all times.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Clifford, the commander of Dirk's unit in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, said of him, "What many of you don't know is that Dirk was a patriot in the truest sense of the word."

He noted Dirk's six deployments—four to Afghanistan, and one each to Somalia and Kuwait—and the numerous awards, such as the Bronze Star.

Lt. Colonel Clifford told the audience, "It takes just plain guts. We wonder where you find such young men. Corbin, Kentucky is that place."

Along with giving thanks to Dirk's parents, the officer singled out Dirk's widow, Maria Shelton—who also serves in the military and is stationed at Fort Bragg.

"Maria, thanks for standing by Dirk during those long trips" (that he made to serve his country during combat tours and numerous overseas missions).

The military was there in a show of strength and support.

#### RECOGNIZING THE THOMAS MORE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a team of national champions that comes from the great State of Kentucky. On March 21, 2015, the Thomas More College women's basketball team, the Saints, won the first ever team championship in their school's history.

The Saints notched an 83-to-63 win over George Fox University in the women's Division III championship game and capped an undefeated season with a record of 33 to 0. They are only the sixth team in the history of Division III women's basketball to go an entire season undefeated. Along the way to their perfect season, they defeated four top 10-ranked teams.

The final game was hosted by Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, and played in the Van Noord Arena. Thomas More jumped out to an early lead and never trailed in the game. Thomas More's leading scorer in the championship game, Sydney Moss, was also named the NCAA Division III national player of the year by both D3hoops.com and the Women's DIII News. It is the second consecutive year she has earned the award. During the NCAA postseason, Moss broke the NCAA all-division men's and women's scoring record with an incredible 197 points in

the Saints' six NCAA tournament games.

Saints head coach Jeff Hans, who guided his team to their first undefeated season and their first national championship, was also named the Division III national coach of the year by both D3hoops.com and the Women's DIII News.

I want to recognize every member of this championship team that is bringing the Women's Division III trophy back to Kentucky. Team members include Kirsten Paul, Kiley Bartels, Abby Owings, Stephanie Krusling, Olivia Huber, Nikki Kiernan, Mikkah Hignite, Sarah Roaden, Kelly McDonald, Sydney Wainscott, Alexa Santamaria, Kaylee Bush, Sydney Moss, Sam Cady, and Hannah Devine. Jeff Hans is the head coach, and he is assisted by Tim Shields, Tanja Speaker, and Jerry Allen. The school's director of athletics is Terry Connor and its president is David Armstrong.

The Kentucky Enquirer recently published an article about the Saints' victory. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Kentucky Enquirer, March 21, 2015]

THOMAS MORE WOMEN WIN DIVISION III  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(By Adam Turer)

GRAND RAPIDS.—The Division III women's college basketball season began with Mount St. Joseph's Lauren Hill scoring the season's first points in front of a sold crowd at the Cintas Center. It ended with head coach Jeff Hans and the Thomas More Saints hoisting the national championship trophy. With an 83-63 win over George Fox on Saturday night, the Saints earned the first team championship in Thomas More history.

In a battle of 32-0 teams—the first Division III women's championship between two undefeated squads—the Saints controlled from the opening tip. One night after starting 0-7 from the field, Thomas More hit its first three shots to open up an early lead. They never trailed.

George Fox, the 2009 national champion and 2012 runner-up, made it this far behind its relentless full court press. The Saints had faced very little full court pressure this season, for good reason. With Abby Owings, Sydney Moss, and Sydney Wainscott all able to handle point guard duties, the Saints are nearly impossible to trap. Hans went to a four-guard lineup at times with Olivia Huber coming off the bench. The Saints still had to overcome several uncharacteristic turnovers, but balanced those miscues with a bounty of fast break points.

Moss was, as always, the focal point of the opposing defense. It took the nation's leading scorer over 11 minutes to make her first field goal. The two-time national player of the year found other ways to help her team win. She led Thomas More with 19 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists. The biggest beneficiaries of her defense-breaking ball handling were post players Alexa Santamaria and Nikki Kiernan. Santamaria finished with 14 points on 6-6 shooting, while Kiernan added 16 points on 7-11 shooting. Most of

their attempts were wide open looks from within two feet thanks to Moss drawing away helpless defenders and dropping no-look dimes.

The victory was a culmination for the program which began its ascension as a national contender under current Xavier head coach Brian Neal. The success continued under Hans, but the Saints developed a pattern of underwhelming in the postseason. The addition of key transfers and the infusion of several of northern Kentucky's top high school players elevated this year's team to unforeseen heights. Moss did not transfer home from Florida expecting to win a national championship. She drew inspiration from the program's family atmosphere, and the ability to play in front of her family nearly every night. This win brought renewed appreciation for her loved ones.

"You look up and see your mom and think of all the practices she drove you to, all the shoes she bought you, and all the sacrifices she made," Moss said after Friday's semifinal win.

Dozens of Saints students, many athletes in other sports, made the trek to Grand Rapids not once, but twice this weekend. They bussed up for Friday's semifinal, back to Crestview Hills, then back up on Saturday. Thomas More fans accounted for roughly 70 percent of the crowd and 90 percent of the crowd noise at Saturday's title game. The team bus will return to Crestview Hills with some new hardware to add to the Connor Convocation Center trophy case.

"The support I cannot say enough about. The pride that they have in their school and excitement to see our programs go to another level," said athletic director Terry Connor. "[There is] a great sense of pride and this is proof that it can be done."

#### RECOGNIZING THE OWENSBORO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, basketball is very important to us in my home State of Kentucky, and that is why I am so honored and pleased to recognize the winners of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) State Basketball Championship for boys. The Owensboro Red Devils won a decisive 74-58 game over rival Bowling Green this March 22.

It is the fourth State championship for Owensboro High School, and the first since 1980 for the Red Devils. Owensboro came into the tournament having shot 55 percent from the field during the first three rounds of the tournament. During the championship game, they never trailed.

Owensboro is only the seventh school in State history to win the championship four times. And Owensboro's head coach, Rod Drake, was a senior on the Owensboro 1980 championship team. A crowd of over 11,000 saw Owensboro clinch the win inside of Lexington's legendary Rupp Arena.

I want to recognize every member of this championship team that is bringing the KHSAA trophy back to Owensboro. Team members include Darius Brown, Deonte Douglas, Gabe Fillman, Jacoby Harris, Aric Holman, James Howard, Darion Marrow, Justin

Miller, Ishawn Murphy, Shawn Pendleton, Airius Phillips, Dylan Sanford, Trevor Washington, and Rashai Wimsatt. Matthew Cook and Seth Garrard are student managers. Rod Drake is the head coach and he is assisted by Chad Embry, Zach Erwin, Scott Hogg, and David Phillips.

The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article about the Red Devils' victory. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Herald-Leader, March 22, 2015]

#### OWENSBORO BOYS WIN THEIR FIRST STATE BASKETBALL TITLE SINCE 1980

(By Mark Maloney)

It was a long time coming, but Owensboro finally snatched its fourth state championship Sunday.

The Red Devils led wire-to-wire in downing Bowling Green 74-58 in the finals of the 98th Whitaker Bank/KHSAA Sweet Sixteen in Rupp Arena.

Owensboro, playing in its record 43rd State tournament, also won in 1949, '72 and '80.

Dylan Sanford led a balanced scoring attack with 21 points, hitting all four of the Red Devils' three-pointers.

"My teammates got me the ball right where I needed it," said Sanford, a 6-foot-1 senior. "Everybody knows I'm a shooter, and they got me the ball in the pocket and I hit some shots."

Then there was the inside tandem of senior big fellas Aric Holman and tourney MVP Justin Miller.

"He dominates," Coach Rod Drake said of Holman. "He gets there, and he changed the game."

Holman, a 6-9, 185-pounder, netted 20 points, 14 rebounds and eight blocks.

"It feels amazing," Holman said. "Especially when you work your butt off, you and your teammates. You do everything together, and when you work as hard as we do, we knew what our goal was. And we're just glad we accomplished it before we left."

Miller, a 6-7, 290-pounder, played through what he called a groin/hamstring injury and finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

"I was about 30 percent, honestly," Miller said. "But I wasn't going to let that stop me from playing my last game with my brothers, so I'm just glad we got it done."

Jacoby Harris, a 5-10 sophomore, added 14 points and five assists as the 3rd Region team won its seventh game in a row.

The Red Devils (31-4) beat Bowling Green twice during the regular season—79-71 on Jan. 3 and 69-66 on Feb. 10. But that didn't make them overconfident.

"To be honest, we had a little doubt," Holman said. "Because to beat a team three times in a row is pretty hard. So we just took it as we never played them before. . . . Took it back to square one, and that's how we got here now."

This marked the first finals between Western Kentucky schools since 4th Region Edmonson County beat 2nd Region Christian County in 1976.

Fourth Region champion Bowling Green (31-6), in its first State finals and 15th tourney, was led by Terry Taylor with 16 points and nine rebounds. Tucker Sine had nine points and seven boards, and Kyran Jones netted eight points and eight caroms.

"Coming into this tournament, we were playing as well as anybody," Purples Coach D.G. Sherrill said. "And in this championship game, we just kind of ran into a buzz saw. We ran into a team that shot a little better, they fought around the rim a little harder, they hit their free throws (20 of 23), and it was just a tough game for us. But we got beat by a bunch of good players and a great coaching staff over in Owensboro."

Owensboro jumped to a 4-0 lead to start.

Ahead 4-3, the Red Devils went on a 9-0 run, only to see the Purples come back with a 9-0 rally to leave the score 13-12.

Owensboro led 16-12 through one quarter and 27-23 at halftime.

The Devils opened the third quarter with a 7-1 run to push the lead to 34-24.

Then, a 9-0 blitz widened the gap to 43-26.

Holman started the action by converting a three-point play for a 37-26 lead.

Darion Marrow, who finished with six points, hit a short jumper.

Sanford scored on a fast break, and Marrow flipped in a shot from the lane.

The lead was 49-33 through three quarters.

The closest Bowling Green came from there was 61-49 with 3:06 left, when Taylor scored on a put-back.

Both teams came into the finals having shot 55 percent from the field during the first three rounds of the tourney.

Owensboro nearly matched that Sunday, going 25 of 48 (52.1 percent), but Bowling Green came in 23 of 64 (35.9 percent).

"Defensively, it's all about heart," Sanford said. "And our team has a lot of heart."

"The basket got a little small for us tonight," Sherrill said. "We picked a bad game to have one of our lower performances in the shooting from the field. But to come in here and play in a state championship time for the first time in Bowling Green history . . . I'm still so proud of them. We're taking home a big old silver ball tonight. That means we accomplished something up here."

#### RECOGNIZING THE COVINGTON HOLY CROSS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe my U.S. Senate colleagues are well aware of how seriously we take our basketball in my home State of Kentucky. I rise to congratulate the statewide champions in girls' basketball in Kentucky, the Covington Holy Cross Indians, who won the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, State Basketball Championship this March 15.

It was a dramatic ending to a spectacular season for the Indians, who finish with a 33-to-3 record. The score in the final game against the Allen County-Scottsville Patriots was tied at 32 with just under 20 seconds to play when senior forward Abby Hassert, who had not scored all game, drove the lane from the top of the key to score a layup and win the game. It was the Indians' first appearance in the State tournament in 39 years, and the game was enjoyed by over 5,000 fans at E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, KY.

I want to recognize every member of this championship team that is bringing the KHSAA trophy to Covington. Team members include Justice Arce,

Zyah Beal, Olivia Crigler, Kate Dreas, Morgan Gabbard, Abby Hassert, Ally Mayhaus, Cessie Mayhaus, Dajah McClendon, Candace McNama, Tara Niehaus, Hannah Niemeyer, Alexis Riep, Aleah Tucker, Courtney Turner, and Deja Turner. The coach is Kes Murphy.

The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article about the Indians' victory. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Mar. 15, 2015]

GIRLS' SWEET SIXTEEN: COVINGTON HOLY CROSS TAKES STATE TITLE  
(By Mark Maloney)

BOWLING GREEN.—Abby Hassert picked a fine time for her only points of the game Sunday.

Hassert drove down the lane and put in the winning basket, plus a free throw, with 5.5 seconds left to vault Covington Holy Cross to a 35-32 victory over Allen County-Scottsville in the Houchens Industries/KHSAA Girls' Sweet Sixteen championship game.

"I knew I had to do something," said Hassert, a 5-foot-10 senior. "I knew that we had to get the ball to somebody to score and I saw the lane wide open, and I knew I had to take it."

An E.A. Diddle Arena crowd of 5,335 roared. After multiple timeouts, Allen County-Scottsville had a last shot to tie. But Morgan Rich's long three-point try from near her team bench hit off the backboard and rim.

"We got exactly what we wanted," Patriots Coach Brad Bonds said. "We got Morgan in the right spot for the shot. We threw it up to Savannah (Gregory), who threw it to Morgan. It was perfect. It was executed great. We got the shot we wanted."

Holy Cross (33-3), out of the 9th Region, ended the season on a 22-game winning streak.

The Indians, with a school enrollment of 406, also won the All "A" title back on Feb. 1. They are the fourth team ever to sweep the KHSAA and All "A" titles in the same season, joining Nicholas County (1993), Hazard (1997) and Lexington Christian (2007).

"It doesn't matter the size. It really doesn't matter the size," said Deja Turner, who led Holy Cross with 13 points and five rebounds, and who was named tourney MVP. "We came in here against some big, big teams. We knocked off some very big teams, and we came through and we pulled it out twice."

Ally Mayhaus added 10 points for the winners.

Holy Cross also beat the Patriots on Dec. 22, 61-54 in Lexington.

In the Sweet Sixteen, Holy Cross opened with a 51-33 win over Bell County, then edged top-rated Elizabethtown 41-40. In the semifinals, the Indians beat Male 47-37.

Allen County-Scottsville (30-5), the 4th Region champion, had an eight-game winning streak snapped.

"Bottom line, they made a big-time play. A big-time play," Bonds said. "And that's what the State Tournament's all about is kids and very high-quality basketball teams going at it, and unfortunately we came out on the short end of the stick. But a lot of credit to them. I thought it was two outstanding basketball teams battling on both ends."

Rich, a 5-foot-10 University of Kentucky recruit, led all scorers with 20 points. She also had three rebounds and two assists.

Gregory was the next-highest ACS scorer with five. She and Holly Robinson grabbed seven rebounds each.

Holy Cross Coach Kes Murphy, whose sister Donna was Kentucky's first Miss Basketball in 1976, credited the championship to a killer schedule that had his team well prepared for Sunday.

The game was tied 18-18 at halftime, with ACS holding a 12-3 advantage in rebounds. Robinson has six of those.

But Holy Cross had a 9-0 edge in points off turnovers.

The Indians led 27-24 through three quarters.

In a game that saw seven ties and six lead changes, the Patriots took their final lead, 32-31, when Rich hit two of three free throws with 2:29 left.

A Mayhaus free throw at 1:09 tied the score.

With the Patriots patiently looking for a game-winning shot, Holy Cross point guard Dajah McClendon picked Rich's pocket with 32 seconds left.

"I just knew I had to get up and get one for my team," McClendon said. "We needed that."

Holy Cross took a timeout at 19.6, which led to Hassert's game-winning play.

"She'd better make it," Murphy said he thought at the time of the drive. "And you know what, she's not an offensive player. For what we need. But we know she can play, we know she can make passes and for her to finish and give us this, it means everything."

RECOGNIZING AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA AND THEIR 25TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I recognize Aid for AIDS of Nevada and the 25th Annual AIDS Walk in Las Vegas, NV.

Established in 1984, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, AFAN, is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the State. Each year, AFAN serves more than 3,500 individuals and families in southern Nevada who are living with HIV/AIDS. This organization provides a range of services to help people living with HIV/AIDS manage their disease, including medical case management, housing assistance, and nutritional services. AFAN is also committed to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and works with community stakeholders to implement prevention initiatives, including educational seminars for high-risk groups.

This year marks the 25th year that AFAN will host AIDS Walk Las Vegas, which is not only AFAN's biggest fundraiser, but also one of the largest events for HIV/AIDS in the State of Nevada. Last year, more than 10,000 people participated in AIDS Walk Las Vegas and raised nearly \$440,000 for AFAN. The money raised each year from this event helps AFAN provide health care referrals, food vouchers, bus passes, rent assistance, and other essential services to thousands of Nevadans affected by HIV/AIDS.

I commend AFAN on their 25th Annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas, and I applaud their decades of dedicated service to southern Nevada.

RECOGNIZING CARLA SLOAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the career of Carla Sloan as she retires from her position as the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, Nevada State director.

For more than 30 years, Carla Sloan has been a leading advocate for Nevadans. She has held positions ranging from the founding director of the Howard W. Cannon Senior Services Center in Las Vegas, senior services coordinator for the Las Vegas Housing Authority, administrator for the State of Nevada's Division for Aging Services, and founding Nevada State director for the AARP.

Through these positions, Ms. Sloan led a statewide coalition of senior organizations and developed initiatives to help seniors throughout the Silver State live more independently. She also worked to ensure Nevada's publicly funded programs address the needs of older individuals and connected thousands of Nevada's seniors to essential resources, including health care, housing, and financial planning services.

In addition to these roles, Ms. Sloan has effectively represented the interests of Nevada's seniors by providing an expert perspective on several community and State boards, including the Governor's Commission on Aging; the Nevada Legislative Task Force for a Healthy Nevada; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Center for Aging; and the Nevada Elder Abuse Prevention Council.

Carla Sloan has devoted her career to improving the lives of Nevada's seniors. I commend her dedicated service to the Silver State, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors and retirement.

JO MACKEY ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP AND GLOBAL COMMUNICATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Jo Mackey Academy of Leadership and Global Communication in North Las Vegas, NV. Since this elementary school opened 50 years ago, the school has been dedicated to educating our young citizens while preparing them to succeed in our culturally diverse society. Mrs. Jo Mackey spent her life focusing on the welfare and betterment of all children, and she would be proud to see her name on an elementary school with such notable success.

Jo Mackey Magnet School has made remarkable strides in the last 50 years to ensure excellence in the education

of the children of Clark County. They offer special exploration classes to foster intellectual growth in areas such as communication, mathematics, art, foreign language, and many other subjects. They have hired a team of enthusiastic and dedicated staff whose effective teaching is evidenced by the high test scores of the students. In the last school year, Jo Mackey Magnet School had a higher percentage of students meet or exceed Nevada's standards in reading, mathematics, and science when compared to the county and State percentages. They also exceeded State and county rates in attendance and reported zero incidents of bullying or suspensions. Additionally, the Jo Mackey Academy of Leadership and Global Communication was recently recognized by the Magnet Schools of America Merit Awards Program as a Magnet School of Excellence.

Since its founding, Jo Mackey Magnet School has prepared Clark County's children to embark in a world of diversity. Students of many different ethnic and racial origins work together on projects both inside and outside of the classroom. Within the last year, students built and harvested from a school garden and learned about the importance of healthy eating.

I sincerely thank Principal Kemala Washington and the dedicated staff of Jo Mackey Academy of Leadership and Global Communication for their hard work in educating our children. Congratulations on 50 years of standing as a shining example of what a magnet school should be.

#### POLITICAL PRISONERS IN AZERBAIJAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND ETHIOPIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have a number of challenging foreign policy issues at the moment—from Russian aggression in Ukraine to ISIL and the Syrian civil war to stemming climate change.

Yet amid these larger demands, it is important to remember there are many smaller struggles going on all over the world that are also important—struggles for basic political freedoms which can still result in jailings or worse.

Today I would like to mention a number of such brave individuals who are being detained for exercising or advocating for such democratic values.

First, I am deeply troubled by the recent crackdown on human rights activists in Azerbaijan—part of a disturbing pattern in that country that has significantly deteriorated during the last year.

The New York Times summed it up nicely in its recent editorial by describing Azeri President Aliyev as a modern-day “Jekyll and Hyde” who is able to convince the world that he plays nice with the West while creating one of the worst human rights records at the same time.

Aliyev wants the world to believe that Azerbaijan is a model country that promotes moderate Islam, has strong relations with the West, and is an ideal host for the upcoming European games, yet it currently holds more political prisoners than Russia and Belarus combined—not a great distinction to be sure.

At the end of 2014, Aliyev's henchmen brazenly raided Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty offices in Baku, just weeks after the government arrested one of the country's best known investigative reporters, Khadija Ismayilova. After more than 2 months of detention, she was charged with embezzlement, illegal entrepreneurship, tax evasion and abuse of power—similar charges to those of other human rights activists.

Last August, Senators CARDIN, MURPHY, and I sent a letter to President Aliyev expressing our concern over the imprisonment of Anar Mammadli and Bashir Suleymanli, the chair and the executive director of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center, an organization that promotes free and fair elections in Azerbaijan.

Recently, Bashir was finally released but his colleague Anar remains behind bars.

Just prior, police arrested Leyla Yunus, the director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy. The very next week, the police followed up by arresting her husband, Arif Yunus; fellow activist, Rasul Jafarov, a human rights defender and chairman of the Human Rights Club; and Intigam Aliyev, the country's most prominent human rights lawyer and the 2012 winner of the prestigious Homo Homini Award for his work defending the rule of law in Azerbaijan.

Last month, the Washington Post ran a powerful letter on its opinion page written recently by Khadija where she states that the reason she is in prison is because of the regime's corruption and vows to continue to expose that corruption. Less than a week later the Azeri government suddenly called for a closed-door trial and found her guilty of criminal libel.

To quote her piece in the Post:

The fight between good and evil goes on, and the most important thing is that this fight should not end. If we can continue to reject the thinking that is imposed on us and believe that human dignity is not for sale, then we are the winners, and they, our jailers both inside and outside prison, are the losers.

Sadly, this is just a snapshot of the many brave Azeris or organizations facing trumped-up charges or imprisonment for simply exercising basic political freedoms.

To them, I say, the world is aware of your plight and courage. And to President Aliyev, I urge you to release your own people whose only offense has been to ask for a peaceful democratic Azerbaijan. You cannot be a part of the Western community of democracies

while violating its core democratic principles.

Second, Mr. President, is Saudi Arabia—a country that is an important ally to the United States on many issues and yet could not be more different when it comes to basic freedoms.

I have spoken about human rights concerns in Saudi Arabia on the floor before—the troubling lack of freedoms for women and the use of obsolete blasphemy and apostasy laws to stifle freedom of religion and expression.

In 2012, the Saudi Government imprisoned a young blogger named Hamza Kashgari for tweets considered blasphemous.

Fortunately, after nearly 2 years, I was pleased to hear of his release.

Writer and activist Raif Badawi, however, has not been so fortunate.

Also imprisoned in 2012, Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for apparently launching a Web site that suggested a peaceful discussion about religion.

He received his first set of 50 lashes in public on January 9, and spent his 31st birthday in jail, severely wounded.

His wife, Ensaf Haidar, who fled to Canada with their three children after she began receiving anonymous death threats because of her husband's case, fears her husband may not be able to physically withstand another round of lashings.

I was relieved to hear that after international outrage about this treatment as well as serious concern about his health, Raif's next rounds of floggings have been repeatedly postponed. His case was referred to the Supreme Court in Riyadh only to be returned back to the Court of Appeals in Jeddah, where reports indicate he may be retried and even worse, could face the death penalty.

Raif's lawyer, Waleed Abu al-Khair, a prominent human rights activist in his own right and head of the Monitor of Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, was himself arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison followed by a ban on travel for 15 years.

Also concerning is that his case was taken up by the Specialized Criminal Court in Jeddah, which was created in 2008 to deal with terrorist suspects but has also taken to trying human rights activists on dubious charges.

I sent a letter to Saudi Arabia in January along with several colleagues—Senators LEAHY, SHAHEEN, RUBIO, FEINSTEIN, WYDEN, KIRK, and BOXER—urging the release of both Raif and Waleed.

My staff has also met with Samar Badawi—she is Waleed's wife and Raif's sister, and she is an activist in her own right—it is a whole family of activists. For years she has been a strong advocate for women's rights in Saudi Arabia and has served her own time in jail for it.

In fact, in 2012, she was one of the recipients of the International Women of

Courage Award from the State Department.

Samar and others have raised the profile of countless women who have stood up for their rights in a country where zealous interpretations of religion and traditional customs guide Saudi laws, like the one requiring all women to have a male guardian.

The guardianship law automatically restricts Saudi women from driving, as many of you know, but also from making their own choices regarding marriage and divorce, employment, travel, banking, and countless other basic life decisions.

Raif, Waleed, and Samar are only a few of the many independent activists and peaceful dissidents in Saudi Arabia who have faced persecution.

Now, like many of you, I was saddened to hear of the passing of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz on January 23. Many have described him as a man of vision, peace, and reform.

As his brother, Salman, takes the seat as the new King of Saudi Arabia, I hope he will take every opportunity to free Raif, Waleed, and others jailed on account of their beliefs, to allow greater room for political debate and freedoms, and renounce any further prosecutions under charges of apostasy or blasphemy.

Last, Mr. President, I would like to turn the attention toward Ethiopia, a country I last visited in 2010, when I had the opportunity to meet with then-Prime Minister Meles.

Meles' government made many advances and Ethiopia was and remains an ally and leader a difficult region. It has also received millions over the years in development assistance from the United States.

And yet, Ethiopia continues to be a country with a troubling human rights record, particularly regarding freedom of the press.

Many had hoped that new Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam would bring a change to his late predecessor's human rights policies.

Unfortunately, last July the Ethiopian Government charged six bloggers and three journalists—known collectively as the Zone 9 Bloggers—under a broadly used terrorism law, despite any credible evidence be offered.

Sadly, these bloggers seem to have been arrested to narrow the already small space for free media expression in Ethiopia.

Some of you may have heard of Eskinder Nega, a prominent independent journalist who was critical of the Ethiopian Government and was detained on eight different occasions before being convicted in 2012 on terrorism charges and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Others may know of Reeyot Alemu, a schoolteacher and columnist with one of Ethiopia's last remaining independent papers was also convicted in

2012 on counts of terrorism and sentenced to 5 years in prison. Reeyot has breast cancer and is in desperate need of urgent and proper medical care beyond what prison can provide.

Both Eskinder and Reeyot have won prestigious international awards for their work while serving prison terms. Both represent the plight of their countless colleagues in the industry who have suffered threats, intimidation, politically motivated prosecutions, and even physical abuse.

I sent a letter with Senators BOXER and MENENDEZ to the Ethiopian Government about the Zone 9 Bloggers last summer and I know Secretary Kerry has also raised their cases. I am troubled to hear that a fair and transparent trial for them only continues to be delayed.

In fact, their case was adjourned 20 times before the group finally had the opportunity to plead not guilty in court last month, only to be adjourned again for March 30, just shortly before the Ethiopian general elections in May.

Prime Minister Hailemariam, you have an opportunity to turn the page on your country's human rights record by reversing a troubling pattern of press harassment.

These are just a few of the many political prisoners around the globe that struggle, often at great risk, for a better future for their fellow countrymen and women and for their children. I want them and their families—and the governments unjustly holding them—to know that they are not forgotten.

I will continue to draw attention to their plight and work for their release, along with my colleagues here in Congress and their countless advocates around the world.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one great responsibility that distinguishes the U.S. Senate is our constitutional role of advice and consent. We have a solemn duty to consider nominees for positions of great importance to the Nation, some of which are lifetime appointments. Every day that the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be the next Attorney General awaits a floor vote is another day the Senate fails to function as it should.

The Attorney General is our Nation's top law enforcement official. The position is critical to protecting our national security and our most cherished civil rights. It is a position of honor and one that deserves respect. And even though Senators have not always agreed with the President's choice, there used to be a mutual respect for the position and the process of filling it. That proud history is being debased here in the Senate today. The Republican majority has turned this vital position—and the highly respected nominee—into a bargaining chip to be lever-

aged for political gain. This is not how to treat a position of such importance to law enforcement and our national security.

When I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I did not support the nomination of Michael Mukasey, the choice of President George W. Bush. But I did not obstruct the process or deny the Senate a vote. To the contrary, we treated the position and the nominee with the historic respect they both deserve. Judge Mukasey received a floor vote just 2 days after he was reported from committee and he was confirmed just 53 days after his nomination was announced. That process stands in sharp contrast to that of Ms. Lynch. It has now been 28 days since she was reported out of committee and 137 days since her nomination was first announced.

The treatment of this excellent nominee is beneath the dignity of this body. In January, Ms. Lynch testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for nearly 8 hours and she responded to nearly 900 written questions. Not a single witness invited by Republicans opposed her nomination. When Republicans stalled consideration of Ms. Lynch's nomination in committee, Democrats noted the unnecessary delay and raised concerns about filling this vital position. Senator CORNYN dismissed this as "faux outrage." But in November 2007, Senator CORNYN complained that a 7-week process on the Mukasey nomination threatened our national security. He issued a press release stating:

It is imperative that the president has his national security team at full strength and the unnecessary delay of Judge Mukasey's nomination has prevented that. He deserves an immediate up-or-down vote by the full Senate.

Loretta Lynch's nomination has now been pending more than 19 weeks. Where is the outrage now? Where is the concern for the President's national security team to be at full strength?

Similarly, in early October 2007—just 3 weeks after Mr. Mukasey's nomination was announced, the Republican leader criticized me for not yet having set a hearing date, saying that Democrats should "not hold Judge Mukasey hostage while they play partisan games." That was after 3 weeks. We are now on week 19 for Ms. Lynch—that is more than six times as long and Senator MCCONNELL has openly linked her confirmation to partisan politics by linking her vote to demands on legislation.

Senate Republicans' handling of the nomination process for the Nation's top law enforcement officer has been disgraceful. And all of this after Senate Democrats agreed not to process her nomination during the lameduck because the current majority leader reassured us that she would be treated fairly. Unfortunately, that has not been



the case. No one can deny that Ms. Lynch is eminently qualified for the job. No one can deny that her nomination is a historic one. No one can deny that her record safeguarding our Nation from terrorists and criminals is beyond reproach. And no one can deny—based on the objective numbers—that she is being treated worse than her predecessors. Ms. Lynch has been treated unfairly compared to previous Attorneys General nominees by whatever metric one chooses.

Republicans are holding back a top Federal prosecutor who has an unparalleled record keeping Americans safe from terrorists. During her tenure as U.S. attorney, the Eastern District of New York has prosecuted significant terrorism cases. This includes the successful prosecution of six individuals for their roles in a 2009 Al Qaeda plot to attack the New York subway system; the convictions of four terrorists plotting to attack John F. Kennedy Airport; and the conviction of a terrorist who attempted to detonate an explosive device at the New York Federal Reserve.

Rudy Giuliani, the former Republican Mayor of New York and a proud law-and-order conservative, urged the Senate last week to end the delay and to confirm Ms. Lynch. He said:

This woman is entitled to confirmation: not as a woman, not as a man, but as a highly qualified candidate . . . Loretta Lynch is more than qualified. She's overqualified to be attorney general.

My friend Louis Freeh, former Director of the FBI and Federal judge, has written that “[i]n my twenty-five years of public service—23 in the Department of Justice—I cannot think of a more qualified nominee to be America's chief law enforcement officer.” He has further stated that “Ms. Lynch is an atypically non-political appointment for that office, a career professional without any political party ties or activity.”

If we do not confirm Ms. Lynch before the upcoming recess, her nomination will be pending before the full Senate for 46 days by the time we return on April 13. That is nearly twice as long as all of the past seven Attorneys General combined: Richard Thornburgh, 1 day; William Barr, 5 days; Janet Reno, 1 day; John Ashcroft, 2 days; Alberto Gonzales, 8 days; Michael Mukasey, 2 days; and Eric Holder, 5 days. This delay is an embarrassment for the U.S. Senate.

I am concerned that the Senate will have to file a cloture motion and vote to overcome a filibuster of Ms. Lynch's nomination. This would be unprecedented and unwarranted. No Attorney General nomination in our history has ever been met with a filibuster. We have never needed a cloture vote for an Attorney General nomination. It appears that Senate Republicans want to make history for all the wrong reasons.

It is time to stop playing politics and lead.

#### JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we are now three months into the new Congress with Republicans in the majority. The Republican reign thus far has been defined by an attempt to shut down the Department of Homeland Security; a refusal to even allow a floor vote on an eminently qualified nominee for Attorney General; and the decision to inject a partisan abortion fight in what is otherwise an uncontroversial bill to build on our efforts to combat human trafficking. On top of all of this, the Senate Republican Leadership has been unwilling to bring up for a vote any of the judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. Not one.

The refusal by the Senate Republican leadership to schedule votes on any Federal judges is completely contrary to historical precedent. This is also in stark contrast to the way Democrats treated President Bush's judicial nominees. During the Bush administration we were able to reduce overall judicial vacancies from 110 down to 28. In the 17 months I chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee during President Bush's first 2 years in office, the Senate confirmed 100 Federal circuit and district court judges. I also served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee during the last 2 years of the Bush administration and continued to hold regular hearings on judges and we confirmed 68 district and circuit court judges in those last 2 years.

The Senate must continue to fulfill its constitutional obligation of advice and consent. The fact that we are in the last 2 years of this presidency does not mean our work is done. In the last 2 years of the Clinton administration, 73 judges were confirmed, and in the last 2 years of the Reagan administration, 83 judges were confirmed. I have heard Senate Republicans state that 11 of the judges confirmed in the lame duck last year should count towards confirmations this year. That is a bizarre claim. Prior Congresses have always confirmed consensus nominees prior to long recesses. And Senate Democrats were only forced to do so because Republican obstruction had left judicial vacancies close to or exceeding 90 through the first 6 years of this President's tenure.

In comparison to the current treatment of judicial nominees, by the end of March 2007, the new Senate Democratic majority had scheduled votes on and confirmed 15 of President Bush's district and circuit court nominees. The refusal to schedule a vote on a single judicial nominee this year comes despite the fact that four of these nominees have languished on the Senate floor for a month and were recommended to President Obama by

their two Republican home State Senators. Three of these pending nominees will fill district court vacancies in Texas, two of which have been designated by the non-partisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts as “judicial emergency” vacancies. I would urge the current Assistant Republican Leader, who represents Texas, to work to schedule votes to fill those vacancies. I would also urge the junior Senator from Texas, who has now announced his intent to run for President, to urge his Leadership to schedule a vote to fill those vacancies.

We started this Congress with 44 judicial vacancies, including 12 vacancies deemed judicial emergencies. Today, there are 55 vacancies, including 23 judicial emergency vacancies. Let us not go back to the first 6 years of this presidency when vacancies consistently hovered around 90. The Democratic majority worked hard to reduce those vacancies so that our justice system could function effectively. The Republican majority needs to put partisanship aside and schedule votes on these consensus judicial nominees.

Filling the current vacancies is necessary but not sufficient. Last week the Judicial Conference of the United States, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, identified the need for adding 5 permanent judgeships to the courts of appeals, and 68 permanent judgeships to the district courts, as well as converting 9 temporary district court judgeships to permanent status. This Senate should be working to provide the Federal Judiciary with the resources it needs, including the addition of more judgeships.

I urge the Republican leadership of this body to schedule votes on the current pending nominations before we break for the 2-week recess. Let us show respect to the independent Federal judiciary of this country and let's get these nominees to work for the American people.

#### DIPLOMACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations has a long history of bipartisanship. Over the years, I have served as either chairman or ranking member, and I am pleased that cooperation between Republicans and Democrats is as strong today as it has ever been.

I want to commend Senator GRAHAM, the chairman of the subcommittee, who has been a passionate defender of the budget for international affairs as a key component of our national security strategy. He understands that the use of military power is often an insufficient—indeed inappropriate—way to solve problems or protect our security. There are times when the use of military force is necessary, but diplomacy



and development can be a cost-effective investment to avoid the far more costly and dangerous deployment of U.S. troops.

Earlier today, the subcommittee heard testimony from five outstanding private sector witnesses on this very subject—Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Ben Affleck, co-founder of the Eastern Congo Initiative; ADM James Stavridis, former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, former Commander of U.S. Southern Command, and current dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University; Scott Ford, founder of Westrock Coffee Company and the Rwanda Trading Company; and John Megrue, chairman of Apax Partners U.S., chairman of Born Free, chairman of the Business Leadership Council for a Generation Born HIV Free, and a director of Millennium Promise and of Grameen America.

Each of these witnesses made a compelling case for increased funding for the international affairs budget. They gave inspiring examples of how partnerships between the U.S. Agency for International Development and civil society organizations in poor countries have brought dramatic improvements to the lives of local people, and more open and stable societies.

In a world that is perhaps more dangerous and unpredictable as any time since World War II, we have a chance to help promote economic growth and political stability, and in doing so build sustainable foreign partners. It is therefore ironic that today we were presented with an amendment, offered by the junior Senator from Kentucky, to slash the international affairs budget by nearly 50 percent for the purpose of bolstering defense spending, even though the Pentagon is among the strongest supporters of diplomacy and development. Fortunately that amendment was resoundingly defeated by a vote of 96 to 4.

At just 1 percent of total Federal spending, this account cannot and should not serve as a bill payer for other priorities. Nor will reducing foreign assistance benefit our military. In fact, the opposite is true, and I commend Senator GRAHAM for calling today's hearing in order to explain why.

I ask unanimous consent that an October 21, 2014 op-ed by retired Gen. Anthony Zinni and retired ADM James Stavridis, entitled *Fighting Extremism Requires Foreign Aid, Too* be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Oct. 21, 2014]

FIGHTING EXTREMISM REQUIRES FOREIGN AID, Too

(By Gen. Anthony Zinni and Adm. James Stavridis)

The American people are justifiably alarmed at the rise of ISIS and their un-

speakable atrocities that are further destabilizing parts of the Middle East. The threats to our allies in the region like Israel and Jordan are real, as is the potential for terrorists attacks here on American soil.

But the hard truth is that these terror threats staring us square in the eye cannot be resolved by military power alone—nor can it end the cycle of other security-related challenges occurring in Ukraine, the South China Sea and in parts of Central America, just to name a few.

The important lessons we learned in our military careers is that countering the threats to our nation require comprehensive responses that utilize all our elements of national power—military and non-military. An indispensable part of the non-military toolkit is foreign aid—one of the least appreciated and yet vital means for advancing America's interests around the world.

Today's battles require melding our military power with civilian efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and support the creation of well-functioning governance systems and civil society, build infrastructure, coalesce diverse nations around common goals, and promote economic development. In short, everything that is necessary to improve the long-term prospects of a nation and keep extremists from exploiting misery and desperation.

These lessons were made clear after World War II. Through the Marshall Plan and the creation of Bretton Woods institutions, the United States helped to rebuild the economies of our former enemies on the battlefield, Germany and Japan, who are now strong and valuable contributors to the global economy and security. The same holds true for South Korea. None of this came cheap or easy, but we've reaped the rewards through decades of peace and stability in these regions. More recently, American-led initiatives in Colombia and the Balkans have made significant progress in bringing stability and economic growth after years of conflict.

The recent status of forces agreement between the United States and Afghanistan is a good first step toward creating stability and prosperity in Afghanistan, which is in our vital national interest. Our efforts will be led by the State Department in diplomacy and USAID and other civilian agencies in helping to strengthen governance, rebuild the economy and educational systems, and move farmers away from growing poppies. These are roles our diplomatic services and development agencies, with the support of our military, are best equipped to play.

For all these reasons, our nation, at long last, needs to reject misguided narratives that question the value of foreign aid. The opinion polls consistently showing the American people favor cutting and even eliminating foreign aid are deeply troubling—and are often based on wildly inflated estimates of what we spend in the first place: one percent of the federal budget.

Make no mistake, the money spent on these programs can save countless dollars and lives by averting more costly military involvement and humanitarian crises. That's why we see these programs as the difference between preventative care and trauma care. As former Defense Secretary Robert Gates memorably said, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers."

The world has changed dramatically since the Cold War when we began our military service, and so have the threats confronting our nation. That's why we must employ all the means of American influence and power,

including strong and effective foreign aid. We're confident the return on that investment is an essential contribution to our national security.

General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.) is the former Commander in Chief of U.S. Central Command. Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.) is former NATO Supreme Allied Commander for Europe and Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Both are co-chairs of the National Security Advisory Council of the US Global Leadership Coalition, a broad-based coalition of more than 400 businesses and NGOs that supports a smart power foreign policy.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN COLOMBIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as negotiations continue in Havana between the Colombian Government and the FARC rebels, I want to speak briefly about some recent information that is reason to be both encouraged and cautious about the future.

Over the course of the 50-year armed conflict, antipersonnel landmines and other unexploded ordnance have maimed and killed thousands of Colombians, mostly innocent civilians living in rural areas. To its great credit, the Colombian Government signed the international treaty banning antipersonnel mines years ago, but the FARC continued to use them.

Then, a little over 2 weeks ago, on March 7, the Colombian Government and the FARC reached an agreement for the removal and destruction of these indiscriminate weapons. The two sides have agreed to request the organization Norwegian People's Aid to lead and coordinate the implementation of this effort, which will prioritize areas where the population faces the greatest risk. The agreement provides for surveys, verification, and other mechanisms to ensure its effective implementation. This is long overdue, and I commend both sides for taking this step. It will not only save lives; it will help to build confidence for the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement if one is reached.

While officials of both Colombia and the United States like to portray Plan Colombia, the 5-year initiative that has stretched on for 15 years and cost more than \$9 billion in U.S. aid as an unparalleled success, the reality is mixed.

On the one hand, there have been significant achievements. Many Colombians are safer today than a decade ago, the army and police are more professional, and the economy has improved significantly. The negotiations to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and the FARC, for which President Santos deserves our strong support, are making progress, although difficult issues, particularly relating to justice and accountability, remain.

A separate but related issue that needs to be addressed is the Ministry of

Defense's proposed military justice reforms. I am among those, including the Department of State, who have expressed concern that these legislative and constitutional proposals could be interpreted to permit the transfer of certain human rights crimes, including false positives, to the military courts which lack the credibility or capacity to impartially investigate and adjudicate them. The Colombian Government needs to resolve this matter as soon as possible in a manner that eliminates any ambiguity about the authority of the civilian courts over such cases.

Despite Plan Colombia's achievements, much of the past decade and a half was plagued by massacres, kidnappings, land seizures, and other crimes by paramilitaries, the Colombian army, and the FARC and ELN rebels, for which a very small fraction of the individuals responsible have been brought to justice. Corruption was rampant during the administration of President Uribe, and life today for millions of Colombians remains one of poverty, violence, and displacement. Human rights defenders, social activists, and trade unionists continue to be threatened and assaulted or killed with alarming frequency.

According to a recent report of the International Red Cross, violations of international humanitarian law in Colombia increased by 41 percent in 2014. There were 814 alleged breaches of international humanitarian law, an increase of 258 from 2013.

During the past year, Human Rights Watch released reports documenting numerous new cases of disappearances, killings, sexual violence, and other atrocities by the FARC and successor groups to paramilitaries in the mostly Afro-Colombian areas of Tumaco and Buenaventura. In these two municipalities on the Pacific coast, more than 28,000 residents were reportedly forced to abandon their homes due to violence in 2014 alone, according to government data.

These findings illustrate that despite progress in the peace talks they have yet to bring tangible improvements in the lives of many Colombians who continue to suffer horrific abuses with impunity. The landmine agreement has the potential to help change that. And, of course, a peace agreement that results in the disarmament of the FARC and their renunciation of drug trafficking would be a historic achievement of immense benefit to the Colombian people. But while it would signify an end to the armed conflict it would only be the starting point for rebuilding the country, especially rural communities that suffered the worst of the violence and displacement. That is a process which will take years.

It is widely understood that any peace agreement between two warring parties, neither of which can win on

the battlefield, requires compromise. At the same time, lasting peace will require access to justice, particularly for victims of the worst crimes. Impunity is at the root of the Colombian conflict: few criminal investigations result in convictions, and human rights or other political crimes of violence and corruption are rarely prosecuted.

If a peace agreement is reached I believe the United States should strongly support it—with an emphasis on strengthening Colombia's weak judicial institutions, including holding accountable those responsible for war crimes. No democracy can survive without transparent, competent, independent judicial institutions that protect the rule of law and deliver justice when basic rights are violated. If Colombia has the trained investigators, prosecutors, judges and most importantly, the political will to end impunity, the country will finally be able to leave the worst of its past behind.

#### WILDFIRES

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to briefly mention the topic of wildfires. This year, Arizona and the West face an active wildfire season. Already 20 percent of Arizona's pine forests have been consumed by wildfires over the past decade. The fire situation is made worse by the ongoing drought and the unhealthy state of our overgrown forests. That is why I want to commend the chairman for reporting a budget resolution that calls on Congress to address funding shortfalls in the Forest Service's suppression budget but also promotes wildfire prevention using industry-led forest thinning and forest stewardship contracts.

Senator FLAKE, Senator BARRASSO, myself, and many others have made the case for years that the best way to control ballooning wildfire costs is to thin our forests so that fires become less severe and less costly to fight. The budget resolution's existing provision on wildfires is largely based on a bill that we recently reintroduced in Congress, the FLAME Act Amendments of 2015, which the Budget chairman supported. I am pleased that our goals are reflected in this resolution under section 319.

I also want to commend my colleague, Senator WYDEN, who offered an amendment, S.A. 434, that focuses purely on suppression funding, which I agree should be paired with the wildfire language in the budget resolution. Senator WYDEN and I have talked about merging some elements of our two proposals in order to cover both suppression and prevention. Our mutual goals were advanced today when Senator WYDEN modified his amendment to state that Congress may incorporate additional criteria in any proposal that enables limited wildfire adjustments for the Disaster Relief Fund.

#### SUNSHINE WEEK AND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week marked the 10th anniversary of Sunshine Week, an initiative that has become a nationwide effort to promote openness and transparency in government. As Justice Brandeis wrote in 1913, "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." That is what Sunshine Week is all about—shining a bright light to provide accountability and ensuring the public's right to know what its government is doing.

James Madison wrote in the *Federalist* No. 51, that "if men were angels, no government would be necessary." This passage has been quoted and used time and again for different purposes—sometimes correctly, other times incorrectly. Nevertheless, it is important to keep in mind its context. Of course men aren't angels. Rather, we are all ambitious, and "ambition must be made to counteract ambition." Thus, Madison described the Framers' challenge of forming a government administered by man as how to "enable the government to control the governed; and . . . oblige it to control itself."

Madison went on to explain the need for the government structure we all know and live under now with proper checks and balances. Because of this structure, which is the best in the world, we celebrate Sunshine Week and continue to ensure the public can hold its government accountable.

There is perhaps no better tool that Americans have to help ensure that open government and transparency prevail than the Freedom of Information Act. Enacted almost five decades ago, FOIA gives the public the right to government information, opening wide the curtains on the public's business and helping to ensure that government officials remain accountable.

Unfortunately, as Madison explained so long ago, when ambition seeks to counteract ambition there are challenges to allowing sunlight to disinfect the "culture of obfuscation" that permeates certain corners of the Federal Government. When this happens, FOIA's effectiveness is undermined, and the public becomes even more skeptical of government. This sort of government behavior and secrecy knows no partisan boundaries. Both Democrat and Republican administrations have failed to provide the level of transparency that Federal laws require and which the American public so rightly deserves. But efforts to change the government's attitude toward openness and transparency should know no such partisan boundaries either.

Currently, there is bipartisan work underway in both the Senate and House to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act. These reforms are aimed at improving citizens' ability to access

government information. The Senate Judiciary Committee has passed the FOIA Improvement Act of 2015, a bill I have cosponsored, and I am hopeful it will pass the Senate very soon. The FOIA Improvement Act would codify a “presumption of openness” standard, which will help to ensure that agencies proactively disclose more information to the public. The bill also makes it easier for the public to request documents from the government, while bringing about meaningful improvements to the FOIA process.

Improvements in technology—and even improvements to our laws—will only go so far, however. Those who are entrusted with conducting the people’s business and who serve as stewards of hard-earned taxpayer dollars, should operate under an instinct of openness rather than reflexive secrecy.

Anyone who has watched the news recently could tell you that this year’s Sunshine Week couldn’t have fallen at a more appropriate—yet very concerning—time for our Nation. Even within the past few weeks, Americans have learned of more actions and inactions at the Federal level that helped keep the shutters closed on the public’s access to government business.

It is impossible to discuss the current state of government transparency without acknowledging former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s use of a personal email account located on a private server in her home to conduct official State Department business.

Last week, an article in *Politico* by Dan Metcalfe—who served more than 25 years as the Director of the Department of Justice’s Office of Information and Privacy—called Secretary Clinton’s argument that she complied with Federal recordkeeping laws “laughable.” Mr. Metcalfe says that “in this case, which is truly unprecedented, no matter what Secretary Clinton would have one believe, she managed successfully to insulate her official emails, categorically, from the FOIA, both during her tenure at State and long after her departure from it—perhaps forever.” At minimum, he says, “it was a blatant circumvention of the FOIA by someone who unquestionably knows better.”

In an attempt to appease the increasing demand for answers, Secretary Clinton said she used a personal email account to conduct official government business simply for reasons of “convenience.” While that may be so, I fear it is indicative of a broader fundamental disconnect between the letter and spirit of our Nation’s transparency laws and the actions and attitudes of its officials.

Let’s be clear. Transparency shouldn’t be a question of convenience. And the public’s right to know shouldn’t be curtailed simply because the release of certain information might be rather inconvenient for an

agency, its leadership or an administration.

Conducting government business on private email undermines public trust and is detrimental to good government. That is why I have reiterated a request I made to the State Department in 2013 for records and communications relating to the agency’s questionable use of the “special government employee” designation for a top aide to Secretary Clinton. This designation may have facilitated even more government business being conducted over private email, and we need to know exactly how these practices may be undermining FOIA.

I have also worked to shine light on the current Labor Secretary’s use of private email to conduct official business while serving at the Justice Department, and on allegations of the improper use of unofficial email addresses at the Treasury Department. In our increasingly digital world, we must remain vigilant in ensuring that government officials are conducting business through the appropriate channels.

President Obama gave me high hopes at the start of his administration for a “new era of open Government”—one where transparency is the rule, as opposed to the exception. On his first day in office, the President issued a memorandum to his administration, proclaiming that “the Freedom of Information Act should be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt, openness prevails.” He has even proclaimed that his is “the most transparent administration in history.”

Yet, time and again, we see examples of this administration operating under a “do as I say, not as I do” approach to transparency. Last week, administration officials proclaimed in *USA TODAY* that “increasingly, government agencies are operating with a ‘default to open’ approach.” They added that “the administration also continues to make important strides in improving the Freedom of Information Act process.”

The very next day was National Freedom of Information Day. How did the Obama administration celebrate its commitment to transparency? It announced its intention to remove a Federal regulation from the books that for 30 years has subjected the White House Office of Administration to FOIA requests. And just for good measure, the administration said that this official change in policy will not be subject to public comment.

But this is by no means the first time the administration has shirked its commitment to transparency. From negotiating new regulations behind closed doors, to arguing an illogically narrow interpretation of FOIA before the DC Circuit—an interpretation the court said would have left FOIA requesters in limbo for months or even years—the Obama administration

seems determined to say one thing while doing another. Clearly, there is room for improvement.

But thankfully, when the government refuses to let the sunlight in, courageous citizens have stepped up to throw open the shutters. Each year, Sunshine Week provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the bravery and contribution of whistleblowers—private citizens and government employees who come forward to expose wrongdoing.

Whistleblowers are a critical component of ensuring that our government remains accountable to the people that it serves. For years, I have worked with fellow lawmakers to ensure that whistleblowers have the kind of protections they need to be able to shine a light on waste, fraud, and abuse—without fear of retribution. Part of this effort has been through rigorous congressional oversight of agency compliance with laws like the Whistleblower Protection Act.

This also involves rooting out areas for improvement. Earlier this month, the Senate Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the urgent need for increased whistleblower protections at the FBI, where—unlike every other Federal agency—employees are not protected from retaliation for uncovering and reporting wrongdoings to their direct supervisors.

People who are courageous enough to open wide the curtains on waste, fraud, and abuse should not have to fear for their livelihood; they should be honored for exposing the truth. To help advance this effort, I—along with a bipartisan group of Senators—recently launched the Whistleblower Protection Caucus. The caucus will serve as a resource for the latest information on whistleblower developments and will foster bipartisan discussion on the treatment of whistleblowers.

Agency inspectors general, likewise, play a crucial role in bringing information about government actions—or inactions—out into the public light. It is important that their jobs not be undermined by the very agencies within which they operate. I am continually frustrated by the stories I hear of an agency stonewalling an inspector general’s attempt to uncover the truth. In August 2014, 47 inspectors general from across the Federal government wrote to Congress about agency refusals to provide access to documents and information critical to their investigative efforts.

I am particularly troubled by recent reports from the Justice Department’s Office of the Inspector General that the FBI is failing to provide it with timely access to records. Not only is the FBI dragging its feet in turning over key documents, it is erecting barriers to access that are in direct contradiction with Federal law.

If agencies are willing to go to such lengths to prevent disclosure, we have all the more reason to recognize and support the efforts of those who—often at great risk—seek to peel back the curtains.

Sunshine Week continues to be a reflection of the tireless efforts of whistleblowers, government watchdogs, investigative journalists, and average Americans from across the country who are steadfast in their pursuit of a more transparent and accountable government. They are doing their part. We need to do ours. Let's build upon this 10th anniversary of Sunshine Week to engage in the discussions and work together toward the solutions that will truly usher in a new era of openness.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DOUGLAS ELMENDORF

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to recognize Dr. Douglas Elmendorf's strong service to our country and, specifically, to the Congress. He leaves the directorship of the Congressional Budget Office today after leading this important agency for 6 years, one of the longest tenures in CBO's 40-year history. His steady, wise, and innovative management of Congress's budget umpires has enhanced that organization's already sterling reputation.

We are particularly grateful for his steady hand as we worked our way through the policy responses to the great recession. I cannot think of a more trying time to have been CBO Director than the last 6 years.

He also gets high marks in my book for his leadership in pioneering important scoring techniques that include the use of models of the U.S. economy. In this regard, his commitment to providing Members of Congress with the best information possible further burnished CBO reputation.

We will miss Doug Elmendorf. However, he leaves a young man, which likely means those of us in the public policy community will continue for many years to benefit from his economic wisdom and passion for this country.

#### NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This month provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the significant strides we have made in confronting colorectal cancer and to renew our commitment to beating this devastating disease. In 2000, President Clinton first dedicated National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in order to raise awareness of colorectal cancer and to remind us of the important steps we can take to prevent, de-

tect, and ultimately defeat this disease.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. This year, approximately 50,000 Americans will die from colorectal cancer, which means each one of us in this Chamber will lose an average of 1,000 constituents in 2015 alone. The likelihood of developing colorectal cancer is now greater than 1 in 20, and 133,000 Americans are expected to be newly diagnosed this year. The American Cancer Society estimates that 2,360 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in Maryland and, sadly, 860 Marylanders are expected to die from the disease this year.

Colorectal cancer affects men and women equally when we reach the age of 50 and beyond. Unfortunately, as I look around this room I know that some of you have known someone who has been impacted by this disease.

Despite these grim statistics, however, the single most encouraging fact about this deadly disease is that colorectal cancer is among the most preventable of all cancers. Unlike other cancer screenings where the goal is to detect cancer at an early stage, colorectal cancer screenings can actually prevent cancer from occurring in the first place. Colorectal cancer arises from pre-cancerous growths, or polyps, that grow in the colon. If found early through appropriate screening and detection, these polyps can be removed, halting their progression into colorectal cancer. The way to beat this disease is with regular screening through a variety of methods, including colonoscopy. These are life-saving tests. In fact, a recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die of colorectal cancer this year, screening could save more than half of them.

At the same time, colorectal cancer screening is becoming a public health success story in the United States. While it remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women combined, both the incidence and death rate have been declining in recent years—something no other country can claim. The percentage of the population that is up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening increased to 65 percent in 2010 and, among those aged 50 and older, incidence rates have dropped 30 percent over the last decade. This positive trend in lower incidence rates demonstrates the importance of screening and the power of preventive medicine.

In Maryland, we can boast one of the highest screening rates among eligible populations in the country at 70 percent. However, that still means that three out of every ten people at risk are not getting screened. This highlights the need for policies to help achieve the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention's national goal of having 80 percent of eligible Americans screened by 2018. Furthermore, screening rates remain unacceptably low across the country, especially in the Medicare age population, who have the greatest risk for developing colorectal cancer.

I am proud to rise in support of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The need for increased awareness about this disease and the importance of screening is a public health issue truly worthy of our attention in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in working to raise awareness that colorectal cancer is preventable, detectable, treatable and curable.

#### RECORD EXPUNGEMENT DESIGNED TO ENHANCE EMPLOYMENT (REDEEM) ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, earlier this month, Senator RAND PAUL and I introduced the Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment—or REDEEM—Act, a bill that takes important new steps to ensure that youth and adults caught up in the criminal justice system have an opportunity at a second chance to turn their lives around rather than returning to a life of crime. I thank Senator PAUL for joining with me to craft this legislation.

This important bipartisan legislation would establish much needed, sensible, pragmatic reforms that keep kids out of an adult system in the first place, protect their privacy so a youthful mistake does not haunt young people throughout their lives, and make it less likely that low-level nonviolent offenders reoffend.

As the former mayor of Newark, I believe strongly in holding people accountable for breaking our laws, but I also believe it is important that we do everything possible to ensure that when people leave prison and return to their communities, they have every chance at becoming productive members of our society. No one deserves more of an opportunity to leave their past behind than our children. Far too often, kids are easily manipulated into making a youthful mistake that should not follow them for the rest of their lives. That is why I advocate that we fix our Nation's broken criminal justice system, a system that has taken an unimaginable and I believe unsustainable toll on families and communities.

The United States is home to between 4 and 5 percent of the entire globe's population, but we have 25 percent of the world's prison population. This phenomenon is unacceptable, that the land of the free would have 25 percent of the globe's imprisoned people. What is startling about that is the majority of those people are nonviolent offenders. In fact, the majority are nonviolent drug offenders.

This phenomenon has largely emerged since around 1980, a period during which the Federal prison population has grown nearly tenfold. Since 1980 we have seen a 10-time increase in our prison population. The sad reality is that nearly three-quarters of Federal prisoners are nonviolent and have no history of violence whatsoever.

What is worse and what is anguishing is that once they are convicted of a crime, American citizens then face daunting obstacles to successfully rejoin society, to being able to raise their family, put food on the table, provide for themselves. As a result of that, our State and Federal prison exits have now become revolving doors, with two of every three ex-offenders getting rearrested within 5 years. Two-thirds of those nonviolent folks leaving our prisons come back within 5 years.

When ex-offenders return to prison again and again, they are not just paying a price; we all pay the price. We are contributing so much of our resources to rearresting the same people over and over, to reincarcerating the same people over and over. A recent Pew report concluded that if just 10 States cut their recidivism just 10 percent, taxpayers would save \$470 million—money this Nation could use to either return to taxpayers or invest in our crumbling infrastructure.

To further public safety, reduce recidivism, and protect the future of our children, I am proud to reintroduce the REDEEM Act. This bill would incentivize States to raise the age of original jurisdiction for criminal courts to 18 years old. Trying juveniles who have committed low-level, nonviolent crimes as adults is counterproductive. They do not emerge from prison reformed and ready to reintegrate into a high school. The criminal record they have will not help them as they try to get a job. We need a system that treats juveniles toughly and fairly, with an eye toward a productive adulthood.

This change in law is important for protecting our children's futures. For kids in the dozen States that treat 17- and even 16-year-olds as adults, no longer would getting into a schoolyard scuffle result in an adult record that could follow an individual for the rest of their life, restrict access to a college degree, limit employment prospects, and increase the likelihood of engaging in further criminal activity.

The bill would enhance Federal juvenile record confidentiality and provide for automatic expungement of records for kids who commit nonviolent crimes before they turn 15 and automatic sealing of records for those who commit nonviolent crimes after they turn 15.

The bill would ban the very cruel and counterproductive practice of juvenile solitary confinement that can have immediate and long-term detrimental effects on youth detainee mental and

physical health. In fact, the majority of suicides by juveniles in prisons occur when young people are placed in solitary confinement. Other nations even consider it torture.

The bill would, for adults, offer the first broad-based Federal path to the sealing of criminal records. A person who commits a nonviolent crime will be able to petition a court and make his or her case.

The bill would enhance the accuracy of criminal justice records. Employers requesting a background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be provided with only relevant and accurate information thanks to a provision that will protect job applicants by improving the quality of the Bureau's background check. Think about this: 17 million background checks were done by the FBI in 2013, many of them for private providers, and upward of half of them were inaccurate or incomplete, often causing people to lose a job, miss an economic opportunity, and be trapped with few economic options other than to reoffend in order to feed a child.

Finally, the bill would lift a ban on receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits. The intent of this program is to keep low-income families from going hungry. Yet those convicted of drug use or possession lose the right to obtain such benefits. Once an individual has paid his or her debt to society, a path to the reinstatement of those benefits should be available. As President George W. Bush said in his 2004 State of the Union Address, "America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life." This bill would do just that.

Taken together, these measures will help keep kids who get in trouble out of a lifetime of crime and help adults who commit nonviolent crimes become more self-reliant and less likely to reoffend. This bill is supported by 27 organizations, including: the ACLU, the National Employment Law Center, the Sentencing Project, the Center for Children Law and Policy, the Legal Action Center, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the General Board of Church and Society, National Juvenile Justice Network, and the National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to let our criminal justice system continue to grow at the rate that it is. We cannot afford to sap billions of taxpayer dollars from a broken system that is locking people up and then doing nothing to empower them to succeed. We cannot afford to waste human potential and human productivity.

We have seen how other individual States—like Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina—are taking significant steps to address this issue and are lowering both recidivism and the size of their

prison population, while at the same time lowering actual crime in their States. It is time that the Federal Government act to do the same.

I urge my fellow Senators to support the REDEEM Act so we can make our communities safer and stronger and empowers our citizens to live productive and strong lives of contribution.

#### WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the distinguished veterans of Honor Flight Northern Colorado who recently made their 13th trip to Washington, DC to visit the memorials that stand in our Nation's Capital. This group includes veterans from multiple wars and different generations, linked together by their service to our Nation.

Founded in 2005, the Honor Flight Program was originally formed to honor veterans of World War II but has since expanded to include those who have served in all other American engagements. This program provides an opportunity for veterans to fly to Washington, DC free of cost, so they can visit the national memorials dedicated to their service. Of the 123 veterans who visited Washington, DC 22 served in World War II, 69 in Korea, and 32 in Vietnam.

Military service is an exceptional duty to country. When the United States has been threatened, our veterans have stepped up and answered our country's call without reservation or fear.

Though these memorials honor our veterans' service, no statue or monument can truly express the level of gratitude we feel for those who courageously risked their lives to preserve our inherent rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Today we honor those who fought to secure the blessings endowed by our Creator for future generations.

Please join me in honoring Leonard Bennett, Verne Berry, Donald Debus, Frank DeSeure, Earl Harper, Joe Hoberman, Boyd Johnson, Charles Johnson, Phyllis Iverson-Farver, Glenn Lawrence, William Loper, Thomas Mascarenas, Jack Miller, James Mitchell, Glenn Morrell, Robert Palmer, Margaret Rowlett, Waldemar Schielke, Eric Schoenhaar, Lyle Stearley, Perry Sullinger, James Wayne, Henry Amen, Donald Babcock, William Berg, JD Bernard, Norton Billings, James Boltz, Leslie Bridwell, John Brunner, Francis Carrigan, Arne Christensen, Kenneth Cook, Edna Coseo, Lowell Davis, George Dillan, Edward Doebbeling, James Doherty, Paul Duneman, Philip Edwards, Karl Ehmann, Frank Faiella, Robert Fiscus, William Franklin, Melvin Gerling, Douglas Gifford, Otis Gordley, Jr., John Hefton, Robert Heldt, Richard Hirn, William Hotes, Bert Jones, Jr., Robert Kearney,

Wayne Kluck, Richard Krebs, Vito LaBarbara, Richard Larson, Donald LeFever, Richard Lewis, John Marks, William Marlatt, Dale Mason, Verle Miller, Howard Morgan, Norman Oling, Donald Packard, Burdett Parsons, Harold Potter, Rolland Reinick, Louis Richardson, Dudley Rider, Clyde Rink, Jr., Richard Ruggles, Richard Schilling, Raymond Schropfer, Wilbert Shimoda, Raymond Slauson, Charles Stevens, Jimmy Stickley, John Stitzel, Robert Stitzel, Thomas Stults, Eugene Stumpf, Dorral Threlkel, Jerry Turner, Ray Walker, Linus Wasinger, Ernest Wimmer, Delmar Wittier, Wallace Wolverton, Charles Wyant, Edward Andrews, Dennis Arnold, Berton Bessey, Ralph Bowling, Eugene Burmeister, Martin Carrera, Ronald Carrera, Thomas Claspell, Randy Colby, Kenneth Curry, Kenneth Eck, Timothy Feia, Sylvia Fiscus, Larry Giaque, Roger Hess, Warren Hindman, David Jones, Wallace Lavery, Michael Linder, William Lodge, Merle Luther, James Maxwell, Gaylen Miller, Martin Musick, Edward Obrecht, Jr. Daniel Scalise, Ronald Schaft, Gary Stricklin, John Stricklin, Robert Van Driel, David Webb, John Zochol.

#### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHP 580 TALK RADIO

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I recognize WHP 580 Talk Radio, a radio station in Harrisburg, PA, celebrating its 90th anniversary on April 3, 2015.

WHP 580 was established as WHBG in 1925 by the Skane Electrical Service. The station was sold in 1927 and changed its name to WHP on station dial 1280 AM 2 years later. In 1951, WHP was moved to dial number 580 AM, where it has remained ever since.

WHP 580 continues the tradition of providing quality programming and news just as it did 90 years ago. WHP 580 provides listeners with insightful talk radio aimed at informing citizens in Pennsylvania about current and national affairs, while keeping them engaged in local issues. The station offers a variety of talk radio programming, local and regional news updates, and daily weather and traffic reports for commuters. By broadcasting pertinent, up-to-date information, WHP 580 continues its legacy as a respected news source in the Central Pennsylvania region.

I recognize the significant contributions that WHP 580 Talk Radio has made to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish them all the best as they continue their efforts to lead by example with a vision for better broadcasting in central Pennsylvania.

#### GREATER BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I congratulate the hard-working mem-

bers of the Greater Bloomington chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 100 years of creating jobs, building Indiana's economy, and improving the lives of Hoosiers across our State.

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1915 by a group of local business leaders dedicated to improving their community. For the past century, the chamber has proudly served Bloomington and Monroe County businesses, as well as the community as a whole, with integrity, leadership, and collaboration.

Since its founding, the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has provided leadership through member engagement, business advocacy, and civic partnerships designed to strengthen the Bloomington business environment. They have been a voice of business in greater Bloomington, advancing collaboration, regional partnerships, and fostering young professional development in order to prepare students for work.

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has many noteworthy accomplishments over their 100 years of existence. Some of these include leading support for local and statewide transportation improvement projects; supporting the development of public water resources such as Lakes Lemon, Griffey, and Monroe; leading school bond referendums, programs, and opportunities through the Franklin Initiative; and supporting efforts to revitalize downtown Bloomington. For these efforts and so many more, the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has been named Chamber of the Year in both Indiana and on the national level by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Businesses and everyday residents have benefited from the efforts of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, and its members to create an exceptional quality of life for families in and around Monroe County. As a leading advocate for business in the Bloomington area today, the chamber's mission remains true to its foundation while at the same time adapting to accommodate the ever-changing landscape of today's business world. Their core vision of keeping Greater Bloomington a vibrant community in which to live, learn, invest, and work has paid off for area residents and will continue to do so for years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I sincerely congratulate all members of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce on their 100th anniversary, and I wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ZEKE GRADER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

William F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr., who is being honored by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and the Institute for Fisheries Resources in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the fishing community.

Zeke's roots to fishing date back to his childhood. He was raised in Fort Bragg, a small coastal town in Mendocino County, and spent his free time down on the docks helping his family's fish business. Zeke later attended Sonoma State University and graduated with a degree in political science before going to law school at the University of San Francisco.

In 1976, Zeke began working as the executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, PCFFA, a trade organization supporting commercial fishing and fishermen rights. Throughout his 40-year career with PCFFA, Zeke worked tirelessly to support fishermen and their families, serving with unmatched distinction and skill. Zeke always understood the importance of ocean conservation, supporting groundbreaking legislation such as the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the California Coastal Act and advocating for sustainable fisheries that protected against overfishing and restored fish habitats.

Zeke's passion for the ocean led him to other leadership positions, including roles as the founding executive director of the Institute for Fisheries Resources, a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and a member of the Marine Fish Conservation Network.

A resolute and determined defender of the sea and those whose livelihoods depend on it, Zeke Grader is truly a force of nature. His work will continue to make a difference for years to come, and I send my deepest gratitude to Zeke for his outstanding service to California and the Nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO REBECCA ALEXANDER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rebecca Alexander, a native Californian who has overcome tremendous obstacles and inspired countless others to face their own challenges with courage and strength.

On April 14th, the Foundation Fighting Blindness will honor Rebecca Alexander with its Hope and Spirit Award at the Thirteenth Annual For the Love of Sight Visionary Awards Dinner here in Washington.

Rebecca was born in Oakland with Usher syndrome type III, a rare genetic disorder that causes progressive blindness and deafness. She began losing her sight as a teenager, and suffered a fall at age 18 that broke nearly every bone in her body. Today, Rebecca is almost completely blind and deaf.



Despite these daunting setbacks, Rebecca has persevered. Now 36 years old, Rebecca is a psychotherapist with two master's degrees from Columbia University and a successful private practice in New York City. She is also the author of a moving memoir, "Not Fade Away."

In addition to her professional achievements, Rebecca regularly teaches spin classes and competes in the Civilian Military Combine, CMC, for extreme athletes. Some of her extraordinary athletic feats include helping run the Olympic torch across America, participating in a 600-mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles, skydiving, and bungee jumping.

As the Foundation Fighting Blindness prepares to honor Rebecca, I want to join them in expressing my congratulations, appreciation, and profound admiration for this remarkable young woman.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID MITZNER

● Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, our Nation was founded on an idea—an idea that every person has the right to freely speak, live, worship, work, and build flourishing lives for themselves and their families. And today I want to recognize a man who embraces those liberties and whose witness is exceptional. For a century, Mr. Mitzner has been a warrior for freedom.

David Mitzner was born to Jewish parents in Poland, and during World War II he lost his family to the Holocaust. He survived 8 long years in a Soviet gulag. A Russian officer told the men at the labor camp, "Here you're going to live, here you're going to die." David refused to accept that as his fate and fought to live. In 1949 he defied his captors and escaped the iron grip of communism to come to the United States.

He arrived in New York with just \$17 in his pocket. He didn't know English and didn't have any relatives to rely upon. He got his first job working for a hosiery manufacturer and today he is one of world's most successful private real estate investors whose projects span from Texas to Poland.

He works with the same vigor, energy, and gratitude as he did when he stepped onto American soil 66 years ago. And at 100 years old, Mr. Mitzner still goes into the office to make sure his company continues to operate with uncompromising integrity and excellence. He has pioneered development in cities across the world, and particularly in Warsaw, his childhood home, which was nearly destroyed by communism. His fellow investors said it couldn't be done but he proved them wrong.

As he often says, there are miracles all around us. David's life is a miracle and it is one that continues to overflow

into all those who are blessed to know him.

In closing, I want to recount a brief anecdote from the Passover Seder, which I had the privilege of celebration with David and the extended Mitzner family last year. It was very close to his 99th birthday, and I remember him saying, "99 is nothing. When I turn 100, that will be something." David, you are now 100, and it is indeed something. Happy birthday, friend, and thank you for the legacy you have built, not merely on bricks and mortar, but on upon your fortitude and your faith.●

#### CONGRATULATING JUSTICE BEST

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Justice Best on being chosen as a second prize winner in C-SPAN's national 2015 StudentCam competition. Ms. Best is a junior at Spanish Springs High School in Sparks, NV, and was one of 5,000 students in 45 States to compete. This was the largest amount of participants to ever enter the contest since it began 11 years ago. The competition allowed for middle school and high school participants and required the students to make a 5- to 7-minute documentary responding to this statement: "The Three Branches and You: tell a story that demonstrates how a policy, law, or action by either the executive, legislative, or judicial branch has affected you or your community." Students were chosen based upon how well their videos demonstrated research and planning and upon their ability to include a diverse range of expert interviews on the topic. Last, judges paid close attention to the students' ability to demonstrate critical thought on their topics.

Ms. Best chose an important topic pertinent to Nevada on both a State and Federal level: the greater sage grouse endangered species listing. Throughout the documentary, she presented the two sides of the issue by interviewing professionals and locals with knowledge on the topic and concluded that listing the greater sage grouse as an endangered species would be detrimental to the Nevada economy. Ms. Best was one of 16 second prize winners, earning a total of \$1,000. She is a shining example of how hard work and dedication result in success and stands as a role model for future Spanish Springs Cougars.

I am excited to see a local student bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Spanish Springs High School for her advancement in a national competition. She should be proud to call herself a top contender in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Ms. Best for her efforts and honorable representation of Nevada.●

#### CONGRATULATING SHIRLEY MCLEE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Shirley McLee on being named Regional Magnet Teacher of the Year by the Magnet Schools of America. Ms. McLee was one of eight selected to receive the national award, recognizing her dedication to Ed W. Clark High School's magnet program. Her unwavering commitment to the program has grown it to be the success it is now, providing some of the best magnet courses in the Nation.

Ms. McLee was chosen as the western region winner out of teachers from Nevada, California, Oregon, and Arizona. The award recognizes full-time teachers who are dedicated to providing innovative programs to students, as well as promoting equity and diversity among those involved in the program. Ms. McLee's hard work has had great influence at Ed W. Clark High School and has positively contributed to the three different magnet programs offered to students, including the Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology, the Academy of Finance, and the Teacher Education Academy. These programs focus on specific areas of study pertaining to future career work and are available to students as they move through their high school coursework. They also offer extra hours of school instruction and a reduced student to teacher ratio, as well as collaboration between Ed W. Clark High School and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the College of Southern Nevada to offer college credit. Ms. McLee is a shining example of how devotion to a program can truly impact the lives of students. Her accolade is well deserved.

I am excited to see a local teacher bring recognition to both Nevada and to Ed W. Clark High School by receiving a prestigious national award. Ms. McLee should be proud to call herself a top national magnet teacher. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Ms. McLee for her steadfast effort and honorable representation of Nevada.●

#### CONGRATULATING GERMAN RODRIGUEZ

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I congratulate Reno Police Officer German Rodriguez on receiving the Congressional Badge of Bravery, a well-deserved award after his extreme act of courage. On October 16, 2013, an armed robbery took place at a Bank of America in Reno, resulting in the death of a patron. Mr. Rodriguez was off duty and unarmed when he witnessed the occurrence at the bank, but he called 911 and followed the suspect after he had fled the scene. Mr. Rodriguez then apprehended and disarmed the suspect at a nearby bus station to be sure the situation would not escalate or result in the



suspect getting away. Responding officers arrived shortly after to take the suspect into custody. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Rodriguez for his unwavering commitment to protecting his community in both this instance and throughout his tenure as an officer.

Mr. Rodriguez began his career as a Reno police officer in 1998 and has remained committed to his job and his community ever since. His dedication to keeping those around him safe is commendable, and his commitment to service above self is a shining example of heroism. The Reno community is safer because of Mr. Rodriguez.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery is awarded to law enforcement officers who have sustained a physical injury or were at great risk of physical injury while protecting their community. Mr. Rodriguez's actions more than warrant this prestigious award and represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including a sense of community and an obligation to help others. His actions prove that he consistently makes the safety and security of others a top priority and is always ready to respond at a moment's notice. He is a role model to future generations of Reno police officers and officers across the country.

During his tenure, Mr. Rodriguez has demonstrated immeasurable bravery, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the police force. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rodriguez for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

#### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a vital partnership that has created abundant opportunities for families and communities in my State of West Virginia and across the Appalachian region for five decades. Since its establishment in 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission, known as ARC, has spurred job creation, economic growth and infrastructure improvements, which have helped build a stronger Appalachia. I am proud of all that ARC has done to help improve the region, and I am committed to continue working with the agency to further enhance our communities.

Over the past 50 years, the rural communities of Appalachia have faced unique challenges. After the American industrial revolution, which was driven largely by Appalachian coal and other regional resources, these communities experienced a rapid economic downturn. Since then, ARC has partnered with local and State leaders to make

critical investments that have helped rebuild and revitalize the region.

Located in the heart of Appalachia, which is home to more than 25 million Americans, my home State of West Virginia has benefitted considerably from the contributions of ARC. Through its initiatives, ARC has played a critical role in helping lift West Virginians out of economic turmoil and homelessness. Prior to ARC's establishment, 34.6 percent of West Virginians were living in poverty. Today, that number has been cut in half to 17.6 percent. This is telling of ARC's commitment to the strength of our citizens in rural and economically distressed areas.

Also, by investing in our highways, railroads, bridges, as well as water and sewer systems, ARC funding in West Virginia has helped lay the foundation for economic growth in the region. Of West Virginia's 409.6 total eligible miles, 360.4 are open to traffic thanks to help from ARC. Additionally, ARC has made 2,133 strategic nonhighway grants in West Virginia, totaling \$387.6 million. These initiatives are vital to improving the quality of life for our residents and growing tourism and business in the State.

The agency's investments have undoubtedly been a source of economic vitality and an engine for job growth. All of the Mountain State's 55 counties added employment at a 4.2-percent faster pace and per capita income at a 5.5-percent faster pace than similar counties that did not receive ARC investments. Per capita income has increased from 71.6 percent of the national average in 1969 to 79.4 percent today.

Nonetheless, there is still work to be done to bring Appalachia to parity with the rest of the Nation. We must continue to invest in the region's educational programs, because the long-term economic success of this region truly rests in the hands of a well-informed, educated and skilled workforce. We must also focus on working together to fight rampant drug use and abuse, a national epidemic that proliferates in the pockets of Appalachia. And of equal importance, we need to continue to invest in industrial infrastructure, broadband expansion, business development, health care, and workforce training.

While Governor, I had the honor of serving as the cochair for the State's representative of ARC and now, as a U.S. Senator from Appalachia, I continue to be a strong supporter of the program. ARC has proven over the past 50 years that a partnership between the Federal, State, and local government can work together to help improve the economic success in regions across West Virginia and Appalachia. It is truly an honor to recognize them today for their work to improve and develop this special American region.●

#### REMEMBERING STEVE PIERCE, II

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that Cindy and I would like to express our sincere condolences to our friend, Arizona State Senator Steve Pierce, his wife, Joan, and their entire family on the loss of their son, Stephen Morris Pierce II. Sadly, Steve leaves behind his wife Amilyn and their unborn child.

I wish there were a way to make sense of such a sudden and tragic loss. It is impossible for Steve's family and friends to understand how someone with such a bright future could be taken from them so quickly.

Raised on one of the last great cattle ranches in Arizona, Steve's imagination thrived. He was an all-American boy who enjoyed fishing, football, and baseball. His love of the ocean took Steve to San Diego State University, where he studied computer information and decision systems. Always adventurous and playful, Steve found a way to turn play into work when he started working in the online-gaming industry. He was able to fulfill his dream of starting his own online-gaming company.

Steve touched the lives of many and will never be forgotten. His generosity of spirit will always be treasured. We can take comfort in the fact that those who loved him will keep his memory alive when they remember his easy laugh and acts of kindness.

Cindy and I express our deepest sympathies for the tragic loss of such a fine son, husband, brother, and friend. Through this difficult time, the Pierce family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.●

#### DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY SESQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I recognize the Detroit Public Library's Sesquicentennial. For 150 years, the Detroit Public Library has been a cornerstone in the cultural and intellectual life of Detroiters. Throughout that time it has remained committed to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of the city's residents, and has worked to safeguard the history of Detroit and Michigan.

When the Detroit Public Library opened on March 25, 1865 its collection consisted of 5,000 books housed in a single room of Michigan's first State Capital. The Detroit Free Press celebrated the library's inauguration by reporting that all Detroiters were anxious to support the new institution. The free access to information on the fields of science and literature was embraced as a public good worthy of praise. As enthusiasm for the library grew, so did its collection. On March 27, 1873 Michigan Governor John Judson Bagley signed into law a measure calling for the construction of a new library in Detroit.

On January 22, 1877, the new home of the Detroit Public Library was dedicated and its first librarian, Professor Henry Chaney, was appointed. The building, the first to solely house the library, was designed in the Second Empire style by the Detroit architectural firm of Brush & Smith. Much of the detail work was completed by a young George D. Mason, who later went on to design the Detroit Masonic Temple and the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinaw Island. In addition to its grand exterior, the library included a large reading room that featured ornate iron columns rising to a central skylight. The new building cost \$124,000 or approximately \$2.5 million when adjusted for inflation, and housed a collection that had grown to 33,604 items.

Demand for the services of the Detroit Public Library continued to grow along with the city's population. In 1900, the Detroit Public Library opened three additional branches. In 1904 it opened two more. The library continued to expand over the next two decades, with each additional branch designed and constructed to highlight beauty as well as utility. The library also established 80 smaller stations located in schools, fire houses and factories throughout Detroit. Still, as the city boomed with the success of the automotive industry, the Detroit Public Library found itself in need of even more space.

In March 1910, the City of Detroit accepted financial assistance from Andrew Carnegie to encourage the construction of a new, larger public library. In light of Detroit's growth, officials determined the new library should be located north of downtown. The city purchased land along Woodward Avenue for nearly \$500,000—more than \$11.1 million today—and hired Cass Gilbert to design the new building. Mr. Gilbert, an architect from New York, had designed the library in St. Louis and the Woolworth Building in New York City. He would also go on to design the James Scott Memorial Fountain on Detroit's Belle Isle, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, DC.

The Detroit Public Library's main branch opened at its current location in March, 1921. With a final cost of \$3 million—nearly \$38.45 million today—the Italian Renaissance inspired structure of white marble was immediately deemed the most beautiful building in Detroit. When it opened, the main library's collection included more than 500,000 items. The library continued to grow. On June 23, 1963, the Cass Avenue wings of the main branch opened, doubling the size of the library to accommodate a collection that had reached almost 2 million items and served nearly 2 million residents.

Today, the Detroit Public Library includes 23 locations and a collection of over 4.1 million items. It remains com-

mitted to increasing the quality of life in Detroit and addressing the changing needs of its residents. The library provides programs for adults, children, and teens designed to increase literacy and technical skill, encourage lifelong learning, promote multiculturalism, and ensure the equitable access to information. This year it is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Junior Great Books Program and the 75th anniversary of its Bookmobile. It has also continued to serve the entire State of Michigan through its outstanding special collections, which include the 100-year-old Clarence M. Burton Historical Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Collection of African Americans in the Performing Arts, the Rare Book Collection, and the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection.

As the Detroit Public Library moves into the future, I am confident it will continue to contribute to the intellectual capital, diversity, creativity and community spirit of a great city. I am pleased to recognize the Detroit Public Library's Sesquicentennial and wish it another 150 years of service to the City of Detroit.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. RUSHING JR.

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I recognize William E. Rushing Jr. for his volunteer leadership to the American Concrete Institute, ACI, headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI, an organization whose work is fundamental to our Nation's critical infrastructure and economic competitiveness. I am honored to acknowledge Mr. Rushing for his career-long commitment to advancing knowledge of concrete in the United States and abroad.

ACI has been a pioneer in all concrete-related fields: research and development, structural design, architectural design, construction, and product manufacture. With 100 professional chapters, 86 student chapters, and nearly 18,000 members spanning over 100 countries, the ACI provides knowledge and information for the best use of concrete. Through a host of activities including continuing education, certification, seminars, publications, and conventions, ACI plays an active and vital role in the concrete industry. Central to ACI's work is the development of codes and standards, which serve as a reference for building codes that impact many concrete projects in the United States. Further, in some 21 countries worldwide, the ACI 318 Structural Concrete Building Code provisions serve as a base for part or all of these nations' building codes.

Mr. Rushing received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University, LSU, Baton Rouge, in 1981. He is a licensed professional engineer in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and

Arizona. Mr. Rushing is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineers Institute. He has been honored with election to the LSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Hall of Distinction.

Currently, William E. Rushing Jr. is a vice president with Waldemar S. Nelson & Co., Inc., New Orleans. He has been an active member of ACI for more than 30 years and was named a fellow of ACI in 1998. He previously served on the ACI board of direction, has chaired the ACI strategic plan drafting task group, and has skillfully managed institute finances for several terms as chair of the Financial Advisory Committee. As chair of the ACI Convention Committee, he has worked tirelessly to improve the experience for local chapters at its conventions. He has worked on several ACI technical committees that cover the full range of the institute's areas of knowledge and expertise. Through his work on ACI educational committees, he has been a strong promoter of ACI student activities programs. He also serves on the board of the ACI Foundation.

Mr. Rushing will complete his term as president of ACI on April 16, 2015, at The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition in Kansas City, MO. His year-long presidency has been marked by implementing and advancing the goals of engagement, outreach, structure, and leadership in the ACI Strategic Plan. The ACI University Program was launched as a new method to deliver online learning modules to bring education information to all concrete professionals. A major development during his presidency was the rollout of the reorganized ACI 318-14 Structural Concrete Building Code, the culmination of a massive technical undertaking which took nearly 7 years to complete. In his outreach capacity, Mr. Rushing engaged concrete industry professionals and their broader network of stakeholders on the benefits of the reorganized code.

Over his decades of work in the concrete industry, Mr. Rushing has been honored with many awards for his outstanding leadership and service. In 2011, he was recognized with the ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award for his work on many of the institute's committees. He also received the Chapter Activities Award from ACI in 2003. As a member, of the board of direction for the Louisiana chapter—ACI, he received its Chapter Activity Award in 2004 and its Chapter Distinguished Member Award in 2010. His service has also been recognized in his selection as vice chair of the ACI Fall 1996 Convention and co-chair of the ACI Fall 2009 Convention.

Mr. President, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me today to recognize Mr. William E. Rushing Jr.'s leadership and service to the American Concrete Institute.●

## REMEMBERING RAFAEL GARCIA

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I would like to speak to you about the loss of a remarkable young man who made a tremendous impact on my community.

This week, the city of Miami lost a firefighter, a devoted husband, an expectant father, and a selfless public servant named Rafael Garcia when he died very suddenly from a brain tumor that was detected just days ago.

Rafael, known as Ralf, was only 28 years old. He is remembered by the many who loved him as brilliant, driven, and selfless, and the all-too-brief record of his life confirms all three traits. He graduated salutatorian from Christopher Columbus High School in 2005. He chose to attend Florida International University to stay close to his family and the community he loved and went on to graduate summa cum laude as the only student in his class to have a perfect GPA.

With Ralf's natural gifts, he could have chosen virtually any career path—including jobs that would have paid lucrative salaries and kept him far from danger—but instead he chose to apply his considerable talents to serving his neighbors as a firefighter and EMT. So after graduation, he worked as a math teacher while attending Coral Springs Fire Academy, from which he graduated first in his class. He was then so eager to get started that he camped outside for 3 days so he could be first to submit his application for an opening. After winning that position, he attended Miami Fire Academy, where he once again graduated first in his class and won the award of Outstanding Recruit.

As a firefighter, Ralf was more than just a hero who rushed into infernos while others fled; he also served our community in smaller moments, protecting the little pieces of this country that make America home. It is firefighters like Ralf who place a rescued teddy bear in the arms of a scared child. It is firefighters like Ralf who extinguish a blaze before it destroys the business a man worked his whole life to build. It is firefighters like Ralf who save a young mother from the twisted steel of a car wreck. And it is firefighters like Ralf who help to provide my children—and all children—with the knowledge that they are safe and that should anything happen, there are men and women ready to blare sirens, stop traffic, and break down walls to get to them if that is what they have to do.

Ralf is remembered as a “firefighter’s firefighter.” Many children grow up dreaming of becoming firefighters, and many who achieve this dream aspire to be a firefighter like Ralf.

His supervisor, Lieutenant Christopher Cope, told the Miami Herald he was “one of those subordinates that you wish you could clone to staff your entire department.”

When his tumor was discovered earlier this month, Ralf was in the process of studying for his lieutenant’s exam. Remarkably, with all of his responsibilities as a firefighter and soon-to-be father, Ralf also found time to touch lives in other ways.

He spent any time he could spare tutoring high schoolers in Miami struggling with math and serving as a substitute teacher. His father tells of multiple parents who have reached out this week to express their gratitude for how Ralf helped their children achieve better test scores.

But even with all of his service in life, perhaps the greatest demonstration we have of Rafael Garcia’s character is the dignity, love, and selflessness he demonstrated in his final days. A surprise prognosis that would have left many of us bitter and defeated instead brought out what was best in him.

Before he passed, his wife Maeghan wrote on Facebook of his final days when he resolved to donate his organs to others. She wrote, “I truly believe that the only reason he is still holding on is because he knows he will continue to help others even after his passing. In true Ralf fashion, I can just imagine him not wanting to ‘be selfish’ by letting go too soon. That was his nature,” she wrote, “always thinking of others first.”

Miami has lost an irreplaceable member of our community this week in Rafael Garcia, but I know his legacy will live on for many years in the lives of those he touched. Today, Jeanette and I hold in our prayers his wife Maeghan, his soon-to-be-born son, who is due in May, and his parents, Juan and Patricia.●

## RECOGNIZING MARUCCI SPORTS

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, entrepreneurs and small business owners have a unique skill of seeing what their community is missing and fulfilling that need. As such, these ideas are often conceived through personal experiences and the backyard projects we take on for our children, family, and friends. This week’s Small Business of the Week, Marucci Sports of Baton Rouge, LA, was similarly inspired.

Back in 2002, Jack Marucci and his son Gino began studying the wooden bats of their favorite baseball players so that Gino could pick one to play with in his Little League games. When Jack couldn’t find the perfect bat for his son, he decided to craft one in his garage down in southeast Louisiana. Gino’s homemade bat quickly became popular around the neighborhood, and Jack picked up orders to produce personalized ones for his son’s friends. Shortly thereafter, a Major League first baseman put in an order, as well. As the former Louisiana State University athletic training director, Jack

knew a thing or two about proper sports equipment, and Marucci Sports has since grown to be one of Louisiana’s top cutting-edge companies for quality baseball and softball products. Today, Marucci Sports continues to provide wood bats to youths learning the game for the first time, as well as to over one-third of the Major League Baseball’s players.

Due to Jack’s legacy of meticulous attention to detail and quality, Marucci Sports is on the forefront of innovating athletic equipment. Most recently, the company announced the creation of a new smart fabric with the capability to help diagnose head injuries for athletes. In recent years, the long-lasting effects of head injuries, including concussions, have come into the limelight as a serious issue for athletes. In response to those concerns, Marucci Sports developed new BodiTrak’s Head Health Network helmets, which are lined with a pressure-mapping fabric designed to track each contact the helmet receives as it happens. If there is particularly strong contact to the head, the helmet will notify the coach or trainer who can then make sure the player is alright. This technology has the potential to prevent generations of folks from developing damaging head injuries and protect future generations of athletes.

It is innovative ideas such as these from Marucci Sports and other small businesses that make our country great. Congratulations again to Marucci Sports for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to safety, creating quality products, and one of Louisiana’s favorite past times.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

## ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) reported that he had signed the following enrolled joint resolution, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of

title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

At 2:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1527. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

H. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message further announced that pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CRENSHAW of Florida, Chairman, Mr. LATTA of Ohio, Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama, Mr. HOLDING of North Carolina, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 3056 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum: Mrs. Kathy Wills Wright of Arlington, Virginia, and the Honorable Marilyn Musgrave of Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 125. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 665. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Joyce A. Barr and ending with Nancy E. McElDowney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2015.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Karen L. Freeman and ending with Monica Stein-Olson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2015.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jeffrey N. Bakken and ending with Ellen Marie Zehr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2015. (minus 2 nominees: David J. Barth; R. Douglass Arbuckle)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Gregory Adams and ending with Todd R. Ziccarelli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2015. (minus 4 nominees: Eric N. Rumpf; Daniel Sylvester Cronin; Douglas A. Koneff; Daniel Menco Hirsch)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Alexious Butler and ending with Naida Zecevic Bean, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2015. (minus 2 nominees: David Elliott Horton III; Victoria L. Mitchell)

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Adam Michael Branson and ending with Marc C. Gilkey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 26, 2015.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 868. A bill to establish a fund to make payment to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:00-CV-03110 (ESG) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 869. A bill to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 870. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 871. A bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 872. A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 873. A bill to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 874. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 875. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 876. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 877. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 878. A bill to establish a State residential building energy efficiency upgrades loan pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for eldercare expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 880. A bill to expand project eligibility to certain public infrastructure projects under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 881. A bill to ensure that Federal financial regulators perform a comprehensive review of regulations to identify outdated or otherwise unnecessary regulatory requirements imposed on financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 882. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 883. A bill to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. 884. A bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 885. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 886. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a smart energy and water efficiency pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 887. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide incentives for the reallocation of Federal Government spectrum for commercial use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 888. A bill to promote Federal-State partnerships for developing regional energy strategies and plans to mitigate risks in changing energy systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 889. A bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 890. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of,

the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 891. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to facilitate the administration and enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 892. A bill to provide the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of the Treasury with authority to more aggressively enforce customs and trade laws relating to textile and apparel articles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 893. A bill to establish an Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (EPIC) to assist energy policy innovation in the States to promote the goal of doubling electric and thermal energy productivity by January 1, 2030; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 894. A bill to support innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 895. A bill to allow members of the Armed Forces to defer principal on Federal student loans for a certain period in connection with receipt of orders for mobilization for war or national emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 116. A resolution providing for free and fair elections in Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. Res. 117. A resolution recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of March 31, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 118. A resolution amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules for the Senate, to provide for timely consideration of nominations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 119. A resolution amending rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules for the Senate to provide for timely establishment of conference committees; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 120. A resolution modifying extended debate in the Senate to improve the

legislative process; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 121. A resolution amending rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for consideration of a minimum number of amendments; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 122. A resolution amending rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit debate on motions to proceed; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 123. A resolution providing for consideration of changes to rules for the proceedings of the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 124. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 125. A resolution designating the first week of April 2015 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 126. A resolution providing for members on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 127. A resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 128. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2015, as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 129. A resolution designating May 4, 2015, as National Food Protein-Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES) Awareness Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 130. A resolution designating March 29, 2015, as "Vietnam Veterans Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 131. A resolution designating April 5, 2015, as "Gold Star Wives Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 132. A resolution designating the week of April 5 through April 11, 2015, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 293

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 293, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders.

S. 477

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to terminate Operation Choke Point.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 497

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the

rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, *supra*.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the American Opportunity Tax Credit, and for other purposes.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to reduce the risks associated with genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform and reset the excise tax on beer, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 338

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 338 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 343

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 343 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 345

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington



(Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 345 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 345 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, *supra*.

## AMENDMENT NO. 352

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 352 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 356

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 356 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 363

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 363 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 364

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 364 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 388

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 388 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 397

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COT-

TON) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 397 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 397 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, *supra*.

## AMENDMENT NO. 398

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 398 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 404

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 404 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 410

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 410 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 412

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 412 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 414

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 414 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 420

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 420 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 434

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 434 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 436

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 436 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 437

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 437 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 453

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 453 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 456

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 456 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 475

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 475 proposed to



S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 489

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 489 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 490

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 490 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 501

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 501 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 505

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 505 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 512

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 512 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 520

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 520 proposed to S. Con.

Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 544

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 544 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 545

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 545 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 573

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 573 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 580

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 580 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 597

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 597 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 602

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 602 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 608

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 608 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 610

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 610 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 611

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 611 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 624

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 624 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 636

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 636 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 639

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 639 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 643

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 643 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional

budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 659

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 659 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 672

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 672 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 681

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 681 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 690

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 690 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 692

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 692 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 693

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 693 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 706

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 706 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 708

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 708 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 723

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 723 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 745

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 745 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 747

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 747 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 759

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 759 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 762

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 762 in-

tended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 769

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 769 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 775

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 775 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 780

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 780 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 780 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, *supra*.

## AMENDMENT NO. 784

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 784 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 797

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 797 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 798

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 798 proposed to

S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 800

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 800 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 812

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 812 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 817

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 817 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 822

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 822 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 825

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wis-

consin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 825 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 828

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 828 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 836

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 836 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 842

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 842 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 850

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 850 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 859

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 859 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 861

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 861 intended to be proposed to

S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 866

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 866 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 880

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 880 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 899

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 899 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 900

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 900 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 914

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 914 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 916

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 916 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 918

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 918 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 919

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 919 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 921

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 921 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 923

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 923 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 950

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 950 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and

setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 954

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 954 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 958

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 958 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 958 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1078

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1078 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1097

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1097 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1099

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1099 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1101

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1101 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States

Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1101 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1105

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1105 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1105 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1112

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1112 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1112 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1112 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1112 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 870. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce today a bill to try to bring some transparency and fairness into FEMA's disaster declaration process. It is the Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act.

The inspiration for the bill was a tragic one. On February 29, 2012, leap day, a category F-4 tornado tore through southeastern Illinois, causing damage in 11 Illinois counties and causing major damage in the small towns of Harrisburg and Ridgway. Eight people in Harrisburg, alone, died in the event and 15 people were killed in total.

Winds reached 175-miles per hour. It is not too much of a stretch to say these two small towns were almost wiped off the map.

Requests for Federal assistance after a disaster are made by the Governor of each State. The state emergency management Agency typically does a preliminary damage assessment and then the Governor decides whether State resources are adequate to absorb the costs of clean up and recovery. In the case of the Harrisburg and Ridgway tornado, the Governor's request for federal emergency designation for Individual Assistance was denied, as was the State's appeal of that decision. With that denial, individuals whose homes or properties were damaged were precluded from direct federal help.

I asked FEMA why it denied the Governor's request—which was supported by my colleague Senator KIRK and me, along with the entire Illinois delegation—and we were told it was because the disaster did not meet or exceed the State's per capita. In other words, because Illinois is a highly populous state, it is presumed it can absorb the costs of cleanup and recovery from disasters up to a certain level. FEMA said the deadly tornado event did not exceed the state's presumed capacity.

Currently, FEMA multiplies the number of people in a state by \$1.35 to determine a threshold of the amount of damage a state would have to have incurred to be considered for Assistance. In Illinois, that figure is about \$18 million. Well, Harrisburg, Ridgway, and the surrounding communities had about \$5.5 million in Public Assistance damages. \$5.5 million is a lot of loss, particularly in a rural area—but not enough to qualify for Federal assistance under FEMA's rules.

From 2002 to 2015, Illinois was denied federal disaster assistance seven times. Texas was denied thirteen times—for damage caused by everything from wildfires to tropical storms. Florida was denied Federal disaster assistance eight times during that 13-year period, and California, New Jersey, and New York were each denied four times. FEMA's formula does not work for large, populous states, particularly those with a concentrated urban area, like Illinois.

Although the ultimate decision whether to award Federal assistance is made by the President, by statute, under the Stafford Act, FEMA is required to consider six factors when determining whether assistance is warranted. After the Harrisburg and Ridgway tornado, we pushed FEMA a little harder and asked what else, in addition to the per capita, was considered in the denial. After all, 15-people died in the event and the damage was startling. We were told that specifics of FEMA's analysis is not public and wouldn't be disclosed.

Illinois ran into the same issue in November 2013 when, once again, tornadoes swept through the State. This time six people were killed and whole neighborhoods were nearly destroyed. The Cities of Washington, Gifford, and New Minden, Illinois, experienced the worst tornado damage I have ever seen. Public infrastructure was decimated, but because Illinois did not meet one of FEMA's criteria, we were denied Federal Public Assistance. These events inspired my colleague, Senator Kirk, and me to introduce a bill to try to build in a bit more transparency and fairness into FEMA's process.

The Fairness in Federal Disaster Declaration seeks to improve the disaster analysis by assigning a value to each of the factors FEMA must consider when determining whether Federal disaster assistance will be made available. When it comes to Individual Assistance—funding to help people repair and rebuild their homes—the breakdown would be as follows:

Concentration damages—the density of damage in an individual community—would be considered 20 percent, Trauma—the loss of life and injuries and the disruption of normal community functions—would be 20 percent of the analysis, Special Populations—including the age income of the residents, the amount of home ownership, etc.—would comprise 20 percent, Voluntary agency assistance—a consideration of what the volunteer and charitable groups are providing—would make up 5 percent, the amount of Insurance coverage—20 percent, and the average amount of individual assistance by State, which includes the per capita analysis—would make up 5 percent of the analysis.

The bill also would add a seventh consideration to FEMA's metrics—the economics of the area, which will receive 10 percent consideration. This includes factors such as the local assessable tax base, the median income as it compares to that of the state, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the state.

For Federal Public Assistance, the breakdown would be similar, with a greater emphasis placed on the Localized Impacts of the disaster, which would warrant 40 percent of the analysis.

It is reasonable that FEMA should take into consideration the size of the state requesting assistance, but as the regulations stand, large states are being penalized. Assigning values to the factors will help ensure that the damage to the specific community weighs more than the state's population. Illinois is a relatively large State, geographically, and has a concentrated urban area. The State—particularly downstate—is being punished for this fact.

If the Cities of Washington and Gifford, and Harrisburg and Ridgway, do

not qualify under FEMA's current criteria for federal assistance, something is wrong. This legislation is necessary because the way FEMA evaluates whether to declare an area a Federal disaster is not working. It is done behind closed doors and it works against states with large populations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 870

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this Act referred to as the "Administrator" and "FEMA", respectively) shall amend the rules of the Administrator under section 206.48 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) NEW CRITERIA REQUIRED.—The amended rules issued under subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

(1) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the need for public assistance—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, as follows—

(i) estimated cost of the assistance, 10 percent;

(ii) localized impacts, 40 percent;

(iii) insurance coverage in force, 10 percent;

(iv) hazard mitigation, 10 percent;

(v) recent multiple disasters, 10 percent;

(vi) programs of other Federal assistance, 10 percent; and

(vii) economic circumstances described in subparagraph (B), 10 percent; and

(B) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of—

(i) the local economy of the affected area, including factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State; and

(ii) the economy of the State, including factors such as the unemployment rate of the State, as compared to the national unemployment rate.

(2) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and the evaluation of the need for assistance to individuals—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, as follows—

(i) concentration of damages, 20 percent;

(ii) trauma, 20 percent;

(iii) special populations, 20 percent;

(iv) voluntary agency assistance, 10 percent;

(v) insurance, 20 percent;

(vi) average amount of individual assistance by State, 5 percent; and

(vii) economic considerations described in subparagraph (B), 5 percent; and

(B) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of the affected area, including

factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amended rules issued under subsection (a) shall apply to any disaster for which a Governor requested a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and was denied on or after January 1, 2012.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 871. A bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 871

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act of 2015” or the “HELP Rural Communities Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA.

(a) **APPLICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall establish an application process under which a person who lives or does business in a State may, with respect to an area identified by the person in such State that has not been designated by the Bureau as a rural area for purposes of a Federal consumer financial law (as defined under section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010), apply for such area to be so designated.

(b) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—When evaluating an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall take into consideration the following factors:

(1) Criteria used by the Director of the Bureau of the Census for classifying geographical areas as rural or urban.

(2) Criteria used by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to designate counties as metropolitan or micropolitan or neither.

(3) Criteria used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine property eligibility for rural development programs.

(4) The Department of Agriculture rural-urban commuting area codes.

(5) A written opinion provided by the State’s bank supervisor, as defined under section 3(r) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

(6) Population density.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—If, at any time prior to the submission of an application under subsection (a), the area subject to review has been designated as non rural by any Federal agency described under subsection (b) using any of the criteria described under subsection (b), the Bureau shall not be required to consider such designation in its evaluation.

(d) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall—

(A) publish such application in the Federal Register; and

(B) make such application available for public comment for not fewer than 90 days.

(2) **LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Bureau, during the public comment period with respect to an application submitted under subsection (a), to accept an additional application with respect to the area that is the subject of the initial application.

(e) **DECISION ON DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of the public comment period under subsection (d)(1) for an application, the Bureau shall—

(1) grant or deny such application, in whole or in part; and

(2) publish such grant or denial in the Federal Register, along with an explanation of what factors the Bureau relied on in making such determination.

(f) **SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.**—A decision by the Bureau under subsection (e) to deny an application for an area to be designated as a rural area shall not preclude the Bureau from accepting a subsequent application submitted under subsection (a) for such area to be so designated, so long as such subsequent application is made after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date that the Bureau denies the application under subsection (e).

(g) **SUNSET.**—This section shall cease to have any force or effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. OPERATIONS IN RURAL AREAS.

The Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 129C(b)(2)(E)(iv)(I), by striking “predominantly”; and

(2) in section 129D(c)(1), by striking “predominantly”.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 872. A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill to allow five Southeast Alaska communities to finally be allowed to form urban corporations under the terms of 1971’s Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act. I am joined in sponsoring this bill by my Alaska colleague, Senator DAN SULLIVAN.

At the very beginning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 there are a series of findings and declarations of congressional policy that explain the underpinnings of this landmark legislation. The first clause reads: “There is an immediate need for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, based on aboriginal land claims.” The second clause states: “The settlement should be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with the real economic and social needs of Natives.”

Unfortunately 44 years have passed since the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law and still the Native peoples of five communities in Southeast Alaska: Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Tenakee and Haines—the five “landless communities”—are still waiting for their fair and just settlement.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act originally awarded \$966 million and 44 million acres of land to Alaska Natives and provided for the establishment of Native Corporations to receive and manage such funds and lands. The beneficiaries of the settlement were issued stock in one of 13 regional Alaska Native corporations—12 based in Alaska. Most beneficiaries also had the option to enroll and receive stock in a village or urban corporation or group.

For reasons that still defy explanation, the native peoples of the “landless communities,” were not permitted by the Act to form village or urban corporations. These communities were excluded from this benefit even though they did not differ significantly from other communities in Southeast Alaska that were permitted to form village or urban corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. For example, the Ketchikan area had more Native residents in 1970, than Juneau, which was permitted to form the Goldbelt urban corporation, or Sitka that formed the Shee Atika urban corporation. This finding was confirmed in a February 1994 report submitted to the Secretary of the Interior at the 1993 direction of Congress. That study was conducted by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska.

The native people of Southeast Alaska have recognized the injustice of this oversight for more than four decades. An independent study issued two decades ago confirms that the grievance of the landless communities is legitimate. Legislation has been introduced in the past sessions of Congress to remedy this injustice. Hearings have been held and reports written. Yet legislation to right the wrong has inevitably stalled out.

I am convinced that this cause is just, it is right, and it is about time that the Native peoples of the five landless communities receive what has been denied to them for so long.

The legislation that I am introducing today would enable the Native peoples of the five “landless communities” to organize five “urban corporations,” one for each unrecognized community. These newly formed corporations would be offered and could accept the surface estate to 23,040 acres of land—one township as granted all other village corporations in Southeast Alaska. Sealaska Corporation, the regional Alaska Native Corporation for Southeast Alaska, would receive title to the



subsurface estate to the designated lands. This version of the legislation has been modified to guarantee that the lands to be conveyed may include subsistence sites, aquaculture sites, hydroelectric sites, tidelands, eco-tourism sites and surplus federal properties to help satisfy any compensation requirement.

It is long past time that we return to the Native peoples of Southeast Alaska a small slice of the aboriginal lands that were once theirs alone.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 873. A bill to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to rename a wilderness area in my home state of Alaska in honor of Alaska's fourth Governor, Jay S. Hammond. I am pleased that I am joined in sponsoring this bill by my Alaska colleague, Senator DAN SULLIVAN.

Jay Hammond is truly one of the unique figures in Alaska history. In a state with many unique statesmen, Hammond is truly worthy of honor. A New Yorker who first studied petroleum engineering at Penn State, he became a Marine fighter pilot who fought in World War II in the Pacific/China with the famed Black Sheep Squadron. After the war he found life on the East Coast too confining and flew an old plane to Alaska in 1946, never looking back. Initially a pilot to "Bush", remote rural parts of Alaska, he worked as a trapper, wildlife guide and laborer before heading back to college to gain a degree in biological sciences in 1949 from the University of Alaska.

He then went to work as a wildlife biologist and hunter for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By 1950 after conducting some of the first swan studies in northern Alaska, Jay Hammond was transferred to Southwest Alaska where he conducted predator/prey studies on Alaska Peninsula caribou, flew fisheries enforcement flights out of Dillingham Alaska, and fell in love with Lake Clark and its surrounding wilderness, a 45-mile lake on the west side of Aleutian Range that he would call home, besides a setnet salmon site at Naknek, for nearly 55 years.

Mr. Hammond, upon Alaska entering the Union in 1959 ran and won election to the Alaska State House of Representatives as an independent, serving three terms before redeclaring himself as a Republican and serving two terms in the state Senate. He then served as mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough from 1972 to 1974, after serving as the borough's manager in the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Hammond then was drafted to run for Governor of Alaska in 1974, de-

feating the state's second Governor and former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel in the Republican Primary before defeating the state's first Governor William A. Egan in the general election. It was an election dominated by Hammond's opposition to oil leasing in Southcentral's Kachemak Bay, concern over the State of Alaska's salmon fisheries and fear over the state over spending soon after the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope.

Governor Hammond during his two terms oversaw construction of the Trans-Alaska oil Pipeline System, TAPS, championed creation of the Alaska Permanent Fund savings account, and was the author of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend program, which provides Alaskans a yearly dividend check from the interest earnings of the savings from a quarter of the State's petroleum revenues. He also won approval of a constitutional budget reserve that was intended to reduce State spending, and championed agricultural development in Interior Alaska. He also oversaw the state's purchase of the Alaska Railroad from the federal government.

Hammond on environmental issues opposed construction of a proposed Ramparts hydroelectric dam on the Yukon River, supported the congressional creation of a 200-miles fisheries zone off the State's coast that improved state fishery stocks, oversaw creation of a state limited entry fisheries regime, oversaw the creation of the Nation's largest State park, the Wood Tikchik State Park in Southwest Alaska, which contains 1.6 million acres of wilderness, and worked with Congress and observed congressional passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980 that replaced the designation of 120 million acres of Alaska into protected status under the federal Antiquities Act, while placing 104 million acres of new lands into national parks, preserves, refuges, monuments, wilderness and wild and scenic river classifications. The law added 5.5 million acres of wilderness in 14 units in national forests, added more than 40 million acres in 10 new units to national parks, including the 3.86 million-acre Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, bringing to 54 million acres the total size of Federal park holdings in Alaska; added a number of new wildlife refuges in Alaska, bringing to 19 the number of refuges covering 76.8 million acres in the State; and created 13 wild and scenic rivers running 3,131 miles. The act created 57.9 million acres of formal wilderness in the State, Alaska containing about 60 percent of the nation's total formal wilderness.

Mr. Hammond was also a talented and prolific writer and poet, presenting to the University of Alaska Library Archives an impressive collection of speeches, testimony, notebooks and pa-

pers. He also wrote several books on life in Alaska, led by his first book, "Tales of Alaska's Bush Rat Governor." He died on Aug. 2, 2005, at age 83 in his sleep at his homestead near Port Alsworth, Alaska, having survived five plane crashes and innumerable close calls during his first flight to Alaska and in fighting a fire at his home at Lake Clark, and over the following 59 years in the State. He was survived by his wife, Bella, and daughters Heidi and Dana.

Jay Hammond was well-respected for reaching across the aisle to forge bipartisan alliances and enjoyed many close friendships with colleagues in both political parties and with his staff, who were deeply loyal to him. The designation of the 2.6 million acres of already created wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, where his homestead lies, will honor Jay Hammond and will be a fitting tribute to his honorable life and legacy, a man that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on August 7, 2005, called, "the finest example of a true public servant. There are few men who have influence through their quiet articulation of what is right and fair in the way of Jay Hammond."

I hope for quick passage of this bill prior to the anniversary of either his birthday or the date of the tenth anniversary of this death. He was creative, funny, thoughtful, respectful, wise and courageous and truly deserves this honor.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 882. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we rely on our public schools to prepare the next generation for success as citizens, workers, and innovators. We have asked educators to raise the bar and educate all students to internationally competitive college and career-ready standards. To achieve these goals, we need to establish a comprehensive system of educator preparation and support that ensures that new educators are profession-ready and that provides for their growth and development over the course of their careers.

Today, I am pleased to join Senator CASEY in introducing the Better Education Support and Training, BEST Act to reform induction, professional development, and systems for professional growth and improvement for teachers, librarians, and principals currently on the job, updating the Effective Teaching and Leading Act that I introduced last Congress. The BEST Act will strengthen Title II, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure that formula



grant funds support the goal of all students having equitable access to professional-ready and effective educators. The BEST Act will ensure that all educators on the instructional team—teachers, principals, counselors, librarians, and other specialized instructional support personnel—collaborate and are prepared and supported in helping students achieve and grow. It will offer induction and mentoring programs for new educators; personalized, job-embedded professional development, and career pathways and leadership roles for teachers and other educators.

In the coming weeks, I will be reintroducing legislation to address the front end of the educator pipeline—the Educator Preparation Reform Act. This legislation builds on the success of the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, which I helped author in the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Together, these two bills will modernize Federal policy for education preparation and development to create a continuum of support for professional educators throughout their careers. They provide a blueprint for reauthorizing Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title II of the Higher Education Act. Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with many stakeholders on these bills, including the Coalition for Teaching Quality, representing over 100 national, State, and local organizations.

I look forward to working to incorporate these bills into the upcoming reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act, and I urge our colleagues to join in this effort.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 116—PROVIDING FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN BURMA

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 116

Whereas the Union Election Commission of Burma announced that the country will hold general elections in the final quarter of calendar year 2015;

Whereas Burma's history with general elections has been characterized by controversy, conflict, and interference instigated by the military of Burma (the Tatmadaw), including in May 1990 and November 2010, and in the April 2012 by-elections;

Whereas the Tatmadaw refused to transfer power to the National League for Democracy (NLD), an opposition political party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, following the May 1990 elections in which the NLD won 392 of 492 seats, and used the flawed 2008 Constitution of Burma to undermine elections in November 2010;

Whereas stated intentions of the Government of Burma to negotiate a Federal union with ethnic leaders and groups is not matched by the ongoing Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin and Northern Shan States;

Whereas, on March 5, 2015, and March 10, 2015, the Government of Burma responded to peaceful student protests in Rangoon and Letpadan with brutal violence and detained over 120 peaceful protestors;

Whereas the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict stated on January 27, 2015, "I . . . urge the Government to put a final end to impunity for conflict-related sexual violence that is particularly targeting ethnic minority areas.";

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar stated on January 16, 2015, "I remain particularly concerned at the failure of measures to ensure accountability of military officials, including [for] sexual and gender based violence in conflict zones.";

Whereas the Tatmadaw continues to wield unchecked political and economic power and influence in Burma, as evidenced by the consumption of over 23 percent of the national budget; the set-aside of one-quarter of the seats in parliament which gives the Tatmadaw veto power over legislative and constitutional reforms; and control of the country's largest business conglomerates, including in the natural resource sector;

Whereas the 2008 Constitution of Burma preserves and protects the power and influence of the Tatmadaw through Articles 417, 418, 420, and 425, which provide the President of Burma with authority to declare a state of emergency "due to acts or attempts to take over the sovereignty of the Union by insurgency, violence and wrongful or forcible means"; to transfer legislative, executive, and judicial powers to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services "to enable him to carry out the necessary measures to speedily restore its original situation in the Union"; for such Commander to "restrict or suspend as required, one or more fundamental rights of the citizens in the required area"; and for such Commander to extend the state of emergency for two periods of six months each;

Whereas other provisions in the 2008 Constitution of Burma are contrary to democracy and the rule of law, including Article 59(f), which prohibits anyone from being President who has children born outside of Burma; Article 354, which limits certain freedoms that contradict laws "enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality"; and Article 436, which subjects Constitutional amendments to a 75 percent vote threshold in parliament (thereby confirming the Tatmadaw's veto power);

Whereas the NLD Central Executive Committee released a statement on January 13, 2015, expressing concern with the stall of democratic transition and reforms in Burma, and identifying the following conditions as prerequisites for free and fair general elections: constitutional amendments "in line with the desire of the people"; government involvement that is free from bias; fair and credible enforcement of election laws and regulations by the Union Election Commission; and cessation of discrimination and bias by the government to political parties;

Whereas the Commander-in-Chief in Burma General Min Aung Hlaing stated on January 21, 2015, regarding the planned elec-

tions in Burma, "When things become really out of control, if the President says the military needs to step in, in that region or state, the military will step in when a state of emergency is declared.";

Whereas a state of emergency and military administration was declared on February 17, 2015, in Kokang Self-Administered Zone due to renewed armed conflict;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar stated on January 19, 2015, ". . . there are signs that since my last visit, restrictions and harassment on civil society and the media may have worsened . . . If Myanmar is serious about transitioning to democracy, it must be serious about allowing persons affected by its actions to express their frustrations without being punished.";

Whereas the Government of Burma responded to the various concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur with accusations of interference in Burma's internal affairs, and pointedly failed to criticize slanderous comments made by a Buddhist nationalist monk who called the Special Rapporteur a "bitch" and "whore";

Whereas the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power stated in Louisville, Kentucky on January 12, 2015, "Burma is still a long way from being a rights-respecting democracy. The civilian government is still subordinate to the military, and the Constitution continues to give the military the broad authority to dismiss Parliament and veto any constitutional amendment.";

Whereas Ambassador Power further stated, "Attacks against the Rohingya and other Muslim groups have even increased . . . Yet virtually no one has been held accountable, and the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.";

Whereas the Government of Burma, under the direction and leadership of President Thein Sein, submitted draft legislation to parliament that seeks to stigmatize and discriminate against religious minorities in Burma through coercive population control, marriage restrictions, and anti-conversion methods that violate established international human rights norms and instruments to which Burma is a party;

Whereas Ambassador Power reaffirmed, "Our tools include incentivizing continued progress, shining a bright light on the government's shortcoming, and imposing targeted sanctions on individuals who stand in the way of change.";

Whereas President Barack Obama stated during his visit to Burma on November 14, 2014, that the United States expects elections in Burma "to take place on time. We do not want to see delays, because it's time for the voice of the people of Burma to be heard in a fair, free, and transparent manner . . . the constitution amendment process needs to reflect inclusion rather than exclusion, that there are certain provisions in the Burmese constitution that objectively don't make much sense.";

Whereas internationally recognized standards of free and fair elections include: the right of adult citizens to register and vote in elections, without discrimination; equal opportunity for individuals to stand as candidates, form political parties, and conduct campaign and civic education activities free from interference and intimidation; the fair and impartial conduct of elections, including accountable voter registration processes and transparent resolution of election disputes by independent election commissions and judiciaries; and an electoral environment that

is free from fear, intimidation, and violence: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) endorses the aforementioned internationally recognized prerequisites for free and fair general elections in Burma and finds them consistent with those articulated by the National League for Democracy in its January 13, 2015, statement;

(2) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to—

(A) publicly support meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitution of Burma, with the full and unfettered participation of the people of Burma and in a manner that promotes and protects the democratic development of Burma and safeguards against arbitrary and capricious interference by the Tatmadaw;

(B) support free and fair elections in Burma, including by taking bilateral and multilateral steps, as necessary, to ensure that the Tatmadaw and its affiliates do not influence the outcome of such elections (including through a declaration of a state of emergency in order to influence or postpone such polls) and that President Thein Sein and other ruling government officials do not engage in the use of official resources (including international assistance) for electioneering; and

(C) express solidarity with the United Nations special mechanisms that are investigating and protesting against violations of human rights in Burma, and to express concern regarding the Government of Burma's refusal to work cooperatively with such mechanisms;

(3) calls upon the United States Government, in partnership with other international donors, to ensure that the Government of Burma and the Union Election Commission function in an independent, fair, and impartial manner throughout the preparation and conduct of elections in Burma, and that the Tatmadaw publicly affirms in advance that it will honor the results of such elections;

(4) expects the President to delay further steps toward normalization of relations with Burma, including immediately suspending all military-to-military engagement with the Tatmadaw, should the Government of Burma, including the Tatmadaw and any of its affiliates, undermine the prospects for free and fair elections in Burma;

(5) expects the President to take additional actions to sanction specific individuals within the Government of Burma whom the President determines undermine free and fair elections in Burma, including through the denial of visas and freezing of assets of such individuals, as appropriate;

(6) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to take action to ensure that ethnic groups in Burma are not coerced, in any way or by any means, into ceasefire agreements with the Government of Burma;

(7) calls upon the Secretary of State to work with like-minded regional and international governments to ensure that the general elections in Burma meet international standards of free and fair elections, including by ensuring that international and domestic monitors have full and unimpeded access to all aspects of the electoral process; and

(8) calls upon the Secretary of State to publicly and forcefully condemn human rights abuses committed by the Tatmadaw and to demand credible and independent investigations and prosecutions of any and all allegations of such abuse, including with respect to—

(A) the January 19, 2015, rape and murder by the Tatmadaw of two Kachin volunteer schoolteachers in Northern Shan State;

(B) the December 22, 2014, murder of Daw Khin Win, a nonviolent protestor at the Letpadaung mine site;

(C) the November 19, 2014, killing of 23 cadets in Laiza, Kachin State, by the Tatmadaw's shelling;

(D) the October 4, 2014, murder of Ko Par Gyi in Mon State, a freelance journalist and former body guard of opposition political leader Aung San Suu Kyi; and

(E) the September 13, 2012, fatal shooting by the Tatmadaw of 14-year old Ja Seng Ing in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 117—RECOGNIZING LINEMEN, THE PROFESSION OF LINEMEN, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 31, 2015, AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY**

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

**S. RES. 117**

Whereas the profession of linemen is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition;

Whereas linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes;

Whereas linemen must work high atop powerlines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing;

Whereas linemen play a vital role in the Nation's economy by maintaining and growing the energy infrastructure of the United States;

Whereas linemen must often work under dangerous conditions separated from their families to keep schools and businesses open;

Whereas linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

Whereas March 31, 2015, would be an appropriate date to designate as National Lineman Appreciation Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the efforts of linemen in keeping the power on and protecting public safety; and

(2) supports the designation of National Lineman Appreciation Day.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 118—AMENDING RULE XXXI OF THE STANDING RULES FOR THE SENATE, TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS**

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

**S. RES. 118**

*Resolved*,

**SECTION 1. TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS.**

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs 3 through 7 as paragraphs 4 through 8, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph 2 the following:

“3.(a) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered nomination’ means a nomination other than a nomination—

“(1) of an individual to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States or as Chief Justice of the United States; or

“(2) to a position entitled to expedited procedures under S. Res. 116 (112th Congress).

“(b) Subject to subparagraph (c), if a covered nomination has been on the Executive Calendar for more than 14 calendar days, the covered nomination shall be eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with subparagraph (d).

“(c)(1) For a covered nomination described in clause (3), unless not less than 10 Senators have submitted written requests for the record that the covered nomination be considered by the full Senate in executive session before the end of the 14 calendar day period described in subparagraph (b)—

“(A) the nomination shall be deemed to be confirmed by the Senate; and

“(B) the Secretary shall send to the President a notification of the confirmation.

“(2) If not less than 10 Senators submit a written request in accordance with clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination described in clause (3), the covered nomination shall be eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with subparagraph (d).

“(3) A covered nomination described in this clause is a covered nomination other than the nomination of an individual—

“(A) to serve as a judge or justice appointed to hold office during good behavior; or

“(B) to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

“(d)(1) The majority leader may provide notice that a covered nomination that is eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with this subparagraph shall be considered on an expedited basis.

“(2) Except as provided in clauses (3) and (4), 24 hours after the majority leader provides notice under clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination, the Senate shall proceed to executive session and begin consideration of the covered nomination.

“(3) Forty-eight hours after the majority leader provides notice under clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination to serve as a judge appointed to hold office during good behavior or a nomination to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code, the Senate shall proceed to executive session and begin consideration of the nomination.

“(4) If the majority leader provides notice with respect to more than 1 covered nomination during any 24 hour period, the covered nominations shall be considered in accordance with clause (5) in the order in which notice was provided.

“(5) Notwithstanding rule XXII, expedited consideration of a covered nomination under this subparagraph, including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith—

“(A) shall be limited to 4 hours, evenly divided in the usual form, in the case of a nomination to serve as a judge of a circuit court of the United States or a nomination to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) shall be limited to 2 hours, evenly divided in the usual form, in the case of any other covered nomination.”.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 119—AMENDING RULE XXVIII OF THE STANDING RULES FOR THE SENATE TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 119

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE.

Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking paragraph 2(b) and inserting the following:

“(b) Consideration of a motion described in subparagraph (a), including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours.”.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 120—MODIFYING EXTENDED DEBATE IN THE SENATE TO IMPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 120

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. EXTENDED DEBATE.

Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking the second undesignated paragraph and inserting the following:

“Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close? And unless that question shall be decided in the negative by one more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (except on a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules, in which case the necessary vote shall be two-thirds of the Senators present and voting in the affirmative, a quorum being present), then cloture has been invoked.

“If that question is on disposition of a bill or joint resolution, a resolution or concurrent resolution, a substitute amendment for a bill or resolution, a motion with respect to amendments between the Houses, a conference report, or advice and consent to a nomination or treaty, and if such question shall be decided in the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, and in the negative by more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (or in the affirmative by less than two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, in the case of a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules), then it shall be in order for the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to initiate a period of extended debate upon the measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, in relation to which the motion to close debate was offered, in which case the period of extended debate shall begin one hour later.

“During a period of extended debate, such measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business, except on action or motion by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee).

“During a period of extended debate it shall not be in order for a Senator other than

the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to raise a question as to the presence of a quorum, except immediately prior to a vote or when it has been more than forty-eight hours since a quorum was demonstrated. If upon a roll call it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present, then the Senate shall adjourn to a time previously decided by order of the Senate or, if no such time has been established, then to a time certain determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader.

“During a period of extended debate a motion to adjourn or recess shall not be in order, unless made by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) or if the absence of a quorum has been demonstrated. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of rule XIX, there shall be no limit to the number of times a Senator may speak upon any question during a period of extended debate.

“If, during the course of extended debate, the Presiding Officer puts any question to a vote, the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) may postpone any such vote, which shall occur at a time determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader, but not later than the time at which a quorum is next demonstrated.

“If at any time during a period of extended debate no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer shall inquire as to whether any Senator seeks recognition. If no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer shall again put the question as to bringing debate to a close (and the Majority Leader or his or her designee may postpone such vote in accordance with the preceding paragraph), which shall be decided without further debate or intervening motion. If that question shall be decided in the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, then cloture has been invoked and the period of extended debate has ended. If that question shall be decided in the negative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, then the period of extended debate has ended.

“If cloture is invoked, then the measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, in relation to which the motion to close debate was offered, shall remain the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of.”.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 121—AMENDING RULE XV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROVIDE FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MINIMUM NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 121

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. GUARANTEED AMENDMENTS.

Rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

“6.(a) During the consideration of any bill, resolution, or other amendable matter, it shall be in order for the Senate to consider not less than 5 amendments offered by members of the majority and not less than 5 amendments offered by members of the minority. If a motion to invoke cloture under the provisions of rule XXII is presented to

the Senate, and fewer than the 5 amendments guaranteed to each of the minority and the majority under this paragraph have been considered, then, notwithstanding the status of any pending amendments, it shall be in order for as many members of the majority as appropriate, and as many members of the minority as appropriate, to offer 1 amendment each, in alternating order, until in total 5 amendments offered by members of the majority and 5 amendments offered by members of the minority have been considered.

“(b) Amendments offered under this paragraph may only pertain to matter encompassed by the title of the bill, resolution, or other matter, except that 1 amendment offered by a member of the majority and 1 amendment offered by a member of the minority may be exempted from this requirement. An amendment exempted from this requirement shall only be agreed to upon an affirmative vote of three-fifths of Senators duly chosen and sworn.

“(c) The majority leader and minority leader may, by mutual agreement, call up additional amendments under the provisions of this paragraph. Such additional amendments shall be offered in equal number by members of the majority and members of the minority, and may only pertain to subject matter encompassed by the title of the bill, resolution, or other matter.

“(d) Consideration by the Senate of an amendment offered under the provisions of this paragraph shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, divided equally between the majority and the minority.”.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 122—AMENDING RULE XXII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO LIMIT DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 122

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. LIMITING DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED UNDER RULE XXII.

Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and  
(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“2. Other than a motion made during the first 2 hours of a new legislative day, as described in paragraph 2 of rule VIII, consideration of a motion to proceed to the consideration of any debatable matter, including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, to be divided equally between the majority and the minority. This paragraph shall not apply to motions considered nondebateable by the Senate pursuant to rule or precedent.”.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 123—PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO RULES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 123

*Resolved,*  
**SECTION 1. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO RULES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE.**

Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs 1 and 2 as paragraphs 5 and 6, respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph 5 (as redesignated) the following:

“1.(a) At the beginning of a new Congress, the first matters considered by the Senate (other than a resolution described in subparagraph (b)) shall be a resolution appointing majority and minority members of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate. No other matter shall be in order, except by unanimous consent, until the Senate has agreed to a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate.

“(b) A resolution described in this subparagraph is a resolution—

“(1) informing the President that a quorum of each House is assembled;

“(2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled;

“(3) electing the President pro tempore of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election;

“(4) fixing the hour of the daily meeting of the Senate;

“(5) electing the Secretary of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election;

“(6) electing a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election; or

“(7) electing Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate.

“2. At the beginning of a new Congress, and until the Senate has agreed to a resolution adopting or amending rules for the proceedings of the Senate, if the Committee on Rules and Administration reports to the full Senate a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate, the Senate shall immediately proceed to consideration of the resolution.

“3. On and after the third day of session of the Senate, if the Committee on Rules has not reported to the full Senate a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate, it shall be in order for any Senator to introduce and immediately move to proceed to consider a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate. Consideration of such a motion to proceed, including consideration of any motions or appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to 2 hours.

“4. On and after the third day of session of the Senate during which a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate is being considered, it shall be in order for any Senator to move to end debate on such resolution. Consideration of such motion, including consideration of any motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to 2 hours. If such motion is decided in the affirmative, the Senate shall proceed immediately to vote on the resolution adopting or amending rules for the proceedings of the Senate, as amended if such resolution has been amended.”; and

(3) in paragraph 5 (as redesignated), by striking “No motion” and inserting “Other

than at the beginning of a new Congress, no motion”.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 124—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 124

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez spent his early years on a family farm;

Whereas at the age of 10, Cesar Estrada Chavez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth grade education, left school to work full time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas at the age of 17, Cesar Estrada Chavez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas in 1948, Cesar Estrada Chavez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working in the vineyards of central California;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez and Helen Fabela had 8 children;

Whereas as early as 1949, Cesar Estrada Chavez was committed to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, livable housing, and outlawing child labor;

Whereas in 1952, Cesar Estrada Chavez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

Whereas in 1962, Cesar Estrada Chavez left the Community Service Organization to establish the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas under the leadership of Cesar Estrada Chavez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez was a strong believer in the principles of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez effectively used peaceful tactics that included fasting for 25 days in 1968, 25 days in 1972, and 38 days in 1988 to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas through his commitment to non-violence, Cesar Estrada Chavez brought dignity and respect to organized farm workers and became an inspiration to and a resource

for individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of Cesar Estrada Chavez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for individuals working to better human rights, empower workers, and advance the American Dream, which includes all individuals of the United States;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez died on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66 in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace;

Whereas more than 50,000 people attended the funeral services of Cesar Estrada Chavez in Delano, California;

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as “Nuestra Señora de La Paz”, located in the Tehachapi Mountains in Keene, California;

Whereas since the death of Cesar Estrada Chavez, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, as well as awards and scholarships, have been named in his honor;

Whereas more than 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez each year on March 31;

Whereas March 31 is recognized as an official State holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas, and there is growing support to designate the birthday of Cesar Estrada Chavez as a national day of service to memorialize his heroism;

Whereas during his lifetime, Cesar Estrada Chavez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize;

Whereas on August 8, 1994, Cesar Estrada Chavez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas on October 8, 2012, President Barack Obama authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Cesar Estrada Chavez National Monument in Keene, California;

Whereas President Barack Obama honored the life and service of Cesar Estrada Chavez by proclaiming March 31, 2014, to be “Cesar Chavez Day” and by asking all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; and

Whereas the United States should continue the efforts of Cesar Estrada Chavez to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments and example of Cesar Estrada Chavez, a great hero of the United States;

(2) pledges to promote the legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez and to always remember his great rallying cry, “Si, se puede!”, which is Spanish for “Yes, we can!”, as a symbol of unity and hope for individuals seeking justice.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 125—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2015 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 125

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos, yet continues to consume hundreds of metric tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2015 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 126—PROVIDING FOR MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE SENATE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 126

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected members of the following joint committees of Congress:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING: Mr. Blunt, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Schumer, and Mr. Udall.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY: Mr. Blunt, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Schumer, and Mr. Leahy.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 127—RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PERELMAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 127

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine, when founded by young Philadelphia physician John Morgan in 1765, was the first and only medical school in the 13 original colonies;

Whereas by organizing a medical faculty separate and distinct from the collegiate faculty, the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania effectively created the first university in North America;

Whereas, in 1766, when Dr. Thomas Bond began giving clinical lectures to the students of the new medical school at Pennsylvania Hospital, he conducted the first clinical medical teaching in the colonies;

Whereas the founding faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine introduced the 2 important elements in medical education of—

(1) having a medical school within an institution of higher education; and

(2) emphasizing the need to supplement medical lectures with bedside teaching;

Whereas, during the Revolutionary War, doctors from the University of Pennsylvania served in the Continental Army, practicing battlefield medicine and training surgeons;

Whereas, in the 1870s, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania became the first teaching hospital built for a medical school;

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine is responsible for many historic discoveries, including—

(1) the first human blood transfusion in 1795;

(2) the first x-ray image in 1890; and

(3) a modified dialysis machine in 1951;

Whereas, since the 1960s, the Perelman School of Medicine has been home to many major medical innovations, including—

(1) the identification of the "Philadelphia Chromosome", which demonstrated the genetic basis of cancer;

(2) the development of cognitive psychotherapy;

(3) pioneering work in transplant surgery;

(4) the development of intravenous nutrition;

(5) the development of Retin-A therapy for acne and wrinkles;

(6) the development of a vaccine for pneumococcal diseases;

(7) fundamental work on ion channels and signaling;

(8) gene therapy for ocular disease; and

(9) T-cell immunotherapy to fight cancer;

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine boasts 8 Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine and numerous Lasker Award winners;

Whereas alumni of the Perelman School of Medicine include—

(1) the first president of the American Medical Association;

(2) a Surgeon General in the Army; and

(3) members of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine is home to more than 1,400 medical and postdoctoral students and more than 5,200 faculty and staff;

Whereas more than ½ of the students at the Perelman School of Medicine pursue additional certificates or dual degrees, and most perform community outreach or service;

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine houses 28 basic science and clinical departments, as well as 24 interdisciplinary centers and institutes; and

Whereas the Perelman School of Medicine has been ranked among the top 5 medical schools in the United States for the past 18 years: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 250th anniversary of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania;

(2) commends the faculty, staff, and students at the Perelman School of Medicine for their continued hard work and devotion to advancing science and medicine; and

(3) congratulates the Perelman School of Medicine for its distinguished history and long record of supporting medical innovation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 128—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2015, AS "NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 128

Whereas colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States;

Whereas in 2015, more than 130,000 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 50,000 more will die from it;

Whereas colorectal cancer is 1 of the most preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can find polyps that can be removed before becoming cancerous;

Whereas screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, which is when treatment works best;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that if every individual aged 50 or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses occur at that stage;

Whereas colorectal cancer screenings can effectively reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer and mortality, but 1 in 3 adults between the ages of 50 and 75 are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms are held during the month of March each year; and

Whereas educational efforts can help provide to the public information on methods of

prevention and screening, as well as symptoms for early detection: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2015, as “National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 129—DESIGNATING MAY 4, 2015, AS NATIONAL FOOD PROTEIN-INDUCED ENTEROCOLITIS SYNDROME (FPIES) AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 129

Whereas Food Protein-Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES) is a form of food allergy that primarily affects the gastrointestinal system and adversely impacts the lives of young children throughout the nation;

Whereas children with FPIES may experience acute and severe allergic reactions for which they may require emergency room treatment;

Whereas FPIES patients may suffer chronically from the disorder and develop health issues, such as failure to thrive, long-term feeding problems, and food aversions, for which there is no treatment;

Whereas a diagnosis of FPIES leads to significant dietary restrictions and imposes a substantial reduction in quality of life on children with FPIES and their families;

Whereas families with children who suffer from FPIES are often unaware that the condition exists, and health care providers often misdiagnose the condition or are unaware of available treatment options;

Whereas there is a tremendous need to generate awareness of FPIES to ensure that health care providers are able to quickly and effectively diagnose FPIES and schools and childcare providers are able to effectively care for those who struggle with this condition;

Whereas it is essential that necessary treatment and dietary options be accessible and available to families with children suffering from FPIES; and

Whereas increasing FPIES awareness will encourage all people of the United States to provide comfort to families with children suffering from this condition and collectively work towards finding better treatments: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 4, 2015, as National Food Protein-Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES) Awareness Day in order to raise awareness and increase understanding of FPIES, highlight research, accurate diagnoses, and effective treatments, and improve the lives of children and families struggling with FPIES; and

(2) expresses support for all people in the United States living with FPIES, expresses gratitude to the friends and family members who care for them, and salutes the health care professionals, teachers, and other caregivers who provide assistance to those so affected.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 130—DESIGNATING MARCH 29, 2015, AS “VIETNAM VETERANS DAY”

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 130

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces, allies of the United States, and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1950;

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas by September 1965, there were over 129,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas on January 27, 1973, the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (commonly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

Whereas in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4 presidential administrations in the United States; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast

Asia during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”; and

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

(3) encourages States and local governments to designate March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide the appreciation veterans of the Vietnam War deserve, but did not receive upon returning home from the war;

(B) demonstrate the resolve that never again shall the people of the United States disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

(C) promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of the veterans of the Vietnam War during military service as well as to the communities of the veterans since returning home;

(D) promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans in helping the veterans readjust to civilian life after military service; and

(E) promote opportunities for veterans of the Vietnam War to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 131—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2015, AS “GOLD STAR WIVES DAY”

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 131

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the



Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2015, as “Gold Star Wives Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role that Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 132—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 5 THROUGH APRIL 11, 2015, AS “NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES WEEK”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 132

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and

(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the organization has provided strength and inspiration to women who want to effect positive change in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of April 5 through April 11, 2015, as “National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Week”;

(2) recognizes the great contributions made by members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to their communities and to the people of the United States; and

(3) especially commends the work of the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to better the lives of children in the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 966. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

SA 967. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 968. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 969. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 970. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 971. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 973. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 974. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 975. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 976. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 977. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 978. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 979. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 980. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 981. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 982. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 983. Mr. SANDERS proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 984. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 985. Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 986. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. WARREN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 987. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 988. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 989. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 337 submitted by Mr. COONS and intended to be proposed to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 990. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 991. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 992. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 993. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 994. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 995. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 996. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 997. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 998. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 999. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1000. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1001. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1002. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mrs. MURRAY) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1003. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1004. Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1005. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1006. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1007. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1008. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him



to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1009. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1010. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1011. Mr. ENZI (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1012. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1013. Mr. HEINRICH proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1014. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1015. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1016. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1017. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1018. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1019. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1020. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1021. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1022. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1023. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1024. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1025. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1026. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1027. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. MANCHIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1028. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. KING) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1029. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended

to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1030. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1031. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1032. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1033. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1034. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1035. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1036. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1037. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1038. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1039. Mr. BARRASSO proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1040. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1041. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1042. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1043. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1044. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1045. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1046. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1047. Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1048. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1049. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1050. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1051. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1052. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1053. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1054. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1055. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1056. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1057. Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1058. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1059. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1060. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1061. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1062. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1063. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1064. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1065. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1066. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1067. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, and Ms.

AYOTTE) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1068. Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1069. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1070. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1071. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1072. Mr. ENZI (for Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1073. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1074. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1075. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1076. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1077. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1078. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1079. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1080. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1081. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KIRK) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1082. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1083. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1084. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1085. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1086. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BROWN) sub-

mitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1087. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1088. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1089. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1090. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1091. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1092. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1093. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1094. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1095. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1096. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1097. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1098. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1099. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. REED, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1100. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1101. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. REED, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr.

BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1102. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1103. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1104. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1105. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1106. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1107. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1108. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1109. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1110. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra.

SA 1111. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1112. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1113. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 966.** Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO OFFSETTING THE COSTS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for overseas contingency operations, which may include legislation that would establish a temporary surtax

which may be used to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 967.** Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DOMESTIC MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to nuclear medical isotope production facilities used to produce molybdenum-99 (other than facilities that use highly-enriched uranium), and associated radioisotope processing, waste management, and support facilities which may include ensuring that such facilities are included on the list of eligible projects for the receipt of incentives for innovative technologies under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 968.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending and expanding refundable tax provisions that benefit working families, childless workers, and the middle class, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 969.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROHIBIT THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FROM FURTHER REGULATING POLITICAL SPEECH ON THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to measures prohibiting the Federal Election Commission from enacting additional rules that would further regulate political speech on the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 970.** Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENSURE FULL PORTABILITY OF FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER PART A OF TITLE I OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to measures that would empower parents by giving them greater control over choosing a school best for their child, which may include public schools, private schools, or charter schools, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 971.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPLEMENT WORK REQUIREMENTS IN ALL MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL WELFARE PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to implementing work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents in all means-tested Federal welfare programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 972.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENSURE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR ARROW SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ARROW-3 UPPER TIER INTERCEPTOR DEVELOPMENT, DAVID'S SLING SHORT-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND IRON DOME INTERCEPTORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to all aspects of Israel's missile defense systems, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 973.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT ANY NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED ABSENT APPROVAL BY CONGRESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the implementation of a nuclear agreement with Iran, which may include requirement of approval by Congress of such agreement, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 974.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ELIMINATE ALL CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES ESTABLISHED BY AGENCY REGULATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to measures eliminating criminal penalties for offenses established by agency regulations, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 975.** Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MAINTAINING MILITARY PERSONNEL LEVELS AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS THAT ARE THE LEAST COSTLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to maintaining military personnel levels at military installations that are the least costly to the Federal Government to operate by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 976.** Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are based on sound nutrition science, which may include ensuring that the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are not based on unrelated factors such as agriculture production practices or extraneous environmental issues, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 977.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, CITIZEN SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CENTRAL AMERICA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing assistance to Central America, including Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, to strengthen democratic governance, citizen security, and economic growth, including assistance to improve the rule of law, government transparency, human rights conditions, fiscal capacity, trade facilitation, the capacity of civilian policy forces, and efforts to confront illicit trafficking networks, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 978.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary

levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION FUNDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN HAVANA, CUBA UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA CEASES PROVIDING SANCTUARY TO TERRORISTS AND AMERICAN FUGITIVES.**

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide funding relating to establishing a United States Embassy in Havana, Cuba until the Government of Cuba ceases providing sanctuary to terrorists and American fugitives.

(b) **WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SA 979.** Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING OVERTIME PROTECTIONS FOR MIDDLE CLASS WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to labor reform, which may include a substantial increase in overtime protections for middle class workers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 980.** Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE PROMISED PENSION BENEFITS OF RETIREES IN MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to multiemployer pension reform, which shall include restoring the anti-cut-back rule so that tens of thousands of older and more vulnerable current retirees and their families are not unfairly thrown into poverty and finding additional sources of revenue for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 981.** Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO WAIVE COINSURANCE UNDER MEDICARE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TESTS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION IS REQUIRED DURING THE SCREENING.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to waiving coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening, to help increase early detection of colorectal cancer and prevent for the detection and removal of polyps that could become cancerous, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 982.** Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO STATES TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND QUALITY AND DELIVERY OF CARE WHILE PROTECTING THE GUARANTEE OF THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing States programmatic flexibility to improve access, quality, and delivery of care in the Medicaid program without shifting costs to States, restricting access to needed care, or otherwise making coverage less affordable for the individuals who rely on Medicaid, which may include children, low-income adults, pregnant women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 983.** Mr. SANDERS proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965, which may include supporting congregate and home-delivered meals programs, or other programs of assistance to low-income older individuals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 984.** Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIMITED POPULATION APPROVAL FOR ANTIBACTERIAL DRUGS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolu-

tions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the treatment of serious or life-threatening infections for which there is an unmet medical need, and which may include the establishment by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway to bring to market new antibacterial drugs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 985.** Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXTENDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE STATE TRADE AND EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending the authorization of the State Trade and Export Promotion Program of the Small Business Administration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 986.** Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. WARREN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to student loan reform, which may include establishing a policy of risk-sharing to require institutions of higher education to assume some of the risk for student loans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 987.** Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting the National Guard Counterdrug Program, which may include continued operation of the National Guard Counterdrug Centers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 988.** Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BOLSTERING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES AGAINST THE IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives to bolster the resilience of communities, the electric grid, and the fishing, agriculture, and forestry industries against the impacts of human-induced climate change and associated events, including sea level rise, the loss of sea ice, changes in the distribution of permafrost, extreme weather events, ocean acidification, and an increase in the duration, size, and intensity of wildfire and droughts, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 989.** Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 337 submitted by Mr. COONS and intended to be proposed to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Govern-

ment for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 10, after “standards” insert “reflecting a prioritized, risk-based, cost effective approach”.

**SA 990.** Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives to bolster the resilience of existing critical infrastructure systems of the United States and facilitate the development of new critical infrastructure systems that improve resilience in the United States and reduce the long-term economic costs from impacts of a changing climate and associated events, including sea-level rise, flooding, erosion, subsidence, loss of sea ice, and changes in the distribution of permafrost, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 991.** Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

On page 6, line 6, increase the amount by \$888,000,000.

On page 6, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,053,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,091,000,000.

On page 6, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,134,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,176,000,000.

On page 6, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,222,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by \$1,300,000,000.

On page 6, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,379,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,458,000,000.

On page 6, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,531,000,000.

On page 6, line 19, increase the amount by \$751,000,000.

On page 6, line 20, increase the amount by \$966,000,000.

On page 6, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,081,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by \$1,132,000,000.

On page 6, line 23, increase the amount by \$1,174,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,220,000,000.

On page 6, line 25, increase the amount by \$1,295,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, increase the amount by \$1,373,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,452,000,000.

On page 7, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,525,000,000.

On page 7, line 7, increase the amount by \$751,000,000.

On page 7, line 8, increase the amount by \$966,000,000.

On page 7, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,081,000,000.

On page 7, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,132,000,000.

On page 7, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,174,000,000.

On page 7, line 12, increase the amount by \$1,220,000,000.

On page 7, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,295,000,000.

On page 7, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,373,000,000.

On page 7, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,452,000,000.

On page 7, line 16, increase the amount by \$1,525,000,000.

On page 7, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,359,000,000.

On page 7, line 22, increase the amount by \$3,009,000,000.

On page 7, line 23, increase the amount by \$4,867,000,000.

On page 7, line 24, increase the amount by \$6,833,000,000.

On page 7, line 25, increase the amount by \$8,901,000,000.

On page 8, line 1, increase the amount by \$11,076,000,000.

On page 8, line 2, increase the amount by \$13,391,000,000.

On page 8, line 3, increase the amount by \$15,852,000,000.

On page 8, line 4, increase the amount by \$18,465,000,000.

On page 8, line 5, increase the amount by \$21,218,000,000.

On page 8, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,359,000,000.

On page 8, line 9, increase the amount by \$3,009,000,000.

On page 8, line 10, increase the amount by \$4,867,000,000.

On page 8, line 11, increase the amount by \$6,833,000,000.

On page 8, line 12, increase the amount by \$8,901,000,000.

On page 8, line 13, increase the amount by \$11,076,000,000.

On page 8, line 14, increase the amount by \$13,391,000,000.

On page 8, line 15, increase the amount by \$15,852,000,000.

On page 8, line 16, increase the amount by \$18,465,000,000.

On page 8, line 17, increase the amount by \$21,218,000,000.

On page 10, line 21, increase the amount by \$682,000,000.

On page 10, line 22, increase the amount by \$600,000,000.

On page 10, line 25, increase the amount by \$703,000,000.



On page 11, line 1, increase the amount by \$660,000,000.

On page 11, line 4, increase the amount by \$726,000,000.

On page 11, line 5, increase the amount by \$722,000,000.

On page 11, line 8, increase the amount by \$749,000,000.

On page 11, line 9, increase the amount by \$745,000,000.

On page 11, line 12, increase the amount by \$774,000,000.

On page 11, line 13, increase the amount by \$770,000,000.

On page 11, line 16, increase the amount by \$798,000,000.

On page 11, line 17, increase the amount by \$794,000,000.

On page 11, line 20, increase the amount by \$824,000,000.

On page 11, line 21, increase the amount by \$819,000,000.

On page 11, line 24, increase the amount by \$850,000,000.

On page 11, line 25, increase the amount by \$845,000,000.

On page 12, line 3, increase the amount by \$877,000,000.

On page 12, line 4, increase the amount by \$872,000,000.

On page 12, line 7, increase the amount by \$905,000,000.

On page 12, line 8, increase the amount by \$900,000,000.

On page 32, line 2, increase the amount by \$395,000,000.

On page 32, line 3, increase the amount by \$316,000,000.

On page 32, line 6, increase the amount by \$414,000,000.

On page 32, line 7, increase the amount by \$371,000,000.

On page 32, line 10, increase the amount by \$434,000,000.

On page 32, line 11, increase the amount by \$428,000,000.

On page 32, line 14, increase the amount by \$454,000,000.

On page 32, line 15, increase the amount by \$448,000,000.

On page 32, line 18, increase the amount by \$475,000,000.

On page 32, line 19, increase the amount by \$469,000,000.

On page 32, line 22, increase the amount by \$496,000,000.

On page 32, line 23, increase the amount by \$490,000,000.

On page 33, line 2, increase the amount by \$510,000,000.

On page 33, line 3, increase the amount by \$505,000,000.

On page 33, line 6, increase the amount by \$525,000,000.

On page 33, line 7, increase the amount by \$521,000,000.

On page 33, line 10, increase the amount by \$538,000,000.

On page 33, line 11, increase the amount by \$534,000,000.

On page 33, line 14, increase the amount by \$553,000,000.

On page 33, line 15, increase the amount by \$548,000,000.

On page 33, line 19, increase the amount by \$484,000,000.

On page 33, line 20, increase the amount by \$426,000,000.

On page 33, line 23, increase the amount by \$606,000,000.

On page 33, line 24, increase the amount by \$562,000,000.

On page 34, line 2, increase the amount by \$583,000,000.

On page 34, line 3, increase the amount by \$578,000,000.

On page 34, line 6, increase the amount by \$560,000,000.

On page 34, line 7, increase the amount by \$564,000,000.

On page 34, line 10, increase the amount by \$535,000,000.

On page 34, line 11, increase the amount by \$539,000,000.

On page 34, line 14, increase the amount by \$511,000,000.

On page 34, line 15, increase the amount by \$515,000,000.

On page 34, line 18, increase the amount by \$523,000,000.

On page 34, line 19, increase the amount by \$523,000,000.

On page 34, line 22, increase the amount by \$535,000,000.

On page 34, line 23, increase the amount by \$533,000,000.

On page 35, line 2, increase the amount by \$544,000,000.

On page 35, line 3, increase the amount by \$542,000,000.

On page 35, line 6, increase the amount by \$554,000,000.

On page 35, line 7, increase the amount by \$552,000,000.

On page 42, line 2, increase the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 42, line 3, increase the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 42, line 6, increase the amount by \$33,000,000.

On page 42, line 7, increase the amount by \$33,000,000.

On page 42, line 10, increase the amount by \$74,000,000.

On page 42, line 11, increase the amount by \$74,000,000.

On page 42, line 14, increase the amount by \$120,000,000.

On page 42, line 15, increase the amount by \$120,000,000.

On page 42, line 18, increase the amount by \$166,000,000.

On page 42, line 19, increase the amount by \$166,000,000.

On page 42, line 22, increase the amount by \$215,000,000.

On page 42, line 23, increase the amount by \$215,000,000.

On page 43, line 2, increase the amount by \$266,000,000.

On page 43, line 3, increase the amount by \$266,000,000.

On page 43, line 6, increase the amount by \$319,000,000.

On page 43, line 7, increase the amount by \$319,000,000.

On page 43, line 10, increase the amount by \$376,000,000.

On page 43, line 11, increase the amount by \$376,000,000.

On page 43, line 14, increase the amount by \$425,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, increase the amount by \$425,000,000.

**SA 992.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, line 19, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000,000.

On page 15, line 20, decrease the amount by \$15,750,000,000.

On page 15, line 24, decrease the amount by \$4,200,000,000.

On page 16, line 3, decrease the amount by \$798,000,000.

On page 16, line 7, decrease the amount by \$147,000,000.

On page 17, line 12, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000,000.

On page 17, line 13, decrease the amount by \$7,700,000,000.

On page 17, line 17, decrease the amount by \$4,200,000,000.

On page 17, line 21, decrease the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 20, line 13, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 14, decrease the amount by \$7,200,000,000.

On page 20, line 18, decrease the amount by \$2,800,000,000.

On page 28, line 20, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000,000.

On page 28, line 25, decrease the amount by \$13,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 4, decrease the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 8, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 29, line 12, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 19, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000,000.

On page 33, line 20, decrease the amount by \$31,980,000,000.

On page 33, line 24, decrease the amount by \$11,480,000,000.

On page 34, line 3, decrease the amount by \$820,000,000.

**SA 993.** Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to compliance with the national do-not-call registry, which may include adjusting or increasing fines, providing flexibility for the relevant regulatory agency, or modifying the conditions of the safe harbor provisions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 994.** Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:



At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END "TOO BIG TO FAIL" BAILOUTS FOR WALL STREET MEGABANKS (OVER \$500 BILLION IN TOTAL ASSETS).**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to any bank holding companies with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets to better protect taxpayers, including such measures as capital or leverage requirements, restrictions on the growth, activities, or operations of a company, or divestiture of assets or operations of any company that is unable to present a credible plan to facilitate an orderly bankruptcy or resolution, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 995.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 55, strike lines 18 and 19 and insert the following:

(1) reforming the individual, business, and international provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure a revenue structure that—

(A) is more efficient, pro-growth, fair, simple, and permanent;

(B) enhances competitiveness and promotes savings and investment;

(C) strengthens domestic job creation and wage growth; and

(D) may result in income tax rate reductions without raising new revenue;

**SA 996.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDING FOR FLIGHTS OVER THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES OR EUROPE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNDER THE TREATY ON OPEN SKIES USING DIGITAL ELECTRO-OPTICAL SENSORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting funding for flights over the continental United States or Europe

by the Russian Federation under the Treaty on Open Skies using digital electro-optical sensors, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 997.** Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 78, line 8, strike "relating".

**SA 998.** Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, line 14, strike "SPENDING" and insert "DEFICIT".

On page 70, lines 23 and 24, strike "without raising new revenue,".

**SA 999.** Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 78, line 8, strike "relating".

**SA 1000.** Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, line 14, strike "SPENDING" and insert "DEFICIT".

On page 70, lines 23 and 24, strike "without raising new revenue,".

**SA 1001.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, insert the following:

**SEC. 422. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST FUNDING RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR TRADE PROMOTION FOR CUBA UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION STANDARDS.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide funding relating to assistance for trade promotion for Cuba until the Government of Cuba is in compliance with International Labor Organization standards.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SA 1002.** Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mrs. MURRAY) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the protection, preservation, or restoration of the National Park System, which may include a National Park Centennial Fund or other dedicated funding, for infrastructure or natural, cultural, or historic resource preservation and programs in units of the National Park System, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1003.** Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO AUTHORIZING CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RETAIN SUCH ELIGIBILITY UNTIL AGE 26.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting children who are eligible to receive health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, including by allowing such children to retain such eligibility until age 26, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1004.** Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR PROCESSING CERTAIN PERMITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other relevant permitting agencies so that approvals of additive gas transmission capacity in supply-constrained areas of the United States, including the 6 New England States, can be processed as quickly as possible while respecting all applicable environmental, health, and safety laws, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1005.** Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for international counter-propaganda communications in order to combat misinformation, undermine ideologies of violence and hatred, and ensure

moderate voices are heard, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1006.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASED UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing United States support for victims of the most severe humanitarian crises by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1007.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NON-MILITARY SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for United States economic and other nonmilitary support for Ukraine, which may include funding for energy security, loan guarantees, civil society, humanitarian aid, anti-corruption efforts, and strengthening democratic institutions and governance, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1008.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States

Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING FEDERAL AGENCIES NOT TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUY AMERICAN ACT, THE BERRY AMENDMENT, OR THE BUY AMERICA ACT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging Federal agencies not to waive the requirements of the Buy American Act, the Berry Amendment, or the Buy America Act by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1009.** Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR INDIVIDUALS PURCHASING FIREARMS ON THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to background checks for individuals purchasing firearms on the Internet, which may include legislation requiring a background check for every firearm sale over the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1010.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR INDIVIDUALS PURCHASING FIREARMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to background checks for individuals purchasing firearms, which may include legislation requiring a background check for every firearm sale, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1011.** Mr. ENZI (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing, for certain routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure, an exemption from certain requirements, which may include an exemption from the permitting requirements of section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1012.** Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

On page 6, line 6, increase the amount by \$113,299,000,000.

On page 6, line 7, increase the amount by \$118,921,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, increase the amount by \$126,739,000,000.

On page 6, line 9, increase the amount by \$134,960,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, increase the amount by \$143,490,000,000.

On page 6, line 11, increase the amount by \$152,550,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by \$161,956,000,000.

On page 6, line 13, increase the amount by \$171,814,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, increase the amount by \$182,180,000,000.

On page 6, line 15, increase the amount by \$191,554,000,000.

On page 6, line 19, increase the amount by \$111,061,000,000.

On page 6, line 20, increase the amount by \$118,869,000,000.

On page 6, line 21, increase the amount by \$126,685,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by \$134,905,000,000.

On page 6, line 23, increase the amount by \$143,432,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by \$152,490,000,000.

On page 6, line 25, increase the amount by \$161,894,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, increase the amount by \$171,751,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by \$182,116,000,000.

On page 7, line 3, increase the amount by \$191,490,000,000.

On page 7, line 7, increase the amount by \$111,061,000,000.

On page 7, line 8, increase the amount by \$118,869,000,000.

On page 7, line 9, increase the amount by \$126,685,000,000.

On page 7, line 10, increase the amount by \$134,905,000,000.

On page 7, line 11, increase the amount by \$143,432,000,000.

On page 7, line 12, increase the amount by \$152,490,000,000.

On page 7, line 13, increase the amount by \$161,894,000,000.

On page 7, line 14, increase the amount by \$171,751,000,000.

On page 7, line 15, increase the amount by \$182,116,000,000.

On page 7, line 16, increase the amount by \$191,490,000,000.

On page 7, line 21, increase the amount by \$111,061,000,000.

On page 7, line 22, increase the amount by \$229,930,000,000.

On page 7, line 23, increase the amount by \$356,615,000,000.

On page 7, line 24, increase the amount by \$491,520,000,000.

On page 7, line 25, increase the amount by \$634,952,000,000.

On page 8, line 1, increase the amount by \$787,442,000,000.

On page 8, line 2, increase the amount by \$949,336,000,000.

On page 8, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,121,087,000,000.

On page 8, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,303,203,000,000.

On page 8, line 5, increase the amount by \$1,494,693,000,000.

On page 8, line 8, increase the amount by \$111,061,000,000.

On page 8, line 9, increase the amount by \$229,930,000,000.

On page 8, line 10, increase the amount by \$356,615,000,000.

On page 8, line 11, increase the amount by \$491,520,000,000.

On page 8, line 12, increase the amount by \$634,952,000,000.

On page 8, line 13, increase the amount by \$787,442,000,000.

On page 8, line 14, increase the amount by \$949,336,000,000.

On page 8, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,121,087,000,000.

On page 8, line 16, increase the amount by \$1,303,203,000,000.

On page 8, line 17, increase the amount by \$1,494,693,000,000.

On page 30, line 11, increase the amount by \$111,928,000,000.

On page 30, line 12, increase the amount by \$109,690,000,000.

On page 30, line 15, increase the amount by \$114,507,000,000.

On page 30, line 16, increase the amount by \$114,455,000,000.

On page 30, line 19, increase the amount by \$117,206,000,000.

On page 30, line 20, increase the amount by \$117,152,000,000.

On page 30, line 23, increase the amount by \$119,947,000,000.

On page 30, line 24, increase the amount by \$119,982,000,000.

On page 31, line 2, increase the amount by \$122,849,000,000.

On page 31, line 3, increase the amount by \$122,791,000,000.

On page 31, line 6, increase the amount by \$125,838,000,000.

On page 31, line 7, increase the amount by \$125,778,000,000.

On page 31, line 10, increase the amount by \$128,910,000,000.

On page 31, line 11, increase the amount by \$128,848,000,000.

On page 31, line 14, increase the amount by \$132,058,000,000.

On page 31, line 15, increase the amount by \$131,995,000,000.

On page 31, line 18, increase the amount by \$135,264,000,000.

On page 31, line 19, increase the amount by \$135,200,000,000.

On page 31, line 22, increase the amount by \$138,493,000,000.

On page 31, line 23, increase the amount by \$138,429,000,000.

On page 42, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,317,000,000.

On page 42, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,317,000,000.

On page 42, line 6, increase the amount by \$4,414,000,000.

On page 42, line 7, increase the amount by \$4,414,000,000.

On page 42, line 10, increase the amount by \$9,533,000,000.

On page 42, line 11, increase the amount by \$9,533,000,000.

On page 42, line 14, increase the amount by \$15,013,000,000.

On page 42, line 15, increase the amount by \$15,013,000,000.

On page 42, line 18, increase the amount by \$20,641,000,000.

On page 42, line 19, increase the amount by \$20,641,000,000.

On page 42, line 22, increase the amount by \$26,712,000,000.

On page 42, line 23, increase the amount by \$26,712,000,000.

On page 43, line 2, increase the amount by \$33,046,000,000.

On page 43, line 3, increase the amount by \$33,046,000,000.

On page 43, line 6, increase the amount by \$39,756,000,000.

On page 43, line 7, increase the amount by \$39,756,000,000.

On page 43, line 10, increase the amount by \$46,916,000,000.

On page 43, line 11, increase the amount by \$46,916,000,000.

On page 43, line 14, increase the amount by \$53,061,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, increase the amount by \$53,061,000,000.

**SA 1013.** Mr. HEINRICH proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY BY ACCELERATING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES FROM LABORATORIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE MARKETPLACE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1014.** Mr. BENNET (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing human-induced climate change through increased use of clean energy, energy efficiency, and reductions in carbon pollution by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1015.** Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT ON TESTING.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to limiting the amount of time students spend taking the assessments required under subsection (b) of section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)), which may include capping the amount of time students spend taking assessments required under such subsection, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1016.** Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 45, line 19, decrease the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 45, line 20, decrease the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 45, line 23, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000.

On page 45, line 24, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000.

On page 46, line 2, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 3, reduce the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 6, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 7, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 10, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 11, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 14, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 15, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 18, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 19, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 22, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 46, line 23, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

**SA 1017.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO H-1B VISAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing the value of the tax credit for families adopting a child, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to H-1B visas, which may include increasing the annual cap or exempting advanced STEM degree holders from the H-1B cap or recapturing unused green cards or allowing spouses of H-1B visa holders to work or increasing STEM funding in the United States by raising the H-1B fee paid by employers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1018.** Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENHANCING THE VALUE OF THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing the value of the tax credit for families adopting a child, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1019.** Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 112, line 22, after "Budget." insert "Each committee shall include in the report recommendations regarding programs within the jurisdiction of the committee the funding of which should be reduced or eliminated and recommended amounts of appropriations for each program within the jurisdiction of the committee for which an authorization of appropriations is not in effect for the current fiscal year and appropriations were made available for the current fiscal year."

**SA 1020.** Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RELIEVING SMALL BUSINESSES OF THE REGULATORY AND FINANCIAL BURDENS CREATED BY THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to relieving small businesses of the regulatory and financial burdens created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which are causing fewer employment opportunities for working Americans, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1021.** Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SOLVING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to actions to solve human-caused climate change, including United States leadership in developing global solutions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1022.** Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT AMERICAN FROM FOREIGN POLLUTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolu-

tions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing assistance to developing countries to reduce pollution, which may include technical or financial assistance to help developing countries increase energy efficiency, transition from petroleum fuels to generate electricity, or invest in clean energy generation, with the overall goal of improving economic opportunities for domestic businesses and the health, prosperity, and quality of life for Americans, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1023.** Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR RURAL VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to expanding access to mental health services for rural veterans, including through telemedicine, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1024.** Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST THE SALE OF FEDERAL LAND TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide for the sale of any Federal land (other than as part of a program that acquires land that is of comparable value or contains exceptional resources or that is conducted under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.)) that uses the proceeds of the sale to reduce the Federal deficit.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An af-

firmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SA 1025.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO H-1B VISAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to H-1B visas, which may include increasing the annual cap or exempting advanced STEM degree holders from the H-1B cap or recapturing unused green cards or allowing spouses of H-1B visa holders to work or increasing STEM funding in the United States by raising the H-1B fee paid by employers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1026.** Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO CONSUMER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) taxes or other provisions in health insurance monthly premium statements, including advance premium tax credits, cost sharing reductions, medical loss ratio rebates and savings, free preventive care, coverage of preexisting conditions and prohibitions on premium rating because of gender, the cost of insurance company administrative expenses, and taxes and fees, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1027.** Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. MANCHIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the

congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE OPEN INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the open Internet and promoting further innovation and investment in Internet services, content, infrastructure, and technologies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1028.** Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. KING) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to equipment like eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and speech generating devices by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1029.** Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT AMERICAN JOBS FROM BEING MOVED OVERSEAS BY REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions,

amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing American jobs from being moved overseas, which may include a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1030.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING INNOVATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting innovation, expanding access to life-saving medications, and preserving choices for Medicare beneficiaries without creating a Government-run formula, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1031.** Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH WESTERN STATES, HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO AVOID THE NEED TO LIST THE SAGE-GROUSE UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the management of public land and natural resources, which may include providing adequate resources to avoid the need to list the sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fis-

cal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1032.** Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING INNOVATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting and incentivize innovation, accountability, and experimentation in the delivery of higher education to middle and low-income students to make college more affordable and accessible by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1033.** Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE PRIORITIZATION OF BROAD-BASED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to broad-based criminal justice reform by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1034.** Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO RELATING TO CAPPING WELFARE BENEFITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to welfare legislation, which may include a cap on means-tested benefits including cash payments, medical benefits (which may be calculated by the average insurance value), refundable tax credits, housing subsidies, or food subsidies, for which households are eligible, at \$30,000 per family per year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1035.** Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO WELFARE LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to legislation that permits Congress, if in a given fiscal year, as determined by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, cumulative spending on welfare and poverty means-tested assistance programs exceeds \$1,000,000,000,000, to consider legislation which reforms such programs, with the goal of helping transition individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency whenever possible, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1036.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PRIORITIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT ARE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PROJECTS IN HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the prioritization of the Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States on projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors of the National Highway System by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1037.** Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 302 and insert the following:

**SEC. 302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEFENSE SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports if such measure supports the following activities: Department of Defense training and maintenance associated with combat readiness, modernization of equipment, auditability of financial statements, or military compensation and benefit reforms, by the amount provided for these purposes, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit (without counting any net revenue increases in that measure) over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1038.** Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE WAGES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reaffirming the ability of States to adopt minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage level commensurate with the cost of living in the State, which may include the adoption of pro-employment and wage-increasing policies by providing pro-growth tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the pe-

riod of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1039.** Mr. BARRASSO proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

On page 27, line 2, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 27, line 3, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 30, line 11, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 30, line 12, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 43, line 19, decrease the amount by \$51,000,000.

On page 43, line 20, decrease the amount by \$51,000,000.

**SA 1040.** Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT THE CROWDING OUT OF OTHER STATE PRIORITIES, SUCH AS FUNDING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TO PROVIDE STATES THE FLEXIBILITY AND BUDGETARY CERTAINTY THEY NEED TO SERVE THEIR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to policies that ensure Medicaid costs do not continue to crowd out other State spending priorities, particularly public education, and that provide States with the flexibility and budgetary certainty to implement Medicaid programs which build off of successful State innovations to ensure our Nation's most vulnerable Americans have improved access to quality, low cost health care, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1041.** Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CUTS TO VITAL PROGRAMS.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would reduce enrollment or the assistance provided to low-income individuals under—

(1) Head Start programs, including Early Head Start programs, under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(2) the Federal Pell Grant program under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.);

(3) homeless assistance programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.); and

(4) tenant-based rental assistance programs under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SA 1042.** Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CLOSING THE CARRIED INTEREST LOOPHOLE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the taxation of income from investment partnerships (known as carried interest), which may include legislation that allows for the taxing as ordinary income of a partner's share of income on an investment services partnership interest, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1043.** Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING AND MAKING PERMANENT THE AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to education tax benefits and the American opportunity tax credit, which may include increasing the maximum annual amount of credit allowed, increasing the income thresholds for phasing out the credit, adjustments to lifetime limitations on the credit, increasing refundability of the credit, and excluding amounts received as Pell Grants from income, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1044.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1045.** Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR JOB TRAINING.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to employment and job growth, which may include programs that encourage job training partnerships between businesses, educational institutions, and the workforce development system, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1046.** Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH WESTERN STATES, HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO AVOID THE NEED TO LIST THE SAGE-GROUSE UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the management of public land and natural resources, which may include providing adequate resources to avoid the need to list the sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1047.** Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REVISE OR REPEAL SEQUESTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the enforcement procedures under section 251A of that Act to revise or

repeal the discretionary spending limits and enforcement procedures established under those sections, relating to providing relief from sequestration and the reduction in discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between both the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category, and offsetting such relief through targeted changes in mandatory or discretionary spending programs and tax expenditures by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For purposes of determining deficit-neutrality under this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may include the estimated effects of any amendment or amendments to the discretionary spending limits.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEQUESTRATION REPLACEMENT.**

(a) **MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASE IN DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.**—If a measure becomes law that amends the discretionary spending limits established under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), the adjustments to discretionary spending limits under section 251(b) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)), or the enforcement procedures established under section 251A of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure, up to the amounts specified and reserved in subparagraph (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS SPECIFIED AND RESERVED.**—The amounts specified (and to be reserved from the allocation called for in section 302(a) allocation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate until such time as the conditions specified in subsection (a) are met are—

(1) for fiscal year 2016—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(2) for fiscal year 2017—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom).

**SA 1048.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INSURANCE PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for the purpose of preserving and implementing health insurance protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1049.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SENSE OF THE SENATE EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) Since January 2014, approximately 16,400,000 uninsured Americans have gained health insurance and the uninsured rate has dropped by 35 percent.

(2) Nearly 9,500,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities have saved over \$15,000,000,000 on prescription drugs since March 2010. In the past year, 5,100,000 individuals saved \$4,800,000,000 or an average of \$941 per beneficiary in lower prescription drug costs.

(3) National health spending in 2013 grew at the lowest annual increase since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services began tracking the statistic in 1960.

(4) Currently, 28 States and the District of Columbia have expanded their Medicaid programs, and as of January 2015, approximately 11,200,000 additional Americans were covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program compared to enrollment as of October 2013.

(b) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the findings described in subsection (a) have been a positive development to our nation's health care system.

**SA 1050.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, line 5, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 7, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 9, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 11, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 13, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 14, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 6, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 7, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 9, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 11, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 13, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 15, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 19, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 20, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 21, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 23, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 25, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 7, line 3, increase the amount by \$7,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 13, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 14, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 17, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 18, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 22, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 20, line 25, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 1, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 4, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 5, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 8, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 9, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 13, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 16, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 17, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 20, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 24, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 21, line 25, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 9, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 10, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 13, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 14, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 17, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 18, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 21, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 22, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 25, line 25, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 1, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 4, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 5, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 8, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 9, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 12, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 13, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 16, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 17, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 20, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

On page 26, line 21, increase the amount by \$4,000,000,000.

**SA 1051.** Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MAINTAINING RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND REDUNDANT BASELOAD POWER, ENCOURAGING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING, PROVIDING A DIVERSE ENERGY PORTFOLIO, AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS THROUGH RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED CLEAN-COAL TECHNOLOGIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reforming and reauthorizing the

coal-related programs of the Department of Energy relating to research on, and development and implementation of, technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including carbon capture and storage and carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1052.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_.** DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alternatives to immigration detention, which may include prioritizing alternatives to detention over incarceration, particularly for immigrant families and children, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1053.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_.** DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alternatives to immigration detention, which may include prioritizing alternatives to detention over incarceration, particularly for immigrant families and children, in order to achieve net savings to the Treasury, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1054.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be

proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_.** DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alternatives to immigration detention, which may include prioritizing alternatives to detention over incarceration, particularly for immigrant families and children who are found to have a credible fear of persecution, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1055.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_.** DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alternatives to immigration detention, which may include prioritizing alternatives to detention over incarceration, particularly for immigrant families and children who are found to have a credible fear of persecution, in order to achieve net savings to the Treasury, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1056.** Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

# SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE WIRELESS INNOVATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the progression of increasingly mobile-driven commerce, which may include making more federally-held spectrum available for commercial use through innovation in spectrum management and enhanced spectrum efficiency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1057.** Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

## SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF MEDICARE ADVANTAGE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the changes to payments to Medicare Advantage plans enacted as part the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and retained as part of this resolution on the budget have resulted, since 2010, in an increase in Medicare Advantage enrollment of 42 and a decrease in Medicare Advantage premiums by 6 percent; and

(2) the Congressional Budget Office projects that in ten years, 45 percent of Medicare beneficiaries will be enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan.

**SA 1058.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

## SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MEASURES THAT ENSURE THAT UNITED STATES MANUFACTURERS CAN COMPETE FAIRLY WITH FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to trade agreements, which may include measures ensuring that United States manufacturers can compete fairly against foreign manufacturers in foreign countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years

2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1059.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At end of title III, add the following:

## SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF CONGRESS AND THE ABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO RESPOND TO FUNDAMENTALLY MIS-ALIGNED CURRENCIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the role of Congress and the ability of the Department of the Treasury to respond to fundamental currency misalignment, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1060.** Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 6, line 6, decrease the amount by \$28,000,000.  
On page 6, line 7, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 6, line 9, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.  
On page 6, line 11, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.  
On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 6, line 13, decrease the amount by \$36,000,000.  
On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by \$38,000,000.  
On page 6, line 15, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.  
On page 6, line 19, decrease the amount by \$26,000,000.  
On page 6, line 20, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 6, line 21, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 6, line 22, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 6, line 23, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.  
On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.  
On page 6, line 25, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.

On page 7, line 1, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by \$37,000,000.  
On page 7, line 3, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.  
On page 7, line 7, decrease the amount by \$26,000,000.  
On page 7, line 8, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 7, line 9, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 7, line 10, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 7, line 11, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.  
On page 7, line 12, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.  
On page 7, line 13, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 7, line 14, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 7, line 15, decrease the amount by \$37,000,000.  
On page 7, line 16, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.  
On page 7, line 21, decrease the amount by \$26,000,000.  
On page 7, line 22, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 7, line 23, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 7, line 24, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 7, line 25, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.  
On page 8, line 1, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.  
On page 8, line 2, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 8, line 3, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 8, line 4, decrease the amount by \$37,000,000.  
On page 8, line 5, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.  
On page 8, line 8, decrease the amount by \$26,000,000.  
On page 8, line 9, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 8, line 10, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 8, line 11, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 8, line 12, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.  
On page 8, line 13, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.  
On page 8, line 14, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 8, line 15, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.  
On page 8, line 16, decrease the amount by \$37,000,000.  
On page 8, line 17, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.  
On page 28, line 20, decrease the amount by \$28,000,000.  
On page 28, line 21, decrease the amount by \$26,000,000.  
On page 28, line 24, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 28, line 25, decrease the amount by \$29,000,000.  
On page 29, line 3, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 29, line 4, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.  
On page 29, line 7, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 29, line 8, decrease the amount by \$32,000,000.  
On page 29, line 11, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.

On page 29, line 12, decrease the amount by \$33,000,000.

On page 29, line 15, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.

On page 29, line 16, decrease the amount by \$34,000,000.

On page 29, line 19, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.

On page 29, line 20, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.

On page 29, line 23, decrease the amount by \$36,000,000.

On page 29, line 24, decrease the amount by \$35,000,000.

On page 30, line 2, decrease the amount by \$38,000,000.

On page 30, line 3, decrease the amount by \$37,000,000.

On page 30, line 6, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.

On page 30, line 7, decrease the amount by \$39,000,000.

**SA 1061.** Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ADDITIONAL PROSECUTORS TO PROSECUTE FIREARMS OFFENSES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for the purpose of hiring additional Federal prosecutors to focus on firearms offenses by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1062.** Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 412.

**SA 1063.** Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1064.** Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1065.** Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO CREATE SAVINGS TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM AND PROTECT SENIOR CITIZENS' IDENTITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to creating savings to the Medicare program and protecting senior citizens' identity, which may include legislation to utilize smart card technology to determine bene-

fiary eligibility and identity at the point of care, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1066.** Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DELIVERY OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION UPON DEATH OF A VETERAN.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to delivery of dependency and indemnity compensation or death pension upon the death of veterans, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1067.** Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, and Ms. AYOTTE) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR FULL FUNDING FOR AT-SEA AND DOCKSIDE MONITORING FOR CERTAIN FISHERIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to supporting at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries that have received economic disaster assistance by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1068.** Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11,

setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENCOURAGE STATES TO EXPAND MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging States to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1069.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF DOMESTIC ABUSERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting victims of domestic violence from gun violence, which may include prohibiting individuals who have engaged in domestic violence from possessing or receiving a firearm by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1070.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTION OF WORKERS AND CONSUMERS FROM CORPORATE MALFEASANCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting workers and consumers from corporate malfeasance, which may include holding individual corporate executives liable for knowingly concealing corporate practices or products that pose a significant risk of death or serious injury to workers or consumers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1071.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DENYING TAX BENEFITS TO FIREARMS DEALERS WHO ENDANGER THE PUBLIC.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to denying tax benefits to firearms dealers who endanger the public, which may include denying firearms dealers who violate any law, regulation, or other requirement designed to protect the public from gun violence the ability to claim any tax deduction for 3 years after the violation, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1072.** Mr. ENZI (for Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

On page 32, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,813,000,000.

On page 32, line 6, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 7, increase the amount by \$11,996,000,000.

On page 32, line 10, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 11, increase the amount by \$22,539,000,000.

On page 32, line 14, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 15, increase the amount by \$30,065,000,000.

On page 32, line 18, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 19, increase the amount by \$38,117,000,000.

On page 32, line 22, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 32, line 23, increase the amount by \$47,460,000,000.

On page 33, line 2, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 3, increase the amount by \$56,270,000,000.

On page 33, line 6, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 7, increase the amount by \$65,098,000,000.

On page 33, line 10, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 11, increase the amount by \$76,773,000,000.

On page 33, line 14, increase the amount by \$84,543,000,000.

On page 33, line 15, increase the amount by \$85,543,000,000.

**SA 1073.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the investigation and to the extent practicable the recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government to ensure that such items are not in the possession of or used by radical extremist groups operating in the country by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1074.** Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT RULE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this



resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to assessing the impact on higher education access of the Department of Education's gainful employment rule, which could include requiring the Secretary of Education to determine how different types of institutions of higher education are being affected, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1075.** Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION, AND RETENTION OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the recruitment, preparation, and retention of highly effective teachers in schools served under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), which may include better management and marketing of Federal grant and loan forgiveness programs for teachers or studying how to effectively improve participant outcomes in those programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1076.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ON THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to measures ensuring that the Internet remains permanently free from new taxes, by the amounts provided in such legis-

lation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1077.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to support for mental health and suicide prevention programs for members of the Armed Forces and veterans, which may include filling gaps in the mental health provider workforce, enhancing training and tools for mental health providers in the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, and public-private partnerships to provide training in military culture and military-unique mental health issues to community mental health providers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1078.** Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT EMPLOYER INTERFERENCE IN THEIR EMPLOYEES' BIRTH CONTROL AND OTHER HEALTH CARE DECISIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to employer-provided health insurance, which may include measures to protect health insurance from corporate interference and ensure that employers cannot deny specific health benefits, including contraception coverage, to any of their employees or the covered dependents of such employees entitled by Federal law, including the Patient

Protection and Affordable Care Act, to receive such coverage, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1079.** Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving government settlement transparency, which may include limiting the deductibility of fines or penalties paid to the government, reforming the reporting of settlement agreements, or treating certain non-governmental entities as government entities for purposes of determining tax liability, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1080.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR SBA RESOURCE PARTNERS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES WITH REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing resources for SBA resource partners to assist small businesses with regulatory compliance, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1081.** Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KIRK) proposed an amendment

to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF WEBSITES WHO KNOWINGLY ALLOW SUCH WEBSITES TO BE USED TO ADVERTISE COMMERCIAL SEX WITH CHILDREN OVER THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to online child sex trafficking, which may include the detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1082.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to keeping guns out of the hands of child sex traffickers, which may include imposing additional penalties on firearms dealers who illegally sell firearms to purchasers who have recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, patronized, or solicited any person who has not attained the age of 18 years to engage in a commercial sex act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1083.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT CONGRESS CANNOT BE CIRCUMVENTED BY ANY UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ABSENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that any United Nations Security Council resolution on any nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran has no enforceability in the United States absent congressional approval of such agreement by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1084.** Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENHANCING TRADE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST AND NORTHERN BORDERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving, increasing, and enhancing legal trade and commerce across the border between the United States and Mexico and the border between the United States and Canada, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1085.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT CONGRESS CANNOT BE CIRCUMVENTED BY ANY UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ABSENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that any United Nations Security Council resolution on any nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran has no enforceability in the United States absent congressional approval of such agreement by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1086.** Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING AMERICAN WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the wages and employment of United States workers, which may include measures to require employers to recruit or retain qualified United States workers before petitioning for H-1B foreign guest workers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1087.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION TO LESSEN DEPENDENCE OF UNITED STATES ON ENERGY IMPORTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging domestic energy production to lessen the dependence of the United States on energy imports, including all forms of energy production, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1088.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to chemical disclosure to affirm that any disclosure of chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process be done through FracFocus consistent with the hydraulic fracturing rule issued by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1089.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to oil spill liability and equal treatment of energy resources, which may include changes to current law to equalize the per-barrel taxes of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for all oil sources, or a repeal of section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17142), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over ei-

ther the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1090.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENSURE THAT MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES IN RURAL LOCATIONS HAVE UNOBSTRUCTED ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL CARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries in rural locations have unobstructed access to high quality medical care by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1091.** Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH TRANSPARENT, EASILY UNDERSTOOD POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing students and families with transparent, easily understood information about postsecondary education financial aid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1092.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ACROSS STATE LINES, TO ALLOW CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES TO OBTAIN LIFE-SAVING MEDICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that open interstate commerce to allow families increased access to safe affordable prescription drugs across State lines, to allow children with cancer and other serious illnesses to obtain life-saving medications, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1093.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO APPLYING INCREASED PENALTIES FROM THE DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONE ACT TO ALL DRUG TRAFFICKERS OF DRUGS THAT TARGET CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF THE LOCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that prison sentences for selling drugs to children will be similar to those prison sentences in drug free school zones regardless of the location, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1094.** Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the sustainable expansion of benefits under the Social Security program and making permanently solvent the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1095.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF THE SENATE EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) Since 2010, approximately 16,400,000 uninsured Americans have gained health insurance and the uninsured rate has dropped by 35 percent.

(2) Nearly 9,500,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities have saved over \$15,000,000,000 on prescription drugs since March 2010. In the past year, 5,100,000 individuals saved \$4,800,000,000 or an average of \$941 per beneficiary in lower prescription drug costs.

(3) National health spending in 2013 grew at the lowest annual increase since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services began tracking the statistic in 1960.

(4) Currently, 28 States and the District of Columbia have expanded their Medicaid programs, and as of January 2015, approximately 11,200,000 additional Americans were covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program compared to enrollment as of October 2013.

(b) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the findings described in subsection (a) have been a positive development to our nation's health care system.

**SA 1096.** Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PROTECTION ACT OF 1986.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to implementation of the Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-408; 100 Stat. 920) by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1097.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RECOUPING GRANT DOLLARS FROM CONTRACTORS IN STATES WITH FAILED STATE-BASED EXCHANGES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to exhausting all administrative remedies to recoup grant dollars given to private contractors that failed to provide States with proper services to create a working technology platform as part of the States' efforts to establish State-based exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1098.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ACROSS STATE LINES, TO ALLOW CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES TO OBTAIN LIFE-SAVING MEDICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that open interstate commerce to allow families increased access to safe affordable compounded prescription drugs across State lines, to allow children with cancer and other serious illnesses to obtain life-saving medications,

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1099.** Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. REED, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in precision medicine and biomedical research, which may include increasing funding to account for inflation, to support finding ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, and to provide long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1100.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SERVICEMEMBER AND VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to support for mental health and suicide prevention programs for members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans, which may include efforts to combat

stigma and enhance access to quality, evidence-based care inside and outside the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1101.** Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. REED, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in scientific research and development, which may include supporting biomedical research to find ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, providing long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, and supporting national security, basic energy research, innovative solutions, and American competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1102.** Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT NOT-FOR-PROFIT AND SMALL BUSINESS STUDENT LOAN SERVICERS MAY SERVICE FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that not-for-profit student loan servicers and loan servicers that qualify as small businesses are able to compete for, and carry out, service contracts for student loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq., 1087a et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1103.** Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving mental health care services for veterans, including expanding the availability of services and choices inside and outside the Department of Veterans Affairs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1104.** Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUNDS RELATING TO FOREIGN PERSONS.**

(a) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal

years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to interagency cooperation, which may include expedited interagency cooperation to identify foreign nationals subject to sanctions under title IV of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-208), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1105.** Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to community policing, which may include increasing the number of law enforcement officers who walk patrols that enable them to interact and build relationships with community members, increasing and improving training for law enforcement officers, encouraging the responsible and carefully considered use of body cameras and their recordings by law enforcement officers, encouraging law enforcement to de-escalate confrontations whenever feasible, and ensuring that prosecutions of law enforcement officers are fair and impartial, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1106.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, INCLUDING PROMOTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION (INCLUDING BELIEF) AROUND THE WORLD, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STABILITY, AND DEMOCRACY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting religious freedom, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1107.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE REFORM OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the reform of repayment plans for student loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B, D, or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1108.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT INTERNET FREEDOM AND THE CURRENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting Internet freedom and

the current multi-stakeholder governance of the Internet by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1109.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FINANCIAL VEHICLES OTHER THAN LOANS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing for financial vehicles other than loans to provide funds to pay for higher education by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1110.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving higher education data and transparency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1111.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting public-private partnerships with the National Laboratories under the Department of Energy to facilitate innovation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1112.** Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the sustainable expansion of benefits under the Social Security program and promoting the complete long-term actuarial solvency of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SA 1113.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1113

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. III. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT CONGRESS CANNOT BE CIRCUMVENTED BY ANY UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ABSENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran which may include provisions requiring Congressional approval of such agreement or provisions restricting or barring the applicability of any United Nations Security Council resolution with respect to the agreement on the United States to ensuring that any United Nations Security Council resolution on any nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran has no enforce ability in the United States absent congressional approval of such agreement by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 26, 2015, at 11:15 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without any objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 26, 2015, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Securing the Border: Defining the Current Population Living in the Shadows and Addressing Future Flows."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without any objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 26, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., in the LBJ in the Capitol.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without any objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 26, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without any objection, it is so ordered.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without any objection, it is so ordered.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 23, S. 535; that the bill be read a third time; and that the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 535) to promote energy efficiency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, shall it pass?

The bill (S. 535) was passed, as follows:

**S. 535**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS**

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Energy efficiency in Federal and other buildings.

Sec. 103. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

Sec. 104. Tenant Star program.

**TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS**

Sec. 201. Grid-enabled water heaters.

**TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

Sec. 301. Energy information for commercial buildings.

**TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS**

**SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the "Better Buildings Act of 2015".

**SEC. 102. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL AND OTHER BUILDINGS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term "cost-effective energy efficiency measure" means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides energy savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(3) COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term "cost-effective water efficiency measure" means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides water savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(b) MODEL PROVISIONS, POLICIES, AND BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and after providing the public with an opportunity for notice and comment, shall develop model commercial leasing provisions and best practices in accordance with this subsection.

(2) COMMERCIAL LEASING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection shall, at a minimum, align the interests of building owners and tenants with regard to investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures to encourage building owners and tenants to collaborate to invest in such measures.

(B) USE OF MODEL PROVISIONS.—The Administrator may use the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection in any standard leasing document that designates a Federal agency (or other client of the Administrator) as a landlord or tenant.

(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall periodically publish the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection, along with explanatory materials, to encourage building owners and tenants in the private sector to use such provisions and materials.

(3) REALTY SERVICES.—The Administrator shall develop policies and practices to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures for the realty services provided by the Administrator to Federal agencies (or other clients of the Administrator), including periodic training of appropriate Federal employees and contractors on how to identify and evaluate those measures.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall make available model commercial leasing provisions and best practices developed under this subsection to State, county, and municipal governments for use in managing owned and leased building space in accordance with the goal of encouraging investment in all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures.

**SEC. 103. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**"SEC. 424. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.**

**"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

“(1) **HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.**—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ means a technology, product, or practice that will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

“(2) **SEPARATE SPACES.**—The term ‘separate spaces’ means areas within a commercial building that are leased or otherwise occupied by a tenant or other occupant for a period of time pursuant to the terms of a written agreement.

“(b) **STUDY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall complete a study on the feasibility of—

“(A) significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction, by owners and tenants, of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) encouraging owners and tenants to implement high-performance energy efficiency measures in separate spaces.

“(2) **SCOPE.**—The study shall, at a minimum, include—

“(A) descriptions of—

“(i) high-performance energy efficiency measures that should be considered as part of the initial design and construction of separate spaces;

“(ii) processes that owners, tenants, architects, and engineers may replicate when designing and constructing separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures;

“(iii) policies and best practices to achieve reductions in energy intensities for lighting, plug loads, heating, cooling, cooking, laundry, and other systems to satisfy the needs of the commercial building tenant;

“(iv) return on investment and payback analyses of the incremental cost and projected energy savings of the proposed set of high-performance energy efficiency measures, including consideration of available incentives;

“(v) models and simulation methods that predict the quantity of energy used by separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures and that compare that predicted quantity to the quantity of energy used by separate spaces without high-performance energy efficiency measures but that otherwise comply with applicable building code requirements;

“(vi) measurement and verification platforms demonstrating actual energy use of high-performance energy efficiency measures installed in separate spaces, and whether such measures generate the savings intended in the initial design and construction of the separate spaces;

“(vii) best practices that encourage an integrated approach to designing and constructing separate spaces to perform at optimum energy efficiency in conjunction with the central systems of a commercial building; and

“(viii) any impact on employment resulting from the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) case studies reporting economic and energy savings returns in the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(3) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting

public comments regarding effective methods, measures, and practices for the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(4) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall publish the study on the website of the Department of Energy.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 423 the following new item:

“Sec. 424. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.”.

#### **SEC. 104. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) (as amended by section 103) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 425. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.**—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(2) **SEPARATE SPACES.**—The term ‘separate spaces’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(b) **TENANT STAR.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall develop a voluntary program within the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a), which may be known as ‘Tenant Star’, to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants or otherwise occupied within commercial buildings.

“(c) **EXPANDING SURVEY DATA.**—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall—

“(1) collect, through each Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey of the Energy Information Administration that is conducted after the date of enactment of this section, data on—

“(A) categories of building occupancy that are known to consume significant quantities of energy, such as occupancy by data centers, trading floors, and restaurants; and

“(B) other aspects of the property, building operation, or building occupancy determined by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to be relevant in lowering energy consumption;

“(2) with respect to the first Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey conducted after the date of enactment of this section, to the extent full compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) is not feasible, conduct activities to develop the capability to collect such data and begin to collect such data; and

“(3) make data collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) available to the public in aggregated form and provide such data, and any associated results, to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in accordance with subsection (d).

“(d) **RECOGNITION OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.**—

“(1) **OCCUPANCY-BASED RECOGNITION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which sufficient data is received pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, following an opportunity for public notice and comment—

“(A) in a manner similar to the Energy Star rating system for commercial buildings, develop policies and procedures to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces;

“(B) establish building occupancy categories eligible for Tenant Star recognition based on the data collected under subsection (c) and any other appropriate data sources; and

“(C) consider other forms of recognition for commercial building tenants or other occupants that lower energy consumption in separate spaces.

“(2) **DESIGN- AND CONSTRUCTION-BASED RECOGNITION.**—After the study required by section 424(b) is completed, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary and following an opportunity for public notice and comment, may develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 (as added by section 103(b)) the following new item:

“Sec. 425. Tenant Star program.”.

#### **TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS**

##### **SEC. 201. GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.**

Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) in section 325(e) (42 U.S.C. 6295(e)), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) **ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.**—

“(A) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **ACTIVATION LOCK.**—The term ‘activation lock’ means a control mechanism (either a physical device directly on the water heater or a control system integrated into the water heater) that is locked by default and contains a physical, software, or digital communication that must be activated with an activation key to enable the product to operate at its designed specifications and capabilities and without which activation the product will provide not greater than 50 percent of the rated first hour delivery of hot water certified by the manufacturer.

“(ii) **GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATER.**—The term ‘grid-enabled water heater’ means an electric resistance water heater that—

“(I) has a rated storage tank volume of more than 75 gallons;

“(II) is manufactured on or after April 16, 2015;

“(III) has—

“(aa) an energy factor of not less than 1.061 minus the product obtained by multiplying—

“(AA) the rated storage volume of the tank, expressed in gallons; and

“(BB) 0.00168; or

“(bb) an equivalent alternative standard prescribed by the Secretary and developed pursuant to paragraph (5)(E);

“(IV) is equipped at the point of manufacture with an activation lock; and

“(V) bears a permanent label applied by the manufacturer that—

“(aa) is made of material not adversely affected by water;

“(bb) is attached by means of non-water-soluble adhesive; and

“(cc) advises purchasers and end-users of the intended and appropriate use of the product with the following notice printed in 16.5 point Arial Narrow Bold font:

“‘IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This water heater is intended only for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program. It will not provide adequate hot water unless enrolled in such a program and activated by your utility company or another program operator. Confirm the availability of a program in your local area before purchasing or installing this product.’”

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The manufacturer or private labeler shall provide the activation key for a grid-enabled water heater only to a utility or other company that operates an electric thermal storage or demand response program that uses such a grid-enabled water heater.

“(C) REPORTS.—

“(i) MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary shall require each manufacturer of grid-enabled water heaters to report to the Secretary annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters that the manufacturer ships each year.

“(ii) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall require utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators to report annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters activated for their programs using forms of the Energy Information Agency or using such other mechanism that the Secretary determines appropriate after an opportunity for notice and comment.

“(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall treat shipment data reported by manufacturers as confidential business information.

“(D) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In 2017 and 2019, the Secretary shall publish an analysis of the data collected under subparagraph (C) to assess the extent to which shipped products are put into use in demand response and thermal storage programs.

“(ii) PREVENTION OF PRODUCT DIVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually, the Secretary shall, after opportunity for notice and comment, establish procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes.

“(E) COMPLIANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines under this section that—

“(I) grid-enabled water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement; or

“(II) sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually and procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes would not be adequate to prevent such product diversion.

“(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If the Secretary exercises the authority described in clause (i) or amends the efficiency requirement for grid-enabled water heaters, that action will take effect on the date described in subsection (m)(4)(A)(ii).

“(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this section with respect to electric water heaters, the Secretary shall consider the impact on thermal storage and demand response programs, including any impact on energy savings, electric bills, peak load reduction, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

“(iv) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall require that grid-enabled water heaters be equipped with

communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the Secretary determines that the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.”;

(2) in section 332(a) (42 U.S.C. 6302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) for any person—

“(A) to activate an activation lock for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(B) to distribute an activation key for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such activation key will be used to activate a grid-enabled water heater that is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(C) to otherwise enable a grid-enabled water heater to operate at its designed specification and capabilities with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program; or

“(D) to knowingly remove or render illegible the label of a grid-enabled water heater described in section 325(e)(6)(A)(ii)(V).”;

(3) in section 333(a) (42 U.S.C. 6303(a))—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”; and

(B) by striking “paragraph (1), (2), or (5) of section 332(a)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”; and

(4) in section 334 (42 U.S.C. 6304)—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”; and

(B) by striking “section 332(a)(6)” and inserting “section 332(a)(7)”.

### TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

#### SEC. 301. ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE FOR LEASING BUILDINGS WITHOUT ENERGY STAR LABELS.—Section 435(b)(2) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17091(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(2) by striking “signing the contract,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

“signing the contract, the following requirements are met:

“(A) The space is renovated for all energy efficiency and conservation improvements that would be cost effective over the life of the lease, including improvements in lighting, windows, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the space is benchmarked under a nationally recognized, online, free benchmarking program, with public disclosure, unless the space is a space for which owners cannot access whole building utility consumption data, including spaces—

“(I) that are located in States with privacy laws that provide that utilities shall not provide such aggregated information to multi-tenant building owners; and

“(II) for which tenants do not provide energy consumption information to the commercial building owner in response to a request from the building owner.

“(ii) A Federal agency that is a tenant of the space shall provide to the building owner, or authorize the owner to obtain from the utility, the energy consumption information of the space for the benchmarking and disclosure required by this subparagraph.”.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall complete a study—

(A) on the impact of—

(i) State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies, and any associated building efficiency policies, for commercial and multifamily buildings; and

(ii) programs and systems in which utilities provide aggregated information regarding whole building energy consumption and usage information to owners of multitenant commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings;

(B) that identifies best practice policy approaches studied under subparagraph (A) that have resulted in the greatest improvements in building energy efficiency; and

(C) that considers—

(i) compliance rates and the benefits and costs of the policies and programs on building owners, utilities, tenants, and other parties;

(ii) utility practices, programs, and systems that provide aggregated energy consumption information to multitenant building owners, and the impact of public utility commissions and State privacy laws on those practices, programs, and systems;

(iii) exceptions to compliance in existing laws where building owners are not able to gather or access whole building energy information from tenants or utilities;

(iv) the treatment of buildings with—

(I) multiple uses;

(II) uses for which baseline information is not available; and

(III) uses that require high levels of energy intensities, such as data centers, trading floors, and television studios;

(v) implementation practices, including disclosure methods and phase-in of compliance;

(vi) the safety and security of benchmarking tools offered by government agencies, and the resiliency of those tools against cyber attacks; and

(vii) international experiences with regard to building benchmarking and disclosure laws and data aggregation for multitenant buildings.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(c) CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and following opportunity for public notice and comment, the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall maintain, and if necessary create, a database for the purpose of storing and making available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings, including—

(A) data provided under Federal, State, local, and other laws or programs regarding building benchmarking and energy information disclosure;

(B) information on buildings that have disclosed energy ratings and certifications; and

(C) energy-related information on buildings provided voluntarily by the owners of the buildings, only in an anonymous form unless the owner provides otherwise.

(2) COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS.—The database maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall complement and not duplicate the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool.

(d) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary of Energy shall seek input from stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of the actions taken under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress made in complying with this section.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-  
MENT—VETO MESSAGE TO AC-  
COMPANY S.J. RES. 8

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8, the message be considered as having been read, that it be printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk; and that the Senate proceed to its consideration at a time to be determined by the majority leader with the concurrence of the Democratic leader but no later than April 30, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-  
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 13, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 23; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without any intervening action or debate on the nomination; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's ac-

tion, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARY LUCILLE JORDAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL YOUNG TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. KENNEDY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

NOMINATION OF DAVID AVREN JONES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 8, Calendar No. 9, Calendar No. 13, Calendar No. 14; that the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020; Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020; Michael D. Kennedy, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2018; and David Avren Jones, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2018.

#### VOTE ON JORDAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, to be a Mem-

ber of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON KENNEDY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael D. Kennedy, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2018?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON JONES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Avren Jones, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2018?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, except for the Funkhouser, Jackson, and Savre nominations, 73, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be major general

Brig. Gen. Nina M. Armagno  
Brig. Gen. John D. Bansemer

Brig. Gen. Casey D. Blake  
 Brig. Gen. Michael T. Brewer  
 Brig. Gen. Anthony J. Cotton  
 Brig. Gen. Clinton E. Crosier  
 Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Deale  
 Brig. Gen. Timothy G. Fay  
 Brig. Gen. Timothy S. Green  
 Brig. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, Jr.  
 Brig. Gen. David A. Harris  
 Brig. Gen. James B. Hecker  
 Brig. Gen. Scott A. Howell  
 Brig. Gen. James C. Johnson  
 Brig. Gen. Mark D. Kelly  
 Brig. Gen. Matthew H. Molloy  
 Brig. Gen. Michael D. Rothstein  
 Brig. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider  
 Brig. Gen. Barre R. Seguin  
 Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sharpy  
 Brig. Gen. James C. Slife  
 Brig. Gen. Scott F. Smith  
 Brig. Gen. Giovanni K. Tuck  
 Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck  
 Brig. Gen. James C. Vechery  
 Brig. Gen. Sarah E. Zabel

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Christopher A. Coffelt

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jeffrey A. Kruse

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Abel Barrientes  
 Brig. Gen. Brian E. Dominguez  
 Brig. Gen. John C. Flournoy, Jr.  
 Brig. Gen. Kathryn J. Johnson  
 Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Lewis, Jr.  
 Brig. Gen. Mark L. Loeben  
 Brig. Gen. Vincent M. Mancuso  
 Brig. Gen. Ronald B. Miller  
 Brig. Gen. Karen A. Rizzuti  
 Brig. Gen. Richard W. Scobee

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Dixie A. Morrow

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Leonard W. Isabelle, Jr.  
 Brig. Gen. Michael T. McGuire  
 Brig. Gen. Sami D. Said

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jay N. Selanders

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Todd M. Audet

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Arthur E. Jackman, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Vito E. Addabbo  
 Col. Thomas L. Ayers  
 Col. Maureen G. Banavige  
 Col. Dennis T. Beatty  
 Col. James N. Coombes, II  
 Col. Christian G. Funk  
 Col. Jay S. Goldstein  
 Col. Hubert C. Hegtvædt  
 Col. John A. Hickok  
 Col. Farris C. Hill  
 Col. John M. Hillyer  
 Col. Craig L. LaFave  
 Col. Pamela J. Lincoln  
 Col. Linda M. Marsh  
 Col. Steven R. Rosenmeier  
 Col. Stan A. Sheley  
 Col. Patrick M. Wade  
 Col. John B. Williams

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Johnny S. Lizama  
 Col. Thomas W. Ryan  
 Col. Scott A. Young

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. William M Knight

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10 U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. John B. Cooper

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Brig. Gen. John L. Dolan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10 U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Lee K. Levy, II

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Randall Reed

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Brian J. Mennes

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Surgeon General of the Air Force and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 8036 and 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Ediger

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Gen. Robin Rand

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Ronald J. Place

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Burke W. Whitman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael F. Fahey, III

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw  
 Brig. Gen. John K. Love  
 Brig. Gen. Niel E. Nelson  
 Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder  
 Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Chaplains, United States Army, and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 3036:

*To be major general*

Col. Paul K. Hurley

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as the Director, Army National Guard, and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Army under title 10, U.S.C., sections 10506 and 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Tammy L. Miracle

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Maria C. Powers

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5149:

*To be rear admiral*

Capt. John G. Hannink

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Arnold W. Bunch, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Stephen W. Wilson

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. James F. Caldwell, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Michael T. Franken

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. John W. Baker  
Brig. Gen. Christopher S. Ballard  
Brig. Gen. John W. Charlton  
Brig. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Edward M. Daly  
Brig. Gen. Jason T. Evans  
Brig. Gen. John G. Ferrari  
Brig. Gen. William K. Gayler

Brig. Gen. David B. Haight  
Brig. Gen. Joseph P. Harrington  
Brig. Gen. William B. Hickman  
Brig. Gen. Christioher P. Hughes  
Brig. Gen. Clayton M. Hutmacher  
Brig. Gen. Daniel L. Karbler  
Brig. Gen. James E. Kraft, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Michael E. Kurilla  
Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Martin  
Brig. Gen. Paul M. Nakasone  
Brig. Gen. Mark J. O'Neil  
Brig. Gen. Andrew P. Poppas  
Brig. Gen. James E. Rainey  
Brig. Gen. Steven A. Shapiro  
Brig. Gen. James E. Simpson  
Brig. Gen. Mark R. Stammer  
Brig. Gen. Sean P. Swindell  
Brig. Gen. Leon N. Thurgood  
Brig. Gen. Kirk F. Vollmecke  
Brig. Gen. Flem B. Walker, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Ronald P. Clark

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN95—1 AIR FORCE nominations (125) beginning KOREY E. AMUNDSON, and ending CHRISTOPHER L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN246 AIR FORCE nominations (2125) beginning CHRISTOPHER M. ABBOTT, and ending CHRISTOPHER G. ZUMMO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN247 AIR FORCE nominations (22) beginning NICOLE H. ARMITAGE, and ending SHANNON G. WOMBLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

IN THE ARMY

PN220 ARMY nomination of Jacinto Zambrano, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2015.

PN221 ARMY nominations (4) beginning CHERYL D. ANDERSON, and ending CARLTON G. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2015.

PN222 ARMY nominations (7) beginning EUGENE S. ALKIRE, and ending PATRICK R. STARESINA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2015.

PN253 ARMY nomination of Jacob A. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN254 ARMY nomination of Patrick Mascarenhas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN255 ARMY nomination of Debra Mayers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN256 ARMY nomination of Dwaipayan Chakraborti, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN257 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ERIC B. HINTZ, and ending BART D. WILKISON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN258 ARMY nomination of Kathryn A. Spletstoser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 4, 2015.

PN309 ARMY nomination of Rachel S. Theisen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2015.

PN310 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROBERT A. BLESSING, and ending PAUL L. MINOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2015.

PN311 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JOANNE S. MARTINDALE, and ending CHARLES YOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2015.

PN312 ARMY nomination of James L. Boggess, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2015.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN69 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning JOYCE A. BARR, and ending NANCY E. McELDOWNNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN70 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning KAREN L. FREEMAN, and ending MONICA STEIN-OLSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN71—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (37) beginning JEFFREY N. BAKKEN, and ending ELLEN MARIE ZEHR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN72—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (177) beginning GREGORY ADAMS, and ending TODD R. ZICCARELLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN230—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (143) beginning ALEXIOUS BUTLER, and ending NAIDA ZECEVIC BEAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2015.

PN231 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning ADAM MICHAEL BRANSON, and ending MARC C. GILKEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2015.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN225 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning ANDREW J. COPELAND, and ending BRIAN A. LIONBARGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2015.

IN THE NAVY

PN224 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SEAN M. MILLER, and ending JOSEPH B. POWELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

BENJAMIN P. GROGAN AND JERRY L. DOVE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate



proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1092.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1092) to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the "Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1092) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SLAIN OFFICER FAMILY SUPPORT ACT OF 2015

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1527, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1527) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1527) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 10, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 10) providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 10) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 194TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 105 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 105) recognizing the 194th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 105) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 19, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 125, S. Res. 126, S. Res. 127, S. Res. 128, and S. Res. 129.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 113-291, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum: Mary Boies of New York and Maria Socorro Pesqueira of Illinois.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 106-79, appoints the following Senator to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission: the Honorable GARY C. PETERS of Michigan.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 113-291, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum: Jane Abraham of Virginia and Bridget Bush of Kentucky.

#### FILING AUTHORITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, committees be allowed to file bills and reports on Tuesday, March 31, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during this adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader, the assistant majority leader, or the junior Senator from Arkansas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL  
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR  
ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the following concurrent resolutions, which were received from the House en bloc: H. Con. Res. 31 and H. Con. Res. 32.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolutions en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 31) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 32) providing for a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolutions (H. Con. Res. 31 and H. Con. Res. 32) were agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 31

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, March 26, 2015, through Friday, April 10, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

H. CON. RES. 32

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, March 27, 2015, through Monday, March 30, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 13, 2015, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may des-

ignate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate recesses or adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand recessed or adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13,  
2015

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, April 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
APRIL 13, 2015, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. PORTMAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 32.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:24 a.m., adjourned until Monday, April 13, 2015, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FRANKLIN R. PARKER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE JUAN M. GARCIA III.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

THOMAS A. BURKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PAUL T. ANASTAS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ATUL KESHAP, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.

JULIETA VALLS NOYES, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA.

ALAINA B. TEPLITZ, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL.

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN MICHAEL VAZQUEZ, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JOAL A. PISANO, RETIRED.

PAULA XINIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE DEBORAH K. CHASANOW, RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. AARON M. PRUPAS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 26, 2015:

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH  
ADMINISTRATION

MARY LUCILLE JORDAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2020.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW  
COMMISSION

MICHAEL YOUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2020.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT  
BOARD

MICHAEL D. KENNEDY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 25, 2018.

DAVID AVREN JONES, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2018.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. NINA M. ARMAGNO  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN D. BANSEMER  
BRIG. GEN. CASEY D. BLAKE  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. BREWER  
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON  
BRIG. GEN. CLINTON E. CROSIER  
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS H. DEALE  
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY G. FAY  
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY S. GREEN  
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH T. GUASTELLA, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. HARRIS  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES B. HECKER  
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT A. HOWELL  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. JOHNSON  
BRIG. GEN. MARK D. KELLY  
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW H. MOLLOY  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL D. ROTHSTEIN  
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER  
BRIG. GEN. BARRE R. SEGUIN  
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS J. SHARPY  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. SLIFE  
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT F. SMITH  
BRIG. GEN. GIOVANNI K. TUCK  
BRIG. GEN. GLEN D. VANHERCK  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. VECHERY  
BRIG. GEN. SARAH E. ZABEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. COFFELT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JEFFREY A. KRUSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ABEL BARRIENTES  
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN E. DOMINGUEZ  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. FLOURNOY, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. KATHRYN J. JOHNSON  
BRIG. GEN. KENNETH D. LEWIS, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. MARK L. LOEBEN  
BRIG. GEN. VINCENT M. MANCUSO  
BRIG. GEN. RONALD B. MILLER  
BRIG. GEN. KAREN A. RIZZUTI  
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD W. SCOBEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. DIXIE A. MORROW

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. LEONARD W. ISABELLE, JR.

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. MCGUIRE  
BRIG. GEN. SAMI D. SAID

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JAY N. SELANDERS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. TODD M. AUDET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. ARTHUR E. JACKMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. VITO E. ADDABBO  
COL. THOMAS L. AYERS  
COL. MAUREEN G. BANAVIGE  
COL. DENNIS T. BEATTY  
COL. JAMES N. COOMBES II  
COL. CHRISTIAN G. FUNK  
COL. JAY S. GOLDSTEIN  
COL. HUBERT C. HEGTVEDT  
COL. JOHN A. HICKOK  
COL. FARRIS C. HILL  
COL. JOHN M. HILLYER  
COL. CRAIG L. LAFAVE  
COL. PAMELA J. LINCOLN  
COL. LINDA M. MARSH  
COL. STEVEN R. ROSENMEIER  
COL. STAN A. SHELEY  
COL. PATRICK M. WADE  
COL. JOHN B. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JOHNNY S. LIZAMA  
COL. THOMAS W. RYAN  
COL. SCOTT A. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

LT. GEN. ELLEN M. PAWLKOWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM M. KNIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JOHN B. COOPER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

BRIG. GEN. JOHN L. DOLAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. LEE K. LEVY II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. RANDALL REED

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. BRIAN J. MENNES

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MARK A. EDIGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

GEN. ROBIN RAND

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY B. CLARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. RONALD J. PLACE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. BURKE W. WHITMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MICHAEL F. FAHEY III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. CRAIG C. CRENSHAW  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN K. LOVE  
BRIG. GEN. NIEL E. NELSON  
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN R. RUDDER  
BRIG. GEN. CRAIG Q. TIMBERLAKE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 3036:

*To be major general*

COL. PAUL K. HURLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 10506 AND 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY J. KADAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN J. TOWNSEND

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. TAMMY L. MIRACLE

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MARIA C. POWERS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5149:

*To be rear admiral*

CAPT. JOHN G. HANNINK

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ARNOLD W. BUNCH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. STEPHEN W. WILSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

VICE ADM. JAMES F. CALDWELL, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. MICHAEL T. FRANKEN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH P. DISALVO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. JOHN W. BAKER  
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER S. BALLARD  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN W. CHARLTON  
BRIG. GEN. ROGER L. CLOUTIER, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. EDWARD M. DALY  
BRIG. GEN. JASON T. EVANS  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN G. FERRARI  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM K. GAYLER  
BRIG. GEN. DAVID B. HAIGHT  
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH P. HARRINGTON  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM B. HICKMAN  
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER P. HUGHES  
BRIG. GEN. CLAYTON M. HUTMACHER  
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL L. KARBLER  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. KRAFT, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. KURILLA  
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH M. MARTIN  
BRIG. GEN. PAUL M. NAKASONE  
BRIG. GEN. MARK J. O'NEIL  
BRIG. GEN. ANDREW P. POPPAS  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. RAINEY  
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN A. SHAPIRO  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. SIMPSON  
BRIG. GEN. MARK R. STAMMER  
BRIG. GEN. SEAN P. SWINDELL  
BRIG. GEN. LEON N. THURGOOD  
BRIG. GEN. KIRK F. VOLLMECKE  
BRIG. GEN. FLEM B. WALKER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. RONALD P. CLARK

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KOREY E. AMUNDSON AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER M. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER G. ZUMMO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 4, 2015.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICOLE H. ARMITAGE AND ENDING WITH SHANNON G. WOMBLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 4, 2015.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JACINTO ZAMBRANO, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHERYL D. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH CARLTON G. SMITH, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EUGENE S. ALKIRE AND ENDING WITH PATRICK R. STARESINA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JACOB A. JOHNSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PATRICK MASCARENHAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEBRA MAYERS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DWAIPAYAN CHAKRABORTI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC B. HINTZ AND ENDING WITH BART D. WILKISON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 4, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KATHRYN A. SPLETSTOSER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RACHEL S. THEISEN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT A. BLESSING AND ENDING WITH PAUL L. MINOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 19, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOANNE S. MARTINDALE AND ENDING WITH CHARLES YOST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 19, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES L. BOGGESS, TO BE COLONEL.

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW J. COPELAND AND ENDING WITH BRIAN A. LIONBARGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

#### IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN M. MILLER AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH B. POWELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

#### FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOYCE A. BARR AND ENDING WITH NANCY E. MCELLOWNEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY

THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KAREN L. FREEMAN AND ENDING WITH MONICA STEIN-OLSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY N. BAKKEN AND ENDING WITH ELLEN MARIE ZEHR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY ADAMS AND ENDING WITH TODD R. ZICCARELLI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXIOUS BUTLER AND ENDING WITH NAIDA ZECEVIC BEAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM MICHAEL BRANSON AND ENDING WITH MARC C. GILKEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING WESTON  
BASLER ON HIS STATE WRES-  
TLING CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Weston Basler, of the Seckman High School Jaguars Wrestling team, on his win in the 132 Class 4 2015 State Wrestling Championship match.

This student and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Weston Basler for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING MR. KENNETH R.  
MOWRY FOR HIS INDUCTION TO  
THE PENNSYLVANIA HOLSTEIN  
HALL OF FAME

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth R. Mowry, a native of Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania for his recent induction into the Pennsylvania Holstein Hall of Fame. This honor culminates a career spanning over 65 years of breeding and developing some of the most productive dairy cows in the nation.

This long and successful journey in the agriculture industry began for Mr. Mowry when he joined his father at Mowry Farms, a 1,100 acre 350-cow dairy farm in Roaring Spring. In the years that followed, the farm's cattle set 52 state records and another 26 national records in dairy production. Not slowing down with achievements, Mr. Mowry also had 12 of his cows featured on the front cover of "Holstein World," a publication dedicated to Holstein breeders.

In addition to his Holstein-related contributions, Mr. Mowry should also be recognized for his dedication and service to the local community. Mr. Mowry, a member of Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church, served nearly 40 years on the Morrison's Cove Memorial Park Board of Directors, was a member of the Cove Lion's Club for 25 years, and sat on the North-ern Bedford School Board for 12 years.

Mr. Mowry's induction in the Pennsylvania Holstein Hall of Fame recognizes his outstanding career and brings great distinction upon himself, the community, and the 9th District of Pennsylvania. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations for his

many achievements and more than 50 years of selfless community service.

RECOGNIZING VIOLET SCHLITZ  
FOR HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Violet E. Schlitz on her 100th birthday, which she will celebrate on April 13th, 2015. I am proud to honor her today as an exemplary member of our community.

Since the age of 13, Mrs. Schlitz has called the United States her home. A native Canadian, she became a citizen in 1950 and in the 1970s moved to Western North Carolina and settled in Hayesville. It is there where she and her husband Lee raised their three sons and have been blessed with eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A community leader, Mrs. Schlitz was active in her sons' scouting, regularly volunteered at Chattooga Regional Hospital, and served at Sharp United Methodist Church, where she has been a faithful member. Mrs. Schlitz has selflessly served those around her, and over the years has knit more than 2,000 sweaters for needy children. Her activities reflect Mrs. Schlitz's character and the incredible size of her heart.

On behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Mrs. Violet E. Schlitz on her milestone 100th birthday and thank her for her service to our local community of Western North Carolina.

HONORING DR. AILEEN MARTY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Dr. Aileen Marty, an outstanding individual in the South Florida community.

Dr. Marty is currently professor of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. She served admirably in the United States Navy for 25 years, specializing in tropical medicine, infectious diseases pathology, and disaster medicine. She has also served as a professor at Uniformed Services University, Johns Hopkins University, the National Defense University, and the University of Valencia, Spain.

Dr. Marty's previous experience also includes coordinating work between the Depart-

ment of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security. She developed inter-agency training programs involving the Department of Agriculture and Homeland Security. Dr. Marty has worked with the White House, Congressional Conferences, has served on Blue Ribbon Committees, and has been a delegate to the World Health Association. She has worked on numerous research teams, has responded to various global emergencies, and provided consultation on a wide range of health issues. Most recently she has worked tirelessly in the fight against Ebola. Her quarter century experience in the practice, training, and research of tropical medicine, infectious disease, and pathology has led to her having published over 90 books and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Beyond her work in infectious diseases, she is an expert on chemical, biological radiation, and high-energy weapons. She is one of only 403 people listed in the international roster as a member of the United Nations Monitoring and Verification Team for Weapons of Mass Destruction. In 2001, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) designated her "Subject Matter Expert on Weapons of Mass Destruction" and used her experience and expertise to help develop plans and programs, and to coordinate with NATO allies. She has a reputation for in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in all aspects of biological agent research, clinical medicine, travel, and tropical medicine, and has earned a worldwide reputation for providing and producing excellent scientific data and innovative research.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Aileen Marty for her continued service to South Florida, and the world at-large, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 36TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RE-  
LATIONS ACT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, known as the TRA, and to express the gratitude of the American people for the contributions of the Republic of China (ROC) in World War II.

The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) was signed into law on April 10, 1979. For 36 years, it has served as the backbone of the extraordinary friendship between the ROC and the United States of America. The TRA was Congress' way of codifying a pledge from the American people to the people of Taiwan that "we will stand with you, always."

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The TRA has provided stability to Taiwan, permitting it to thrive and become the economic powerhouse it is today, and to deepen its transition to democracy.

Furthermore, as we near the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II it is just and appropriate that we should remember the great contributions of the ROC to the allied victory. In closing, I would like to point out one of the many heroic contributions of the ROC to the allied victory in World War II:

In April 1942, General Sun Li-jen led a mission to successfully rescue 7000 British soldiers and many other civilians, including Americans, who were encircled by the Japanese Army, in the Burma campaign at Yenangyaung.

We should never forget the contributions of the Republic of China to the allied victory in World War II.

Likewise, we should never forget the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act for the peace and stability, not only of Taiwan, but also for the entire East Asia region.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOCAL BROADCASTERS IN THE 24TH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss local broadcasting, and specifically how local broadcasting creates a sense of unity and involvement within local communities. The local broadcasters of Central New York have played a unique role in bringing my community closer together.

As an example, Galaxy Communications, one of our local broadcasters, operates three radio stations in the 24th District and has been working closely with the Humane Society of Central New York. Galaxy Communications has been committed to promoting Humane Society events throughout the year. The Lights on the Lake Dog Walk, annual Woolf Stock, Canine Carnival, and 7th Annual Drop-A-Thon events are just a few instances where our local broadcasters have partnered with the local community to raise money and awareness for the greater good of Central New York.

In addition to partnering with local charities, local broadcasting works to strengthen the community by recognizing the hard work, generosity, and achievements of individuals, families, and professionals throughout the 24th District. Whether it's commending the outstanding contributions that our teachers make in the daily lives of our children, highlighting the growth of small businesses, or hosting radio-a-thons and telethons that raise money for community events, local broadcasters give important recognition and support to Central New York and communities across the nation.

I greatly appreciate our local broadcasters' dedication to delivering emergency information when my community needs it and the further efforts of local broadcasters to unify, improve, and support the 24th District through their work on the air.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. JACK HILER ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jack Hiler, who will retire as the President and CEO of Stripco. During his more than 30 years of service, Mr. Hiler grew Stripco from a small steel company to a bustling family business.

Born in 1947, Mr. Hiler graduated from Penn High School and married Kathy, his high school sweetheart. In 1984, Mr. Hiler, along with his brother Ed, and his business partner Jerry Munger, purchased a portion of Sharp Steel and founded Stripco. Thanks to the success of the new company, two years later Stripco expanded and moved to a new 26 acre property in Osceola, Indiana.

For the past 43 years, Mr. Hiler and his wife have lived in Osceola, raising three sons and enjoying their ten grandchildren and recently built a home in Jimtown where they plan to live out their retirement. Family has been such an integral part of Mr. Hiler's life that his sons have followed into the family business of working at Stripco.

Through all of this, Mr. Hiler has led the business to major growth and expansion to the benefit of the local community and his family. Today, Stripco employs over 140 employees and provides a wide variety of value-added steel processes and produces and ships more than 100,000 tons of products.

Mr. Hiler has also been a dedicated public servant to his community, giving generously to Grace Baptist Church in Osceola to support missions and faith-based organizations that provide medical care, clean water to people across the world. He is a longtime supporter of local 4-H programs and is known for his willingness to help his employees and support causes important to them.

Mr. Hiler's work both in founding Stripco and as a community servant exemplify his dedication to Indiana. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Hiler on the occasion of his retirement from over three decades of contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Jack Hiler upon his retirement from Stripco. He has brought joy to countless individuals through his support and leadership and I sincerely thank him for his service, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE COD CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cape Cod Children's Museum on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

For the past two and a half decades, the Cape Cod Children's Museum has been providing children from Cape Cod and the South

Cape's younger visitors with entertaining memories that will last a lifetime. Founded in 1990 by a group of three women from Falmouth, the Cape Cod Children's Museum has since been a staple of the community. Guests of the museum immediately notice the high, vaulted ceilings that have a distinct Cape Cod charm. Under that same roof, children are greeted by wall-to-wall educational and entertaining displays. Be it the pirate ship in the main hall, with exhibits of nautical flags and terminology, or the planetarium, exposing the youth of Cape Cod to the wonders of the stars, the children's museum is an invaluable component of the community.

Since the museum moved into its present location fifteen years ago, parents have eagerly brought their children, confident that they will enjoy everything the facilities have to offer. The museum has always been a must-see for any family.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Cape Cod Children's Museum on its twenty-fifth anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Museum for its many years of success, and in applauding their efforts educating and entertaining Cape Cod's children.

#### CONGRATULATING THE SAINT FRANCIS BORGHIA STARRY KNIGHTS DANCE TEAM

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Saint Francis Borgia Starry Knights Dance Team, on their Class 2 State Championship win at the Missouri Dance Team Association competition.

These students and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing the Saint Francis Borgia Starry Knights Dance Team for a job well done!

#### HONORING MS. PATRICIA HUFF

#### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Patricia Huff, an outstanding individual in Southwest Florida.

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Ms. Huff moved to the Florida Keys in 1984. She soon became involved in several community organizations, including the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, serving as its President in 2003, 2004, and 2007 to 2010. She has published the Friends' Newsletter since 2001 and continues to serve on the Board of Directors as Vice-President. She also conducts the historic walking tours around Everglades City.



Ms. Huff co-founded the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in 2005, serving as President from 2005 to 2008, and continues as a member of the Board of Directors today. She has been a member of the Collier County Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board since 2005, and in 2009 served as Chairperson. In addition to these organizations, Ms. Huff has served as President of the Friends of Fakahatchee Strand in 2003–2004, a member of the Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce Board from 2004–2007, and currently serves on the Everglades Association. She is also co-Director (and co-founder) of the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) Executive Committee of the Naples Pathways Coalition. ROGG has received a federal grant to fund a Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the proposed pathway from Naples to Miami. Ms. Huff is currently serving on the Project Team and Steering Committees for the study.

I am privileged to know Ms. Huff, and admire her commitment to the community. In her spare time, Ms. Huff is an avid bike rider. Along with her husband Steve, they have bicycled throughout the United States and Europe every year, covering over 25,000 miles since the year 2000. She is also publisher of the "The Mullet Rapper", a bi-weekly newsletter for the Everglades community and the primary source of information for city events.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Patricia Huff for her continued service to Southwest Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER ALEX  
YAZZIE

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Officer Alex Yazzie as they mourn a husband, father, and companion gone too soon. They are joined by the grateful hearts of the community of Shiprock, the Navajo Nation, and the state of New Mexico, as we all honor a tremendous public servant who gave his life in the line of duty.

Alex had dedicated his life to serving his country and his community so that we could rest easy. From basic training at Camp Pendleton with the Marine Corps, to 14 years with the Navajo Division of Public Safety, Alex had time and time again rushed into harm's way so that we could be safer. Last Thursday was no different; Officer Alex Yazzie responded because a family was in danger, because his fellow officers were in danger, because his community needed him.

When Alex didn't come back that day he left behind a legacy of kindness and service. We are wounded by his loss, but comforted by the memories of all that he gave us and the example that he set for all those in his community.

My prayers are with those that Alex has left behind, and I hope that they find peace in this most difficult time.

## HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSALS

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, we are confronted by a set of facts that represent both tremendous opportunity and tremendous concern for our country. First, we are competing in a knowledge-based and technology-driven global economy. Second, our long-term fiscal trajectory is not sound. Third, our nation's infrastructure is increasingly inadequate and is dragging down economic growth. Fourth, millions of working Americans are still struggling to live the American Dream.

Unfortunately, none of the budgets brought to a vote on the House floor this week offer an adequate and appropriate response to these problems and priorities. I am strongly opposed to the Republican budget offered by Chairman PRICE. It fails to prepare our country for the future, hurts the most vulnerable Americans and reflects the wrong priorities, making it harder for many to pursue an education, buy a home or retire with dignity. It hurts seniors, parents and children. On balance, the Democratic alternative budget is a better reflection of our nation's values.

However, turning the budget into a political football is also not the answer. I believe that the only way we can truly address the challenges facing our country, help our workers and businesses compete and restore our fiscal health is to focus on the best ideas. I'm tired of Congress not being able to work together productively to do the people's work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY  
JANE MCSORLEY GARAMENDI

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, Congressman PETE AGUILAR, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman TED LIEU, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Con-

gressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman NORMA TORRES, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to honor and remember the life of Mary Jane McSorley Garamendi. Mary Jane passed on March 19, 2015, amongst the prayers and support of her loving family and friends. The matriarch of the Garamendi family and a lifelong resident of Calaveras County, California, Mary Jane had a strength of spirit and benevolence of character that built a vigorous family, vibrant community, and lasting legacy.

Mary Jane was born on March 21, 1921, the granddaughter of pioneering Irish-Italian immigrants. When she was only three years old, she and her sister, Anne, lost their mother and a newborn brother, but their devoted father succeeded in raising them to be strong and independent young ladies on the family cattle ranch in Chili Gulch. Mary Jane attended and graduated from Mokelumne Hill Elementary School and then from Calaveras High School in 1938. In 1942, she graduated from the University of Nevada Reno with a teaching credential for elementary and high school.

At college, Mary Jane met Raymond V. Garamendi, a fellow student and the love of her life. Following their graduations, they spent the years of World War II stationed at posts in California, Florida, and Georgia, and then returned to Chili Gulch to build their family home on the cattle ranch and begin their life raising seven children. They grew up part of the "Greatest Generation" and were determined to teach their children the tradition of agriculture, the power of education, and the importance of good governance.

Mary Jane's narrative is one of family, service, and community betterment. Always deeply engaged in civic affairs, she participated in the Mokelumne Hill Elementary School Parents Club, Mokelumne Hill Community Club, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Altar Society, Calaveras County Historical Society, Calaveras County Democratic Club and Central Committee, Calaveras County American Association of University Women, Mokelumne Hill Community Historical Trust, and the Mokelumne Hill History Society. She volunteered as a Cub Scout leader and Catechism teacher, served as a foreman on the Calaveras Grand Jury, and became a Board Member for the Mark Twain St. Joseph Foundation. She was a devout Catholic and lifelong parishioner of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Mokelumne Hill, which afforded other opportunities to engage and enrich the community. Whether she was serving at the Calaveras Women's Shelter, the Mokelumne Hill History Center, or the Calaveras County Museum, she readily and enthusiastically donated her time, heart, and energy to the people and places around her.

A civic leader, Mary Jane was honored by the Phi Beta Phi Fraternity in recognition of 75 years of membership, earning the honor of induction into the Diamond Arrow Society. In 2009, she was named the State of California "Woman of the Year" by her son, JOHN GARAMENDI, who was California Lieutenant Governor at the time. Her contributions to education, agriculture, and government also helped earn an honor for the Garamendi family by the Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee.

For Mary Jane, life itself was an act of joy and remembering. This shone through her commitment to the preservation of her rich Irish-Italian heritage and her careful studying of the Pitto and McSorley family histories. When Ray passed away in 1991, Mary Jane oversaw the family ranch alongside her son, Robert, allowing the working traditions to continue uninterrupted. The Ranch, which received a California Agriculture Heritage Award in 2005, is now in its 152nd year of operation, spanning six generations and lending a sense of tradition and timelessness to the family's weddings, reunions, and Christmas parties.

Mary Jane was a friend, a global adventurer, and the best sports enthusiast her children and grandchildren could ever hope for. Mary Jane's love and legacy continue on in the spirit, vigor, and joy of her 21 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her unconditional love, her interminable commitment to service, and the popsicles she kept stocked in the freezer for the children to enjoy after summer swims. Reflecting back on her proud gold country heritage, her many years of good health, her large and ever-growing family, she would often say, "I am a very lucky lady." We were lucky to have known her, and are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to honor such a full and profound life.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN LEADERS OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to take a moment to honor a few women from New York who were trailblazers of the gun violence prevention movement.

Barbara Hohlt, Tina Johnstone, Ellen Freudenheim, and Robyn Ringle are founders of and volunteers with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence who worked tirelessly to pass the original Brady Bill in 1993, which strengthened federal background checks on firearms purchasers. These women, along with my constituent Donna Dees-Thomases, and countless others went on to organize the historic "Million Mom March" which will celebrate its 15 year milestone this year on Mother's Day.

These volunteers and activists are the backbone of the movement for sensible gun laws and safer communities. With the leadership of these courageous women and others like them, New York has taken important steps to improve our gun safety laws, including requiring background checks on all gun sales. It is critical that Congress follow through on sensible reforms to close existing loopholes, prevent accidental handgun deaths, and provide law enforcement with the necessary resources to keep dangerous firearms out of the wrong hands.

In keeping with the theme of this Women's History Month: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives," I would like to enter into the CON-

GRESSIONAL RECORD the testimony of one mother in particular, Karin Wilson. She was a talented Brooklyn artist who in 2005 delivered these words before the United Nations. If you take the time to read her words, you'll understand the toll of gun violence on our society and the need for bold action in Congress.

NO CHILD'S LIFE SHOULD END WITH A BANG  
KARIN WILSON, MILLION MOM MARCH, BROOKLYN  
ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS JULY 2005

I lost my beloved son, my only child Christian on December 3, 1999. Just 28 days after he turned 19, he was a man-child, not quite an adult but past adolescence. The millennium came in a way I could have never imagined. The pain is indescribable; the magnitude of my loss makes me inconsolable. I've been wronged and robbed! I'm from the United States, I live in the state of New York, born and raised in the Borough of Brooklyn, which is just across the river from here. The U.S. is one of the most powerful and technologically advanced countries on this planet. We haven't fought a war in this country since the American Civil War, a war that was fought from 1861-1865.

Yet in my neighborhood and in many others in this country we hear gun shots at night. Parents start doing silent headcounts of their children after hearing the sounds of gun shots. We have neighbors, friends and family members who were killed or maimed with a firearm. Because of my son's death I became part of the largest grassroots anti-gun violence movement in the United States.

Let me tell you how my life has changed. I won't have the comfort of my son looking after me in my old age. I won't have my son around making sure I'm eating well, taking my medications properly, taking care of my bills, making sure that my house is warm in winter, and sidewalks shovelled and de-iced when it snows. I don't have any more graduations to attend, or opportunities to applaud successful career achievements. I no longer hear funny stories or jokes (and I was told my son was one of the funniest guys around, he kept people laughing and feeling good.) But worst of all I can't look or touch him anymore.

When you people leave here, and fly back home to your country, you probably have wives and husbands, children and grandchildren. You know it's through our children we get a little bit of immortality. You know your face, your body type, your values are going to be around long after you're gone . . . because of your children. Children are our legacy.

Well I was robbed. And it looks like I won't have a legacy now. My face, my body type, my values will probably disappear when I die. It doesn't look like any part of me will appear in the future. In the next century it will be as if I never, ever existed. And, that's pretty sad.

I've learned that there is nothing definite, overt action to overcome the inertia of grief. Most of us have someone who needs us. If we haven't, we can find someone! So instead of praying for the strength to survive, I prayed for the strength to give away.

I joined the MILLION MOM MARCH. I went from being a victim of gun violence to a survivor of gun violence. And, now I'm an advocate for survivors. I'm thoroughly committed to saving other children. Though I couldn't save my own child's life, I'm going to do all I can to save yours.

I know it is possible to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by gun violence. Our children have the right to grow up in environments free from the threat of gun

violence. My son certainly had that right which he didn't get.

Our children want to grow old. All humans have the right to be safe from gun violence in their homes, neighborhoods, schools and places of work and worship.

Gun violence is a public health crisis of global proportions that harms not only the physical, but the spiritual, social and economic health of our families and communities.

The Million Mom March has a slogan, which I subscribe to 100 percent: "No child's life should end with a bang".

I am trying to understand why my child had to die by gunshot, but I don't understand. I know that you people listening to me have very powerful positions in your governments, and you'll probably never cross paths with women like me again. So I implore to listen compassionately to what we have said today.

If I had one wish, it would be that all governments would monitor the manufacture and distribution of firearms and bullets with the same degree of care that they use to monitor the removal of nuclear waste from reactors.

We have an opportunity to change laws and create real accountability on these items. We have to stand up now and be counted on to do the right thing!

#### RECOGNIZING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

##### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of the victims of the Khojaly Massacre which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The Khojaly Massacre claimed six hundred and thirteen innocent civilians and remains one of the most devastating acts of violence in South Caucasus history. To date the fate of one hundred and fifty Khojaly civilians remain unknown.

Due to the rising tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan there are countless casualties and innocent lives taken daily. More so than ever the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict calls for fair, political, and comprehensive settlement in order to encourage multi-national stability and economic prosperity. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains devoted to working with both sides to achieve these goals. As we honor the victims of the Khojaly Massacre we must stay committed to working together to protect the human rights of all.

#### STOP TARGETING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted on Wednesday, March 25, in favor of H. Con. Res. 27, authored by Budget Committee Chairman TOM PRICE, because it is my belief

that Congress has a responsibility to address our nation's fiscal crisis.

This proposal is simply a visionary document and a way forward in the budgetary process so we can continue the debate about the financial challenges our country faces and return to funding the government through regular order.

Like last year's proposal, the budget plan for FY 2016 calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, reduced taxes and the full repeal of the President's costly health care reform law. It proposes a balanced budget in less than 10 years and recognizes that we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in mandatory spending on entitlement programs that almost completely consume our nation's budget.

This year's plan also asks Members of Congress to again lead by example by cutting their own pay, benefits and office budgets in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing.

Further, the proposal protects our nation's defense and security forces. I have repeatedly said that we must get serious about the national security threats that exist in this world and what is required of our forward presence and response forces.

This budget gives the United States the flexibility and capabilities that are essential to the rebalance of our security posture toward the Asia Pacific, our enduring security commitments in the Middle East, and the need to respond to contingency operations around the globe.

Our nation has no greater asset than the folks who have served and are currently serving our nation, both military and civilian alike. Their dedication and service to our nation is unwavering and it is important that Congress provide the best equipment, training, and compensation so these men and women can meet their duties in full. The House budget plan restores national security spending and helps our defense maintain its current strength.

These are all measures that I have and will continue to support; however, it is disappointing that this proposal, just as in past budget proposals, unfairly targets only one group of Americans for additional sacrifices: the civilian federal workforce.

I have serious concerns that this resolution again forces federal employees to contribute more towards their retirement, approximately six percent, which is the equivalent of a pay cut, and eliminates their defined benefit retirement plan for deficit reduction purposes. It also goes farther than previous budget plans by proposing to decrease the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Fund (G Fund).

America's First District is full of hardworking and dedicated citizens who serve the people of this nation every day, such as on the front lines of the War on Terror or in support roles for our military. Still others provide invaluable services at places such as VA hospitals, cancer and Alzheimer's research laboratories, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and DEA. And yet, federal civilian employees continue to see their pay cut and their benefits reduced on nearly every occasion.

Federal employees have already endured a three-year pay freeze; furloughs due to se-

questration; and were required to not work because of indecision and political gamesmanship that resulted in a government shutdown on October 1, 2013 lasting 16 days. In addition, employees hired since 2012 have seen required contribution increases to their retirement, bringing our federal workers' total sacrifice to date to \$159 billion over ten years.

It is because of these sacrifices that I supported legislation to allow furloughed workers to receive back pay for time out of work during the 2013 shutdown. In addition, I introduced the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, which would extend the tax credit available to military personnel who serve in combat zones to the civilian federal employees that work alongside them.

Congress charges federal employees with important duties and expects these duties to be performed with the highest caliber of expertise, but rather than being recognized for their service, these public servants see their salary and benefits continually used as a pawn in the game of politics. We continue to ask our federal civilian workforce to do more with less.

According to data collected by the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, there has been a decline in federal employee job and workplace satisfaction for the fourth consecutive year. A score sheet compiled by the Partnership for Public Service shows that government-wide, federal employee job satisfaction and commitment fell 0.9 points in 2014 to a score of 56.9 out of 100. Morale among our nation's civilian federal workforce is at a historical low and these continued attacks keep the highly-skilled and experienced people we need from seeking a federal job.

Enough is enough.

I am fully ready and willing to enact deeper cuts to my own salary, benefits and congressional operations, which are provisions included in this year's budget, but we must stop singling out federal employees simply because Congress continually fails to address the out-of-control spending.

There is no question that our nation must get its spending in order, and federal employees have been and are certainly willing to continue to do their part to help in this effort.

Their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable, and yet during deficit reduction debate over the last several years, federal employees have been asked to contribute much more than their fair share. Our federal civilian employees live a life of selfless service and they deserve our appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I voted in support of H. Con. Res. 27 because it is Congress' constitutional duty to budget and appropriate. Congress must get back to regular order. Congress does our federal employees no favors when governing by continuing resolution and through crisis management. We must bring more certainty to the annual federal appropriations process.

This budget proposal is a means for Congress to further discuss our country's fiscal challenges, but I will continue to push for deficit reduction efforts in the future that focus more realistically on addressing the true drivers of our debt, rather than targeting those who serve their nation every day.

HONORING MS. JOSIE BACALLAO

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Josie Bacallao, an outstanding individual in the South Florida community.

Ms. Bacallao is currently President and CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF). Founded more than 30 years ago by community leaders, HUF was formed to ease the acclimation transition for immigrants from other nations. Today, this nonprofit organization provides assistance, through 19 programs, to Broward's diverse community. HUF remains the county's largest agency dedicated to the immigrant population, providing them with the tools they need to build a new life. Having been born in Cuba, raised in South Florida, and educated at Florida International University, no one is better suited to lead this organization.

Prior to her work at HUF, Ms. Bacallao was Vice President/Marketing Director for the Sun-Sentinel Company and worked for The Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald as their VP/Marketing for more than 20 years. Beyond her professional background and work, she also sits on the board of CareerSource Broward, Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance, and the Advisory Board of Florida Blue. She is a member of the Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, and the Broward Chamber of Nonprofit Organizations.

Throughout her career Ms. Bacallao has been recognized for her achievements. She was honored with the Silver Medallion from National Conference for Community and Justice; was named to the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame; and received United Way of Broward County's Human Services Professional Award. Legal Aid and Service of Broward County bestowed the Russell E. Carlisle Advocacy Award on Ms. Bacallao for her work in creating pro bono immigration clinics. She also received one of the most meaningful awards of her career, The Jim Moran Foundation Award, for her work leading a nonprofit organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Josie Bacallao for her continued service to South Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

A TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY MOSER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lindsay Moser for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the

Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Lindsay has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her exemplary work with Principal Financial Group Inc. is a testament to that. As the Campus and Diversity & Inclusion Manager for Principal Financial Group, Lindsay is passionate about going the extra mile. Lindsay's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lindsay in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lindsay on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

REMEMBERING ANDREW J.  
PARISE, MAYOR OF THE VIL-  
LAGE OF CEDARHURST, NY

### HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Andrew Parise, the long-time mayor of the Village of Cedarhurst who passed away last month at the age of 90. A decorated veteran of World War II, Mayor Parise fought in the Battle of the Bulge and personally bore witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust when his division liberated the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. After the war, Mayor Parise returned home and spent 60 years as a decorated public servant, fully devoted to his neighbors and his community.

I wish to share the following essay by Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky, remembering Mayor Parise as a man who led by example, who welcomed human beings of all religions, races and ethnicities and created a spirit of equality and inclusiveness in the Cedarhurst community that will live on long after his passing.

[From AMI Magazine, Feb. 18, 2015]

#### A MAYOR TO REMEMBER

(By Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky)

I went back to the shtetl last week. You know, like the fellows who go back to Hungary or Poland 50 years after the war, the ones who left when they were little kids. When they get there, though, it's a different shtetl.

Of course, some of their old neighbors are still there. You know, the Januariuszes and the Stanislaws in Poland and the Andrashes and Ferkos in Hungary. There they are milling around, looking at you with a mixture of

disdain and curiosity, and you're not exactly sure what you're doing there either.

Still, there's something that always draws a person back to his beginnings. What is it? Maybe it's a longing for "your land, your birthplace and the house of your father" that even pogroms, concentration camps and ruthless natives can't repress.

You are wondering, I am sure, where I went. No, it was not the little village of Tzitivyan in Lithuania, nor was it Dolhinov, Minsk or even Ostrov.

I went back to the world in which I was born and raised, before it was transformed into a vastly different universe. A remnant of that world was compressed and transplanted into a funeral home in Lynbrook, Long Island, where my father and I went to pay our respects to the old neighborhood and its colorful characters.

Andrew Parise, our backyard neighbor for 58 years, and the mayor of the Village of Cedarhurst since 1995, passed away last week. At a time when Jews were a minority in Woodmere and Cedarhurst—and Orthodox Jews almost nonexistent—Mayor Parise opened his arms and embraced us warmly.

Mr. Parise was loved and revered by everyone. Possibly the oldest active mayor in the United States, he commanded respect; indeed, no one ever referred to him as anything other than "the mayor." It was, *lehavdil*, almost like "the rosh yeshivah."

It's hard for city folks to relate to a mayor who rode around in an older Lincoln Town Car with a license plate reading "CEDMAYOR," stopping to kibbitz with the locals, and offering rides to people when it rained. He implored my father and me to cut through his backyard to shorten our Shabbos walk to shul, and worked diligently on solving zoning problems for the myriad *shtiebelach* popping up on village street corners.

It was gentiles like Andy Parise who facilitated the harmonious transformation of Cedarhurst, a very secular town that, along with four other similar villages, burgeoned into the Orthodox community known as the Five Towns.

My trip to the funeral home in Lynbrook was a trip back in time, as I met so many players of the original five *shtetlach* there, people whose influence and presence were so prominent when I was a kid.

Of course, joining me in the room was my father and an Avi, an Asher and an Ari, much younger than I and strangers to the past to which I'd come to pay my respects. Still, for the most part it was the universe of the pre-frum Five Towns, when the Nickys, Jimmys, Tonys, Joeys and Jesses dominated. If I closed my eyes I could almost hear my father pleading and cajoling to get the garbage picked up, the zoning approved or the unions to back off.

In those days, the Italians ran the town. Orthodox Jews were an anomaly; a yarmulke was such a strange sight on Central Avenue that I remember distinctly tugging on my mother's sleeve whenever I saw another one and shouting, "Look, Ma! He's wearing a yarmulke!"

As I made my way up to the front of the room in search of the Parise children I was stopped by Nick Fabrizio. When I was a kid he was a bus driver; now he owns the bus company. It was one of the largest independent bus companies in our area. While he still comes into the business every day he has passed most of the reins—or the wheels—over to his son Michael. "Hey! Rabbi!" he called out. "How's your pop? I remember how he used to call me at five o'clock in the

morning on snow days, pleading with me to pick up the kids even though the public schools were closed!" He was interrupted by Nicky DeSibio, whose father, affectionately known as Uncle Pete, used to be a big Republican politician.

"What a loss," he said, shaking his head. "Were you aware that I did all the zoning work for you guys when your father had all these problems with the yeshivah back in the day?" Then he spotted my elderly father and hugged him. "Rabbi! I was just telling your son . . ."

He was relating some of his "war stories" when a voice rang out as if we were standing at a wedding. "Hey! It's Muttie!" Yes, that was my sobriquet well before my hair turned gray. "I've never forgotten you! How's your dad? How's Tzqueaky?" pronouncing my brother Zvi's name the exact same way all the kids, as well as Mr. Shave, our Irish tenant, used to. It was David Parise, the youngest of Andy's three kids, as enthusiastic and warm as always.

I could remember myself as a seven-year-old kid with a large yarmulke, watching the older fellows, Parise, Ferguson, Collins and Newman, playing stickball. They always let me play with them and never made fun of my head covering or my religion. And I can't remember a negative remark against Leroy Collins, the first and only black kid in the neighborhood. I even joined them on some of their mischievous adventures at the Cedarhurst railroad station, which by today's standards are rather innocuous, but I would still rather not mention.

David was peppering me with questions and I was asking him if he knew whatever happened to the rest of the gang. All of a sudden my mind was in a 50-year-old place, filled with Farinas, Lanzillottas and DiLorenzos. As the names came swirling back at me I wondered: Why hadn't I experienced all the anti-Semitism I'd heard so much about?

Then my eyes glanced at the mayor, lying in repose in a half-opened coffin, next to the myriad medals he'd received fighting the Nazis and liberating Buchenwald, including a Purple Heart. I thought about the tone he'd set for his family and for all of his friends.

When asked, he was proud to talk about his experiences. "When we got to Buchenwald, there were no live people left; maybe a few. Mostly there were lower pits filled with skeletons. General Eisenhower wanted us to go into the concentration camps so we could be witnesses to Hitler's atrocities."

I thought of the early years, when he'd embraced my father's presence and vision for the town. I thought of all the times my father went to him to take care of a "problem."

I also remembered hearing stories from other rabbis, some of whom arrived years later. Rabbi Aryeh Ginzberg once related how the mayor had refused to let him sit on a folding chair in his office, insisting on schlepping in a big comfortable leather one for him. "My rabbi doesn't sit on a folding chair if I can do anything about it," he said.

The Mayor would always visit our sukkah, and I heard that after my parents started going away for Yom Tov he continued the tradition by visiting the sukkah of Rabbi Zalman Wolowik, the local Chabad shaliach. When Rabbi and Rebbetzin Wolowik were sitting shivah for their son, Levi Yitzchak, the mayor visited every day.

Somehow, he always managed to figure out a way to make things work, whether it was a shul having a problem with zoning laws or trying to get additional parking spaces. His

favorite motto was something like the Gemara's "koach d'heteira adif": "Some people in authority express power by saying no. I express it by saying yes."

As I looked at the medals I thought of what it must have been like for an Italian kid fighting the Nazis and liberating the Jews.

I also reflected on how the towns and the landscape have changed. Orthodox Jews are now on the board of local villages; the deputy (and soon to be) mayor of Cedarhurst is a trustee of the Young Israel of Woodmere. Torah-observant citizens make up the majority of the school board.

I glanced at the coffin and the medals, and the Purple Heart. Being among all the people who had treated my father and our family with such warmth and accommodation, I thought, "I may have gone back to the shtetl of my youth, but I was not with the Lithuanian, Polish or Hungarian collaborators." I was in the presence of the soldiers, and their children who are fighting the Nazis until this very day.

#### CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marks the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped to encourage a particularly strong economic partnership. Over the course of the last few decades, Taiwan has created a thriving and innovative economy that most countries around the world envy. Taiwan plays a critical role in the supply of everyday products and is fully integrated in the global economy.

Also, as we near the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it is just and appropriate that we remember the Republic of China's important contributions to the alliance that defeated fascist militarism in that heroic struggle.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to many more decades of cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship with this fellow republic, the dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARJUN KUNJILWAR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I

have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Arjun Kunjilwar attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

#### VOTING: A POWERFUL WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

During the time when the US Constitution was first proposed, why was it important that every one of the 13 states ratified it? There wasn't a need for a unanimous vote, but there was a need for unity and full cooperation. In a similar sense, while voting on an issue doesn't have to be undisputed, it represents a loyalty and adherence to the American belief of democracy where individual voices and opinions can be freely expressed. Every citizen should vote in any election because individual beliefs can unite together to achieve anything desired. A vote can represent so many things. It has the power to magnify one's voice so that it can be heard by others. It can help drive change when many are put together. It signifies a person's concern and perspective of what actions will lead to improvement. It can unite a group of people to help work towards a certain goal.

In today's society, presidential election voting seems to have lost some of its importance. Since 2004, while the number of people who are eligible to vote has increased by 18,000 (attributed to increasing population), the number of people who actually fill out the ballot has increased only about 7,000, and the percent of the population that actually does vote has dropped about 2%. In a society that constantly focuses on what can be improved, voting provides the stimulus for change. People may choose not to vote because they don't feel as if their opinion will cause or spark anything. Yet, voting is the most efficient tool in the hands of the public that can steer the nation in the direction they desire. It also allows the governing bodies to know what is exactly expected of them and keeps them in check. Voting therefore, represents an unalienable role in the government, and should be considered as an important duty of every citizen.

Finally the right to vote it is the greatest symbol of any democracy where the freedom to make choices will always prevail. While the voting process might not give every citizen his or her vision of a perfect society, those who choose to vote express a loyalty to their nation and the want to have it functioning perfectly. So while all votes might not be needed to determine a majority, doesn't each and every one of them have their own value?

#### HONORING DAVID SHUFFLER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we give pause this month to commemorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans

have made—and continue to make—to our nation, I rise to honor a Bronx activist, organizer and impassioned voice for community empowerment. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to applaud Mr. David Shuffler for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Mr. Shuffler was born and raised in the South Bronx where he continues to live, work, and serve the community today. Mr. Shuffler is the Executive Director at Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ). YMPJ is a multi-service, faith based, grassroots community organization located in the Bronx River/Soundview sections of the Bronx that has served the community with unwavering dedication for more than twenty years.

Mr. Shuffler began his career as a public servant when he became a member at Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice in the summer of 1994. Upon quickly joining the staff at YMPJ, Mr. Shuffler became an integral part of forming the original R.I.V.E.R. Team, which led grassroots community organizing efforts that resulted in victories like the creation of Concrete Plant Park and Starlight Park. Today, these parks offer more than thirty acres of waterfront park space, and play a critical role in the realization of the South Bronx Greenway. Mr. Shuffler was also a leader on other important issue campaigns such as unemployment and police reform. The breadth of issues that David Shuffler has worked to champion over the years speaks to the power of his vision, and his commitment to ensuring that the quality of life of individuals in our community is consistently improving.

Today, Mr. Shuffler continues to influence various levels of government on a wide spread of local issues. Over the course of his career he has been able to secure over \$50 million dollars for community led efforts throughout the city and helped move effective policy which has directly benefitted some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. I am grateful to Mr. Shuffler for his ongoing dedication to our community, and I am honored to call him a fellow public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. David Shuffler for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JOHN AMOROSO

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief John Amoroso on his retirement after four years of dedicated service as the Chief of Police to the people of Avenal, California.

Chief Amoroso was born on June 10, 1956 in San Francisco, California. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1974.

He went on to attend the College of the Sequoias on a baseball scholarship, where he earned an Associate of Science Degree.

In July 1976, Chief Amoroso married Susan Brown. The couple would go on to have two daughters, Amy and Melissa.

Chief Amoroso started his distinguished law enforcement career in 1979 with the Hanford Police Department (HPD). He served with the department for nine years and earned the rank of Sergeant before being hired by the Kings County Sheriff's Office in 1988. In 1992, Chief Amoroso was awarded a Medal of Valor for his work in a SWAT mission that resulted in the arrest of a double homicide suspect. Chief Amoroso spent 21 years with the Kings County Sheriff's Office before retiring in December 2009.

On April 1, 2010, the City of Avenal hired Chief Amoroso to establish Avenal's first police department. In addition to hiring officers, acquiring equipment, purchasing vehicles, and facilitating officer training, he designed the Ken Brown Public Safety Center where the Avenal Police Department is located.

Chief Amoroso's work to establish the Avenal Police Department fully materialized on November 15, 2010 when the Avenal Police Department relieved the Kings County Sheriff's Office and assumed full responsibility for law enforcement in the City of Avenal.

After dedicating his life to law enforcement, Chief Amoroso is retiring on April 10, 2015.

Avenal and the entire Central Valley community have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated law enforcement officer such as Chief Amoroso to ensure the wellbeing of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Chief John Amoroso for his thirty five years of dedicated law enforcement work in the Central Valley and congratulating him on his recent retirement from the Avenal Police Department.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JAIMIE MILLER-ACKLEY

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jaimie Miller-Ackley for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jaimie has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her ex-

emplary work with Iowa Credit Union Foundation is a testament to that. As the Executive Director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, Jaimie is passionate about going the extra mile. Jaimie's exemplary work ethic and dedication to service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jaimie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jaimie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### HONORING WILLIE RENE LEFLORE

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Willie Rene Leflore.

Ms. Leflore is a lifetime resident of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier encouraging others to sign up and be counted. In her words, "Gone are the days of nurturing, chopping, hoeing, hauling water pails, getting up early, catching Bill Henderson's bus, etcetera, to work from sun up to sun down for \$3.15 daily".

Growing up, Ms. Leflore wanted to be free to enter the front doors of Labella Restaurant and ride at the front of the Greyhound Bus. So, Ms. Leflore took a stand, and marched beside Cora Stone Johnson, Nelson Dotson, John Richardson, Lene and others for her civil rights.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier for what is right. She believes in receiving the same privileges and rights as other races. She believes that all adults have their own mind to decide on what they want to participate in as long as it is right. She fought for that privilege. It was an acquired desire to march beside others who shared the same belief.

Ms. Leflore worked, never missing a day unless she was sick. When she became ill, she had to retire. She has received numerous commendations as a loyal supporter of all athletic activities at Gentry High School. To this day, she still uses the phone as her legs and mouth, encouraging others to stand and show themselves approved. She believes that standing for what you believe in regardless, of the odds against you, and the pressure that tears at your resistance means courage, which is what she had to constantly remind herself of. She always kept a smile on her face, even when on the inside she felt like dying. She stopped at nothing. Doing what was instilled in her heart, is to make another's life a little more bearable. When she was in the moment, she was loyal, she wasn't selfish and she kept her head high.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Willie Rene Leflore for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. LONNIE POWELL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO KANSAS CITY'S ARTISTIC COMMUNITY

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the contributions of Kansas City Artist and Educator, Mr. Lonnie Powell. Mr. Powell is a native of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent, and his professional contributions continue to enhance the skills of young artists, and have united artists for the purpose of showcasing talent. Additionally, his unique abilities have created a treasure of expressive visual art. To have the respect of one's peers and the leadership skills to make a significant difference in one's community is the rarest of gifts. But to have the additional commitment, energy, and desire to pursue and achieve one's goals are equally extraordinary qualities.

Mr. Powell's artistic development began at a young age, when he cultivated the desire to draw and create using his pencil. Despite the stress his father had placed on the importance of trade skills for financial stability, after graduating from Central High School in Kansas City, Powell chose to pursue higher education. He graduated from Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, and promptly began his long career in education.

From 1966 to 1975, Powell taught art at several schools in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. He introduced his students to different artistic techniques and delighted in their individual creativity. Powell began working on his Master's Degree in Art Education at Central Missouri State College and had completed 37 hours when the private sector enticed him to leave teaching and join the corporate world. At Xerox Corporation, he made President's Club, an honor reserved for the upper echelon of the national sales force. Though he had significant accomplishments, and had received numerous awards, there was little time left for creating art. He missed the students and felt a pervading emptiness. Therefore, after eight years in the corporate world, Powell returned to his real passion, teaching art. He has often said that he learned from his students as much as they learned from him. He quotes Pablo Picasso, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

In 2000, Powell retired from teaching and focused on his own artistic career. He is well known for his visual narratives which illustrate the subject's feeling and glimpses into their thoughts. Through mediums of oil, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, and pencil, he exposes the soul. For Powell, a finished piece is first appreciated and then evaluated in order to avoid complacency and continually strive to improve.

In 2001, Lonnie Powell became the founder and president of The Light in the Other Room. This organization remains active and has formed many partnerships in the name of art.



Powell had envisioned a collaborative of African-American, Kansas City based artists that would benefit both the community and participating artists. Powell says, "The two greatest joys for me have been learning from each other and causing a bit of a stir in the Kansas City Area. We are very optimistic about our future and the future of our beloved metropolitan area." His organization has worked with The Greater Kansas City Links, The Jackson County Links, Hatebusters Inc., The Epstein Gallery, The Sister City Association of Kansas City, Missouri, Central Missouri State University, William Jewell College, Vaughn Cultural Center, and Portfolio Gallery and Education Center of St. Louis, Missouri, to name a few.

Powell has participated in solo and group exhibits at Ethnic Art Gallery, the Central Exchange, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum, The American Jazz Museum's Changing Gallery, The Vine Street Studio, The Review Studio and many others. His creations have also been accepted in numerous competitions around the country.

His exhibits at numerous colleges and universities include: Park University, Western Missouri University, Lincoln University, Rockhurst University (where he spent a year as artist in residence from 1969 to 1970), The University of Central Missouri, Avila College, William Jewell College and the Kansas University Medical Center.

Powell's art is in numerous private collections, as well as corporate collections including: Sprint Nextel Corporation, H&R Block Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Fishnet Corporation, Andrew/McMeel Universal, Sports Association Management, Inc., Truman Medical Center. The American Jazz Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art (Oppenheimer Collection) and The Mulvane Art Museum all have his art as part of their permanent collections. Additionally, he has some pieces in The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum's permanent collection as well as in their traveling exhibition, Shades of Greatness, which tours galleries and museums across the country.

In 2005, Powell was awarded Signature membership in the National Watercolor Society. He won the NWS Combined Donors' C Award for his piece, South Sun. In 2006, he was named one of the "Ones to Watch" by Watercolor Magic Magazine (now Watercolor Artist Magazine). In 2013, Powell was awarded "Best of Show", at the Harlem X-Hibit, Black Art in America.

One of Powell's most bittersweet experiences took place in 2007 when he traveled with Change the Truth to Kajjansi, Uganda. There, he worked with the children of St. Mary Kevin's Orphanage. This was a profound experience in which he first felt initial shock, seeing children with so very little. However, he will tell you of the joy he came to know from working with these young children as many were extremely talented. Powell says he found it hard to leave his little students behind.

Powell is blessed with a wonderful family, including his lovely wife, Brenda, their son, Gregory, (and his wife, Tava) and a beautiful granddaughter, Jaden.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Lonnie Powell for his endless commitment to

our artistic community. He is not only a role model for our artists, but he serves as an example of how we can all live our lives. Mr. Speaker, his art moves us and his contributions have enlightened our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANGIE PFANNKUCH

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angie Pfannkuch for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angie has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does, and her exemplary work with Olson Associates Inc. is a testament to that. As Development Consultant she utilizes her management abilities to develop large land renovations in Des Moines to revitalize historic areas. In her free time Angie likes to dedicate herself to serving others. She recently took a mission trip to Ghana to help establish an orphanage, King Cares International's first project in Africa. In all aspects of her life, Angie is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH ON ITS CENTENNIAL

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the City of Miami Beach in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Incorporated on March 26th, 1915, Miami Beach took its place on the map with only a handful of residents. Now home to nearly 100,000 people, the City of Miami Beach has not only grown in population but in reputation.

This vacation paradise is an internationally recognized tourist destination visited by millions each year. However, for as much as Miami Beach is known for its fun and sun, it has evolved into a hub for business and is a trendsetter in the areas of arts and culture, fine dining and entertainment.

More than 100 years ago, Miami Beach pioneers Carl Fisher, John Collins and the Lummus brothers had a vision to develop a small island that could stand as a city in and of itself. Combining their efforts, the Collins Bridge, the longest wooden bridge in the world at that time, was constructed to connect Miami's mainland with this new island community. And with just 33 registered voters, John Newton Lummus was elected the city's first mayor. Soon thereafter, the building boom of the 1920's helped create the now historic and famed Art Deco district, known to the world as "South Beach."

As a matter of fact, Miami Beach is home to numerous sites in the National Register of Historic Places, from the Venetian Causeway to the Fontainebleau Hotel to Beth Jacob Congregation which now houses the Jewish Museum of Florida. The city's various neighborhoods are as distinct as its residents, from South Beach to Mid Beach to North Beach, Miami Beach radiates a true sense of community.

Miami Beach has served as a cultural playground for entertainers such as Jackie Gleason, Frank Sinatra and even The Beatles who performed on the Ed Sullivan Show live from the Deauville Hotel.

This month Miami Beach will celebrate its Centennial with 100 hours of showcasing its history and all the city has to offer, including a performance by Miami Beach residents and cultural icons Gloria Estefan, Barry Gibb and Andrea Bocelli.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to represent the City of Miami Beach in our nation's capital. I thank Mayor Philip Levine, the Members of the City Commission, and the city's staff for their many accomplishments that have made the City of Miami Beach a wonderful place to live, work, visit and raise a family.

#### SUPPORT OF THE "HOMELAND SECURITY DRONE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS ACT"

### HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act."

On January 27th, a small drone landed on the grounds of the White House.

Thankfully, this incident did not threaten the President or his family, as it was nothing more than an ill-advised misadventure by a hobbyist.

It did, however, raise serious questions about the threat commercially available drones may pose to individuals, infrastructure, and our aviation system.

Recently, drones were observed flying over sensitive assets in France, including nuclear



installations, the home of the French President, and near the United States Embassy. These drone activities have raised concerns about the security implications of the commercial availability of small and medium sized drones.

Undoubtedly, drones have great commercial potential and their utility will aid our agricultural sector and others in the decades to come.

Even as drones have the potential for so much good in the hands of a farmer, there is the risk that they will be used for ill in the hands of someone who intends harm.

Last week, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, of which I am the Ranking Minority Member, of the House Committee on Homeland Security, held a hearing regarding the potential security threats posed by small and medium sized commercially available drones.

During the hearing, we heard from experts in the field regarding the need for DHS to act as the Federal lead in researching the issue of security vulnerabilities posed by small and medium sized drones.

The witnesses described the need for DHS to develop security policies and for DHS to disseminate information to State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials regarding how such officials may bolster preparedness for and responses to attacks perpetrated by commercially available small and medium sized drones.

I authored the "Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act" to address the issues raised before the Subcommittee last week and to ensure DHS serves as the lead Federal department responsible for the security issues raised by small and medium sized drones.

The bill also requires DHS to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment regarding small and medium sized drones so that the policies the Department and its components develop are based on sound analysis and the probable rather than the possible.

Finally, my bill will address the concerns we heard from the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police regarding a lack of information being disseminated regarding how State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies should respond to potential threats posed by drones.

It does so by mandating that the Secretary of Homeland Security provide information to State, local, and tribal law enforcement entities regarding how to prepare for and respond to potential threats posed by drones.

I urge my colleagues to support the "Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act".

#### TRIBUTE TO GREG IRVINE

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona and Riverside County at large are

exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Greg Irvine is one of these individuals. On April 15, 2015, Greg will be honored for his dedicated service as he ends his tenure as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Corona.

Greg's work with the City of Corona began in 1996 when he first served as the Assistant City Treasurer. Greg was then promoted to Interim City Treasurer and would later be promoted again to serve as Assistant General Manager for the Department of Water and Power. Greg was then moved to be the Assistant to the City Manager and in August of 2004, he was appointed to Assistant City Manager. It was in this capacity that he oversaw public policy for the City of Corona which encompassed legislative advocacy and city communications as well as marketing efforts. Given his depth of experience through his service as Assistant and Interim City Treasurer, he also had the executive responsibility for the Finance Department. His knowledge was helpful for Corona in steering through the recession and has been commended by several City Council Members. Additionally, Greg's involvement in the community goes far beyond the doors of City Hall. He has been an active participant in numerous community service organizations throughout Corona.

In light of all Greg Irvine has done for the community of Corona, I wish him the best as he embarks on his retirement. Greg's tireless passion for the community has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. I am proud to call Greg a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his time as Assistant City Manager for the City of Corona.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,372,692,901.05. We've added \$7,525,495,643,987.97 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1963 LEESBURG STOCKADE WOMEN

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fifteen outstanding women

who at a young age had the courage to take a stand for their rights and were imprisoned for it, enduring horrific conditions and circumstances while confined within a Civil War-era abandoned stockade located deep in the backwoods of Leesburg, Georgia. These brave women will be honored at the 1963 Leesburg Stockade Women's Honor Program. This exceptional tribute, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Americus-Sumter County, will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia.

Fifty-two years past, during a dark moment in our nation's history, fifteen valiant African-American adolescent girls from Americus, Georgia were unjustly imprisoned for their involvement in a peaceful Civil Rights protest in their hometown. Taken to the abandoned stockade, these girls, who were between 11 and 15 years of age, spent close to two months in conditions that were, quite simply, reprehensible. Deprived of clean water, adequate nutrition, proper hygiene, contact with their families, and other basic comforts, these innocent girls suffered acute physical and psychological turmoil as a result of their struggle for equality. Such wounds do not heal easily or quickly, yet even as cuts have turned to scars, these passionate and fiercely determined women have overcome.

With this resiliency in mind, it is my privilege to announce that these devoted citizens stand together, ever courageous, to share their stories with the public for the first time. Ten individuals—Dr. Shirley Green-Reese, Willie Mae Smith-Davis, Dr. Carol Barner Seay, Melinda Jones Williams, Verna Hollis, Billie Jo Thornton Allen, Diane Dorsey-Bowens, Lula Westbrook Griffin, Laura Ruff Saunders and Emmarene Kaigler Streeter—will speak of their experiences at the event, bringing vibrant testimony to the turmoil and triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement. The remaining five women—Pearl Brown, Mattie Crittenden, Sandra Russell Mansfield, Annie Lou Ragans Laster, and Gloria Westbrook Breedlove—are now deceased but will also be honored and remembered during the ceremony.

A number of local, state, and national figures, including Americus Mayor Barry Blount; Senior Vice President of the Boys and Girls Club of America, Dr. Damon A. Williams; and Museum Specialist at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Deborah Tulani Salahu-Din, will be present to commemorate the outstanding fortitude of these remarkable women. Terrible though it was, their ordeal continues to spread awareness for the critical nature of Civil Rights across the country and thankfully, their trials have not been in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the enduring spirits, the dignity, and the impact of these fifteen valiant women from Americus, Georgia. They are living proof that the occurrences of the past survive within us today. Let us always be grateful to the 1963 Leesburg Stockade Women who paved the way for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all Americans.

## HONORING LUKE MOFFETT

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Luke Moffett attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

An organized and intentional government is essential for any country to thrive and run efficiently. However, in my opinion, the government can easily overstep its bounds and become a catalyst for persecution and oppression. It is clear that the founding fathers were very skeptical of—after years of debate—creating a centralized government. They realized that the very thing they fought and died to rid themselves of can easily creep back into the delicate balance of true democracy, actively nullifying their painful sacrifices. When they finally had the chance to establish their vision of a perfect government, they immediately focused on the concept of a small central government to give the power back to the people. With the terror of absolute rule fresh on their minds, knowing the potential of a sovereign government, these men realized what government's role truly should be. Because of this, the founding fathers are the most influential figures in my view towards the government's role in my life and the lives of those around me. I believe that the subsidies and programs that accompany a large and powerful government are far outweighed by its potential to take all those things away in an instant. If we allow the government to provide everything for us, then we truly have no freedom because we are ultimately bound to the large government that provides everything we need. Although this is extreme, it accurately portrays the dangers of a large central government. Therefore, I firmly believe that local and state governments should adopt a larger role in the lives of the citizens within their jurisdiction, coupled with a central government that focuses on foreign affairs and large international issues. On the contrary, the necessity of a central government can easily be witnessed throughout history and, therefore, cannot be overlooked. In the United States' establishment, the absence of a central government led to turmoil, violence, and an obvious lack of organization. The balance between local, state, and federal government is fragile and difficult to set, yet it is vital to the well-being of a nation. Therefore, I believe that although governments may have good intentions, ultimately governments lose sight of true freedom, and because of that reason, a government should never have the ability to micromanage my life or limit my Constitutional freedoms.

## HONORING THE CAREER OF J. MICHAEL CRABTREE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long, distinguished career of one of my good friends, J. Michael Crabtree, who will be retiring this spring.

Michael has been a hardworking and respected member of the education community for more than 40 years. The time and dedication he devoted brought about significant positive change to the students and community of Southern Nazarene University. Not only the students, but professors, community members, parents, and alumni greatly benefited from his work. Michael's different positions at the university over the years allowed many to experience his diverse skill set and leadership qualities. One of his recent accomplishments was his helping to complete the nine million dollar Campaign for the Science effort for the J.D. & Mary West Science Laboratory.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Michael for many years. His recent positions at the university demonstrate his ability to maintain strong relationships and enhance school programs. Michael is retiring as Associate Vice President for University Advancement where his main focus was endowment development and planned giving. He maintained and enhanced relationships with donors as well as donor programs. His other roles at the school included assistant to the president, Vice President for University Advancement, and executive director of university advancement among others.

Michael also spent considerable time volunteering. He spent countless hours with organizations and groups throughout the community such as the Bethany Arts Council, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation, and Oklahoma City Civic Music Association along with many others. He received the Manager of the Year award in 1988 from Southern Nazarene University and "Service recognition for 35 years in higher education" in 2008.

I want to thank Michael for his time and devotion to better the school that I attended as an undergraduate. His career will be remembered for years to come by everyone involved in the school and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the career of J. Michael Crabtree. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

## RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE LIVE4LALI CLINIC

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chelsea LaLiberte and Jody Daichman, as well as the other hardworking volunteers, on the opening of the Live4Lali clinic in Arlington Heights, Ill.

In the Chicago suburbs, somebody dies of a heroin overdose every three days. Cheaper than cigarettes and more accessible than alcohol, heroin has become a plague on our suburbs. Ms. LaLiberte and Ms. Daichman recognized that our community and suburbs across the country are struggling with this epidemic, and they have taken bold and courageous action to prevent people from falling victim to drug abuse.

Their efforts have already saved countless lives and the Live4Lali clinic will undoubtedly save countless more. I offer my deepest thanks for their work in helping to strengthen our community, and I urge the Members of this House to help us empower these agents of change by getting drug abuse prevention programs the funding they need.

## HONORING MARGARETTE PURVIS

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Black History Month to recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans across the nation. African-Americans have made countless contributions to our country and made many great sacrifices for this great nation, and nowhere is the power, heritage, and vibrance of this community more visible than in New York City. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of our local champions, Ms. Margarette Purvis, for her many years of advocacy and work to better the lives of families across our community.

Ms. Purvis leads Food Bank For New York City, the country's largest food bank serving one out of every five New Yorkers. In this role, Ms. Purvis has led the strategic vision for all of Food Bank's operations, philanthropy and programming, including the organization's city-wide food distribution system and member network of over 1,000 charities and schools. In addition, Ms. Purvis, who has more than 20 years of experience in services to our nation's most vulnerable, was selected by Governor Andrew Cuomo to chair the New York State Anti-Hunger Task Force, where she's leading the drafting of recommendations for better coordination of hunger relief services and policies throughout the state.

Ms. Purvis has held numerous prestigious positions before assuming her current role. She was CEO and Principal of PCG Services, an Atlanta-based firm. PCG developed and implemented social and philanthropic programming and branding strategies for businesses, notables, nonprofits and government agencies. She was also the Vice President of National Programming at Points of Light Foundation, leading the launch and implementation of its multimillion dollar programs and civic engagement units while overseeing large-scale disaster initiatives in response to Hurricane Katrina. Prior to each of these Ms. Purvis served her first term at Food Bank as the organization's Vice President of Programs and Services where for five years she developed national award-winning programs, including

the Education Institute and Kids Café programs.

The common thread through all of Margarette Purvis' professional endeavors is a strong passion for others; particularly, a passion for prioritizing the needs of our community's most vulnerable individuals who are not always able to advocate for themselves. This allegiance to fighting the good fight for those who are unable to fight for themselves is precisely what makes Ms. Purvis such a remarkable leader. I am honored to help serve a community that counts such a fierce advocate as an ally, and look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Purvis to serve those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Margarette Purvis for her tireless effort and devotion to helping our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MORMAN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Michael Morman for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Michael has the determination and talent to be successful in all that he does, and his work with Shive-Hattery Inc. is a testament to that commitment. As an Architect and Project Manager for Shive-Hattery, Michael is able to pursue a personal passion of his in his professional life. He maintains an active schedule outside work, volunteering for numerous organizations, including the Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Michael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Michael on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### CONGRATULATING JOHN SUTTON

### HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 8th district' constituent, John Sutton of Worthington, Indiana and former Army Specialist 4th Class. Mr. Sutton was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroically rescuing a fellow soldier from the burning wreckage of their downed helicopter on September 3, 1969. Even though Mr. Sutton was seriously injured, he and the surviving co-pilot bravely returned to the burning wreckage to pull the pilot, who lost both of his legs in the crash, to safety.

The Soldier's Medal is the highest medal awarded to enlisted Army personnel for non-combat related acts of valor. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Americans in thanking Mr. Sutton for his act of true bravery and selflessness. He is well deserving of this high honor.

#### HONORING EDDIE WILLIAMS, SR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Eddie Williams, Sr.

Before joining the clergy nearly 35 years ago, the Rev. Eddie Williams, Sr. already was a trailblazer in the Port City and had dedicated his life to helping others.

Born July 21, 1931, on Dent Street, in Greenville, Mississippi, Mr. Williams would go on to become his native city's first black radio announcer.

He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Coleman High School before continuing his education at the Greenville Industrial College.

After graduating, Williams in 1951 enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a medic in Korea.

He was honorably discharged in 1953 and briefly lived in Detroit where, he said, he first saw a somewhat integrated world. "It was a northern city, so it was definitely better there," Williams said, "At the time here, we had black and white waiting rooms."

Still, Williams returned to his hometown and went to work at the newly opened Greenville Mill. In 1958, Williams switched careers, hiring on with the new community radio station WESY as its public relations director, which put him on the air.

As an on-air personality, Williams guided Delta residents through the Civil Rights movement, from the sit-ins by college students in Montgomery, Ala., the March on Washington to the Magnolia State's own Freedom Summer in 1964 and the integration of Mississippi schools in 1970.

"At that time, Dr. (Martin Luther) King was working, and I would do everything Dr. King was doing," Williams said. "He was fighting for us, for the right to vote, and I was trying to

keep our people informed of what was going on. When I got the news, I would hit the air with it."

Through his post at WESY, Williams became active in community affairs and won numerous civic commendations, including the Elks Serene Lodge No. 567's Outstanding Citizen Award in 1973 and its Man of Year award in 1974. In 1975, Williams was included in the annual Who's Who Among Black Americans and made the list of Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans of 1976.

In 1980, after nearly three decades with WESY, Williams embarked on a spiritual journey and became pastor of Greater Springfield MB Church.

"The radio was entertaining and fun, but the church is a completely different thing," he said. "I feel like I was led to help people become the people that God would have us all to be."

In 1989, Williams became the pastor at Victory Temple Baptist Church on Alexander Street, where he has been since. For the past two years, he has told his parishioners about the rich history of current and former black "Green-villians" and urges the next generations to build on those achievements.

"Certainly we have made progress, but we still have a long way to go, and we've all got to work toward that goal," he said. "All of us, particularly black people, have got to put more effort into getting to where we need to be. We need to have more than Black History Month and start having Black History days and Black History years."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eddie Williams, Sr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

#### THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATENT ACT CELEBRATION

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th we celebrate the 225th anniversary of President George Washington signing into law the Patent Act of 1790. We honor the wisdom of our founding fathers in creating the first patent system to recognize by law the inherent right of an inventor to have protection over their inventions and innovations. Our Constitution grants Congress the power "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." With the creation of the Patent Act came the ability for Americans to be rightfully credited for the use of their talents to progress our nation.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued over nine million patents. These patents demonstrate the creativity and foresight of the American people and their outstanding contributions enhance lives worldwide. We celebrate the first Patent Act, and salute the men and women who have promoted the progress of science and arts to make America a technological, economic, and cultural leader among nations.

I applaud the Patent and Trademark Office for its continued efforts to encourage innovation and strengthen the nation's competitiveness in the global economy. We must recognize the critical importance of intellectual property. It is critical that Congress continues to acknowledge the need for effective patents, trademarks, and copyrights while upholding the vision of our Nation's founders. Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Patent and Trademark Office—the model for managing patent systems around the world—for its stewardship of the patent system and for inspiring independent inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses to be innovators.

CONGRATULATING CINDY  
BOURLAND

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my longtime friend Cindy Bourland, who was named by Texas Governor Rick Perry to fill a vacancy on the Third Court of Appeals. She's a perfect fit to handle this important responsibility.

I've known Cindy since she was a young girl in my Sunday school class. She was an intelligent, kind, and motivated young lady who everyone knew had a very bright future. That she has achieved great things surprises no one.

I was excited that she decided to pursue a career in the law. She later practiced before my court and showed herself to be a skilled attorney who understood both the letter and spirit of the law while never losing sight of its impact on people.

As a former judge, I know firsthand the demands Cindy will face. Judges have the responsibility to, as scripture says, "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." I know she's ready to meet this challenge.

It's been a privilege to watch Cindy Bourland grow up, both in her life and career. I'm excited for her new responsibilities and honored to call her my Judge. Most of all, I'm proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL  
LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION  
ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF  
2015

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) Reauthorization of 2015. This legislation authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell surplus federal lands to states, localities, or private entities that can be put to economically-beneficial use. Profits from the sales can

then be used to purchase state or private land encumbered by National Parks and other federal areas, advancing conservation goals and improving recreational, hunting and fishing access.

Since its initial introduction in 2000, FLTFA reduced federal land ownership by 9,000 acres over the course of a decade. I am honored to introduce this important piece of legislation that will streamline the federal land acquisition process.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTINE PEEBLES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Justine Peebles for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Justine has the determination and drive to be successful in any professional and personal task she undertakes. As Vice President of Lincoln Savings Bank she utilizes her drive and do-it-yourself attitude to advance the goals of the bank and provide great customer service. In her free time Justine likes to dedicate herself to serving others. She took the lead role on a project called Feeding the Future that supplies a warm meal to children every night in the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa and also spends some of her free time volunteering at the Youth Emergency Services Shelter. Justine's exemplary work ethic and dedication to service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Justine in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Justine on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO JILLIAN SABOE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jillian Saboe attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

When people hear the word "government" or "politics" or any other words associated with the political process, their usual first reaction is either a cringe or look of disgust; some purposefully and some mindlessly. Why is it that in a country founded on individual rights and freedoms that people feel negatively toward the institutions that were created to protect them?

"In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?" Looking at this question, I can see the possibilities of three different paths one might take. One: The government should interfere less with American citizens and practices. Two: The government should interfere more with American citizens and practices. Personally, I choose path number three: The government should not be looked at or act as an item of interference. The government should be an institution that interacts with individuals and groups in need of help and protection. A teenage girl should not be frightened when she sees a cop while driving down the highway, she should feel safe. A small business owner should not fear of losing his shop while filing his taxes, he should feel untroubled. An old man should not worry about what money will go where when he passes, he should feel cared for. Although a government has the responsibility to ensure a steady economy, ensure sturdy foreign relations, and increase trade, a government should also prioritize its responsibility to take care of its citizens. When I say "take care," I don't mean making sure that they all get their social security checks when they reach a certain age, I mean making sure citizens receiving social security checks feel content with their situations. In my opinion, the government is allowed to be the bad guy sometimes to make sure that everything runs smoothly, but the government's main role is to humanely support and protect its citizens at all costs.

A government must be many things in order to survive. It must be strong. It must be efficient. It must be intelligent. But the most important thing a government should be is comfortable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, March 25, 2015, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote #140. Had I been present I would have voted No.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC CHARGING ADVANCEMENT REFORM ACT

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my home of Los Angeles unfortunately is the nation's smoggiest region of the country. We are surrounded by mountains and have highest per capita ownership of cars. The Los Angeles region has made great improvements in our air quality. In the last 15 years, the number of dirty air days has dropped by 38%. Still—we have the worst air quality in the nation. The American Lung Association ranks the Los Angeles region as number one in the nation for ozone pollution and in the top five for particulate matter pollution.

This results in many health issues including higher numbers of children with asthma and significantly lung function problems in normal, healthy people.

We do love our cars in Los Angeles, and the pollution from these cars is a key cause of our air quality problems. Los Angeles could drastically improve its air quality if more of those cars were plug in vehicles. However there are simply not enough charging stations available for this to be feasible.

As an owner of an all-electric Nissan Leaf, I know all too well that there is a lack of charging stations. I have personally experienced range anxiety. There have been times when driving home I have had to turn off the lights, radio, and air conditioning to ensure that I can make it home because there were no charging stations nearby. Los Angeles is one of the largest consumers of elective vehicles in the country. But, I believe people would buy more electric vehicles if charging stations were readily available.

Today, I am introducing the Electric Charging Advancement Reform Act to encourage more electric vehicles on our roads, which will result in clean air improvements and energy independence. This is an act integral to revolutionizing the accessibility of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) to potential drivers. My bill would reauthorize the electric vehicle recharging property credit for full electric and fuel cell vehicles which will make available to both consumers and businesses a tax credit of up to \$100,000 for the installation of charging stations.

No one driving a gas-powered car has to worry about finding a gas station before they get to their destination. Let us make sure that charging stations are just as easily accessible and convenient as the gas stations that are at every major intersection in our cities and off our major freeways.

# INTRODUCTION OF TAX RETURN PREPARER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced, along with my colleagues Reps. ROB-

ERT "BOBBY" SCOTT, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CAROLYN MALONEY, H.R. 1609, the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act, which would provide explicit authority for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to regulate tax return preparers.

As we near April 15th, millions of taxpayers will pay someone to help them fill out their tax returns. Many of these tax preparers are honest and trustworthy. But, unfortunately, too many of them take advantage of their customers or help their customers engage in tax fraud themselves.

In Memphis, my Congressional district, a company named Mo' Money Taxes was caught charging taxpayers deceptive and outrageous fees and cheating them out of their refunds. The company also helped some customers prepare fraudulent returns that claimed bogus deductions and cheated the public of needed tax revenue. Fortunately, the Department of Justice has shut down the tax preparer company but there are many businesses just like them cheating taxpayers and the government alike.

The IRS issued rules in 2011 regulating the tax return preparer industry by requiring them to register with the IRS and meet certain education and testing standards. However, a federal court held that the IRS did not have the authority under existing law to issue these regulations and they could not come into effect.

That's why I introduced the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act because it's important that anyone who assists in filing federal taxes is sufficiently trained and maintain a certain level of professional conduct.

I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to ensure that these dishonest business practices cannot continue, and protect the pocketbooks of middle-class families.

# A TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA NORTON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joshua Norton for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Joshua has the determination and drive to be successful in anything he does, and his exemplary work as Vice President for Commercial Lending at West Bank is a testament to that. Joshua utilizes his abilities to connect people to move them towards a common goal not only in his professional life but also in his

free time. Joshua spends his off time serving others on the Make-A-Wish Iowa board of directors. Joshua's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joshua in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joshua on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

# THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, April 10th of this year will mark the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important legislation has defined the relationship between our two countries and led to one of our most stable and reliable democratic alliances.

Today, Taiwan is an important strategic partner, providing a first line of defense for our interests in the Pacific and deterring aggression from countries in the region. This is why it is so important that we do what we can to support Taiwan's military capabilities.

Taiwan has also developed into an economic powerhouse over the last three decades. Its rapidly growing economy has allowed it to become one of the United States largest trading partners. In fact, Taiwan's imports of American goods exceeded \$36 billion in 2012, a number that continues to grow every year. Many Hoosiers take advantage of this robust trade relationship, helping to build Indiana's economy and create good paying jobs.

Since coming to Congress, I have had an opportunity to travel to Taiwan and to interact with many Taiwanese-Americans. I appreciate their friendship and hospitality. On its 36th anniversary, I am pleased that the TRA continues to guide U.S.-Taiwan relations so we can further strengthen this important partnership.

# HONORING MARY E. COLEMAN

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the everyday contributions African-Americans have made across the nation, and specifically within my district in The Bronx. It is with great admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Mary E. Coleman for her many years of tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Originally hailing from Mississippi, Ms. Coleman has had a decorated career as an administrator in the worlds of finance and higher education. Ms. Coleman began her career as the Vice President of Finance and Administration for a multi-corporate designer, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of men's and women's apparel. Ms. Coleman went on to join the City University of New York (CUNY) as a Dean at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, served as Deputy Executive Director of American Field Service Intercultural Programs, Inc., a 55-nation student/teacher international exchange program. She subsequently held a senior management position in Mitchell Titus, LLP, the largest minority-controlled certified public accounting and management consulting firm in the country. In each of her roles, it is clear that Ms. Coleman appreciated the value of investing resources in diversity, and used her platforms to help others appreciate the value of diverse human capital.

Returning to higher education, Ms. Coleman joined the Senior Staff at Stella and Charles Guttman Community College to serve as the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration. She is a dedicated and long-serving CUNY administrator. Most recently, she served for 17 years as the Vice President for Finance and Administration locally at Bronx Community College (BCC). Before working at BCC, Ms. Coleman served as the Dean of Administration and Finance at Hostos Community College, another strong Bronx institution. Through the support, leadership, and vision of Mary Coleman, Bronx Community College has grown into the remarkable institution it is today. She has made a career of ensuring that unprivileged individuals have access to life changing programs, and Ms. Coleman's lasting legacy will live on through each student whose life was improved on account of possibilities and opportunities made possible at Bronx Community College.

Today, Ms. Coleman currently sits on the Executive Board of the National Council of Black American Affairs and the American Association of Community College's Global Commission on Global Education. I am proud to know that someone like Mary E. Coleman has given so much of herself to improving the lives of residents in our community, and I am confident that she will continue her important work.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Mary E. Coleman for her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of others and her tireless efforts to uplift our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO NICOLAS JEFFRESS

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this

great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Nicolas Jeffress attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

In 1776, we fought for our right to self-govern, and every day men and women give their lives to protect and defend those rights. But now we are facing a new threat to our independence, apathy. Every day people willingly give up their right to govern and wonder why their community is not reaching its potential. Just like in other parts of life though, building a great community takes work.

During my sophomore year, many students felt the pressure of both rigorous course loads and class rank competition, and some resorted to cheating. This situation was complicated by the fact that the penalties for cheating were not consistently enforced and when they were enforced, they were light relative to the potential gain. As I talked to more students and teachers, I became concerned that Dawson had a culture of academic dishonesty, much like professional cycling, where some felt cheating was necessary just to keep up. I could not let this be my school's culture.

I started working on how to address this problem by talking to other students. Although many were frustrated with the dishonesty, they did not think anything could be done to fix it. Fortunately, thirty students did care! When we met, we talked not only about the problem but how we could change it. Over the next three weeks we developed specific proposals around testing procedures, penalties and education. We took these proposals forward to our principal and even demonstrated how students were cheating using tools like camera pens. We also spoke to the Pearland ISD school board about our work at Dawson and provided them the proposals as well. Although the early conversations were sometimes difficult, we started to have an impact.

Over the summer between my sophomore and junior year, Pearland ISD wrote a new honor code that went into place at both Dawson and Pearland High Schools. As I read through the honor code during packet pick-up, I could see many of our recommendations almost verbatim. I thought of Yoda, "Do or do not. There is no try"; I'm glad I decided to do. I got involved in my local community and changed my school.

As I become an adult, the political process will allow me to become even more involved in my community. During my Dad's school board campaign, I had the opportunity to meet many great public servants. We are so fortunate to have so many great people working hard on our community. However, with only 5% of people choosing to vote in local elections, I doubt we are reaching our full potential. We need more people willing to be involved, developing solutions to problems, bringing new ideas. Communities form districts, which form states, which make up a nation; all political movements start at grass root local communities and cascade to the national government. I certainly intend to do my part to honor the sacrifices so many have made to build the country we have today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AMY OSTRANDER CROLL

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Amy Ostrander Croll for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Amy has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does and her exemplary work with Community Youth Concepts is a testament to that. As Executive Director, she is responsible for moving the organization forward—taking risks when necessary so that the goals of the organization can be achieved. In her free time Amy enjoys biking and serving others. She donates her time to the Urbandale Community Action Network and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. In all aspects of her life, Amy is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Amy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Amy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL SENATE CLUB

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the Fresno High School Senate Club. Fresno High School was founded in 1889 as the City of Fresno's first high school. The following year, the Fresno High School Senate was established on March 21, 1890.

The Foundation of the Senate is modeled after the United States Senate, with each member representing a state in our Union. Admission to the Fresno High School Senate requires a majority vote of the body for academically qualified candidates who are sponsored by an active member of the club. Candidates

are required to attend at least three club meetings and present a speech to complete the application process. Upon admission, a U.S. state is permanently assigned to the new senator, who is then invited to declare a political party preference. The Fresno High School Senate is primarily a debate club and has the distinction of being the oldest continuously active high school club in the United States.

The Senate is governed by both a Constitution and bylaws and it follows parliamentary procedure set by Robert's Rules of Order. The organization instills knowledge of the law making process of our national government. Furthermore, the public speaking debate society addresses current issues of world, national, and community interest and concern.

The Fresno High School Senate Club meets every week on the Fresno High School Campus and is guided by a faculty member known as the "President of the United States." Active Senators, in addition to being top academic achievers, also perform hundreds of hours of service to the greater Fresno community.

Over many decades, the Senate has produced dozens of outstanding alumni known as, "Honorary Senators," who achieved distinguished careers in law, medicine, business, education, government, architecture, technology, the military, and other notable occupational fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fresno High School Senate on the significant milestone of its 125th Anniversary as I extend my best wishes for the organization's continued success in shaping the lives of young students, creating model citizens and nurturing the studies of United States history and government.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MOCKLER

**HON. JIM COSTA**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, Congressman PETE AGUILAR, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman TED LIEU, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman

ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman NORMA TORRES, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. John Mockler, who passed away on March 3, 2015. Mockler was one of the most influential voices on California education policy for more than 40 years, where he advised hundreds of Democratic and Republican lawmakers on public school funding. His legacy of public service, and support for public education, will impact California's public education system for many generations.

Born on October 2, 1941 in Chicago and raised in Harbison Canyon near San Diego, Mockler was the son of William and Jane Mockler and had three sisters: Elsie, Lynn and Virginia. Mockler attended the University of San Francisco at 16, and subsequently graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a degree in Economics. A lifelong Democrat, Mockler cut his teeth in San Francisco politics, where he became active in union politics and was the executive director of the Youth Against 14 campaign in 1964. Proposition 13 would have made it legal to discriminate against home buyers on the basis of race.

Mockler is best known as the architect of Proposition 98, the 1988 initiative that established a minimum level of state financial support for public schools at 40 percent of general fund spending. Proposition 98 remains a central feature in state budget negotiations for the past quarter century. His familiarity with the law made him an indispensable advisor to Governors Gray Davis and Jerry Brown as well as legislative leaders including former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Mockler's one-time boss.

He is survived by his life partner Carol Farris, two children—Robert and Jessica, five grandchildren Willa, Clara, Sidney, Zachary and Auden, and countless friends and admirers.

Today, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation salutes and honors the life of Mr. John Mockler. Mockler will be remembered for his tenacious support for schools and teachers and his legacy is felt with the enrollment of every kindergartner and the graduation of every senior class. We join all of Mockler's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

#### HONORING GLORIA COLEMAN DOTSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**  
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Gloria Coleman Dotson.

Gloria Coleman Dotson grew up and lives in Claiborne County as the oldest of seven children of Curtis Coleman and Ethel Allen in the town Ulysses S. Grant said was "Too Beautiful to Burn." She is a 1973 graduate of Port Gibson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Jackson State University in 1977.

After graduation, Ms. Dotson was employed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors in the Chancery Clerk's Office. She worked under the supervision of two Chancery Clerks: Mrs. Stella Jennings-Greenwood and Mr. Frank Wilson. She worked in the Chancery Clerk's Office for twenty-five years as Deputy Chancery Clerk prior to being elected Chancery Clerk in 2000. She is currently serving her fourth term as Chancery Clerk.

Ms. Dotson is a member of First Christian Disciples of Christ Church, a choir member and Sunday School Treasurer. She is involved in several civic organizations including: Port Gibson Main Street, MS Cultural Crossroad Gloria Board of Directors, Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact, a member of NAACP and the Chancery Clerk's Association.

Ms. Dotson has been married to Joe Dotson, Jr. for twenty-two years. They are the proud parents of three children: JaBari, JaNetra, and JoKevy. They have an eleven year old granddaughter, KaMeryal and a one year old grandson, KaMari.

The title "Chancery Clerk" does not adequately describe the various duties and responsibilities that Ms. Dotson has attendant to in the office. The Chancery Clerk's Office has a multitude of duties and functions which are governed by an assortment of statutes and court rules, along with following guidelines established either by the State Department of Audit or the Department of Finance and Administration. The Chancery Clerk's position is a four year elected term.

Ms. Dotson often states, "I thank God for allowing me to serve as a Public Official. I love my job. When I'm not serving my constituents, I spend time with my family and friends, work in the yard and reading."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gloria Coleman Dotson for her dedication and support to the Claiborne County Community.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH ON THEIR BICENTENNIAL

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**  
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Portsmouth on their bicentennial anniversary and celebration.

For 200 years, Portsmouth has stood proudly along the Ohio River, a gateway to the region and a testament to the work ethic of Southern Ohioans.

Since incorporation in 1815, Portsmouth has been an industrial power house. A leader throughout the years in the rail, steel, and notably shoe wear industries, the people of Portsmouth know the value and pride from a hard day's work. They were the backbone of America's industrial boon.

Today, Portsmouth stands firmly with one foot rooted in our shared history and one foot striding into the 21st Century. The well-known flood walls are a towering testament to the storied history of the region and its people, which include panels of the Hopewell culture,



the NFL charter team Portsmouth Spartans, and a litany of community leaders throughout the city's history. Famous sons include Roy Rogers and Branch Rickey.

The city is home to Shawnee State University, hosts thousands of cyclists for the Tour of the Scioto River Valley, and celebrates annually at the River Days festival.

I am honored to represent Portsmouth today, an area of the state with such a rich history and strong community. Again, I congratulate Portsmouth on this historic milestone, and I wish the city the very best over their next 200 years.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BEN NELSON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ben Nelson for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Ben has the determination and talent to be successful in all that he does and his work with Pivot Wealth Strategies LLC is a testament to that commitment. As the President and Cofounder of Pivot Wealth Strategies, Ben is able to pursue a personal passion of his in his professional life. He maintains an active schedule outside work, volunteering and supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ben in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ben on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WARD

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I

have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Robert Ward attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Founding fathers like George Washington, Samuel Addams, Thomas Paine, and Benjamin Franklin were willing to deny the most powerful nation, navy, and army (The British) in the 1770s. Why? They were tired of abuse and fatly representation that was given to the New England colonies as they argued for fair and equal representation in the British parliament. "No taxation without representation" was declared by John Hampden when asked to pay for a shipping tax to the British parliament. He argued that he shouldn't have to pay any taxes to the British government when he wasn't even represented in their parliament. The founding fathers noticed and followed suit, declaring independence for America in 1776 after the British government had refused to give equal representation for the colonies. The American Revolution took the lives of 50,000 along with thousands of French and Indian soldiers who fought for the America's ideals. America won the war with Washington's determination, Indian guidance, and new guerrilla warfare. Why was such a conflict pursued? The right to be represented and participate in the political process was why.

Thousands have died and still due to this day to protect every citizen's right to be involved in the political process. The ability to be involved gives every citizen in the country their "bite". It is the easiest way to make an impact on government and the nation short of being in the government administration. By simply participating: voting, suggesting legislation, and being involved in organizations like the congressional youth advisory council everyone can have a voice, a privilege that has been fought dearly for, and that few possess. It is crucial for those who want to have an impact to be a part of the political process.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANT WORK OF KA VOICE

### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am excited today to recognize the very important work of KA Voice. KA Voice is working tirelessly to enfranchise and empower the more than 67,000 ethnic Koreans residing in Illinois. Through voter registration efforts, community forums, debates, and policy engagement, this non-partisan group is working to give Korean-Americans a strong voice in Washington, D.C., statehouses, and in local governments.

I have long made it a priority to work with our local Korean-American community to ensure that they have a strong voice in Con-

gress. KA Voice has made it easier for me to hear and act on of the community's priorities. Whether it is on the issue of immigration reform, a stronger economy or better relations with South Korea, KA Voice has helped me set an agenda in Congress that is moving our country forward.

This Saturday, March 28, KA Voice will hold its second annual national conference in Northbrook, Illinois. The conference will focus on civic engagement, which is at the heart of our democracy. I want to personally thank KA Voice President Charlie Jong Jung and his team of young leaders for bringing this important conference to Illinois and for their efforts in building a national organization or Korean-Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LAKE OCONEE ACADEMY SCHOOL

### HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay tribute to Lake Oconee Academy: a charter school based in Greensboro, Georgia, that was named one of the U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2014 and was named one of the best 50 elementary schools in the United States.

Today, I want to commend Lake Oconee Academy and its vision for educational excellence and community involvement. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the National Blue Ribbon Award is given to the schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. In my opinion, the Lake Oconee Academy is more than just a scholastic entity. It is a place of opportunity and hope.

Far from being a stopping point where students survive until a better opportunity avails itself, the academy is a place where character and responsibility is held in high regard and taught daily. Students are taught the values they need to go on and succeed in life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Lake Oconee Academy on all of its many accolades and congratulate the students, and staff for all their fantastic endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL ROTH

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a leader in our South Florida community, Mr. Al Roth.

It is with a heavy heart that I learned of his passing and I join other Floridians in mourning his death. Mr. Roth was a longtime Florida citrus farmer, hotelier, grocer and pioneer of both Broward County and the Town of Davie, which is located in the heart of Florida's 23rd

District. His life is now part of the fabric of our South Florida history and he will be long remembered.

As Al's son Bob, of Bob Roth's New River Groves, said, "He was an icon, a machine. He just didn't give up. He was like three people. Nobody worked like him . . . He would set up a display and come back the next day and change it. He said you have to let people know things are changing."

For as much as things changed throughout the decades, some things always remained the same, like Al's friendly smile, his kindness and his generosity.

His personality was larger than life, and always reflected the wonderful man that he was. And I know firsthand that he always made his customers and my constituents feel welcomed, happy and valued. He genuinely cared for all those around him, whether family, a customer or a passerby.

At 104 years young, Al was a mainstay of our South Florida landscape. Although Al is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in his family and the institutions he helped found for all who live in and visit Florida. I hope they will long serve as a tribute to him and the indelible mark he left on our community.

#### INTRODUCTION FOR THE ROBIN DANIELSON FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time advocate of women's health, I am proud to reintroduce legislation that would address unanswered health concerns regarding the safety of feminine hygiene products through the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Product Safety Act.

American women spend well over \$2 billion per year on feminine hygiene products and the average woman will use over 16,800 tampons and pads over the course of her lifetime. Yet, despite this large investment and high usage, there has been limited research on the potential health risks these products may pose to women.

Recent independent studies led by women's health organizations have shown that some feminine hygiene products could contain additives that may be harmful to a woman's health. While the FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels, this information is not made readily available to the public and much is still unknown about the cumulative adverse effects potentially posed by other components contained in these products. American women deserve the ability to make informed decisions when purchasing products that could affect their health.

It is time to move past menstrual health being taboo and ensure that accurate information with regards to women's health is being collected and is readily accessible. That is why I am reintroducing the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Product Safety Act which directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research whether the presence of dioxin,

synthetic fibers, and other chemical additives like chlorine and fragrances pose any health risks to women who use feminine hygiene products. This bill emphasizes the need for more research and an understanding of additives in all feminine hygiene products.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation that directs substantial, scientific research to be conducted in order to best protect the health of America's women.

#### COMMENDING THE CITIZENS' COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE FBI

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the efforts of eight individuals whose actions in 1971 helped uncover the illegal actions by some working on behalf of our own government to suppress the civil rights of many of our citizens. These eight individuals were members of a group who called themselves the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI (the "Citizens' Commission"). The Citizens' Commission was responsible for obtaining documents from the Media, Pennsylvania office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that helped prompt the national debate about the intelligence community's domestic surveillance programs. The ensuing discussion ultimately led to the first congressional investigations of all intelligence agencies and to the establishment of the first congressional intelligence oversight committees.

We know the names of six of these individuals: William C. Davidson, Keith Forsyth, Bonnie Raines, John C. Raines, Robert Williamson, and Judi Feingold. Two members of the Citizens' Commission whose actions are equally commendable and contributed just as significantly to the cause and legacy of the Citizens' Commission have chosen to remain in anonymity.

On the evening of March 8, 1971, the members of the Citizens' Commission entered the satellite office of the FBI in Media, Pennsylvania, and left having taken nearly all of the documents they found within the office. In the following months, the members of the Citizens' Commission repeatedly mailed to reporters at several news publications documents detailing the contours of our intelligence agencies' programs that spied on American citizens and the vast length to which our civil rights had been violated for decades in the name of J. Edgar Hoover's desire to quell political dissent. These programs included COINTELPRO, or Counter Intelligence Program, a series of covert and often illegal programs conducted by the FBI targeted at disrupting domestic political organizations. It has been said that the intent of COINTELPRO was to accomplish its goals by destroying lives and ruining reputations.

The revelations made by the Citizens' Commission sparked a national debate concerning these programs as well as the importance of civil and privacy rights to all Americans. The news reports generated by the documents that

had been made public helped form the basis for creation of the congressional committees that investigated intelligence agencies in 1975. Hearings held by the Senate committee, known as the Church Committee for its chairman, the late Senator Frank Church of Idaho, revealed the wide scope and impact of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI on American life throughout his nearly half century as director of the Bureau. Testimony before the committee revealed that he had secretly used his power to destroy individuals and organizations whose opinions and purposes he disliked. He secretly punished civil rights and antiwar activists and also average Americans who expressed their dissent in letters to newspapers or by participating in demonstrations. In the Bureau's harassment operations—as opposed to law enforcement or intelligence gathering—officials of the FBI secretly operated as prosecutor, judge and jury against people Hoover regarded as subversive. Thousands of people in government and education lost their jobs as a result of unverified files created by FBI informers that were used against people who were not permitted to face their accusers.

From the beginning of the Vietnam war, Hoover made himself the watchdog of dissent against the war—dissent by average Americans as well as Members of Congress who questioned war policy. In August 1964, when only two senators, Senator Ernest Gruening, Democrat from Alaska, and Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat from Oregon, opposed the Vietnam War authorization legislation—known as the Gulf of Tonkin resolution—the FBI director regarded their votes as subversive. Agents collected the names, and started files on people who sent telegrams to Senator Morse expressing support for his stand against the authorization bill. Two years after the resolution was passed, when Senator J. William Fulbright, Democrat from Arkansas, convened hearings to assess the progress of the war, Hoover placed Fulbright under surveillance to determine if he was a communist or dupe of communists.

The Church Committee's extensive final report stated:

"Many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all the targets had been involved in violent activity, but COINTELPRO went far beyond that. The unexpressed major premise of the programs was that a law enforcement agency has the duty to do whatever is necessary to combat perceived threats to the existing social and political order."

The Church Committee further concluded, "Too many people have been spied upon by too many government agencies, and too much information has been collected."

As a result of the actions of the Citizens' Commission, the resulting national discussion about these issues led to important changes to our government's domestic surveillance operations. The FBI's policies and practices were evaluated and reformed with respect to how the agency addressed domestic security threats, and the Department of Justice instituted investigative guidelines on domestic intelligence gathering.

Because of the important contribution the Citizens' Commission made to the public awareness and debate concerning domestic

surveillance, national security, civil rights, and privacy, these eight individuals deserve our recognition as some of them have recently made their identity known. The identities of six of them and the impact of their non-violent act of resistance recently became known in the documentary film 1971, directed by Johanna Hamilton, and in the book *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI*, written by Betty Medsger.

While we continue to discuss the proper use of domestic surveillance techniques today, particularly as technology evolves in ways that could not have been foreseen during the 1970s, we must remain vigilant to abuses of power, even if done with the stated goal of protecting the public. May we strengthen our resolve to protect the rights these individuals cherished and helped preserve over forty years ago.

HONORING AUSTIN HERNANDEZ

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Austin Hernandez attends Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

THE STEPPING STONE TO DESIGNER BABIES.

Imagine a world in which a couple could choose the gender of their baby. There would be no more suspense about the baby's gender. Before conception, people would know and would be able to give themselves adequate time to prepare for the arrival of their new bundle of joy. Well, this is a process that actually exists; it's called gender selection. On May 31st, 2012 The U.S. House of Representatives voted on whether or not to pass a national Ban on the use of abortion to eliminate an unborn child because of an undesired sex. This fast track procedure was not passed, but still has hope. If it were passed then the gender selection could be promoted and this reoccurring problem would not exist. Over the Past decade Gender selection has become a common practice used by many couples around the world.

The world today is not perfect, and neither are its people. Heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, and many other diseases run ramped in children, and one can't really prevent it. But what if it were preventable? With gender selection, this is possible. According to the Center for Human Reproduction (CHR), "In some cases, the so-called "sex-linked diseases" are inherited via the mother but only male offspring are affected

(muscular dystrophy, hemophilia, etc.)." For example, because hemophilia only affects males, a woman with hemophilia has the disease but it does not affect her. However if she were to become pregnant with a boy, the disease would then affect him. With gender selection she would be able to save her baby boy from a life of problems. This process has led to fewer abortions and increased the health of children, which in turn could virtually increase the life expectancy of the U.S.

There are not only health reasons, but also psychological reasons for gender selection. The CHR states that "a single female may feel better equipped having a daughter than a son; parents who lost a child may feel a strong need for a child of the same gender." If one were a single parent, wouldn't they feel better with a child of the same gender? They also claim that parent's whose children have passed away, may have the desire for another child of the same gender. In fact, many parents are deciding upon this option as a way to help them move on and assist with the grieving process.

Another negative effect of gender selection is the opening of new doors and new possibilities when choosing a gender. How far could it go? Maybe as far as choosing hair color, eye color, intelligence, height, and ability, who knows? People will do anything for perfection. This is basically "commodifying children", says Gender Selection of Babies, and this could lead to a whole revolution in baby making. People wouldn't be unique anymore; the natural process of development would become obsolete. The unforeseen repercussions of gender selection could further harm society.

Gender selection, although it can be helpful, has more negative effects than positive and should not be a decision made lightly. Gender Selection has made the country think having a baby in a different way. Now for many having a child could turn into some sort of shopping spree for the newest and best item/baby. However, this process has helped Americans and many others around the world choose the sex they want. Not only has it also allowed families, who didn't believe it was possible, to have children but it has also has given them the choice to save a life and chose what they want. Gender selection has changed America, and will continue to help stop the abortion of unwanted children.

A TRIBUTE TO MANDI  
MCREYNOLDS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mandi McReynolds for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involve-

ment and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Mandi has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her exemplary work with Drake University is a testament to that. As the Director of Community Engagement and Service Learning, Mandi is passionate about going the extra mile. In all aspects of her life Mandi's example of hard work and service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mandi in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mandi on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING MR. DONALD GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Donald Green.

A Coahoma County native, Donald Green is a dedicated and seemingly tireless community leader and business owner who has committed his career to creating economic and educational opportunities for farmworkers and families in the Mississippi Delta.

As Executive Director of Mississippi Delta Council for Farm Worker Opportunities, Inc., Mr. Green leads a staff of 22 providing job training and placement services to thousands of individuals every year. His organization also hosts a monthly food distribution and offers a civilian relief distribution staging area following weather emergencies and disasters. Currently, his team is transforming an existing warehouse and property into a farmers market, commercial kitchen, produce aggregation and food hub to raise incomes for dozens of limited-resource and beginning farmers. Prior to becoming the organization's chief executive, he was its Chief Financial Officer for 21 years.

He served as one of three Associate Tax Commissioners for the State of Mississippi and is the second African American in the State of Mississippi to do so. An accountant, Mr. Green also owns and operates an independent accounting service business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Green has been an ambassador between working people and local businesses. His board service includes: Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce; member of National Exchange Club; member of Clarksdale Industrial Foundation; member of Coahoma Community Development Organization; and member of Clarksdale/Coahoma County Airport Board. He has served as a State Treasurer of the Magnolia Council; Vice President of The Delta Council; member, Delta State Alumni University Association; former President of National Alumni

Association; Founder and former President for Mississippi Delta Strategic Compact; Treasurer for Mississippi Blues Foundation; former President of Friendship Community Federal Credit Union. He was recognized in 2004 as Delta Regional Minority Businessman of the Year, inducted into the Delta State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009, and received the Freedom Team Appreciation Certificate for Services to Members of the Armed Forces. He is a member of the Clarksdale Rotary Club.

Committed to making higher education more accessible, Mr. Green became president of Delta State National Alumni Association in 1995 and led a five million dollar capital campaign. That funding has more than doubled in the years since and has a significant endowment. He has served on the university's foundation board. In 2001, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Mississippi State Board of Community and Junior Colleges. He is co-Founder and President of the Ronald Hoss Bennett Foundation, which awards college scholarships to football players from local high schools.

He is known to be a steady, hardworking leader in efforts to increase understanding and build relationships in social and economic diversity. Mr. Green helped negotiate the partnership between Delta State University and Coahoma Community College to purchase the Cutrer Mansion, which has evolved into a continuing education center for history, culture, and the arts. In 2014, he worked with the City of Clarksdale officials, business owners, and community activists to honor the life and work of civil rights leader Aaron Henry with a historical marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail. He has served on the board of Clarksdale-Coahoma County Library and supports the Delta Blues Museum.

The son of sharecroppers Mr. Sylvester and Aree Green, Mr. Green grew up operating farm equipment in Coahoma County, Mississippi. A graduate of Coahoma Agriculture High School, he earned college degrees from Coahoma Community College and Delta State University. Mr. Green is the first African American to serve as President of Delta State University National Alumni Association.

He and his wife, Nelia, have two sons: Donald, Jr., a biomedical engineer living in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Adam, a high school student, who participated in Youth Leadership Clarksdale and who is currently a freshman at Delta State University majoring in commercial design.

Mr. Green is Chairman of the Deacon Board and Chairman of the Building Fund at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Jonestown, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Entrepreneur and Economic Developer that has been instrumental in magnifying strides of America's black history.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRAD ROBBINS

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose

dedication and contributions to the community of Corona and Riverside County at large are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Brad Robbins is one of these individuals. On April 15, 2015, Brad will be honored for his dedicated service as he ends his tenure as the City of Corona's City Manager.

Brad has worked on behalf of the City of Corona since 1988 and has established himself as a highly regarded leader and active member of the community. Throughout his twenty-eight years of service with the City of Corona, Brad has held a variety of titles including the Department of Water and Power General Manager, Assistant City Manager-Community Development Director, Director of Planning and Assistant City Manager. Due to his success in all of these roles, Brad was then appointed as City Manager in August of 2008. Acting as such, Brad enforced the city ordinances and carried out the policies of the Council through the control and direction of City Departments. During the past seven years, not only did Brad productively navigate the economic recession and the impact on the City of Corona, but he also encouraged the community to continue to thrive and grow as a leader in Southern California. Numerous Corona City Council members have extensively commended Brad for accomplishing so much during his time as City Manager, most especially because he is such an exceptional person to work with.

In light of all Brad Robbins has done for the community of Corona, I wish him the best as he embarks on his retirement. Brad's tireless passion for the community has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. I am proud to call Brad a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his time as City Manager for the City of Corona.

#### HONORING KENNETH J. KNUCKLES

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month, dedicated to the celebration of African-Americans who have made great contributions to our nation, to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth J. Knuckles. I stand before you today to honor Mr. Kenneth J. Knuckles for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Since January of 2003, Mr. Knuckles has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation (UMEZ), which is the largest of the group of nine original empowerment zones, when counting designated areas in The Bronx. The initial federal investment of \$100 million into UMEZ was matched by both the New York State and New York City governments, creating the largest

capitalized empowerment zone in the United States. With the mission to reinvigorate distressed communities by utilizing tax incentives and public financing to attract private investment, UMEZ has done that and more. Since 1996, UMEZ has invested more than \$230 million in the economy of Upper Manhattan, \$140 million of which has occurred under Mr. Knuckles' leadership, leveraged over \$1 billion in private capital, and created nearly 9,000 jobs. Kenneth Knuckles has led UMEZ through resounding success over the course of the last decade, and it is his deep understanding for the critical need for true economic empowerment and invigoration that makes him such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Knuckles is a prominent business and civic leader from The Bronx who has distinguished himself over the past two decades as an attorney, and has pursued an extraordinary career as a public servant. The list of his positions is long and distinguished. From 1987 to 1990 Mr. Knuckles served as Deputy Borough President of The Bronx, from 1990 to 1993 he served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of General Services, he once served as Assistant Housing Commissioner, and today he sits as a member of the New York City Planning Commission.

Mr. Kenneth Knuckles is a Bronx native who has dedicated himself to fostering the economic and civic revitalization of families and individuals throughout New York. There are countless government agencies, business owners, and families who have benefitted from Mr. Knuckles' extensive commitment to ensuring that economic vitality and equality are widespread ideals that are transformed into realities. Through his countless achievements and truly selfless service, I am proud to call Mr. Kenneth Knuckles a fellow public servant, and look forward to the great work he will continue to do for the individuals of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguishing colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Knuckles for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving the lives of New York's residents.

#### REINTRODUCING THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

#### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the National Women's Rights History Project Act, along with my upstate New York colleagues Representatives RICHARD HANNA, PAUL TONKO, JOHN KATKO and TOM REED. I originally worked with then-Senator Hillary Clinton to pass this bill into law in 2009, but it has not received appropriations since that time. The authorization for the project has expired, and it is vital that Congress pass this reauthorization and ensure that the women who shaped our nation's history and fought for every woman's rights are remembered and honored for generations to come.

The National Women's Rights History Project will establish an auto route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage, known as the Votes for Women Trail. It will also add to the National Register of "Places Where Women Made History," a variety of historic sites that were home to pivotal moments in our nation's struggle for gender equality. Finally, this Project will establish a public-private partnership network to offer financial and technical assistance for educational programs about the history of the fight for women's rights.

It is fitting that we reintroduce this bill during March, which is Women's History Month. I am especially proud that it was in Rochester, New York where Susan B. Anthony fought so hard for the rights that women throughout this country rely on today. Among her many efforts, Susan B. Anthony established the Equal Rights Association to refute ideas that women were inferior to men and to fight for women's right to vote. She also fought to tear down the walls holding women back from higher education.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Mary Ann M'Clintock convened the first women's rights convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. This event marked the beginning of a 72-year struggle for women's suffrage. During the convention, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which set out radical notions such as women's freedom to own property, receive an education and earn fair wages.

In 1880, a woman launched a brave petition to be the first female student at the University of Rochester. For almost twenty years, the petition was flatly denied—until 1898, when the University said that women would be allowed if they raised \$100,000 for the school. In today's terms, that is equal to \$2 million. By June of 1900 a group of women had managed to secure \$40,000, and the University decided that women would be allowed to enroll if they could raise another \$10,000 by September. Scrambling to reach the new goal, the women were \$8,000 short a day before the deadline. With hours remaining, Susan B. Anthony stepped forward and raised \$6,000 from friends and family before pledging her own life insurance policy to raise the final \$2,000 and throw open the doors of higher education in Rochester. Now, more than 100 years later, the University of Rochester is home to the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies—one of the pre-eminent educational institutions in the world.

These are the stories of incredible courage, dedication, and unyielding belief in equality that the National Women's Rights History Project is designed to honor. The fight for women's rights and equality still continues today. It was just 93 years ago that women were finally granted the right to vote. The struggle for women's suffrage was never easy and it is vital that we honor the sacrifices and commitment of those who blazed the trail that led us here today, where a record number of women serve in the 114th Congress.

Reauthorizing the National Women's Rights History Project Act will ensure that this important civil rights story is celebrated for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and reauthorize the National Women's Rights History Project.

## HONORING THE STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Stevenson High School men's basketball team for their Illinois state championship title, becoming the first Lake County high school to win a Class 4A state championship title in men's basketball.

I want to personally recognize the players on the team: Connor Cashaw, Cameron Green, Justin Smith, Parker Nichols, Joshua McMullen, Ryan Rosenbaum, Matt Johnson, Ryuji Aoki, Jalen Brunson, Radek Gralak, Benjamin Rodheim, Jordan Newman, Jordan Hodes, Raymond Sullivan, Kevin Yang, and Nick Dillon.

I also want to recognize Head coach Pat Ambrose; Assistant Coach John Taylor; Volunteer Coaches Kevin Stineman and Paul Swan; and Managers Deborah Blount, Jack Greeley, Nathan Halterman and Matthew Solway.

This accomplishment speaks volumes to the players' dedication, hard work, and perseverance. Stevenson High School's win, however, is not just a victory for the players and the school; it is a victory for our entire community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF CHABOT COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and congratulate the Chabot College women's basketball team on a remarkable championship run that ended with the Gladiators bringing home the first place trophy for the California Community College Athletic Association women's state basketball championship.

On Sunday, March 22, the Gladiators of Chabot gave Mt. San Antonio College their first loss of the year in the championship game. This was the Gladiator's first state championship, but we know that it will not be their last. Prior to this year, Mt. San Antonio had won six of the last ten state championships.

I am proud of the Gladiators for bringing the trophy home to Hayward and Northern California. Since 1998 only one other Northern Californian team has won the championship.

The Gladiators showed grit, determination, and focus in their narrow victory over a tough Mt. San Antonio team. A late three pointer put the Gladiators on top and free throws down the stretch sealed the deal.

Head Coach Mark Anger and his staff have led a truly exemplary group of student athletes for the entirety of the season, finishing with 31 wins and only four losses, and clinching Chabot College's first Coast Conference North Championship in 13 years.

I want to give special recognition to stand out players Morgan Green, who received the State Player of the Year, the MVP Final Four, and the MVP Coast Conference North awards; Alana Simon, who was first team All State, All Tournament Final Four, and first team All Conference; and Michelle Townsend, who was third team All State, All Tournament Final Four, and first team All Conference.

I wish the best of luck to all of the players and coaching staff of the Chabot College Gladiators.

Go Gladiators!

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the rollcall votes on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, I was absent after returning to El Paso to meet with representatives from the U.S. Army who are conducting the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA). The SPEA is a formal review of our country's military installations in preparation for a reduction in force that will take the Army from 470,000 active duty soldiers to 420,000 by the end of the decade.

Had I been present, on rollcall number 136, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 137, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 138, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 139, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall number 140, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 141, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 142, I would have voted "no."

## HONORING TRINNIE 'PITO PITO' BACA

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor Trinnie 'Pito Pito' Baca, a living institution and tireless community leader in Belen, New Mexico.

When Pito Pito was three or four years old, he was unexpectedly bitten by thousands of red ants, resulting in convulsions and long-standing health complications. His family has lovingly cared for him ever since, and Pito Pito has shared his own love and compassion with friends and neighbors in Belen for more than 60 years.

In 2013, the City of Belen officially designated December 16 "Trinnie Baca Day" and Pito Pito received a key to the city in recognition of his lasting contributions. Residents will tell you that no gesture is too small for Pito

Pito to demonstrate his heartfelt appreciation for his beloved community.

Famously known for dropping by local businesses to help sweep the entrance, shaking a stranger's hand, enthusiastically signaling motorists to honk their horns, and attending community events and funerals, Pito Pito's presence is felt in the community. He can always be found with a helping hand and guiding heart. Through his acts of love and kindness, Pito Pito demonstrates the profound impact one individual can have on an entire community.

I join family, friends, and everyone who has met Pito Pito in celebrating his birthday. Our state is richer and fuller because Pito Pito teaches and reminds us to love more, to be selfless, and to always remember that it is the people around us who make life worth living.

HONORING MADISON BRASUELL

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Madison Brasuell attends Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. The essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The role that our government should play in our lives is a question being prodded back and forth between Congressmen and women since the creation of our nation. The answer is subjective, of course, because it is impossible to make 320 million people happy with the system by which our government is ran. The efficacy of our current system, however, is questionable at times and I believe that the government should play a minuet role in our lives.

I should start by noting that we are lucky to live in a country that gives us so much freedom in our daily lives. We are given, in my opinion, the most important facet anyone could ask for: the freedom of speech. With this amendment, we have the liberty to tell our government how we really feel and not fear the consequences for voicing our expressions. Though more often than not our government hears our desires and doesn't do anything about it. They promise to minimally interfere with our lives but then set new regulations on sectors that directly impact our lives and wind up hurting us in the end. It is unacceptable for a government to not genuinely care for its people.

I would ideally choose to live in an environment where there is a strong state government with little national government intervention. The national government's only job should be to provide a system de-

fense, build and maintain highway systems and infrastructure, provide police enforcement, and keep peaceful trade facilitated with other countries. I feel that the government should have no control on our healthcare system, other than impose strict regulations, such as the certification of medical professionals and sanitation laws. I also believe that the government has no business interfering with our money except the protection against monopolies and the strict investment regulations. Other than that, I would say making the national government stronger would be detrimental to our nation.

My utopian government has flaws, as does every plan, but many Americans would agree on making the national government weaker. This would give Americans more freedom of choice because they would have more control over their lives and not have a "government shadow" tracking their every move. By having a government focus primarily on its safety of their people, they can focus less on trying to satisfy each individual and more on satisfying the nation as a whole.

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PATENT ACT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 2015 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will recognize the 225th anniversary of the first U.S. Patent Act.

When President Washington signed the bill that laid the foundation for our patent system, even he could not have foreseen the revolution in technology that was yet to come. During these past two centuries America has been at the forefront of innovation, from the industrial revolution to the telegraph and telephone, to modern computers and the Internet, to a whole new era of mobile computing and personal devices.

American inventors have led the world for centuries in new innovations, from Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison to the Wright brothers and Henry Ford. But if we want to continue as leaders in the global economy, we must continue to encourage the innovators of today to develop the technologies of tomorrow.

The fuel that powers the innovative engine that is America is its people. But the rules of the road require regular adjustment, and during the last two hundred years we have seen our patent laws updated and modernized. The most significant reforms took place in 1836, 1952 and most recently in 2011 with the America Invents Act.

Currently, we are continuing these efforts by addressing specific issues concerning abusive patent litigation with the Innovation Act (H.R. 9). This bill puts forward reasonable policies that allow for more transparency and brings fundamental fairness into the patent system and the courts. This bill holds true to the Constitution, our Founders and our promise to future generations that America will continue to lead the world as a fountain for discovery, innovation and economic growth.

So, on this 225th anniversary of the first U.S. Patent Act, America continues to be com-

mitted to lead the world in innovation and creativity.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE STUDENT LOAN BANKRUPTCY FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act, a bill I introduced earlier today with my colleagues DANNY DAVIS and ERIC SWALWELL which would restore fairness in student lending by treating privately issued student loans in bankruptcy the same as other types of private debt.

It is sad enough that our children are increasingly burdened by a crushing weight of student debt. But the fact that students under the weight of this debt are treated so unfairly in bankruptcy is unconscionable.

Before 2005, private student loans issued by for-profit lenders were treated in bankruptcy like most other unsecured consumer debt, such as credit card debt. Our bill will ensure that privately issued student loans will once again be treated like other consumer debt and be dischargeable in bankruptcy.

Private student loans have much in common with credit cards and subprime mortgages. For example, private student loans often have onerous interest rates with no caps and can include exorbitant fees and hidden charges. In addition, many lenders have used aggressive marketing and high-pressure sales tactics to target particularly vulnerable people, namely, young men and women without financial experience, and older Americans seeking to restart their careers in these financially difficult times by pursuing higher education and training.

The harmful features of many private student loans have resulted in a substantial rise in the number of delinquencies.

To make matters worse, private student loans lack the critical consumer protections that come with federal student loans. For instance, private lenders are not required to—and typically do not—provide any of the deferments, income-based repayment plans, cancellation rights, or loan forgiveness programs that are available to federal student loan borrowers.

A hallmark of our Nation's bankruptcy law is to give an honest but unfortunate debtor a chance to obtain meaningful relief. To that end, the law exempts very few types of debt from elimination through the bankruptcy process, and only for principled policy reasons, such as debts for child support, taxes, criminal fines and intentional injury.

Ten years ago, however, Congress changed the bankruptcy law without any substantive analysis so that student loans made by private, for-profit lenders became very difficult to discharge in bankruptcy.

Currently, the Bankruptcy Code prohibits the discharge of private educational debt unless the debtor, in addition to meeting the already stringent requirements for personal bankruptcy, proves that repayment would impose

an, "undue hardship," on the debtor and the debtor's dependents. In practice, however, it's hard for a debtor to ever successfully meet this standard.

The current bankruptcy law unjustly punishes hardworking Americans who are simply trying to improve their lives by pursuing a higher education and became victims of predatory private student loan lenders.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau warns that private student loan debt currently exceeds \$150 billion, which could undermine the future prospects of millions of Americans.

We can do better.

I urge my colleagues to support the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act.

#### A TRIBUTE TO GUNNAR OLSON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Gunnar Olson for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Gunnar has the determination and drive to be successful in all that he does and his exemplary work with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is a testament to that. As Communications Manager, he utilizes his abilities to create a story with accuracy and interest to achieve the goals of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. In his free time Gunnar likes to dedicate his time to serving others. He volunteers on the Water Works Foundation board and is working to revitalize the Water Works Park. In all aspects of his life, Gunnar's example of hard work and service is what makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Gunnar in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Gunnar on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THROUGH PUBLIC INSPECTION ACT OF 2015

### HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, historically on transportation projects, the construction inspector is the eyes, ears, and voice of the public. Inspectors ensure that construction standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements, and that the materials used will stand the test of time. In short, they are there to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for, and that public safety and the public interest are protected.

Outsourcing public inspection functions on State and local surface transportation projects eliminates a representative of the public from the construction site and puts a private company in charge of inspecting the work of the private construction company. This can create potential conflicts of interest. Unfortunately, across the nation, some departments of transportation are outsourcing public inspection with poor results.

That is why I am introducing today the Safety, Efficiency, and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act to require public employees to perform the inspection and related essential public functions on all state and local transportation projects. This bill is intended to ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted, and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

#### HONORING MS. PAM CHATMAN

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Pam Chatman.

For as long as Pam Chatman can remember, she's been coming in first. She was the first of 3 children born to parents in the heart of the poverty-stricken Mississippi Delta. She was the first of her siblings to graduate from college. She was the first African American Woman to steer a course through the chaos of a broadcast news career to achieve the position of News Director at WABG.

But little did Pam know in 2006, when she became News Director, she was achieving yet another first: Mississippi's first-ever female African-American News Director, an honor she wears proudly.

Recently the Tru TV network chronicled Pam's seemingly unlikely journey from poverty to power, which is its hit new reality series "Breaking Greenville". Pam's starring role in that show underscores her passion, not just for her profession, but for the people who work for her as anchors, reporters and producers. Kids right out of college, who are hun-

gry to learn the ropes of an often cut-throat career, find comfort in Pam's approach to leadership and management.

Pam was raised up in Shaw, Mississippi in a small rural community outside of the city limits called "Choctaw" a dirt-poor town of about less than 2-thousand people that sits in the heart of Bolivar County. Her grandmother, Marie Fly, raised her, and while poverty pulled at every corner of their lives, Pam relishes her adolescent years, coming of age in the Deep South. From its rich farming heritage, to its lakes and rivers teeming with catfish, to its red-clay hillsides that give a hint of color to an otherwise difficult existence, the Mississippi Delta to this day holds Pam's heart.

Pam graduated from Shaw high school in 1988 and enrolled in Rust College, one of Mississippi's oldest and most prestigious colleges for African-Americans.

Pam pledged to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, the first inter-collegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Black college. Pam graduated from Rust College in 1994 with a degree in Broadcasting Mass Communication, and returned to the Delta, degree in hand, with her heart set on making a difference close to home. She landed her first television job at Greenville's WXVT where she worked as a Production Assistant and then later moved to the Newsroom. She eventually went to work for WXVT's competitor, WABG, where she worked her way up from Assignment Manager to ultimately News Director, a position she's held for 10 years.

Her notoriety as Mississippi's first female African-American News Director also convinced the state legislators to dedicate a portion of Highway 61 in her honor and to proclaim January 18th as Pam Chatman Day.

In addition to leading a winning news team, Pam is a tireless community volunteer and advocate for teens and young women. She's also a motivational speaker, teaching women of all ages to accept and appreciate their uniqueness within the human race. She especially has a big heart for women who have come from small rural communities and are victims of abuse and drugs.

Yes, Pam Chatman is indeed a woman of firsts: the first to volunteer when there's a need; the first to offer comfort when someone is hurting; a first-class example of what a little faith and a lot of love can accomplish.

Pam also has a Mentoring, Consulting and Training Organization; the organization believes that every person you meet is a Diamond in the Rough. The organization provides workshops to educate and empower teens to get an education; strive for success; and to let no one define their dreams or destiny. The organization provides food and clothing to needy families. Once a month Pam herself does random acts of kindness where she pays for people's groceries or their utility bill. Yes, she is a servant determined to impact everyone she meets in life with a smile or an act of kindness. The organization has a doll called the PChat Doll that has a curriculum that comes along with it to teach young girls to love the skin they're in as well to deter bullying. The focus of the curriculum is Character Education, Literacy and Parental Involvement.

Pam does consultant work for the Mississippi Department of Education Federal 21-



Century Program's after school projects. In addition, Pam is also an entrepreneur. Pam has a cosmetics and spa line to enhance women of color and beauty called "Boss Lady PChatman" which was developed to assist in healing the totality of a woman from her inner beauty to her outer beauty.

Pam loves to help women break the chain of hurt and pain. So, she wrote a monologue gospel play entitled "Lord Show Me How to Heal My Scars". The play allows women from all walks of life to share their story through testimonials and songs.

Pam is the daughter of Louise Henry and the late Joseph Henry and has three siblings: Joseph, Jr., III; Evelyn and special niece Karris Henry, which she is assisting her family in raising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing News Director, Actor, Motivational Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist who has been instrumental in magnifying strides of America's black history.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL FOSTER

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Marshall Foster attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

In 2001, one day changed our nation forever. The World Trade Center twin towers in New York City stood tall on September 10th, and were no more on September 11th. This terrorist attack did exactly what its name implies: it placed a feeling of terror into every American heart. The tragedy of September 11th put the American spirit to the test, and the greatest country in the world proved that it is not a country that can be brought down. The United States showed its patriotism, strength, and courage by responding in a way that the cowardly terrorists did not expect. We did not fall, but stood strong and took the fight to our enemies. America was injured that day, but the American people grew stronger and sent a powerful message through patriotic action to those at home and abroad.

Americans were moved by the courage of the first responders on 9/11. The heroic actions of firefighters, policemen, and civilians are those which should be exemplified by every American. These people set the standard for American patriotism as they ran into burning buildings to save lives. In addition, our strength was demonstrated by ordinary citizens on United Airlines Flight 93 as they used their last moments to protect their country. Their counterattack caused the plane to crash before it could reach its target. The heroism of all of these Americans bolstered patriotism and strengthened our nation.

On the evening of September 11th, President George W. Bush sent a message to the world displaying the strength of the United States and sending chills down the backs of our enemies. He declared "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America . . . they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted . . . because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining". Remembering Bush's words and the attacks of 9/11, our country brought war straight to those who attacked us. This strength has changed the way Americans feel and has sparked my desire to join the United States Military to defend our great nation. Although the terrorist attacks took the lives of many, America has grown stronger as we fight back against those who threaten our freedoms.

Most Americans were not in New York City on that horrifying day. As Americans

learned of the horror that befell our country, the feeling of security that had blanketed us quickly faded. Fear washed over our citizens as the new reality that our enemies could reach us at home set in. Americans who had not given much thought to safety began to appreciate the need for strengthened national security and our military. President Bush spoke these words at Ground Zero, letting all Americans know that we must fight to protect the freedom so many had taken for granted: "I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you! And the people . . . who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!" It was at that moment that a burning patriotism was rekindled in our country. America would never be the same.

#### RECOGNIZING MATT MCLEMORE

#### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend Matt McLemore for twenty-five years of dedicated service to WTIM radio in my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois. For nearly three decades, Matt has been an integral part of WTIM's commitment to bringing news to the Central Illinois community, serving as the host for the station's morning news show.

Matt first began at WTIM as a news director for the station in 1990, and shortly after began his role as the WTIM Morning Show host, where he became a household name to many of his listeners. In my years in Congress, I have had the pleasure to be featured on Matt's program a number of times to discuss the work I do in Washington on behalf of the many Central Illinoisans that tune into his show. To honor Matt and his time with WTIM, the station will celebrate "Matt McLemore Day", an all-day, on-air party on April 2, 2015.

Matt, I thank you for your time with WTIM, your impact on the Taylorville community, and your service to thousands across Central Illinois. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

## SENATE—Monday, April 13, 2015

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible You are hidden from our eyes. We are grateful that we can turn to You throughout life's seasons, for You are the source of our hope for the years to come.

Lord, in a world of change and decay, You remain the same yesterday, today, and forever. Strengthen our lawmakers with Your Spirit and inspire them with Your precepts. May they always place their confidence in You, for Your steadfast love and faithfulness sustain us.

Undergird America with a foundation of right living that exalts a nation, as You deliver us from the evils that bring national decline. Surround us all with the shield of Your Divine favor.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### OBAMACARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is another day and another report highlighting how ObamaCare is helping Americans.

Today's proof comes from a Gallup poll which finds that 9 out of 10 Americans report having health insurance.

Here are a few excerpts from the Associated Press article about this poll: "... underlining a change across the nation, nearly 9 out of 10 adults now say they have health insurance, according to an extensive survey released today."

The Gallup poll "found that the share of adults who lack [health] insurance dropped to 11.9 percent for the first three months of this year, the lowest level since the survey began its tracking in 2008."

Coverage gains from 2014–2015 translate to about 3.6 million fewer adults uninsured since the fall. . . . "The Affordable Care Act had three major objectives: increase coverage, slow the rate of increase in costs, and improve health". . . . "The first one is a clear win. Coverage is increasing; there is no question about it."

"On balance, an estimated 14.75 million adults have gained coverage since the fall of 2013, when the law's first open enrollment season was about to begin."

The survey also found that "Hispanics saw the biggest coverage gains of any ethnic or racial group. At a time when Republicans are very keenly trying to court the Hispanic vote, a large chunk of Hispanics are gaining insurance via the Affordable Care Act."

Recent gains in coverage have benefited people up and down the income ladder. But the most notable improvement has been among those making less than \$36,000 a year, a group that traditionally struggled to get and keep health insurance.

Here is a little short comment on this. When we have people who make less than \$36,000 getting insurance coverage, it saves us money. They are not having to go through their primary care physician—which is an emergency room—the highest cost of health care delivery in the United States. So this is really good news for America. ObamaCare is working, and there is more and more evidence every day. It is time to stop trying to destroy the law that has been helping millions and millions of Americans.

### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let's talk a little bit about Loretta Lynch. We have now passed the first 100 days of the Republican-controlled Senate. We all remember the lofty promises made by the Republican leader and his party when they assumed power. But we are still struggling to finish two issues that should have been resolved weeks ago.

The Democrats are ready to move forward on the Lynch nomination and the so-called doc fix. This doc fix, which we are going to talk about a little later, is so important not only for the doctors but also for their patients. Medicare is an important part of our health care delivery system, and it benefits older Americans.

This day marks the 157th day since President Obama first nominated Loretta Lynch as Attorney General. For more than 5 months, Democrats have been ready to take up and confirm the nomination. Back in November of last year, when Loretta Lynch was first

nominated, the Republican leader said: "Ms. Lynch will receive fair consideration by the Senate. And her nomination should be considered in the new Congress through regular order."

I am not making this up. This is what the Republican leader said. I quoted him verbatim.

Even though the Democrats were ready to move the nomination before the elections, some Republicans wanted a little more time to look at it. We agreed to that. We based this upon what the Republican leader said—that Ms. Lynch would receive fair consideration by the Senate.

Well, that hasn't happened. January came and went, and Loretta Lynch's nomination never got a confirmation vote on the floor. Democrats were ready to confirm a new Attorney General, but Republicans weren't and aren't.

February and March flew by and Republicans still aren't ready. Now we are half way through April, and once again, Senate Democrats are ready and willing to confirm a new Attorney General, but the Republicans are not.

Ms. Lynch has a spotless record. No one can question her integrity, her background, and there is no question that she should not have to wait any longer.

### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spent a little bit of time talking about the sustainable growth rate—the doc fix—or the SGR. Before the Senate recessed for the Easter break, Republicans were unable to agree on how to prevent the physician pay cut. Democrats were ready to proceed. The last night we were here, we said: When we come back, we want to move this House bill forward. We want three simple amendments.

We still feel the same way. We are willing not only to move forward on those amendments, but we will give a very short time agreement on each one of them.

The Republican leader said when bills come to the floor, he wants to have amendments. We don't want to amend this bill to death. We want three simple amendments. We said that the night we were here when closing the Senate for the Easter recess, and we say it again. I wish Republicans would have joined us years ago in our efforts to repeal this faulty law, but they did not do that.

Regardless of the history, we have an urgent need before us today to get this bill done. Each day that passes without

doing this SGR, this sustainable growth rate—to get rid of it is basically what we are doing. It would be a good day for America. It would also be a good day for America when we can confirm Loretta Lynch. Each day that passes without her confirmation and without a doc fix is just another example of Republicans' inability to govern.

Mr. President, would you announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

#### DISAPPROVAL OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8—PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

On March 31, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, a message from the President of the United States was received returning to the Senate the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 8) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 8 is considered as having been read, will be printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

The veto message ordered to be printed in the RECORD is as follows:

#### MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

S.J. Res. 8 would overturn the National Labor Relations Board's recently issued "representation case procedures" rule and block modest but overdue reforms to simplify and streamline private sector union elections. Accordingly, I am withholding my approval of this resolution. (The Pocket Veto Case, 279 U.S. 655 (1929)).

Workers need a strong voice in the workplace and the economy to protect and grow our Nation's middle class. Unions have played a vital role in giving workers that voice, allowing workers to organize together for higher wages, better working conditions, and the benefits and protections that most

workers take for granted today. Workers deserve a level playing field that lets them freely choose to make their voices heard, and this requires fair and streamlined procedures for determining whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. Because this resolution seeks to undermine a streamlined democratic process that allows American workers to freely choose to make their voices heard, I cannot support it.

To leave no doubt that the resolution is being vetoed, in addition to withholding my signature, I am returning S.J. Res. 8 to the Secretary of the Senate, along with this Memorandum of Disapproval.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 31, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to talk once again about the ongoing effort to replace the Medicare sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula.

As we know, SGR has been a problem pretty much since its inception. Members of both parties have grown tired of passing temporary SGR patches that have been cobbled together at the last minute behind closed doors. This constant, seemingly unending, cycle has only grown more tiresome as the years have gone by.

That is why a little over 2 years ago a group of leaders from both the House and the Senate set out to fix this problem once and for all. I was part of this effort. I was joined on the Senate side by former Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus. Together, Senator Baucus and I worked with the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees to craft legislation that would repeal and replace SGR with an improved payment system that rewards quality, efficiency, and innovation.

While many critics deemed our efforts a lost cause, we introduced our bill in late 2013 and got it reported out of the Finance Committee on a voice vote. That same legislation formed the basis of the SGR bill that passed overwhelmingly in the House with 392 votes at the end of March.

Now the bill is before the Senate. It is my hope that we will act quickly to pass this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and send it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

This SGR bill is historic for a number of reasons. First of all, it demonstrates what Congress is truly capable of when Members work together. While that type of cooperation used to be commonplace around here, it has in recent years been in short supply. The bill also represents a step forward in the effort to reform our Nation's enti-

tlement programs. The bill contains bipartisan reforms to the Medicare program, and it is not limited to fixing the broken SGR system.

To go along with the permanent SGR fix, the bill includes a meaningful downpayment on Medicare reform without any accompanying tax hikes. These reforms include a limitation on so-called Medigap first-dollar coverage, more robust means testing for Medicare Parts B and D, and program integrity provisions that will strengthen Medicare's ability to fight fraud.

I am aware that these are not transformative reforms and that much more work will be necessary to put Medicare—not to mention our other entitlement programs—on a more sustainable trajectory. However, any Senators who, like me, have been clamoring for entitlement reform should welcome these changes. After all, for years the idea of bipartisan Medicare reform seemed, at best, farfetched. President Obama and his allies here in Congress have stated repeatedly that, before they would consider changes to our safety net programs, Republicans would have to agree to massive tax hikes. But here we are, just one Senate vote away from enacting meaningful and bipartisan Medicare reforms into law.

Of course, as I said last month before the House vote, this bill is not perfect. Anyone who is determined to vote no could likely dig through the bill and find a reason to do so. I have my own thoughts as to how I would like to improve the bill.

But, let's be honest. While I have only been in the Senate for 38 years or so, I don't remember voting on many perfect bills, particularly not on a subject matter this complex and under a divided government. So, while I understand the impulse of some who may want to hold out for a better, more ideal solution to the SGR problem, I think it would be a grave mistake to pass up this bipartisan opportunity we have before us now.

As I see it, we have two options. We can hold out for a better bill, one that satisfies every demand and subject ourselves to many more years of the last-minute, time-consuming SGR patches that are loathed by everyone in Congress and everyone in the health care industry or we can pass the bipartisan, bicameral bill we have before us now, fixing the SGR problem once and for all and setting the stage for future entitlement reform.

It should be pretty clear where I stand. This is a good bill, and it is coming at the right time.

I want to once again commend the leaders in the House from both parties who worked so hard to reach a deal on this legislation and to pass it with such an overwhelming consensus. I know it was not easy.

It is now up to us here in the Senate. Let's get this done. I hope all of my

colleagues will join me in supporting the SGR bill.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONDURAS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, over the course of the Easter recess, I went to meet with the President of Honduras, President Hernandez, about the limited albeit progress his country is making against crime, as well as all the drugs that are coming in. I had gone to Honduras with our four-star Marine general, General Kelly, the Commander of United States Southern Command.

Between the U.S. military and the Coast Guard, we have been successful—as a matter of fact, I even went on some simulated drug interdictions out in the Caribbean off of Key West. They showed me how one Coast Guard fast boat can interdict a drug smuggler's fast boat, and basically they shoot out the engines. They can do that from another fast boat or they can do that from a helicopter.

That has had an effect. There are less drugs coming out of South America going into Honduras, which is one of the three Central American countries that had become so prime for the drug trade.

They arrive in big shipments into Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala. Then they break them down into much smaller packets and go through this very efficient distribution system that goes north through the rest of Central America, into Mexico, and from there to the United States.

It is hard to catch them when there are the much smaller packets of cocaine going north. Therefore, we have really made an effort to assist the three Central American countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Needless to say, there is a lot of corruption in the governments and the local police of all of those three countries. As a result, the drug lords find it fairly easy pickings to buy off people and buy off judges, so President Hernandez came into office wanting to really make a difference.

He started doing some shows of force. He has worked with General Kelly on this issue, but the fact is it is still a very violent country, with not only the drug trade but also human trafficking, but the trends are in the right direction.

One year ago, Honduras was the murder capital of the world. It was about 86 murders per 100,000 of population. They

have cut that number down to about 66 per 100,000 of population—still very high, but the trend is in the right direction.

I commend President Hernandez, and I commend the First Lady of the country. They have been trying to help their country with its economy so the extreme poverty that is so evident in that part of the world is not a caldron bubbling that is ripe for corruption and for paying off people to transport the drugs.

In addition, of course there is the human trafficking. There is part of it for the sex slaves, and that is a trade where often parents are sending their children north—thinking they will have a better life—and the young girls are just brutally treated and ultimately forced into prostitution. But part of it is also, because of the poverty, the hopelessness of the parents that their children have no future. They are willing to turn—after paying thousands and thousands of dollars to a human trafficker—their children over to a coyote to transport those children to the north.

Some of them don't make it, and it is true some of the reforms that the Hernandez government have been putting in place have lessened the migration of these young children, but there is a lot more to do. That is where I would commend the Senate to take a look at the administration's request for Central America. It has a name, something such as Alliance for Progress. It is about a \$1 billion appropriations request that will help with the economic development and the medical care in that very poor region of the world. If the Congress will approve that request, I think we will continue to see the fruits of our labors—a very positive outcome.

As long as there is such a difference between the economic elites and the very poor—a huge majority who are very poor—we are always going to have those problems, but at least we are seeing the steps in the right direction.

While I was there, our Ambassador Nealon asked me in the assembled press to announce that in another week the Naval Hospital ship the Comfort will be anchoring off the coast of Honduras. For 1 week it will offer the medical services of Navy doctors, nurses, and a whole host of private doctors and nurses from this country who are volunteering their time to go to Honduras and help with the medical attention that is so desperately needed in that part of the world.

I commend to the Senate that we seriously consider favorably the request of the administration for this \$1 billion into Central America. At the end of the day, it is going to lessen the drug trade going north through those countries and stop the family deprivation—lessen the family deprivation—of which they would dare risk their children to be sent north with a coyote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, my home of Cleveland, OH, is one of our Nation's historic great centers of industry. Our manufacturing base helped to build our country's infrastructure to win World War II and to spur our economy to new heights in the 21st century. We are not only home to great makers, we are home to great creators as well.

We are the home of rock and roll—the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is in downtown Cleveland—great athletes and authors, people such as Jesse Owens and Toni Morrison, and we are home to great art. Cleveland is the home to world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, Playhouse Square, Karamu House, the NASA-designated Great Lakes Science Center, and one of the largest and best art museums not just in the United States but in the world, the Cleveland Museum of Art.

In the early 1900s, Midwest cities saw a cultural explosion. Cities were prospering. Government and business leaders alike sought to harness that new wealth to build livable, world-class cities. Museums were established across the Midwest. That is why cities such as Youngstown, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland—cities that may not have been the Nation's largest, especially when you look at Dayton, Youngstown, and Toledo, but cities that were prosperous—created great products, created great wealth, and made huge contributions to start these cultural centers.

Ohio is one of the leading States in the Nation as far as locations of good art museums in pretty much all of our major cities. Art museums were status symbols. In many ways, they were the sports arenas of the early 20th century.

It was in this climate that the Cleveland Museum of Art was established 99 years ago, opening in June 1916. We mark, last year and the next couple of years, the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland City Club and the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland Orchestra also. So much happened in that decade in Cleveland, OH, and cities like it across the country.

The original marble neoclassic building was an instant icon, a signal to the world that Cleveland would take its place as a world-class city and a center for the arts. And 100 years later, the Cleveland Museum of Art is thriving. It has a permanent collection that is

world-renowned and possesses a deep commitment to the local community.

Under the leadership of Director William Griswold and Steven Kestner, chair of the board of trustees, the museum is expanding in every direction, working to engage the community and using new technology to educate visitors. I had the privilege of visiting the art museum just in the last week or so, talking with Dr. Griswold, and looking at the new Africa exhibit that is on tour that has been collected for Cleveland, and I got a chance to see a good bit of this beautiful museum. I have been many times. Each time I go, I come away with an even greater appreciation for the institution, the art, the curators, the collectors, and the people who work there. Dr. Griswold shared with me that day he was appointed as director, he was with some European friends who told him the Cleveland Museum of Art was their favorite art museum in the entire world.

The museum recently completed a \$350 million expansion and renovation that will better integrate the museum with the surrounding community. It has transformed the museum's spaces and has prepared this institution to inspire and educate Ohioans for the next 100 years. It beckons young people and students—many low-income students in the immediate area, within a few square miles around the museum—to come visit and learn about our cultural heritage and look to the future.

When I met with Dr. Griswold—let me back up for a moment. This capital improvement was the largest capital improvement of any museum in Ohio history and supported some 1,100 local jobs. The project injected more than \$360 million directly into our State's economy. The impact will be felt for years to come.

As it approaches its centennial celebration next year, the Cleveland Museum of Art will continue to attract visitors from Cuyahoga County, from northeast Ohio, and from around the world. In 2013, 600,000 people visited that museum. More than one-third of them were from outside of Ohio. More than half a million visitors were responsible for \$80 million in consumer spending in the city.

The museum's first director, Frederick Allen Whiting, believed the museum should serve not as an ivory tower but as an educational institution engaged in the community. He wanted to bring art to people, not just people into the museum.

The museum established its first education department. In 1919, they held the first annual exhibition of Cleveland artists and craftsmen. It became known as the May Show and showcased local artists for the next 73 years. Dr. Griswold continues that tradition of community engagement.

When I met with him, he told me that leaders of cultural institutions

have a responsibility to participate in my city's transformation. He is committed and the museum's staff is committed to making our city a better place. They have elevated the museum's education and interpretation department and are committed to the value of interpretive excellence. Education in the museum is aimed at a general audience, not just art buffs and historians.

Parenthetically, my sister-in-law teaches in the art history department at Case Western Reserve University. Catherine talks to me about how integrated Case is in the art history department with that museum. It is a classroom for students. It is a classroom for the whole community beyond Case.

Studies show that a high concentration of the arts in communities leads to higher civic engagement. Students who take art classes, play musical instruments, take dance lessons generally do better in school.

Dr. Griswold and his team are in the forefront of the use of technology to educate and to connect visitors with the museum's collections. The Cleveland Art Museum is also home to the country's largest multitouch screen, a collection wall. This huge, interactive wall stands at 40 square feet and features more than 4,100 works of art from the museum's collection.

To get a feel for the reach and the breadth of a museum of this stature in one of our Nation's great cities, the museum has 20 curators on staff. It recruits for these positions around the world.

In Cleveland, we have the Cleveland Institute of Art, and we have great universities. However, when it comes time to look for a new curator, the Cleveland Art Museum looks worldwide.

The museum's collection includes 45,000 objects and spans nearly 6,000 years of history. This February, the museum's "Senufo: Art and Identity in West Africa" special exhibit opened after 5 years of work by curators. It features 170 objects from more than 60 collections around the world.

We know that strong communities require strong cultural institutions. From the Cleveland Institute of Music, to the Fine Arts Garden, to the Botanical Garden, to the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland continues to cultivate the vibrant arts community that enriches our city and enriches our State.

Thanks to the art museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and Dr. Griswold, who is relatively still new on the job, for their contributions to our community.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PART- NERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, let me start with a story. More than 15

years ago, a friend and I—I met with friends, and I flew to South Texas at my own expense. I wanted to see how the North American Free Trade Agreement was working.

During my first year in Congress 20-plus years ago, in the House of Representatives, I helped to lead the opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement. I stood up to a President of my own party, President Clinton, who I think was wrong on the North American Free Trade Agreement. Since then, I disagreed with President Bush—a President not of my party—on his trade policy.

I wanted to see, 4, 5 years after NAFTA was implemented, what it looked like, what went on along the U.S.-Mexican border. As I said, at my own expense I rented a car with a couple friends and went to Mexico. Here is what I found. I walked into a neighborhood where thousands of workers lived, workers who were working in formerly U.S. plants that, because of NAFTA, had crossed the river and were relocated in Mexico in some areas called maquiladoras. These were American plants that relocated to Mexico, producing with very low-income workers, no environmental labor standards, and selling those products back into the United States. It is a 20th-century, 21st-century way of doing business for far too many companies. Unknown in human history, to my knowledge, have so many companies, as they have in the United States, incorporated their business plans where they shut down production in Sandusky or Mansfield, OH, and move production to Wuhan or Shiyan, China, and sell those products back into the United States.

I wanted to see what it looked like. I walked through this neighborhood where thousands of workers lived in very abject, poor conditions. These were workers working for in most cases American companies south of the border in Mexico, for very low wages.

I walked through these neighborhoods. I saw people living in shacks. These shacks were often made of packing materials, maybe wooden crates from products that had been shipped in for assembly at these plants, cardboard boxes often with the names of the companies on them. They were living in conditions like that.

I walked through the neighborhood, and I saw kind of meandering through the neighborhood these ditches filled with industrial and human waste. Who knows what was in those ditches. Children were playing nearby, walking across and jumping across the ditches, sometimes playing far too close to these ditches filled with toxic waste. The American Medical Association in those days called that area in Mexico across from the United States, across from the Rio Grande River, the most toxic place in North America.

Then I went to an auto plant. Nearby was an auto plant. It was a new auto

plant. It looked a lot like a U.S. auto plant. It was new and modern. In fact, it was newer than many auto plants in the United States. The workers were working hard. The machines were new. The workers were productive. The floors were clean. There was one difference between a U.S. auto plant—a plant in Avon Lake or Lorain, OH—there was one difference between a U.S. auto plant and a Mexican auto plant. Do you know what the difference was? The difference was the Mexican auto plant had no parking lot because the workers in Mexico weren't paid enough to buy the cars they make.

Go halfway around the world. Go to China and go to an Apple plant—actually, it is a Foxconn plant. Apple has hired a Chinese contractor. Go to an Apple plant in China. The workers don't make enough in those plants to buy the iPhone they make.

Go to Bangladesh and go to a designer clothing factory, an apparel factory, and the workers don't make enough to buy the apparel they make.

Go back to this side of the globe and go to Colombia and go to a farm where they are growing cut flowers. The workers don't make enough to buy flowers for their girlfriends and wives for Valentine's Day. They don't make enough to buy the cut flowers they are growing for Americans.

That is what has happened around the world with these trade agreements. You see the same things—a race to the bottom. Almost anywhere the United States passes trade agreements, we see workers overseas making products they cannot afford for themselves. These trade agreements would be different if workers were paid enough that they began to make products made in Dayton, OH, or Gallipolis, OH, or Troy, OH. Instead, these workers cannot afford to buy the products they are making.

That is what our trade deals force American workers to compete with—jobs that pay pennies an hour. They lead to a downward wage spiral across the globe. Why do most people sitting in this gallery, why do most people in this country, unless they are in the top 5 or 10 percent, why have they not gotten a raise in the last 10 years? The middle class in this country has not seen their incomes go up even though the wealthy get wealthier, even though companies are more profitable, even though executives pay themselves higher bonuses. The middle-class wages have been stagnant, partly because of these trade agreements and partly because my friends on the other side of the aisle won't let us fix the Tax Code, where if you shut down production in Lima or in Ravenna, OH, and move it to Wuhan or Shiyan, China, and sell it back into the United States, you get a tax break. American companies get a tax break for shutting down production in this country and moving it overseas and partly because of trade policy.

The reason people don't get raises in this country—a big reason—is because of a trade policy and a tax policy that far too many politicians in this body have allowed to happen. That is why we can't afford another agreement like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We can't allow a fast track of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The last thing we need is another NAFTA, another Northern American Free Trade Agreement. We do not need a deal negotiated in secret and rushed—hence the term “fast track”—rushed with no amendments, with no real oversight, with no access even to reading the text.

It would intrigue people if they knew that it is harder for a Senator or a Senator's staff to get the opportunity to read the Trans-Pacific Partnership—this newly negotiated trade deal—it is harder for us to get access to read that than it is to read about the Iran sanctions or to read a CIA report or to read a classified document from the Department of Defense. It is actually harder to get access to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, to this trade agreement, to study it, than it is to national defense, national security concerns. What are they trying to hide? Why would that be?

I have spent much of the last couple of weeks talking with workers and businesses around Ohio. I met with workers like Darryl Parker, a former worker at R.G. Steel's Warren, OH, plant and former president of the Steelworkers Local 1375. The plant has a proud history dating back to 1912. Close to 3 years ago, it was the fourth largest flat-rolled steel maker in America. It didn't close because of poor performance. These are some of the most productive workers in the world. There is one reason 1,300 workers like Darryl lost their jobs: unfair trade.

I met with Vinny Galetto in Toledo, a former American Standard worker—actually, in Tiffin. I met him in Toledo. Vinny lost his job in 2007 when the plant closed down and moved to Mexico.

We cannot allow this to continue. We have no business passing fast track to fast track jobs out of this country, to fast track weaker environmental rules and worker safety rules.

Trade policy should ensure a level playing field for all companies competing in a global economy. Instead, our trade policy is unfair to small businesses, to workers, and to those communities where plants shut down one after another. The communities then have to lay off teachers, firefighters, police officers, and municipal garbage collection workers because their tax base has shrunk because their jobs have gone overseas.

Although worker productivity is higher, they face stagnating wages, increased middle-class insecurity, and rising inequality at home. Yet corporate profits are up and CEO pay has

reached record levels. Fundamentally the workers are not sharing in the wealth they have created for their employers.

The reason our economy worked so well after World War II is because productivity went up, profits went up, wages went up, but since the assault on organized labor and trade unions and the decline of unionization in this country, productivity continues to go up, profits continue to go up, and executives' compensation and bonuses continue to skyrocket, yet wages have stayed flat and most Americans have not had a wage increase.

Last year Wall Street bonuses—just the bonuses on Wall Street—were double what all minimum-wage workers earned in the country combined. I will say that again. Wall Street bonuses—mostly their Christmas bonuses, or whenever they are given—were double what all the minimum-wage workers in the country made combined.

We need to invest in supporting workers with a living wage, paid sick and family leave, and equal pay for equal work. We need to invest in infrastructure. When the State government is cut, we know what happens—particularly in my State. When the State government is cut, it cuts support for local communities. We know what happens to our highways, our streets, and our bridges.

We fundamentally know that trade, done right, creates prosperity. I want trade, and I want more of it. I think Ohioans want trade, but we want trade that builds an on-ramp to the middle class here at home and lifts workers from poverty in America and around the world. We do not want another NAFTA.

Earlier this month, I visited the Ford plant near Cleveland in Brook Park, OH. Ford brought its manufacturing of EcoBoost engines back from Valencia, Spain. They invested \$200 million and brought 450 new jobs to Cleveland. Some companies, such as Ford, are beginning to reshore manufacturing jobs because they know our workers are skilled and efficient. But auto companies need protections from foreign governments' unfair trade practices.

While I disagree with President Obama on the trade promotion authority fast track and on the Trans-Pacific partnership agreement, I give him credit for being more aggressive than President Bush or President Clinton on enforcing trade rules and trade laws. It makes a difference in helping to create jobs.

Trade agreements must include provisions protecting our workers and our companies from foreign governments that artificially manipulate their currency. For example, Japan has a history of shutting out American auto companies and manipulating their currency to benefit their own manufacturers. That policy has worked for Japan,

but it has not worked for us. In 2013, for every 1 car the United States sold to Japan, we imported 99 cars from Japan. That doesn't sound like a level playing field, where cars that were made by American workers get an opportunity to sell in Japan. It is not much different with Korea. Too much is at stake. Our capacity to outcompete and outinnovate our competitors depends on our capacity to outmanufacture them. That means we need trade policies that will create opportunities for workers and small businesses so they can earn a living wage and join the middle class.

I urge my colleagues to demand increased transparency in this process. I urge everyone to say no to a deal that shortchanges our workers and companies and does not ensure a level playing field.

We cannot allow another trade deal—we had NAFTA, PNTR with China, CAFTA, South Korea, and Colombia, one after another—that sells out our workers and ships jobs overseas. It is time for a very different trade policy.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE JIM OBERGEFELL STORY

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise with some excitement as I get to tell a story that is an American story. This story is, in fact, a love story.

The first time Jim Obergefell met the love of his life, John Arthur, neither of them were swept off their feet. As is the case with a lot of couples, they met at a bar through mutual friends. They met then a second time, but the sparks didn't really fly then either. It wasn't until a few months later that they met for the third time at a New Year's Eve party. This time, they fell in love. Jim and John like to joke that theirs was a story of love at third sight.

Following the New Year's Eve party, John and Jim began building their lives together in Cincinnati, OH. The next 20 years they spent doing so many of the things that connected couples do. They said "I love you" for the first time. They had their first fight. Their bond grew and grew, and this incredible couple moved in together, buying their first home, selling that home, buying another home, and working together, building lives together. They moved from job to job, but they stayed together. Traveling, making friends, becoming involved with their community, they built a life of love together.

Jim and John's love story is a familiar one. They crossed familiar relation-

ship milestones and faced so many of the same probing questions many couples often get: Why aren't you married? Have you thought about getting married? Hey, what about marriage?

Well, of course, they had thought about marriage. Their bond was that strong; they were so deeply in love and committed. But their response, unfortunately, was that they had thought of it, but they wanted it to actually mean something legally. They wanted it to be right and just. They wanted their marriage to be affirmed before all, and for it to have meaning under the law. They wanted it to be recognized just as it was for other American citizens. They wanted that ideal that exists deep in our country's heritage, flowing through all of our roots, that they together as a couple could have a life, could have liberty, and could pursue their happiness.

However, for them at that time, equality and freedom for all in our country was an ideal that was seemingly far off. But I will tell my colleagues this: What I love about America is that we cannot slow down the dream of freedom and equality. It marches forward. Look at history and we see all of the attempts to stop these fundamental ideals of freedom and equality under the law. People and tyrants, with brutality, try to chain our freedom, try to beat it back. They try to assassinate its advocates, but just as the Statue of Freedom sits on the Capitol dome, freedom rises, and it will come.

Jim and John watched the progress march in our country as so many of us did with encouragement. Painfully slowly but steadily it marched forward. As they watched and waited, they went on living their lives of love together. For almost 20 years, their union, their bond as committed people with unconditional love continued.

Unfortunately, though, John began having problems walking. After months of tests, doctors' appointments, prodding and probing, John was diagnosed with ALS. The typical prognosis for a patient with ALS is 2½ to 5 years. Jim became John's primary caregiver. He leapt up. He had unconditional love. There were trying times, but he said he considered it a privilege to care for his life's love.

Two years after John's diagnosis in 2013, when he was receiving hospice care and was confined to a hospital bed in their Cincinnati home, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Edith Windsor, declaring that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional. That decision set the stage for an even greater national movement toward marriage equality. It set the stage—after years of struggle and fights and sacrifice for equal rights—for equality under the law, for love to be affirmed in marriage between two Americans, to be affirmed and equally recognized, not con-

demned, not banned, not made illegal. So on a warm day in June, after 20 years of love, commitment, and building a life together, it was at this moment that Jim leaned over to John, sitting there in his hospital bed, kissed him, and proposed: "Let's get married."

Because Ohio has yet to recognize marriage equality, and with John confined to his bed, this was going to be challenging. Their options were limited. Transporting John to a State that would recognize their marriage would require a special medically equipped airplane, and it would require a lot of money they did not have. Jim asked for ideas on Facebook, and people came forward. Unprompted, Jim and John's friends raised \$13,000 to cover the entire cost of a specially chartered medical plane.

A few weeks later, Jim, John, and John's Aunt Paulette, who became ordained to perform the service, boarded a plane in Ohio that took off and landed nearby in Maryland. In this State, they recognize marriage equality. In this State, they recognized the love of two American citizens. And for 7½ minutes, on the tarmac at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, John and Jim, two Americans, had their wedding.

Sitting on the tarmac, Jim, holding the hands of his partner of 20 years—whose hands lacked dexterity and strength—said this to John:

We met for the first time, my life didn't change, your life didn't change. We met a second time, still nothing changed. Then we met a third time, and everything changed. As you recently said, it was love at third sight, and for the past twenty years, six months and eleven days, it's been love at every sight.

In a cramped medical airplane, John's aunt began the formal vows. She started to say, "Take each other's hands," but then realized they had never let go of each other's hands.

They exchanged their rings, Jim helping John place the ring on his own finger, and after the ceremony they left that Maryland tarmac to fly back. Jim and John arrived home to the realities of a disease like ALS. John was dying. And while they had taken their eternal vows together, while their marriage was affirmed by love, affirmed by this unbreakable commitment, affirmed by loving family and by friends, affirmed to be legal by the State of Maryland, their marriage was disavowed by their home State—the State John would eventually die in.

These men at this time decided to work with a civil rights attorney because they feared that even after their actions on their part, John's death certificate would list him as unmarried—an assault on the dignity of two great men. His life with his partner—their 20 years of love and commitment and ultimate affirmation of those years—their marriage would mean nothing according to the government. They feared



that on this document—the last documentation of his life—that their life of love and commitment would be denied by their government. On this paper their marriage would be denied—negated, disallowed.

John, who married to the love of his life, died in his home State and was listed on that final government document as single. With their attorney, the men filed a lawsuit to have John and Jim's marriage legally recognized in Ohio. A week and a half after their marriage, a district judge in Ohio ruled to recognize their wedding, but that was just the start of a long legal fight.

In the last few months of John's life, Jim worked with the attorney to continue to fight for recognition of their citizenship rights as Americans. People would ask Jim: Why, when your husband is dying, would you use your last days together to fight this? Jim's response was simple: Why not?

Jim could not think of any better way to honor his husband, to live up to his vows, and to demonstrate the power of his love, the power of their commitment, the power of love in our world, other than to fight this injustice.

A little over 3 months after their marriage, the inevitable eventually arrived. John passed away at the young age of 48. Amidst his overwhelming grief, Jim found a small but substantive source of consolation. On his death certificate he was listed as married with Jim's name listed as his surviving spouse.

The State of Ohio appealed the decision to list John as married. Their government went to court to strip him and his beloved of this recognition and won. State officials made it their mission to change John Arthur's death certificate.

Jim Obergefell now stands as a named plaintiff in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest Court in the land, to have he and his husband's fundamental rights recognized—that their vows and commitment be worthy of recognition as American citizens. They have joined with cases from three other States also seeking that affirmation of citizenship, of equality under the law. Together, all these cases have come to represent the cause of paving the way for marriage equality to become a reality in our Nation.

Jim and John's story is moving. It is being heard in a building across the street with these words emblazoned over its doors, "Equal Justice Under Law." Their story is heartbreaking. It is inspiring, but unfortunately in our Nation right now it is all too common. This story of theirs about the persistent, unyielding, and indefatigable love conquering indifference about our ideals of equality conquering inequality in our country. This call is in their hearts for each other reflects the larger call for our country for itself, for us to live our truth. It calls that question

forward, what kind of country will we be? Will we be the Nation of love and freedom and equality? Will we be the Nation that every single generation has had people standing up for these ideals, people pushing to March forward for our country these ideals. This is not a question about sexual orientation or race or gender, it is a question about whether our country will live up to the ideals we say every time we pledge allegiance to our flag: "... liberty and justice for all."

Will we have equality under the law or will we tolerate a government that denies some citizens fundamental rights while granting them to others? This is the question that is being called.

It is a question that echoes throughout our history—Sojourner Truth, standing in Akron, OH, at the Women's Convention, calling the question, "Ain't I a woman?"

It is a question by my family members that I heard, standing strong, saying defiantly: I am a man. I, too, am an American citizen.

Proclaiming those words, generation after generation have strained at chains, have fought Jim Crowe. It is what Susan B. Anthony said when she said, "It is we the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. . . ."

This is the ideal—the love of our country, the sacrifice for our principles, this ideal that has been fought for generation after generation. The question was called by abolitionists, by suffragettes: Will we be a nation with liberty and justice for all?

Throughout our history the question would call: Will we have freedom for all? Will truth march on—as it did in Selma, as it gathered in church basements and protested at Stonewall and came together at Seneca Falls. Will we live our truth, despite the assassinations of its advocates such as Milk and King, Matthew Shepard or Emmitt Till? Will our march come to fruition to fight for recognition of full citizenship beyond race, beyond creed, beyond color, beyond orientation? It is this dream that must be secured for all of our citizens as Langston Hughes said so clearly: "There is a dream in this land with its back against the wall, to save the dream for one, we must save the dream for all."

We fight for this dream here. The time is now. The anguish has gone on long enough. And I will tell you I found out just preparing my remarks that we still face these weary years and too many silent tears.

I sat with staff members and learned of some of their struggles right here as Capitol Hill employees. One of my young staffers shared that he entered his adult life unsure if his full citizenship rights would be an option in his lifetime. Could he have equality under

the law? Could he be married? Similar to many gay men and lesbians decades before him, he was afraid his country would cast his love as less meaningful at best or at worst vile and immoral. Yet today, in this case before the Supreme Court, it makes him hopeful that we can live in a country that one day recognizes his love, his value, his dignity, as being equal under the law.

Another staff Member told me he feared that his coming out as gay would mean his own family would never accept him. He shared what he described as a defining moment in his own valuation of his self-worth when he came out as gay to his deeply religious grandmother. She held his hands tightly in her own and looked him in the eyes and proclaimed, "I will always love you, and I will love anyone who loves you."

All across America right now there are weary years, silent tears, unspoken pain in the country that does not value the dignity, worth, and citizenship rights of too many.

What message does it send? How many stand in uncertainty and fear and despair that threatens to consume the potential of young people? I see the data of suicide rates rising for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teens. We cannot give any implicit support for any idea that they are worth less or are lesser citizens, and we all should come together and condemn so-called therapies that purport to change who people are at their core, as if it is not enough, as if they are not worthy. All across the country this struggle is going on, from intimate, personal struggles to public fights—stories of love meeting fear, stories of hope meeting despair, our families and communities coming together to stand and say that I am an American. I am a citizen. I deserve equality under the law.

As Jackie Robinson said then, and it is true now: "The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time."

Jim and John and all Americans have a right not to second-class citizenship but first-class citizenship, to honor their first-class love.

I am a prisoner of hope today. I am not going to let disappointment after disappointment undermine my infinite sense of hope for our country. The history of our Nation is a screaming testimony of a perpetual achievement of freedom and light and truth overcoming inequality and hatred. Just 3 years ago, only six States and Washington, DC, had marriage equality, with 34 million Americans living in marriage equality States. Now 37 States and DC have marriage equality, meaning 224 million Americans now live in States that honor equal rights to marry. This movement has been a strong validation of our country's history. It is a shining example of progress. However, just because the arc

of history always bends toward justice does not mean it will not meet resistance. As King said, "Change never rode in on the wheels of inevitability."

We are the architects of our Nation. We are the truth tellers, life workers, and lovers that must exult our principles. We cannot fail now. Love is on the line. Citizenship is on the line. We are interdependent. We need each other. We cannot deny the worth of one American without denying the worth, dignity, and strength of our Nation as a whole.

The story of Jim Obergefell and John Arthur is a story not just of unconditional love and unconditional hope, it is not just about the two of them, but it is about our country. This is the story of all of us—of America. It is a story of what our truth will be. One member of this incredible partnership has passed away, but I know their love marches on.

I believe in this country our truth will march on, and equality and justice will have its way.

Madam President, I yield to my colleague, the Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, Senator SESSIONS wants to speak in a moment, and I will be brief.

I would like to thank Senator BOOKER for his always stirring words and for his sense of justice and fair play and leadership in so many ways.

I met Jim about 1 year ago and had a brief meeting, not too long after the court decision by Judge Black in the Cincinnati Southern District Court in Ohio. I just spent a half an hour with him in my office. He never wanted and never expected to be famous. He never expected to come to Washington to meet with Senators. He never expected to travel the country giving speeches. He was once a high school teacher. He joked that more people have been with him as he traveled across the country, joked that when he spoke to crowds of hundreds or even 1,000 about his experience with his beloved John and what has happened, he wished that his students had listened to him so closely. You could hear a pin drop when he spoke to hundreds, which is not always the case when speaking as a high school teacher. But he wanted to live his life in a normal way as most Americans do. He never expected to have his story or his marriage litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court.

But that is really the mark of character, that Jim has taken his grief and his pain and hoped to change the world, and that is what he is doing. His marriage is still not equal in my State of Ohio. I am embarrassed by that. I was, frankly, embarrassed when Ohio, 10 years ago, passed a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage. I thought it was a terrible public policy mistake. I think it left too

many people behind and too many people heartbroken.

Jim and his late husband John Arthur's story is one of love and sacrifice. It could happen to anyone. It could happen to any of us. Frankly, it happens to too many families. So as Senator BOOKER pointed out, they flew to Maryland where John's aunt, Paulette Roberts, officiated their marriage on the tarmac in a medical plane.

Paulette remarked, "If marriage vows mean anything, then those two were more married than anyone I have ever known." That speaks to their commitment, it speaks to their love, to the seriousness with which they took their wedding vows, and the seriousness of the relationship for 20 years prior to that.

Just 3 months and 11 days later John passed away. Jim has been fighting for his marriage ever since. The question is, why should he have to do that? No one ever voted to allow my wife Connie and me to stand before our families and acknowledge our love and commitment. When we were married, we were benefitting from a right not—get this—a right not extended to the minister who officiated our wedding.

The woman who officiated our wedding, Kate Huey, had had a marriage—she had had a commitment ceremony 18 years earlier. It was not until late last year that she traveled to New York with the woman she loved and was officially married, legally married in New York. You still cannot do that in Ohio. It is outrageous that she cannot do that in Ohio. I am hopeful after Jim's case is argued a couple of weeks from now and the Court hands down that decision, it will stop that bigotry and inequality that has hidden under the banner of tradition for far too long.

Keep in mind—and Senator BOOKER, I thought, laid out a lot of this history very well—Ohio once passed laws to keep Black people and White people from marrying. Ohioans came together, as we always do, we rallied, we repealed that unjust and hateful antimiscegenation law. We have a long history of fighting for justice and equality. We will not rest until we achieve that justice for Jim and for John.

I look at the pages who sit before us who are mostly 16 and 17 years old. This is something that makes no sense to most of them. When I was talking to Jim earlier in my office, he had made a speech in Athens, OH, to Ohio University students. He told me most of them could not understand why State laws would prohibit somebody from marrying the person whom they love. They could not understand why the State government, the Ohio State government, would spend my tax dollars and Jim's tax dollars, the tax dollars of Hazel's parents—mother of the page from Ohio—the tax dollars of all of us to fight this court battle so that Jim's marriage would be denied.

If the Supreme Court rules in Jim's favor, and I think it will, Jim's name will go down in the history books, along with Roe, from Roe v. Wade; and Brown, in Brown v. Board of Education. It is not what Jim was after. It would be fitting for a love that spanned decades and was strong enough to carry Jim here to Washington. The moment has come for our Supreme Court to stand on the right side of history and join Americans who support marriage equality.

As Senator BOOKER said, 37 States and the District of Columbia now allow marriage equality. I do not like it that we have to rely on the Supreme Court to get my State to change its laws. We have politicians who look backward rather than forward. That is too bad. We have politicians who are willing to deny human beings basic rights, basic civil rights, basic rights of decency and fairness.

I am hopeful that Jim's courage and Jim's outspokenness and Jim's willingness to join on behalf of John in his fight and make this fight will help change my State and help change our Nation. I know I cannot look to the gallery and thank somebody so I will not look to the gallery, but I will still thank Jim from here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I would like to share a few thoughts as we head into this week, because we will be confronting the question of how to fix the payment to our physicians who treat Medicare and Medicaid patients. If we do not take action, there will be a 21-percent reduction in the amount of money they are paid to do the work for the Federal Government.

This is an unacceptable alternative, but it is what current law says. Congress needs to fix it. In fact, we have been dealing with this for 17 years. For 17 years, Congress has, in some way or another, fixed the doctor payment plan and raised their pay so that they do not take a cut. As years have gone by, the size of the cut that needs to be fixed has increased too, as I said, 21 percent today if we do not act. I think there is a uniform, universal belief that we should do that, and do it on a permanent basis so we do not have to have doctors calling Congress every year, saying: Are you going to change the law so I can continue to do Medicare work? If you do not change it and my services are cut 21 percent, I am out of here. I can hardly make a living now on what you pay me, and taking a big cut will not allow me to continue to offer Medicare services for people in need.

It is a big issue and a real issue. I have favored a permanent fix for a

number of years. I would offer, though, to my colleagues that many of us who have been concerned about the financial condition of our country have successfully insisted each one of those 17 times that the new money that is needed to pay the additional funding be paid for, that is, by finding wasteful spending or other spending somewhere else in the government of this country and use that money to make up the difference.

We have refused to pass it by just borrowing the money. Remember, this is an entitlement. By that, it means once the government says what the rate will be, the doctors will go out and do the work, they will demand payment whether the government has any money or not, whether we are running deficits or not. If the government does not pay them the rate agreed upon, they can file a complaint and the government will have to come up with the money.

What we really needed to offset this was a real finding of wasteful spending, or spending in other areas to divert that money to pay for this increase in pay for doctors on a permanent basis. It appears that Speaker BOEHNER and Democratic Leader PELOSI in the House got together and agreed on a bill. They passed it in the House with a big vote. Even most Democrats voted for the bill.

It was sent to the Senate as we were voting, at that very time, that very day, on the budget resolution for the Senate. We were proud of our budget. It was not a perfect budget. I supported it. But it balanced. If we follow the plans put forth in the budget resolution that passed the Senate—if we follow those—we would be on a path to a balanced budget. We would be spending about \$4,000-plus billion 10 years from today. We would be increasing spending all right, but not as much as has been projected, but we also see a \$3 billion surplus in the final year of the budget window. So instead of having a deficit in the 10th year, we were going to have a \$3 billion surplus. That is something to celebrate after decades of deficits, trillion dollar deficits, \$1,000 billion deficits. I think we have averaged \$1,000 billion deficits for the last 6 years. Unbelievable.

We are committed to the American people to do something about it. The Budget Control Act and other efforts have reduced our spending from what it might otherwise have been. The House decided to send H.R. 2 to the Senate. They passed it with a big vote. This bill, over 250 pages in length, was sent to the Senate the same evening as our budget vote-arama. We had over 750 amendments under consideration that evening. We finished the budget process at 3 a.m. What many wanted us to do was just pass this bill at 3 a.m. with hardly any knowledge of what was in it and without a real understanding of

how much it was going to cost. We were told by a number of people that it was “paid for.” “Don’t worry about it.” “It has been taken care of.”

So there was concern about that. Senator McCONNELL did not bring it up at 3:30 in the morning right before we did our recess. It was unseemly to have done that for a whole host of reasons. But we are coming right up to the deadline. The deadline was March 31, but I understand that there was a 14-day window whereby Congress could consider a fix before doctors were impacted. We need to get this taken care of. But we need to do it responsibly, in a grownup fashion.

The House Members really did not have the bill to study. They just followed mainly talking points, which if you read their talking points, I may have voted for it, based on what they were telling their Members. The talking points said this: First, it told House members that the bill pays for all new future spending.

To not have a 21-percent cut, but to pay them at a more appropriate rate, this bill is going to cost more money. But, they were told that all the new future spending would be paid for.

Second, it said it allows “Congress to go through regular order and legislate thoughtfully.” So we were going to pass it at 3:30 in the morning without it having gone through a committee and without having a real, firm, long-term cost estimate from CBO as to what it would actually cost?

Third, they also said in their talking points, “It offsets all new spending.” What that means, to Members of Congress, is that it would not add to the debt because somehow the increase in spending would be offset by a reduction in spending somewhere else.

Fourth, they used the phrase we use around here, they claim it “bends the cost curve,” it would bring down costs. But this is not accurate either.

So here are the problems: This bill is not paid for. Our own Congressional Budget Office said it would add \$141 billion to the deficit. Over 10 years, you add those up, \$141 billion. They said the net increase to the debt would be \$174 billion. How does it get to be more than 141? Well, when you spend \$141 billion more then you have, you have to borrow the money. When you borrow the money, you pay interest on the money.

The Congressional Budget Office said it would add an additional \$33 billion in interest payments just over that 10 years. Many promoting this legislation said: Well, there may be a shortfall in the first 10 years, but over 20 years, the reductions in spending we found somewhere are going to bring in enough money to pay for it fully then.

So what did the Congressional Budget Office say? The Congressional Budget Office said this. “It will increase budget deficits” in the “second dec-

ade.” So instead of reducing the deficits or paying for the cost of this by changes now that benefit us 15, 20 years from now, it adds more.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget—a fine, responsible nonpartisan group headed by Maya MacGuineas—did a study of this. They said over 20 years it would add \$500 billion to the deficit. Those numbers, to my knowledge, have not been disputed. I think that is a pretty accurate figure. It is not going to reduce the deficit. In 10 years, it is going to add \$174 billion—not going to reduce the deficit over 20 years, it is going to add \$500 billion.

So this violates the Budget Control Act that we passed in 2011 that is in law today. That is something we should not be doing. We need to adhere to that agreement which the President signed and we in both Houses of Congress agreed upon in a bipartisan way to hold spending down. It is not going to balance the budget, the Budget Control Act doesn’t, but it helps a lot. We ought to at least adhere to it.

So this violates the Budget Control Act and is subject to at least eight different violations—points of order, we call it, where you can object because it violates the budget. There are at least eight different ways in which this legislation violates the Budget Control Act and, of course, it violates the House and Senate budgets that we are just now in the process of adopting.

The Senate has passed its budget. They had a \$3 billion surplus in the 10th year. Listen, not paying down any of that debt except that \$3 billion in the 10th year—but just not having annual deficits—it would take us 10 years to finally balance the budget, which we need to do. Experts have told us we need to do so because we are on an unsustainable financial path.

So our budgets go further than that. The House and the Senate budgets do so. If we pass a bill that adds \$174 billion to the deficit, it will be at least \$17 billion in the 10th year. So instead of having a \$3 billion surplus, we will have at least a \$14 billion deficit. And the day we are celebrating the fact that we altered the spending course of our country and produced a balanced budget, that very day we were asked to pass a bill that would wipe out all of that. It is just not responsible, in my view.

I am just not able to tout the fact that we passed a balanced budget. Maybe that is why they would like to pass this bill before the final agreement between the House and the Senate occurs in conference and we have a firm budget. We just now have a House budget and a Senate budget. Maybe they wanted to do that so the first thing we do isn’t to bust the budget to which we just agreed.

I wish I didn’t have to say these things. I wish I didn’t have to say this, but the truth is that this is not responsible. This is not maintaining faith

with the American people who sent us to Congress.

I think on both sides of the aisle—certainly on the Republican side—there were real commitments made to our constituents that if we were in Congress, we would do something about these deficits and we were going to bring this government under control and produce a budget—a budget that balances.

In addition, it is claimed and asserted that this legislation represents a permanent fix—that we will not have to continue to come forward each year to come up with the funding or some legislation to keep the doctors paid at a reasonable rate. But it is not a permanent fix, either. It is not a permanent fix, as has been reported. It is only about 9 years, and there are huge, long-range concerns.

There is another thing it does, and, colleagues, we have to understand this. Being on the Budget Committee, we went through it. It is so important. One of the greatest manipulations and gimmicks we are doing is in the way we are spending the taxpayers' money, why our deficits are so large and our debt has become \$18-plus trillion—on which we paid interest—\$220 billion last year, and it will grow every year, according to CBO.

Why? We double count money. It is unbelievable.

This is what they are going to propose. They are going to cut Medicare Part A in this legislation. That is the benefit that goes to doctors and hospitals. They will cut it about \$55 billion—I believe the figure is—and then they will use this \$55 billion to pay the physicians under Part B and D of Medicare—the non-trust fund money. So they are gutting the Medicare trust fund. That money is money that comes off of your paychecks every week and goes to pay for your Medicare when you retire. That money goes into a trust fund. It has trustees. If you cut the cost of doing business for Medicare, the sponsors of the bill say it will extend the life of Medicare 1 year.

That is probably correct. If you cut what you pay to doctors or hospitals or medical devices or drug companies, you reduce what you pay, you could extend the life of Medicare, its financial solvency. It is becoming insolvent just as Social Security is becoming insolvent. So we need to do some things to help extend its life so our seniors don't have to worry about not having health care in the future.

How is it double counted, JEFF?

Well, they are using the money—the trustees. It is the trustees of Medicare's money that is being saved.

How did it get outside of the Medicare trust fund and get spent for doctors in that part of Medicare? How does it get out of there?

The trustees of Medicare loan the money to the U.S. Treasury. Now we

have it, colleagues. The money that is used to pay the doctors that comes from Medicare cost reduction is borrowed money, just the same as if they had borrowed it from a financier in London or Beijing. Interest is paid to the Medicaid trustees.

You cannot count the money twice. You cannot save the money here and say it improves Medicare—legally it does improve Medicare—but it provides no money to spend on new programs outside of Medicare, and the Congressional Budget Office has told us this. Yet they are scoring, I think, \$55 billion they claim is going to pay for this new expenditure by double counting the money.

ObamaCare did that, I believe—by about \$500 billion. They cut Medicare expenses and used the money to fund an entirely new program. But the money didn't go directly to the U.S. Treasury. It went to the trustees of Medicare, who loaned it to the U.S. Treasury and double counted the money.

If you would like to know why we are going broke, this is one of the big reasons this country is on a reckless course. Nobody wants to talk about it or confront it, because if you do, it reduces spending, and people around here like spending too much.

By the way, I note our hospitals would like to see the doctors get paid more and have this problem fixed, but a big chunk of what is claimed of that portion of this new expenditure that is actually paid for appears to be \$31 billion in cuts to providers such as hospitals. So we are cutting hospitals here to pay doctors, and our hospitals are struggling too.

To conclude, this is why the American people don't trust Congress. Some of our Members get their feelings hurt when they go home and some tea party person or somebody else accuses them of wasting money, not managing well, and they are offended by it.

I have to say the tea party got more right than wrong. This is another example of reckless, irresponsible spending.

Before adjourning for our recess 2 weeks ago, in the middle of the night, at 3 a.m., we passed a balanced budget plan, and we were proud of it. We went home the last 2 weeks and told our constituents we were going to work to accomplish that balanced budget goal and try to make sure it becomes a reality.

But what is the first bill we consider since adopting the balanced budget goal? What is the first bill? We are taking up a bill to dig us \$174 billion deeper in debt in the first 10 years. The first major legislative accomplishment of our new Congress is going to be adding almost \$200 billion to the debt over 10 years and then perhaps \$500 billion or half a trillion over 20 years.

It is not necessary. I don't see how we can look our constituents in the eye

and say we are producing a balanced budget, when, if this bill passes, we don't have a balanced budget.

Well, was the plan really to balance the budget, people might ask, or just to use as talking points, just a fun campaign claiming we have a balance? Our new Congress was sworn in only 3 months ago, and we are already shattering our promises to our constituents.

I think it is fair to say we are acting irresponsibly. Not only are we continuing to allow the debt to explode, but we aren't really being honest with our constituents about it.

Before they cast their votes, House Members were told this bill "pays for all new future spending" and that it "offsets all new spending." But this is not accurate. It is not true. It adds to the deficit every single year.

We are going to offer an amendment so that this bill lives up to the promises of the sponsors. A good amendment, a PayGo amendment that I think Senator LEE will probably offer which will put us on a path to ensure that this new expenditure is paid for.

I think we need to have that vote, and I think it needs to pass. That would be responsible. Then we could honestly say we made choices. That is what you should do in this body. There is a limited amount of money and a virtually unlimited number of requests for good projects that we should spend money on.

We are sent to the Senate to make choices, set priorities, do the right thing, and manage money carefully—that is why our constituents from all over the country sent us here, and they had their tax money extracted from them and sent to Washington—to be spent wisely and honestly, I suggest.

One of the most amazing things is that we spend \$3,800 billion a year now. We can't find \$15 billion a year to fix the doctor payments? We can't find \$15 billion in this whole \$3,800 billion a year that we spend that will actually be able to fund the doctors in the way that we should fund them without adding to the debt?

You bet we can. I have a list of them. Others have a list of them. There will be some suggestions as to how this could be done.

We don't need to gimmick up this legislation, but it is legislation that undermines the promises we made that we are going to be fiscally responsible.

We don't vote on talking points. We vote on legislation. Legislation can be studied, and it becomes law. Our Congressional Budget Office, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Maya MacGuineas and the Center for a Responsible Federal Budget can read and add the numbers. They have read them, added them, and they don't add up.

This is legislation. We are not voting on talking points.

Without change, it is a massive debt increase that puts a balanced budget even further out of reach.

It means a lot to me that we, as a Congress, establish credibility with those whom we serve. One of the parts of doing that is to be honest and to say we do have a tight situation here. We are going to have to make some choices—but not brutal choices.

We can find the money we need without doing anything but eliminating fraud, waste, abuse, duplication, and unwise spending. We don't have to savage children or the military to do so, but it is hard work. Every time you talk about reducing this program or that program, a group shows up and pushes back, but that is why we are here.

As my wife says to me when I complain: Don't blame me; you asked for the job.

That is what we asked for—to be in the Senate and make these tough choices.

I hope, in the hours that are ahead, we will be able to have some amendments—and there are several that would fix this and would allow the doctors to receive the pay they are entitled to—and they are entitled to it—but at the same time would not add to the debt.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would just add that this isn't just my opinion about these cost overruns in the legislation. Here is a Wall Street Journal article from a few days ago: "Two-thirds of \$214 billion cost would be financed through higher deficits. . . ." That is the subheadline on that. The headline is: "Senate Wrangles Over Medicare-Payments Fix."

So I don't think there is any real doubt about that. The article goes on to say:

The deal reached by House leaders would shift some of those costs onto Medicare beneficiaries—

So some of the Medicare benefits, such as Part C, are not part of trust fund money. It is not paid for when you have that withholding from your paycheck, and people with higher incomes probably ought to pay a higher percentage of the cost that they can reasonably afford, if they have a higher income, when they go see a doctor. I think we could use that. But at any rate, this bill would shift some costs to Medicare beneficiaries. The article continues—

while providers such as hospitals also would shoulder some costs.

So they are paying for some of these costs by having reduction in payments to hospitals that are hurting this year. And the article states:

The rest would be financed through higher deficits.

No doubt about it.

Forbes magazine comments here in an article by Stan Collender, saying that "the procedural choices Congress is making all favor increasing the deficit rather than at least requiring it not get any worse."

This is what the article says about the SGR—the physician's payment: "The SGR change without a full offset is projected to add an average of around \$14 billion a year to the deficit."

Here is a headline from The Fiscal Times: "Medicare 'Doc Fix' May Be No Fix at All."

Paul Winfree, an economic policy expert with the Heritage Foundation, said this:

Rather than a permanent replacement to the Sustainable Growth Rate—

Remember, we have been promised this would be a permanent replacement—

it is much more likely that the House doc fix will be a shorter-term patch requiring another series of patchwork legislation just nine years from now.

They also conclude in this article that the permanent fix would "add \$141 billion to the deficit over the first 10 years and could go as high as \$500 billion over two decades, as previously reported here."

I did want to emphasize it is really not \$141 over 10 years, it is \$174, because when you add up \$141 billion in additional debt over 10 years, you pay interest on that. You borrow that money and pay interest, and when you calculate the interest that is paid, the increased interest is \$174 billion added to the total deficit of America.

Colleagues, our interest payment on our debt is staggering. The highway bill is about \$40 billion to \$50 billion a year. Aid to education is nearly \$100 billion a year, for example. The interest we pay annually on the current \$18 trillion debt, in spite of the fact we have some of the lowest interest rates we have ever had, was more than \$220 billion-plus last year.

The Congressional Budget Office, however, says that 10 years from now, with interest rates projected to return to the mean and with the deficit every year out for 10 years, we will be over \$900 billion in interest in the 10th year. That is just in 10 years. We go from \$200 billion to \$900-plus billion.

This is why the Congressional Budget Office Director, chosen by our Democratic colleagues, Dr. Elmendorf, a very capable, wise man, has said we are on an unsustainable path. This is a path of fiscal destruction. It is not responsible.

So day after day, week after week, we in Congress are going to have to

start saying, no, we don't have the money. Do you not understand? We can't keep digging the hole deeper. We are supposed to be trying to figure out a way to reduce deficits and balance the budget, not to pass more legislation that is going to cost more money than we have to spend on these things. The only way we will be able to honor that legislation is to borrow more. That is what we are doing.

So I don't think there is any doubt about what I have said. If somebody can come down and prove this bill is paid for I will shake their hand and I will be happy because I want to do the doctors fix, and I want to be sure we do it in a responsible financial way. If not, we will have legislation, amendments will be offered that I think can fix it and that will require Congress to come up with the money in a proper way, do the assistance we need to provide to our doctors and not add to the debt.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF ALFRED H. BENNETT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Alfred H. Bennett, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we yield back all remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alfred H. Bennett, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 136 Ex.]

#### YEAS—95

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Bennet	Gillibrand	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Hatch	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rounds
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Ayotte	Graham	Toomey
Cruz	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO ETHELENE THOMPSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Ethelene Thompson.

She was born on June 6, 1925, in Water Valley, MS, as the third child of Minnie and Solomon Morgan. Today, Ethelene is a caregiver known to many in her community for her willingness to provide free childcare and transportation to those in need. She lived through the Great Depression, World War II, the civil rights movement, and the election and tenure of the first African-American President. In 1946, she married Willie Thompson, and they raised six beautiful daughters, until his passing in 2000.

Mrs. Thompson has been instrumental in helping raise her 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren. She is known to give selflessly of her time and wisdom and to countless folks in her neighborhood and at her church.

She helped lead the Girl Scout troops for her daughters and granddaughters, ensured that her grandson and his friends made it to every sports practice and game, and has served faithfully as a member of the Bloomfield Full Gospel Baptist Church for more than 50 years, where she has been a member of the choir, Sunday school, and kitchen ministry.

I take this opportunity to celebrate Mrs. Ethelene Thompson's life and legacy. May she continue to grow in her steadfast faith and love for her family.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the Senate was in recess, Loretta Lynch, the nominee to be our next Attorney General, announced that her office brought charges against two residents of Queens, NY, for conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction and plotting a terrorist attack on American soil. U.S. Attorney Lynch continues to work tirelessly to protect our Nation, but the Senate Republican leadership continues to play politics with our law enforcement and has prevented the Senate from fulfilling one of our most essential constitutional duties—the duty to provide advice and consent on Presidential nominations. The same baseless political obstructionism that has stalled Ms. Lynch's nomination has also led to the Senate's failure to confirm a single Federal judge so far this year.

As one of the country's top Federal prosecutors, Loretta Lynch has an unparalleled record of keeping Americans safe from dangerous criminals and terrorists. This includes the successful prosecution of six individuals for their roles in a 2009 Al Qaeda plot to attack the New York subway system, the convictions of four terrorists who plotted an attack on John F. Kennedy Airport, and the conviction of a terrorist who sought to detonate an explosive device at the New York Federal Reserve. Despite her distinguished record of service, the Republican leadership is trying

to use Ms. Lynch's nomination for political gain. This is not how the Senate should be treating a nomination of such importance to law enforcement and our national security.

It has now been more than 5 months since President Obama announced the nomination of Ms. Lynch to be Attorney General. Her nomination was reported out of the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support in February, yet it has been pending before the full Senate for 46 days. That is nearly twice as long as all of the past seven Attorneys General combined: Richard Thornburgh, 1 day; William Barr, 5 days; Janet Reno, 1 day; John Ashcroft, 2 days; Alberto Gonzales, 8 days; Michael Mukasey, 2 days; and Eric Holder, 5 days. This historic delay is an embarrassment for the Senate.

In January, Ms. Lynch testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for nearly 8 hours and she responded to nearly 900 written questions. Not a single witness invited by Republicans opposed her nomination. When Republicans stalled consideration of Ms. Lynch's nomination in committee, Democrats noted the unnecessary delay and raised concerns about filling this vital position. The assistant Republican leader dismissed this as "faux outrage." But in November 2007, that same Senator complained that a 7-week process on the Mukasey nomination threatened our national security. He issued a press release stating:

It is imperative that the president has his national security team at full strength and the unnecessary delay of Judge Mukasey's nomination has prevented that. He deserves an immediate up-or-down vote by the full Senate.

Similarly, in early October 2007—just 3 weeks after Mr. Mukasey's nomination was announced, the Republican leader criticized me for not yet having set a hearing date, saying that Democrats should "not hold Judge Mukasey hostage while they play partisan games." This is the same Republican leader who is now holding Ms. Lynch's nomination hostage and who has kept her nomination languishing on the floor for nearly twice as long as the past seven Attorneys General combined.

No one can deny that Ms. Lynch is eminently qualified for the job. The Republican leader should schedule a vote on Ms. Lynch's nomination today. She has the votes to be confirmed, and a vote on this highly qualified nominee is long overdue. The Majority must stop playing political games with our law enforcement.

We should also be voting on all 10 judicial nominees who have been pending in the Senate since last year, two of whom just passed the 1-year mark since they were first nominated. Tonight, we will consider just one of

those nominees. Once confirmed, Alfred Bennett will fill a "judicial emergency" vacancy in the Southern District of Texas that has been empty for more than 2 years. There is no good explanation why it has taken us nearly 7 months to vote on his nomination, nor is there a good reason for why we are not voting on the other two pending nominees to district court vacancies in Texas. There are still two Fifth Circuit vacancies and seven other Federal district court vacancies in Texas for which there are no nominees. Texas has two times the number of Federal court vacancies of any other State, and these vacancies account for one-third of the judicial emergency vacancies on our Nation's courts. I urge the Texas Senators to work with the President so that we can receive nominees for those vacancies as soon as possible.

Despite promises to govern responsibly, the Republican majority has continued to obstruct when it comes to judicial vacancies. When Senate Democrats were in the majority, we confirmed 15 of President Bush's district and circuit court nominees by April 2007. We confirmed 68 judges during the last 2 years of the Bush administration, building on a record I established at the very beginning of the Bush Presidency when 100 judges were confirmed in the 17 months that I served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. The fact that it has taken more than 3 months into the 114th Congress for the Republican majority to schedule a vote on a single judicial nominee is disconcerting, especially because all four of the district court nominees who have been languishing on the Senate floor were recommended to President Obama by their two Republican home State Senators.

Judge Alfred Bennett, whom we are voting to confirm today, is currently the presiding judge on the 61st Civil District Court in Houston, TX. From 2010 to 2011, he served as the administrative judge of the Harris County Civil District Courts. Judge Bennett has presided over 8,400 cases, 640 jury trials, and 550 bench trials. Prior to becoming a judge, he was in private practice for a decade and litigated a range of civil matters. Judge Bennett has the support of both his Republican home State senators, Senator CORNYN and Senator CRUZ. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote on February 26. He has strong qualifications and should be confirmed.

I urge the Republican majority to schedule votes to confirm the remaining judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. None of the nominees are controversial. We should do our jobs and vote on their nominations so that they can start doing their jobs working for the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIM KRUEGER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Kim Short Krueger, a dedicated public servant for the U.S. Congress and the people of the State of Montana for over 39 years.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" to Kim for her service to our State and Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Kim's public service and commitment to her country.

Kim grew up in the small railroad town of Three Forks, MT. Kim was only 21 when she packed her bags and moved to Washington, DC. She began her congressional career as a receptionist for Montana Congressman Dick Shoup, back when Montana still had two congressional districts.

Always proud of her small town roots, Kim went to work for Nevada's only Congressman, Jim Santini, in the mid 1970s. Kim wore many hats, serving as both the personal secretary and the scheduler, and eventually became office manager.

Ever dedicated to putting Montana constituents first, Kim once gave a young Montana law student her personal ticket for Nelson Rockefeller's swearing-in as Vice-President of the United States. As fate would have it, Kim later married this same young law student and he became a district court judge in Butte, MT.

In 1983 it was time for Kim to head home to Montana. Kim went to work for Senator Max Baucus as field director of the Butte District office for southwestern Montana.

Along the way, Kim built up an impressive record of accomplishments while always meeting the day-to-day demands of serving constituents. Kim consistently demonstrated her skill and grace in handling the needs of Butte and southwest Montana's constituents. She worked on all sorts of issues—from the Butte superfund, housing, banking, taxation, natural resources, immigration and military academy appointments.

In 2010, Kim was appointed State casework director.

Kim had a strong hand in boosting Montana's economic ties. Kim ran three Montana economic development summits hosted by Senator Baucus in Butte. The summits brought in folks from all around the world, like investors, ambassadors, and top business leaders. Almost 3,400 folks attended the final summit in 2013. Thanks to Kim's tireless work on the summits, new businesses have moved to Montana.

Kim also worked on superfund issues, the Beaver Dam Park, the Old Work Golf Course, and the Maiden Rock Bridge on the Big Hole River.

Senator Baucus depended on Kim to run his Butte office smoothly and to represent him at local events. She often worked nights and weekends,

going above and beyond her duties to meet the needs of the people of southwest Montana.

In February 2014, Senator Baucus was confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to China and Governor Steve Bullock appointed John Walsh to serve out the rest of his Senate term. Senator John Walsh asked Kim to continue as field director of his Butte office and as the State casework director.

While I could go on and on about Kim's incredible congressional achievements, I know she is most proud of her amazing family. Kim and her husband Kurt have two terrific children, Krista and Derrick. A true Montana native, she is very proud that her children were born and raised in the historic city of Butte, MT.

Kim recently retired from my Butte District field office where she was working on special projects.

During her years of service, Kim always went beyond the call of duty to ensure the Montana congressional offices met the needs and requests of the constituents of our fine State. Her professionalism and dedication to her jobs and Montana constituents are outstanding examples of how government should work. Kim's positive attitude, indispensable knowledge and talent for serving constituents were invaluable to the citizens of southwest Montana.

Everyone who knows Kim is touched by her energy, kindness, dedication and positive attitude.

I am honored to know Kim and grateful that she was able to serve on my Senate staff. I know her family and friends join me in thanking her for her commitment to others. I wish her best of luck in all of her endeavors and many years of success to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING CANTOR IVAN E. PERLMAN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to remember and honor the late Ivan E. Perlman, who served as the president of the Cantors Assembly of America from 1983 to 1985. Cantor Perlman was devoted to his faith, his family, his community, and his country. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and received the Bronze Star for his heroism at Iwo Jima. He stood next to Lt. Roland B. Gittelsohn, the Marine Corps' first Jewish chaplain, at the dedication of the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima in March 1945. He chanted a version of "El Malei Rachamim," which is only sung for fallen U.S. soldiers. The division chaplain had asked Chaplain Gittelsohn to deliver the sermon at a joint service for all those who were killed in the epic battle, but some Catholic and Protestant chaplains objected, so three separate services were held. But three of



the Protestant chaplains boycotted their own service to join Chaplain Gittelsohn. They sent copies of his sermon, "The Purest Democracy", extolling the cause of democracy and freedom and equality to the entire regiment. It was widely circulated, appearing in newspapers and magazines nationwide, and was read on the radio and into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

After the war ended, Cantor Perlman, who was born in Flushing, NY, married Muriel Herman in 1947 and completed his cantorial studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1950. Cantor Perlman served congregations in Lyndhurst and Fairlawn, NJ; Tulsa, OK; Des Moines, IA; Providence, RI; Stockholm, Sweden; and Sarasota, Boca Raton, and Tamarac, FL. Along the way, he and his wife had four sons: Eli, Emanuel "Manny", Richard "Rick", and Josh. He trained all four of his sons in the cantorial arts, and they have carried on the family tradition in an exemplary way.

Cantor Perlman was cantor emeritus at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI, where he served for 23 years. After he retired from Temple Emanu-El, at the age of 76, Cantor Perlman became the cantor at Temple Beth Kodesh in Boynton Beach, FL. Two years later, he was elected the congregation's Ritual Leader. Cantor Perlman conducted his last service there in 2005 and then he and his wife returned to Rhode Island, where he was a founder of the Friends of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. Cantor Perlman was a life member of the Marine Corps League, the Jewish War Veterans, JWV, and the Knights of Pythias. He served as the JWV post commander in New York City, and the department chaplain in Iowa, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Florida. He was the JWV's first national cantor.

I mentioned that all four of Ivan Perlman's sons also became cantors. Manny Perlman is the cantor at Chizuk Amuno in Baltimore. He and his brother Eli—the religious leader of Congregation Beit Shalom in Monroe, NJ—participated in the October 24, 2011 dedication of the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to the 14 Jewish military chaplains killed in action in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. The memorial stands near separate monuments honoring fallen Protestant and Catholic chaplains that have been on Chaplains Hill since 1981 and 1989, respectively. Manny and Eli, like their father before them at Iwo Jima 66 years earlier, sang the "El Malei Rachamim" memorial prayer. Cantor Eli Perlman rose to the rank of captain in the Army's Special Forces during the Vietnam War era. He served in 1967 with CPT Morton Harold Singer, who was killed in a plane crash in 1968 on his way to lead Hanukkah festivities for American servicemen and women. Captain Singer's name is one of the 14 listed on the memorial.

I would ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the wonderful life and legacy of Cantor Ivan Perlman and expressing our deepest condolences to his beloved wife Muriel; his son Rabbi Eli Perlman and his wife Lynne of East Brunswick, NJ; his son Cantor Emanuel Perlman and his wife Janice of Baltimore, MD; his son Rabbi Richard Perlman and his wife Kit of Coventry, RI; his son Cantor Josh Perlman and his wife Sherri of Germantown, MD; his sister Annette Ziegelstein of Baltimore, MD; his 13 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; and all the other family and friends of this extraordinary man.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI SCOTT E. COLBERT

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to Rabbi Scott E. Colbert today.

Rabbi Colbert will be celebrating his 29th year with Temple Emanu-El of Greater Atlanta soon, and his congregation is honoring him with a special celebration. While I am unable to attend the event, I have known Rabbi Scott for some time, and I have had the good fortune of speaking alongside him at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta in the past.

Rabbi Colbert has served Temple Emanu-El in many capacities since 1987. He holds degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, as well as New York University, Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Rabbinical Academy of America. In 1992, he was awarded the prestigious title of Reform Jewish Educator by the Reform Movement. In 2001, he graduated again from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion earning a doctor of ministry degree in pastoral counseling. Earlier that year, the college institute honored him with an honorary doctorate for his outstanding service to the Jewish people.

In addition to serving as senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, Rabbi Colbert is adjunct professor of Jewish religious thought at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. He is a published author and writes for various professional journals.

I applaud Rabbi Scott and congratulate Temple Emanu-El on their good fortune in having had him as one of their spiritual leaders for 29 wonderful years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND HENRY HOLLEY

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor a great Christian crusader, a great Georgian, a great American and a great friend, the Reverend Henry Holley, upon his retirement.

Reverend Holley spent 45 years with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association,

spreading the Gospel across the world, including in China, Japan, Brazil, and even North Korea, as international crusade director.

For many years, Reverend Holley traveled an average of 150,000 miles and 200 days overseas each year. At 87 years of age, he has logged 13 million air miles in his travel over his career with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association as a result of working in Korea more than 275 times and China more than 100 times.

Henry Holley's career on behalf of the Lord has more than a few "highlights." Reverend Holley organized the historic 1973 crusade in Seoul, Korea, where never before had so many come to one place to hear a preacher proclaim the Gospel. On the final day, there were 1.1 million people in attendance. During the 5-day Seoul Crusade more than 3.2 million people came to hear Dr. Billy Graham face-to-face.

In 1974, Holley was crusade director for another precedent shattering crusade: the Greater Rio de Janeiro Billy Graham Crusade in Brazil held at the world famous Maracanã Stadium. More people attended this meeting than any other crusade ever held in North or South America, with 250,000 attending on closing day.

In 1992, Holley was responsible for the diplomatic and administrative preparation work for a historic visit by Dr. Billy Graham to North Korea. Reverend Holley directed the small team that accompanied Dr. Graham to the capital city of Pyongyang. The significant mission to Pyongyang was highlighted by Dr. Graham preaching the Gospel in the two churches in North Korea. In addition, he lectured at Kim Il-Sung University—the first American to do so. Dr. Graham and Reverend Holley also had a personal meeting with President Kim Il-Sung where he brought private messages from President George Bush and Pope John Paul II.

Organization and administration were drilled into Holley during his first career lasting 30 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including 23 years Active Duty and 7 years Reserve Duty. Reverend Holley has served our Nation and our Lord in extraordinary ways throughout his entire life.

He has recently retired from Billy Graham Evangelical Association, though he continues to remain active in a consulting capacity and has worked with Franklin Graham for many years. And Reverend Holley promises not to really stop working "until he's old."

For nearly 45 years, Henry Holley and his wife of more than 65 years, Bettie, have made their home right near mine in Marietta, GA. Bettie has stood by his side through his career and shared in his successes and joys, including their three grown children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I try to talk to, and visit with Henry Holley, as often as I can. I know that God put him in my life for a reason and I am honored to call Reverend Holley my friend.●

#### RECOGNIZING CHARLESTON JOB CORPS

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I honor the Charleston Job Corps Center and the 50th national anniversary of this outstanding program.

Since June of 1965, the Charleston Job Corps Center has been a leader in advancing vocational education and providing training that our State's youth can utilize for the rest of their lives. A successful young workforce means great things for the future of our State's economy and for strengthening our local communities. What began as an all-female center at the old Kanawha Hotel on Summers Street grew to become a coeducational facility in 1976 as interest in the program increased.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program that helps youth ages 16 to 24 enhance the skills they need to be independent and successful individuals. The Charleston center is overseen by the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Job Corps and is operated by Horizons Youth Services.

In addition to a strong emphasis on academics, the Charleston Job Corps Center also provides impressive recreational programs. These programs are critical to encouraging our youth to be creative and work as part of a team—both of which are prized assets to any employer seeking to hire hardworking, talented, resourceful employees.

I cannot adequately express how valuable Job Corps is not only in West Virginia, but across our entire Nation. It is often underestimated how much of an impact an educator can have on a student—not only in the classroom or in a training session, but years down the road. Countless lives have been positively affected thanks to the educators, administrators, and supporters of Job Corps, and I sincerely hope this program continues to flourish for generations to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER ERIC BADER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our congressional fellow, Coast Guard CDR Eric Bader, who has served the Committee on Appropriations for the past 2 years. Commander Bader will be returning to Massachusetts where he will be the executive officer of Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. While I know Commander Bader is looking for-

ward to running the day-to-day operations of the air station and flying helicopters again, his departure is a great loss for the Committee on Appropriations as he is an invaluable asset to our team.

Commander Bader has been detailed to the committee from the Coast Guard since June 2013 and is a key member of our professional staff. Mr. President, Commander Bader performed admirably in his role on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. He did everything we asked of him, with pinpoint accuracy, and always beat the deadlines given to him. I would also add that he served the committee during interesting times, perhaps more interesting than he imagined when he accepted the job. He was here during sequestration, for the Federal Government shutdown in the fall of 2013, the dramatic increase of unaccompanied children crossing our southern border, our response to the Ebola crisis, numerous Presidentially declared disasters, and fence-jumping and drone incidents at the White House. Eric also helped the subcommittee manage the arrival of the fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security at the same time Congress was considering, and ultimately enacting, the fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security that had been delayed.

The Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee has greatly benefited from the experience Commander Bader gained as a Coast Guard officer, in particular his insights into the operations of a complex military organization that is combined with a large domestic agency. He has superb analytical skills that have been critical in our review of a \$39 billion budget request and in developing complex spreadsheets that synthesize funding issues into easily understood documents we have used in hearings, closed briefings, in full committee, and on the floor. On the subcommittee, he handled the portfolios for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as well as assisted with the Customs and Border Protection and Secret Service portfolios. In this oversight role, Commander Bader was able to obtain timely information when undocumented families who had recently crossed the border during last summer's surge were temporarily provided shelter at the training facility in Artesia, NM. He also helped track the daily influx of undocumented children and families to assist the subcommittee in making the most up-to-date funding recommendations to address this unforeseen surge. While arguably not a traditional appropriations area, he also put together a subcommittee hearing on trade enforcement issues that showed how lax trade enforcement and current duty

collection policies were unfairly hurting some American industries. The hearing highlighted the harm to domestic steel, crawfish, seafood, and honey producers of these illegally dumped goods and commodities on American jobs and the economy at large. Commander Bader made critical recommendations that were adopted to improve key components within the Department of Homeland Security, including the funding of nuclear detection equipment designed to keep our ports safe.

Commander Bader is also an exceptional writer. We relied on his editorial skills to put the appropriate touches into opening statements, press releases, and analytical documents shared with all the subcommittee members. His ability to take dry statistics and create informational, easily understandable graphics and charts will be greatly missed. His unqualified professionalism, perception, superb analytic focus, and technical skills, combined with a keen sense of humor, a cool head, and a modesty rarely seen on Capitol Hill, have played an integral part in moving the homeland security appropriations process forward. His high standards of professionalism and thoroughness are beyond reproach and his contributions are highly valued.

Through all of this, Eric maintained the decorum and professionalism that we have all come to expect from our military officer corps, and he has represented the Coast Guard with the highest integrity and competence. Commander Bader has served me, this subcommittee, and the Senate well. We are sorry to see him leave and will miss him as our colleague but are glad to count him as a friend. Each of us on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee wish Eric all the best as he moves forward in the next phase of his career, where he will be running the day-to-day operations of the Coast Guard Air Station in Cape Cod. We look forward to seeing him back in uniform because we anticipate great things from him in the coming years.

I am grateful for his contributions.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 8, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RELATING TO REPRESENTATION CASE PROCEDURES, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 31, 2015—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

#### MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

S.J. Res. 8 would overturn the National Labor Relations Board's recently issued "representation case procedures" rule and block modest but overdue reforms to simplify and streamline private sector union elections. Accordingly, I am withholding my approval of this resolution. (The Pocket Veto Case, 279 U.S. 655 (1929)).

Workers need a strong voice in the workplace and the economy to protect and grow our Nation's middle class. Unions have played a vital role in giving workers that voice, allowing workers to organize together for higher wages, better working conditions, and the benefits and protections that most workers take for granted today. Workers deserve a level playing field that lets them freely choose to make their voices heard, and this requires fair and streamlined procedures for determining whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. Because this resolution seeks to undermine a streamlined democratic process that allows American workers to freely choose to make their voices heard, I cannot support it.

To leave no doubt that the resolution is being vetoed, in addition to withholding my signature, I am returning S.J. Res. 8 to the Secretary of the Senate, along with this Memorandum of Disapproval.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 31, 2015.*

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate on January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 1, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 1092. An act to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Ave-

nue in Miramar, Florida, as the "Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building."

H.R. 1527. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 10. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate on January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed on April 1, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. COTTON).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 27, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1017. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015, and requirements for a "Within-Session Sequestration Report to the President and Congress"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition,

and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rule for Pentane, 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoro-4-(1,1,2,3,3,3-hexafluoropropoxy)" (FRL No. 9922-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1019. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1020. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Business Development Grant Program" (RIN0570-AA92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1021. A communication from the Acting Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Military Construction Funds" ((RIN0750-AI52) (DFARS Case 2015-D006)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1022. A communication from the Acting Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Text Implementing 10 U.S.C. 2323" ((RIN0750-AH45) (DFARS Case 2011-D038)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1023. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the training of the U.S. Special Operations Forces with friendly foreign forces during fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1024. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report (NGRER) for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1025. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1026. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1027. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1028. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-141); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-110); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1030. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" ((RIN0938-AS52) (CMS-9946-F2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1031. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fiduciary Requirements for Disclosure in Participant-Directed Individual Account Plans—Timing of Annual Disclosure" (RIN1210-AB68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1032. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan; Sea Turtle Conservation; Modification to Fishing Activities" (RIN0648-BB37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1033. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Longline Component" (RIN0648-XD735) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1034. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD778) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1035. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico,

and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Increase" (RIN0648-XD790) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1036. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD803) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1037. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Big Skate in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD761) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1038. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20B; Correction" (RIN0648-BD86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1039. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office Biennial Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1040. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, St. Petersburg Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0436)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1041. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; ARCTIC CHALLENGER, Port of Bellingham; Bellingham, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0158)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1042. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pittsburgh, PA; Ice Accumulations; Allegheny River Mile 1.0-72.0" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0126)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1043. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tuscaloosa Regional Air Show; Black Warrior River; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0076)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1044. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; St. Patrick's Day Fireworks, Manitowoc River, Manitowoc, Wisconsin" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0130)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1045. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; State Route 520 Bridge Construction, Lake Washington; Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0098)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1046. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone for Ice Conditions; Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, Upper Chesapeake Bay, and Tributaries; MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1047. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Moon Island - Long Island Bridge Demolition; Boston Inner Harbor, Quincy Bay; Quincy, MA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1059)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1048. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety and Security Zones, Jacksonville Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00 and RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0152)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1049. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cooper River Bridge Run, Cooper River, and Town Creek Reaches, Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0040)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1050. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chevron Oil Company Canal, Fourchon, LA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-

1039)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1051. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2015 Annual Review and Adjustment" ((RIN1625-AC22) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0481)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1052. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Passaic River, Rutherford, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1070)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1053. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Upper Mississippi River Between Mile 38.0 and 46.0, Thebes, IL; and Between Mile 78.0 and 81.0, Grand Tower, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0907)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1054. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Annual Events Requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1055. A communication from the Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Amtrak's Executive Level 1 salary for 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1056. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mississippi Abandoned Mine Land Plan" ((SATS No. MS-024-FOR) (Docket No. OSM-2014-0005)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1057. A communication from the Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, General Services Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1058. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1059. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National

Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1060. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1061. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1062. A communication from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Privacy Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1063. A communication from the Chief of the Regulation Policy, Tracking, and Control Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Mental Disorders and Definition of Psychosis for Certain VA Purposes" (RIN2900-AO96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1064. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee; Antiviral Drugs Advisory Committee; Termination" (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-0218) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 27, 2015, the following reports of committees were submitted on March 31, 2015:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, 113th Congress, First and Second Sessions" (Rept. No. 114-7).

By Mr. BURR, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Special Report entitled "Report of the Select Committee on Intelligence Covering the Period January 3, 2013, to January 5, 2015" (Rept. No. 114-8).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance during the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-9).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary during the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-10).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Special Report entitled "Review of Legislative Activity During the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-11).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 142. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-12).

S. 304. A bill to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information (Rept. No. 114-13).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 896. A bill to establish centers of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 897. A bill to support evidence-based social and emotional learning programming; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 898. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 899. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to focus on career readiness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 900. A bill to require auto dealers to fix outstanding safety recalls before selling or leasing a used passenger motor vehicle; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 901. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 902. A bill to prohibit trespassing on critical infrastructure used in or affecting interstate commerce to commit a criminal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 133. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 134. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Government of Canada does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 157

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 157, a bill to repeal the medical device tax and the employer and individual responsibility requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 171, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing

services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 318

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 318, a bill to prioritize funding for the National Institutes of Health to discover treatments and cures, to maintain global leadership in medical innovation, and to restore the purchasing power the NIH had after the historic doubling campaign that ended in fiscal year 2003.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) were added as cosponsors of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include licensed hearing aid specialists as eligible for appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration,

to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to reauthorize and improve a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing, maintaining, improving, and operating Veteran Student Centers.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a



mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 786

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to provide paid and family medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 793

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 875

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 875, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 133—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 133

Whereas the week of April 6, 2015, through April 12, 2015, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2015 is "Healthiest Nation 2030", with the goal of making the United States the healthiest nation in one generation;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas the value of a strong public health system is in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places where we all live, learn, work, and play;

Whereas there is a 16 percent difference in the health status of people living in the healthiest States compared to people living in the least healthy States;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners that are not in the health sector, such as city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors have an important influence on health;

Whereas according to the Institute of Medicine, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the United States ranks below many other economically prosperous and developing countries with respect to many indicators for healthy life, including life expectancy, infant mortality rates, low birth weight rates, and the rate of drug-related deaths;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths, a 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease, a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes, and a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas in communities across the country, more people are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, becoming more physically active, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace;

Whereas despite having a high infant mortality rate compared to other economically prosperous and developing countries, the United States is making progress, with the infant mortality rate declining 12 percent between 2005 and 2011;

Whereas in 2013, the percentage of adults smoking in the United States decreased from 21.2 percent to 19.6 percent and the percentage of physically inactive adults in the United States decreased from 26.2 percent to 22.9 percent; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and prevention can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness to a health system focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in improving the health of individuals in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to improve the health of people in the United States to create the healthiest nation in one generation through—

(A) greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(B) strengthening the public health system in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health in the United States.



**SENATE RESOLUTION 134—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DOES NOT PERMANENTLY STORE NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 134

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas the United States and Canada have, since 1909, worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes through water quality agreements;

Whereas over 40,000,000 people in both Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes for drinking water;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation is proposing to build a permanent geological repository for nuclear waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada;

Whereas nuclear waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels;

Whereas, during the 1980s, when the Department of Energy, in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, was studying potential sites for a permanent nuclear waste repository in the United States, the Government of Canada expressed concern with locating a permanent nuclear waste repository within shared water basins of the two countries; and

Whereas a spill of nuclear waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people that depend on them for their livelihood: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of Canada should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin;

(2) the President and the Secretary of State should take appropriate action to work with the Government of Canada to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin; and

(3) the President and the Secretary of State should work together with their Government of Canada counterparts on a safe and responsible solution for the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

**NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS**

The filing date for the 2015 first quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, April 27, 2015. An electronic option is now available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable pdf document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports can be submitted elec-

tronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016**

On Thursday, March 26, 2015, the Senate adopted S. Con. Res. 11, as amended, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 11

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016.**

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

**TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS**

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 102. Social Security.

Sec. 103. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses.

Sec. 104. Major functional categories.

**TITLE II—RECONCILIATION**

Sec. 201. Reconciliation in the Senate.

Sec. 202. Limit on Senate consideration of reconciliation.

**TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS**

Sec. 301. Spending-neutral reserve fund to increase the pace of economic growth and private sector job creation in the United States.

Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen America's priorities.

Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect flexible and affordable healthcare choices for all.

Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving access to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Sec. 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for other health reforms.

Sec. 306. Spending-neutral reserve fund for child welfare.

Sec. 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Sec. 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax reform and administration.

Sec. 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in the infrastructure in America.

Sec. 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for air transportation.

Sec. 311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote jobs in the United States through international trade.

Sec. 312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase employment opportunities for disabled workers.

Sec. 313. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Higher Education Act reform.

Sec. 314. Spending-neutral reserve fund for energy legislation.

Sec. 315. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform environmental statutes.

Sec. 316. Spending-neutral reserve fund for water resources legislation.

Sec. 317. Spending-neutral reserve fund on mineral security and mineral rights.

Sec. 318. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform the abandoned mine lands program.

Sec. 319. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve forest health.

Sec. 320. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reauthorize funding for payments in lieu of taxes to counties and other units of local government.

Sec. 321. Spending-neutral reserve fund for financial regulatory system reform.

Sec. 322. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal program administration.

Sec. 323. Spending-neutral reserve fund to implement agreements with freely associated states.

Sec. 324. Spending-neutral reserve fund to protect payments to rural hospitals and create sustainable access for rural communities.

Sec. 325. Spending-neutral reserve fund to encourage State medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled.

Sec. 326. Spending-neutral reserve fund to allow pharmacists to be paid for the provision of services under Medicare.

Sec. 327. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve our Nation's community health centers.

Sec. 328. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process.

Sec. 329. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for export promotion.

Sec. 330. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform, improve, and enhance 529 college savings plans.

Sec. 331. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to securing overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States.

Sec. 332. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to achieve savings by helping struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence.

Sec. 333. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to conserving Federal land, enhancing access to Federal land for recreational opportunities, and making investments in counties and schools.

Sec. 334. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect taxpayers from identity fraud.

Sec. 335. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to career and technical education.

Sec. 336. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to FEMA preparedness.

Sec. 337. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Sec. 338. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote the next generation of NIH researchers in the United States.

- Sec. 339. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting manufacturing in the United States.
- Sec. 340. Spending-neutral reserve fund to prohibit aliens without legal status in the United States from qualifying for a refundable tax credit.
- Sec. 341. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for report elimination or modification.
- Sec. 342. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address heroin and prescription opioid abuse.
- Sec. 343. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen our Department of Defense civilian workforce.
- Sec. 344. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Department of Defense reform.
- Sec. 345. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs.
- Sec. 346. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide energy assistance and invest in energy efficiency and conservation.
- Sec. 347. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to enable greater collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and law school clinics serving veterans.
- Sec. 348. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase funding for Department of Energy nuclear waste clean-up.
- Sec. 349. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Department of Defense initiatives to bolster resilience of mission-critical department infrastructure to impacts from climate change and associated events.
- Sec. 350. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end Operation Choke Point and protect the Second Amendment.
- Sec. 351. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the use of Federal funds for the bailout of improvident State and local governments.
- Sec. 352. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts.
- Sec. 353. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid.
- Sec. 354. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect and strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs, hire more health care professionals for the Department, and ensure quality and timely access to health care for all veterans.
- Sec. 355. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program.
- Sec. 356. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay.
- Sec. 357. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect and strengthen Social Security.
- Sec. 358. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option.
- Sec. 359. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the protection of clean water using scientific standards while maintaining the traditional role of agriculture.
- Sec. 360. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to keeping the Federal Water Pollution Control Act focused on the protection of water quality.
- Sec. 361. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to saving Medicare.
- Sec. 362. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting Israel.
- Sec. 363. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time.
- Sec. 364. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who have geographic inaccessibility to care.
- Sec. 365. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program.
- Sec. 366. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to consumer price transparency.
- Sec. 367. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing.
- Sec. 368. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to carbon emissions.
- Sec. 369. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty.
- Sec. 370. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to small business tax relief.
- Sec. 371. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.
- Sec. 372. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation.
- Sec. 373. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.
- Sec. 374. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.
- Sec. 375. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.
- Sec. 376. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to permanently eliminate the Federal estate tax.
- Sec. 377. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing climate change.
- Sec. 378. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sec. 379. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.
- Sec. 380. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations.
- Sec. 381. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service.
- Sec. 382. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate.
- Sec. 383. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples under the Social Security program and by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 384. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers.
- Sec. 385. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- Sec. 386. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to middle class tax relief.
- Sec. 387. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring proper economic consideration in designation of critical habitat.
- Sec. 388. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen the national do-not-call registry.
- Sec. 389. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end "too big to fail" bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets).
- Sec. 390. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- Sec. 391. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Sec. 392. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to revise or repeal sequestration.
- Sec. 393. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Sec. 394. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Sec. 395. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.
- Sec. 396. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits.
- Sec. 397. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication.
- Sec. 398. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming Offices of Inspectors General and preventing extended vacancies.
- Sec. 399. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security.
- Sec. 399a. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the competitiveness of the United States.
- Sec. 399b. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the conservation of northern long-eared bat populations and local economic development are compatible.
- Sec. 399c. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

- Sec. 399d. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies.
- Sec. 399e. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies.
- Sec. 399f. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers.
- Sec. 399g. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the needs of women veterans.
- Sec. 399h. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy.
- Sec. 399i. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing access to marijuana edibles by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana.
- Sec. 399j. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas.
- Sec. 399k. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.
- Sec. 399l. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 399m. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program.
- Sec. 399n. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet.
- Sec. 399o. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support State drought prevention plans.
- Sec. 399p. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid.
- Sec. 399q. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to preserve and protect the open Internet.
- Sec. 399r. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process.
- Sec. 399s. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program.
- Sec. 399t. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening waterborne commerce in our ports and harbors.
- Sec. 399u. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the modernization of the nuclear command, control, and communications architecture of the United States.
- Sec. 399v. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to BARDA and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund.
- Sec. 399w. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the nuclear forces and missions of the Air Force.
- Sec. 399x. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses.
- Sec. 399y. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the definition of full-time employee.
- Sec. 399z. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process.
- Sec. 399aa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to expedite awards under the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program.
- Sec. 399bb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.
- Sec. 399cc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department.
- Sec. 399dd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community banks and credit unions.
- Sec. 399ee. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Sec. 399ff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions.
- Sec. 399gg. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote biomedical research.
- Sec. 399hh. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the heroin and methamphetamine abuse epidemic in the United States.
- Sec. 399ii. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing access to necessary equipment for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Sec. 399jj. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prioritizing the construction of infrastructure projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors.
- Sec. 399kk. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO.
- Sec. 399ll. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the investigation and recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government.
- Sec. 399mm. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving higher education data and transparency.
- Sec. 399nn. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs funded by the Older Americans Act of 1965.
- Sec. 399oo. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Native children.
- Sec. 399pp. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches.
- Sec. 399qq. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for Government reform and efficiency.
- Sec. 399rr. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to medical treatment and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families injured and made ill by the 9/11 attacks.
- Sec. 399ss. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of Native American schools.
- Sec. 399tt. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the guarantee threshold for the Surety Bond Guarantee Program.
- Sec. 399uu. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Indo-Pacific partner capacity building and strategy.
- Sec. 399vv. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States.
- Sec. 399ww. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Guard State Partnership Program.
- Sec. 399xx. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the prevention and treatment of agricultural virus outbreaks.
- Sec. 399yy. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of financial literacy education to allow individuals to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources.
- Sec. 399zz. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to comprehensive mental health reform.
- Sec. 399aaa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for children and pregnant women under Medicaid.
- Sec. 399bbb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Park Service Centennial.
- Sec. 399ccc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing college completion.
- Sec. 399ddd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation, including rail, waterways, ports, and highways.
- Sec. 399eee. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to providing for full funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for certain fisheries.
- Sec. 399fff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to training and resources for first responders responding to hazardous materials incidents on railroads.
- Sec. 399ggg. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the application backlog.
- Sec. 399hhh. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to provide additional funding for international strategic communications.
- Sec. 399iii. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for elementary and secondary education.

Sec. 399jjj. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in rural and tribal water infrastructure.

Sec. 399kkk. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to sexual assault at institutions of higher education.

Sec. 399lll. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education.

Sec. 399mmm. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to authorizing children eligible for health care under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain such eligibility until age 26.

Sec. 399nnn. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting workforce development through apprenticeship programs.

Sec. 399ooo. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the prioritization of broad-based criminal justice reform.

Sec. 399ppp. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace.

Sec. 399qqq. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry.

Sec. 399rrr. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption.

Sec. 399sss. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming student loan programs.

Sec. 399ttt. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the TIGER discretionary grant program of the Department of Transportation.

Sec. 399uuu. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts.

Sec. 399vvv. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a new outcome-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers.

Sec. 399www. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving community relations with law enforcement officers.

Sec. 399xxx. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support research.

Sec. 399yyy. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles.

Sec. 399zzz. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing funding to combat anti-Semitism in Europe.

Sec. 399aaaa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide students and families with transparent, easily understood postsecondary education financial aid information.

Sec. 399bbbb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing adequate funding for the Contract Tower Program of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Sec. 399cccc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to underground and surface mining safety and health research.

Sec. 399dddd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development.

Sec. 399eeee. Deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to foreign persons.

Sec. 399ffff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies.

#### TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

##### Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement

Sec. 401. Extension of enforcement of budgetary points of order in the Senate.

Sec. 402. Senate point of order against legislation increasing long-term deficits.

Sec. 403. Point of order against advance appropriations.

Sec. 404. Supermajority enforcement of unfunded mandates.

Sec. 405. Repeal of Senate point of order against certain reconciliation legislation.

Sec. 406. Point of order against changes in mandatory programs.

Sec. 407. Prohibition on agreeing to legislation without a score.

Sec. 408. Protecting the savings in reported reconciliation bills.

Sec. 409. Point of order against exceeding funds designated for overseas contingency operations.

Sec. 410. Senate point of order against provisions of appropriations legislation that constitute changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund.

Sec. 411. Accuracy in budget enforcement.

Sec. 412. Fair value estimates.

Sec. 413. Honest accounting estimates.

Sec. 414. Currency modernization.

Sec. 415. Certain energy contracts.

Sec. 416. Long-term scoring.

Sec. 417. Requiring clearer reporting of projected Federal spending and deficits.

Sec. 418. Reporting on tax expenditures.

Sec. 419. Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Sec. 420. To require transparent reporting on the ongoing costs and savings to taxpayers of Obamacare.

Sec. 421. Prohibiting the use of guarantee fees as an offset.

Sec. 422. Adjustments for sequestration replacement.

Sec. 423. To convey clear information to Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenues, and deficits.

Sec. 424. Adjustment for wildfire suppression funding.

##### Subtitle B—Other Provisions

Sec. 431. Oversight of Government performance.

Sec. 432. Budgetary treatment of certain discretionary administrative expenses.

Sec. 433. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates.

Sec. 434. Adjustments to reflect changes in concepts and definitions.

Sec. 435. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

#### TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

##### SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$2,666,755,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,763,328,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,858,131,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$2,974,147,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,099,410,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,241,963,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,388,688,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,550,388,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,722,144,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$3,905,648,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$3,003,274,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,894,221,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,958,672,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$3,107,799,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,228,534,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,337,729,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,455,558,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,525,594,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,624,025,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$3,646,263,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$3,037,267,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,928,317,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,945,067,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$3,080,929,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,185,512,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,308,296,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,449,532,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,497,247,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,576,890,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$3,614,976,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$370,512,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$164,989,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$86,936,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$106,782,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$86,102,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$66,333,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$60,844,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$53,141,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$145,254,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$290,672,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$19,009,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$19,396,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$19,718,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$20,055,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$20,375,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$20,676,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$21,008,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$21,195,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$21,254,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$21,207,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$13,799,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$14,042,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$14,222,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$14,445,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$14,674,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$14,912,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$15,230,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$15,419,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$15,500,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$15,538,000,000,000.

(7) **FEDERAL TAX EXPENDITURES.**—The levels of Federal tax expenditures are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$1,481,800,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$1,593,500,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$1,670,800,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$1,738,019,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$1,810,158,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$1,890,648,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$1,973,922,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$2,064,520,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$2,160,235,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$2,261,769,000,000.

#### SEC. 102. SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) **SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.**—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$792,776,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$824,342,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$857,154,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$890,609,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$925,760,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$962,188,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$1,000,637,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$1,040,394,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$1,081,476,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$1,123,748,000,000.

(b) **SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.**—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$778,032,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$825,829,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$882,521,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$941,034,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$1,005,632,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$1,073,227,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$1,145,188,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$1,222,754,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$1,305,622,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$1,394,327,000,000.

(c) **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,026,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,089,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,175,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,190,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,345,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,316,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,518,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,487,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,699,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,668,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,881,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,849,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,072,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$6,039,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,266,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,232,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,462,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,428,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,665,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,630,000,000.

#### SEC. 103. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$267,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$266,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$277,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$277,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$288,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$288,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$299,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$298,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$310,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$310,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$321,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$320,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$334,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$333,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$346,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$345,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$358,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$357,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$371,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$370,000,000.

#### SEC. 104. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2025 for each major functional category are:

(1) **National Defense (050):**  
 Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$620,263,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$605,189,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$544,506,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$576,934,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$557,744,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$558,049,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$571,019,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$564,685,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$585,310,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$573,614,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$599,627,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$586,038,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$600,634,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$596,103,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$615,997,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$603,051,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$631,771,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$611,920,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$648,836,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$632,992,000,000.  
 (2) **International Affairs (150):**  
 Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$47,791,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$48,227,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$41,839,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$45,656,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$42,802,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$43,642,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$43,749,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$42,565,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$44,754,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$42,437,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$45,276,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$42,795,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$46,553,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$43,424,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$47,593,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$44,153,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$48,681,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$45,023,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$49,786,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$45,943,000,000.  
 (3) **General Science, Space, and Technology (250):**  
 Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,007,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$30,007,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$30,596,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$30,529,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$31,286,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$31,165,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$31,981,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$31,712,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$32,706,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$32,400,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$33,433,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$33,022,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,192,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$33,756,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$34,953,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$34,512,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$35,745,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$35,290,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$36,545,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$36,084,000,000.  
 (4) **Energy (270):**  
 Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$-1,947,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$2,365,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$2,483,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$2,112,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$76,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$-731,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$90,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$-753,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$128,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$-668,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$97,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$-543,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$62,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$-465,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:

- (A) New budget authority, \$36,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$393,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$2,869,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$2,521,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$2,963,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$2,655,000,000.  
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$36,277,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$38,983,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$36,685,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$38,866,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$37,680,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$38,719,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$39,125,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$39,486,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$41,066,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,098,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$40,951,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,232,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$41,844,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,992,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$43,240,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$43,467,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$44,125,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$43,663,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$45,522,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$44,966,000,000.  
(6) Agriculture (350):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$20,628,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,585,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$24,247,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$23,696,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$23,204,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,471,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$22,083,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,401,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$20,974,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,498,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$21,078,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,613,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$20,914,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,476,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$21,506,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,051,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$21,620,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,125,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$21,834,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,416,000,000.  
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$2,260,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$11,365,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, -\$3,959,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$18,302,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, -\$1,264,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$16,095,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, -\$1,316,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$21,170,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$55,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$20,567,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, -\$75,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$15,388,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$1,341,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$15,789,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$2,452,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$15,942,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$3,648,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$16,051,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$4,520,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, -\$16,011,000,000.  
(8) Transportation (400):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$71,528,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$88,436,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$72,392,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$83,756,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$73,286,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$80,329,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$74,077,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$79,437,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$74,826,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$78,935,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$75,549,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$78,708,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$76,221,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$78,973,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$76,840,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$79,228,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$77,506,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$79,123,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$78,208,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$79,426,000,000.  
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$17,414,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,351,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,263,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,002,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,606,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,457,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,862,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,314,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,870,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,547,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,771,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,474,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,782,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,323,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,861,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,747,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$18,975,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,313,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$19,140,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,384,000,000.  
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$86,251,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$95,717,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$87,848,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$92,889,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$90,703,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$90,534,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$89,535,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$88,889,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$91,991,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$91,556,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$93,353,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$93,315,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$94,970,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$94,734,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$96,575,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$96,383,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$98,439,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$98,178,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$100,362,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$100,129,000,000.  
(11) Health (550):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$414,351,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$424,736,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$385,565,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$389,710,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$388,629,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$390,503,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$402,511,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$403,324,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$425,526,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$415,791,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$433,351,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$433,395,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$452,426,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$452,523,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$471,644,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$471,719,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$489,491,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$489,587,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$512,965,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$513,163,000,000.  
(12) Medicare (570):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$567,213,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$567,122,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$562,941,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$562,881,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$562,143,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$562,102,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$619,228,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$619,148,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$657,658,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$657,564,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$698,284,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$698,188,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$776,034,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$775,930,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$787,879,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$787,681,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$797,075,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$796,964,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$902,467,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$902,349,000,000.

(13) Income Security (600):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$529,494,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$528,778,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$458,455,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$455,293,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$466,015,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$458,848,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$460,943,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$457,388,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$471,826,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$467,468,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$481,804,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$477,132,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$493,877,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$493,223,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$502,550,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$498,468,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$512,932,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$504,310,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$521,641,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$517,044,000,000.

(14) Social Security (650):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$33,878,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$33,919,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$36,535,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$36,535,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$39,407,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$39,407,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$42,634,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$42,634,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$46,104,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,104,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$49,712,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$49,712,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$53,547,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$53,547,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$57,455,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$57,455,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$61,546,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$61,546,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$65,751,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$65,751,000,000.

(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$166,708,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$170,152,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$164,905,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$164,449,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$163,101,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$162,477,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$174,989,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$174,175,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$179,899,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$178,942,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$184,172,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$183,222,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$196,530,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$195,502,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$193,156,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$192,124,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$189,999,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$188,884,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$203,895,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$202,761,000,000.

(16) Administration of Justice (750):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$52,543,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$56,757,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$57,030,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$58,576,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$56,787,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$57,929,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$58,512,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$57,973,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$60,284,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$59,888,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$62,239,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$61,690,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$64,815,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$64,224,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$66,745,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$66,238,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$68,717,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$68,091,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$70,550,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$69,922,000,000.

(17) General Government (800):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$23,755,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$23,708,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$24,046,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$23,958,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$24,755,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$24,573,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$25,485,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$25,089,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$26,202,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$25,782,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$26,958,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$26,551,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$27,766,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$27,375,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$28,493,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$28,114,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,022,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$28,671,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$29,809,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$29,399,000,000.

(18) Net Interest (900):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$366,579,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$366,579,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$415,132,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$415,132,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, \$478,693,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$478,693,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$532,670,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$532,670,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, \$580,522,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$580,522,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, \$614,725,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$614,725,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$645,841,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$645,841,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, \$671,301,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$671,301,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, \$690,987,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$690,987,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, \$703,419,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$703,419,000,000.

(19) Allowances (920):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$12,322,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$5,571,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$12,975,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$2,923,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A) New budget authority, -\$10,750,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$14,755,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, -\$15,199,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$16,838,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:

(A) New budget authority, -\$46,590,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$44,799,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:

(A) New budget authority, -\$54,803,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$51,787,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, -\$98,454,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$80,798,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:

(A) New budget authority, -\$112,036,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$101,438,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, -\$90,119,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$83,225,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, -\$250,580,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$234,419,000,000.

(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, -\$69,397,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$69,408,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, -\$78,263,000,000.

(B) Outlays, -\$78,278,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:

(A)



Fiscal year 2025:

(A) New budget authority, −\$121,370,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −\$121,397,000,000.

## TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

### SEC. 201. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS.—The Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than July 31, 2015, the Senate Committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

### SEC. 202. LIMIT ON SENATE CONSIDERATION OF RECONCILIATION.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution reported pursuant to section 201, or an amendment to, conference report on, or amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, which would increase the public debt limit under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(c) APPEALS.—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on the point of order raised under this section.

## TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

### SEC. 301. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE THE PACE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) growing the economy;
- (2) creating more private sector jobs and enhancing worker rights such as Davis-Bacon reform and card check;
- (3) lowering the after-tax costs of investment, savings, and work;
- (4) reducing the costs to business and individuals from the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- (5) reducing the costs borne by economic activity in the United States stemming from Federal regulations, including the costs incurred by individuals in complying with Federal law when starting a business;
- (6) reducing the costs of frivolous lawsuits;
- (7) creating a more competitive financial sector to support economic growth and job creation while enhancing the credit worthiness of lending institutions; or
- (8) improving the ability of policy makers to estimate the economic effects of policy change through the enhanced use of eco-

nomic models and data in scoring legislation;

without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S PRIORITIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhanced funding for national security or domestic discretionary programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 303. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE CHOICES FOR ALL.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) the full repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152; 124 Stat. 1029); or

(2) the replacing or reforming the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) or the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152; 124 Stat. 1029);

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 304. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving access to affordable health care for low-income children, including the Children's Health Insurance Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 305. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR OTHER HEALTH REFORMS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) the requirement to individually purchase, or jointly provide, health insurance;

(2) increasing payments under, or permanently reforming or replacing, Medicare payments for providers;

(3) extending expiring health care provisions;

(4) the health care needs of first responders to domestic acts of terror;

(5) improvements in medical research, innovation and safety; or

(6) strengthening program integrity initiatives to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal health care programs;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 306. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CHILD WELFARE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) child nutrition programs;

(2) replacing ineffective policies and programs with evidence-based alternative that improve the welfare of vulnerable children; or

(3) policies that protect children from sexual predators in our schools or communities; without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

### SEC. 307. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the improvement of the delivery of benefits and services to veterans and servicemembers, including:

(1) eligibility for both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation (concurrent receipt);

(2) the reduction or elimination of the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation;

(3) the improvement of disability benefits or the process of evaluating and adjudicating benefit claims for members of the Armed Forces or veterans, including the growing backlog of appeals of decisions regarding claims for disability compensation;

(4) the infrastructure needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including constructing or leasing space, to include leases of major medical facilities, and maintenance of Department facilities;

(5) supporting the transition of servicemembers to the civilian workforce, including by expanding or improving education, job training, and workforce development benefits, or other programs for servicemembers or veterans, which may include streamlining the process associated with Federal and State credentialing requirements;

(6) vocational programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which may include legislation that improves vocational rehabilitation and counseling for veterans with service-connected disabilities and members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illness;

(7) improving research at the Department of Veterans Affairs, which may include legislation that expands research on post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or toxic exposures;

(8) improving the delivery of health care and benefits to veterans or members of the Armed Forces, which may include legislation that improves delivery of health care and benefits to victims of military sexual trauma;

(9) improving the delivery of care and benefits to veterans, which may include legislation that enhances oversight and investigations by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General;

(10) maintaining and enhancing access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146);

(11) improving access to and reducing wait times for Department of Veterans Affairs health care, including through hiring medical providers, and improving the quality of such care;

(12) providing or improving specialty services, including mental health care, homeless services, gender specific health care, fertility treatment, and support for caregivers; or

(13) improving outreach, access, and services for rural veterans; by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 308. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TAX REFORM AND ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) reforming the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(2) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring tax relief provisions;

(3) innovation and high quality manufacturing jobs, including the repeal of the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical device manufacturers; or

(4) operations and administration of the Department of the Treasury, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 309. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMERICA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States, including

programs that expedite the deployment of broadband to rural areas, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation shall not include transfers from other trust funds but may include transfers from the general fund of the Treasury that are offset, provided further that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 310. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal spending on civil air traffic control services, which may include air traffic management at airport towers across the United States or at facilities of the Federal Aviation Administration, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 311. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) suspending or reducing tariffs on miscellaneous imports;

(2) reauthorization of trade related Federal agencies;

(3) implementing international trade agreements;

(4) reauthorizing or extending trade adjustment assistance programs;

(5) reauthorizing preference programs; or

(6) enhancing the protection of United States intellectual property rights at the border and abroad;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 312. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the administration of disability benefits and the improved employment of disabled workers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 313. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates,

and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 314. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) reform of the management of civilian and defense nuclear waste;

(2) reform and reauthorization of programs at the Department of Energy related to research and development of alternative or renewable forms of energy, fossil fuel exploration and use, nuclear energy, or the electricity grid;

(3) expansion of North American energy production; or

(4) reform of the permitting and siting processes for energy infrastructure; without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 315. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reform of environmental statutes to promote job growth by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 316. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR WATER RESOURCES LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving flood control, expanding opportunities for commercial navigation, and improving the environmental restoration of the nation's waterways without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

#### **SEC. 317. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND ON MINERAL SECURITY AND MINERAL RIGHTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) reducing reliance on mineral imports; or

(2) the authority to deduct certain amounts from mineral revenues payable to States;

without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 318. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM THE ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 319. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) increasing timber production from Federal lands and providing bridge funding to counties and other units of local government until timber production levels increase;

(2) decreasing forest hazardous fuel loads;

(3) improving stewardship contracting; or

(4) reform of the process of budgeting for wildfire suppression operations;

without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 320. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REAUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES TO COUNTIES AND OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which may include funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 321. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR FINANCIAL REGULATORY SYSTEM REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to regulatory relief for small financial firms, improvements in the effectiveness of the financial regulatory framework, enhancements in oversight and accountability of the Federal Reserve System, and expansions in access to capital markets without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 322. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FEDERAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the processing of earnings reports for the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 323. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the implementation of agreements between the United States and nations with whom it maintains a Compact of Free Association without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 324. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT PAYMENTS TO RURAL HOSPITALS AND CREATE SUSTAINABLE ACCESS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting payments to rural hospitals and creating sustainable access for rural communities, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 325. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENCOURAGE STATE MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LIVING AND INTEGRATED WORK FOR THE DISABLED.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging State Medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 326. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO BE PAID FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to payments to pharmacists for the provision of services under Medicare, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 327. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting and improving community health centers, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 328. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE SUBJECTING THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU TO THE REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 329. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR EXPORT PROMOTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting exports, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase total deficits over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 330. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM, IMPROVE, AND ENHANCE 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reforms, improvements, and enhancements of 529 college savings plans, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 331. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SECURING OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the security of the overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 332. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS BY HELPING STRUGGLING AMERICANS ON THE ROAD TO PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to welfare legislation to help struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 333. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CONSERVING FEDERAL LAND, ENHANCING ACCESS TO FEDERAL LAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND MAKING INVESTMENTS IN COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal programs for land and water conservation and acquisition or the preservation, restoration, or protection of public land, oceans, coastal areas, or aquatic ecosystems, making changes to or providing for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), making changes to or providing for the reauthorization of the payments in lieu of taxes program under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, or making changes to or providing for the reauthorization of both laws, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 334. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS FROM IDENTITY FRAUD.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to changes at the Internal Revenue Service, which may include establishing a process by which taxpayers may (1) receive notification of tax scams and (2) determine whether a return may have been filed using their personal information, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 335. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to career and technical education, which may include work- or skills-based learning opportunities or which creates rigorous career and technical education curricula in schools, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 336. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FEMA PREPAREDNESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing the preparedness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to respond to disasters, which may include those on land and in the oceans caused or exacerbated by human-induced climate change, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 337. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING, ENHANCING, OR OTHERWISE IMPROVING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 338. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE THE NEXT GENERATION OF NIH RESEARCHERS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to policies and programs that improve opportunities for new biomedical researchers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 339. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to investment in the manufacturing sector in the United States, which may include educational or research and development initiatives, public-private partnerships, or other programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 340. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROHIBIT ALIENS WITHOUT LEGAL STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM QUALIFYING FOR A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to benefits for aliens without legal status in the United States, which may include prohibiting qualification for certain tax benefits without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 341. DEFICIT-REDUCTION RESERVE FUND FOR REPORT ELIMINATION OR MODIFICATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating that achieve savings through the elimination, modification, or the reduction in frequency of congressionally mandated reports from Federal agencies, and reduce the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the deficit reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

**SEC. 342. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to addressing heroin and prescription opioid abuse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 343. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening our civilian workforce, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of either the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 344. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving Department of Defense financial management, which may include achieving full auditability or eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 345. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FEDERAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, JOB TRAINING, AND REEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates,

and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing inefficient overlap, improving access, and enhancing outcomes with Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase total deficits over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 346. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND INVEST IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) energy efficiency, which may include weatherization and energy efficiency retrofit programs for low-income individuals;
- (2) the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which may include seasonal assistance, crisis fuel assistance, or other assistance to low-income individuals;
- (3) Federal programs for land and water conservation, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund; or
- (4) the reduction of duplicative Federal green building programs;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 347. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENABLE GREATER COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND LAW SCHOOL CLINICS SERVING VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs collaboration with law school clinics serving veterans, which may include legislation that supports law school clinics that provide veterans with pro-bono legal support and assistance assembling benefits claims, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 to 2025.

**SEC. 348. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NUCLEAR WASTE CLEANUP.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to Federal investments in the Office of Environmental Management, which may include measures to meet the Federal Government's legacy responsibilities for cleanup of liquid radioactive waste, spent

nuclear fuel, transuranic and mixed/low-level waste, or contaminated soil and water, and which may also include measures deactivating and decommissioning excess facilities at 16 nuclear waste sites created by the Manhattan Project and Cold War programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 349. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INITIATIVES TO BOLSTER RESILIENCE OF MISSION-CRITICAL DEPARTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Department of Defense initiatives to bolster resilience of mission-critical Department infrastructure to impacts from climate change and associated events, including sea-level rise, flooding, and increased storm surge, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 350. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END OPERATION CHOKE POINT AND PROTECT THE SECOND AMENDMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Department of Justice, which may include ending of the Operation Choke Point program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 351. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE BAILOUT OF IMPROVIDENT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition, except in the case of Federal assistance provided in response to a natural disaster, on any entity of the Federal Government from providing funds to State and local governments to prevent receivership or to facilitate exit from receivership or to prevent default on its obligations by a State government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES FROM BENEFIT CUTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Medicaid, which may include protecting children, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, low-income adults, and Americans that need long-term services and supports, including nursing home care, who are guaranteed benefits under Medicaid, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 353. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND LOWER THE COSTS OF CARING FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX CHILDREN IN MEDICAID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the health outcomes and lowering the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid, which may include creating or expanding integrated delivery models or improving care coordination, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 354. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, HIRE MORE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE DEPARTMENT, AND ENSURE QUALITY AND TIMELY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR ALL VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which may include legislation that strengthens quality and timely access to health care by hiring more health care professionals at facilities of the Department and making necessary improvements to infrastructure of the Department, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 355. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN VETERANS CARE THROUGH THE VETERANS CHOICE CARD PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to maintaining and enhancing ac-

cess, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 356. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING EQUAL PAY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 357. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO LEGISLATION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect current beneficiaries of the Social Security program and prevent the insolvency of the program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 358. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO A SIMPLIFIED INCOME-DRIVEN STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT OPTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to addressing student loan debt, which may include reducing overlapping student loan repayment programs and creating a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 359. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF CLEAN WATER USING SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS WHILE MAINTAINING THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF AGRICULTURE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports

relating to protecting watersheds, including the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, the Mississippi River system, the Colorado River system, or other sources of drinking water of the United States, which may include clarifying the scope of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) to provide certainty for landowners or rural communities, or preserving existing exemptions for agriculture, ranching, or forestry, or to rely on the scientific evidence of impacts on water quality of different types of water bodies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 360. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO KEEPING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT FOCUSED ON THE PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Federal jurisdiction under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is focused on water quality, which may include limiting jurisdiction based on the movement of birds, mammals, or insects through the air or over the land, the movement of water through the ground, or the movement of rainwater or snowmelt over the land, or limiting jurisdiction over puddles, isolated ponds, roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, stormwater systems, wastewater systems, or water delivery, reuse, or reclamation systems, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 361. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SAVING MEDICARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, which may include the creation of a point of order against legislation that accelerates the insolvency of such Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 362. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING ISRAEL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to United States policy toward Israel, which may include preventing the United Nations and other international institutions from taking unfair or discriminatory action against Israel, by the amounts

provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 363. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR LEGISLATION TO ALLOW AMERICANS TO EARN PAID SICK TIME.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efforts to improve workplace benefits and reduce health care costs, which may include measures to allow Americans to earn paid sick time to address their own health needs and the health needs of their families, and to promote equal employment opportunities, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 364. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS WHO HAVE GEOGRAPHIC INACCESSIBILITY TO CARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 365. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program, which may include allowing for 1 or more additional payment periods during the same award year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 366. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO CONSUMER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

(Public Law 111-148) taxes or other provisions in health insurance monthly premium statements, including advance premium tax credits, cost sharing reductions, medical loss ratio rebates and savings, free preventive care, coverage of preexisting conditions and prohibitions on premium rating because of gender, the cost of insurance company administrative expenses, and taxes and fees, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 367. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH PREMIUM BILLING.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) tax in health insurance monthly premium statements, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 368. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CARBON EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to carbon emissions, which may include prohibitions on Federal taxes or fees imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of emissions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 369. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REQUIRING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW STATES TO OPT OUT OF COMMON CORE WITHOUT PENALTY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or coercing States to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other specific academic standards, instructional content, curricula, assessments, or programs of instruction and allowing States to opt out of the Common Core State Standards without penalty, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 370. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to small business tax relief, which may include a permanent increase of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to \$1,000,000 or an increase in the investment limitation to \$2,500,000, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 371. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives to sell or transfer to, or exchange with, a State or local government any Federal land that is not within the boundaries of a National Park, National Preserve, or National Monument, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 372. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY PRIOR TO SENATE RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding, which may include prohibiting funding for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat or any international organizations created to support the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 373. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REIMPOSING WAIVED SANCTIONS AND IMPOSING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION OR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between



the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Iran, which may include efforts to immediately reimpose waived sanctions and impose new sanctions against the Government of Iran if the President cannot make a determination and certify that Iran is complying with the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 374. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, IRAN, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 3, 1979, AND JANUARY 20, 1981.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 375. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efforts to increase employment opportunities and prevent employment discrimination, which may include measures to prevent employment discrimination against pregnant workers, to provide pregnant workers with a right to workplace accommodations, and to ensure that employers comply with requirements regarding such workplace accommodations for pregnant workers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 376. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL ESTATE TAX.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to changes in the Federal income tax laws, which may include eliminating the Federal estate tax, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 377. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting national security, economic growth, and public health by addressing human-induced climate change through increased use of clean energy, energy efficiency, and reductions in carbon pollution by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 378. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REGULATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 379. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING PRIVATELY HELD WATER RIGHTS AND PERMITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting communities, businesses, recreationists, farmers, ranchers, or other groups that rely on privately held water rights and permits from Federal takings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 380. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS BASED ON Awardees ENTERING OR NOT ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition on the awarding of construction contracts on behalf of the Government based upon any solicitations, bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents, that require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations or discriminate against or give preference to such bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors based on their entering or refusing to enter into such agreements by the

amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 381. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service, which may include imposing a moratorium to prevent mail processing plants from closing, reestablishing overnight delivery standards, recognizing the importance of rural delivery, allowing the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 382. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT AMERICAN JOBS FROM BEING MOVED OVERSEAS BY REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing American jobs from being moved overseas, which may include a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 383. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF MARRIED COUPLES UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM AND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples, which may include ensuring that all legally married spouses have access to Social Security benefits after the death of their spouse and to benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 384. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE WAGES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reaffirming the ability of States to adopt minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage level commensurate with the cost of living in the State, which may include the adoption of pro-employment and wage-increasing policies by providing pro-growth tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 385. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETERRING THE MIGRATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FROM EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to deterring the attempted migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras into the United States, which may include the expedited removal of unlawful entrants from non-contiguous countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 386. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending and expanding refundable tax provisions that benefit working families, childless workers, and the middle class, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 387. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING PROPER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION IN DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to critical habitat designations, which may include requirements that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service examine the cumulative economic effects of the designation, such as on land or property uses or values, regional employment, or revenue impacts on States and units of local government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 388. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to compliance with the national do-not-call registry, which may include adjusting or increasing fines, providing flexibility for the relevant regulatory agency, or modifying the conditions of the safe harbor provisions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 389. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END "TOO BIG TO FAIL" BAILOUTS FOR WALL STREET MEGA-BANKS (OVER \$500 BILLION IN TOTAL ASSETS).**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to any bank holding companies with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets to better protect taxpayers, including such measures as capital or leverage requirements, restrictions on the growth, activities, or operations of a company, or divestiture of assets or operations of any company that is unable to present a credible plan to facilitate an orderly bankruptcy or resolution, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 390. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENDING WASHINGTON'S ILLEGAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that all Members of Congress, the President, the Vice President, and all political appointees of the Administration procure their health insurance on the individual exchange in the same way as Americans at the same income level, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 391. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding for United

States embassies, which may include the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 392. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REVISE OR REPEAL SEQUESTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the enforcement procedures under section 251A of that Act to revise or repeal the discretionary spending limits and enforcement procedures established under those sections, relating to providing relief from sequestration and the reduction in discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, split evenly between both the revised security category and the revised nonsecurity category, and offsetting such relief through targeted changes in mandatory or discretionary spending programs (not pertaining to Social Security) and tax expenditures by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For purposes of determining deficit-neutrality under this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may include the estimated effects of any amendment or amendments to the discretionary spending limits.

**SEC. 393. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING THE RETURN OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LEGALLY ADOPTED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 394. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CRUISE MISSILE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration, by the amounts

provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 395. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE EQUITY IN THE TAX TREATMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER DEATH BENEFITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing tax equity for death benefits paid to the families of public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 396. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ELIMINATING THE BACKLOG OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits, which may include auditing the hidden backlog of untested sexual assault kits and ensuring that the collection and processing of DNA evidence by law enforcement agencies from crimes is carried out in an appropriate and timely manner, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 397. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 398. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL AND PREVENTING EXTENDED VACANCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening and reforming Federal Offices of Inspectors General, reducing vacancies in such Offices, and providing for improvements in the overall economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Inspectors General by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such

legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING RETIREMENT SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving retirement security by making it easier for small businesses to provide retirement plans for their employees by easing the administrative burden and by encouraging individuals to increase their savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399a. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving basic science research and development programs in the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399b. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT THE CONSERVATION OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT POPULATIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE COMPATIBLE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), which may include requirements that State conservation plans relating to the northern long-eared bat are given maximum flexibility to be successful so as to preserve and protect local and rural economies before any Federal listing decision is made with respect to the northern long-eared bat, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399c. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased sharing of cybersecurity threat information while protecting individual privacy and civil liberties interests, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legisla-

tion would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399d. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO ENTER INTO JOINT TASK FORCES WITH TRIBAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation entering into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399e. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING COST SAVINGS IN OFFICE SPACE USED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies, which may include encouraging Federal agencies to utilize office space unused by the Federal Government before purchasing or renting additional space, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399f. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399g. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEET THE NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet

the needs of women veterans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399h. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING EFFICIENT RESOURCING FOR THE ASIA REBALANCE POLICY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding related to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399i. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PREVENTING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA EDIBLES BY CHILDREN IN STATES THAT HAVE DECRIMINALIZED MARIJUANA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing access to edible marijuana products by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399j. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING MORTGAGE LENDING TO RURAL AREAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399k. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARCTIC POLAR ICEBREAKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399l. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RESEARCHING HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES DURING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399m. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RAISING THE FAMILY OF FUNDS LIMIT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399n. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF WEBSITES WHO KNOWINGLY ALLOW SUCH WEBSITES TO BE USED TO ADVERTISE COMMERCIAL SEX WITH CHILDREN OVER THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to online child sex trafficking, which may include the detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399o. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT STATE DROUGHT PREVENTION PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to assisting the States in carrying out drought prevention plans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would

not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399p. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399q. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE OPEN INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the open Internet and promoting further innovation and investment in Internet services, content, infrastructure, and technologies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399r. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) creating an effective mechanism for the review of the existing Federal regulatory burden to identify rules for repeal or modification that—

(A) impose paperwork burdens that could be reduced substantially without significantly diminishing regulatory effectiveness;

(B) impose disproportionately high costs on small businesses;

(C) could be strengthened in their effectiveness while reducing regulatory costs;

(D) have been rendered obsolete by technological or market changes;

(E) have achieved their goals and can be repealed without target problems recurring;

(F) impose the greatest opportunity costs in terms of economic growth;

(G) are ineffective;

(H) overlap, duplicate, or conflict with other Federal regulations or with State or local regulations; or

(I) impose costs that are not justified by benefits produced for society within the United States;

(2) reforming the process by which new regulations are made by Federal agencies, including independent agencies, for the purposes of—

(A) prioritizing early public outreach in the rulemaking process;

(B) ensuring the use of the best available scientific, economic, and technical data;

(C) preventing the misuse of guidance documents to skirt public input;

(D) ensuring the use of best practices for regulatory analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, into each step of the rulemaking process;

(E) facilitating the adoption by Federal agencies of the least costly regulatory alternative that would achieve the goals of the statutory authorization;

(F) ensuring more careful consideration of proposed high-cost rules;

(G) ensuring effective oversight of the Federal regulatory program, including independent regulatory commissions, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs;

(H) improving the consideration of adverse impacts on small businesses;

(I) providing greater transparency in the rulemaking process; and

(J) improving compliance with section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2736A-153) (commonly known as the "Information Quality Act"), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), and chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Regulatory Flexibility Act");

(3) enhancing accountability by facilitating fair and effective judicial review of agency actions; and

(4) ensuring that Congress can effectively exercise its appropriate role in the regulatory process through legislation and oversight;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399s. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING COVERAGE OF VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPES AS A COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TEST UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399t. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING WATERBORNE COMMERCE IN OUR PORTS AND HARBORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening waterborne commerce in our ports and harbors, which may include increasing the amounts expended from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that are dedicated to port infrastructure and maintenance in accordance with section 2101(b) of the Water Resources Reform and

Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399u. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to modernizing the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems, the nuclear command and control system, and the nuclear weapons stockpile, and supporting related infrastructure, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399v. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BARDA AND THE BIO-SHIELD SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening our national security, which may include fully funding the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399w. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE NUCLEAR FORCES AND MISSIONS OF THE AIR FORCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399x. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting economic growth and job creation by making it easier for small businesses to plan their capital investments and reducing the uncertainty of taxation by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legisla-

tion would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399y. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to the employer penalties under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), which may include changes to the definition of "full time employee" under that Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399z. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399aa. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO EXPEDITE AWARDS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the processing of award submissions, which may include the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399bb. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE INCREASED USE OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399cc. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO SUBSTANDARD HEALTH CARE, DELAYED AND DENIED HEALTH CARE, PATIENT DEATHS, OTHER FINDINGS THAT DIRECTLY RELATE TO PATIENT CARE, AND OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399dd. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS THE DISPROPORTIONATE REGULATORY BURDENS ON COMMUNITY BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alleviating disproportionate regulatory burdens on community banks and credit unions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ee. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Corporation for National and Community Service, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ff. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEYS COMPLY WITH DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that all Department of Justice attorneys comply with all legal and ethical obligations in criminal prosecutions,

which may include legislation that ensures the disclosure to the defendant in a timely manner of all information known to the Government that tends to negate the guilt of the defendant, mitigate the offense charged or the sentence imposed, or impeach the Government's witnesses or evidence, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399gg. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in precision medicine and biomedical research, which may include increasing funding to account for inflation, to support finding ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, and to provide long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399hh. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS THE HEROIN AND METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to expanding efforts to combat heroin and methamphetamine abuse in the United States without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ii. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to equipment like eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and speech generating devices by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399jj. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PRIORITIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT ARE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PROJECTS IN HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the prioritization of the Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States on projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors of the National Highway System by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399kk. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES' NATO ALLIES TO REVERSE DECLINES IN DEFENSE SPENDING AND BEAR A MORE PROPORTIONATE BURDEN FOR ENSURING THE SECURITY OF NATO.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ll. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the investigation and to the extent practicable the recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government to ensure that such items are not in the possession of or used by radical extremist groups operating in the country by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399mm. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving higher education data and transparency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.



**SEC. 399nn. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965, which may include supporting congregate and home-delivered meals programs, or other programs of assistance to low-income older individuals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399oo. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO NATIVE CHILDREN.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Native children, which may include establishing a commission to examine existing Federal programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services delivered to Native children to improve outcomes, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399pp. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CONSUMERS FROM DATA BREACHES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches, which may include providing notification to affected consumers or enhancing data security programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399qq. DEFICIT-REDUCTION RESERVE FUND FOR GOVERNMENT REFORM AND EFFICIENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving savings through the use of performance data or scientifically rigorous evaluation methodologies for the elimination, consolidation, or reform of Federal programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives, or the sale of Federal property, and reduce the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the Senate's pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the

deficit reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

**SEC. 399rr. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES INJURED AND MADE ILL BY THE 9/11 ATTACKS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the September 11th terrorism attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville Crash site, which may include legislation that extends medical monitoring and treatment services and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ss. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to construction of Native American schools, which may include replacement school construction that replaces the entirety or majority of a school campus or replacement facility construction that replaces individual buildings that are beyond cost-effective repair measures, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399tt. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING THE GUARANTEE THRESHOLD FOR THE SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Surety Bond Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include exploring or raising the range for surety bonds, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399uu. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INDO-PACIFIC PARTNER CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRATEGY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting a comprehensive

multi-year partner capacity building and security cooperation plan in the Indo-Pacific region, including for a regional maritime domain awareness architecture and for bilateral and multilateral exercises, port calls, and training activities of the United States Armed Forces and Coast Guard to further a comprehensive strategy to strengthen United States alliances and partnerships, freedom of navigation, and the unimpeded access to the maritime commons of the Asia-Pacific by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399vv. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ADDRESSING METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ww. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to achieving theatre security cooperation goals, which may include funding for the National Guard State Partnership Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399xx. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURAL VIRUS OUTBREAKS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the improvement of prevention and treatment measures to mitigate agricultural impacts from an agricultural virus outbreak, such as the impacts seen from the avian influenza outbreak, which may include investments in vaccine development or research in pathway analysis, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.



**SEC. 399yy. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE DECISIONS WITH THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to financial literacy education, which may include improvements to financial literacy education curricula in schools or which may improve the capacity of teachers to provide effective financial literacy education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399zz. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to comprehensive mental health reform, which may include legislation that provides increased access to individuals suffering from mental illness and greater work-force opportunities for mental health professionals, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399aaa. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives that would improve oral health care for children and pregnant women under the Medicaid program by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399bbb. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the protection, preservation, or restoration of the National Park System, which may include a National Park Centennial Fund or other dedicated funding, for infrastructure or natural, cultural, or historic resource preservation and programs in units of the National Park System, by the amounts provided in such legislation for

those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ccc. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING COLLEGE COMPLETION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Federal Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ddd. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING FREIGHT PLANNING AND INVESTMENT THAT INCORPORATES ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING RAIL, WATERWAYS, PORTS, AND HIGHWAYS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation including rail, waterways, ports and highways, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399eee. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR FULL FUNDING FOR AT-SEA AND DOCKSIDE MONITORING FOR CERTAIN FISHERIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to supporting at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries that have received economic disaster assistance by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399fff. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS RESPONDING TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS ON RAILROADS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the establishment of a public-private partnership tasked with reviewing training and funding allocations for first re-

sponders responding to hazardous materials incidents on railroads, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ggg. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENHANCING AND IMPROVING THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE APPLICATION BACKLOG.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399hhh. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for international counter-propaganda communications in order to combat misinformation, undermine ideologies of violence and hatred, and ensure moderate voices are heard, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399iii. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reforming and strengthening elementary and secondary education by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399jjj. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN RURAL AND TRIBAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to designate funds for water projects, which may include authorized rural water projects or tribal water rights settlements or irrigation projects, by the amounts

provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399kkk. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to sexual assault at institutions of higher education, which may include the implementation of an independent and standardized online survey tool developed and administered by the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, to measure the prevalence of sexual assault at institutions of higher education, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399lll. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SIMPLIFYING AND EXPANDING TAX INCENTIVES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education to boost student attendance and completion at colleges and vocational schools, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399mmm. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO AUTHORIZING CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RETAIN SUCH ELIGIBILITY UNTIL AGE 26.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting children who are eligible to receive health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, including by allowing such children to retain such eligibility until age 26, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399nnn. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this

resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funds for programs that support workforce development through apprenticeships, and providing additional funds to the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor to expand apprenticeship programs nationally, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ooo. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE PRIORITIZATION OF BROAD-BASED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to broad-based criminal justice reform by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ppp. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY BY ACCELERATING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES FROM LABORATORIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE MARKETPLACE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399qqq. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING TRADE AND TRAVEL AT PORTS OF ENTRY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry, which may include construction at ports of entry or increased staffing at ports of entry, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399rrr. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399sss. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to student loan reform, which may include establishing a policy of risk-sharing to require institutions of higher education to assume some of the risk for student loans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ttt. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery ("TIGER") discretionary grant program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399uuu. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING THE USE OF COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts while students are in elementary school and secondary school, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399vvv. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A NEW OUTCOME-BASED PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZING INNOVATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between

the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting innovation in higher education, which may include establishing a new outcome-based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399www. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to community policing, which may include increasing the number of law enforcement officers who walk patrols that enable them to interact and build relationships with community members, increasing and improving training for law enforcement officers, encouraging the responsible and carefully considered use of body cameras and their recordings by law enforcement officers, encouraging law enforcement to de-escalate confrontations whenever feasible, and ensuring that prosecutions of law enforcement officers are fair and impartial, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399xxx. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in scientific research and development, which may include supporting biomedical research to find ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, providing long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, and supporting national security, basic energy research, innovative solutions, and American competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399yyy. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF LETHAL DEFENSIVE ARTICLES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding to support the Government of Ukraine in reestablishing its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles, by the amounts provided in

such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399zzz. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING FUNDING TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding for programs to counter anti-Semitic activity in Europe, which may include efforts to empower civil society, including diverse religious and ethnic groups, civil and human rights organizations, and the business community, to fight anti-Semitism and discrimination and convening regular consultations with Jewish community organizations and non-Jewish civil and human rights organizations to demonstrate visible support, listen to concerns, and solicit recommendations on improving security and supporting victims, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399aaaa. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH TRANSPARENT, EASILY UNDERSTOOD POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing students and families with transparent, easily understood information about postsecondary education financial aid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399bbbb. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing full and dedicated funding for the Contract Tower Program of the Federal Aviation Administration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399cccc. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO UNDERGROUND AND SURFACE MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to underground and surface mining safety and health research by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399dddd. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INVESTING IN ADVANCED FOSSIL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development at the Department of Energy, to reduce the impacts of climate change while ensuring the reliability of the electric grid, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399eeee. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUNDS RELATING TO FOREIGN PERSONS.**

(a) **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPOSING SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION.**—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(b) **DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.**—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to interagency cooperation, which may include expedited interagency cooperation to identify foreign nationals subject to sanctions under title IV of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-208), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 399ffff. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SPECIAL TREATMENT OF THE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR RESEARCH EXPENDITURES FOR STARTUP COMPANIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS**

**Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement**

**SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGETARY POINTS OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.**

(a) EXTENSION OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 POINTS OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), subsections (c)(2) and (d)(3) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 note) shall remain in effect for purposes of Senate enforcement through September 30, 2025.

(2) REPEAL.—In the Senate, section 205 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, shall no longer apply.

(b) OTHER POINTS OF ORDER.—

(1) PAY-AS-YOU-GO.—Section 201(d) of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, is repealed.

(2) INCREASING SHORT-TERM DEFICIT.—Section 404(e) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is repealed.

**SEC. 402. SENATE POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION INCREASING LONG-TERM DEFICITS.**

(a) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS.—The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall, to the extent practicable, prepare for each bill and joint resolution reported from committee (except measures within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Appropriations), and amendments thereto, amendments between the Houses in relation thereto, and conference reports thereon, an estimate of whether the measure would cause, relative to current law, a net increase in on-budget deficits in excess of \$5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-year periods beginning with the first fiscal year that is 10 years after the budget year provided for in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

(b) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause a net increase in on-budget deficits in excess of \$5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-year periods described in subsection (a).

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (b) may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and

sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—The provisions of this section shall not apply to any bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, amendment between the Houses, or conference reports for which the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate has made adjustments to the allocations, levels, or limits contained in this resolution pursuant to section 303(1).

(e) DETERMINATIONS OF BUDGET LEVELS.—For purposes of this section, the levels of net deficit increases shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(f) REPEAL.—In the Senate, section 311 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2009, shall no longer apply.

**SEC. 403. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) POINT OF ORDER.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide an advance appropriation for a discretionary account.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “advance appropriation” means any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for fiscal year 2016 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2016, or any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2017.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(1) for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying this resolution under the heading “Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations” in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$28,852,000,000 in new budget authority in each year;

(2) for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

(3) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

(d) FORM OF POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under subsection (a) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(e) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or House amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its

amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

**SEC. 404. SUPERMAJORITY ENFORCEMENT OF UNFUNDED MANDATES.**

Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)) shall be subject to the waiver and appeal requirements of subsections (c)(2) and (d)(3), respectively, of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 note).

**SEC. 405. REPEAL OF SENATE POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CERTAIN RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION.**

Section 202 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, shall no longer apply in the Senate.

**SEC. 406. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CHANGES IN MANDATORY PROGRAMS.**

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “CHIMP” means a provision that—

(1) would have been estimated as affecting direct spending or receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902) (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002) if the provision was included in legislation other than an appropriations bill or joint resolution; and

(2) does not result in a net decrease in outlays over the period of the total of the current year, the budget year, and all fiscal years covered under the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

(b) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to consider an appropriations bill or joint resolution, or an amendment to, conference report on, or amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, that contains a CHIMP that, if enacted, would cause the total budget authority of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a fiscal year to be more than the amount specified in paragraph (2).

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount specified in this paragraph is—

(A) for fiscal year 2016, \$19,000,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2017, \$16,000,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2018, \$12,000,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 2019, \$8,000,000,000;

(E) for fiscal year 2020, \$4,000,000,000; and

(F) for fiscal year 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter, \$0.

(c) DETERMINATION.—The determination of whether a provision is subject to a point of order under subsection (b) shall be made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(d) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (b) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (b).

(e) REPEAL.—In the Senate, section 314 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2009, shall no longer apply.

**SEC. 407. PROHIBITION ON AGREEING TO LEGISLATION WITHOUT A SCORE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to vote on passage of matter that requires an estimate described in section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653), unless such estimate was made publicly available on the website of the Congressional Budget Office not later than 28 hours before the time the vote commences.

**(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—**

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SEC. 408. PROTECTING THE SAVINGS IN REPORTED RECONCILIATION BILLS.**

In the Senate, section 310(d)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641(d)(1)) shall apply and may be waived in accordance with the procedures applicable to a point of order raised under section 310(d)(2) of such Act.

**SEC. 409. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST EXCEEDING FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.**

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a provision in any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that designates for overseas contingency operations, in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)), funds that would cause the total amount of funds designated for overseas contingency operations—

(1) for fiscal year 2016, to be more than \$57,997,000,000; or

(2) for fiscal year 2017, to be more than \$59,500,000,000.

(b) DETERMINATION.—The determination of whether a provision is subject to a point of order under this section shall be made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(d) FORM OF POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under this section may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(e) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator under this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion shall be debat-

able. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

**SEC. 410. SENATE POINT OF ORDER AGAINST PROVISIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION THAT CONSTITUTE CHANGES IN MANDATORY PROGRAMS AFFECTING THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to consider any appropriations legislation, including any amendment thereto, motion in relation thereto, or conference report thereon, that includes any provision or provisions affecting the Crime Victims Fund, as defined by section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601), which constitutes a change in a mandatory program that would have been estimated as affecting direct spending or receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002) were they included in legislation other than appropriations legislation. A point of order pursuant to this section shall be raised against such provision or provisions as described in subsections (d) and (e).

(b) DETERMINATION.—The determination of whether a provision is subject to a point of order pursuant to this section shall be made by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(d) GENERAL POINT OF ORDER.—It shall be in order for a Senator to raise a single point of order that several provisions of a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report violate this section. The Presiding Officer may sustain the point of order as to some or all of the provisions against which the Senator raised the point of order. If the Presiding Officer so sustains the point of order as to some of the provisions (including provisions of an amendment, motion, or conference report) against which the Senator raised the point of order, then only those provisions (including provision of an amendment, motion, or conference report) against which the Presiding Officer sustains the point of order shall be deemed stricken pursuant to this section. Before the Presiding Officer rules on such a point of order, any Senator may move to waive such a point of order as it applies to some or all of the provisions against which the point of order was raised. Such a motion to waive is amendable in accordance with rules and precedents of the Senate. After the Presiding Officer rules on such a point of order, any Senator may appeal the ruling of the Presiding Officer on such a point of order as it applies to some or all of the provisions on which the Presiding Officer ruled.

(e) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether

the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

**SEC. 411. ACCURACY IN BUDGET ENFORCEMENT.****(a) TIMING SHIFTS.—**

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “timing shift” means—

(A) a delay of the date on which outlays flowing from direct spending would otherwise occur from 1 fiscal year to the next fiscal year; or

(B) an acceleration of the date on which revenues would otherwise occur from 1 fiscal year to the previous fiscal year.

(2) SCORING.—In the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall not count timing shifts in estimating the budgetary effects of a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report for purposes of enforcing—

(A) the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.);

(B) any allocation, aggregate, or level under a concurrent resolution on the budget; or

(C) any written statement submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate that establishes allocations, aggregates, and levels for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(b) PROHIBITION OF RESCISSIONS THAT DON'T SAVE MONEY.—In the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall not count any rescission of budget authority or contract authority that does not have an effect on outlays in estimating the changes in budget authority, outlays, or revenues of a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report for purposes of enforcing—

(1) the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.);

(2) any allocation, aggregate, or level under a concurrent resolution on the budget; or

(3) any written statement submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate that establishes allocations, aggregates, and levels for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

**SEC. 412. FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES.**

Any estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a bill, joint, resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report under the terms of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), shall include, when practicable, an additional estimate of the cost, measured on a fair value basis, of changes that would affect the amount or terms of new Federal loans or loan guarantees or of modifications to existing Federal loans or loan guarantees arising from the bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report.

**SEC. 413. HONEST ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES.****(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

(1) BUDGET.—The term “budget” means—

(A) a concurrent resolution on the budget; or

(B) a written statement submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate that establishes allocations, aggregates, and levels for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) **BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—The term “budgetary effects” means changes in budget authority, outlays, or revenues.

(3) **MAJOR LEGISLATION.**—

(A) **DEFINITION.**—The term “major legislation” means any bill, resolution, conference report, or treaty—

(i) for which an estimate is prepared under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) that indicates that not less than 1 of the amounts described in subparagraph (B), before incorporating macroeconomic effects, is greater than \$15,000,000,000 in any fiscal year of the estimate; or

(ii) designated as major legislation by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate or the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(B) **AMOUNTS.**—The amounts described in this subparagraph are—

(i) the sum of the individual positive changes in budgetary effects, not including timing shifts, resulting from such measure; and

(ii) the sum of the absolute value of the individual negative budgetary effects, not including timing shifts, resulting from such measure.

(4) **TIMING SHIFTS.**—The term “timing shifts” means—

(A) a delay of the date on which outlays flowing from direct spending would otherwise occur from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year; or

(B) an acceleration of the date on which revenues would otherwise occur from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year.

(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR CBO ESTIMATES.**—An estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) for any major legislation shall provide, in addition to the estimate of budgetary effects without macroeconomic effects, an estimate of the budgetary effects from changes in economic output, employment, interest rates, capital stock, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from the major legislation. The total budgetary effects shall delineate between revenue and outlay effects.

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR JCT ESTIMATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An estimate provided by the Joint Committee on Taxation to the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 201(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601(f)) for any major legislation shall provide, in addition to the estimate of budgetary effects without macroeconomic effects, an estimate of the budgetary effects from changes in economic output, employment, capital stock, interest rates, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from the major legislation and an estimate of the distributional effects across income categories resulting from major legislation.

(2) **DELINEATION.**—The total budgetary effects shall delineate between revenue and outlay effects.

(d) **CONTENTS OF ESTIMATES.**—An estimate required to be provided under subsection (b) or (c) shall include—

(1) a qualitative assessment of the budgetary effects (including macroeconomic variables described in subsections (b) and (c)) of the major legislation in the 20-fiscal year pe-

riod beginning after the last fiscal year of the most recently adopted budget that sets forth appropriate levels required under section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632); and

(2) an identification of the assumptions and the source of data underlying the estimate.

#### **SEC. 414. CURRENCY MODERNIZATION.**

In the Senate, for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), any allocation, aggregate, or level under a concurrent resolution on the budget, or any written statement submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate that establishes allocations, aggregates, and levels for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, any estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of a provision in a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report relating to a transition from the \$1 note to a \$1 coin shall—

(1) record the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision in the first year in which the provision takes effect;

(2) determine the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision based on a net present value estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision over a 30-year period; and

(3) incorporate the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision due to behavioral changes.

#### **SEC. 415. CERTAIN ENERGY CONTRACTS.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “covered energy savings contract” means—

(1) an energy savings performance contract authorized under section 801 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287); and

(2) a utility energy service contract, as described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on Federal use of energy savings performance contracting, dated July 25, 1998 (M-98-13), and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal use of energy saving performance contracts and utility energy service contracts, dated September 28, 2012 (M-12-21), or any successor to either memorandum.

(b) **ESTIMATES.**—In the Senate, for purposes of enforcing any point of order established under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget, any estimate by the Congressional Budget Office of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of a provision in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendment between the Houses modifying the authority to enter, the scope or terms of, or the use of covered energy savings contracts shall—

(1) record in the first year in which the authority would become effective, the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues (as estimated in accordance with paragraph (2)) of any modifications to the authority to enter the covered energy savings contracts;

(2) in estimating the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the legislation, calculate the costs and savings arising from covered contracts on a net present value basis by adding market risk over the useful life of the services or product to the discount rate in section 502(5)(E) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)(E)); and

(3) classify the effects of the provision to be changes in spending subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed to modify the methodology for estimating the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of a provision that does not relate to covered energy savings contracts in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendment between the Houses that contains a provision described in subsection (b).

#### **SEC. 416. LONG-TERM SCORING.**

(a) **SCORING OF LEGISLATION INCREASING THE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.**—An estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) for any bill, resolution, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that increases the discretionary spending limits under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) shall provide, in addition to the estimate under that section, an estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, or revenues under the legislation over the period of fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2045.

(b) **SCORING OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.**—An estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) for any bill, resolution, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that transfers amounts from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall provide, in addition to the estimate under that section, an estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, or revenues under the legislation over the period of fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2045.

#### **SEC. 417. REQUIRING CLEARER REPORTING OF PROJECTED FEDERAL SPENDING AND DEFICITS.**

When the Congressional Budget Office releases its annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide a projection of Federal revenues, outlays, and deficits for the 30-year period beginning with the budget year, expressed in terms of dollars and as a percent of gross domestic product, as part of its annual update required by Public Law 93-344.

#### **SEC. 418. REPORTING ON TAX EXPENDITURES.**

The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall include in the report submitted under section 202(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 the following:

(1) An estimate of the cost of tax expenditures as a share of gross domestic product for the budget year and the 9 years following the budget year.

(2) Historical data on the cost of tax expenditures as a share of gross domestic product for each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 1965 and ending with the budget year.

#### **SEC. 419. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.**

(a) **REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATES.**—In the case of any legislative provision to which this section applies, the Congressional Budget Office shall prepare, to the extent practicable, an estimate of the outlay changes during the second and third decade of enactment.

(b) **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS TO WHICH THIS SECTION APPLIES.**—This section shall apply to any spending legislative provision—

(1) which proposes a change or changes to law that the Congressional Budget Office determines has an outlay impact in excess of 0.25 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the first decade or in the tenth year; or

(2) with respect to which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of either the



Senate or the House of Representatives has requested an estimate described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 420. TO REQUIRE TRANSPARENT REPORTING ON THE ONGOING COSTS AND SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS OF OBAMACARE.**

When the Congressional Budget Office releases its annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook, the Congressional Budget Office shall report changes in direct spending and revenue associated with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), including the net impact on deficits, including both on-budget and off-budget effects, in its annual update required by Public Law 93-344. The information shall be presented in a format similar to that of table 2 of the Congressional Budget Office's March 20, 2010 estimate of the budgetary effects of the Health Care and Educational Reconciliation Act of 2010, in combination with the effects of H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), as passed by the Senate.

**SEC. 421. PROHIBITING THE USE OF GUARANTEE FEES AS AN OFFSET.**

In the Senate, for purposes of determining budgetary impacts to evaluate points of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this resolution, any previous budget resolution, and any subsequent budget resolution, provisions contained in any bill, resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that increases or extends the increase of, any guarantee fees of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall not be scored with respect to the level of budget authority, outlays, or revenues contained in such legislation.

**SEC. 422. ADJUSTMENTS FOR SEQUESTRATION REPLACEMENT.**

(a) **MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING INCREASE IN DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.**—If a measure becomes law that amends the discretionary spending limits established under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), the adjustments to discretionary spending limits under section 251(b) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901(b)), or the enforcement procedures established under section 251A of that Act (2 U.S.C. 901a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure, up to the amounts specified and reserved in subparagraph (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS SPECIFIED AND RESERVED.**—The amounts specified (and to be reserved from the allocation called for in section 302(a) allocation of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate until such time as the conditions specified in subsection (a) are met are—

(1) for fiscal year 2016—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(2) for fiscal year 2017—

(A) for the revised security category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom); and

(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$37,000,000,000 in budget authority (and the outlays flowing therefrom).

**SEC. 423. TO CONVEY CLEAR INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED FEDERAL OUTLAYS, REVENUES, AND DEFICITS.**

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required by section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), and at any other time the Congressional Budget Office releases projections of Federal deficits over any term of years, the Congressional Budget Office shall publish with its projection a 1-page statement—

(1) summarizing and categorizing total outlays, including tax expenditures, receipts, surpluses, and deficits of the Federal Government on a unified basis for that same prospective time period;

(2) categorizing and subtotaling separately—

(A) outlays for mandatory programs and for discretionary programs;

(B) outlays, tax expenditures, payroll tax revenue, and offsetting receipts for Social Security and for Medicare;

(C) the surplus or deficit of revenues over outlays for Social Security and for Medicare; and

(D) revenues.

**SEC. 424. ADJUSTMENT FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING.**

If a measure becomes law that amends the adjustments to discretionary spending limits established under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)) for wildfire suppression funding, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure.

**Subtitle B—Other Provisions**

**SEC. 431. OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.**

In the Senate, all committees are directed to review programs and tax expenditures within their jurisdiction to identify waste, fraud, abuse or duplication, and increase the use of performance data to inform committee work. Committees are also directed to review the matters for congressional consideration identified in the Office of Inspector General semiannual reports and the Office of Inspector General's list of unimplemented recommendations and on the Government Accountability Office's High Risk list and the annual report to reduce program duplication. Based on these oversight efforts and performance reviews of programs within their jurisdiction, committees are directed to include recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(d)) to the Committees on the Budget.

**SEC. 432. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

In the Senate, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)), section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any

concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committees on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service.

**SEC. 433. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.**

(a) **APPLICATION.**—Any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) **EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.**—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as allocations and aggregates contained in this resolution.

(c) **BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.**—For purposes of this resolution the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

**SEC. 434. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.**

Upon the enactment of a bill or joint resolution providing for a change in concepts or definitions, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may make adjustments to the levels and allocations in this resolution in accordance with section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)).

**SEC. 435. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.**

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate.

**GOLD STAR WIVES DAY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 131.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 131) designating April 5, 2015, as "Gold Star Wives Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 131) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 26, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 133 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 133) supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 133) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-1

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 13, 2015, by the President of the United States: Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Japan, Treaty Document No. 114-1.

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan for the Avoid-

ance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and a related agreement entered into by an exchange of notes (together the "proposed Protocol"), both signed on January 24, 2013, at Washington, together with correcting notes exchanged March 9 and March 29, 2013. I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an overview of the proposed Protocol.

The proposed Protocol was negotiated to bring U.S.-Japan tax treaty relations into closer conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policy. For example, the proposed Protocol provides for an exemption from source-country withholding tax on all cross-border payments of interest, and updates the provisions of the existing Convention with respect to the mutual agreement procedure by incorporating mandatory arbitration of certain cases that the competent authorities of the United States and Japan have been unable to resolve after a reasonable period of time.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Protocol and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 13, 2015.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that the Senate recess from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for the all-Senators briefing and that it recess again from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

DEAN A. REUTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, VICE JULIE FISHER CUMMINGS, TERM EXPIRED.

SHAMINA SINGH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2019, VICE ALAN D. SOLOMONT, RESIGNED.

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

GABRIEL CAMARILLO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE DANIEL GINSBERG, DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOYCE LOUISE CONNERY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2019, VICE PETER STANLEY WINOKUR, RESIGNED.

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2016, VICE KENNETH L. MOSSMAN.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JONATHAN ELKIND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), VICE DAVID B. SANDALOW, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM A. HEIDT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA.

DAVID MALCOLM ROBINSON, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION, VICE FREDERICK D. BARTON, RESIGNED.

DAVID MALCOLM ROBINSON, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (CONFLICT AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS), VICE FREDERICK D. BARTON, RESIGNED.

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### *To be brigadier general*

COL. JAMES J. BURKS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### *To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. BALSERAK  
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN J. BERRYHILL  
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN W. BRADLEY  
BRIG. GEN. PETER J. BYRNE  
BRIG. GEN. GRETCHEN S. DUNKELBERGER  
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD J. EVANS III  
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT M. GINNETTI  
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY W. HAUSER  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM O. HILL  
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH K. KIM  
BRIG. GEN. JEROME P. LIMOGES, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. PAUL C. MAAS, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN P. MCGOFF  
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN C. NEWBY  
BRIG. GEN. MARC H. SASSEVILLE  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. STENCEL  
BRIG. GEN. CAROL A. TIMMONS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### *To be brigadier general*

COL. KYLE W. ROBINSON

#### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### *To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT D. CARLSON  
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL J. DIRE  
BRIG. GEN. MARY E. LINK  
BRIG. GEN. HUGH C. VAN ROOSEN

#### *To be brigadier general*

COL. VINCENT B. BARKER  
COL. LISA L. DOUMONT  
COL. ROBERT D. HARTER  
COL. JOHN F. HUSSEY  
COL. SCOTT R. MORCOMB  
COL. GERARD L. SCHWARTZ  
COL. RICHARD K. SELE  
COL. TRACY L. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

*To be brigadier general*

CHAPLAIN (COL.) THOMAS L. SOLHJEM  
IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) MARK L. LEAVITT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. EUGENE H. BLACK III  
CAPT. DELL D. BULL  
CAPT. WILLIAM D. BYRNE, JR.  
CAPT. EDWARD B. CASHMAN  
CAPT. MOISES DELTORO III  
CAPT. STEPHEN C. EVANS  
CAPT. GREGORY J. FENTON  
CAPT. JOHN V. FULLER  
CAPT. MICHAEL P. HOLLAND  
CAPT. HUGH W. HOWARD III  
CAPT. JEFFREY W. HUGHES  
CAPT. THOMAS E. ISHEE  
CAPT. STEPHEN T. KOEHLER  
CAPT. YANCY B. LINDSEY  
CAPT. FRANCIS D. MORLEY  
CAPT. CATHAL S. O'CONNOR  
CAPT. JEFFREY E. TRUSSLER  
CAPT. WILLIAM W. WHEELER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. ANN M. BURKHARDT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. JAMES P. DOWNEY  
CAPT. STEPHEN F. WILLIAMSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. DANIELLE M. BARRETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MICHAEL W. ZARKOWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. DAVID G. MANERO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. RONALD C. COLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. PAUL PEARIGEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. ANNE M. SWAP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. PETER G. STAMATOPOULOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. JOHN W. KORKA

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

TROY S. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

*To be colonel*

LINELL A. LETENDRE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES

MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 4333(B) AND 4336(A):

*To be colonel*

JAMES J. RAFTERY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 4333(B) AND 4336(A):

*To be colonel*

DAVID A. HARPER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

STEVEN R. ANSLEY, JR.  
KAREN S. HANSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant commander*

BRIAN L. TICHENOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

CHERYL GOTZINGER

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AS A MEMBER OF THE COAST GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 188:

*To be lieutenant commander*

BRIAN J. MAGGI

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by  
the Senate April 13, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

ALFRED H. BENNETT, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 13, 2015

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 13, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The work of the Congress resumes after time spent by millions of Americans celebrating high holy days and spring comes to our Nation's Capital. It is a season of hope.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people that, through the difficulties of these days, we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Schock), the whole number of the House is 432.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 27, 2015 at 12:02 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1092.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1527.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 10.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 32.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 31.

That the Senate passed S. 535.

Appointments:

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum.

Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 27, 2015 at 1:13 p.m.:

Appointments:

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed by Speaker pro tempore COMSTOCK on Monday, March 30, 2015:

H.R. 1092, to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the "Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building";

H.R. 1527, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 10, providing the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

### TIME TO SIMPLIFY THE TAX CODE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are only 2 days away from April 15, also known as tax day. It is a day that we all dread every year.

Between mountains of paperwork, complicated codes, and the fear of fines, paying taxes every year is a huge burden for hard-working Americans. In fact, U.S. taxpayers and businesses spend about 7.6 billion hours a year complying with the filing requirements of the IRS.

But if you listen to the political discussion in our country very long, you will inevitably hear some lawmakers repeat one of their favorite lines, that all of our country's budget problems would be solved if only we increased taxes, except increasing taxes increases government spending and crowds our

private sector investment, diminishing our prosperity.

Instead, it is past time to simplify the Tax Code and decrease the tax burden that Americans currently spend close to a third of the year bearing.

It is vital that we enact policies that strengthen and stabilize our economy, as well as give individuals and businesses long-term certainty.

#### LGBT NONDISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House resolution declaring that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Every day, LGBT Americans are denied housing and public accommodations. In 29 States, someone can be fired because they are gay, and in 32 States, someone can be fired because of their gender identity. In several States, there is an organized push to deny LGBT Americans their rights.

However, dozens of States have taken action and passed nondiscrimination laws, as have hundreds of cities; yet this body has not. Congress is sworn to uphold the Constitution, the same Constitution that says no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

It is time for Congress to uphold the Constitution and take action. Support this resolution and protect these Americans—all Americans.

#### HONORING JIM CALLAHAN

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at the heart of my congressional district lies Chester County, a community that relies on groundbreaking, thoughtful, probative reporting for its residents, a responsibility that the Daily Local News has filled for generations.

For 20 years, Jim Callahan has served the Daily Local News and Chester County as a newsman. He calls himself an "adjustable wrench" in the news business, which means he has served a multitude of functions to make sure that our Republic, as locally constituted in Chester County, is well informed.

Indeed, the hallmark of an engaged, robust democracy requires a well-informed citizenry; and to my constituents, as a journalist, Jim Callahan has served this function in exemplary fashion.

One of his colleagues calls Jim an "old school journalist, who enjoys

teaching and working with young reporters," a breaking news junkie, and political nut.

I would add that Jim possesses a great sense of humor, and he is as pugnacious a journalist as he is witty an observer. At his core, Mr. Speaker, Jim Callahan greatly values the importance of local journalism, and for that, Chester County is better off for it.

Here in the United States House of Representatives—the people's House—and across Chester County, we want to thank you, Jim.

Stay strong, my friend.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT USING THEIR GUNS INSTEAD OF THEIR HEADS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it feels like open season on black men in America, and I am outraged. In fact, all Americans are at risk when bad actors in law enforcement use their guns instead of their heads.

Despite bipartisan, nationwide calls for action and despite my bills to reform the broken grand jury process, hold police accountable, and end militarization and despite my colleagues' bills to encourage body cameras, this Congress does nothing—no hearings, no blue ribbon commissions—nothing.

Mr. Speaker, here are just a few names of our colleagues, neighbors, and relatives killed by police, so my colleagues will no longer ignore this crisis: Walter Scott, North Carolina; Michael Brown, Missouri; Anthony Hill, Georgia; Tony Robinson, Wisconsin; Kevin Davis, Georgia; Nicholas Thomas, Georgia; Daniel Elrod, Nebraska; Antonio Zambrano-Montes, Washington; David Kassick, Pennsylvania; Jessica Hernandez, Colorado; Kevin Davis, Georgia; Dennis Grigsby, Texas; Rumain Brisbon, Phoenix; Tamir Rice, Ohio; Akai Gurley, New York; Carlos M. Perez, Nevada; Kajieme Powell, Missouri; Ezell Ford, California; Dillon Taylor, Utah; John Crawford III, Ohio; Naeschyus Vinzant, Colorado; Charly Leundeun Keunang, California; and the list goes on.

#### THE SENATE MUST ACT

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, April 1, just a few days ago, most people don't realize it, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reduced physician reimbursement for Medicare patients by 21 percent.

This occurred as a matter of law. This is a deadline that we have been up against before, a drama that we have seen played out in this House multiple times during my tenure here.

This time, it is different because the House of Representatives, right before the end of March, chose to act and passed, by a vote of 392 individuals, to repeal this formula that crops up every year and threatens our Medicare patients and those that provide care for them.

This bill is sitting over in the other body. The Chaplain talked about this being a season for renewal, and indeed, it is. It is my hope that in the other body that spirit of renewal will take hold, and they will take up and pass the bill that passed this House with an overwhelming majority some 2 weeks ago.

It is time to do it. The other body can act.

□ 1415

#### EASTER FEED

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding work of Dr. Merlin Augustine and his wife, Beverly, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and the event his foundation has sponsored for 22 years—the annual Easter Feed, held the Saturday before Easter.

This year, a record 6,741 people enjoyed a meal fit for kings, served by men and women of all walks, including a number of local, State, and Federal officials and scores of volunteers.

Years ago, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Augustine's parents left their compassionate son an inheritance of \$10,000 with which he established a foundation purposed in helping the less fortunate. The Easter Feed is its signature event. It is the kind of event that warms the heart, reminding all of us of our duty to care for those around us.

I want the Nation to know how much I appreciate this beautiful couple for their kindness and their decency and their dedication to our community. My wife, Terri, and I always look forward to helping at the event. Few things in life give us more pleasure than the Easter Feed.

Thanks, Merlin and Beverly. Can't wait till next year.

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT OKAYS OIL EXPORTS FOR IRAN BUT NO OIL EXPORTS FOR AMERICA?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States is now the largest crude oil producer in the world, but instead of exporting excess oil like other nations, the United States oil producers are forced to leave oil in the ground. The solution is clear—lift the crude oil

ban. We should follow the Blue Bell Ice Cream philosophy: use all you can and sell the rest—here, in this case, abroad.

Exports will improve our national security by increasing United States influence around the world. We can make Middle Eastern oil, politics, and their turmoil irrelevant. Europe gets 40 percent of its oil from Russia, and our exports will give Europeans an alternative to Putin's monopoly and will thwart his aggression. Japan and South Korea rely on crude oil from Iran to satisfy their growing energy consumption.

Speaking of Iran, Mr. Speaker, because of the deal, it is now U.S. Government policy to eventually allow Iran to export crude oil, but it is U.S. policy to prohibit U.S. producers to do the same. How nutty is that?

Lifting the ban will create thousands of jobs, inject billions of dollars into the economy, and help advance our national interests abroad. Make the same deal with America the Government made with Iran—allow oil exports.

And that is just the way it is.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) at 4 p.m.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 13, 2015 at 2:42 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 11.  
With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 299) to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 299

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS AUTHORIZED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF A FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1424(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) CERTAIN PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B), a credit union shall be treated as an insured depository institution for purposes of determining the eligibility of such credit union for membership in a Federal home loan bank under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

"(B) CERTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE SUPERVISOR.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph and subject to clause (ii), a credit union which lacks Federal deposit insurance and which has applied for membership in a Federal home loan bank may be treated as meeting all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance only if the appropriate supervisor of the State in which the credit union is chartered has determined that the credit union meets all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance as of the date of the application for membership.

"(ii) CERTIFICATION DEEMED VALID.—If, in the case of any credit union to which clause (i) applies, the appropriate supervisor of the State in which such credit union is chartered fails to make a determination pursuant to such clause by the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the application, the credit union shall be deemed to have met the requirements of clause (i).

"(C) SECURITY INTERESTS OF FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK NOT AVOIDABLE.—Notwithstanding any provision of State law authorizing a conservator or liquidating agent of a credit union to repudiate contracts, no such provision shall apply with respect to—

"(i) any extension of credit from any Federal home loan bank to any credit union which is a member of any such bank pursuant to this paragraph; or

"(ii) any security interest in the assets of such credit union securing any such extension of credit.

"(D) PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES.—Notwithstanding any State law to the contrary, if a Bank makes an advance under section 10 to a State-chartered credit union that is not federally insured—

"(i) the Bank's interest in any collateral securing such advance has the same priority and is afforded the same standing and rights that the security interest would have had if the advance had been made to a federally insured credit union; and

"(ii) the Bank has the same right to access such collateral that the Bank would have had if the advance had been made to a federally insured credit union."

(b) COPIES OF AUDITS OF PRIVATE INSURERS OF CERTAIN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO SUPERVISORY AGENCIES.—Section 43(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) in the case of depository institutions described in subsection (e)(2)(A) the deposits of which are insured by the private insurer which are members of a Federal home loan bank, to the Federal Housing Finance Agency, not later than 7 days after the audit is completed."

#### SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress—

(1) on the adequacy of insurance reserves held by a private deposit insurer that insures deposits in an entity described in section 43(e)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(e)(2)(A)); and

(2) for an entity described in paragraph (1) the deposits of which are insured by a private deposit insurer, information on the level of compliance with Federal regulations relating to the disclosure of a lack of Federal deposit insurance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. STIVERS. I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 299, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act.

I would like to thank Chairman HENSARLING and the other bill sponsors—

Mrs. BEATTY from Ohio, Mr. TIBERI from Ohio, and Mr. CARSON from Indiana.

As you can hear, I lost my voice last night, but I am the voice for 1.2 million people who are currently denied access to the liquidity that the Federal Home Loan Bank system offers inside financial transactions.

This bill would simply make a small statutory change that would allow nonfederally insured credit unions to apply for membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank system. It would not guarantee their memberships. They would go through the normal underwriting process like any other applicant. The irony here is that every other credit union can join the Federal Home Loan Bank system, and every other bank and many nonbank entities, like insurance companies, are allowed to join the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Only privately insured credit unions are denied.

Currently, there are 128 small credit unions in nine States representing 1.2 million people, including firefighters and teachers and church workers and small business people, with total assets of \$13 billion, people who are not insured by the Federal Government but who are insured by a mutual private insurance company and so are denied access to the Federal Home Loan Bank system. This bill would simply change that and fix it.

Some important points are: one, there is no risk to the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Two, no more than \$4 billion of that \$13 billion could be pledged to the Federal Home Loan Bank system at any one time, and that is if all 128 credit unions joined the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Three, there is no concentration risk. There is no disproportionate risk with these institutions.

I think it is really important that we give these 1.2 million people the access to the liquidity that the Federal Home Loan Bank system would offer them.

I would ask my colleagues to support this legislation, which would give community financial institutions the ability to apply for membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank system and which would provide important liquidity to these 1.2 million people who might want to buy a home or live the American Dream.

Again, I want to thank my cosponsor, who helped so hard to get this bill done, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY from Ohio; and I want to thank Chairman NEUGEBAUER, Chairman HENSARLING, and the other cosponsors of the bill.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the cosponsor of this bill.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Mr. CAPUANO, for yielding me time.

Thank you, Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. STIVERS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2015, H.R. 299.

I join Congressman STEVE STIVERS in support of H.R. 299. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle supported this bill in a bipartisan fashion, a bill on which I am very proud to be the lead Democrat. We have worked together to have H.R. 299 reported out of the House Financial Services Committee with a vote of 56-1. In fact, last year, the same bill passed unanimously on this House floor by 395-0.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, H.R. 299 would permit privately insured credit unions to apply for membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank system. A primary benefit of the Federal Home Loan Bank membership is having access to low-cost secured funding, which is a tremendous benefit to consumers. H.R. 299 would not, however, mandate the privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal Home Loan Bank. Therefore, under this legislation, a Federal Home Loan Bank would maintain the discretion to accept or to reject a privately insured credit union's application for membership based on its risk tolerance and underwriting guidelines.

Why do we need this bill?

H.R. 299 is an extremely important piece of legislation for these privately insured credit unions because it would help give members and businesses greater access to credit in a tight credit market. Currently, there are approximately 6,400 credit unions across the country, including some 128 to 130 privately insured credit unions. Of that number of those privately insured credit unions, Mr. Speaker, 57 of them are actually in Ohio. Both I and Mr. STIVERS, the sponsor of the bill, are from the great State of Ohio. These 57 privately insured credit unions in Ohio serve more than 333,000 members in Ohio, and, roughly, 145,000 of those members are actually in my district.

Indeed, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2015, or H.R. 299, comes to the floor today because of the very important role we believe that credit unions play in consumer lending and homeowner-ship across this country.

For instance, this bill would improve access to home mortgage loans for members of three privately insured credit unions that are actually based in my district, the Third Congressional District of Ohio. Those are the Whitehall Credit Union, Producers Employee Credit Union, and the Central Credit Union. Additionally, this legislation has garnered support from the exclusive insurers of privately insured credit unions across the country—American Share Insurance, or ASI. ASI, which is based in central Ohio, which is just north of my district, continues to provide employment for many Ohioans,

and it has never previously had a privately insured credit union depositor lose money.

Therefore, I urge the support of H.R. 299 because this bipartisan legislation is good policy, is good for small credit unions, and may spur the growth of small credit unions, which serve the needs of their members, both individuals and businesses. Importantly, H.R. 299 has bipartisan, nationwide support for local communities and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is a perfect example of the type of regular order, committee-driven actions that we should use, actually, as a template for bipartisan cooperation in the House and which, indeed, if enacted, would bring real benefits to the national housing market. I urge Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 299.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I would just like to add my voice in support of this bill. It is a very commonsense bill, and I am proud to be able to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to echo the remarks that have been made.

This is a commonsense bill. It helps Main Street, and it helps consumers. There was a little glitch here in the marketplace when these privately insured credit unions were not able to access the Federal Home Loan Banks. It just makes sense that they do that. This bill passed out of our committee 56-1. With that, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 299.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELIMINATE PRIVACY NOTICE CONFUSION ACT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 601) to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 601

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act".

**SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO ANNUAL PRIVACY NOTICE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT.**

Section 503 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6803) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) EXCEPTION TO ANNUAL NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—A financial institution that—

“(1) provides nonpublic personal information only in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)(2) or (e) of section 502 or regulations prescribed under section 504(b), and

“(2) has not changed its policies and practices with regard to disclosing nonpublic personal information from the policies and practices that were disclosed in the most recent disclosure sent to consumers in accordance with this section, shall not be required to provide an annual disclosure under this section until such time as the financial institution fails to comply with any criteria described in paragraph (1) or (2).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the original author of this bill and one who has done a lot of work in this area.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, year after year, millions of dollars are spent on privacy notices that are either disregarded or are confusing to consumers. Let's think about the cost of this.

This outdated requirement doesn't cost in postage alone, but it also adds its compliance costs, the cost of supplies, printing fees, and man hours. Under current law, financial institutions are required to provide annual privacy notices explaining information-sharing practices to customers. Banks and credit unions have had to give these notices each year even if the privacy policies have not changed. This creates not only waste for financial institutions but confusion and increased costs to consumers.

I talked to one community bank in my district recently that said they spend, roughly, 70 cents per disclosure. With a minimum of 250,000 accounts and customers, this one bank spends at least \$175,000 on this one requirement. It may not seem like a lot of money to my colleagues, but I can tell you that \$175,000 is a lot of money for a small institution like the one in my district.

By the way, this is an institution with less than \$10 billion in assets, so it will not be helped by the recent changes implemented by the CFPB.

I want to be completely clear on what exactly this bill will do. This legislation will only remove the Gramm-Leach-Bliley annual privacy notice requirement if an institution has not in any way changed its privacy policies or procedures. This legislation does not exempt an institution from an initial privacy notice, nor does it allow a loophole for an institution to avoid using an updated notice.

The language is not controversial; it does not jeopardize consumer privacy; and it does not exempt any institution from having to produce an initial or an amended privacy notice. This legislation does eliminate millions of costly, confusing, and often ignored mailings; and with the passage of this bill, information included in these mailings would likely become more significant to the consumer because it would come only when a change in the privacy notice policy is effected.

□ 1615

I would like to remind my colleagues that similar language passed the House by a voice vote in the 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. In March of this year, this legislation passed the Committee on Financial Services by a voice vote of 57-0. This legislation is supported by a litany of trade associations representing banks and credit unions.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), my good friend across the aisle, for his bipartisan work on this bill.

I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his tireless work on this bill. This bill has passed virtually unanimously this House in the 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses. Now it has passed our committee 57-0.

I want to commend Director Cordray of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for moving in the direction of this bill as far as they could, but now it is time to codify this important change. This will not only save money for the small- and medium-sized institutions and the entire financial services industry; it is going to get the consumer to focus on changes that are important.

There is no better way to hide a tree than to put it in the forest, and there

is no better way to trivialize and cause consumers to ignore important legally required notification than to deluge them with unnecessary, meaningless, and repetitive notifications.

This bill will make our system more efficient. It is not only consistent, I believe, with what the regulators would like to do; it has passed, overwhelmingly, every time Members of the House have had a chance to deal with it.

I commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add my voice to those who support this bill, another commonsense bill that hopefully won't take us three more Congresses to get our friends on the other side to actually take action on something that is relatively simple and straightforward. I personally throw out six or seven of these notifications every month, so I would assume that millions of people are doing the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my support as well to this bill. This is a commonsense bill. This bill passed 57-0 in our committee. It ends a lot of confusion. You get those privacy notices when you open those accounts, and then all of a sudden next year you get another one, and you are trying to figure out whether you should have gotten one, if you should read that. What we have found is that probably a lot of people aren't reading those. This is a very commonsense bill, and I encourage people to support that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 601.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**HELPING EXPAND LENDING PRACTICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT**

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1259) to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1259

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*



**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act”.

**SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA.**

(a) **APPLICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall establish an application process under which a person who lives or does business in a State may, with respect to an area identified by the person in such State that has not been designated by the Bureau as a rural area for purposes of a Federal consumer financial law (as defined under section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010), apply for such area to be so designated.

(b) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—When evaluating an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall take into consideration the following factors:

(1) Criteria used by the Director of the Bureau of the Census for classifying geographical areas as rural or urban.

(2) Criteria used by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to designate counties as metropolitan or micropolitan or neither.

(3) Criteria used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine property eligibility for rural development programs.

(4) The Department of Agriculture rural-urban commuting area codes.

(5) A written opinion provided by the State's bank supervisor, as defined under section 3(r) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

(6) Population density.

(c) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall—

(A) publish such application in the Federal Register; and

(B) make such application available for public comment for not fewer than 90 days.

(2) **LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Bureau, during the public comment period with respect to an application submitted under subsection (a), to accept an additional application with respect to the area that is the subject of the initial application.

(d) **DECISION ON DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of the public comment period under subsection (c)(1) for an application, the Bureau shall—

(1) grant or deny such application, in whole or in part; and

(2) publish such grant or denial in the Federal Register, along with an explanation of what factors the Bureau relied on in making such determination.

(e) **SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.**—A decision by the Bureau under subsection (d) to deny an application for an area to be designated as a rural area shall not preclude the Bureau from accepting a subsequent application submitted under subsection (a) for such area to be so designated, so long as such subsequent application is made after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date that the Bureau denies the application under subsection (d).

(f) **SUNSET.**—This section shall cease to have any force or effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), one of the primary authors of this bill.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit for yielding and for his support of this legislation. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have joined together to support this bipartisan legislation that makes a small but sensible legislative correction to a regulatory policy that we have all heard from our constituents does not work as intended.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have worked with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) to reintroduce H.R. 1259, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, or HELP Rural Communities Act, in this Congress. This legislation has now cleared the Committee on Financial Services in two consecutive Congresses with overwhelming bipartisan support. Furthermore, this Chamber approved identical legislation just 11 months ago by voice vote under suspension of the rules.

Our Federalist system of limited government enshrines in the law the idea that State and local entities know their communities better than any centralized bureaucracy in Washington. The HELP Rural Communities Act reaffirms this commitment by addressing a bizarre situation resulting from the imposition of a one-size-fits-all government regulation that fails to consider the diversity of the cities, towns, and rural areas across America.

The genesis of this legislation was a conversation that I had with a constituent, a third generation banker in rural Bath County, Kentucky. This constituent, Thomas Richards, was bewildered to learn that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau had designated Bath County, population 11,591—yes, that is the entire county—as nonrural. His family's bank had survived the Great Depression, the stagflation of the late 1970s and early 1980s, and the Great Recession of 2008; and yet his testimony, Thomas Richards' testimony, this third generation Kentucky community banker, was that his small community bank in rural Kentucky was being imperiled by an avalanche of red tape coming out of Washington bureaucracy. There are similar stories from rural communities across this country.

This nonrural designation matters because the Dodd-Frank Act acknowledges that rural areas may be underserved credit markets and so should be treated differently under financial regulations, thus an improper nonrural designation by the Bureau, such as Bath County, puts constraints on financial products, specifically responsibly underwritten balloon loans that a bank or credit union can offer in its community, reducing access to credit in rural America. Balloon loans are common throughout rural America because they offer flexibility to consumers whose incomes are often cyclical and dependent on commodities, while helping small community banks and credit unions mitigate interest rate risk.

H.R. 1259 fixes the problem by ensuring that rural areas are treated under the law as intended, by allowing entities that feel that they have been improperly designated to appeal that decision. Here is what the bill does:

H.R. 1259 creates a petition process in which individuals within a State could petition the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to have that area redesignated and to have the Bureau reconsider its improper designation of “nonrural” for the area that is plainly rural. The legislation specifies a number of commonsense factors that the Bureau must consider when evaluating an application. Upon receiving an application, the Bureau is to provide for a 90-day public comment period, and then grant or deny such an application within an additional 90 days. Whatever the outcome, the Bureau shall publish in the Federal Register an explanation of the factors it relied on in making its determination. The bill allows appellants to identify the area that is improperly designated. We don't want to lock people into using counties or ill-fitting census tracts that don't accurately represent the boundaries of their communities.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his important contribution to this feature of the legislation. This element is important because county sizes and census definitions of statistical areas can vary significantly throughout the country, particularly in Western States.

Recognizing the issue with its designation process, on January 29, the Bureau proposed a rule to expand its formula to include census tracts in addition to county lines in its rural designation process. Unfortunately, this administrative correction that was prompted by this legislation is still inadequate because census tracts are only updated once every 10 years and were designed for demographic data collection, not regulatory purposes. The result is that the Bureau's formula may now consider most of a rural county primarily farmland or wilderness to be rural, but the small town that would

be home to the actual community bank or credit union may remain nonrural.

I have already heard from Kentucky bankers in rural counties who would not be covered by this expanded designation. There are plenty of similar examples throughout the country of the Bureau oddly designating manifestly rural areas as “nonrural.” Furthermore, the Bureau still has not implemented an appeals process for improperly designated communities.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, this legislation is about inviting individuals—the American people—to participate in their government and provide input on matters of local knowledge. It is about making the Federal Government more accessible, more accountable, and more responsive to the people who know their local communities best.

I am pleased that this legislation enjoys bipartisan support and, again, want to thank Representative HINOJOSA for joining me as a cosponsor of this legislation. I want to thank Chairman NEUGEBAUER for his cosponsorship and stewardship of the legislation in committee, as well as my friend Congressman FRENCH HILL for joining as a cosponsor.

This legislation is endorsed by a broad coalition, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the National Association of Realtors, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the Credit Union National Association, and the National Association of Federal Credit Unions.

This is a commonsense and narrowly focused bill to address a real problem imposed by Washington on rural America. I appreciate the opportunity to present it here today, and I urge my colleagues to support this simple, bipartisan reform.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), my friend.

Mr. HINOJOSA. I want to thank Congressman MIKE CAPUANO for yielding time to me on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1259, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act. This commonsense legislation would provide much-needed relief to rural Americans not just in my district, but in districts all over the country.

I especially would like to thank my esteemed colleague from Kentucky, Representative ANDY BARR, for introducing this very important piece of legislation once again. I fully agree with Congressman BARR's examples which he gave affecting his district and all of the State of Kentucky because in the great State of Texas, we have examples that will mirror those that you gave us.

All across my district—and I represent approximately 80 communities

in my congressional district that expands 250 miles geographically—many rural communities are having trouble getting access to credit, while credit unions and small banks are also finding it difficult to service their members and clients.

The designation of a county as rural has many implications for lenders in those areas, especially with regard to the credit products that they can offer. For example, under the new qualified mortgage rules, balloon mortgage payments, which are a common credit product offered in rural communities, would expose small creditors to increased legal liability. Because of this, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau established a safe harbor to allow for small creditors in counties as I have described designated as rural to continue offering this financial product which serves so many of the people in those areas; but if not designated as rural, many of those communities I have mentioned will not qualify for the safe harbor exemption.

That is why we are here today, trying to fix something that needs to be fixed in terms of home mortgage lending. This bill gives those who do business in rural communities all over the country the ability to petition the CFPB to reverse an improper designation of nonrural for a county that is clearly rural. It will give lenders in many areas throughout my district the flexibility they need to offer the credit products that their members depend on, while still keeping in place the very important consumer protections established under the new QM rules.

I would like to once again thank Representative BARR for his outstanding work on this bill and in our committee. It has been wonderful collaborating with him to bring the concerns of rural communities to the forefront.

I respectfully request that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle vote “yes” on passage of H.R. 1259.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers at this time, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this bill.

I would like to add my voice to supporting this bill as well.

I will tell you unequivocally, my definition of rural is whatever ANDY BARR and RUBÉN HINOJOSA say it is. 11,591 people in a county? I have that on a street; I have that in a building. I will tell you that I understand full well that there are underserved communities in rural areas, as there are even in some of the most urban areas in the country.

I thank the gentleman for this bill.

I will tell you that my definition of rural is anyplace that would take me more than 15 minutes to drive to some

good Italian food. If you can't do that, it must be rural.

I am glad that this bill is about to pass, and I thank the gentleman for offering it.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by saying I appreciate Mr. BARR's and Mr. HINOJOSA's work on this very important issue.

One of the reasons we are here and bringing these bills today is because we have had a tremendous reduction in the number of community-based financial institutions that serve rural America. In the last 4 or 5 years, we have lost over a thousand community banks and we have lost over a thousand credit unions. That is a real problem for our smaller communities. One of the things that this bill helps to do is that in many communities there is one bank, there is one financial institution, and without the ability to have flexibility to make these kinds of mortgages, in many cases there would not be mortgages available in those communities. This is a commonsense bill. It passed 56-2 out of our committee. I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1259.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### BUREAU ADVISORY COMMISSION TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1265) to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Commission Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1265

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act”.

#### SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF FACA.

Section 1013 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5493) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) APPLICATION OF FACA.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), such Act shall apply to each advisory committee of the Bureau and each subcommittee of such an advisory committee.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the primary author of this bill, who has worked tirelessly to make sure that these advisory committees have transparency.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding to me. I thank him for his support in regard to my legislation and for all the work he does on Financial Services, as well as the support from the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services. I am grateful to them as well.

As we gather in this Chamber, I don't think it is very often that we come in in a kumbaya moment in regard to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. I think those who follow our committee would recognize that there are a few differences in how the CFPB is structured and how it should move forward. We have had that debate. All of us agree that consumers should be protected, and they should have a strong advocate in that protection.

Though we have disagreed on some elements of the CFPB, I am proud today that we have a bipartisan group coming in talking about some straightforward reforms that make some of the rules from the CFPB work a lot better and help consumers out, help Americans out, help our constituents out.

In regard to my bill, in the last Congress, I tried to go to one of the advisory committees at the CFPB. Now, most of these are usually open in government. There are only a couple of exceptions. If you work at the CIA, the CIA doesn't open up their advisory committee meetings for obvious purposes and reasons; and the Fed, with the FOMC, when they are setting monetary policy, they too don't open up their meetings, community advisory meetings, for obvious purposes.

But when I tried to go to a CFPB meeting in the last Congress, I was told by the CFPB that they would not accommodate my request because their meetings were closed. That concerned me because the CFPB has said that "transparency is at the core of our agenda, and it is the key part of how we operate." On their Web site, they

say that "you deserve to know what we're doing for the American public and how we are doing it."

So I had some concern that when the rest of government opens up their meetings, the CFPB wouldn't open up their meetings and allow the public to hear the conversation and the dialogue that was going on. I highly doubt the information is as sensitive as what is taking place at the CIA or setting monetary policy, and if we are protecting consumers, that should be an open conversation and debate.

When I introduced a similar bill in the last Congress, I actually received a phone call from the Director, who said: You know what? This is a good bill. You know, we have had some disagreement on how the CFPB is run, but we will open up our meetings.

Well, I don't know if in that phone call we had we weren't on the same page or what. I am not going to say it was trickery on the Director's part, but what happened was the CFPB opened up only a small portion of their advisory committee meetings, about an hour and a half, and in the other vast majority of the meetings, they moved them into what was called a subcommittee so they wouldn't be open. What my bill today does is make sure these meetings are open to the public, that we as a community, as an American family, get to see the conversation that is taking place in the advisory committees to the CFPB. It makes complete sense.

I am proud and honored that my friends across the aisle were supportive of this measure. The ranking member, Ms. WATERS, actually spoke kind of in favor of my proposal. I mean, I took it that way. She voted for it and recommended a vote in favor of it. I appreciate her bipartisanship.

I think this is about making good work, making it accountable, making it transparent, and that is a start, at least in the advisory meetings that our government takes part in.

I am grateful for the support; I am grateful for the time, and I urge my colleagues to support this great piece of bipartisan, transparent legislation.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. As Mr. DUFFY just said, on occasion, we can come to an agreement. This is the second CFPB bill we have done in a row. There are many things we would like to work together on.

We do wish, however, that on some of the other items on the CFPB, some of the members of the Financial Services Committee would kind of get off the horse a little bit and come on down and work with us.

These two bills are very good bills, as far as I am concerned. The CFPB already does some of the things this act would impose, but they should do them all. There is no question about it. That

is why this is an easy bill to support. I thank Mr. DUFFY for offering it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Wisconsin's work on this. Some of the points that he made is that this is about transparency. Why that is important is because this agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, is making the important decisions about the kinds of financial products that American families can access.

Quite honestly, some people think that, in many ways, the actions of this agency have been beginning to reduce some of the availability of some of those financial products.

I think it is important to have these advisory groups. I want to commend the agency for having those, but I think it is important, also, for the American people to hear the comments and the discussions that are going on that could inevitably affect the kinds of financial products that they are going to be able to access in the future.

Now, the fact is that many of the other agencies have to fall under the FACA, but because this agency is tucked inside the Federal Reserve—and the Federal Reserve currently is exempt—but, quite honestly, the only other agencies that are exempt from it are the CIA, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Federal Reserve as they are talking about monetary policy. I hardly believe that the CFPB falls in the same category of any of these other agencies that are exempt.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. It allows that same transparency available in all other agencies across the government and allows the American people to hear those important discussions about their future and about the financial products that they are going to be able to access in the future.

Again, I want to remind everybody this was a bipartisan bill that passed 56-2 out of our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1265.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1367) to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1367

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF THE EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Expedited Funds Availability Act (12 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602(20) (12 U.S.C. 4001(20)) by inserting “, located in the United States,” after “ATM”;

(2) in section 602(21) (12 U.S.C. 4001(21)) by inserting “American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Puerto Rico,”;

(3) in section 602(23) (12 U.S.C. 4001(23)) by inserting “American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Puerto Rico,”; and

(4) in section 603(d)(2)(A) (12 U.S.C. 4002(d)(2)(A)), by inserting “American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Puerto Rico,”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill. It was carried by the Democratic Representative from American Samoa last Congress.

This is a proconsumer measure that would improve the check clearing wait times in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. Other noncontiguous U.S. States and territories are already subject to this act. This bill provides parity and helps improve financial services in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

This bill passed the House on suspension last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill as well. Again, it is a simple, straightforward bill that simply says that American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands are part of America, as is every other part of America. They should be treated the same.

This bill corrects a law that currently does not allow them to be treated the same in financial services matters. It should be passed immediately.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will read a statement that Mrs. RADEWAGEN of American Samoa submitted to me in reference to this. She is the primary sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1367, to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

I would first like to thank Chairman Hensarling and Ranking Member Waters, as well as the House Financial Services Committee staff, who worked so hard to get this bill to the floor. I appreciate their dedication, as do the people of American Samoa and the CNMI.

As you know, the isolation of American Samoa, both geographically and economically, lends itself to difficulties in financial transactions that take place between American Samoa and those off island.

Many times, our citizens and businesses must wait an exorbitant amount of time before they can receive off-island funds that have been sent to them. These delays often cause hardships that are both unnecessary and unfounded.

H.R. 1367 will eliminate the excessive delays that the people of American Samoa must currently deal with in order to receive funds sent to them from off-island.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman Hensarling and Ranking Member Waters for their consideration of this measure that will greatly improve the lives of the people of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of this bill that will bring American Samoa and the CNMI into the fold financially in regards to off-island transactions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands deserve the same protections of federal law as other Americans. Making sure my people get equal treatment is one of the reasons I came to Congress and equivalent treatment brings me to the floor today in support of H.R. 1367.

As we have heard, H.R. 1367 extends the protections of the Expedited Funds Availability Act to the people of the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. This would mean that account holders in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa would have timely access to their money when they deposit a check in their bank.

The same banking rules would apply in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa as apply in Alaska, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—the areas of our nation

not directly connected to the contiguous forty-eight states.

It may be that in 1987, when the Expedited Funds Availability Act was first adopted, the Northern Marianas and American Samoa seemed remote from the rest of America. Back then, paper checks may have been bundled up and sent through the mail. So delays were inevitable.

But today banking is handled electronically. With a smart phone many banking customers can take a picture of a check and deposit it in their account without even going to the bank.

I have checked with the major banks in my district; none has any problem with having this federal law apply to their operations—because they all do business electronically and make deposits quickly available.

So, clearly, it is time to update federal banking laws with respect to the Northern Marianas and American Samoa and join the 21st century.

I want to thank my friend, Congresswoman AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, for introducing H.R. 1367. And I want to congratulate her for getting her bill moved through the Financial Services Committee and brought to the floor quickly and early in the 114th Congress.

This same language has passed the House before, but died in the Senate. But the quick start that Congresswoman RADEWAGEN has given her bill will allow the Senate more time—and, we hope, enough time—to make this simple correction to the way federal law applies in two of our nation's insular areas.

I would also like to thank Chairman JEB HENSARLING, Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS, and all the members of the Financial Services Committee for recognizing that creating a uniform application of federal banking law—at least with respect to how quickly depositors have access to their funds—is an area of bipartisan consensus.

I ask all Members of the House to agree and vote today in favor of H.R. 1367.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1367, to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

I would first like to thank Chairman HENSARLING, and Ranking Member WATERS as well as the House Financial Services Committee staff who worked so hard to get this bill to the floor. I appreciate their dedication as do the people of American Samoa and the CNMI.

As you know, the isolation of American Samoa, both geographically and economically, lends itself to difficulties in financial transactions that take place between American Samoa and those off island.

Many times, our citizens and businesses must wait an exorbitant amount of time before they can receive off-island funds that have been sent to them. These delays often cause hardships that are both unnecessary and unfounded.

H.R. 1367, will eliminate the excessive delays that the people of American Samoa must currently deal with in order to receive funds sent to them from off-island.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for their consideration of this measure that will

greatly improve the lives of the people of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote in favor of this bill that will bring American Samoa and the CNMI into the fold financially in regards to off island transactions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1367.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

#### SAFE ACT CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVILEGE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1480) to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1480

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act”.

#### SEC. 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION SHARED BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORS.

Section 1512(a) of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5111(a)) is amended by inserting “or financial services” before “industry”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The SAFE Act is a simple, bipartisan bill that encourages information-sharing between Federal and State regulators.

Ensuring the confidentiality of information provided to the National Mortgage Licensing System encourages its

uses, which better protects consumers from bad actors who switch States for licensing purposes to evade scrutiny.

This legislation provides assurance for financial institutions that privileged information shared between Federal banking regulators and State regulatory agencies will be protected and remain confidential.

This will encourage a greater amount of sharing between institutions and their regulators, and will allow our Nation's financial regulators to do their jobs to ensure that our financial institutions are operating lawfully, while, at the same time, able to offer consumer credit products that are critical to Americans to finance their everyday purchases and start small businesses.

The NMLS is used by regulators in all 50 States, and it is supported by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors.

This bill passed the House on suspension last Congress, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on most social issues, I consider myself a liberal. On most fiscal matters, I consider myself a conservative in the true sense of the word, not the new sense of the word, meaning that you should pay for those things that you want.

When it comes to privacy matters, I consider myself a proud Libertarian. There is absolutely no reason for anyone who doesn't need information that I don't want them to have to get, period. It is my information, my information to share only with those with whom I wish to share it.

This bill takes one step further towards keeping my information private and confidential between me and those people I seek to share it with. It is a great bill. I look forward to voting for it.

This information is necessary to be shared to simply keep our financial services system going, but there is no reason whatsoever to allow it to be nonconfidential and to be spread around and be available to anybody who might want to look at it.

I support the passage of this bill. I congratulate Mr. DOLD for putting this forward for us to vote on, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), the primary author of this bill, who has worked tirelessly in this area.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the chairman for his leadership. I want to thank my good friend from Massachusetts, and I also want to comment on the fact that we are delighted that you are a Libertarian on some of these things.

As we look, Mr. Speaker, at H.R. 1480, the SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act, it pre-

serves the ability of the State and Federal financial regulators to share information regarding consumer financial services businesses that are licensed at the State level in the National Mortgage Licensing System without losing the privilege and confidentiality protections provided by State and Federal law.

This is a bipartisan bill that promotes smart and efficient regulation among State regulators. It ensures that State regulators can talk to their colleagues across State lines regarding multistate financial service entities without losing traditional privilege and constitutionality protections.

These amendments are needed due to the unintended gap in the existing National Mortgage Licensing System statute. As State regulators have expanded their use of the NMLS in order to enhance consumer protections, to combat fraud, increase uniformity, and reduce regulatory burdens in licensing processes, privacy protections have not kept up.

This is a commonsense bill that provides regulators with the certainty that they can continue to share information and collaborate with their colleagues across State lines.

Protecting the integrity of the National Mortgage Licensing System is important because it better protects consumers from bad actors who switch States for licensing purposes to evade scrutiny.

This is ensuring, Mr. Speaker, smart regulations.

Again, I talk to people all around my district. The fact is that we are not against regulations. We just want our regulations to be smart and tailored, and this is one of those things that, again, working across the aisle and trying to find common ground, this is one that I believe that we can agree on.

H.R. 1480 does not create any new privilege or confidentiality rights. It merely ensures that the existing privilege and confidentiality protections are retained when information is shared through the National Mortgage Licensing System so that regulators can share information and communicate.

H.R. 1480 has received support from the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Credit Union National Association, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, in my home State.

The SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act passed out of this committee, out of the Financial Services Committee, 58-0. I certainly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and look forward to its passage.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this truly is a bipartisan bill. It is a commonsense bill. I think the whole group of bills that we have seen this afternoon will go a long way to helping keep commonsense regulations; at the

same time, making sure the consumers are protected. So I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1480.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 650, PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2015, PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 685, MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. SESSIONS from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-65) on the resolution (H. Res. 189) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 650) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 685) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and providing for adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1259, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1265, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 1480, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

### HELPING EXPAND LENDING PRACTICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1259) to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 1, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 145]

YEAS—401

Abraham	Byrne	DeFazio	Garrett	Luetkemeyer	Ross
Adams	Calvert	DeGette	Gibbs	Lujan Grisham	Rothfus
Aderholt	Capps	Delaney	Gibson	(NM)	Rouzer
Aguilar	Capuano	DeLauro	Goodlatte	Luján, Ben Ray	Roybal-Allard
Allen	Cárdenas	DelBene	Gosar	(NM)	Royce
Amash	Carney	Denham	Gowdy	Lummis	Ruppersberger
Amodei	Carson (IN)	Dent	Graham	Lynch	Russell
Ashford	Carter (GA)	DeSantis	Granger	MacArthur	Salmon
Babin	Carter (TX)	DeSaulnier	Graves (GA)	Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda
Barletta	Cartwright	DesJarlais	Graves (LA)	Carolyn	T.
Barr	Castor (FL)	Deutch	Graves (MO)	Maloney, Sean	Sanford
Barton	Castro (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Green, Al	Marino	Sarbanes
Bass	Chabot	Dingell	Green, Gene	Massie	Scalise
Beatty	Chaffetz	Doggett	Griffith	Matsui	Schakowsky
Becerra	Chu, Judy	Dold	Grothman	McCarthy	Schiff
Benishek	Cicilline	Doyle, Michael	Guinta	McCaul	Schrader
Bera	Clark (MA)	F.	Guthrie	McClintock	Schweikert
Beyer	Clawson (FL)	Duckworth	Hahn	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Bilirakis	Clay	Duffy	Hardy	McDermott	Scott, Austin
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Duncan (SC)	Harper	McGovern	Scott, David
Bishop (MI)	Clyburn	Duncan (TN)	Harris	McHenry	Sensenbrenner
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Ellmers (NC)	Hartzer	McKinley	Serrano
Black	Cohen	Emmer (MN)	Hastings	McMorris	Sessions
Blackburn	Cole	Engel	Heck (NV)	Rodgers	Sewell (AL)
Blum	Collins (GA)	Eshoo	Heck (WA)	McNerney	Shimkus
Blumenauer	Collins (NY)	Esty	Hensarling	McSally	Shuster
Bonamici	Comstock	Farenthold	Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Simpson
Bost	Conaway	Farr	Hice, Jody B.	Meehan	Sinema
Boustany	Connolly	Fattah	Higgins	Meeks	Sires
Boyle, Brendan	Conyers	Fitzpatrick	Hill	Messer	Slaughter
F.	Cook	Fleischmann	Himes	Mica	Smith (MO)
Brady (PA)	Costa	Fleming	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)	Smith (NE)
Brady (TX)	Costello (PA)	Flores	Holding	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)
Brat	Courtney	Forbes	Honda	Moolenaar	Smith (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fortenberry	Hoyer	Mooney (WV)	Speier
Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw	Foster	Hudson	Moore	Stefanik
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Fox	Huelskamp	Moulton	Stewart
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)	Huffman	Mullin	Stivers
Buchanan	Culberson	Franks (AZ)	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney	Stutzman
Buck	Cummings	Frelinghuysen	Hultgren	Murphy (FL)	Swalwell (CA)
Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)	Fudge	Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Takai
Burgess	Davis (CA)	Gabbard	Hurd (TX)	Nadler	Takano
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Gallego	Hurt (VA)	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)
Butterfield	Davis, Rodney	Garamendi	Israel	Neal	Thompson (MS)
			Issa	Neugebauer	Thompson (PA)
			Jackson Lee	Newhouse	Thornberry
			Jeffries	Noem	Tiberi
			Jenkins (KS)	Nolan	Tipton
			Jenkins (WV)	Norcross	Titus
			Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Tonko
			Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke	Torres
			Johnson, E. B.	Olson	Trott
			Johnson, Sam	Palazzo	Tsongas
			Jolly	Pallone	Turner
			Jones	Palmer	Upton
			Jordan	Pascrell	Valadao
			Joyce	Paulsen	Van Hollen
			Kaptur	Payne	Vargas
			Katko	Pearce	Veasey
			Keating	Pelosi	Perlmutter
			Kelly (IL)	Vela	Perry
			Kelly (PA)	Peters	Walberg
			Kennedy	Petersen	Walden
			Kildee	Pingree	Walker
			Kilmer	Pitts	Walorski
			Kind	Pocan	Walters, Mimi
			King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Walz
			Kinzingler (IL)	Poliquin	Wasserman
			Kirkpatrick	Polis	Schultz
			Kline	Pompeo	Waters, Maxine
			Knight	Posey	Watson Coleman
			Kuster	Price (NC)	Weber (TX)
			Labrador	Price, Tom	Webster (FL)
			LaMalfa	Quigley	Welch
			Lamborn	Rangel	Wenstrup
			Lance	Ratcliffe	Westerman
			Langevin	Reed	Whitfield
			Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Williams
			Larson (CT)	Renacci	Wilson (FL)
			Latta	Ribble	Wilson (SC)
			Lawrence	Rice (NY)	Wittman
			Lee	Rice (SC)	Womack
			Levin	Richmond	Woodall
			Lewis	Rigell	Yarmuth
			Lieu, Ted	Roby	Yoder
			Lipinski	Roe (TN)	Yoho
			LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Young (AK)
			Lofgren	Rogers (KY)	Young (IA)
			Long	Rohrabacher	Young (IN)
			Loudermilk	Rokita	Zeldin
			Love	Ros-Lehtinen	Zinke
			Lowenthal	Roskam	
			Lowey		

## NAYS—1

Velázquez

## NOT VOTING—29

Bridenstine	Gutiérrez	Ruiz
Clarke (NY)	Hanna	Rush
Cooper	King (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Crawford	Loeb sack	Ryan (WI)
Edwards	Lucas	Sanchez, Loretta
Ellison	Marchant	Sherman
Fincher	Meng	Smith (WA)
Gohmert	Nugent	Visclosky
Grayson	Pittenger	Westmoreland
Grijalva	Rooney (FL)	

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 145, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

BUREAU ADVISORY COMMISSION  
TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1265) to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 2, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 146]

## YEAS—401

Abraham	Brady (TX)	Clyburn
Adams	Brat	Coffman
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Cohen
Aguilar	Brooks (IN)	Cole
Allen	Brown (FL)	Collins (GA)
Amash	Brownley (CA)	Collins (NY)
Amodi	Buchanan	Comstock
Ashford	Buck	Conaway
Babin	Bucshon	Connolly
Barletta	Burgess	Conyers
Barr	Bustos	Cook
Barton	Butterfield	Costa
Bass	Byrne	Costello (PA)
Beatty	Calvert	Courtney
Becerra	Capps	Cramer
Benishek	Capuano	Crenshaw
Bera	Cárdenas	Crowley
Beyer	Carmey	Cuellar
Bilirakis	Carson (IN)	Culberson
Bishop (GA)	Carter (GA)	Cummings
Bishop (MI)	Carter (TX)	Curbelo (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Cartwright	Davis (CA)
Black	Castor (FL)	Davis, Danny
Blackburn	Castro (TX)	Davis, Rodney
Blum	Chabot	DeFazio
Blumenauer	Chaffetz	DeGette
Bonamici	Chu, Judy	Delaney
Bost	Cicilline	DeLauro
Boustany	Clark (MA)	DeBene
Boyle, Brendan	Clawson (FL)	Denham
F.	Clay	Dent
Brady (PA)	Cleaver	DeSantis

DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Pitts
Deutch	Kennedy	Pocan
Diaz-Balart	Kildee	Poe (TX)
Dingell	Kilmer	Poliquin
Doggett	Kind	Polis
Dold	King (IA)	Pompeo
Doyle, Michael	Kinzing (IL)	Posey
F.	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
Duckworth	Kline	Price, Tom
Duffy	Knight	Quigley
Duncan (SC)	Kuster	Rangel
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Ratcliffe
Ellmers (NC)	LaMalfa	Reed
Emmer (MN)	Lamborn	Reichert
Engel	Lance	Renacci
Eshoo	Langevin	Ribble
Esty	Larsen (WA)	Rice (NY)
Farenthold	Larson (CT)	Rice (SC)
Farr	Latta	Richmond
Fattah	Lawrence	Rigell
Fitzpatrick	Lee	Roby
Fleischmann	Levin	Roe (TN)
Fleming	Lewis	Rogers (AL)
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rogers (KY)
Forbes	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Rokita
Foster	Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen
Fox	Long	Roskam
Frankel (FL)	Loudermilk	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Love	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal	Rouzer
Fudge	Lowey	Roybal-Allard
Gabbard	Luetkemeyer	Royce
Gallego	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	(NM)	Russell
Garrett	Luján, Ben Ray	Salmon
Gibbs	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Gibson	Lummi	T.
Goodlatte	Lynch	Sanford
Gosar	MacArthur	Sarbanes
Gowdy	Maloney,	Scalise
Graham	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Granger	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
Graves (GA)	Marino	Schrader
Graves (LA)	Massie	Schweikert
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Scott (VA)
Green, Al	McCarthy	Scott, Austin
Green, Gene	McCaul	Scott, David
Griffith	McClintock	Sensenbrenner
Grothman	McCollum	Serrano
Guinta	McDermott	Sessions
Guthrie	McGovern	Sewell (AL)
Hahn	McHenry	Sherman
Hardy	McKinley	Shimkus
Harper	McMorris	Shuster
Harris	Rodgers	Simpson
Hartzler	McNerney	Sinema
Hastings	McSally	Sires
Heck (NV)	Meadows	Slaughter
Heck (WA)	Meehan	Smith (MO)
Hensarling	Meeks	Smith (NE)
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Smith (NJ)
Hice, Jody B.	Mica	Smith (TX)
Higgins	Miller (FL)	Speier
Hill	Miller (MI)	Stefanik
Himes	Moolenaar	Stewart
Hinojosa	Mooney (WV)	Stivers
Holding	Moore	Stutzman
Honda	Moulton	Swalwell (CA)
Hoyer	Mullin	Takai
Hudson	Mulvaney	Takano
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (MS)
Huizenga (MI)	Napolitano	Thompson (PA)
Hultgren	Neal	Thornberry
Hunter	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Hurd (TX)	Newhouse	Tipton
Hurt (VA)	Noem	Titus
Israel	Nolan	Tonko
Issa	Norcross	Torres
Jackson Lee	Nunes	Trott
Jeffries	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Jenkins (KS)	Olson	Turner
Jenkins (WV)	Palazzo	Upton
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Valadao
Johnson (OH)	Palmer	Van Hollen
Johnson, E. B.	Pascrell	Vargas
Johnson, Sam	Paulsen	Veasey
Jolly	Payne	Vela
Jones	Pearce	Wagner
Jordan	Pelosi	Walberg
Joyce	Perlmutter	Walden
Kaptur	Perry	Walker
Katko	Peters	Walorski
Keating	Peterson	Walters, Mimi

Walz	Westerman	Yoder
Wasserman	Whitfield	Yoho
Schultz	Williams	Young (AK)
Waters, Maxine	Wilson (FL)	Young (IA)
Watson Coleman	Wilson (SC)	Young (IN)
Weber (TX)	Wittman	Zeldin
Webster (FL)	Womack	Zinke
Welch	Woodall	
Wenstrup	Yarmuth	

## NAYS—2

Nadler

Velázquez

## NOT VOTING—28

Bridenstine	Gutiérrez	Ruiz
Clarke (NY)	Hanna	Rush
Cooper	King (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Crawford	Loeb sack	Ryan (WI)
Edwards	Lucas	Sanchez, Loretta
Ellison	Marchant	Smith (WA)
Fincher	Meng	Visclosky
Gohmert	Nugent	Westmoreland
Grayson	Pittenger	
Grijalva	Rooney (FL)	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAFE ACT CONFIDENTIALITY AND  
PRIVILEGE ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Texas). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1480) to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

## YEAS—401

Abraham	Blackburn	Calvert
Adams	Blum	Capps
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Capuano
Aguilar	Bonamici	Cárdenas
Allen	Bost	Carney
Amash	Boustany	Carson (IN)
Amodi	Boyle, Brendan	Carter (GA)
Ashford	F.	Carter (TX)
Babin	Brady (PA)	Cartwright
Barletta	Brady (TX)	Castor (FL)
Barr	Brat	Castro (TX)
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Bass	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Beatty	Brown (FL)	Chu, Judy
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Benishek	Buchanan	Clark (MA)
Bera	Buck	Clawson (FL)
Bilirakis	Bucshon	Clay
Bishop (GA)	Burgess	Cleaver
Bishop (MI)	Bustos	Clyburn
Bishop (UT)	Butterfield	Coffman
Black	Byrne	Cohen



Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cook  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farenthold  
Farr  
Fattah  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Fox  
Frankel (FL)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Galleo  
Garamendi  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hahn  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinojosa

Holding  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huffman  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (IA)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
Labrador  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loftgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lummis  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marino  
Massie  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCauley  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)

Moore  
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Murphy (FL)  
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Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Pascarella  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart

Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Cummings  
Upton  
Valadao

Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Welch

Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yarmuth  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

## NOT VOTING—30

Beyer  
Bridenstine  
Clarke (NY)  
Cooper  
Crawford  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Fincher  
Gohmert  
Grayson

Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hanna  
Heck (WA)  
King (NY)  
Loebbeck  
Lucas  
Marchant  
Meng  
Nugent

Pittenger  
Rooney (FL)  
Ruiz  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Smith (WA)  
Visclosky  
Westmoreland

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1915

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes Nos. 145–147. Had I been present: on rollcall No. 145, H.R. 1259—Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, I would have voted “yea,” on rollcall No. 146, H.R. 1265—Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act, I would have voted “yea,” and on rollcall No. 147, H.R. 1480—SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act, I would have voted “yea.”

# AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 9, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

## H. CON. RES. 9

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

## SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on April 16, 2015, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 34, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

## H. CON. RES. 34

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

## SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on May 20, 2015, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCE SHINZO ABE, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair,

for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

#### PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 978

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 978, a bill originally introduced by Representative Schock of Illinois, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### HOPE FOR THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today, there are over 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. These patients encounter countless obstacles as they learn to live and cope with a condition that dramatically impacts their lives.

When a doctor gives the news to a patient that they have Alzheimer's, it is often difficult for those who are afflicted, as well as their loved ones, to plan the next steps.

That is why I am cosponsoring the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act that would provide Medicare beneficiaries with a care planning session to offer information about treatment options for those diagnosed with this disease and their caretakers.

By giving patients and their caretakers an opportunity to plan for the future, we can improve outcomes and quality of life for those that are afflicted with Alzheimer's.

Mr. Speaker, for millions of Americans and their families that are affected by Alzheimer's, the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act will help give them the information and support that they need to take this disease head on.

#### PC NCAA HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely thrilled to congratulate Providence College on their first ever NCAA men's ice hockey championship.

In a back-and-forth game, the Friars fell behind twice but managed to regain the lead each time. In a stunning finish, PC held off a relentless attack on their goal for over 6 minutes.

Coach Nate Leaman and the entire Providence College team have so much to be proud of this season. With a 26-13-2 season record, they came in second place in their conference behind their eventual opponent, Boston University, in the finals.

I would like to take this time to offer my congratulations to both teams, but most especially congratulations to the entire Providence College men's hockey team on a well-deserved victory and an outstanding season.

The entire Ocean State is so proud of this accomplishment.

Congratulations, and go Friars.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 2015 Cumberland Valley High School girls basketball team for winning its second straight Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association AAAA title.

The Eagles earned an incredible 32-1 record and were the Mid Penn and District 3 Champions as well. Incredibly, this was their third State final appearance in a row.

Mr. Speaker, if you are looking for a reason for this incredible run of success, I need only point you to the Cumberland Valley girls basketball vision statement, which states that this program "provides a setting for girls to prepare for the 'game of life' through the teaching of hard work, cooperation, responsibility, leadership, discipline, sportsmanship, and other essential life skills."

The team, by its hard, unselfish play and exemplary court behavior, is a source of great pride for both the school and community.

Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District is thrilled with and so proud of these fine young women. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the team, coaches, families, and supporters for this exceptional accomplishment.

#### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act enacted in 1965 to ensure access to a quality education for all students.

I call on my colleagues today to do right by our students and reauthorize this legislation and make it even stronger. Sadly, there has been Republican attempts to send us back to 1965. H.R. 5, Republican legislation that passed out of the committee, will undoubtedly undo the past 50 years of education progress that we have made.

A true display of Robin Hood in reverse, this legislation strips resources away from our neediest students, widening achievement gaps and leaving our low-income students behind.

For the sake of our students and our schools, we must work together to reauthorize a stronger ESEA that upholds the principles of equal access to education for all, rich or poor.

From promoting access to early education so students can start out strong to investing in STEM education and supporting our teachers, we need a reauthorized ESEA that puts our students first. Educating our students shouldn't be a Democratic or Republican issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to put partisanship aside and support our students.

#### RUNNING FOR PARKINSON'S RACE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while back in my district on April 4, I was proud to be in Erie County, Pennsylvania, for the fourth annual Running for Parkinson's race, which is an event that seeks to raise awareness for this disease that affects more than 1 million people in the United States alone.

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, and recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Lynne Gotham, coordinator at Parkinson Partners of northwest Pennsylvania, and Angela Badaracco, founder of the local nonprofit Running for Parkinson's.

Angela was diagnosed with Parkinson's back in 2005 at the young age of 32 and, since then, has been committed to raise funds to combat this disease. Since Angela and her husband, Matt, started the Running for Parkinson's race 4 years ago, they have helped raise over \$12,000 for Parkinson's research.

It was my privilege to attend this year's race, and I applaud Angela and Parkinson Partners of northwest Pennsylvania for helping to bring hope and

awareness to those living with this disease.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was and remains a civil rights law. ESEA plays a fundamental role in protecting the rights and educational opportunity of students living in poverty, students of color, students learning English, and students with disabilities.

In the last 50 years, we have made great progress, but tremendous work remains. Any reauthorization of ESEA must maintain the strong civil rights protections of this historic law.

We must advance progress, not undermine it.

#### SMARTER INTERPRETATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, amazingly, in the fourth year of record drought in California, the Bureau of Reclamation, in its infinite wisdom, decided to release 15,000 acre feet of additional water to help aid the downstream swimming of six steelhead fish—this in the time of agriculture being cut anywhere from 100 to 50 percent in some areas, receiving 0 percent allocations, cities seeing their needs for horticultural and ornamental needs being cut off, everybody having to scrimp and save on water in California, except for the Bureau's interpretation of the Endangered Species Act.

It is high time we put accountability back into interpretation of the Endangered Species Act as what was put in place in 1973. 15,000 acre feet would be enough for 30,000 households for a year, 4,000 acres of crop land; yet the allocation to move six fish merrily down the stream is the priority right now in California.

We need to build water storage. We need to have smarter interpretation of the Endangered Species Act and these water allocations, ostensibly, for fisheries.

□ 1930

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone that occurred 50 years ago this week.

On April 11, 1965, President Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The enactment of the ESEA followed the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, guaranteeing all children equal educational opportunities. Unfortunately, communities with high concentrations of poverty have never enjoyed equal rights. So, for the last 50 years, the ESEA has remained the single-largest Federal resource for schools that teach our most vulnerable students.

If we are to keep our promise of equal educational opportunity for all, then we must redouble our efforts to level the public education playing field by ensuring that all students have both the resources to achieve academic excellence and the promise of action to intervene when their academic needs aren't being met.

This year, we need to renew ESEA in order to bring our education system into the 21st century, and we must not waver in our commitment to basic civil rights and education that we made 50 years ago this week.

#### THOMAS JEFFERSON

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, today, April 13, marks the birthday of Thomas Jefferson—America's third President and one of our greatest—who was responsible in so many ways for the creation of this great Nation.

Thomas Jefferson said on his very simple tombstone at Monticello that he was the author of the American Declaration of Independence, the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia—those things that, in his mind, he had done for the United States rather than those things that the people of the United States had done for him.

Thomas Jefferson always felt that his greatest achievement throughout his life was the preservation of the American Republic—our system of separation of powers, of checks and balances. Above all, he believed very strongly in, all power not given to the Federal Government is reserved to the States and the people respectively.

That great, good man was born on this day, April 13, 1743, and I hope that the Congress of the United States and the people of the United States will continue to honor his legacy by preserving and protecting this great inheritance, the American Republic, with its separation of powers and its recognition that all power is reserved to the States or to the people respectively.

#### ALL LIVES MATTER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, just as the President does, the United States Congress has the bully pulpit. In doing so, I believe that America cries out for a response. Over the past 6 months to a year, we have seen a number of tragic incidences occurring between civilians and police. In particular, we cite the tragedy of the shooting of Walter Scott in South Carolina.

All lives matter.

To those who have been petitioning and protesting—young people indicating that black lives matter—it is a reflection of the high number of African Americans who find themselves at the wrong end of the gun of someone engaged in law enforcement.

We know that there are good people who serve this Nation, and we are a law-abiding nation. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is extremely important that we begin an open discussion in the Congress that deals with the issues of lethal force, excessive force, police training, statistics.

I intend to introduce and to ask my colleagues to join me on the Cadet bill, which reaches a wide-ranging perspective of the statistics of shootings in America—civilian shootings on police and law enforcement shootings on civilians—because that is the science of criminal justice reform. I draw upon this to say that we cannot be silent anymore. People are hurting. My sympathy to those who have lost lives, including law enforcement and our civilians.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO THE 18 VICTIMS FROM THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CONGREGATION

(Mr. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month, 18 members of the Independent Haitian Assembly of God congregation from my district in Florida were involved in a fatal bus accident while traveling home from a church congregation. The accident left 10 individuals with severe injuries, and 8 members of the congregation were fatally wounded.

This weekend, our community will join together to lay them to rest, but I want to take this opportunity on the House floor today to honor those victims who perished.

As it often happens in times of tragedy, our community has come together to support the entire Independent Haitian Assembly of God community. Our hearts go out to the victims of this tragedy, to their families, and to this entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the names of the victims who died in this terrible accident.

VICTIMS OF THE INDEPENDENT HAITIAN  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD BUS ACCIDENT

Volsaint Marseille, 58, of Fort Pierce; Judge Petit-Frere, 66, of Fort Pierce; Obernise Petit-Frere, 58, of Fort Pierce; Lifaite Lochar, 58, of Fort Pierce; Madeleine William, 53, of Fort Pierce; Wanie Larose, 60, of Fort Pierce; Dazilla Joseph, 79, of Fort Pierce; Servilus Dieudonne, 71, of Fort Pierce.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. As a Representative from this area, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased on behalf of every Member of this body. Our community is strong, and we stand ready to support you as you lay your loved ones to rest.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday April 11, our Nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Seven years have passed since No Child Left Behind was signed into law, which was the last reauthorization of the ESEA. A new reauthorization is long overdue. We need to make children our priority by providing equal opportunity for a quality education for all children.

The partisan manner this House displayed for the ESEA's reauthorization is disheartening and leaves too many of our children behind. Democrats and Republicans should be working together to draft a bill that ensures that all students have access to a world class education, that ensures that States set high standards and goals to ensure all students graduate career or college ready, and that ensures that strong accountability measures are in place for children and families.

Let us return to the table and draft a bill that will support an equitable 21st century education system.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the ESEA, we reflect on the simple yet powerful promises that are at the center of this civil rights law, promises made to all American children—a promise that no matter where you live or what you look like you will not be ignored, a promise that no matter what resources you have you will not be undervalued, a promise that, no matter what, you deserve a quality education.

The ESEA was a substantial step towards fulfilling these promises, but we still have work to do. As we work towards reauthorization, we cannot break those promises. We cannot break our promise to make every child count by failing to gather information on student achievement for all children. We cannot break our promise to value every child by failing to target funding at the schools that need it the most. We cannot break our promise to uphold the civil rights of all children to have a quality education. Because all children are worthy, we cannot break our promise.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our children. They are our future.

THE STATE OF BLACK HEALTH: A CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ASSESSMENT DURING NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my coanchor, ROBIN KELLY, Congresswoman from Illinois, for being involved in this Special Order tonight.

Thanks also to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are here tonight on such an important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people at home who are tuning in to watch this. It is truly an honor to speak to them directly in their homes, to fight on their behalf and to advance our shared priorities. That is why we are here tonight and every Monday night that the House is in session—to address the diverse issues affecting African American communities throughout our Nation and to let you know that we are here, fighting for you every single day.

Mr. Speaker, this month is National Minority Health Month. It is a chance to evaluate the state of black health, a chance to address health disparities affecting racial minorities, and a chance to speak to efforts to advance health equity. Today, African American and other minority populations lag behind in numerous health areas, including in the access to quality care, in timelines of care, and in health outcomes. These disparities have devastating impacts on individuals and families but also on our communities and our society as a whole.

There are numerous factors that contribute to the health disparities throughout New Jersey's 10th Congressional District and throughout our Na-

tion as well—poverty, environmental threats, inadequate access to health care, and educational inequities. These are such interconnected issues that a piecemeal plan to fixing the problem will not work. A comprehensive approach—one that focuses on providing access to quality care for all, creating good jobs that provide a decent living, and increasing educational opportunities for low-income communities—is only one way to eliminate the health disparities once and for all.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get to the members of the CBC who are here, and I turn it over right now to the gentlewoman from Illinois, the Honorable ROBIN KELLY, who has been holding down the fort while I have been dealing with my health issues.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank the distinguished gentleman from the Garden State, my good friend, DONALD PAYNE. I am glad he is back and in better health in order to lead this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on the state of black health.

Mr. Speaker, it has been the refrain of so many people of all races across the country, the refrain of "black lives matter." We have gathered here this evening because black lives do matter. Whether we are talking about issues of justice or of economic opportunity or of the health of our Nation, black lives matter. The topic of tonight's Special Order hour is: The State of Black Health—a CBC Assessment during National Minority Health Month.

Each April, we observe National Minority Health Month in order to raise awareness about the gaping health disparities that impact communities of color across the Nation. Many of us have been personally affected by the physical and emotional tolls that conditions like obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, breast and prostate cancer, and HIV/AIDS have brought on ourselves and our loved ones and neighbors.

Last month marked the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches—the generation-defining events that led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Like the right to vote, health care is a fundamental civil right that our leaders, health professionals, and communities must fight to protect. The Affordable Care Act was a critical step in the march toward health equity, but there is still much more to be done.

Dr. Martin Luther King expressed this a half century ago when he said:

"Of all of the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

I couldn't agree more, and it has been the work of the CBC and of the Congressional Black Health Braintrust, which I chair, to advance the critical phrase of the human rights and civil rights struggle—"health equity."

This year, the CBC's Health Braintrust will focus on three core principles: strengthening our communities, improving health access, and marching toward a healthier future. The disparities facing minority communities in rural areas across the country are too numerous to name. To that end, the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust will work vigorously to address the gaps that exist when it comes to reducing heart disease, kidney disease, lung ailments, stroke, oral health, lupus, child nutrition, HIV/AIDS, mental health disorders, gun violence as a public health threat, and other chronic and infectious diseases.

I am glad that, during tonight's hour, we will be focused on strengthening our public health infrastructure and on developing community-oriented, multidisciplinary approaches to public health, which will close the national health disparity gap.

□ 1945

This National Minority Health Month the CBC will work to expand access to health care, early health education, and medical investment so that we can make our communities healthier and reduce the prevalence of diseases that disproportionately cut minority lives short.

Again, I thank my coanchor for the next hour.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), who has done a tremendous job and has stepped into the gap left by the leaving of one of our former colleagues, Donna Christensen from the Virgin Islands. Ms. KELLY has stepped up to fill the position at the Health Braintrust. She has been a fighter in this area prior to coming to the Congress and has continued to demonstrate her leadership along these lines.

At this point in time, it is my honor to hear from a member of the CBC who has been a leader, seasoned in so many areas and aspects, and has been a real mentor and a role model for me as I come here and try to fight for the American people every day, as he does for his constituents in Illinois, the Honorable DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. PAYNE, for the leadership that he provides, and I am delighted to be here with my colleagues as we talk about one of the most pernicious problems that exists in our country, and that is

the tremendous disparity that exists among minorities—African Americans, Latinas, and Native Americans—when it comes to health and health care.

Millions of racial and ethnic minorities have been and continue to be disproportionately suffering. Health disparities among minorities have been neglected for many decades in this Nation, and as a result, millions of racial and ethnic minority Americans continue to lack access to reliable and quality health care. They are often suffering more from comorbidities and poor health outcomes and are more likely to die prematurely from preventable causes compared to their white counterparts.

Examples of these pervasive health disparities include the following:

The infant mortality rate for African Americans and American Indian/Alaska Natives are more than two times higher than that for whites;

African Americans with heart disease are three times more likely to be operated on by high-risk surgeons than their white counterparts with heart disease;

Hispanic Latina women have the highest incidence rate for cancers of the cervix, 1.6 times higher than that for white women, with a cervical cancer death rate that is 1.4 times higher than for white women;

Puerto Ricans have an asthma prevalence rate over 2.2 times higher than non-Hispanic whites, and over 1.8 times higher than non-Hispanic blacks;

Together, African Americans and Hispanics account for 27 percent of the total U.S. population yet account for 62 percent of all new HIV infections;

American Indian/Alaska Natives have diabetes rates that are nearly three times higher than the overall rate;

Of the more than 1 million people infected with chronic hepatitis B in the United States, half are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Of course, one of the bright spots in healthcare delivery in this Nation now is the Affordable Care Act. Minorities make up about 30 percent of the population but are 50 percent of the uninsured. Currently, the ACA, since its enactment, has allowed health insurance coverage for 16.4 million Americans who were not insured prior to this law.

Another bright spot is community health centers, which are celebrating their 50th year. The first of these centers was actually approved and funded, the first one being a project between Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, and Bolivar County, Mississippi. It was called the Tufts-Delta Project. Since that time, they now are providing quality health care to more than 23 million low- and moderate-income individuals throughout the Nation.

Of course, one of the great needs is the need for health education and the recognition that, as people learn how

to better care for themselves and to make more effective use of the resources that are available, not only do we save money, but we also save lives.

I was amazed, as people spoke against the Affordable Care Act, where, for the first time in their lives, many individuals were going to have access to a regular primary care physician so they didn't have to go to the emergency room of hospitals and get what is called episodic care. So while the disparities are great, we know that progress is perhaps even greater.

I end with being at a church just the other day where we were having something called organ transplant Sunday, and the minister of this particular church had had two heart transplants and a kidney transplant. He preached every Sunday and owned a construction company that he ran. That is why we need to make sure that we put adequate resources into research and the funding of new approaches and new techniques.

I want to thank my colleagues for this evening, for the opportunity to talk about not only the great needs, but also to talk about some of the progress that is being made.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, my colleague, Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY DAVIS), who, as I stated in my opening remarks about him, has been a deliberate and conscious fighter for not only his constituents, but Americans that find themselves facing these disparities all around the Nation.

Next it is my honor to hear from the gentlelady from Alabama, the Honorable TERRI SEWELL, who had a wonderful participation in her district last month of the 50th anniversary of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where many of my colleagues were able to go down and celebrate that great victory in this Nation's history, and I was sorry I couldn't be there, but I watched from afar and was very delighted to see such an outpouring of respect for a moment in our history that can never be forgotten, and we can never let the clock be turned back, as we say.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Thank you so much. I want to commend my colleagues from Illinois and New Jersey for having this wonderful CBC hour on minority health and the disparities that exist.

I want to talk for a minute about how we in Congress have tried to address these disparities. You know, our Nation celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act in March. This anniversary marked the historic progress our Nation has made towards making health care not just a privilege, but a right for every American.

The ACA has significantly affected the minority population by trying to close the gap on the disparity by giving

access to affordable healthcare insurance for all Americans. Thanks to the ACA, health insurers can no longer deny coverage to individuals because of preexisting conditions, and women no longer have to pay higher premiums than men. Because of this law, millions of Americans can finally afford to go to the doctor, and families no longer risk losing their home savings and all that they have if a family member gets sick.

For those who already had insurance, the ACA has meant new savings and new protections. This has even been true in my home State of Alabama, a State that did not choose to enact a healthcare exchange, a State that did not expand Medicaid. During the most recent enrollment period, more than 171,000 Alabamians enrolled in quality healthcare coverage at a price that they could afford. Over 1.1 million Alabamians with private health insurance now have access to free preventive services, and Alabamians with Medicare have saved more than \$240 million in prescription drug costs. In 2014 alone, nearly 90,000 Alabamians saved an average of \$931 for prescriptions. Yes, even in my State of Alabama, which chose not to enact a healthcare exchange and not to expand Medicaid, the ACA is working.

These are more than just numbers. Greater access to healthcare insurance leads to a healthier population, which is good news not only for Alabamians, but for all Americans. The ACA, indeed, works. That is why I have proudly defended the ACA against numerous attacks to undermine or repeal the law. Bipartisanship is possible. Members from both sides of the aisle in both Chambers must work together to strengthen our healthcare system and to ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare insurance.

In March, I was proud that 392 of us in the House of Representatives agreed on a permanent fix to the flawed Medicare physician payment system and an extension to the Children's Health Insurance Program, otherwise known as CHIP. This bipartisan agreement marked a historic victory for our children of this Nation. It also was a victory for our seniors, working class families, and healthcare providers. We must continue to work together to ensure the healthcare system is working for all of us.

Unfortunately, for many working poor individuals and families, access to quality health care is still out of their reach. An estimated 191,000 Alabamians, for example, are uninsured because our Governor has refused to expand Medicaid. Let me repeat that. 191,000 Alabamians would benefit if our Governor would expand Medicaid in the State of Alabama. These individuals pay their taxes, work hard, and contribute to their communities. Our gov-

ernment should assist them in return. Governor Robert Bentley recently created the Alabama Health Care Improvement Task Force to examine ways to increase access to health care in rural Alabama.

□ 2000

I welcome my Governor's establishment of this task force. I know that when this task force meets, it will recommend expanding Medicaid.

My hope is that we will put partisan politics aside in my great State of Alabama and look to what is in the best interest of all the people. Clearly, 191,000 Alabamians fall in that gap, those who currently cannot get healthcare insurance because this State would refuse to expand Medicaid.

I find it ironic, Mr. Speaker, that my Governor would choose to recommend expanding taxes. Increasing taxes is his current proposal on the floor in the statehouse in order to meet the shortfall that exists in my State.

Let's just think about that. My Governor would rather increase taxes than to accept money from the Federal Government to expand Medicaid—how shortsighted.

No State that refuses to expand Medicaid has been better off without it. Without the expansion, the dramatic healthcare needs of Alabama's working poor will remain unmet; and rural hospitals, many of which I represent, will face growing financial challenges that will undoubtedly lead to reduced services.

According to a 2013 study conducted by the Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama, the Medicaid expansion would create \$28 billion in overall business activity in the State of Alabama. There has not been another economic development investment in the State of Alabama that would bring the State more than 30,000 new jobs annually.

A 2012 study conducted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health found that Medicaid expansion in our State would generate \$20 billion in new economic activity and a \$925 million increase in State tax revenues—yes, revenues to our State.

Expanding Medicaid is clearly not only a moral imperative, but I would say to you that it is an economic imperative in my State. With each day that our State delays expansion, more Alabamians are unable to work due to unrelated health conditions. More rural hospitals have to cut services because of uncompensated care provided in their emergency rooms.

With each day that my State delays expanding, Alabamians continue to forego the immense economic benefit that results from this investment. The greatest casualty, Mr. Speaker, are the most vulnerable Americans, the most vulnerable in our society: the poor, the

working poor, the unemployed, the uninsured.

It is unacceptable that the State of Alabama has not chosen to expand Medicaid. We owe it to Alabama taxpayers to expand Medicaid now.

I want to commend my colleagues, Representatives PAYNE and KELLY, for choosing to talk about the effects of health care on minority populations. I would add that in this day and age, when we have a law—the Affordable Care Act—that stands ready and willing to help Americans help themselves—after all, what we are saying is we are giving access to affordable healthcare insurance, insurance that they have to pay for, insurance that they can get subsidized if they are the working poor—we deserve it as Americans.

In this great country, no one should go without health care, no one, especially those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

I hope that through talking about the disparities that exist in minority health, we also remember that this great institution did do something that would help decrease the disparity. We chose to pass the Affordable Care Act, and every time, we have defended it against repeal.

It is time that States like the State of Alabama get with the program. It is time States like Alabama expand Medicaid and that we choose our people over politics. Partisan politics should not rule the day; instead, we should care more about the people we represent than the partisan politics of each of our parties.

I thank my colleagues for continuing the fight. The CBC Special Order hour is very important. It highlights not only what is important to minority communities—because what is important to minority communities is important to all vulnerable communities in America.

I want to thank my colleagues for continuing this great tradition. I want to thank them for choosing to talk about health care and the disparities that exist in this country.

I want to urge all of the Alabama lawmakers who are listening to my voice, the State lawmakers who are in Montgomery today, that we need to work together to expand Medicaid in the State of Alabama. The medical case is there. The economic case is there. The moral case is there.

Let's do what is right for all Alabamians, and let's expand Medicaid today.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for her eloquent remarks on the topic of the evening. Irrespective of where you are in this Nation, these issues are a common thread in communities throughout this Nation.

I am not surprised that the gentlewoman from Alabama, Representative SEWELL, is able to talk about the same

issues that we are able to talk about in New Jersey, Illinois, California, Florida, and across this Nation, across this great land.

At this time, I would like to hear from the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), an outstanding Member of the United States House of Representatives. In just her second term, she has demonstrated her superior leadership skills. She is a member of my class, the "class" of the class.

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank my colleagues, Congressman DONALD PAYNE and Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for leading this evening's critical discussion on "The State of Black Health: A Congressional Black Caucus Assessment During National Minority Health Month."

Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that we are here today because, certainly, we have had many firsthand experiences to know the disparities that exist across all Americans but, more specifically, across African American communities.

To you, Mr. PAYNE, thank you for having the foresight to come tonight; and to you, Congresswoman KELLY, thank you for taking a leadership position in helping us share with the Nation the value and the importance of protecting all lives but giving information to the Nation about the state of black health.

It is imperative that we continue to address health disparities that affect racial minorities and work together on the efforts to advance health equity.

Since July 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus has sponsored national conferences and held brain trusts on black health. It is so timely that we have this discussion as we observe National Minority Health Month.

Tonight is a call to action, a charge for all of us to unite towards a common goal of improving the health of our communities. Everyone in America should be able to live a healthy life, regardless of the color of their skin.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is the overall health of an American has improved over the past few decades. This is, in part, due to the increased focus on preventive medicine and dynamic new advances in medical technology.

However, not all Americans have benefited equally from healthcare improvements. Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans now have access to quality, affordable coverage.

According to the American Medical Association, recent studies have shown that despite the steady improvement in overall health of the United States, racial and ethnic minorities experience a lower quality of health services and are less likely to receive routine medical procedures and have higher rates of morbidity and mortality than non-minorities.

Disparities in health care exist even when controlling for gender, condition,

age, and socioeconomic status. For example, cardiovascular diseases account for the largest proportion of inequality in life expectancy between African Americans and non-Hispanic whites.

According to the American Cancer Society, African American women have a 44 percent higher death rate from breast cancer, despite having a mammography screening rate that is nearly the same rate for white women.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the CDC, the infant death rate among African Americans is still more than double that of whites.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, you are going to hear my colleagues and I discuss much data and statistics because I am from the great State of Ohio and Ohio ranks 47th in the Nation in infant mortality, with black infants dying at twice the rate of white infants.

According to a 2015 study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, in Ohio, on average, 14.5 black infants die per every 1,000 live births, while 6.3 white infants die.

Ohio community leaders and the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force are working hard to lower Franklin County's infant mortality rate and the infant mortality rate in all of Ohio. Tonight, I salute them for their research, for their education, and for their consistency to save lives. The statistics are staggering, and we can and must do more to lower and eliminate them.

The societal burden of healthcare disparities in America manifest in multiple and major ways. For example, a 2014 study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies concluded that "the combined costs of health inequalities and premature death in the United States were \$1.24 trillion." That \$1.24 trillion is the cost between 2003 and 2006.

That is why, on March 23, 2010, when President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, it was a monumental step that has helped us address the overwhelming statistics and health disparities within our community. I proudly supported the Affordable Care Act because lives matter. All lives matter. Black lives matter.

Now, we have comprehensive healthcare reform that improves access to affordable health coverage and guarantees that the most vulnerable in our communities have access to care. By improving access to quality health care for all Americans, the Affordable Care Act helps reduce health disparities.

How does the Affordable Care Act do this? This law invests in prevention and wellness, gives individuals more control over their care, and expands initiatives to increase racial and ethnic diversity in healthcare professions by strengthening cultural competency training for all healthcare providers and improving communications between providers and patients.

The Affordable Care Act represents the most significant Federal effort to reduce disparities in this country's history.

Congressman PAYNE and Congresswoman KELLY, again, I salute you. I am going to repeat that because it is so important for us to let the Nation know that the Affordable Care Act represents the most significant Federal effort to reduce disparities in this country's history.

The Affordable Care Act also increases funding for community health centers which serve an estimated one in three low-income people and one in four low-income minority residents.

There are over 43 community health centers, Mr. Speaker, in Ohio, including many in my district: Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers, and Lower Lights Christian Health Centers.

These community health centers provide outstanding primary care, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services in our most underserved areas. In 2013, community health centers provided care to over 550,000 Ohioans and recorded over 2 million patient visits.

We have come a long way, Madam Speaker, but there is still much more for us to do. All people should have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential for health. We must continue to move forward to combat health disparities, build healthier communities, and create a stronger country. In order to have a successful Nation, I believe we must have a healthy Nation.

Let me leave you with something a national figure once said:

If you neglect to recharge a battery, it dies. If you run full speed ahead without stopping for water, you lose momentum to finish the race.

Let us make sure that all Americans can finish the race.

□ 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady from Ohio. As I stated in my introduction of her, she has just demonstrated an outstanding leadership in our class that is second to none, and we can always depend on her to bring some clear thought to these issues at hand, so we would like to thank her once again.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow there will be a press conference at 1:30 with Representatives CAROLINE MALONEY and G. K. BUTTERFIELD to discuss the new JEC report on persistent economic challenges in black communities. The report is bleak. There is not a lot of good news in this report.

Nearly one in seven Americans identify themselves as African American. The third-largest racial ethnic group in the United States, African Americans have made significant social and economic progress since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; however, the black community continues to face enormous challenges.



Economic data reveals startling inequities. By many of the most important measures of economic well-being, blacks lag far behind the majority white population. And that is just the overview of the report. That is just the start.

I hope the people watching at home and my colleagues in earshot of me will be there tomorrow to support our colleagues at 1:30 at the HVC Studio A.

I would like to give my colleague, Representative KELLY, the opportunity to provide us more information on the issue at hand. As was mentioned, the Affordable Care Act, something that has passed this Congress, and there have been many attempts to thwart it and repeal it, but the majority is never successful at doing that because people understand what this legislation has meant to this Nation.

You see, it makes sense for more people to have quality affordable health care, and that has been the issue. The first word in the act, "affordable," has been prohibitive for many Americans to have the health care that they need and desire.

But this legislation has made it available to 16 million more people in this country. Sixteen million people have benefited from this piece of legislation that is continually under attack.

Actually, it is 16 million and one, because I have heard a candidate—the first person to announce they are running for President of the United States in 2016, who is a Senator, who hails from the great State of Texas—say that with him running, his wife will lose, will stop working at her job, dedicate herself to this campaign, so his health care was under her benefits.

Well, guess what? In a kind of coy little shrewd way, he said, Well, you know, now I will take the mantle of getting health care for my family.

You mean the Affordable Care Act, sir? The issue you railed about constantly for years since you have come to the Senate?

Oh, well that is different.

It is absolutely incredible, when I sat there and watched him try to dance around that, that he is now in the exchange. It was a sight to see.

But I will get off of that and let my colleague from Illinois provide us some information.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE.

Something I want to speak about is oral health. As we discuss the state of black America, I want to address a topic that is so often left out of the public health discourse, and that is the issue of oral health in America.

Earlier this year, the CBC Health Braintrust recognized National Children's Dental Health Month, and back in February I had the opportunity to go around my district in a mobile dental van to observe local dentists per-

forming free oral health screenings around the community.

These types of effort matter, and oral health is a critical piece to overall health wellness. The sad fact is that all across our Nation, many communities are experiencing serious oral health crises.

Far too many people in urban, suburban, and rural America are lacking access to dental care, despite the efforts of committed dental professionals and social service organizations.

We must recognize that access to dental health care across the country is not equal. Each year, nearly 50 million Americans, including 16 million low-income children in underserved communities, go without the oral health services they need.

As we continue the national discussion on improving health care and reducing health disparities in America, it is important that oral health be central to the conversation.

When officials discuss health care and wellness, they should remember that the mouth is connected to the rest of the body. This seems to be forgotten in the current dialogue about improving health outcomes for all.

This year I introduced H.R. 539, the Action for Dental Health Act, which allows organizations to qualify for Health and Human Service oral health grants to support activities that improve oral health education and dental disease prevention.

This includes developing and expanding outreach programs that will facilitate establishing dental homes for children and adults, including the elderly, blind and disabled.

This bipartisan legislation will target crucial Federal dollars to State and local dental organizations to provide proven oral health care services in a manner that effectively addresses the barriers to dental care many Americans face. It will have a significant impact on many underserved communities.

I think the majority of my colleagues know that regular visits to the dentist do more than keep your smile attractive. They can tell a lot about your overall health, including whether or not you may be developing a disease like diabetes or if you are at risk for a stroke.

As the CBC takes on the critical task of creating healthier communities by breaking down barriers, oral health is a subject that must be addressed. This will ultimately help reduce unnecessary health-care costs by minimizing and eliminating dental diseases in their early stages.

As I mentioned earlier, I recently visited a new mobile dental van operated by a hospital in an underserved community in my district that had a stop at the hospital's Women, Infant, and Children's Center. They had a pediatric dentist on hand to provide babies and toddlers with their first dental exams.

I saw firsthand the critical need for dental care, not only for these young children, but for their parents. This highlighted all too well the gaps in dental care that are particularly prevalent in minority communities.

Viewing the care and service these dental professionals displayed to kids, many of whom had never been to a dentist, reminded me of kids like Deamonte Driver.

You may recall, he was the 12-year old boy from Maryland who died from an untreated tooth infection that spread lethal bacteria to his brain. An untreated tooth condition that could have been resolved with a routine extraction cost this boy his life. How is that possible in the most innovative, wealthy Nation in the world?

I think we should be doing more to support volunteer dental projects in underserved communities and improve oral health education, with a particular focus on early oral health education and care for children. We all know the link between good dental care and overall health has been well established.

As we look for ways to raise a healthier generation of children, increasing access and removing barriers to dental care must be at the forefront. Through legislation like H.R. 539, the Action for Dental Health Act, I am working to increase access to dental care and build healthier communities. In improving the state of black health and the state of American health, I ask that we lift up the issue of oral health, and ask that my colleagues take the first step by cosponsoring H.R. 539.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Illinois. That is so true. And as you stood there and stated those issues, that is something that we have known for quite some time, how oral care impacts so many other parts of your health—and as you mentioned, could really show you the onset of diabetes.

I mention diabetes, Madam Speaker, because I have been out for several weeks now with a foot infection. And it got pretty severe and had to be operated on. But what has complicated the circumstance with my foot is me being a diabetic, a very noncompliant diabetic, a diabetic who did not take it seriously, did not take the medicines that I should have for years.

This circumstance with my foot made it all so very clear what needed to be done. The circumstance frightened me into doing everything that I am supposed to now, so you are looking at a compliant diabetic. But it is crucial, and the diabetes is what has complicated the healing of my foot.

Now, I am a very fortunate person in this country. I am living an American Dream that I did not realize would happen to me because of another issue of my father losing his bout with colorectal cancer. He was the Member prior to me, and I took his place.

But we were fortunate. We have always had good health care. We are talking about the disparities and the inequities in this Nation for people who are not in the positions that Representative KELLY, myself, and other well-to-do Americans are who have health care that keeps them alive.

Now, whether you use it or not is really up to you. But we are afforded that opportunity to get great health care.

We are talking about people who want health care but cannot afford it and find themselves in emergency rooms as their visit to the doctor. They have to wait until they are very ill and go to the emergency room, which is how they get their health care. That costs this Nation millions and billions of dollars.

But what the Affordable Care Act has done is given a lot of these people the opportunity to get pre-screenings and pro-care prior to showing up at the emergency room.

So whether people realize it or not, you end up paying for these people who cannot afford their own health care in your premium, because someone is going to cover it. The insurance companies aren't going to just cover it. The hospitals aren't, so we pay it in our premiums.

So as you get more people their own health care, it drives the cost down. It will drive the cost down in this Nation, and we will all benefit from more people being healthier. That is what the Affordable Care Act is about. That is what it does. That is what it does.

□ 2030

I am so fortunate to live in this Nation, to be able to represent the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey, and to stand here and fight for not only the people of the 10th District of New Jersey, but every American that deserves an equal opportunity. That is what it is about.

It is not about favor; it is about the opportunity, the equal opportunity. And we see these disparities, inequities in health care, in economics all across the board, all across this Nation.

It is incumbent upon us as the Congressional Black Caucus to speak up for the residents that we represent, children and infants.

You know, even in the 21st century, health disparities are stark, especially in African American communities, where life expectancies are lower and infant mortality rates are higher. Children of color who live below the poverty line are much more likely to suffer from asthma, develop ADHD, and contract diseases because they can't afford vaccinations. It is the situation across the board. Cancer, African Americans have the highest death rate and the shortest survival rate of any racial ethnic group in the United States. And it just goes on and on.

It is important that we get the message out. And we will continue to fight with Representative ROBIN KELLY, head of the Health Braintrust. I know the work that she will do on behalf of the American people.

So, Madam Speaker, with that, I would just like to thank Ms. KELLY for the opportunity to speak on what I feel is a dire, dire situation in this country, the inequity in health disparities.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE. Welcome back. And I am glad you are taking care of yourself.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues for taking the time during National Minority Health Awareness Month to assess the very critical state of black health in America.

As stated earlier, the health disparities facing communities of color are too significant to adequately address in just an hour. As a recent CDC Health Disparities Report demonstrated:

Blacks diagnosed with HIV are less likely than any other groups to be linked to care, retained in care, receive treatment, and achieve adequate viral suppression;

Although black Americans represent only 12 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 44 percent of new HIV infections and represented 49 percent of all deaths with HIV in 2010. Furthermore, blacks also accounted for 49 percent of new AIDS diagnoses in 2011;

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Population Estimates, 84 percent of all reported tuberculosis cases occurred in racial and ethnic minorities. African Americans accounted for 40 percent of TB cases amongst U.S.-born persons.

These facts account for a few of the health disparities affecting the state of black health.

The Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust is committed to strengthening our Nation's public health infrastructure and developing community-oriented, multidisciplinary approaches to public health. We will continue to work vigorously to address health gaps existing in the black community, empower communities, and improve health access in efforts to march toward a healthier future.

Black lives matter. The state of black health matters, and we are confident that if we all join together, we can alleviate health disparities facing minority communities across this Nation.

I thank my colleagues and my co-chair, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, Jr., for this hour of discussion, this hour of opportunity, and this hour of change.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the CBC Special Order Hour, "The State of Black

Health: A CBC Assessment During National Minority Health Month." Unfortunately, during a time when the best and most promising health innovation and treatments exist, many individuals in our population face disparities and inequalities in health access, delivery, and outcomes.

Since April is National Minority Health Month, we must highlight these existing disparities and enact policies that focus on eliminating inequalities and improving the nation's health at large. The future of our nation's health mostly depends on the effectiveness of federal, state, and local policies. Traditionally, African Americans and Latinos face the worst health disparities in this country and in my home state of Texas.

Generally, the death rate for blacks is higher than whites for heart disease, stroke, cancer, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and homicide. In 2010, about two of five Latino adults and one in four black adults were uninsured. While behavioral risk and environmental factors are certainly at play for much of our population, the lack of health care access and especially access to preventive health services in the black and Latino communities increases the inequalities in each category.

Currently, the adult obesity rate for blacks is 47.8 percent, 42.5 percent for Latinos, and 32.6 percent for whites. Broken down further, 56.6 percent of black females are obese while 37.1 percent of black males are obese. The black population is the most obese among whites and Latinos in all categories except for black males which is led by Latinos. Obesity takes much of the blame for negative long-term health impacts such as high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

While the Affordable Care Act has certainly helped to improve access to preventive services within minority communities, much can be done to improve the aforementioned inequalities. The Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health have laid out several initiatives to promote health equity and close the disparity gap between minorities and white Americans. We must support the social, economic, and environmental policies that the CDC and OMH have recommended in order to achieve health equity and eliminate disparities.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressmen PAYNE and KELLY for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour.

My Congressional district in Ohio includes much of Cuyahoga County. A few years ago, the county analyzed the relationship between a resident's life-expectancy and neighborhood, with incredible, but not surprising results.

The study found that people who lived in Hough, a low-income and predominantly African-American neighborhood in Cleveland, could expect to live 24 years less than someone who resided in Lyndhurst, an affluent, predominantly white suburb of the city, less than 10 miles away.

While Hough and Lyndhurst are extreme examples, they accurately represent national trends: African Americans live, on average, four years less than their white peers.

It is unacceptable that the American health care system, which attracts students, physicians and patients from across the world, does

not serve all the citizens of this country equally.

Sadly, the consequences of health disparities have a major impact on our nation's children.

Students who attend predominantly minority schools often do not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, places to exercise, or many of the other resources we know are necessary for a healthy lifestyle.

It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to ensure our constituents have the opportunity to be healthy, regardless of how much they make, where they live, or what they look like.

I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress, the Administration, local and state governments, and private partners to make good on that obligation.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY and Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr. for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing this important discussion on the state of Black Health in America.

Madam Speaker, every April, we observe National Minority Health Awareness Month. This year is particularly significant as we mark 30 years since the groundbreaking Health and Human Services Task Force on Black and Minority Health report. This report sparked the first serious discussion in Washington on addressing the deep racial health disparities that exist in this country.

This year also marks 50 years since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid—programs that have kept and continue to keep Americans healthy.

We are also celebrating the fifth year anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act—the most significant legislation to improve the health of all Americans in more than a generation.

These legislative achievements continue moving us closer to health equity for all—however, major health disparities still exist.

The zip code in which you are born still determines your likely life expectancy.

Gross disparities exist from zip code to zip code—even within the same city or county.

So today, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to bring to light the state of Black health in America and call for more action to address persistent and lingering disparities in health access, treatment and care.

Since the passage of The Affordable Care Act, access to care has dramatically expanded in communities of color. The uninsured rate has declined 7.3 percent in the African American community. And more people have access to affordable, quality healthcare—all thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

When we were crafting the Affordable Care Act, I had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

And let me tell you, we worked day and night with our colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, to push Congress and the Administration to craft the best possible bill.

Since its passage, the Affordable Care Act has improved the American health care system: Healthcare is now more affordable and accessible than ever

Women can no longer be discriminated against because they are a woman, have a pre-existing condition—such as HIV/AIDS—or have been the victim of domestic violence;

Young people can stay on their parent's health insurance until they are 26; and

People with serious conditions, like cancer, no longer face the real fear of hitting their lifetime cap and being denied life-saving treatment.

The ACA also expands the capacity of the healthcare delivery system to better serve those at risk for and living with HIV/AIDS.

These are the facts. The Affordable Care Act has dramatically increased access to preventative care for women, low-income communities, and people of color.

Despite rabble-rousing and grandstanding from the right, this law is saving lives—every day, in communities across America—from Maine to my district in the East Bay.

During the last enrollment period, 16.4 million Americans obtained health insurance, and more than half a million came from my home state of California.

Make no mistake—the Affordable Care Act is working.

African Americans and Latinos, historically underinsured or uninsured groups, have seen the greatest declines in their uninsured rates. This is especially good news for African Americans who are living with HIV, where the key to halting the epidemic is access to affordable and quality care.

With this increase in coverage, we are beginning to close the gap in racial and ethnic health disparities and access to care.

However, much work remains to truly realize health equity in America.

Right now—in America, the richest and most powerful country in the world—African Americans still suffer from disproportionately high numbers of preventable deaths, disparities in access to quality health care, and underrepresentation within the medical community.

African Americans have the highest mortality rate of any racial and ethnic group from cancer.

Furthermore, African-Americans are 40% more likely to die from a stroke than whites, and 30% more likely to die from heart disease than whites.

And while African Americans are only 13% of the U.S. population, they account for nearly half of all new HIV infections. African Americans also account for the highest HIV-related deaths and HIV death rates.

Madam Speaker—this is unacceptable.

In an age where technology and innovation are paving the way to new medical breakthroughs, these persistent disparities in healthcare cannot be allowed to continue.

That is why today, I urge my colleagues: Let's work together and commit ourselves to passing legislation that will end racial and ethnic disparities and achieve health equity.

The Affordable Care Act was a good start but more is needed.

For years, the Congressional tri-caucus has championed this effort by introducing The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA). Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY will have the honor in introducing this important legislation this Congress and I am proud to co-lead this

effort as co-chair of the CAPAC Health Task Force.

This important legislation builds on the Affordable Care Act and puts us on track to eliminate health disparities in our country.

The Health Equity and Accountability Act would address incidences of terminal and chronic diseases that disproportionately affect communities of color, including cancer, diabetes, heart disease and HIV/AIDS.

So, in recognition of National Minority Health Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill in order to truly achieve health equity for all.

Madam Speaker, the state of black health in America is improving, but much work remains before us.

As our drum major for justice, Dr. King, told us, "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

I urge my colleagues to join us in securing health equity for all.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, National Minority Health Month is a very important time to bring awareness to the many health concerns facing minority communities.

My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and I understand the very difficult challenges facing us in the form of huge health disparities among our community and other minority communities.

We will continue to seek solutions to those challenges. It is imperative for us to improve the prospects for living long and healthy lives and fostering an ethic of wellness in African-American and other minority communities. Certainly, the Affordable Care Act, which I co-sponsored and worked on has brought a new quality of life and access to healthcare for millions of Americans including minorities.

I thank all of my CBC colleagues who have been toiling in the vineyards for years developing effective public policies and securing the resources needed to eradicate racial and gender disparities in health and wellness.

Let me focus these brief remarks on what I believe are some of the greatest impediments to the health and wellness of the African-American community and other minority communities.

The first challenge is reversing the dangerous trend of increasing obesity in juveniles and young adults. Cancer, diabetes and hepatitis are of great importance as well as combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Finally, we must confront the leading cause of death of young African-American males between the ages of 15–24; that cause is not disease or accidental death, but homicide.

#### OBESITY

Although the obesity rates among all African-Americans are alarming, as Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially concerned about the childhood obesity epidemic among African-American youth. More than 40 percent of African-American teenagers are overweight, and nearly 25 percent are obese.

In 2007, my office in concert with the office of Congressman Towns and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, held a widely-attended issue forum entitled, "Childhood Obesity: Factors Contributing to Its Disproportionate Prevalence in Low Income Communities."

At this forum, a panel of professionals from the fields of medicine, academia, nutrition, and the food industry discussed the disturbing increasing rates of childhood obesity in minority and low-income communities, and the factors that are contributing to the prevalence in these communities.

What we know is that African-American youth are consuming less nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables and are not getting enough physical exercise. This combination has led to an epidemic of obesity, which directly contributes to numerous deadly or life-threatening diseases or conditions, including the following: hypertension, dyslipidemia (high cholesterol or high triglyceride levels), Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, asthma bronchitis, sleep apnea, and other respiratory problems, cancer (breast, colon, and endometrial).

When ethnicity and income are considered, the picture is even more troubling. African-American youngsters from low-income families have a higher risk for obesity than those from higher-income families.

Since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of overweight and obesity has increased sharply for both adults and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among African-American male adults aged 20–74 years the prevalence of obesity increased from 15.0% in 1980 survey to 32.9% in the 2004.

There were also increases in overweight among children and teens. For children aged 2–5 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5.0% to 13.9%; for those aged 6–11 years, prevalence increased from 6.5% to 18.8%; and for those aged 12–19 years, prevalence increased from 5.0% to 17.4%.

As the debate over how to address the rising childhood obesity epidemic continues, it is especially important to explore how attitudes, environmental factors, and public policies influence contribute to obesity among African-American males.

Some of these contributing factors are environmental, others are cultural, still others are economic, and others still may be lack of education or information. But one thing is clear: we must find ways to remove them.

#### CANCER

Certain groups in the United States are not doing as well as others when it comes to preventing and surviving cancer.

Many such disparities are apparent among certain minority populations such as African Americans and Hispanics.

The reasons why cancer adversely affects these groups are largely related to issues such as poverty, access to health care, and other socioeconomic factors.

The cancer death rate among African American men is 27% higher compared to non-Hispanic white men.

The death rate for African American women is 11% higher compared to non-Hispanic white women.

African Americans have the highest incidence rates of colorectal cancer of any racial or ethnic group.

Hispanics have higher rates of cervical, liver, and stomach cancers than non-Hispanic whites.

Liver cancer incidence and death rates among Asian/Pacific Islanders are double those among non-Hispanic whites.

#### DIABETES

About 19 percent of all non-Hispanic black Americans age 20 or older (about 5 million people) have diabetes, the highest rate of any ethnic group.

Among Hispanic adults, more than 2.5 million or about 11 percent of the population have diabetes; 14 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives are living with the disease.

Compared with non-Hispanic white adults, the risk of diabetes is 18 percent higher in Asian-Americans, 66 percent higher in Hispanics/Latinos, and 77 percent higher in non-Hispanic African-Americans.

#### HEPATITIS

In 2002, 50 percent of those infected with Hepatitis B were Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Black teenagers and young adults become infected with Hepatitis B three to four times more often than those who are white.

One recent study has found that black people have a higher incidence of Hepatitis C infection than white people.

#### HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25 to 44—ahead of heart disease, accidents, cancer, and homicide.

The rate of AIDS diagnoses for African-Americans in 2003 was almost 10 times the rate for whites.

Between 2000 and 2003, the rate of HIV/AIDS among African American males was seven times the rate for white males and three times the rate for Hispanic males.

African American adolescents accounted for 65 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2002, although they only account for 15 percent of American teenagers.

Billions and billions of private and federal dollars have been poured into drug research and development to treat and “manage” infections, but the complex life cycle and high mutation rates of HIV strains have only marginally reduced the threat of HIV/AIDS to global public health.

I have strongly supported legislation sponsored by CBC members and others to give increased attention and resources to combating HIV/AIDS, including the Ryan White CARE Act.

I support legislation to reauthorize funding for community health centers (H.R. 5573, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006), including the Montrose and Fourth Ward clinics in my home city of Houston, and to provide more nurses for the poor urban communities in which many of these centers are located (H.R. 1285, Nursing Relief Act for Disadvantaged Areas).

I have also authored legislation aimed to better educate our children (H.R. 2553, Responsible Education About Life Act in 2006) and eliminate health disparities (H.R. 3561, Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act and the Good Medicine Cultural Competency Act in 2003, H.R. 90).

We must continue research on treatments and antiretroviral therapies, as well as pursue a cure. We absolutely have to ensure that everyone who needs treatment receives it.

And we simply must increase awareness of testing, access to testing, and the accuracy of testing. Because we will never be able to stop this pandemic if we lack the ability to track it.

#### GUN VIOLENCE AND HOMICIDE

The final health challenge confronting the African-American community, and African-American males in particular, involves the issue of gun violence and homicide.

This must be a priority health issue for our community. Over 600,000 Americans are victimized in handgun crimes each year, and the African-American community is among the hardest hit.

It was only a little over a week ago that one of my constituents was, caught in a cross fire that ended his life.

Neither the mind nor the heart can contemplate a cause that could lead a human being to inflict such injury and destruction on fellow human beings.

Since 1978, on average, 33 young black males between the ages of 15 and 24 are murdered every six days. Three-quarters of these victims are killed by firearms.

In 1997, firearm homicide was the number one cause of death for African-American men ages 15–34, as well as the leading cause of death for all African-American 15–24 year olds. The firearm death rate for African-Americans was 2.6 times that of whites.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the firearms suicide rate amongst African-American youths aged 10–19 more than doubled over a 15 year period. Although African-Americans have had a historically lower rate of suicide than whites, the rate for African-Americans 15–19 has reached that of white youths aged 15–19.

A young African-American male is 10 times more likely to be murdered than a young white male. The homicide rate among African-American men aged 15 to 24 rose by 66 percent from 1984 to 1987, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Ninety-five percent of this increase was due to firearm-related murders. For African-American males, aged 15 to 19, firearm homicides have increased 158 percent from 1985 to 1993. In 1998, 94 percent of the African-American murder victims were slain by African-American offenders.

In 1997, African-American males accounted for 45 percent of all homicide victims, while they only account for 6 percent of the entire population.

It is scandalous that a 15-year-old urban African-American male faces a probability of being murdered before reaching his 45th birthday that ranges from almost 8.5 percent in the District of Columbia to less than 2 percent in Brooklyn.

By comparison, the probability of being murdered by age 45 is a mere three-tenths of 1 percent for all white males.

Firearms have become the predominant method of suicide for African-Americans aged 10–19 years, accounting for over 66 percent of suicides.

In Florida, for example, African-American males have an almost eight times greater chance of dying in a firearm-related homicide than white males. In addition, the firearm-related homicide death rate for African-American females is greater than white males and over four times greater than white females.

Nearly 50 percent of all homicide perpetrators give some type of prior warning signal such as a threat or suicide note. Among the

students who commit a school-associated homicide, 20 percent were known to have been victims of bullying and 12 percent were known to have expressed suicidal thoughts or engage in suicidal behavior.

I have been working tirelessly in Congress to end gun violence by introducing legislation to assist local governments and school administrators in devising preventive measures to reduce school-associated violent deaths.

I have introduced sensible legislation to assist law enforcement departments, social service agencies, and school officials detect and deter gun violence.

In devising such preventive measures, at a minimum, we must focus on:

Encouraging efforts to reduce crowding, increase supervision, and institute plans/policies to handle disputes during transition times that may reduce the likelihood of potential conflicts and injuries.

Taking threats seriously and letting students know who and where to go when they learn of a threat to anyone at the school and encouraging parents, educators, and mentors to take an active role in helping troubled children and teens.

Taking talk of suicide seriously and identifying risk factors for suicidal behavior when trying to prevent violence toward self and others.

Developing prevention programs designed to help teachers and other school staff recognize and respond to incidences of bullying between students.

Ensuring that each school has a security plan and that it is being enforced and that school staff are trained and prepared to implement and execute the plan.

Again, thank you all for your commitment to working to find workable solutions to the health and wellness challenges facing our communities. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to achieve our mutual goals.

#### IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DESANTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the situation with Iran.

President Obama recently said that criticism of the concessions that his administration is making to Iran "needs to stop." Well, I disagree. We in this body have a responsibility to speak the truth and to stop a dangerous deal.

Take a step back a little bit from some of the recent hullabaloo about whether Iran has the same understanding of the deal as the United States does. It is true, if you listen to the Ayatollah, he basically said the deal basically represents a complete surrender on everything from day one; and the administration, when they put out their fact sheet, what they put out was different.

Here is, I think, a fundamental problem with this. Even if you take the ad-

ministration's talking points as the meeting of the minds, even if you assume that that will be written down and memorialized, and even assume that Iran keeps the various components of the deal, the fact of the matter is this: this framework provides international legitimacy for Iran's nuclear infrastructure, and it allows Iran to use advanced centrifuges immediately.

Now, that was something that just a few years ago was thought to be totally outside the realm of what was acceptable. I think the thought amongst U.S. policymakers going back several administrations as well as other friendly countries was, look, this is a theocratic, jihadist regime in the Middle East that is sitting on centuries' worth of oil and gas. They don't need nuclear power for peaceful purposes, certainly, so why would we allow them to pursue a nuclear program knowing the ideology of the regime, knowing the threats that they have made to Israel and to the United States? Of course they don't get a nuclear program, and yet under this framework, their nuclear infrastructure is legitimized.

The sanctions relief that we are talking about is worth billions and billions of dollars to Iran. It will give Iran additional lifeblood to foment jihad and to expand its influence in the Middle East and beyond. So just know, I mean, even if you were somehow getting them to dismantle their nuclear program, when you talk about the leading state sponsor of terrorism, any sanctions relief they get is not going to go to benefit the Iranian people. That is going to be plowed into Iran doing dastardly deeds.

It is interesting, when you talk about the sanctions, and I know the Ayatollah said: Look, the sanctions are gone. As soon as that agreement is signed, they are gone.

The administration says: Oh, no. We will get rid of the sanctions as Iran complies; and if Iran cheats, we will snap back the sanctions.

The problem is that is extremely unlikely because what is going to be done, the international sanctions are going to be relaxed and then if, down the road, Iran cheats, the idea that you are going to be able to snap your fingers and get all these other countries onboard to be able to reimpose sanctions is really a fantasy.

In fact, just today brought news that Russia is resuming sales of the S-300 missile system to Iran. That had been something that they had stopped years ago. That is going to be business for Russia. It is going to be something that is going to be a huge boon to Iran in terms of protecting its nuclear infrastructure from a potential attack. It is also interesting: Russia is the country that is supposed to store Iran's uranium, yet here they are doing business.

So I think it is going to be very difficult to snap back international sanc-

If you were going to use sanctions in that way, the sanctions that you would want, you would want to come to Congress and say, "Hey, Congress, you relieve sanctions, they are going to do this; if they don't do it, then you snap back," because they know the Congress will reimpose the sanctions. And we are eager to do that, even right now.

You are not going to snap back international sanctions. So I think Iran understands that, and I think they know that once those sanctions are removed, that is going to be a continual lifeblood to them and they will be able to cheat on the agreement if they think that is what is in their best interest.

I think one of the troubling aspects of this deal, of this framework, is that the President himself, you know, a year and a half ago, laid down some red lines. He said we know certain things need to be true in agreement. Iran does not need to have an underground, fortified facility like at Fordo. He said they don't need a heavy water reactor like they have at Arak, and he said they don't need any type of advanced centrifuges if they are going to have a peaceful program.

But if you look under the announced framework, even if what the administration says is true, Fordo lives on. They say it is going to be a nuclear research facility. I am not sure why you need to have a nuclear research facility fortified underground to prevent an airstrike if you are just doing peaceful research.

Arak will still be there as a heavy water reactor, and of course Iran will have thousands of centrifuges. These are centrifuges that are not necessary to have a peaceful program.

So those are red lines that were laid down and that have been crossed.

The military sites, is there going to be any unfettered access to Iran's military sites? I think the answer seems to be absolutely not. Certainly what Iran has said, that is totally out of the question from their perspective, but it is not even clear under the administration's framework whether those military sites will be sites that inspectors can access.

And we know that in the past, in 2002, the only reason we were able to figure out that they were doing nuclear work at one of their military sites is because Iranian opposition forces, or folks who were opposed to the regime, filled us in. But that was not something that any inspectors had access to.

I think another really significant flaw in the deal is that, let's just say Iran looks at it and says: Well, if we cheat, maybe they will reimpose sanctions. We think it is unlikely, but we don't want to kind of take that risk. They have an incentive, if they want the bomb, to keep the deal because, after a 10- to 13-year period, everything is going to be gone.

So if they keep the deal, given the amount of nuclear infrastructure they are allowed to keep, they are going to be able to build a bomb at the end of that 10-or 13-year period, and that is totally outside the realm of what is ever thought to be acceptable.

Here you have a country that is very patient. They have a very, very serious ideology that they are hell-bent on pursuing. And if they have to wait 10 or 13 years before they are able to acquire a bomb, they may make that calculation: Hey, we will just keep the deal, and we are going to be home free.

I think the longer that that happens, I think you are going to be in a situation where that may make a lot of sense for them, and I think the international community will be much less inclined to want to do anything at the end of that 10- or 13-year period.

It is interesting to me, just looking at how this has unfolded. When the Ayatollah goes out and says: Death to America; we are not going to make any concessions—all this—the President is asked by the press, well, the Ayatollah is out there saying that. And he says: Well, look, he has his hard-liners he has to pacify. We are not really worried about that. That is just for domestic political consumption.

It is interesting because when Prime Minister Netanyahu was in a political campaign and he made a comment about the infeasibility of a two-state solution, given the situation in the Middle East, the administration really hung that on him. And they said: Oh, he said it. We are going to have to re-evaluate our posture at the United Nations. We may go international to try to impose some type of two-state settlement on that situation. And there, they were absolutely not willing to cut Prime Minister Netanyahu any slack.

So they cut the Ayatollah of Iran, a guy that has a lot of American blood on his hands, more slack than they will cut the Prime Minister of Israel. That, to me, is just extremely frustrating.

I think that when you hear people who will defend the framework, they will say, "Either you support this framework or you want a major war," and I think that that is a straw man, but I think that it is a straw man just simply more than the fact that a lot of people think that there are things we could do to get a better deal.

But put that aside. A bad deal makes war more likely because what you are going to see are countries in the Middle East react to Iran building a bomb. They are going to react to Iran's designs for the region. We see Iran; they are the leading patron of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Assad in Syria, the Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip, the Houthis in Yemen, and, of course, the Shiite militias in Baghdad and in other parts of Shiite Iraq.

People see that—the Sunni regimes see that, and they are going to re-

spond—and you will end up with a potentially catastrophic arms race in the most volatile region in the world.

The final point I would just make, and I have some of my colleagues here. We wanted to get some folks here who had served the country in uniform, served in the Iraq or Afghanistan campaigns.

□ 2045

The reason is because I think that anyone who has served in those conflicts knows that, at least I can say for Iraq, probably the number one source of deaths for U.S. servicemembers in Iraq came at the hands of Iranian-backed groups. Maybe not the most. It was probably pretty close, certainly hundreds of deaths, maybe as many as 1,500 deaths for groups that would explode these huge EFP bombs that would maim and kill indiscriminately. They were never really held to account for that. That brought a lot of anguish to a lot of American families who don't have their loved ones coming home as a result of that despicable regime.

So, Madam Speaker, this is not a regime that wants to be a good neighbor. They don't want to be part of a peaceful international order. It is a regime dedicated to the ideology of jihad. They have proven time and time again that they are interested and that they are willing to kill Americans with impunity.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a friend of mine and a veteran who in just a short time has really, really been powerful in speaking the truth about this deal and about the failures of American policy vis-a-vis close allies of ours such as Israel.

Mr. ZELDIN. Thank you, Mr. DESANTIS. Thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue. I also appreciate your pointing out the hypocrisy of the Obama administration having nothing to say as the Ayatollah, the people of Iran, and the leadership of the Iranian Government talk about death to America, and this President does nothing, excusing it—it is okay because of the hard-liners in Iran. Yet he will be critical of the Israeli Prime Minister, who is speaking of the lack of viability of a two-state solution. I really appreciate your leadership on all of these issues and pointing out the very hypocritical position.

Madam Speaker, I am here today to articulate some of my concerns with the current status of the Iran nuke talks. Just recently, the President announced a framework agreement with Iran. At that time he released a fact sheet. That fact sheet, within 24 hours, saw the Iranian Foreign Minister going on his Twitter feed disputing that fact sheet and calling it just spin. Both sides, the Obama administration and the Iranian Government, are both spinning in different directions for their

own domestic politics what isn't even in agreement.

An agreement requires a meeting of the minds. When you announce an agreement and both sides are disputing what the terms of that agreement are, there is no agreement. I don't know if anyone believes that the negotiators purposely left off a signature block on that fact sheet.

Let's talk about what is not included: Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, Iran blowing up mock USS warships, talking about the need to erase Israel from the map, Iran's development of ICBMs, and overthrowing foreign governments. These aren't even part of the negotiations. Nothing is being reported to the American people about how individuals who are U.S. citizens are being wrongfully held in captivity by the Iranian Government. This President's tactics with these negotiations, regardless of who the next President of the United States will be, these tactics are cutting off the leverage of that next President who may be emboldened in ways that this President isn't to tackle those challenges of the ways Iran sponsors terrorism throughout the Middle East and around the globe.

These talks are on pace to trigger a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Iran is not negotiating in good faith, and they smell American weakness, not American strength.

The Obama administration believes that the only option is to cut a deal just to cut a deal. This President should instead, with strength and courage as the leader of the free world, be bringing the Iranians to their knees. That is what strength looks like. If you want to change sanctions, strengthen them. Don't weaken them.

Madam Speaker, in 2009, the Iranians were emboldened, contesting what was supposed to be a democratic election that was widely viewed as being full of corruption. Where was President Obama in 2009 when this opportunity presented itself for the Iranian people while oil was \$100 a barrel? Our President could have exercised leadership then, and we would not even be here today. The President says that the only option is to cut this deal just to cut a deal.

I don't buy that there aren't other options to pursue. As I talk to colleagues, really, on both sides of the aisle, sharing concern with the direction of these nuke talks, there is resolve and commitment to find a third strategy. If that time comes, where the President of the United States believes he must threaten the use of dropping a bomb, he must be prepared to do it and threaten to drop 20 more. If that time in the future comes where this President or the next has to then drop another bomb, threaten to drop 50 more. Our enemies do not respect weakness; they only respect strength.

But today as we stand here in this stage of these Iran nuke talks, I stand with my colleagues who know that there is a third option that this President is not telling the American people about for his own domestic politics.

I challenge our President with strength to bring the Iranian Government to their knees. You are the leader of the free world. Act like it.

Mr. DESANTIS. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New York. I think those are great points. We are going to have some good debates here in the Congress. I don't think that having done this deal—I guess it was the day after April Fools'. We thought it was going to be April Fools', and now this being the first night back, we are just beginning.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), another veteran and another friend of mine.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate the gentleman from Florida yielding.

Madam Speaker, this is an important debate, and I know with the many decisions that you have in Florida and other things going on, what amazes me is, as was just stated, that I am not sure what the President's goal is here. The reason I believe, that most of us believe, that Iran even decided to negotiate was the fact that sanctions worked, that they were struggling under those sanctions, that they were having to deal with the reality that the world did not want them to have nuclear capability.

I am telling you, at this point, what is disturbing to me is, I am tired of this administration, this President, trying to earn accolades of the world on the back of Israel. They cannot continue to do that. Israel is the one that is suffering here. Israel will be the one that is at the point of, the tip of the spear. And for those who have served, we know that.

We know that Iran, as my friend from Florida stated earlier, Iran was behind and is behind most of the terrorism in the world many times in the world today. But yet this administration turns a blind eye because they believe that under the cloak of diplomacy that Iran will come to the table. It was not that Iran came to the table under the cloak of diplomacy. Iran came to the table because they were suffering because sanctions were working.

So, last week, the President gave an interview discussing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the deal struck by Iran and the P5+1 nations over Iran's nuclear program. More than a few things the President said during the course of the interview raised some red flags for me and should raise some uneasiness among the American people.

The first item of concern is the inability on the part of the administra-

tion to get a concession from Iran to cease its uranium enrichment program. The very thing that most of us in Congress have said is they need to cease this idea. They need to cease their pursuit of a nuclear program. We didn't get concessions.

The President said during the interview that in 13 to 15 years Iran will have the ability to develop the necessary fissile material to develop a nuclear weapon, and there will be little to nothing the international community can do to stop Iran. I am sorry, Mr. President, you will be out of office, and you will not be able to utter anything but regret at that statement because in 10 to 15 years, if they have that capability, then the rest of the world has to deal with it. Where will you be, Mr. President? A private citizen, not in a chance when you could actually do something. Stand up while you can.

We learned through this interview that the goal of the current framework isn't to end Iran's ability to reach the capacity to build a nuclear weapon but only to suspend their ability for a short time. In the framework the administration presented to the world, Iran's restriction on producing enough highly enriched uranium to build a bomb will only persist for 10 years. After 10 years, what sanctions will still be in place to bring Iran back to the negotiating table?

The framework also doesn't sit well with our allies in the region. They have understandable concerns over the U.S. getting cozy with an Iranian regime that is becoming more influential.

Apparently, the President feels that the U.S.-Israel relationship is a casual matter. When asked, Should Iran recognize Israel's right to exist? the President responded with a smile. I am sorry. As one who sat in this Chamber just a few weeks ago and heard from Benjamin Netanyahu about the importance of this problem right now with Iran, I am not one who responds with a smile when it becomes on Israel's independence and right to exist.

Until Iran acknowledges that, then nothing should be on the table. Israel should exist. It is our most important ally, and we should stand with them. For the President not to realize that is a tragedy among American life. Iran has declared that Israel should be wiped off the face of the Earth, and the President feels it is appropriate to smile about this? Excuse me. Why is he smiling about a country that wants to wipe off our most important ally?

Israel is in the most precarious position when it comes to Iran developing a nuclear device. Iran has the ability to target Israel through the use of a ballistic missile or on the ground or by one of its proxies, such as Hezbollah. The relationship between U.S. and Israel has to be so close as to not allow a crack to form. The current P5+1 framework deal is causing fissures in

what has always been an ironclad relationship.

You see, I will continue to criticize a deal that puts Israel at risk and will fight to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge in the region. The JCPA shows why it is necessary for Congress to be involved in this process. It is the role of Congress to ensure, alongside the executive branch, that our national security and the safety of our allies are maintained.

Madam Speaker, unless this administration realizes that there are some countries that, unfortunately, through their own actions, choose to say we want to be outside the norm of relations, when they choose to say Israel should not exist, when they choose to continue to fund terrorism around the world, then they should not be allowed a prestigious seat at the table to get to dictate terms. That is wrong. Until this administration realizes it, shame on this administration. If they continue to want to win public accolades for their diplomatic action, then, unfortunately, this administration is doing so on the back of Israel. I, for one, and I know many others here, will not stand for that.

Mr. President, this is not a place to try and win points on the back of our strongest ally. Listen to what the Prime Minister said. And when you listen, then you will understand that this is a bad deal. It is time to walk away.

Mr. DESANTIS. I thank my friend from Georgia for that.

Madam Speaker, it is true. This was a very simple request that was asked of the President: Did you talk to the Ayatollah's people? Did you talk to the Iranian negotiators about just recognizing Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state? So this way, this whole idea of "death to Israel, death to America" shows that Iran is serious about having peace, and the President dismissed that out of hand. He said, Look, you are not going to change the nature of a regime by asking them to recognize the right of Israel to exist.

The problem, though, with that explanation is that the whole real underpinning of this deal, I think, rests on the assumption that Iran's regime might change because when you are sunseting it in 10 or 13 years, if the regime hasn't changed by then, well, guess what? You are at a nuclear Iran at that point. So I think that they assume that there is going to be some change over the next decade. Otherwise, that sunset provision makes even less sense than it does already.

I also just know one more thing. Who is cheering this deal? The head of Hezbollah, the Lebanese terrorist group. This was a group that Iran started funding shortly after the Iranian revolution in 1979. They were responsible for killing over 240 U.S. marines at the marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, and they have been



instrumental in launching attacks against Israel ever since.

□ 2100

Here is what the head of Hezbollah said:

As a result of this deal, Iran will become richer and wealthier and will also become more influential.

He said:

This will reinforce the position of Iran's allies. A stronger and wealthier Iran in the coming phase will be able to stand by its allies and especially the Palestinian resistance more than at any other time in history.

Hezbollah sees a stronger Iran as a result of this deal. They see more support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Gaza Strip, and I think the logical inference is they see more attacks against Israel as a result of this deal. That is very, very troubling.

I would like to take this time now to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, SCOTT PERRY, another good friend of mine, a veteran from Pennsylvania, and a really strong voice on national security.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of my good friend from Florida to bring this issue to the floor and start the discussion.

Of course, when we hear from the administration that, somehow, because we are having the discussion because, somehow, we dare to question that we are on the wrong side of history, that we are unpatriotic, and literally, in many cases, the administration is trying to equate those in this Chamber, in this body, who would have a discussion and would call into question some of the tenets of this framework and then this agreement—which we didn't know much about—that we are tantamount to the same thing as the hardliners in Iran, the hardliners that had horrific human rights violations over the course of the last 50 years, as far as America is concerned, and literally do unspeakable things. That is breathtaking to me.

The problem is, among other things, that we are skeptical because our negotiating partner in this, Iran, is not trustworthy, simply not trustworthy. Just picture yourself and your own family, if you were negotiating an infraction within your own family, and while you were discussing the infraction, that member of your family was doing the exact same thing that you were discussing about the cheating. That is exactly what happened, Madam Speaker.

During the discussion, during this negotiation, we found an undisclosed site in Iran, and we don't know how many more there are. It was undisclosed. They said, Oh, well, yeah, sorry about that; you can take a look now, I suppose.

But how many more are there? Why would we trust someone like that? Why would we trust someone, knowing the

track record over the last 35 or 40 years of this country, of this nation?

I think Americans need to know where the negotiation started on both sides—what were Iran's requirements, what were the United States' requirements—because we hear this is a good deal. We understand from the administration that it is a good deal, but we want to know it is a good deal with our own eyes.

We want to see it. We want to think about it. We want to internalize it. We want to have an opportunity to ruminate on it and sleep on it and look at our children and think about our grandchildren in the world they are going to live in and think about whether this is a good deal. We are told: No, it is a good deal, take my word for it.

We don't know where negotiations started and ended for the most part, but some things, we do know. We do know that 2 years ago—heck, a year ago, enriching uranium for Iran was unforgivable, it was not allowed not only by the United States, but by the community of nations, by the United Nations.

Now, just with this framework, we have legitimized not hundreds of centrifuges, but tens of thousands of centrifuges. Meanwhile, countries around the globe, across the globe, have peaceful nuclear programs and don't have any centrifuges.

That makes one wonder—not a nuclear scientist, not a physicist, don't work at a reactor down at your local power plant—but if that is true, why did they need them? Why would we have agreed to that? We are right to be skeptical.

Iran practices strategic delay. At this point, Rouhani, the guy that wrote this book, who lauded himself for duping the West in other negotiations, is at the top of the heap right now.

You wonder why people in this body—forget people in this body. What about the vast majority of Americans that are skeptical? This is their voice. We are not necessarily only speaking for ourselves.

We are speaking for our constituents and the majority of Americans that say "hold on" to the administration. You say it is a good deal, but let's look with our own eyes because of these things, because the negotiators that negotiated the nuclear deal with North Korea that was going to disallow them to have nuclear weapons, they are the same negotiators that we have now in many cases; and, oh, by the way, in case you haven't kept up on current events, North Korea has nuclear weapons. So is it really prudent and proper for us to be skeptical? Is it prudent and proper for us to ask questions?

The biggest situation here, the biggest part of this is that there can be no mistakes. There is no margin of error with nuclear weapons. If one or two terrorists gets set free from Guanta-

namo and gets back out on the battlefield, that is regrettable; that is unacceptable, but that is very different than a nuclear blast.

Unfortunately, for Israel, they are close. We live thousands and thousands of miles away, but Israel is described by their enemies that would have this nuclear weapon as a one-bomb country because that is all it will take and it will all be over for that little country.

Now, you might wonder: Okay, well, certainly, Israel, that is bad for them, but why should we care so much?

Yeah, it is Israel, but they are over there, and we are over here, which begets the next question: Why are intercontinental ballistic missiles not included in the negotiation?

Ask yourself: What is the need for intercontinental ballistic missiles? Well, I will tell you if you don't know. It is to deliver armament. What would that armament be? Well, that would be a nuclear warhead. You don't need one to get to Israel, folks. You need one of those to get to the United States.

These folks call Israel the Little Satan. Madam Speaker, you know who the Great Satan is; that is us. If this is so good, if this is so obviously good, why isn't that included in the negotiation, in the agreement, in the framework? Look, we are just foolish Americans, but it seems to make sense to us that that should be there.

You have got to ask yourself—I have heard the administration say: Well, during the duration of this Presidential term, we can be assured there will be no nuclear weapon in Iran.

Well, thank goodness for that; but what about the rest of us that are going to plan on living out the fullest part of our lives and our children and our grandchildren that are worried past the next 2 years? Ten to 15 years is a blink of the eye, is a moment in history. That is still too short.

Never is the right answer. Never is the right answer for people and nations that act like Iran.

Now, I heard recently that the administration said that they might let Congress express themselves. I thought about that—express themselves. I don't know where that verbiage came from, but it seems to me—I am looking at my rule book here. It is the recipe which we follow to run the country. It says here, under article II, section 2, regarding the President:

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur.

Now, if you wonder what a treaty is, just go and look it up in the dictionary. It is an agreement. I keep hearing about this is a framework for a historic agreement.

Folks, ladies and gentlemen, citizens, this is an agreement between the citizens of the United States and Iran, and the President is encumbering you when

he signs this to everything therein, whether you agree with it or not.

We understand we have representative government, but that is why the Congress is supposed to be involved. That is why article II, section 2 says the Senate must provide advice and consent, so that your wishes are heard, so that your concerns are heard, not so that one guy, one person, makes a decision for the entire country on issues that are so important.

Let's talk about other issues of like importance. There is strong precedent, historical precedent, for congressional review of nonproliferation: three strategic arm reduction treaties, START treaties with Russia; the Nonproliferation Treaty; the Biological Weapons Convention; the Chemical Weapons Convention; the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty; the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in 2008; and the civilian nuclear energy agreements with Vietnam and Taiwan submitted for congressional review by this President in 2014.

If it is okay for them, why is this one any different? I would say to you that, recently, we heard that the country is stronger when the Congress and the administration work together. That was in reference to the authorization for the use of military force to confront ISIS.

Now, ISIS is a regional threat in that portion of the world that might become a growing cancer outside its bounds. I guess it is; but what is more important than nuclear war? If it is good enough for an AUMF with ISIS, why doesn't it apply here?

Finally, with your indulgence, Madam Speaker, we are told that this is a good deal and we should just trust the administration. With all due respect, I think it is important to review the recent foreign policy issues and the record. I am just going to highlight a couple of events that you might be familiar with.

The Syrian red line, the red line in Syria for the use of chemical weapons—we drew a red line, and then we watched it violated a dozen times before we said something, and then we backed off. Now, we are actually talking about having discussions and some kind of an agreement with Bashar al-Assad. That didn't work out too well.

Russia, they are doing whatever they want to in Ukraine. We have convinced the Ukrainians to dismantle their nuclear program, saying that we would be there for them if they were ever attacked, and we are nowhere. I served in Iraq and so did my good friend from Florida, and we think about all the lives and the energy and the hardship lost in Iraq. I think you can hardly call that a success under this current administration.

Afghanistan, we were staying. We were going. We were staying. We were going. That was hardly a success in my mind.

Egypt, a great wellspring of democracy where we chose the wrong side, and the Egyptian people had to choose the correct side. The Iranian green revolution, when they tried to rise up against oppression, and America turned its eyes and turned its face. Libya, where we helped overthrow a dictator, and, now, we have a failed state—and Yemen, the model of success for counterterrorism.

What about the exchange of Bowe Bergdahl for five terrorists? I mean, I don't mean to be overly and hypercritical, Madam Speaker, but it just seems to me, if future performance is indicated by past performance, we have a right to be skeptical.

All we are saying is it is right and it is our duty to question and to make sure that this is, indeed, good for the American people.

If it is good, then the administration should have no problem showing it to us and allowing us to vet it, like so many other historical precedents have. The greatness of it will be obvious to the American people and their Representatives, their Representatives here in this Hall and the Hall across the building.

With that, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. DESANTIS. I thank my friend.

I think the gentleman from Pennsylvania did a good job of putting this all into a broader perspective in terms of this administration's approach to the world.

I think, if you look around the world, there are probably two countries that we have better relations with than when this President took office; and I think, almost uniformly, everywhere else, we are worse off.

Cuba, we have much closer relationships now. The President shakes the hand of Raul Castro, a blood-stained hand, a hand that has suppressed thousands and thousands of people, that has killed the sinners, that has caused thousands of people to flee in shark-infested waters to try to reach the shore of Florida; but the President is doing business with him, not helping the Cuban people. You actually see political repression has increased since we have changed policies, but the President seems fine with that.

Then Iran, we talk with Iran a lot more than we ever have. The question is: Is that a good thing? I think the answer is a dance-with-the-devil foreign policy has really never been tried before, and I think the chance of it succeeding is almost zero.

Part of the problem we see with this framework, I think, is that it is symptomatic of a larger failure to properly address the hostile actors throughout the world.

Goodness gracious, we need to look at our allies like Israel, like democracies in Europe, and they need to know that we are going to stand with them. I think we have an approach to

the world right now where our allies can't depend on us and our adversaries don't really fear us. I think that is a bad approach, and I think, unfortunately, it is an approach that is going to invite more danger rather than keep us out of trouble.

I appreciate all my friends who came and made great comments. The President said recently that the criticism of this deal needs to stop.

Mr. President, we are not going to stop. We are going to be here; we are going to make the case on behalf of the American people, and we are going to be urging the Congress to speak loudly and clearly on behalf of American security.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through April 16 on account of paternity leave.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a Joint Resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mrs. COMSTOCK, on Monday, March 30, 2015:

H.R. 1092. An act to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building.

H.R. 1527. An act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 10. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DESANTIS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

April 13, 2015

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 161, Pt. 4

4827

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Of-

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROBERT STORY KAREM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 14 AND FEB. 21, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Robert Karem .....	2/15	2/17	Poland .....		541.93						541.93
	2/17	2/19	Germany .....		588.68						588.68
	2/19	2/21	Belgium .....		610.60						610.60
Total Transport .....	2/14	2/21					7,127.70				7,127.70
Daniel Silverberg .....	2/18	2/19	Germany .....		294.34						294.34
	2/19	2/20	Belgium .....		305.39						305.39
Total Transport .....	2/17	2/20					3,081.34				3,081.34
Committee total .....					2,340.94		10,209.04				12,549.98

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT KAREM, Mar. 20, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 13 AND FEB. 17, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Mike Turner .....	2/14	2/16			765.00		1,221.00				1,986.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez .....	2/14	2/16			765.00		8,589.00				9,354.00
Hon. Tom Marino .....	2/14	2/17			1,067.00		2,449.00				3,516.00
Hon. Brett Guthrie .....	2/14	2/17			1,067.00		2,235.00				3,302.00
Hon. Paul Cook .....	2/14	2/16			765.00		8,589.00				9,354.00
Hon. Robert Pittenger .....	2/14	2/15			463.00		8,589.00				9,052.00
Hon. Ted Poe .....	2/14	2/16			765.00		2,020.00				2,785.00
Hon. Rick Larsen .....	2/14	2/16			765.00		2,449.00				3,214.00
Jeff Dressler .....	2/14	2/17			1,067.00		2,449.00				3,516.00
Janice Robinson .....	2/14	2/17			1,067.00		2,449.00				3,516.00
Ed Rice .....	2/14	2/18			1,067.00		2,449.00				3,516.00
Jason Steinbaum .....	2/14	2/18			1,067.00		2,449.00				3,516.00
Committee total .....	2/14	2/18			10,690.00		45,934.00				56,624.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Mar. 16, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND HAITI, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 17 AND FEB. 22, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Nancy Pelosi .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Eliot Engel .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Anna Eshoo .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Nydia Velazquez .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Rosa DeLauro .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Collin Peterson .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. James McGovern .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Steve Israel .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. David Cicilline .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Dr. Brian Monahan .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Robert Fitzpatrick .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Wyndee Parker .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Jaime Lizarraga .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Kate Knudson Wolters .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Bina Surgeon .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Jorge Aguillar .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Eric Jacobstein .....	2/17	2/19	Cuba .....		766.00		(3)				766.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Eliot Engel .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Anna Eshoo .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Nydia Velazquez .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Rosa DeLauro .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Collin Peterson .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. James McGovern .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Steve Israel .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. David Cicilline .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Dr. Brian Monahan .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Robert Fitzpatrick .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Wyndee Parker .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Jaime Lizarraga .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Kate Knudson Wolters .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Bina Surgeon .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Jorge Aguillar .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Eric Jacobstein .....	2/19	2/22	Dominican Republic .....		735.00		(3)				735.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. Eliot Engel .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. Anna Eshoo .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. Nydia Velazquez .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. Rosa DeLauro .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. Collin Peterson .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00
Hon. James McGovern .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		(3)				111.00

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND HAITI, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 17 AND FEB. 22, 2015—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Steve Israel .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Hon. David Cicilline .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Dr. Brian Monahan .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Robert Fitzpatrick .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Wyndee Parker .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Jaime Lizaragga .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Kate Knudson Wolters .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Bina Surgeon .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Jorge Aguillar .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Eric Jacobstein .....	2/21	2/21	Haiti .....		111.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				111.00
Committee total .....					28,139.00						28,139.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Mar. 18, 2015.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation *		Other purposes **		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Christopher Bertram .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Geoff Bowman .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Eric Burgeson .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Stephen Cohen .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Kathy Dedrick .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Peter Defazio .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		876.05		611.48		2,276.53
Hon. Blake Farenthold .....	1/29	1/31	Panama .....		526.00		969.75		611.48		2,107.23
Hon. Lois Frankel .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Bob Gibbs .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Garret Graves .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Janice Hahn .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Richard Hanna .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		962.05		611.48		2,362.53
Hon. Duncan Hunter .....	1/29	1/31	Panama .....		526.00		621.35		611.48		1,758.83
Fleming M. Legg .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Caryn Moore .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Tom Rice .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Todd Rokita .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		662.55		611.48		2,063.03
Hon. Mark Sanford .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Hon. Bill Shuster .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Matthew Sturges .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Dennis Wirtz .....	1/29	2/1	Panama .....		789.00		160.00		611.48		1,560.48
Committee total .....					16,043.00		6,651.75		12,841.08		35,535.83

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

\* Transportation: Includes Rental Coasters, Embassy Trans for Movement.

\*\* Other Purposes: Includes Control Room; Hotel Charges for Bellmen, Cleaning; Security Protection; Embassy Overtime.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, March 17, 2015.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

928. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Residual Interest Deadline for Futures Commission Merchants (RIN: 3038-AE22), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

929. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization and Functions; Field Office Locations (RIN: 3052-AD05) received April 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

930. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting a report, pursuant to Sec. 2433 of Title 10 U.S.C., of an increase in the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Unitary and Baseline/BLU-108 variants of the Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

931. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the 2015 Annual Report to Congress on the Department of Defense Chemical and Biological Defense Program, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1523; to the Committee on Armed Services.

932. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the Council's Annual Report for 2014 pursuant to Sec. 1006(f) of the Financial Regulatory and Interest Rate Control Act of 1978, 12 U.S.C. 3305; to the Committee on Financial Services.

933. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion for FY 2014, in accordance with Sec. 342(e) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

934. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Amendments to Regulation A [Release Nos.: 33-9741; 34-74578; 39-2501; File No.: S7-11-13] (RIN: 3235-AL39) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

935. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Regulation: Removal of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act Implementing Regulations received March 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

936. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received March 30, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

937. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, and 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Approval of Air Pollution Emergency Episode Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-

2014-0701; FRL-9925-93-Region 3] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

938. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0832; FRL-9925-33-Region 9] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

939. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia—Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Amendment to the Definition of “Regulated NSR Pollutant” Concerning Condensable Particulate Matter [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0593; FRL-9925-96-Region 3] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

940. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Allentown Nonattainment Area to Attainment for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0789; FRL-9925-94-Region 3] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

941. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyraclostrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0798; FRL-9925-02] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

942. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Moderate Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0132; FRL-9925-27-Region 3] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

943. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Quantification of Emission Reductions from Incentive Programs [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0754; FRL-9924-69-Region 9] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

944. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Response to Vacatur of the Comparable Fuels Rule and the Gasification Rule [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2015-0118; FRL-9923-12-OSWER] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

945. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Secondary (C13-C17) Alkane Sulfonates; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0756;

FRL-9923-64] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

946. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Additional Air Quality Designations and Technical Amendment to Correct Inadvertent Error in Air Quality Designations for the 2012 Primary Annual Fine Particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0918; FRL-9925-76-OAR] received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

947. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Control of Sulfur Emissions from Stationary Boilers [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0170; FRL-9925-24-Region 7] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

948. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Revision to Allegheny County Rules; Preconstruction Permit Requirements — Nonattainment New Source Review [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0636; FRL-9922-77-Region 3] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

949. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; 2014 Iowa State Implementation Plan; Permit Modifications; Muscatine, Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0159; FRL-9925-60-Region 7] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

950. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Cellulosic Waiver Credit Price and Minor Amendments to Renewable Fuel Standard Regulations [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0049; FRL-9924-71-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS48) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

951. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Tribal Implementation Plan and Designation of Air Quality Planning Area; Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0869; FRL-9924-45-Region 9] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

952. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Public Participation for Air Quality Permit Applications [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0033; FRL-9925-19-Region 6] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

953. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idaho;

Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0906; FRL-9922-65-Region 10] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

954. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Difenconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0149; FRL-9923-82] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

955. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0689; FRL-9925-53-Region 4] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

956. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment of the 1-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard in the Southeast Desert Nonattainment Area in California [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0612; FRL-9925-32-Region 9] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

957. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; State Boards Requirements; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead and Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0040; FRL-9925-46-Region 3] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

958. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0477; FRL-9925-77-Region 10] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

959. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0125; FRL-9924-40] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

960. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; San Joaquin Valley; Reclassification as Serious Nonattainment for the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0813; FRL-9925-30-Region 9] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

961. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — State of Tennessee Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Primacy Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0520; FRL-9924-92-OW] received April 1, 2015, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

962. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — State of Washington Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Revision Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2012-0186; FRL-9924-94-OW] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

963. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and Revision of the Venting Prohibition for Certain Refrigerant Substitutes [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0748; FRL-9922-26-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS04) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

964. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-1991-006; FRL-9925-52-Region 8] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

965. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund; Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [CC Docket No.: 01-92] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

966. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet [GN Docket No.: 14-28] received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

967. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Demand and Energy Data Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM14-12-000; Order No.: 804] received April 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

968. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, OC/OPPLA/OP, FDA Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Synthetic Iron Oxide [Docket No.: FDA-2013-C-1008] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

969. A letter from the Deputy Director, ORDM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Excepted Benefits [CMS-9946-F2] (RIN: 0938-AS52) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

970. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No.: 15-12; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

971. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed items to three different end users in the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to Sec. 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-261), as amended by Sec. 146 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277), and the President's September 29, 2009, delegation of authority (74 Fed. Reg. 50,913 (Oct. 2, 2009)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

972. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to Congress within sixty days in accordance with the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

973. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter regarding the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission; (H. Doc. No. 114-20); to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

974. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 114-21); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

975. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that an Executive Order was issued declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the increasing prevalence and severity of malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.; (H. Doc. No. 114-22); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

976. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Somalia, originally declared on April 12, 2010, by Executive Order 13536, is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 114-23); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

977. A letter from the Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting seven reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

978. A letter from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2014, pursuant to Sec. 203(a) and 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

979. A letter from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retalia-

tion Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

980. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

981. A letter from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

982. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

983. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's annual report for FY 2014, as required by Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

984. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

985. A letter from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Office's annual report on their implementation of Sec. 203 of the "Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002" (No Fear Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

986. A letter from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, National Archives, transmitting the Archive's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

987. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation and Compliance Report, in accordance with subsection (e)(6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(e)(6) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

988. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Portland, ME, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area (RIN: 3206-AN11) received April 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

989. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

990. A letter from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2014 Annual "No FEAR Report", pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002 Report, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

991. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

992. A letter from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2014 annual report prepared in accordance with Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

993. A letter from the Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

994. A letter from the EEO Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174, Sec. 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

995. A letter from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2014 Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Sec. 203, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

996. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Northern Long-eared Bat with 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024] (RIN: 1018-AY98) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

997. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomy of the Hawaiian Monk Seal [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0007; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA73) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

998. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a revision to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to include the Atigun River, Hulahula River, Kongakut River, and Marsh Fork Canning River, pursuant to Sec. 304(g)(1) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Pub. L. 96-487; (H. Doc. No. 114-25); to the Committee on Natural Resources and ordered to be printed.

999. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts,

transmitting the tenth annual report to Congress on crime victims' rights under Sec. 104(a) of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-405; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1000. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the second of two reports for FY 2014 on "H-2B Non-agricultural Temporary Worker Visa and Status", pursuant to Sec. 416(d)(1) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277, it. IV, 112 Stat. 2681-655, as amended by Sec. 406 of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-13, div. B, 119 Stat. 231, 320; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1001. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the report on Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers for FY 2013, prepared by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, pursuant to Sec. 416(c)(2) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (ACWIA), Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, tit. IV, 112 Stat. 2681; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1002. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Annual Report on the Impact of the Homeland Security Act on Immigration Functions Transferred to the Department of Homeland Security, pursuant to Sec. 478 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1003. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting a report on the compliance of the federal district courts, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(3), with documentation submission requirements of 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1004. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Annual Events Requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1005. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Upper Mississippi River Between Mile 38.0 and 46.0, Thebes, IL; and Between Mile 78.0 and 81.0, Grand Tower, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0907] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1006. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Passaic River, Rutherford, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1070] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1007. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Great Lakes Pilotage Rates — 2015 Annual Review and Adjustment [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0481] (RIN: 1625-AC22) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1008. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland

Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chevron Oil Company Canal, Fourchon, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1039] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1009. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pittsburgh, PA; Ice Accumulations; Allegheny River Mile 1.0-72.0 [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0126] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1010. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Tuscaloosa Regional Air Show; Black Warrior River; Tuscaloosa, AL [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0076] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1011. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; St. Patrick's Day Fireworks, Manitowoc River, Manitowoc, Wisconsin [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0130] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1012. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; State Route 520 Bridge Construction, Lake Washington; Seattle, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0098] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1013. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Safety Zone for Ice Conditions; Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, Upper Chesapeake Bay, and Tributaries; MD [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0292] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1014. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Moon Island — Long Island Bridge Demolition; Boston Inner Harbor, Quincy Bay; Quincy, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1059] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1015. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety and Security Zones, Jacksonville Captain of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0152] (RIN: 1625-AA00, 1625-AA87) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1016. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, St. Petersburg Beach, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0436] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



1017. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; ARCTIC CHALLENGER, Port of Bellingham; Bellingham, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0158] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1018. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting proposed legislation entitled the "Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act" or the "GROW AMERICA Act"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1019. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International S.A. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0521; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-11-AD; Amendment 39-18104; AD 2015-04-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1020. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0620; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-238-AD; Amendment 39-18102; AD 2015-03-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1021. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers and Harland Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1001; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-034-AD; Amendment 39-18003; AD 2015-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1022. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0561; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-12-AD; Amendment 39-18105; AD 2015-04-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1023. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3801A, R-3801B, and R-3801C; Camp Claiborne, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0265; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1024. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Baton Rouge, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1124; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1025. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-330 in the Vicinity of Mountain Home, Idaho [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1112; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1026. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31002; Amdt. No.: 3630] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1027. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area Boundary Descriptions; Cape Canaveral, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0875; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASO-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1028. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Restricted Area R-2936, West Palm Beach, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0264; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASO-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1029. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30999; Amdt. No.: 3627] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1030. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31000; Amdt. No.: 3628] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1031. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31001; Amdt. No.: 3629] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1032. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0070; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-062-AD; Amendment 39-18114; AD 2015-05-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1033. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0347; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-173-AD; Amendment 39-18109; AD 2015-04-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1034. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1136; Amdt. Nos.: 121-371 and 135-132] (RIN: 2120-AJ33) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1035. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0653; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-057-AD; Amendment 39-18113; AD 2015-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1036. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Flugzeugwerke Altenrhein AG (FFA) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0536; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-004-AD; Amendment 39-18116; AD 2015-05-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1037. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0491; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-019-AD; Amendment 39-18117; AD 2015-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1038. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Plainville, CT [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0293; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANE-5] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1039. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Rogue Valley, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1055; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ANM-27] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1040. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0561; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-223-AD; Amendment 39-18111; AD 2015-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1041. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E

Airspace, and Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Prescott, AZ [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1020; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AWP-20] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1042. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Seattle, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0466; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-6] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1043. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Manchester, NH [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0601; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANE-7] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1044. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; North Adams, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0805; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANE-9] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1045. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Maxwell, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0870; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AWP-7] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1046. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hazen, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0869; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AWP-6] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1047. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bend, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0468; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-8] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1048. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0189; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-18099; AD 2015-03-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1049. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0328; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-07-AD; Amendment 39-18108; AD 2015-04-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1050. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0522; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-087-AD; Amendment 39-18100; AD 2015-03-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1051. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0484; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-245-AD; Amendment 39-18101; AD 2015-03-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1052. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0365; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-18106; AD 2015-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1053. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0397; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-048-AD; Amendment 39-18107; AD 2015-04-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1054. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Spokane, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0467; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-7] received March 31, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1055. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0397; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-048-AD; Amendment 39-18107; AD 2015-04-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1056. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Revenue Ruling 2015-6) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1057. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the proposal for authorization to modify the Truckee Meadows project on the Truckee River in Washoe County, Nevada, for the purposes of flood risk management and recreation; (H. Doc. No. 114-24); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

1058. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Corrections to Rev. Proc. 2014-59 (Rev. Proc. 2015-24) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1059. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — April 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-7) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1060. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Sec. 911(d)(4) — 2014 Update (Rev. Proc. 2015-25) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1061. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure: United States and Area Median Gross Income Figures (Rev. Proc. 2015-23) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1062. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2015-24] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1063. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Final Rules under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendments to Excepted Benefits [TD 9714] (RIN: 1545-BM44) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1064. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Certain Employee Remuneration in Excess of \$1,000,000 under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m) [TD 9716] (RIN: 1545-BI65) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1065. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Reporting Airline Payment Amount Rollovers Under Public Law 113-243 (Announcement 2015-13) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1066. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements (Announcement 2015-11) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1067. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Regulations Revising Rules Regarding Agency for a Consolidated Group [TD 9715] (RIN: 1545-BH31) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1068. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Health Insurance Providers Fee; Procedural and Administrative Guidance [Notice 2015-29] received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1069. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — No Rule for Refined Coal (Revenue Procedure 2015-29) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1070. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Modifications to Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (Revenue Procedure 2015-27) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1071. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Period of Limitations on Assessment for Listed Transactions Not Disclosed Under Section 6011 [TD 9718] (RIN: 1545-BH37) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1072. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Instructions of Communications Pursuant to Section 1.1502-77 (Rev. Proc. 2015-26) (IRB 2015-15) received April 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*[Pursuant to section 5 of H. Res. 173 the following reports were filed on April 6, 2015]*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 622. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-51). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1105. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-52). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 650. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage (Rept. 114-53). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 685. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction (Rept. 114-54). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1195. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-55). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1265. A bill to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Rept. 114-56, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1529. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify the requirements for community financial insti-

tutions with respect to certain rules relating to mortgage loans, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-57). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

*[Submitted April 13, 2015]*

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 299. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-58). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 601. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement (Rept. 114-59). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1259. A bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-60). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1367. A bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands (Rept. 114-61). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1480. A bill to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-62). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUNES: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 1560. A bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-63). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1104. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-64). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 189. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 650) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 685) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and providing for the adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 (Rept. 114-65).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 709. A bill to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-66). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide

for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-67). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1026. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; with an amendment (Rept. 114-68). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1152. A bill to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; with an amendment (Rept. 114-69). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; with an amendment (Rept. 114-70). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code; with an amendment (Rept. 114-71). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

*[The following action occurred on April 6, 2015]*

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1265 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 1731. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. UPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. KATKO, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARDY, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1732. A bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 1733. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WHITEFIELD, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HARPER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BARR, Mr. OLSON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LONG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 1734. A bill to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1735. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. NOEM):

H.R. 1736. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for the Reid vapor pressure limitations under such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 1737. A bill to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 1738. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to modernize and implement the national integrated public alert and warning system to disseminate homeland security information and other information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 1739. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from requiring race or ethnicity to be disclosed in connection with the trans-

fer of a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 1740. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members of Congress from lobbying Members, officers, or employees of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1741. A bill to ensure that patients receive accurate health care information by prohibiting misleading and deceptive advertising or representation in the provision of health care services, and to require the identification of the license of health care professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida):

H.R. 1742. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 1743. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Harriet Tubman, in recognition of her contributions and lifelong commitment in the fight for freedom of enslaved men, women, and children in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1744. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", and to designate the jury room in that Federal building and United States courthouse as the "Marcel C. Notzon II Jury Room"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DELAULO (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. LEE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1745. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for surrendering to authorities certain assault weapons; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 1746. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to protect employer rights; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1747. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for legal expenses paid with respect to establishing guardianship of a disabled individual; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. SIRE, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 1748. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to enhance existing programs providing mitigation assistance by encouraging States to adopt and actively enforce State building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAULO, Mr.

GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FARR, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1749. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce tobacco smuggling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 1750. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a program to populate downloadable tax forms with taxpayer return information; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1751. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. JONES, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HARPER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 1752. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make members of health care sharing ministries eligible to establish health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1753. A bill to establish a National Office for Cyberspace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1754. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed money recovered at airport security checkpoints to nonprofit organizations that provide places of rest and recuperation at airports for members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1755. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the congressional charter of the Disabled American Veterans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1756. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to make various reforms to Social Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1757. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an increasingly larger earned income credit for families with more than 3 children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 1758. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for adjustments

in the individual income tax rates to reflect regional differences in the cost-of-living; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 1759. A bill to amend title 5, united States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BERA, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 1760. A bill to promote strategic sourcing principles within the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1761. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the inclusion of occupational therapists in the National Health Service Corps Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 1762. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in The Dalles, Oregon, as the "Loren R. Kaufman Memorial Veterans' Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1763. A bill to provide for the minimum size of crews of freight trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to the matter of protecting and promoting the open Internet; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. FLORES):

H.J. Res. 43. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces; to the Committee on House Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H. Res. 190. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the fourth week in

April as Every Kid Healthy Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H. Res. 191. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 10, 2015, as "Venture Smith's Freedom Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BERA, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H. Res. 192. A resolution honoring the Sikh American community's celebration of Vaisakhi; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H. Res. 193. A resolution recognizing the National Museum of World War II Aviation in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as America's National World War II Aviation Museum; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DOLD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. DUFFY):

H. Res. 194. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LANCE:

H. Res. 195. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives about a national strategy for the Internet of Things to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 196. A resolution condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Tunis that resulted in the tragic loss of 21 innocent lives; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WALKER:

H. Res. 197. A resolution expressing support for designation of April as "Organ Donation Awareness/Donate Life Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. YOHO:

H. Res. 198. A resolution to establish standards defining impeachable "high crimes and misdemeanors" within the meaning of Article II, section 4 as applied to the President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 1731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause-To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 1732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 1734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "to provide for the common Defence", "to raise and support Armies", "to provide and maintain a Navy" and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 1736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of commerce among the several states).

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 1737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power. . . . To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 1739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 1740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5, Clause 2;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 1741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 1743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 1746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation contains a clarification that is intended to limit the scope of an existing statute. As such, this bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 1748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 1756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 Section 8 and Clause 18 Section 8 of Article I and the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RATCLIFFE:

H.R. 1759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; and, Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Con-

gress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 1761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 1762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 (relating to the power of Congress to raise and support an army)

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.J. Res. 42.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.J. Res. 43.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17

Congress shall have power . . . To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 9: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 27: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 76: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 91: Mr. STEWART, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 114: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 118: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

- H.R. 140: Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 167: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBSON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 169: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. GUINTA.  
H.R. 199: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 209: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. Emmer of Minnesota, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.  
H.R. 210: Mr. HILL and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 223: Mr. HANNA and Mr. GIBSON.  
H.R. 228: Mr. SIREs.  
H.R. 232: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. FARR, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 244: Mr. BLUM.  
H.R. 249: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. KIND, Mr. POLIS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. TAKAI.  
H.R. 264: Mr. SIREs.  
H.R. 266: Mr. CARTER of Texas.  
H.R. 267: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. FARR, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. KENNEDY.  
H.R. 270: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.  
H.R. 282: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.  
H.R. 288: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 292: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. YODER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JONES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 303: Mr. WALZ, Mr. LATTa, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. VELA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 306: Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 317: Ms. MENG, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 321: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 333: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. VELA.  
H.R. 346: Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 353: Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 358: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 379: Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 381: Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 393: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 400: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 426: Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
H.R. 430: Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H.R. 448: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 465: Mr. UPTON and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 473: Mr. TROTT.  
H.R. 509: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 511: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
H.R. 512: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 513: Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 525: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 531: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 533: Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 540: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 546: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FLORES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 556: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 563: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 571: Mr. TROTT and Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 572: Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 577: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.  
H.R. 588: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 592: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HANNA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 594: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MASSIE, and Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 595: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 597: Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 602: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 606: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
H.R. 608: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 610: Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 612: Mr. HILL.  
H.R. 613: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 619: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. YARMUTH, and Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 624: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 662: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. COURTNEY.  
H.R. 672: Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 675: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. PEARCE.  
H.R. 696: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 699: Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 702: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 709: Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. JORDAN.  
H.R. 721: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. GRAHAM, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 742: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 765: Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 774: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. WILLIAMS.  
H.R. 775: Mr. DELANEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CHABOT.  
H.R. 784: Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 793: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 800: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 802: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 812: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 815: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. RENACCI.  
H.R. 818: Mr. SIMPSON and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 822: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. BLACK, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 823: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 825: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. LANCE.  
H.R. 842: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 846: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ESTY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 849: Mr. YOHO.  
H.R. 850: Ms. ESTY.  
H.R. 855: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. RICHMOND.  
H.R. 863: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 864: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 868: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 879: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 880: Ms. SINEMA.  
H.R. 881: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 891: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. VELA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. CULBERSON.  
H.R. 906: Mr. WOMACK.  
H.R. 909: Mr. HANNA.  
H.R. 911: Mr. KEATING, Mr. MOULTON, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 913: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 918: Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 920: Mr. COHEN and Mr. DEFazio.  
H.R. 921: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 923: Mr. BOST, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.  
H.R. 927: Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 928: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DOLD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. BLUM.  
H.R. 932: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 935: Mr. COSTA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 963: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 969: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. FARR, Mr. HILL, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 970: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.  
H.R. 971: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 973: Mr. KILMER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 985: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. TIBERI.  
H.R. 987: Mr. TROTT.  
H.R. 989: Mr. McCLINTOCK and Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 990: Mr. COOK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.  
H.R. 997: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. LATTa.  
H.R. 999: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.  
H.R. 1002: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MESSER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. UPTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.  
H.R. 1013: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 1019: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. MESSER.



- H.R. 1034: Mr. PERRY.  
H.R. 1046: Mr. SARBANES.  
H.R. 1053: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 1058: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 1059: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 1062: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BOST, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 1073: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KLINE, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. PITTENGER.  
H.R. 1076: Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 1086: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. UPTON, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. TIBERI.  
H.R. 1095: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 1096: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. STEWART, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 1100: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 1101: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 1104: Mr. REED.  
H.R. 1111: Ms. HAHN, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 1112: Mr. CAPUANO.  
H.R. 1125: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1126: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 1130: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 1131: Mr. FARR and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 1133: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1135: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
H.R. 1142: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1143: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 1149: Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 1150: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WOODALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. COLE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FLORES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. WALKER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOST, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. SHIMKUS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BARR, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MICA, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1159: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1170: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KIND, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 1172: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. UPTON.  
H.R. 1174: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1178: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 1187: Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 1188: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
H.R. 1192: Mr. BARR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
H.R. 1206: Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 1210: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 1215: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1218: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 1221: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 1222: Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 1232: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 1233: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. ROSS.  
H.R. 1234: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. HULTGREN.  
H.R. 1247: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 1249: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 1258: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 1267: Mr. GIBBS.  
H.R. 1283: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1284: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. GABBARD.  
H.R. 1287: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1289: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1300: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.  
H.R. 1302: Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H.R. 1306: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 1309: Mrs. LOVE, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 1323: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1336: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1342: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FORBES, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DENT, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 1343: Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HANNA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 1349: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 1354: Mr. KENNEDY.  
H.R. 1358: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1365: Mr. COOK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1369: Mr. YOHO, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. RIBBLE.  
H.R. 1399: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 1400: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 1401: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. TAKAI.  
H.R. 1404: Mr. BEYER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. WALZ, Ms. LEE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 1411: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1416: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 1420: Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 1434: Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 1439: Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 1459: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 1460: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 1462: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 1464: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 1470: Ms. BORDALLO.  
H.R. 1475: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 1477: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1479: Mr. GOODLATTE.  
H.R. 1482: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 1483: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 1490: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 1501: Mr. FARR.  
H.R. 1505: Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
H.R. 1517: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1522: Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 1523: Mr. BLUM.  
H.R. 1528: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.  
H.R. 1538: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 1559: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. FARR, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1565: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1567: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1585: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 1586: Mr. McDERMOTT and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.  
H.R. 1599: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. SIMPSON.  
H.R. 1602: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 1604: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. LANCE.  
H.R. 1613: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 1614: Mr. BARR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PERRY.  
H.R. 1619: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. WELCH.  
H.R. 1622: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 1628: Miss RICE of New York.  
H.R. 1635: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 1640: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1650: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 1652: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 1654: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 1655: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 1658: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. GOWDY.

- H.R. 1661: Mr. SIRES.  
H.R. 1662: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 1665: Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 1666: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. TIPPON, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. WELCH.  
H.R. 1671: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 1674: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 1677: Mr. HARRIS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.  
H.R. 1682: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1684: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.  
H.R. 1689: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 1706: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 1713: Mr. VARGAS.  
H.R. 1714: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 1715: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.  
H.R. 1718: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H.R. 1719: Mr. DEFAZIO.  
H.R. 1720: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 1725: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 1728: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.J. Res. 22: Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.J. Res. 32: Mr. CARTER of Texas.  
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. WITTMAN.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H. Con. Res. 33: Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H. Res. 12: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. VELA.  
H. Res. 15: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H. Res. 28: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. VELA.  
H. Res. 34: Mr. WALZ.  
H. Res. 50: Mr. POE of Texas.  
H. Res. 62: Ms. HAHN.  
H. Res. 102: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H. Res. 106: Mr. HASTINGS.  
H. Res. 112: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H. Res. 126: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H. Res. 139: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. FORBES.  
H. Res. 141: Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Res. 154: Mr. BRAT and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.  
H. Res. 156: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H. Res. 157: Mr. SIRES.  
H. Res. 161: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H. Res. 182: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H. Res. 186: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. DOLD.  
H. Res. 188: Mr. MESSER.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. GREGORY L. REITZE

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Gregory L. Reitze for his lifelong dedication as a firefighter in his community of Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reitze has been a member of Middletown Fire Company for the past 50 years. His duties have ranged from Assistant Engineer to Fire Chief, in 1997 and 1998. He has been named Fireman of the Year twice, in 1966 and 1998. For 50 straight years, Gregory has been named "A Top Ten of Middletown Fire Company responders." When not fighting fires, he owns and operates a contracting business in Middletown Township and sits on the Middletown Township Planning Commission.

Mr. Reitze has dedicated his life to serving others in his community, putting the safety of others before himself. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Gregory Reitze's 50 years of service to Middletown Township. On behalf of the 7th District of Pennsylvania, we thank him for his efforts.

JOHNS MANVILLE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Johns Manville for their leadership and commitment to utilizing new and advanced technologies.

Johns Manville focuses on developing materials to make diverse environments stronger, more durable, and more energy efficient and comfortable. The company manufactures premium quality building and mechanical insulation, commercial roofing, glass fibers and nonwoven materials for commercial, industrial, and residential applications. JM products are used in a variety of industries including building products, aerospace, automotive and transportation, filtration, commercial interiors, waterproofing and wind energy. The company has 7,000 employees globally and provides products to more than 85 countries and operates 45 mfg. facilities around the world.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Johns Manville for their well-deserved Innovative Technology Award and their continued contribution to Jefferson County.

HONORING ADELE WOODS, CEO  
COOS COUNTY FAMILY HEALTH  
SERVICES

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Adele Woods from New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, who is retiring after 33 years of service at Coos County Family Health Services.

Adele has been instrumental in growing CCFHS from a small organization helping low-income women and their children into a comprehensive Federally Qualified Health Center serving the primary care needs of the Granite State's Androscoggin Valley.

After joining CCFHS in 1981, Adele became the director for their Women, Infants, and Children Program, which provides health services and helps meet the nutritional needs of women with young families. In 1989, as Executive Director, she managed a staff of 32 people on a meager budget. Under her guidance, CCFHS successfully applied for federal funds that enabled the agency to become a Federal Community Health Center and to begin hiring physicians to provide full scope primary health services.

Approached by the Androscoggin Valley Hospital in 2002, CCFHS soon acquired their outpatient services operation. CCFHS now has a staff of 125 people working from three offices in Berlin, one medical office in Gorham, and a RESPONSE outreach in Groveton providing sexual and domestic violence services for New Hampshire's North Country.

Under Adele's leadership, CCFHS is now recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home and meets the highest standards of quality patient care. CCFHS became a founding member of the North Country Health Consortium, a rural health network addressing common health issues in the region. CCFHS became an Accountable Care Organization and one of the first in the country to receive funding from the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services.

Adele is a valued member of numerous commissions and committees at both the state and national level. I am honored to recognize Adele Woods' leadership and service to her community, the Granite State, and the United States of America.

HONORING DR. EDWARD ZIGLER  
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HEAD START

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Edward Zigler, the father of Head Start, as we mark the 50th Anniversary of this inspired early learning program. President Lyndon B. Johnson once said, "We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors." That is what exactly what the Head Start program has done for millions of children across our nation for the last five decades.

In his 1964 State of the Union Address, President Johnson declared a War on Poverty. Central to this effort was the idea that access to a comprehensive child development program which ensured school readiness could make all the difference for disadvantaged families. As policy makers, we often look to those with field expertise for advice and counsel. There are few that have served in these halls in the last fifty years who will not recognize the name Dr. Edward Zigler. A member of the National Planning and Steering Committee for Project Head Start, Ed was appointed the founding Director of the Office of Child Development, now the Administration on Children and Families, to lead the Head Start program and he has served as a consultant to every Administration since the program's inception. Designed to break the cycle of poverty and based on the fundamental idea that education is critical to success, Head Start began as an eight-week demonstration project and has grown exponentially. Today, Head Start serves over one million children in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories.

Re-authorized and expanded under each Administration over the last fifty years, there is no doubt that Head Start has had an impact on the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Today, as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Head Start, we also pay tribute to the man whose invaluable contributions, not only in its inception but throughout its implementation, have been the driving force behind Head Start's success. Ed Zigler, with his extraordinary vision and unwavering tenacity, has changed our understanding of the connections between poverty and education, shaped our public policy, and changed the course of millions of lives.

It has been my great privilege to have the opportunity to work closely with Ed on issues both here in Washington and in Connecticut. I find myself in constant awe of his intellect and commitment and consider myself fortunate to call him my friend. Today, on behalf of the millions of families that have been changed for

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the better by Head Start, I am honored to join the National Head Start Association in extending my deepest thanks and sincere gratitude to Dr. Edward Zigler. He has left an indelible mark on our nation and his is a legacy that will continue to improve the quality of life of those most in need for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF BENEVOLENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 162ND ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church in Randolph County, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 162 years. The congregation of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church celebrated this very significant anniversary on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the church near Cuthbert, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the pre-Civil War era, the church was founded in 1853 when a group of former slaves set off from their landowners' church and boldly founded their own place of worship. This establishment would stand the test of time, becoming Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church.

The Reverend Green McCarthy served as the first pastor of the new congregation, Jake Knighton served as the first deacon, and Dan Knighton served as the first usher. Since none of the members could read or write, Brother T.J. Coram served as records keeper until an African-American member, Brother Phelm Knighton, could become clerk.

From the beginning, members paid what they could. Ideally, this was ten cents—raised to twenty-five cents in 1890—but when chickens, eggs, or vegetables were all people could come by, these were accepted instead. What mattered most then, as now, was not the money. It was the people—the people who overcame oppression, the people who took a risk in founding a new institution, and the people who renewed a community. So long as they remained united in their faith, they remained unshakeable to the core, and the details would be arranged in time.

This ardent community of believers has extended its circle to include more and more members as the years have gone by, though it has never lost its essential character. Today, the spirit and faith of its people are manifested through four choirs, a Sunday school, a Mission and Vacation Bible School, a Trustee Board, and Junior and Senior Usher Boards. That same faith and spirit shine on even as light from the new stained glass windows paints churchgoers in colored, living vibrancy. And this faith and spirit extend beyond the church doors, in the presence of members who give fully of themselves wherever they go.

Throughout the years, many ministers have been licensed or ordained from the church, and a number of pastors, deacons, and clerks have contributed to its legacy. The Reverend

J.L. Kegler serves as the current pastor, alongside deacons Roy Burks, Richard Lee, Rodney Burks, Allen Steve White, and William Harrison, and clerks Yvonne Mitchner, Keisha Burks, Donella Knighton, and Monica Harris.

The story of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church, which recounts a long history of a group of believers coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship the Lord, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church in Randolph County, Georgia for its congregation's enduring commitment, despite adversity, to each other and to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May their actions continue to inspire the community in courage, in dedication, and in faith.

RECOGNIZING MR. W. SCOTT REITZE

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. W. Scott Reitze for his lifelong public service to Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reitze has been a member of the Middletown Township Fire Company since 1965. Throughout his tenure he has held positions of Chief Engineer, the Chairman of Company Apparatus Committee, and Fire Chief for the Company for 14 years. He was named Fireman of the Year in 1970 and 2002. Scott now sits on the Board of Directors. He is a retired engineer with the Kimberly Clark Corporation.

Over the last 50 years, Scott Reitze has put others before himself and he continues to do so. His years of dedicated service are a testament of what the Middletown Township community means to him. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Mr. W. Scott Reitze and thank him for his service to Pennsylvania.

REMEMBERING EARL HARRIS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and sincere admiration that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest legislators, State Representative Earl Harris of East Chicago. On Monday, March 23, 2015, Earl, a member of the Indiana House of Representatives for the past thirty-three years, passed away at the age of 73. Remembered by his colleagues and constituency as a consummate gentleman and champion for Northwest Indiana, Earl will be deeply missed by his devoted family, beloved friends, and the citizens he so faithfully served.

Earl Harris was born in Kerrville, Tennessee, on November 8, 1941. Following his

graduation from Woodstock High School in 1959, he relocated to Northwest Indiana to further his education. Earl attended both Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet, located in Northwest Indiana, as well as the Illinois Institute of Technology. Although he was well-known for his career in public office, Mr. Harris's lifetime of service to his fellow citizens predates his election to the Indiana General Assembly. To those who knew him, it is no surprise that, as a young man, Earl spent six years as an enlisted member of the Navy Reserve. Throughout his life, Mr. Harris was also a small business owner, an employee of Inland Steel, and a fixed assets administrator for the School City of East Chicago.

Since his election to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1982, Representative Earl Harris proved himself to be, first and foremost, a devoted public servant. His colleagues in Indianapolis will forever remember him as a true visionary, a tireless advocate for the people of Northwest Indiana, and the finest of role models for any young legislator to emulate. Among his legislative accomplishments was the creation of a Lake Michigan marina development commission intended to promote economic development along the lake. This idea later got folded into the Marquette Plan that the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority is now implementing in Lake and Porter Counties.

His constituents will remember his kindness and his willingness to help in any way he could. I will miss working with Earl, as I have for many years, but will never forget his warmth and his compassion, as well as his relentless desire to leave Northwest Indiana, and the entire state, better than he found it.

While he was tirelessly committed to the people of Indiana, Earl Harris leaves to cherish his memory the most important people in his life, his devoted wife, Donna, and loving son, Earl Jr., as well as his extended family and the many people who were fortunate to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to one of Indiana's finest, State Representative Earl Harris, for his outstanding leadership, devotion to his community, and commitment to improving the quality of life for residents of Northwest Indiana and throughout the state. His dedication to his family, friends, and those he so faithfully served is worthy of our admiration. I am proud to have called him my friend.

PASON SYSTEMS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Pason Systems for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Pason is a leading global provider of specialized data management systems for drilling rigs. The company's solutions, which include data acquisition, well site reporting, remote

communications and web-based information management, enable collaboration between the rig and the office.

Pason expanded from 37,000 to 52,737 sq. ft. in Golden's Coors Technology Center. The company hired an additional 11 employees after the facility was complete, bringing employment to 254 people.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pason Systems for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

#### RECOGNIZING JOB CORPS' 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Job Corps' 50-year anniversary. Born in 1965, Job Corps was designed as a collaboration between public agencies and private sector businesses and employers to help poor and unemployed young people gain the credentials and employment skills to build careers. Fifty years later, more than 3 million jobless and under-educated youth, employers and local communities have benefitted from this successful model—a comprehensive residential, academic and career preparation program. Each year, more than 50,000 at-risk youth obtain the employment and life skills necessary to start a career. More than 80 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education, or enter the military.

Furthermore, Job Corps facilities play an important role in their local communities. With 125 campuses across America, Job Corps represents a base of economic activity in American communities that is particularly important during challenging economic times. For example, 228 local jobs are directly or indirectly supported by the average Job Corps campus each year, and \$1.91 in local economic activity is generated by each dollar invested in Job Corps. The Pine Knot Job Corps in McCreary County, Kentucky and the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center in Floyd County, Kentucky are two successful Job Corps facilities in my district that have made important contributions to their communities.

Each year, more than 50,000 high school dropouts, homeless young adults, young parents, students with learning disabilities, and youth aging out of the foster care system enroll in Job Corps because it provides everything they need to start successful careers and become financially independent. Job Corps' open-entry, open-exit model allows dedicated academic and vocational professionals to create self-paced work plans for youth. Counselors, academic and vocational instructors, and residential advisors work with students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, not only on career pursuits but also on life skills, such as financial literacy and responsible citizenship.

I thank Job Corps for its dedication to changing the lives of America's at-risk, jobless and disenfranchised youth. Job Corps remains a community-changing program that affects

thousands across the United States. Job Corps continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our youth, businesses and economic conditions and I appreciate their continued dedication.

#### HONORING THE PASSING OF MRS. BARBARA CROWTHER STUART EDWARDS

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of Barbara Crowther Stuart Edwards. Mrs. Edwards passed away peacefully on March 5, 2015, at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond, Virginia. She is survived by her four children, Charles Edward Stuart III; Anne Ruth Stuart and Elizabeth Stuart Valentine; and The Hon. Richard Henry Stuart and their grandchildren, as well as her brother Rudolph Prosser Crowther and several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Edwards was a loving mother and grandmother, who enjoyed spending time with her family. When she wasn't with her family Mrs. Edwards was either teaching or serving as a devoted member of Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church. Mrs. Edwards will be missed by members of her community, students, and family.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. ERMELLE SMART CREW WILLIAMS

##### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 88 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams was born on March 23, 1927 and today she is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Williams has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she is a member of Turner Chapel Baptist Church and a sister in the local Prince Hall Order of Eastern Stars; and

Whereas, Ms. Williams is celebrating her 88th Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in Georgia, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, friend, community servant and leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful matriarch and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 88th birthday in Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams for an exemplary life which is

an inspiration to all, now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim March 23, 2015 as Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of March, 2015.

#### COORSTEK

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud CoorsTek for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

CoorsTek develops, manufactures and sells engineered solutions for a multitude of industrial and commercial applications that incorporate advanced materials such as technical ceramics, engineered components, assemblies and systems.

CoorsTek origins lie in cookware and pottery when in 1910, Adolph Coors, a board member of the original company, assumed ownership and eventually renamed it Coors Porcelain Company. During WWI, the U.S. government sought out ceramic companies to assume the manufacture of critical products such as chemical and scientific lab ware, which had been supplied by Germany. Coors Porcelain answered the call and began making critical components in a variety of ceramic materials. In 1986, the company name was changed to Coors Ceramics Company to better reflect its core competencies in a variety of technical ceramics. In 1992, Coors Ceramics was one of four subsidiaries spun-off from the brewery family of companies and became part of ACX Technologies, a new holding company.

CoorsTek recently purchased a 300,000 sq. ft. facility in the Coors Technology Center to expand its manufacturing operations. In 2014, the company announced the opening of its new plant in the Coors Technology Center to produce premium lightweight ceramic proppants, sand-sized solid materials used to keep induced hydraulic fractures open allowing oil and gas to flow.

I extend my deepest congratulations to CoorsTek for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

#### CONGRATULATING 2015 BLUE STAR NEIGHBOR AWARD WINNER

##### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mark Johnson who received the 2015 Blue Star Neighbor Award from Blue Star Families, Inc.

Mark spent the winter of 2014 clearing the steps and driveways of service members and their families while they were deployed. He demonstrated leadership, kindness, generosity and a true sense of community through his

willingness to lend a helping hand, going above and beyond for his neighbor, Chief Warrant Officer Sean Durkee and the veterans in the city of Waltham, Massachusetts.

Blue Star Families, Inc. held an essay contest about neighbors who helped servicemen while deployed. Friend Kelly Durkee-Erwin, and sister of Sean, entered Mark's story in the contest. In January of 2015, Kelly was alerted that Mark's volunteerism, service and friendship would be rightfully recognized through the Blue Star Neighbor Award.

First Lady Michelle Obama, Jill Biden's Joining Forces, The Creative Coalition and Mark Johnson were recently recognized by Blue Star Families, Inc. in Washington, DC for their service, achievements and support of military families.

Mark is an inspiration to us all. His actions motivate us to strengthen our communities by giving back. I thank him for his service to Waltham families and congratulate him for his achievements.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY PAGLIANO

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of international energy and national defense. Gary Pagliano, whom I am proud to represent, will retire this month from the Congressional Research Service with 40 years of continual service to his country and to Congress, having joined CRS in 1974.

Gary graduated from the State University of New York in 1971 and received a master's degree in Public Administration from Cornell University in 1974. He is a proud graduate of the National War College from which he received a master's degree in National Security Strategy in 1997.

As a CRS specialist, first in energy policy and then in defense policy, Gary wrote about a variety of issues, including U.S. energy programs and policies, OPEC and world oil markets, defense acquisitions, defense contractors, the defense industrial base, and NATO. In 1984, Gary became the first CRS Senior Fellow to spend a year at the Atlantic Council, a program that then ran for many years. In 1997, he was appointed to manage CRS's Defense Budget Section, a position he held with distinction until late last year.

Over the decades, Gary Pagliano has helped set the standards of excellence for which CRS is known today. He leaves behind not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship to colleagues, congressional staff, and defense policy analysts. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his four decades of service to Congress and to our nation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF LES WILLIAMS

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember an amazing American and an outstanding patriot. Mr. Les Williams has died at the age of 95. Mr. Williams was one of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to this nation. He was also a Stanford undergraduate and law school graduate, and a distinguished attorney in my district for many years.

Mr. Williams grew up in San Mateo and was part of a middle-class African American community in San Mateo until the Great Depression financially devastated his family. In order to earn money for his college education, he started a business teaching dance. When America entered World War II, Mr. Williams volunteered to join the Army Air Corps. Only after the war did he learn that his original application was denied because he was African American.

The Army drafted Mr. Williams and placed him into a laborer's job working on the docks, a job that ordinarily would have ended his flying career before it began. As disappointed as he was, however, Mr. Williams was a patriot. As he later said, "I became a worker. I wasn't very proud of that. I had to go. One thing though, I was going to do what my country told me to do because I was an American and I'll always be an American."

Mr. Williams and others also formed a band and Mr. Williams danced. After a performance at a Kaiser shipyard, a general congratulated Mr. Williams and the band. The general also asked if he could help the men in any way and Mr. Williams immediately volunteered, again, to fly. Shortly thereafter, Les Williams was on his way to Tuskegee, Alabama, truly a rendezvous with history.

His training in Tuskegee was rigorous, but even more demanding was the culture of discrimination in Tuskegee. As he later noted, discrimination existed in his hometown of San Mateo, but it was nothing like Tuskegee. For example, failing to wait for a white person to cross the street could get you dragged from the car and beaten. This was a level of violence that Les Williams had not faced before.

Les Williams was a great pilot. He'd never been near a plane before going to ground school, but Les Williams excelled. The white officer who gave him his check out flight test had a 100% record of washing out African American students. But he didn't wash out Les Williams. At the time, the officer noted that Mr. Williams was cocky, but also noted that fighter pilots needed to be cocky. Mr. Williams eventually switched to bombers and enjoyed flying the B-25. However, the war wouldn't wait. By the time the Army Air Corps assembled a full cockpit bomber crew, the war was over.

After the war, Captain Les Williams returned to San Mateo and started a successful dance studio. Here, in his hometown, he again faced a lot of prejudice. He won the right to build his dance studio on a 3-2 vote of the City Council, with at least one resident throwing her

purse at him in anger over the idea that an African American could be allowed to build a new structure in a largely white part of town. By 1947, Mr. Williams also entered Stanford University on the G.I. bill, graduating with a degree in history. He continued operating his dance studio for about 25 years and eventually returned to Stanford to study law, graduating in the 1970s. He was an active and distinguished attorney in our community for many years. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, daughters Penny and Paula, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, through his dedication to America Les Williams proved one thing beyond a shadow of a doubt: He was a patriot. A man who loved America and who worked hard to overcome the barriers placed in his path, he personified the energetic pursuit of opportunity in this nation. We owe the Tuskegee Airmen our gratitude for helping to break the color barrier, but we owe Les Williams our respect because he not only broke the barrier but also set the bar of achievement higher for all America.

Today, let us remember Les Williams when we think of equality under the law. At 95 years old upon his passing, Les Williams is a man who willed to each of us decades of opportunity, provided we have the wisdom to preserve and to nurture his legacy.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SOFIA MENDOZA

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sofia "Sophie" Mendoza. Her passing was unexpected, and represents a huge loss to the community in San José. Sophie was born in 1934 in Fillmore, California. Her father was a labor organizer, and would often move the family in search of new opportunities. After relocating to Arizona in 1939, Sophie settled in San José while attending Campbell Grammar School and Campbell High School.

Sophie's father would often tell her "we are born into this life with a purpose to help one another." Sophie would go on to dedicate her life to fight injustice wherever she saw it, eventually becoming one of the most accomplished community organizers in California's history. She frequently crossed paths with leaders such as United Farm Workers founder César Chavez, author Ernesto Galarza, and playwright Luis Valdez.

Sophie's first major accomplishment came early in high school. Campbell High School, which had few Latino students, had French, German, and Math clubs but no Spanish club. Frustrated, she complained to her father who encouraged her to find a solution. Refusing to be marginalized, she circulated petitions, talked to teachers and raised enough signatures to establish the Spanish Club at Campbell High. It was the beginning of a journey pursuing equity and recognition for all.

Sophie met her husband, Gilbert Mendoza, shortly after completing high school and began

studying at San José State University. At the end of her third year, the couple married and started a family. Sophie involved her children in organizing from the beginning. Her son was able to name every San José City Councilmember before he started the first grade.

Sophie went on to start United People Arriba, an umbrella organization that brought together grassroots community organizations and managed multiple political projects. She was instrumental in establishing the first major health clinic in East San José, personally led a 2,000 person demonstration against police brutality, and worked with international delegations from Nicaragua and El Salvador to promote peace. When she learned that her children's schools were receiving unequal funding, she organized the first student walkout in California history. She was a trailblazer who left a lasting impact in San José. I am here today to recognize her as one of San José's most influential leaders.

Sophie is survived by her children Rick, Agustín, Sandra and William, with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The oldest sibling of five children, Sophie is survived by her siblings Robert, Larry and Margaret.

Mr. Speaker, we commend Mrs. Sophia Mendoza for her years of dedication and commitment to San José and the Latino community. Her contributions serve as an example of what can be accomplished by uniting our communities and working toward positive change.

#### BLACKHAWK EQUIPMENT

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Blackhawk Equipment for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Blackhawk is a leader in the air compressor industry and provides comprehensive air solutions and services. The company has over 100 years combined experience in the industry and employs four DOE Certified AirMaster + Specialists. Blackhawk is the premier rotary screw, oil-free, and centrifugal air compressor distributor in Colorado. They also specialize in air dryers, cooling towers, air audits, air tools, custom controls, skid packages, portables and rental air.

Recently, Blackhawk expanded in the city of Arvada by moving from a 10,000 sq. ft. facility into a 26,500 sq. ft. facility to accommodate growth. The company hired 5 new employees in 2014 and added \$500,000 in new capital investment.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Blackhawk Equipment for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: HONORING DR. JULIETA V. GARCIA AND IRMA RANGEL

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Women's History Month. The 34th Congressional District of Texas is home to inspirational women who have broken barriers and significantly improved the quality of life for countless South Texas families. Today, I take the time to honor two of them—Julieta V. Garcia and Irma Rangel.

Dr. Julieta V. Garcia built her legacy on making higher education accessible to South Texans. She served as the president of the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) from 1992 to 2014. In 2009, Time Magazine listed Dr. Garcia among the top ten college presidents, and last year, she was named by CNN Money/Fortune as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. During Dr. Garcia's tenure, her relentless advocacy for increasing access to higher education in South Texas is reflected in UTB's enrollment statistics. The UTB student body is 91% Hispanic, and 71% are first-generation college students. Her forward-thinking leadership laid the foundation for establishment of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Recently, Julieta Garcia took on a new role as the first executive director of The University of Texas—Americas Institute, which focuses on developing the next generation of leaders through a non-partisan venue that convenes discussions on critical issues of global significance.

Irma Rangel, a St. Mary's Law School graduate, served in the Texas State Legislature from 1976 to 2003. She was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Her legislative career focused on the concerns of women and children and how to provide them a mechanism for progress. She established education and employment programs for mothers on public assistance, built centers to protect victims of abuse, and labored to make voting more accessible for all Texans. In 1994, Irma Rangel was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Rangel's contributions will live on through the many families her work brought into the middle class. She died on March 18, 2003, from cancer. The Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy opened its doors at Texas A&M University-Kingsville on August 10, 2006.

During Women's History Month, we are reminded of those who broke down barriers for future generations. I encourage all to take a moment today to reflect on the contributions women have made to our nation. I thank these women and others who have dedicated themselves to service.

HONORING WILLIAM 'ZEKE' GRADER, JR.

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, NANCY PELOSI, MIKE THOMPSON, and JACKIE SPEIER, to recognize the incredible legacy of William 'Zeke' Grader, Jr., who has tirelessly served California's fishermen and coastal communities and as an environmental champion and community leader for many decades. Always willing to share his vast knowledge and expertise with others, Zeke has helped fishermen to define their interest in battles over offshore oil and gas development, land-use, timber harvesting, water allocation, and other issues of social equity and sustainability.

From an early age, Zeke Grader grew up in the coastal fishing community. His father founded Grader Fish, Co., in Fort Bragg, California, to buy, process, and broker fresh, local fish. Zeke spent much of his childhood on the family dock, helping fishermen to unload their catch. He graduated from Fort Bragg High School and moved south to attend Sonoma State University, where he studied political science and graduated in 1970.

Zeke Grader served his country in the United States Marine Corps before obtaining a law degree from the University of San Francisco and passing the California State Bar in 1975. At that time, Congress was deliberating how to assert our national sovereignty over a two-hundred mile wide economic zone in order to curb foreign overfishing in U.S. waters, allow depleted stocks to recover, and conserve fishery resources. Amidst such explosive public interest in natural resource protection, some in the fishing industry felt threatened by the burgeoning environmental movement. Zeke Grader was asked to serve as the executive officer of the newly formed Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), and he led the organization in a more productive and effective direction by embracing efforts to protect the coastal environment.

With Zeke at the helm, the PCFFA took a leading role in crafting important state and federal legislation to preserve the coastal fishing industry. Zeke lobbied strongly for California's 1988 Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act, which called for a statewide salmon conservation plan to double the present numbers of wild salmon. He pushed for modernization of the federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act, litigated to expedite water quality restoration under the federal Clean Water Act, and fought for protections of fishing grounds by organizing for the prevention and clean-up of petroleum spills.

In 1988, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration honored Zeke Grader with its prominent Environmental Hero award. For many Zeke has been a hero over many decades and his tireless efforts to protect the wild California Coast have ensured the present vitality of our fishing communities.



Our friend and former colleague George Miller is one of those who counts Zeke as an inspiration. He passed along this message to us to include in the RECORD: "Zeke Grader has been my friend almost my entire time in the Congress. During that time Zeke has been a leader in our state, on the Pacific Coast and in our nation to give voice and rights to the men and women of our vital and historic commercial fishing industry. The Pacific coast fisheries from time to time are threatened with droughts, economic downturns, high fuel prices, habitat destruction, and bad public policy. Through it all, Zeke Grader has led this magnificent group of fishers to maintain and grow our fisheries. So many people in California's diverse economy are dependent on their success. The commercial fishers of the Pacific coast must both catch and protect this magnificent species. Zeke Grader for so many years has successfully advocated for both the fish and the fishers. All of us owe him great thanks."

Today, Zeke continues his strong advocacy by working with and advising leaders at every level of industry and government. His legacy shows us the lasting positive impact that one man can have on countless others and he has shown that you can build a thriving and sustainable economy without depleting natural resources for future generations. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor Zeke today for his work in representing the fishing community, and we express our deepest appreciation for his friendship and his service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS KYKER

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual for her dedication to the State of Texas. I would like to congratulate and thank Mrs. Chris Kyker for her hard work and her passion for service.

She has spent the last 90 years simply giving back to the world around us. I was recently informed that she was honored by the Texas Legislature in naming the Texas Silver Haired Legislature Foundation. This achievement served as an indication of the hard work, determination, joy, and kindness that she has continued to embody.

Chris is a leading volunteer for the state of Texas. She has served as the Founding Director of the West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging (1974–1979), she has served as the Founding Executive Director of the Texas Department on Aging (1979–1984), she assisted with the transition of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (2003–2005), and she served as the Founding President and CEO of Disabilities Resources Inc. of Abilene, Texas. She has served in more than 32 volunteer offices, and in 2014 the Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund was established. From serving the state to serving her fellow man, Chris' accomplishments have been appreciated. Her passion and drive are commendable. In our rapidly shifting world and fast-paced lifestyles it is always impressive to

find someone like Chris that give so generously of their time and effort to positively impact the lives of people of Texas.

While we take the time to reflect on all of Chris' achievements, it is important to acknowledge that her belief in giving to those around her comes from the genuine kindness of a remarkable woman.

I want to express my heartiest congratulations and thanks to Chris Kyker on her outstanding accomplishments and for her immense contribution to the State of Texas.

#### 16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Four years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community.

Officer Steven Ogline of the Holmes Beach Police Department will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award and will be named Congressional Officer of the Year.

Sergeant William F. Pascoe of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Career Service Award.

Deputy Dan Durrance and Deputy Christopher Folds of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Brian Woodring and Deputy Ryan Frailing of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Patrolman First Class Dustin Cohen of the North Port Police Department and Officer Lucciano Diaz of the Palmetto Police Department will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Detective Robert Armstrong of the Sarasota City Police Department, Master Patrol Officer Jose Santos of the Bradenton Police Department, Detective John McHenry of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Scott King of the North Port Police Department and Officer Ruth Terry of the Venice Police Department will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

The following Members of the Sarasota County civilian community response team FOCUS: Pastor Kelvin Lumpkin, Pastor Peter Greenidge and Minister Leslie Harrell of the Light of the World Church, Dr. Trevor Harvey,

President of Sarasota Florida NAACP, Carolyn Mason, Sarasota County Commissioner and Dr. John Walker of Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will receive the Associate Service Award.

#### MEURER RESEARCH

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Meurer Research for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Meurer Research engineers and manufactures sophisticated products to solve complex issues facing water and wastewater treatment facilities worldwide. Founded in 1978, MRI has over 50 patents, both foreign and domestic, and over 5,000 installations. The company offers a range of products geared to optimizing water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Meurer Research, Inc. expanded into a 43,320 square-foot facility in the Coors Technology Center, located in Golden. The company also has plans to grow to 95 employees over the next couple of years, with new capital investment for the expansion expected to be more than \$2 million.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Meurer Research for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO BLESSED SACRAMENT HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School was founded in 1915 as the first Jesuit sponsored school in Hollywood. Initially founded on Hollywood Boulevard, the Blessed Sacrament Catholic School was relocated to Sunset Boulevard where it currently stands. The new parish was later designated as an official historic landmark.

Throughout its hundred year service, the school has been dedicated to its mission statement, "As a learning community, we commit ourselves to the education of the whole person by developing mind, body, and spirit of our children. We are focused on teaching responsible communication skills that fosters excellence in self-expression and community involvement." The school has developed a rigorous curriculum consisting of a balance between college preparatory classes and voluntary community outreach. By providing such an academically rich, faith filled learning environment, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School has shaped its students into successful business owners, film producers, community leaders and philanthropists.

While upholding strong academic excellence, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School truly reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles. Currently the school exceeds the state's average private school diversity rate, with students coming from a multitude of backgrounds. The school's success not be possible without a highly dedicated faculty, staff and administration who selflessly invest their time into productively influencing each student.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring Blessed Sacrament Catholic School upon the celebration of its 100th year of educating children in the Jesuit tradition and bettering the Hollywood community.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz—forever a symbol of human evil and depravity—and the end of WWII, history's bloodiest war claiming 50 million lives, along with celebrating the 67th anniversary of the State of Israel reborn in its wake, we are duty-bound to remember these milestones that humanity may yet be free from threats to its very survival.

As a son of Polish Holocaust survivors who spent his early childhood in Kazakhstan, Poland, Austria and Germany, I wrote the following poem, "So unpredictably, in a humble corner/Of the Displaced Persons Camps/Exhibit in Richmond's Virginia Holocaust/Museum, a family's trying past at/Last has come to rest./Guarded on a consecrated wall./Inviting home, allowing unreservedly to/Shed a flowing tear; among the/Remnant of a people deemed expendable/It finds acceptance that only/Those touched by common loss/Provide, for they have shared/The fire and the pain."

We cherish the victims, survivors and liberators. The majority of the Holocaust survivors have lived in Israel where I grew up beginning in 1949, and those still alive along with their descendants and all Israelis, Jews and Arabs, are vulnerable given Iran's genocidal agenda begrudging Jewish survival and the one and only Jewish state. Iran's agents of terror are active on Israel's south and north borders. I travelled this past January on a Leadership Mission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), witnessing firsthand Israel's unique security concerns. We visited Moshav Netiv Ha'asarah on Gaza's border that was hit during the recent 50-day Gaza war and saw an opening of a tunnel dug from Gaza. Israel's resilient people have been terrorized by Hamas' rockets and shells far too long. From Mt. Bental on the Golan Heights at a UN observation post, we gazed on a cold and foggy day at ominous Syria, aware that Hezbollah there and in nearby Lebanon possesses 150,000 rockets at Iran's command.

Shiite Iran's drive for a nuclear capability is an overriding goal for its dictatorial clerics whose menacing tentacles pose unacceptable

risk not only to Israel, alarming enough, but also to the entire Sunni Arab world whose domination it seeks. Israel's incredible and unshakable bond (so should it remain!) of mutual benefit and common vision with the United States whom Iran calls the "Great Satan," further makes Israel, the "Little Satan," a target for a repressive regime finding the West's progressive democracy anathema. While ISIS (The Islamic State) continues planting death and destruction in a widening range of global aspirations, with brazen barbarism of medieval darkness challenging civilization's norms. Brutal President Assad's genocidal assaults on his own Syrian people have so tragically passed the fourth year mark, with over 200,000 dead, thousands tortured in prisons, 3.9 million refugees mostly in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and 7.6 million displaced within Syria, with the international community shamefully watching a catastrophe of a profusely bleeding wound infecting an entire region and beyond.

Israel, treating wounded and willing Syrians and ever present when disaster strikes anywhere, is the only source of stability and modernity in that troubled part of the world, and in its recent democratic elections Israeli Arabs freely participated (a right denied in the neighboring Arab States) winning the third largest bloc in the Knesset. The arduous search for peace with the Palestinians, who are yet to recognize Israel as the Jewish state it is, remains a steadfast goal in spite of Hamas' avowed aim to fight Israel, and its alliance with the Palestinian Authority. Israel struggles to address its socioeconomic gap and the Jewish pluralism issue, recognizing its astonishing and leading accomplishments testimony to being heir to the great Jewish legacy enriching the human family. The misguided BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement only serves to weaken Israel and the prospects for peace that only a strong Israel can conclude, being the world's only democracy whose very existence and identity are questioned. A growing anti-Semitism in Europe, scene of the unfathomable Holocaust, with murderous acts in Belgium, France and Denmark, threatens Europe's historical Jewish presence.

At this season of sacred and soaring remembrance, we recall the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March, the preceding "Bloody Sunday" of March 7, 1965, and the following Voting Rights Act. Rabbis and Jewish laypersons were disproportionately involved in the Civil Rights Movement and stood by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to uplift America to live up to its glorious promise for all. My synagogue is the world's only home to two African-American churches.

The forthcoming Tiananmen Square Massacre 26th anniversary on June 6th, 2015, prompts me to share my experience, "The Kaddish letters grow/Small in this overwhelming/Space of invisible evil./I shield them in the pocket./Close to my heart./Away from the menacing/Look of the Chinese soldier./To protect memory." May our anguished planet know soon, in partnership with the Most High, Shalom's essential blessings of healing, hope and harmony. Amen.

Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founding rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

TRIBUTE TO TONY ALEXANDER

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tony Alexander's 43 years of service to FirstEnergy. As FirstEnergy's longest-serving chief executive officer, Tony is responsible for propelling the company to the forefront of the energy industry.

Since joining FirstEnergy in 1972, Tony has served in a number of unique roles. His leadership has contributed to FirstEnergy's success every step of the way. Over the course of his career, he guided the company through significant mergers and acquisitions, regulatory challenges, and a range of operational and financial issues.

For example, Tony was instrumental in the merger of Ohio Edison and Centenor Energy, which formed FirstEnergy. A year after he was named president of First Energy, the company doubled in size and Tony deftly managed the company through significant regulatory, financial and environmental challenges during his career.

Not only is Tony a leader in our business community, he has also dedicated much of his life to serving the Greater Akron area. Currently, Tony serves on the Board of Trustees of Akron Tomorrow and Team NEO, and as an advisory trustee to the University of Akron Board of Trustees. In addition, he is on the President's Advancement Council of the Austen BiInnovation Institute and serves on the Institute's board of directors.

Northeast Ohio is grateful for his service. I wish Tony the very best in his retirement.

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Red Rocks Community College for their dedication and commitment to Jefferson County and higher education.

Red Rocks Community College, with campuses in Lakewood and Arvada, offers more than 150 programs and 650 courses leading to two-year degrees or professional certificates. Since 1969, Red Rocks Community College has delivered a quality education to an eclectic mix of students of all ages, incomes and backgrounds. Serving 14,000 students each year, Red Rocks is the convenient community college down the street and a program that is worth traveling halfway around the world.

Red Rocks is also expanding its campus in Arvada for Health Careers, Technologies, and Science program expansion. The expansion is estimated to be completed in late 2016 and will allow Red Rocks to respond to the growing workforce needs in the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Red Rocks Community College for their well-deserved Genesis Award and their economic

contributions and leadership within and outside of Jefferson County.

TRIBUTE TO LARRIE WEST  
STALKS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Larrie West Stalks, and the many contributions she made as a dedicated public servant in Essex County.

Born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Mrs. Stalks had an extensive career in public service and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others in her community. In 1974, Mrs. Stalks was elected as Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages and served four consecutive five year terms. In her fourth term she was the only African-American Constitutional Officer serving on a County level in New Jersey.

As a trailblazer, she served as Director of Health and Welfare and Executive Secretary of the Newark Central Planning Board, where she became the first African American appointed department head and cabinet member in the history of Newark municipal government. In 1984, Mrs. Stalks achieved another first, when she was elected President of the County Officers of the State of New Jersey. Following her election, she also served on the National Association of County Officer's (NACO) Human Services Steering Committee. Mrs. Stalks was then appointed to the Board of Directors of NACO which represented 48 states.

During her tenure in municipal government, she developed and supervised federally funded anti-poverty programs and instituted Newark's first mobile health unit program, which served as a national model. She then founded the Municipal Career Women of Newark and became a mentor for numerous women who worked in government. Mrs. Stalks spearheaded the development of 426 units of affordable housing and a shopping mall. She also chaired the Long Range Planning Advisory Budget Committee for St. Michael's Hospital.

A staunch Democrat, her previous home at 41 Rector Street in Newark was affectionately referred to as "The House for Democrats." Mrs. Stalks resided in the Village of South Orange Township for the past 40 years but she always proudly said, "I am Newark first!" Mrs. Stalks had numerous awards reflecting her civic activities, professional affiliations and political involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Mrs. Larrie West Stalks was an integral part of the growth and development of Essex County. This tribute recognizes her life's work, her stellar career and her personal commitment to improving the lives of her fellow man.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW  
TRENKLE AND THE MAINE  
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION  
TEAM

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Coach Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" competition.

This year's competition marks the twenty-third time the Maine South team has won the title in the last twenty-four years.

The "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" program, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, promotes civic competence and responsibility through course study and mock Congressional hearings.

To succeed in this competition, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of Constitutional principles as well as an ability to apply critical thinking skills and to work together. The Maine South team rose to that challenge in winning this competition and I am sure they will apply those same skills to achieve success in the future.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2014-2015 Maine South Constitution team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Lauren Acker, Anthony Alvizu, Valerie Asimacopoulos, Chris Brenda, Paul D'Ambrosio, Tomy Deeter, Cailin Devereux, Alex Ellyin, Michael Gabel, Victoria Gawedzki, Michael Harris, Dan Hopkinson, Matt Kelly, John Klages, Meghan Martin, Bjorn Olafsson, Guy Olson, Matt Pierucci, Alex Ponder, Jake Ritthamel, Julia Samulak, Mary Grace Sharp, Elizabeth Skoronski, Alex Solberg, Lucie Sullivan, Sabrina Tamas, Mark Tamvakis, Savannah Theil, Isabelle Tobolski, and Melissa Walek.

On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate you on your success, and wish you the best of luck in the national competition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIE PULLIN

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman, Dr. Marie Pullin, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, her legacy of dedicated service to enrich the children and others in her community through her volunteerism, creative ability and unwavering advocacy for the youth, the elderly, the poor and the arts are present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see; and

Whereas, this remarkable, positive woman with a beautiful smile gave of herself, her heart and her talent; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift, expose and inspire those in need; and

Whereas, she led by example from behind the scenes, as well as front and center for the state of Georgia, DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta, multiple ministries, homeowner associations, the Atlanta Edgewood-Kirkwood Neighborhood Center; and in her beloved church, Israel Baptist Church; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, a wife, a daughter, a friend, a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Dr. Marie Pullin for her leadership, friendship and 50 years of service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Dr. Marie Pullin of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor"—Dr. Marie Pullin, U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of March, 2015.

HONORING EVELYN KEISER

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Evelyn Keiser, co-founder of Keiser University, who will be inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, for her dedication to improving the lives of women and all citizens of Florida.

Evelyn was born Evelyn Cahn in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1924. She graduated from Temple University with a bachelor of science degree in Medical Technology, one of only a few women in what was then a predominately male field of study. She traveled throughout the United States where her education and ambition for the medical field led to her employment in several hospitals and medical labs.

In 1977, alongside her son Dr. Arthur Keiser, she opened the Keiser School on Oakland Park Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale with one student and 2,400 square feet of classrooms. She took a chance and paved a path for educators to better serve career-motivated students, the state, and specifically the Florida communities in which her students learn, work and raise their families.

Now, 38 years later, her dream has transformed into Florida's second largest independent university. With 15 locations statewide, Keiser serves nearly 20,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees and employing 3,500 staff and faculty. Sixty-two percent of Keiser University students graduate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and healthcare fields, providing the talented workforce needed for Florida to compete globally. Over 20 percent of students are members of the armed services, veterans, or military family members.

Ms. Keiser has held positions of co-founder, instructor, program director, chairwoman of the board of advisors, and more. Throughout her

career, she has received multiple accolades including "Teacher of the Year" and "Educator of the Year." In February 2004, Ms. Keiser was awarded an honorary doctorate from Beijing University citing her commitment to educational articulation agreements between China and the United States.

At 91 years young, Evelyn remains active in the university, serving as Chairwoman of the Board of Advisors. Ms. Keiser is still the first to arrive at the main campus in Fort Lauderdale each morning.

In honor of her dedication and service to South Florida, I am pleased to recognize Evelyn Keiser's legacy of achievement and I wish her continued success.

### SUREFIRE

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Surefire for their leadership and commitment to utilizing new and advanced technologies.

Surefire relocated and expanded its manufacturing and headquarter operations to a 20,840 square-foot facility. New to Jefferson County in Westminster, the move brought 39 high-paying jobs to the county over the next five years. New capital investment from the relocation is expected to be \$3.9 million.

Surefire's expansion consisted of relocating from the Adams county portion of Westminster to the Jefferson county portion of Westminster in 2014. This expansion was also a consolidation of operations. This took place by relocating the manufacturing operations from Florida to the new Jefferson county facility.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Surefire for their well-deserved Innovative Technology Award and their continued contribution to Jefferson County.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on rollcall votes cast on March 16, 2015.

On Rollcall Vote Number 113, on consideration of H.R. 647 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On Rollcall Vote Number 114, on consideration of H.R. 648 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On Rollcall Vote Number 115, on consideration of H.R. 876 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. BOGAARD

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William J. Bogaard, who is retiring from his position as Mayor of the City of Pasadena, California. Well-known and well-respected on a local, state and national level as an outstanding leader and a man of great civility, impeccable character and immense integrity, Mayor Bogaard is the city's first directly elected mayor and has skillfully led Pasadena with distinction for over two decades.

Born in 1938, William Joseph "Bill" Bogaard was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. He majored in English at Loyola University, now Loyola Marymount University in California, and after serving as a Captain in the United States Air Force, he graduated from Michigan Law School. In 1961, Mr. Bogaard married Claire Whalen of San Francisco, and after residing in Morocco, Michigan and Los Angeles for nearly a decade, they moved with their family in the early 1970s to Pasadena, fully immersing themselves in the community, joining their neighborhood association and the local Parent Teacher Association. In 1978, Bill ran for the Pasadena City Council where he served for eight years, including a rotation into the mayoral position for two years.

Mayor Bogaard's many accomplishments include guiding the city through a major recession, overseeing the establishment of new arts institutions, investment in new housing, and major capital improvement projects at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena City Hall and the Colorado Street Bridge, and the construction of a new convention center. Mr. Bogaard was instrumental in leading the Gold Line light rail transit project, the preservation of Old Pasadena into a national role model for redevelopment and walkable live/work urban planning, making crucial investments in city personnel and police and fire resources, and establishing partnerships with Pasadena's schools, businesses, and arts organizations. In addition, Bill represented the city in many organizations, including the California League of Cities, where he served as President. With an impressive record of past community service, Mayor Bogaard is currently a member of the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority and the Urban Land Institute, is Chair of the Pasadena Bioscience Collaborative, and serves on the President's Advisory Council for California State University Los Angeles and the Leadership Advisory Council of the Pasadena Educational Foundation. Mr. Bogaard has received the City of Pasadena's highest honor, the Arthur Noble Award, the University of Michigan's David B. Hermelin Volunteer Fundraising Leadership Award, and Loyola Marymount University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

In his professional career, Mr. Bogaard was in private law practice, served as Executive Vice President of First Interstate Bancorp and taught law at USC Law School and the University of Michigan. Married for fifty-four years, Bill and his wife Claire have four children, Michele, Jeannine, Joseph, and Matthew, and seven grandchildren.

Mayor Bill Bogaard has been an invaluable asset to the City of Pasadena and its residents. I ask all Members to join me in thanking Bill Bogaard for over two decades of dedicated public service.

### RECOGNIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD & THE LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD

## HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the School District of South Orange and Maplewood and the Linden Public Schools for receiving recognition as one of the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM). This association only recognized 388 school districts around the nation this year and I am very proud of each district's achievement.

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) gives its distinction for outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders to emphasize the importance and accessibility that every child have to music education. The BCME program evaluates districts and schools based on funding, staffing of highly qualified teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction.

Music education helps develop educational, cognitive, and social skills. Listening to music strengthens the ability to perceive speech within noise, pay attention, and develop memory abilities. Music exposure reveals different aspects of brain function and addresses language and learning difficulties, such as the neural timing precision between speech syllables.

The School District of South Orange and Maplewood and the Linden Public Schools have done an excellent job in promoting music education and in successfully exceeding any challenges and barriers that may have appeared along their pathway. I hope they continue empowering the community with their leadership and enthusiasm in music education.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

## HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,064,358,207.58. We've added \$7,525,187,309,294.50 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Seniors' Resource Center for being honored with the 2014 Excellence in Not-for-Profit Leadership award.

According to LeadingAge, an organization focused on education, advocacy, and applied research in the field of aging, who awarded Seniors' Resource Center, the award recognizes organizations that are models of excellence in not-for-profit leadership and exemplify to the highest degree the seven key attributes that characterize high-performing nonprofits and distinguish the sector from any other. The seven attributes are: Productive, Empowering, Effective, Enriching, Reliable, Responsive and Caring. The Seniors' Resource Center embodies all of these attributes with their dedication to the community and their high-quality programs.

The Seniors' Resource Center, located in Jefferson County, Colorado, is an important community partner that provides services to enhance independence, dignity and quality of life for senior citizens in our community. Seniors' Resource Center ensures all of their customers receive outstanding care in the adult day and respite program.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Seniors' Resource Center for this well-deserved recognition. Thank you for everything you do in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF VERA MEDLEY FOSTER**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vera Medley Foster, who passed away on February 25, 2015 at the age of 90. A selfless servant to the underprivileged youth in Western New York, Mrs. Foster was a prominent member of the community.

Vera Medley Foster was born on November 3, 1924 in Helena, Arkansas. During her early life she lived on expansive land with her family, where she was brought up learning wholesome values from her family and schooling. She went on to marry her high school sweetheart, the late Bernard Austin, and moved to St. Louis in the 1940s to open her own ice cream parlor and sandwich shop.

After Ms. Foster's endeavors, she found herself settling in Buffalo where she met her life partner Mr. Clinton Modis Foster. Together they had three children whom she devoted her life and love to. While raising her children she returned to her entrepreneurial roots and opened a beauty salon in her home. Her salon became a staple of the community and the influence of her kind heart began to touch more people. As her children grew older she became more involved in the community with the

Parent Teachers Association of Buffalo Public School #23; the Delavan-Moselle Community Center and the Wider Horizons Tutoring and Enrichment Program.

Ms. Foster's influence did not stop there; later she became involved with the City of Buffalo's leadership and served on mayoral cabinets. She served as an advocate for the youth of the City and set up many for success through the Mayors Summer Youth program. Ms. Foster served on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Steering Committee, as well as on the board of directors for the Masten Boys and Girls club for 32 years. Her passion for business never faded, as time went on Ms. Foster founded and served as president of the North Fillmore Business Association.

Ms. Foster was beloved by the community she served. She has been honored by over one hundred proclamations and awards from the City of Buffalo and organizations. Ms. Foster also has been honored with a day in her name, August 3, 2013 was proclaimed as Vera Medley Foster Day, and shall always be remembered as such. Her name is also engraved in the streets of Buffalo with Vera Medley Foster Way in the heart of the city.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Vera Medley Foster. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the Foster family, and to celebrate the exemplary work she did to enrich the communities of Western New York.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VFW POST  
101 IN DOWNTOWN COLORADO  
SPRINGS**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to VFW Post 101 in downtown Colorado Springs on the occasion of their 95th Anniversary.

As the oldest and friendliest post in the city, Post 101 has positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of local veterans and their families.

The post helps welcome home troops, attends memorial services, hosts retirement and promotion parties, provides scholarships to local students, advocates for our veterans, promotes patriotism, and supports family members during difficult deployments.

Please join me in wishing VFW Post 101 a happy anniversary and thanking them for the tremendously important services they provide to our military community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD L.  
KEYTON**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Minister Edward L. Keyton is celebrating thirty-four (34) years in ministry this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Minister Edward L. Keyton, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained the Church of Christ at Bouldercrest as Senior Evangelist, he has enhanced the church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Minister Edward L. Keyton is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his church, but with our district and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Minister Edward L. Keyton as he celebrates thirty-four years in ministry and to salute him as he retires from ministerial leadership; A true Man of Excellence; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim April 17, 2015 as Minister Edward L. Keyton Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of April, 2015.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ROLLA AREA SHELTERED WORK-  
SHOP**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th anniversary of the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop in Rolla, Missouri. It is a place that empowers individuals to use their skills working in a sheltered environment with caring staff. Since its establishment in 1970, the workshop has provided quality employment for individuals with disabilities of all kinds.

Beginning in January 1969, the mother of a disabled son saw a need for a sheltered work environment for those who were too old for a State Training School. Together, the mother and two women who were involved with the Jaycettes, developed the idea for a sheltered workshop in Rolla. With the help and support of the entire community, the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop opened its doors a little over a year later. Today, the workshop has 75 disabled employees who have found an environment where they can work productively and independently. Alongside a supportive staff of eight, the employees work on printed material, collating, sorting the different kinds, packing and labeling bags, among other projects.

For the many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop before the United States House of Representatives.

LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Lutheran Medical Center for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

What began in 1905 as the Evangelical Lutheran Sanitarium for patients suffering from tuberculosis continues today as one of the busiest and most respected hospitals in the nation. Exempla Lutheran provides a wide range of medical services as well as community programs.

Lutheran started as the first senior emergency room in the region and in Colorado, but later built a larger and more spacious Senior ER to meet and increased need for specialized services for elderly patients. The new Senior ER opened with 14 specially-designed, private patient rooms and a 40 percent increase in space.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lutheran Medical Center for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRITZ COLEMAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Fernando Valley resident and Los Angeles' iconic weathercaster, Mr. Fritz Coleman.

Mr. Coleman started his early career as a disc jockey and radio talk show host for numerous stations across the nation. In 1980, he moved to Los Angeles and soon became a regular act at many of the local comedy clubs. His humor and improvisational stand-up experience propelled him to work on various comedy specials and series, such as "Fritz and Friends" and "The Perils of Parenting" in addition to producing and starring in three one-man plays. His performances have earned him many accolades including four Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards.

In February 1982, Mr. Coleman joined the National Broadcasting Company Southern California news (NBC4) as the weekend weathercaster. Shortly afterwards, he became a weekday weathercaster and has since delivered laughter-filled weather reporting on the evening news. Mr. Coleman once remarked, "Weather can be funny. Your big mission as a weatherman in Southern California is to try to make the same forecast sound slightly different and entertaining every day between April and November when the weather is exactly the same." His tireless work ethic, charisma, and commitment to the community led him to become the face of NBC4's weather segment in Southern California and led him to be named "the Best Weathercaster" by every major newspaper in Southern California.

Always willing to serve the community, Mr. Coleman has organized numerous entertain-

ment fundraising events for local service and civic organizations, and has also served as master of ceremonies for many Southern California community events. His selflessness and dedication to bettering the Los Angeles area has been recognized by many organizations including the Burbank Chamber of Commerce and the California Hospital Medical Center. Mr. Coleman has also been named a "Treasure of Los Angeles" by the City of Los Angeles and has received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United States House of Representatives.

It is my great honor to call Fritz a friend, and commend him for his unquenchable community spirit. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing Fritz Coleman for his exemplary service to the greater Los Angeles community.

MR. R. WAYNE LOWE

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. R. Wayne Lowe today for his contributions to central Georgia. He has been a leader in his community, and will be honored with the golden eagle award for his achievements.

Sixty years ago, Mr. Lowe became a youth member of the Boy Scouts of America. Throughout his life, he has lived up to the ideals he learned in the scouts, following the principles of the scout oath and scout law.

In his community, Mr. Lowe has achieved distinction as a corporate officer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and public servant. He has given distinguished service to his community and nation as board member of Houston County School Board; director and shareholder of Planters First Bank; lifetime member of the Air Force Association; board member of the Museum of Aviation; member of the First United Methodist Church; member of the 21st Century Partnership; member of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association; friend of Scouting in the Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America; and supporter of many worthwhile organizations.

Through his actions, service, and devotion, Mr. Lowe has demonstrated that he is a leader, a mentor, and a friend of scouting.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CARMELA TRIPPI

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Carmela Trippi, a stalwart supporter of the Democratic Party, who passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 105. A beloved voice in Western New York politics, Mrs. Trippi's commitment helped shape our region in a positive way.

Mrs. Trippi's passion for democratic values began in the 1940s where she advocated on

behalf of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She went on to become an influential committeewoman for the Democratic Party. In her early political life she contributed to President John F. Kennedy and New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy campaigns and she then became the founder of the Jacqueline Kennedy Woman's Democratic Club, and served as president for over fifty years.

Mrs. Trippi was a prominent voice in the Western New York community. She had ties to former Mayor of Buffalo, Frank Sedita and Former Congressman of Western New York, Henry Nowak. Mrs. Trippi helped influence sweeping change while serving on Congressman Nowak's staff for eighteen years. She also served on the staff of current New York Court of Appeals Judge Eugene Fahey while he was a Buffalo Common Council member.

Mrs. Trippi signified her place in Western New York Political history by working first hand with voters, knocking on doors in the community. Her passion for campaigning never faded. She would go door to door even into her 90's and never wavered in her commitment and support as an Erie County Democratic Committee member.

Mrs. Trippi's work in Western New York has not gone unrecognized. In 2004 she was nominated for the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame. While her milestone birthdays were always recognized by the community, her 99th birthday was honored by the Erie County Legislature. Mrs. Trippi will be remembered fondly by all members of the Western New York community and recalled for her passion and commitment to Democratic values. Mrs. Trippi believed politics are an essential aspect of life and urged all involved to be genuine and compassionate while serving the public.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor Mrs. Carmela Trippi. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to her family and friends. Her good work and selfless devotion to Western New York will inspire many others to stand behind their principles and be involved in their communities.

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an important friend and staunch ally of the United States: Taiwan, as we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979.

This important legislation remains to be the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations. It stipulates that it is the policy of the United States to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."

In 2001, the Bush Administration agreed to help Taiwan obtain eight diesel-electric submarines. Fourteen years later, Taiwan's submarine fleet continues to consist of four submarines, two of Dutch construction from the

1980s, and two ex-U.S. Navy Guppy-class boats built at the end of World War II. As Beijing has not disavowed the use of force to one day take possession of Taiwan, as Beijing has rapidly expanded and modernized its military across the board since the beginning of this century, and as the balance of military power in the Taiwan Strait continues to shift in Beijing's favor, the rationale for Taiwan to acquire a robust submarine force in order to defend itself from any amphibious threats is obvious.

Late last year, Taiwan decided that it can wait no longer, and is moving ahead with plans to design its own submarine fleet. I believe the U.S. Government should allow American shipbuilders and submarine-technology manufacturers to work with Taiwan, both to assess Taiwan's capabilities and to bid on systems work. Finally, I urge the Obama Administration to encourage other manufacturers of diesel-electric subs to work with Taiwan, regardless of pressure from Beijing.

As we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I am honored to have had the opportunity today to lend my voice to the chorus of support for reaffirming our nation's strong bond with the government and people of Taiwan, and I ask my colleagues to support this important issue over the course of this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOCTOR JOHN  
INGLE

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and acknowledge Dr. John Ingle for his tremendous contributions to healthcare and endodontics.

Dr. John Ingle was a pioneer in endodontics dentistry. He attended Northwestern University Dental School then continued on to earn two graduate degrees in endodontics and periodontics from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1948. Dr. Ingle is also one of the many military heroes that served valiantly in World War II as part of the U.S. Army Air Force. Dr. Ingle initiated the graduate endodontics program at the University of Washington in 1959 and served as chairman of the combined Department of Periodontics and Endodontics, one of only five such programs in the world at that time. He then moved to the University of Southern California where he served as dean and professor of the USC School of Dentistry for 8 years. After leaving USC, Dr. Ingle joined the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences here in Washington, DC. Later he became president of Palm Springs Seminars in California, a leading institution of dental continuing education.

The landmark book *Endodontics* was penned by Dr. Ingle. Published in 1965, it is now on its sixth edition. Dr. Ingle was a founding member of the American Board of Endodontics and the past president of the American Association of Endodontics.

Dr. Ingle gave much of his life to the study and expansion of dental practices and explo-

ration into endodontics and periodontics. His care extended past his patients to new generations of dentists, clinicians, teachers and researchers that continue to give to the field he loved so much.

The American Association of Endodontists and I are proud to honor Dr. Ingle for his great contributions to dentistry and endodontics. As a fellow dentist, I am personally thankful for the dedication of Dr. Ingle to expand modern dentistry and empowering so many others to serve more effectively in the same craft.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 23, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no" on rollcall vote No. 130, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 131.

EMMA FISCHER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Fischer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emma Fischer is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Fischer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Fischer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF NAN TUCKER McEVOY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on March 26th, San Francisco lost a great civic leader, philanthropist and beloved friend. Nan McEvoy was a trailblazing, entrepreneurial woman whose wisdom, courage, and generosity, reminded us of our responsibility to improve our communities and our world. Nan strengthened our democracy through her service at the newspaper her family founded, the San Francisco Chron-

icle, and set a sterling example as a compassionate and concerned global citizen as an early Peace Corps volunteer.

All of Nan's many friends knew that, although her commitment to public service was well known and respected, her love of her family as a mother and grandmother was first and foremost in her life.

Phyllis Ann Tucker was born into a prominent publishing family on July 15, 1919 in San Mateo, California. Her grandfather, M.H. de Young, founded the one hundred and fifty year old newspaper, the San Francisco Chronicle. During the war, Nan worked as a writer and a reporter for the newspaper, and helped cover the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco.

After the war, Nan made her home in Washington, D.C., where she became an active leader in public service, philanthropy, and politics for four decades. She participated in the 1956 presidential campaign of Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson and, in 1961, became a top aide to Sargent Shriver, the founding director of the Peace Corps, where she was later chosen to run the Corps' African programs. In 1965, she opened the Washington office of the Population Council, a non-profit agency addressing global issues of population, poverty, development and health. She also served as a U.S. delegate to UNESCO, the cultural arm of the United Nations.

Returning to San Francisco, she assumed leadership of the family newspaper as Chair of the Board of Chronicle Publishing from 1981-1995. She was a true believer in journalism and wholly committed to preserving the family company. She served as a board member at the University of California, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the San Francisco Symphony, among other San Francisco organizations, and was the first woman to chair the governing board of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

After Chronicle Publishing was sold, Nan devoted her energies to producing premium extra virgin olive oil at her ranch outside Petaluma in Marin County. The company is now the country's largest producer of certified organic estate-produced extra-virgin olive oil and has been rated as among the best in the world.

Our country has lost a pioneer woman, our community has lost a gracious leader and my family has lost a dear friend. May it be a comfort to Nan's son, Nion, her grandchildren, Helen, Nion Jr., and Griffin, and her entire family that so many people mourn their loss and that Nan's legacy will always be an inspiration to the nation she loved.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEVERLY DANIEL  
TATUM

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirteen years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve as President of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and



Whereas, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum has enhanced the academic curriculum at Spelman, increased the goodwill of the college throughout the community and she has created a legacy that has provided for the students through scholarships and servitude; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a friend, a fearless leader and a servant to ensure that Spelman students receive the best education and skills to become outstanding leaders of our communities and nation; and

Whereas, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum on her retirement as President of Spelman College and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim April 24, 2015 as Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of April, 2015.

#### RECOGNIZING RONALD WILEY

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a stalwart Rochesterian and a beacon in our community: Ronald Wiley, a man who dedicated his life to building the bonds on which our nation stands.

A native son of Watertown, New York, Ronald graduated in 1949 from Watertown High School and attended St. Lawrence University Collegiate Center in Watertown. During the Korean war, Ronald answered his country's call by proudly serving in the U.S. Navy as a journalist. His service during the war marked the start of his career in journalism and lifelong concern for others.

Attending college on the G.I. Bill, Ronald graduated from the University of Virginia in 1958 and then moved home to Watertown where he worked at the Watertown Daily Times as a reporter and later as a copy editor. While working at the Daily Times, Ronald honed the writing skills that would serve him so well for the rest of his life.

In Rochester, Ronald served for 14 years as editor-in-chief of Kodak's weekly employee newspaper, Kodakery. In this capacity, he helped to lift the spirit of the Kodak family and kept them connected, informed.

On top of his commitment to Kodak, Ronald was a pillar of Rochester's business and civic communities. As an officer in the International Association of Business Communicators, Ronald helped others learn the trade that he had so clearly mastered at Kodak. He was also active in the Irondequoit United Church of Christ and served for many years as an assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 154. There is no doubt that Ronald's teaching, mentorship, and example inspired untold young people to lift their eyes to the mountaintops, inspiring them to consider the wisdom and power of nature.

Together with Eva, his loving wife of 47 years, Ronald raised two children and four grandchildren. While living in Rochester, Ronald and Eva enjoyed square dancing and playing cards, particularly Hearts. Ronald and his family were avid hikers who frequently explored the Adirondack High Peaks. In fact, Ronald summited all 46 high peaks of the Adirondacks and was named an Adirondack Forty-Sixer.

In tribute to Ronald's lifetime of service in Rochester and beyond, I stand to honor him today. As his family and friends mourn his passing, let this record celebrate his legacy of love, compassion, and good works. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Wiley strengthened every community he called home and his dedication to his fellow American shows us the best of our nation's soul.

Ralph Waldo Emerson described the successful life like this: "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Surely, Ronald succeeded.

#### LAWN CARE MONTH DECLARATION

#### HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize April as National Lawn Care Month. The landscape industry employs approximately one million people across America and contributes an estimated eighty billion dollars to this economy. From the national mall to an opening day outfield, and even to our own front and back yards, images of beautiful lawns and yards are often iconic depictions of American culture and the American dream.

As we recognize these images, we must also recognize the work that goes into the upkeep of such lawns. Landscape and lawn care professionals play a vital role in ensuring that these important lawns are not only maintained, but also healthy, as healthy grass and turf have important environmental benefits. Healthy grass produces oxygen, reduces runoff, which improves water quality, removes carbon dioxide from the air, acts like an air conditioner—cooling everything around it, reduces noise, and acts as a firebreak.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LEO RIES

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leo Ries, the Executive Director of

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Ries is retiring after 15 years with this organization; the office he ran is part of LISC's national network.

Mr. Ries has spent much of his career helping improve neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Prior to his employment at LISC, he worked for the City of Milwaukee for 10 years, ultimately serving as Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development. Mr. Ries' heart has always been in neighborhood work; he brought people and organizations together in order to create projects that had a real impact on struggling neighborhoods. He has remained optimistic regarding the future of Milwaukee's neighborhoods even while acknowledging the challenges of people struggling against "hopelessness and helplessness"; he sees promise and opportunities in the resurgence of urban living especially by the millennial generation.

The son of a Sheboygan mink rancher, Ries is the youngest of seven children. He attended a seminary high school and thought for a time he wanted to be a priest. Leo Ries has enjoyed an unusual and varied working life. He worked as a volunteer at Casa Maria Catholic Worker House, a cab driver, registered nurse in an intensive care unit and as business manager for two inner-city Catholic churches.

Mr. Ries has worked on many initiatives during his tenure at LISC but he has identified two recent projects as being especially meaningful. The relaunching of the Associates in Commercial Real Estate (ACRE) program, which Marquette University oversaw from 2005 to 2010, to help introduce minorities to careers in commercial real estate and working with the Milwaukee Police Department on proactive community safety strategies. He sees both of these initiatives as providing a structure for building relationships among people; people from different races came together for these two projects with a shared interest in building Milwaukee's future.

LISC has accomplished so much under the leadership of Leo Ries; programs initiated under his tutelage have become models for the nation and made Milwaukee a strong, prosperous community for all of its residents. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Leo Ries for so many years and wish him much success as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Leo Ries and I am proud to call him friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of his ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. Leo, I thank you for all that you have done. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Leo Ries.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF RAY BARBER OF BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an exceptional constituent from

Bozrah, Connecticut whose lifetime of service, leadership, and expertise was recently recognized by the New London County Fire Chiefs' Association upon his installation as their next president.

Ray Barber is a local institution with an extensive history of community and public service dating back to his teen years when he joined the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company in 1952. As Chief and then President of the BVFC, Mr. Barber served through the town's acquisition of its first fire truck in 1953, and through the decades, helped grow the emergency services the town provides to its residents. Today, Bozrah is a heart-safe community with a full complement of EMTs and ambulance services thanks in large part to Mr. Barber's commitment to improving safety.

Mr. Barber's contributions expand well beyond the BVFC. He served in the U.S. Army, as First Selectman in Bozrah, for 20 years, on the Bozrah Board of Finance, and in the Connecticut Council of Governments. It would be an understatement to say that his skills and passion for the region made his new role as President of the New London County Fire Chiefs' Association a richly deserved honor.

As President, Mr. Barber will lead an 83-year-old institution with 65 member organizations and will represent the interests of volunteer and career fire fighters across the region—over 3,000 personnel. I ask the House to join me in thanking Ray Barber for his service, congratulating him on this deserved honor, and wishing him success in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RANDOLPH  
E. ROSIN

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Randolph E. Rosin of New Jersey for his military achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey and the United States of America.

Originally from Watertown, Connecticut, Colonel Rosin enlisted in the Army in 1979 after his high school graduation. While serving, he was accepted to the United States Military Academy Prep School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, later going on to West Point and concentrating in Middle Eastern studies and Arabic. Afterwards, Col. Rosin served with the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX, and the "Hell on Wheels" 2nd Armored Division. Colonel Rosin greatly benefited from this training post-graduation as he served in Saudi Arabia for Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM as the coalition warfare operations office for the Army Forces Central Command. His most significant effort during that war was his initiative to develop the anti-fratricide measures used by all Coalition forces, such as the inverted "V" which saved countless lives from friendly fire.

After completing psychological operations career field training, Colonel Rosin was deployed as a Middle Eastern-focused psychological operations officer in Saudi Arabia and

later to Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. He also participated in Operation DESERT FOX. Additionally, Colonel Rosin was a part of a core group of planners that was responsible for planning our nation's response to the 9/11 attacks.

More recently, Colonel Rosin has worked in the Office of Military Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Egypt, as well as part of the Information Operations Chief for Multi-National Corps-Iraq, leading a large staff that worked on degrading extremist threats and legitimizing the Iraqi government.

After returning to the United States, Colonel Rosin worked as the Chief of the Information Operation of the Middle East Region in the U.S. Central Command, countering violent extremist propaganda on the web. Serving as the direct representative of the Secretary of Defense to the U.S. Ambassador and Government of Yemen, he oversaw military operations to prevent attacks on the U.S. Homeland and develop cooperation programs throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Randolph E. Rosin is a great American who exemplifies true love for our country. His service, which has been honored by 20 awards, is one that should be remembered as he retires from our Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE PARISHIONERS  
OF ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the parishioners of St. Bede the Venerable on the anniversary of the founding of the church that has provided spiritual guidance for 50 years, the first Catholic church in Northampton Township. St. Bede parishioners also are recognized and commended for the contributions they have provided to the spiritual and moral well-being of the greater Northampton community. Yours is a history that began on May 26, 1963 with the announcement of the founding by His Eminence John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia. An elementary school followed in 1966 and continued until the 2012–13 school year when St. Bede the Venerable School was merged with Assumption BVM, of Feasterville to become St. Katharine Drexel Regional School. This school, kindergarten through 8th grade, continues the tradition of providing an exemplary, faith-based curriculum, while the parish has grown to include more than 3,200 families and 11,000 parishioners. May your mission continue to the community of the faithful—with all good wishes for the future.

HONORING PADS OF LAKE COUNTY

### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize PADS of Lake County for the ex-

ceptional work they do providing emergency shelter to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Providing advocacy, dignity and shelter, PADS Lake County works to combat homelessness with compassion and respect. PADS strives to end homelessness by helping clients commit to their own health and recovery and assisting them in gaining self-sufficiency through affordable housing.

PADS is the first point of contact when homelessness strikes and often the only hope for individuals, families and veterans facing a long night in the cold or extreme heat. In this way, PADS truly does save lives.

In short, PADS services provide a safe environment for people to get back on their feet, and the Tenth District is fortunate to have an organization like PADS providing critical services to our individuals and families most in need.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WARTELL  
COMMUNITY SERVANT, ARMY  
VETERAN AND GOOD SAMARITAN

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have taken to this floor many times to mourn the tragic deaths caused by senseless death acts of gun violence that have too frequently plagued our communities in recent years.

I rise today to remember Michael Wartell of Houston, Texas, a constituent of mine who died last Thursday, March 26, 2015, when he was caught in the crossfire of a gun fight and struck by a stray bullet.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Wartell lost his life doing what he lived for, helping others.

The reason he happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time on that fateful day is because he was there to do the right thing for the right reason.

As the Houston Chronicle reported, "the 62-year-old Army veteran made a habit of going out of his way to protect the people he cared about, to make sure they were safe, including looking out for the owners of a tiny laundromat less than half a block from his Fifth Ward home."

After a robbery there, Michael Wartell often would go to the laundromat to see to it that the owners made it safely to their cars at the end of the day; once he broke up a fight at the laundromat, persuading a gunman to put away his weapon.

Born and raised in Houston, after high school Michael Wartell enlisted in the United States Army, serving two tours of duty.

After his service in the military, he worked as a truck driver driving across the country in his 18-wheeler for over twenty years, before retiring to move back home so he could care for his aging mother, Earline.

Michael Wartell loved to read, particularly books about history and cooking and he loved to cook, spend time with his dog, and lend a helping hand to people in his neighborhood.

Unfortunately, last Thursday Wartell was caught in the crossfire, struck by a stray bullet as he tried to run to safety.

Mr. Speaker, this terrible tragedy is simply the latest reminder that action is needed, and needed now, to prevent gun violence.

As a member of the House Democratic Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and the Ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I understand that changing the pervasive culture of gun violence will not happen overnight.

This tragedy is another powerful reminder of the urgent need to enact sensible policies to reduce the incidence of gun violence, beginning with the adoption of universal background checks which are supported by nearly 90% of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the death of Michael Wartell is a tragedy for his family and loved ones, for the Houston community, and for the nation he served with honor and distinction as a member of the Armed Forces.

He will be deeply missed and I ask that a moment of silence be observed in his memory.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF Yael  
HORNSTEIN GALPERIN

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Yael Hornstein Galperin—mother, wife, grandmother, professional opera singer, and school administrator—who passed away on April 5, 2015, at the age of 87.

Yael met every challenge in life head on, with integrity and great intellect. Born in Israel to Russian immigrant parents, she took a job at a salt factory so that she could help support her family. She went on to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces and its elite security service, and later pursued a career as a professional opera singer.

In 1949, she married a fellow opera singer, Levi Galperin, a Holocaust survivor and rabbi from Romania. The young couple moved to Philadelphia, where Yael was awarded a full scholarship to the Academy of Vocal Arts, and was a prized performer.

Yael embraced motherhood, putting aside her full-time pursuit of opera to raise her children. She continued to sing, but also began to teach and work as a school administrator. Upon her move to California in the 1980s, she began to work with the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, where she worked in the Bureau of Jewish Education for over 13 years.

Yael was an avid reader, spoke multiple languages, and embraced adventure by traveling the world and constantly taking on new challenges. She is survived by her husband, Rabbi Dr. Levi Galperin, her son, L.A. City Controller Ron Galperin, her daughter Leora Krygeir, her sons-in-law, David Krygier and Rabbi Zachary Shapiro, and her grandchildren, whom I hope take comfort in the way Yael lived her life as an accomplished and astounding woman. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, for sixty-two years the United States and Taiwan have built and maintained a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural and strategic benefit.

April 10th of this year marked the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which ensured that the United States would have continued commercial and cultural relations with Taiwan. Even though the Taiwan Relations Act is only 36 years old, Taiwan has been a friend and ally to the United States for much longer. Since the signing of the TRA in 1979, Taiwan has become a beacon of democracy in a part of the world where free elections are uncommon and many people are denied their basic freedoms.

Taiwan has also developed into an economic powerhouse over the last three decades. Their economy is robust and Taiwan has become one of the largest and most invaluable trading partners for the United States.

I want to thank the Taiwanese people for their continued friendship and support. It is my hope that the United States and Taiwan will continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

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RECOGNIZING MILWAUKEE JOB  
CORPS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Job Corps Program. Established in 1964, it was one of the central initiatives of President Johnson's War on Poverty and modeled after President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Initiative called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC employed thousands of people during the Great Depression to help rebuild our country's infrastructure.

This is certainly a milestone year for the Job Corps Program nationally. I am honored, as an elected official, to have had a role in bringing this worthwhile program to the 4th Congressional District of Wisconsin. Job Corps assists low-income students ages 16 to 24 improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. Because of its emphasis on providing academic and "hands on" training, graduates of Job Corps' program are assured the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

The Milwaukee Center is just one of 125 Job Centers nationally serving 60,000 students each year. Since its inception, Job Corps has served more than three million young people. The benefits of this no cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of

Labor are both tremendous and life changing. Over 80 percent of the Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education or enter the military. In fact, Job Corps is the nation's largest and most successful residential training program.

In addition to the direct services provided to participants, Job Corps impacts the local communities in which they are sited with economic benefits. 228 local jobs are directly or indirectly supported by the average Job Corps campus each year and \$1.91 in local economic activity is generated by each dollar invested in Job Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud of Job Corps' success over the past 50 years. I commend them for their work and dedication to our nation's at-risk, jobless and disenfranchised youth. I will continue to lend my support to the Job Corps mission of teaching eligible young people the skills they need to become employable or further their education. Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of Job Corps and continued success in the 4th Congressional District and around the country.

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CONGRATULATING A SAFE PLACE  
ON ITS NEW MUNDELEIN FACILITY

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted or beaten in the United States, and one in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in her lifetime. The statistics are, quite simply, alarming.

I want to recognize an organization in our district working to combat the very real and disturbing violence behind these statistics. A Safe Place of Lake County transforms the lives of victims of domestic violence by providing counseling, shelter, support groups, training, legal support and outreach to prevent further abuse. Its goal is to encourage a whole community to break the cycle of violence through education and speaking out against destructive behavior.

A Safe Place transforms hundreds of families by giving them the opportunity to receive the help they need and a chance to start a new chapter in their lives. I stand with A Safe Place because everyone deserves a safe and healthy life.

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RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF  
THE SMOLENSK AIR CRASH

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who died 5 years ago in the tragic Smolensk air crash. On the morning of April 10th, 2010, Polish Air Force One went down at Smolenski North Military Airfield in Western Russia, killing 96 passengers. Among the passengers onboard the flight were Poland's President Lech Kaczynski, First Lady

Maria Kaczynska, political and military officials, and civilian families.

That day, Polish Air Force One was headed to an event marking the 70th Anniversary of the massacre of thousands of Polish prisoners of war by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Secret Police, known as the Katyn Forest Massacre. Now, on this day, we not only remember those who died 70 years ago, but also those who tragically lost their lives just 5 years ago. I pray for the families of those who lost loved ones, and pray for a strengthened and united Poland in years to come.

In recognition of the 5th Anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, Polish community members in my district, and the surrounding area, will gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown to honor those who lost their lives. I join them in marking this important date with reflection and prayer.

Today, Poland remains one of America's strongest allies, with mutual interests advancing the causes of liberty and freedom at home and around the world. We must continue to have a strong United States-Poland relationship in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF RITZ THEATER COMPANY'S 30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Ritz Theater Company's 30th anniversary. For thirty years, the Ritz Theater has provided Haddon Township and New Jersey with unprecedented cultural experiences.

Since 1986, the Ritz Theater Company has made renovation, restoration, and preservation of their historic building a major priority. Now with their 30th anniversary approaching, the theater company has begun construction of their set for the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "A Streetcar Named Desire" from 1947. This ambitious undertaking is just an example of the quality events the theater company has provided to the community for three decades.

The Ritz Theater Company has received ample support from the community over the years. For example, local volunteers spent three weeks constructing the "Streetcar" set and two weeks installing it. This kind of community support maintains the vital bond between the theater and its audience.

The Ritz Theater Company acknowledges the importance of community involvement for a growing, local theater and each season, the theater adds an assortment of student productions, concerts and films. During the off season, the Ritz holds a summer program for youth performers, providing scholarships to students in the Haddon Township community. To mark their 30th anniversary, the Ritz Theater Company will expand on its youth programs and scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, The Ritz Theater Company is a unique establishment that connects the beauty of the arts to the beauty of working together to accomplish greatness. I look forward to seeing what the next thirty years bring for

The Ritz Theater Company, Haddon Township and New Jersey.

REMEMBERING CESAR CHAVEZ, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, LABOR LEADER, AND CHAMPION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of one of the greatest Americans produced by our beloved country, Cesar Estrada Chavez who died on April 23, 1993 at the age of 66.

Cesar Chavez was a civil rights activist, labor leader, and champion of social and economic justice.

Throughout his life Cesar Chavez fought for justice for the poor, the young, the vulnerable, and those living on the margins and in the shadows of the richest and most powerful nation on earth.

Because of Cesar Chavez, migrant farmworkers and their families now enjoy more humane living and working conditions.

Cesar Chavez knew firsthand how hard the life of migrant farm workers was because he lived it himself, beginning with his work in the fields of the Central Valley at the age of ten to help support his family.

In 1945, Chavez served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy as he fought in the latter part of World War II.

Cesar Chavez began his consequential career as a field organizer for the Community Service Organization in 1952 and steadily rose through the ranks until he became CSO National Director.

In 1965, Cesar Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association with Dolores Huerta which evolved into the United Farm Workers union.

The National Farm Workers Association was successful in securing fair wages and safe working conditions for farm workers.

The UFW also led a worldwide grape boycott that helped ensure farm workers had a voice in contract negotiations.

In 1972 Cesar Chavez fasted in response to Arizona's passage of legislation that prohibited boycotts and strikes by farm workers during the harvest season.

With his death also came a great sense of pride for all the progress that Cesar Chavez brought as a direct result of his unwavering commitment to farm workers' rights.

Mr. Speaker, recently I had the honor of being the Grand Marshal for the 16th annual Cesar Chavez Day Parade in Houston.

The parade serves as a great opportunity not only to remember a great man, but to remind us of our responsibilities to each other and to fight for equal justice for all persons.

Mr. Speaker, in addressing the Commonwealth Club in 1984, Cesar Chavez said:

Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.

Mr. Speaker, Cesar Chavez was an agent of change.

He educated his people and instilled in them a sense of pride.

He taught them to be unafraid to fight for justice and human dignity.

Cesar Chavez made a difference, and he made our country better.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Cesar Estrada Chavez.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK FORD, MAYOR EMERITUS AND PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jack Ford, who passed from our community on Saturday, March 21st.

Jack Ford was one of a kind. He gave his life, decade after decade, to our entire community. We hold an abiding gratitude for his lifetime of dedicated and honorable service to us. I particularly appreciated his genius and wry sense of humor. He never missed a beat. Our entire region has benefited from his generous and focused life on behalf of others.

Born in Springfield, Ohio to Edna and Stanton Ford, Jack Ford graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in social work. Already on a path to public service, he began his career with the Ohio Youth Commission. He came to Toledo in 1974 to earn his law degree from the University of Toledo. He then became director of the Lucas County Mental Health Board and consolidated county agencies into Substance Abuse Services Inc.—known as SASI—which he directed.

Jack began his service in elected life in 1987, when he successfully ran for Toledo City Council, eventually serving as Council President in 1993. Beginning in 1994, Jack served in the State legislature until he reached his term limit. Always, he understood the interconnections of our City to the world beyond it. His knowledge was hard-earned and unique.

Jack Ford also made history. As an educator, health professional, and political activist, Mayor Ford became the very first African American Mayor elected in Toledo, in 2001. With his election as Mayor, he elevated our community to a more inclusive and progressive place. He made us proud. He was all business, and always demonstrated a hands-on, can-do attitude. He was a master of the City budget and directed his Administration to make long neglected improvements.

Following his tenure as Mayor, Jack was elected to the Board of Toledo Public Schools and, most recently, returned to Toledo City Council to continue his service to our community. All the while, Jack imparted his knowledge to young people, encouraging and teaching at the university level. Even when not feeling well, he carried forward his duties in a soldierly and persevering manner, earning respect from all who knew him.

Jack always had a twinkle in his eye and a knack for presenting the unvarnished truth to all whose paths he crossed. He had a very kind heart and generously shared his beloved family and adopted family like Reverend John McKissick and his lovely wife Mrs. Pearl "Mother" McKissick. What beautiful memories I hold of these self-giving, intelligent, productive citizens. Jack brought everyone together for a greater good to which he pledged his worthy efforts. He reserved a special place in his life for students and youth he mentored. He took particular pleasure in the classroom. Teaching at the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University allowed him to inspire many leaders for the next generation.

It is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest sympathy to the Ford family: his wife Cynthia, his children, and his friends and associates. May the angels carry Jack Ford to a place of peace and rest. He has been truly a good, faithful, and honorable servant.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 23; Tuesday, March 24; Wednesday, March 25; and Thursday, March 26, 2015, I was out on medical leave while recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 130 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 360), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 131 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 162), "no" on rollcall vote No. 132 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 163), "no" on rollcall vote No. 133 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 163), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 134 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 216, as amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 135 (on approving the journal), "no" on rollcall vote No. 136 (on agreeing to the Ellison Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 137 (on agreeing to the Butterfield Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "no" on rollcall vote No. 138 (on agreeing to the Stutzman Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 139 (on agreeing to the Van Hollen Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "no" on rollcall vote No. 140 (on agreeing to the first Tom Price Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "no" on rollcall vote No. 141 (on agreeing to the second Tom Price Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27), "no" on rollcall vote No. 142 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Con. Res. 27, as amended), "no" on rollcall vote No. 143 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 173), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 144 (on passage of H.R. 2).

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PLAY FAIR PAY ACT OF 2015

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this is an amazing time for everyone who loves music. We have more ways to listen, incredible new paths to discover new artists, and "anytime anywhere" access to almost any type of music. Just as television has moved from a homogenized three-network world to the dynamic multi-platform competition of today—bringing us better and more varied programs than anyone could have imagined just a decade ago—radio has done the same. New digital services offer a dizzying area of choices and stations, and are pushing traditional AM/FM to innovate and break new ground as well.

But the rules governing radio music haven't kept up with the times. After decades of legislative stopgaps, special interest exceptions, and congressional gridlock, radio businesses today operate under an absurd patchwork of inconsistent royalty standards and licensing rules. The result is a serious distortion of the economics of the radio business that artificially props up some services, and tilts the playing field steeply against others. And more than anything—it massively shortchanges artists and other music creators who, to this day, get paid nothing when their performances are aired on AM/FM radio.

Today in your dashboard you might have an AM/FM radio, a SiriusXM receiver, and an online link to Pandora. If you hear a song on Pandora, the artist and his or her accompanying musicians get a decent royalty, since Internet radio is governed by a fair market value royalty standard. However, if you hit a different button and hear the exact same recording on SiriusXM, the artist gets a much smaller royalty for the exact same song, because satellite radio pays below market royalties thanks to a 15 year old "grandfathered" exception from the normal royalty standard. If you tune in on AM/FM, the artist gets nothing for the same performance. Not a cent.

And if you click over to a song recorded before February 15, 1972, some of the biggest and most successful digital services have ceased paying royalties to older musicians, many of whom are past their working years and have no other way to make ends meet.

In the end, everybody loses under this chaotic system. Radio services are forced to compete in an unfair and distorted market that props up the oldest broadcast technology at the expense of innovative new services. How is it fair that companies like Pandora and SiriusXM, who pay royalties on all (post-1972) music, must compete against big radio conglomerates that don't pay any royalties on most of the music they use? Even within the digital space, Pandora has loudly—and rightly—complained that its competitor SiriusXM pays royalties that are much lower based on totally arbitrary government decisions.

The Fair Play Fair Pay Act, which I am honored to introduce today along with my colleagues Congressmen MARSHA BLACKBURN (R-TN), JOHN CONYERS, JR. (D-MI) and TED

DEUTCH (D-FL), corrects this unfair and illogical system. It harmonizes the rules for licensing of sound recordings across all platforms and establishes a simple, fundamental principle for the radio business: Fair pay for all artists on all platforms. At the same time, it protects truly small, local, and non-commercial AM/FM radio stations by ensuring that their royalties are affordable, capped at \$500 a year for stations with revenue below \$1 million a year and at \$100 a year for noncommercial broadcasters.

It sets down a clear marker on the need to resolve the dispute over pre-72 music—making clear what should already have been obvious, that all music has value and all who create it should be paid regardless of age. The courts have begun the process of protecting the rights of older artists under state law. In the meantime, the provision in this bill can serve as a placeholder as we continue to monitor those developments, and work toward a long term solution that benefits all stakeholders.

The bill also addresses the distribution of royalties, codifying industry practices that simplify the allocation of royalties to music producers and engineers. And it requires direct pay in direct licensing deals for music that is eligible for the existing statutory license. We are aware that there are ongoing discussions about direct pay for direct licensing, and the final provisions of the bill on this point will be informed by those discussions and by our commitment to protecting the rights and equities of all music creators, artists, independent labels, and majors.

And it includes a concrete and enforceable protection for songwriters—stating in unambiguous terms that the changes made by this law cannot be used to lower or reduce songwriting royalties in any way.

It is a great time for music lovers today—but if we don't fix the corrosive distortions that are eating away at the core of the radio business that won't be true forever. Artists already struggling with the steep decline in album sales will find it more and more difficult to make a living. Music as a career path will be closed off to many—and if that happens we all lose.

We look forward to working with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate to consider this legislation and pass it into law.

#### COMMEMORATING EQUAL PAY DAY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Equal Pay Day, a day in which President John F. Kennedy, on June 10th, 1963, proposed the simple principle that women deserve equal pay for equal work.

The symbolism of this day is expressed in that, as we are more than three months into the year, women's wages are only now beginning to catch up to what men were paid the previous year.

Today, women on average make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to an annual disparity of more than \$10,876 dollars between full-time working men and women.

It is important to understand what 78 cents to every dollar means to a family: \$10,876 could purchase 86 more weeks of food; \$10,876 could afford more than 3,200 additional gallons of gasoline; \$10,876 could support families in incredible ways, and yet, even today, \$10,876 annually is exactly what women currently do without simply because of being women.

For African American women and Latina women, the wage gap is even higher. African American women on average earn only 64 cents, while Latina women earn 54 cents to every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

In my home state of Texas, however, the average wage gap for African American women is 59 cents to the dollar. For Latina women, it is an abysmal 45 cents to the dollar.

This is why I support H.R. 1619, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which addresses loopholes in the 1963 Equal Pay Act.

H.R. 1619 would protect employees who voluntarily share their own salary information at work from retaliation by an employer and remove obstacles in the Equal Pay Act to facilitate plaintiffs' participation in class action lawsuits that challenge discrimination.

H.R. 1619 would also better align key Equal Pay Act defenses with those in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, requiring employers to prove that pay disparities exist for legitimate, job-related reasons.

On this Equal Pay Day, I call upon House Republicans, all of whom have so far refused to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, to answer this simple question: why are you opposed to woman earning the same amount as men?

I ask House Republicans to stop wasting the time of this Congress with attempts to defund the Department of Homeland Security and focus your energies on legislation that would actually help the American people.

Let us call this opposition to the Paycheck Fairness Act, and opposition to all acts of Congress dating back to the 1960s that have attempted to ameliorate the glaring disparities in wages between women and men, for what it is: deliberately and blatantly sexist.

I ask all my colleagues to come help make the Paycheck Fairness Act a reality.

We should remember: equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue.

It is time now to update antiquated pay equality laws and to eliminate the wage gap entirely between men and women.

It is time for equal pay for equal work.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHUCK BROCKMAN

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of

Chuck Brockman, a devoted husband, son, brother, uncle, boater, philanthropist, newspaperman, friend, and retired soldier.

Chuck was born on May 28, 1934, in Mount Clemens, Michigan. He spent his early years in Mount Clemens with his father, Harvey, and mother, Roma, and his sister, Janet. At the age of 20, Chuck entered the U.S. Army and admirably served our nation in Munich, Germany. During this time, he traveled extensively in Europe and began what was soon-to-be many decades of adventure.

Soon after, he married the love of his life, Margarite "Scotty" Brockman. Although Chuck and Scotty never had any children of their own, they were known for their generosity and willingness to "adopt" individuals they mentored throughout their lives. This epitomizes the man that Chuck Brockman was—he was always willing to take care of others as if they were his own family.

Chuck worked in the composing room at the Macomb Daily newspaper for 34 years before he semi-retired in 1999. At that time, he launched a boating column to share his passion for sailing and the sea with others. An avid recreational boater, he would write about places to go and the stories behind them. Instead of retiring and quietly enjoying the twilight of his life, in his usual adventurous style, Chuck chose to continue sharing his fearless experiences on the beautiful waters of the Great Lakes for all to learn more.

Chuck continued his advocacy about the natural wonders of the Lakes and its maritime heritage when he founded and ran the Save Our South Channel Lights, an organization devoted to restoring historically important lighthouses in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. These South Channel lighthouses, also known as the Twin Sisters, were built before Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States and were used for many years by mariners sailing across Lake St. Clair and entering the South Channel up to the St. Clair River. Unfortunately, they fell into disrepair and were neglected, and many thought they would simply fall into the lake and be forgotten. That is, until Chuck Brockman made it his mission to save them. He was a passionate spokesperson for this project that raised funds for equipment and worked to maintain structures of lighthouses that were falling into the lake. Because of his tireless efforts, Chuck's organization raised about \$900,000 and now has lighthouses listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Chuck was able to recruit and inspire so many dedicated individuals into this project. Because of this, even though he has sailed on, this work will continue; this is a true legacy.

I first met Chuck when I was a Harrison Township Supervisor in the 1980s. We instantly formed a bond because of our common love for boating. Later when I became Secretary of State, I relied on Chuck's sage advice for many projects impacting southeast Michigan, particularly the lighthouses. As Secretary of State for Michigan, I established a license plate fundraising program that financially supported the preservation of all 124 of Michigan's lighthouses. Like Chuck, I also appreciate the austere beauty of lighthouses and the important role they play for all sailors. Chuck and I worked closely during my time as

Secretary of State and then when I entered Congress to preserve these structures. I was amazed and inspired by his enthusiasm, zeal, and quiet strength in accomplishing what many thought was an insurmountable feat. I considered him an advisor on these issues and a loyal friend.

On March 1, 2015, Chuck passed away peacefully in his home on Harsens Island. I know that I am not alone in saying that I will miss his positive outlook on life and stories of his adventures—both on and off the water.

Mark Twain once said:

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

Chuck's life was the embodiment of this saying. In the 80 years that he spent on Earth, he explored, sailed, loved, taught, mentored, learned, gave, and most importantly, lived.

Chuck has left a sizeable legacy for the people of Michigan. It is people like him that forever leave an imprint in our minds and on our hearts.

Fair winds and following seas, Chuck.

#### HONORING AN INSPIRING HERO IN NEVADA'S STATE ASSEMBLY: HARVEY MUNFORD

**HON. CRESENT HARDY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a great legend in the Nevada State Assembly today. Elected in 2004, Assemblyman Harvey Munford (D—Las Vegas), broke boundaries with a storied career in Nevada. Standing 6 feet, 8 inches, Harvey was destined to be on the basketball court. While being the first black man to attend and graduate from Montana State University at Billings, he laced up his shoes and hit the hardwood quickly becoming an All-American in the sport. After a record setting career in college, Harvey was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers only to be sidelined permanently from the game with a knee injury. Turning to the classroom, Harvey settled in and became a towering presence in lives of students for over 36 years teaching at both the high school and community college level. After retiring from teaching, he turned his attention to the Statehouse and decided to become an opposing figure in the Assembly. Bringing his non-stop work ethic to debates, I quickly respected and enjoyed being around Harvey. That is why Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Harvey Munford today for a storied career in public service representing Nevada residents.

#### PRAKUL SURESH'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Prakul Suresh attends Elkins High School in Missouri City, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A government is an establishment created by citizens in order to protect and provide for the people of the country. Personally, I believe the role of a government is to do what is best for its citizens in a just manner. The government ought to try to protect its subjects and uphold societal welfare in the best way possible, whether it is through action or inaction.

A primary goal of the government is to ensure the country is safe from foreign attacks. For example, after the September 11th terrorist attacks, America responded with force and began operations against Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden in order to protect our homeland. The American government has an obligation to keep its citizens safe against war as well. There are many ways in which a government can approach this. One method is to fight against enemies to keep America safe. Another method is to try to keep peace without compromising our interests and principles in order to ensure Americans do not have to unnecessarily fight. The task of protecting our nation is extremely difficult, considering the plethora of threats that nations such as the United States get. However, it is vital that America protects the safety of the nation.

Another duty is to ensure all Americans have the opportunity to succeed. One mechanism through which the government can do this is by making public education affordable and within reach to the common man. By promoting a properly functioning public education system, the government guarantees that anyone, regardless of gender, race or any other factor, has an opportunity to succeed. The government should also have an environment that encourages innovation, success and hard work, not an entitlement society. The government is obligated to give everybody equal opportunities at success, which is a foundation for a prosperous society.

Finally, I believe the government ought to try to create a stable, powerful economy. Businesses employ people, provide a sense of purpose to the people, pay taxes to fund the nation, and promote what makes America great: hard work, innovation and a powerful economy. By creating stable policies and providing incentives to draw investors and businesses, as well as supporting existing businesses, America can grow its dynamic economy. Policies such as low tax rates and simplified laws can help incentivize investing in the United States. It would be in the public's best interest to have a powerful economy, which leads to a powerful nation.

As Ronald Reagan once said, "government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives." The government should ensure that society is protected, whether it be protecting against foreign threats, protecting the opportunity to succeed, or pro-

tecting the economy. Through protection, the government can take the best actions and inactions regarding numerous issues.

# A TRIBUTE TO JASON WILLIS

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason Willis for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jason has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at the Willis Auto Campus. As general manager, Jason's work-ethic and drive allow him to continue his family's tradition of service and dedication to the Des Moines area. Jason spends his free time supporting causes he believes in, raising critical funds. Joshua's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jason on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

## HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 50th Anniversary of the landmark legislation: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. When this bill was signed into law 50 years ago, President Johnson understood that "full educational opportunity" should be our nation's primary goal. This momentous legislation affirmed that every child has an equal right to a quality education regardless of zip code.

Our public education system has come a long way since 1965, and though we have

made great strides in closing achievement gaps and increasing the graduation rate, the law is not perfect. There is still much, much work to be done. As Congress looks to rewrite this law, we must remember the core tenants of Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We must seek to ensure that our public education system offers equal opportunity for all, and that the needs of our nation's most vulnerable children are being met.

Education is our nation's great equalizer. For 50 years, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has been our nation's driving force for educational equity. Education is critical to lift children out of poverty and afford opportunities that once seemed unachievable. We should expand support for elementary and secondary education—not limit it—so that all Americans can receive the education they deserve.

# IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JESS T. HAY

## HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to recognize Mr. Jess T. Hay of Dallas, Texas. During his lengthy career in corporate America, Mr. Hay served as director and presiding director of Viad Corp, chairman and CEO of Lomas Financial group and Lomas and Nettleton Financial Corporation. He has also served on the board of directors for companies such as Exxon Mobile and the Greyhound Corporation.

Born in Forney, Texas in 1931, Jess Hay is a lifelong resident of Texas. He completed his studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, earning his bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1953 and his juris doctorate in 1955. Mr. Hay's passion for education and research led to his appointment to the University of Texas Systems Board of Regents by former Texas Governor, Dolph Briscoe in 1977. Following his initial appointment, he served as Chairman of the Board from 1985–1987. Mr. Hay believed that high quality basic research produces good applied research, which, in turn, would produce more jobs and more revenue to sustain American prosperity.

Jess Hay is truly a phenomenal leader. A man fueled by dedication and committed to public service, Mr. Hay's leadership and his commitment to impacting the political landscape. He had a tremendous impact on Dallas politics. He paved the way for Dallas leaders, myself included, to effectively work for change in communities across the Dallas Metroplex.

Jess Hay was not just committed to business and politics. He was a dedicated family man. He and his wife, Betty Jo, are the loving parents of two daughters, Debby and Patricia.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Mr. Jess Hay and to thank him for his work in service to the people of Dallas and the great state of Texas.



HONORING THE MINORITY LEADER  
IN THE NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY:  
MARILYN KIRKPATRICK

**HON. CRESENT HARDY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor the current Minority Leader in the Nevada State Assembly, Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D-North Las Vegas) for her service to the citizens of the Battle Born State. I consider Marilyn both a colleague and a friend. She has served nobly since first being elected in November of 2004. Through a tenacious work ethic and a strong ability to get things done, Marilyn rose to a leadership position and was elected by her colleagues as Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly from 2013–2014 in a chamber that was often filled with heated debates and battles. Marilyn and I frequently had inspiring discussions, and at the end of the day, I respect her prowess for policy and I stand here today recognizing her for her many accomplishments. While juggling various Assembly commitments, Marilyn continued to serve as a mentor and a leader to her Girl Scouts of America. I seriously don't know how she could multitask on so many important issues, both inside the Statehouse and outside of the Statehouse. It was truly inspiring to observe Marilyn as she guided young Members with her wealth of institutional knowledge. Mr. Speaker, I commend Marilyn on her service to Nevada and wish her the best of luck on her next endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SARA SCHULER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Sara Schuler for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Sara has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does, and her exemplary work with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. is a testament to that. As the Human Resources Director she utilizes her abilities to help people grow and develop. In her free time she serves her community through charitable organizations such as the Junior League of Des Moines, the St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and Hawthorn Hill. In all aspects of her

life, Sara is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Sara in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Sara on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-  
LOVED CHIEF MASTER SER-  
GEANT JAMES C. BINNICKER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Chief Master Sergeant James C. Binnicker. Chief Binnicker served our Nation with honor and distinction for more than 33 years in the United States Air Force, rising to the highest enlisted position: Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Chief Binnicker was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and graduated from Aiken High School in 1956. Following his high school graduation, Chief Binnicker enlisted in the Air Force, where he completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. During his long and distinguished Air Force career, Chief Binnicker served both at home and abroad in various capacities including as a life support specialist, air operations superintendent, Vietnamese linguist, First Sergeant and Command Chief Master Sergeant. Serving in such a wide array of challenging positions is a testament to Chief Binnicker's assiduous work ethic and unwavering commitment to duty, and his successful service in myriad capacities led to his selection for various senior leadership positions.

Thanks to his leadership abilities and wide-ranging experience, Chief Binnicker was selected in 1977 to serve as the Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor on the President's Commission on Military Compensation, before going on to serve in a number of senior leadership roles. As a result of his exceptional service, Chief Binnicker was selected in 1985 for the 33-year extended tenure program, and in July 1986 he became the ninth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. During his four-year tenure as Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Binnicker served as an adviser to Secretary of the Air Force Edward C. Aldridge Jr. and Air Force Chief of Staff General Larry D. Welch. In this position, he advised Secretary Aldridge and General Welch on matters concerning welfare, effective utilization and progress of enlisted members of the Air Force. During his distinguished career, Chief Binnicker received a number of major awards and decorations, including: the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit;

Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

As with so many of our Nation's brave servicemembers, the leadership skills and executive experience gained by Chief Binnicker during his military career translated to immense success in the civilian world. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Chief Binnicker worked for a number of years as a senior vice-president at a major insurance company, before being selected to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc. in beautiful Shalimar, Florida. In this position, Chief Binnicker oversaw the operations of Teresa Village, Bob Hope Village, and the Hawthorn House, ensuring a first-class retirement life for more than 400 residents.

In addition to his military service and successful business career, Chief Binnicker was also a leader in the veterans' community and in Northwest Florida's civil society. He served as the director of numerous organizations, including the Air Commando Association; the Air Force Memorial Foundation; the Air Force Sergeants Association Museum Foundation; and Emerald Coast Hospice. As a result of his leadership and excellence, he received numerous awards, including the Air Force Sergeants Association's Americanism Award and the Executive of the Year Award from the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

To some Chief Binnicker will be remembered as a patriot who served his country with honor and distinction, reaching the highest echelons of Air Force enlisted service as a result of his character and commitment to service; to others he will be remembered as a successful business executive and leader in civil society; to his family and friends he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored and privileged to recognize the life of Chief Master Sergeant James C. Binnicker. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Jan; children, Carmen and Michael; and granddaughter, Julia.

NAIMAH SARWAR'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I

am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Naimah Sarwar attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

I come from a household where there is one rule I have learned from observation when it comes to discussing politics: DON'T. I remember countless times after dinner parties, where my dad would walk out of the parlor where the men would sit to drink tea. Instead of looking like he had just enjoyed a steaming cup of chai, he looked like he had walked out of a war zone. "Three hours," he would say, much to my amusement. "They've been pointlessly arguing about politics for three hours." Instead of simply agreeing to disagree they created a vicious cycle of destructive and in my opinion, hilarious conversation. I have always been obstinately opinionated but rather than joining the conversation, I always chose to remain the casual observer. Why go to the trouble of arguing against someone who would always disagree with you?

But I believe that is the root of the problem when it comes to American involvement in the political process. We have become complacent. We have become detached. We have become scared to raise our voices. We live in one of the greatest democracies in the world. However, I think that sometimes politicians and constituents alike forget what that means. They forget that as citizens, it is up to us to speak up for what we believe in, and that politicians have a duty to represent those beliefs. The American public needs to be reassured of the strength of its political efficacy because that is what makes our government tick.

After attending Texas Girls' State this summer I made several wonderful friends, who encouraged me to speak up about my opinions. Although we might not agree with each other when we argue about healthcare reform or foreign policy, which embarrassingly enough makes up our "girl talk", we are friends. We agree to disagree. Oftentimes people feel as though their ideas and solutions are so central to their identities that they must defend their beliefs as though defending themselves. I have not only become self-assured enough to share my opinions, but open to hearing the disagreement of others. It is important for people to care about the state of their government, and we must break through the stigma that it is a taboo topic. Bipartisanship not be considered rare. Conversations need to continue. Ideas need to be shared. Although one voice can't swing an election, or pass a law, it can make a difference.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN SCHWARTZ

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brian Schwartz for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brian has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work with Baker Group. As an Account Executive, his ability to work well with others is critically important because he oversees multiple programs and events. In his free time, he serves his community through charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Boot Camp for New Dads program. In all aspects of his life, Brian is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brian in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brian on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF ARTESIA-CERRITOS

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos and their 100 years of service. It is an honor to represent a distinguished organization that embodies leadership, service, and commitment to the community. I am proud to represent an organization such as the Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos whose dedication and accomplishments over the past 100 years have had a profound impact on the community.

Founded in 1915 as the Westside Reading Club, the Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos is one of the oldest community service organizations in both cities. Their community service has supported local programs and charities, including the Community Family Guidance Center, Friends of Cerritos Library and Artesia Library, and the Long Beach Veteran's Hospital.

Each year the Woman's Club hosts a number of events and educational programs, and organizes volunteer services to support local community programs and charities. Their hard work and dedication illustrate the positive influence that women have in our community.

The positive impact the Woman's Club has had, not only in the community they represent, but also in the surrounding neighborhoods is worthy of recognition. I wish them continued success and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos as they celebrate their 100 Year Anniversary.

#### HONORING MARK WRAY

### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to honor the life of Mark Wray, a dedicated family man who committed himself to his community in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mark Daniel Wray, Sr. was born on January 30, 1960 in Los Alamos, New Mexico. When Mark was one year old the family decided to move to nearby Santa Fe. It's here, in Santa Fe, where Mark built his life, raised his family, and watched his children grow in a community he loved dearly.

It did not take long for Mark to find and marry the love of his life. Shortly after graduating, Mark and his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth Salazar, tied the knot and embarked on a lifelong journey together. That journey began with Mark's new job with the Santa Fe Fire Department, an experience that molded Mark into the man he became. In 21 years of dedicated service, Mark ascended to rank of Captain earning a reputation for his selfless bravery. He took many risks to save people's lives; his greatest joy was to see the smiles on the faces of those he saved.

In September 1999, Mark's beloved Elizabeth was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Mark spent countless hours volunteering with the local Multiple Sclerosis Support Group and National Multiple Sclerosis Society, helping with pot lucks, securing resources, and raising money for the society to develop a cure for the disease. Mark's support for his loved ones was unwavering, and he saw his community as an extension of his family.

Mark was known as "Team Dad" among members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Santa Fe High School and the Pony Express Drill team at St. Michael's High School. He was a Boy Scout leader, a leader at the local Little League and All Star baseball teams, helped build props for his children's classes, and volunteered at many organizations, including the St. Francis Catholic School and National Dance Institution of NM.

While Mark is no longer with us, his lasting contributions are still a presence in the community to this day. His character is espoused in the individuals he inspired throughout his life, and his enduring principles live on in the hearts and minds of all those he met. May the memory of Mark continue to live on in all of us.

#### OBSERVING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, when Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, they

recognized the fact that education is a right, not a privilege.

President Johnson celebrated this achievement, stating, "it will offer new hope to tens of thousands," and will help "children of poor families overcome their greatest barrier to progress: poverty."

Today, millions of children face similar challenges, as the gap between the very rich and the very poor continues to grow and the path to the middle class is disappearing.

Instead of ideologically-driven cuts to education that undermine our economic future, we should invest in early learning programs that yield high economic returns. We should protect the ESEA's investments in the students, teachers, and families who need it most.

We need an education law that gives teachers the tools and flexibility they need to do what's best for their students.

We have to protect our country's most fundamental promise to children: the promise of opportunity—that all children deserve a fair shot and a high-quality education regardless of their zip code; and regardless of the size of their parents' bank accounts.

Communities across the country are working hard to meet today's economic challenges. They deserve a Congress that will roll up its sleeves, make the tough decisions, and work together on an education law that puts kids first.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KATIE STOCKING

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Katie Stocking for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Katie has the determination and drive to be successful in all of her pursuits, which is highlighted by her exemplary work with Happy Medium LLC. As the Founder and Owner of Happy Medium, she utilizes her go-getter attitude to continuously advance the vision of her company. In her free time, she serves her community through volunteering with Beacon of Life, Youth Emergency Shelter & Services and WesleyLife Meals on Wheels. In all aspects of her life, Katie is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Katie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I rec-

ognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Katie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID HOLMES SWINTON

##### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. David Holmes Swinton in recognition of his 20 years of service as president of Benedict College. In commemoration of his two decades of leadership, he has been presented with the college's Legacy Award, an honor of which he is most deserving.

Dr. Swinton's tenure at Benedict has been exemplary. He has guided the institution through two successful regional accreditations as well as the national accreditation of seven schools and programs. He has overseen a remarkable transformation of the Benedict campus, acquiring over 120 acres of new land and overseeing the construction or acquisition of numerous facilities, including a football stadium, six residence halls, a business development center, an administration building, a student health center, and a state-of-the-art campus center and dining hall. He also spearheaded the redevelopment of the surrounding neighborhood through Benedict's nationally recognized Community Development Corporation, led negotiations with the U.S. Department of Education for the MSIs/HBCUs on Title IV issues, and served as Chairman of the United Negro College Fund Member Presidents.

Dr. Swinton's able stewardship has achieved results. Last year, Benedict ranked 14th in Washington Monthly's baccalaureate college rankings, which rated schools based on their contributions to social mobility, research, and service. In 2011, the college received the Higher Education Civic Engagement Award from the Washington Center in recognition of its outstanding contributions to our community. People have taken notice—since Dr. Swinton became president, the college's enrollment has more than doubled.

The presidency of Benedict College is only the most recent position in which Dr. Swinton has distinguished himself. He previously served as Dean of the School of Business at Jackson State University and as Director of the Southern Center of Studies in Public Policy at Clark College. He is a renowned scholar, specializing in the economic status of African Americans. His scholarly work has been featured in an impressive array of publications, including the National Urban League's The State of Black America, American Economics Review, The Review of Black Political Economy, Public Administration Review, Journal of Urban Analysis, Business in Society, and "... And Miles to Go Before I Sleep," a scholarly collection published by the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research of the

University of South Carolina in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

With Benedict's emphasis on community service, it is fitting that Dr. Swinton has used his economic expertise to benefit the public. He was the first African American Chairman of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board in the organization's 92-year history. He helped organize a group of investors to create South Carolina Community Bank, the only minority-owned bank in the state. Dr. Swinton has shown his commitment to be long-term, having served as an economic advisor to the National Urban League since 1980 and on Black Enterprise magazine's Board of Economists since 1990.

With such an illustrious career, it is no surprise that Dr. Swinton has received numerous honors and awards, including the National Economic Association's Samuel Z. Westerfield Award, the Phi Beta Sigma Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, and the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor. In 2007, he was elected to the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Swinton on this milestone. I look forward to continuing to work with him in the years to come, and I wish him Godspeed.

#### IN HONOR OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ZANESVILLE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many achievements of the Rotary Club of Zanesville on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the club's founding.

For a century, the citizens of Zanesville and Muskingum County have benefited from a group of men and women who are committed to promoting community service. A milestone such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Rotary Club of Zanesville's history spans two World Wars, the birth and demise of the Soviet Union, the spread of mass transportation and the advancement of high speed, global telecommunications. Throughout this, the Rotary Club of Zanesville's members have served their community and worked to improve the lives of their neighbors.

Service to others and service to the community are timeless American traditions and hallmarks of what has made our nation so great. For 100 years, the members of The Rotary Club of Zanesville have fashioned a reputation that reflects their core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. Through projects like The Phoenix Award and the Rotary Club Christmas Party for Zanesville Special Needs Students, the club continues Rotary International founder Paul Harris' vision of a group of business professionals gathering in friendship and fellowship to create positive, lasting change in their community and around the world.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank the Rotary Club

of Zanesville for their service to the community. I wish them continued success in the next 100 years.

BRITTANY EXLEY'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Brittany Exley attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

"No matter where you stand politically—even if you are unsure of what your political ideology is—it is important to take part in the process of shaping our government" (Brad Henry). The awareness gained by being involved in the political process is not only a good thing but a fantastic thing because ignorance can be dangerous. Also being active in politics is one of the very few ways, in today's world, that one human can change the nation just by voting or stating their ideas and opinions.

If more people were involved in politics there would be more people that are more aware of what is happening in the world outside of themselves. They could listen to the reports on other nations and their relationships with each other. However, they wouldn't just hear about other countries and their problems but what is going on within our own nation, both good and bad aspects of it. Young people are the biggest group of non-voters within the United States' population of able voters. They believe that they have too much work and things to do that they do not vote, which is one of the few ways that they could influence the government's direction and create a bigger voice for themselves. If they were to get involved they would be more aware of the occurrences happening in all the world's countries and every relationship each nation has with one another. Therefore the young people would be more knowledgeable, less ignorant, and have more ability to state and try to stand up for their views in the political process.

If you had the chance to change the world for the better by one simple action, would you? Being active in shaping the government is one way to do this. Voting for the change or way you believe the government should be ran is your voice, why not use it? One person's vote can determine who is in office, what bills are passed, and the actions of the government. If a person votes it takes their values, beliefs, and opinions are one more step closer to actually happening. Voting, stating, and claiming their ideas and opinions can influence other people's beliefs around them and can eventually shape the government.

Taking an active role in the government can transform politics to fit your own views, and change for the better of the nation. It can also make you more aware of your surroundings and less ignorant of what is actually happening in the world. Being active within the political process can change the world in many ways.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT 36TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on April 11, we marked the 36 year anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which serves as the legal foundation of our nation's important and enduring relationship with Taiwan.

The United States and Taiwan are united in common interests and a shared commitment to freedom and democracy. The Taiwanese people share our same cultural values of respect for individual liberties, freedom of speech, adherence to the rule of law, and support for human rights. Taiwan also shares a similar political system and works with our nation on issues of global security and counter-terrorism.

In addition to this close cultural, political, and security relationship, the United States and Taiwan also share a thriving economic partnership. Bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan surpassed \$67 billion last year, making Taiwan now our 10th largest trading partner—an impressive feat considering Taiwan's relatively small size of only 23 million people. In fact, my home state of Florida exported nearly \$300 million worth of goods to Taiwan in 2013 alone, supporting jobs and livelihood for American workers.

Over the last few decades, Taiwan's economic and political ascension, with close American cooperation, has proven to be one of the great success stories in Asia, and we look forward to many more decades of friendship and mutual support.

A TRIBUTE TO EMILEE RICHARDSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Emilee Richardson for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field.

The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Emilee has the determination and drive to be successful in all of her pursuits, which is highlighted by her exemplary work with the Science Center of Iowa. As the Marketing and Communications Manager, she utilizes her management abilities to develop new programs, like the Girls in Science Initiative to encourage girls to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In her free time, she serves on several boards to help young people in her surrounding community such as the Lead Like a Lady, Young Nonprofit Professionals Network and American Marketing Association Iowa. In all aspects of her life, Emilee is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emilee in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Emilee on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING LYDA HILL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Lyda Hill, the 2015 recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from Southern Methodist University's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility.

Ms. Hill has been a philanthropic fixture in the Dallas community for many years and has generously donated to the many causes in which she strongly believes. An alumnus of the Hockaday School in Dallas, Ms. Hill donated \$20 million to fund the all-girls school's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program. Ms. Hill recently donated \$10 million to the "I Stand for Parkland" campaign at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and \$50 million to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Moon Shots Program in Houston which has a goal to eliminate cancer through improved detection and treatments.

Ms. Hill has tirelessly advocated for science through her generosity and time dedicated to the causes in which she believes. In 2013, Ms. Hill was recognized as the only single woman on the Philanthropy list for her estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in donation to organizations focused on "game-changing" innovation and science research. In 2010, Ms. Hill became a member of The Giving Pledge, an initiative created by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett that encourages the world's wealthiest people to commit a large majority of their wealth to charity. Ms. Hill certainly gives strategically and generously and has pledged to donate all of her assets to charity, mostly during her lifetime.

Ms. Hill is the daughter of the late Margaret Hunt Hill, for whom the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge which spans the Trinity River in Dallas was named. Ms. Hill supported the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge project and several other community revitalization projects in the Dallas area. Ms. Hill has chaired non-profit groups such as the Crystal Charity Ball, Junior League of Dallas, and the Dallas and Texas chapters of the American Heart Association.

Ms. Hill was the recipient of the President's Volunteer Action Award and the Best of America Award in 1985 and in 1988, she was named "Outstanding Volunteer in Texas" by the Governor. Ms. Hill has earned many awards throughout her lifetime as her contributions to health, science, public radio, education, and veterans generously continue. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Lyda Hill on the occasion of her winning the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award.

#### PAOLA OBISPO'S ESSAY

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Paola Obispo attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

In order for our current government to function at its optimal levels, participation in our democracy is vital. If citizens of the United States are not aware of how the political process works they are powerless and have furthermore failed to aide their country in reaching its full potential. It is imperative that today's citizens be knowledgeable about politics because it is only by actively participating in our political system that change and improvement will come to our nation. The question "Why should people be politically active?" has a simple answer. People should be politically active so that the government reflects the interests of the people who are being governed. In order for all important problems in our government to be addressed all stakeholders must make known their intent to be heard.

The bigger and better question in politics should be: Why are some groups of people not voting or further becoming politically active? According to the PBS News hour website, only 34.6% of eligible voters turned up for the 2014 midterm election.<sup>1</sup> This number had not been so low since 1944 when World War II was being fought. Statistics like this reveal the truth behind our democracy and the fact that the majority of the people do not rule as most Americans do not

participate.<sup>2</sup> Although considerably more people do vote in presidential elections the percentage only rises to 58.2%.<sup>3</sup> This new presidential turnout percentage while impressive compared to the midterm participation percentage appears dull when compared to political participation found around the world. It would be easy to point an accusatory figure at those how abstain from voting as lazy, irresponsible, and ignorant people who deserve underrepresentation. However, by accepting this stance it is assumed that a vast number of Americans poses those negative characteristics. Therefore, there must be an underlying cause to this systematic disenfranchisement epidemic.

Possible causes to this disenfranchisement would include the effects of voting dilution through political gerrymandering and restrictive voting procedures. It is impossible to deny that gerrymandering those not occur as the odd shapes that compromise districts speaks for itself and the fact that they tend to always benefit the artist of such bizarre and abstract divisions leaves a lot to be said. However despite laws that prohibit this malicious practice, lawmakers still blatantly ignore the law. This act is not only harmful to the opposing part as they lose an election, it is harmful to democracy itself as it teaches Americans that their voice is not important and will be impeded by those very people meant to protect their liberty. Another possible cause of voter discouragement could be stricter voting requirements such as the Voter ID law that was conveniently passed right before the election. The most malicious aspect of this law is that it was passed right before an election and stripped many voters of their right to vote.

#### HONORING CONSUELO RAYMOND KAZEN

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Consuelo Raymond Kazen, a lifelong Laredoan and wife of our former colleague, the late Congressman Abraham "Chick" Kazen, Jr.

Consuelo R. Kazen died Sunday, March 22, 2015 in Laredo, Texas. Over the course of her long life, Mrs. Kazen gave her "considerable creative talents and passion" to a number of community organizations, building up a reputation as a widely revered citizen and well-respected teacher.

She was actively involved in the Pan American Round Table, the Texas Senate Ladies Club, the Texas State Teachers Association, the Congressional Texas State Society, the Society of Martha Washington, and the Laredo Doll Club. A devoted Catholic, Connie was also a Lady in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Consuelo Raymond Kazen was born the 6th of May 1919 to Mr. and Mrs. Manuel J. and Santos Zapata Raymond, Jr. who preceded her in death. Her beloved husband, Congressman Abraham "Chick" Kazen, Jr.; sisters, Teresa Raymond Flores and Mary Sanchez; and brother, Adolfo Raymond, have also preceded her in death. Mrs. Kazen is survived by her sisters, Gloria Woods, Chabela Martinez and Zita Coffey; brothers, Manuel J. (Angelina)

Raymond Jr. and Rolando (Amada) Raymond her children, Abraham Kazen III, Norma Kazen, Christina (Ronny) Attal, Catherine Kazen, and Jo Betsy Kazen as well as eleven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. She will be remembered as a "nurturing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend" who will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have the opportunity to honor the legacy of this great Laredoan, Consuelo Raymond Kazen. Her many contributions to South Texas and the City of Laredo will not be forgotten.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CAILIN STOCKDALE

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Cailin Stockdale for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Cailin has the determination and drive to be successful in all of her pursuits, which is highlighted by her exemplary work with Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa. As the Director of Marketing and Communication, she channels her compassion and desire to help others and grow this wonderful organization. In her free time she serves her community through volunteering with Everybody Wins! Iowa, GDMLI and The Principal Charity Classic's Networking on the Green Committee. In all aspects of her life, Cailin is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Cailin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Cailin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

THAILAND'S FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Freedom to say what you believe is a universal human right but certain rulers do not seem to get that.

On March 25th, Prayuth Chan-ocha, the junta leader and acting Prime Minister of Thailand warned journalists, "You don't have to support the government . . . but you should report the truth . . . or we'll probably just execute [you]."

Prayuth and his fellow generals took over the elected government in a coup last May. The country has been under martial law ever since then. Prayuth can ban any political gathering and the military can arrest and detain whoever whenever they want—including journalists.

This latest threat should be taken seriously.

Freedom of speech is our first amendment for a reason. It's the building block of all other rights and to promote change for the good of the people.

The rulers in Thailand should immediately make clear that freedom of speech, including freedom of the press, is a right that all the people of Thailand can and should exercise.

And that's just the way it is.

YUSSRA HAMID'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Yussra Hamid attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Euthanasia is the "act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals . . . in a relatively painless way". Throughout the 20th century there were events that brought the legalities of euthanasia to the spotlight of American politics, and recently, euthanasia has once again emerged as a topic of debate amongst the American public. Brittany Maynard, a twenty-nine year old American diagnosed with malignant brain cancer (she was given six months to live), died on November 1st by taking a lethal dose of medication in Oregon where assisted suicide is permitted. Before her death, Maynard defended her deci-

sion by stating that she would rather die with dignity than suffer the harsh symptoms her brain cancer would inflict upon her. The case of Brittany Maynard facilitated great discussion over the topic of euthanasia and whether it should be made legal across the United States of America or not. While advocates for assisted suicide may appear to have a compelling argument, euthanasia should not be permitted because its legalization will corrupt the medical field and assisted suicide is not protected by the Constitution.

When practicing, medical personnel are required to abide by the Hippocratic Oath, an affidavit that establishes that physicians will "[will not] give a deadly drug to anybody who [asks] for it." Opponents of assisted suicide state that if euthanasia were legalized, it would breach the oath. Dr. Leon Mass of President's Council on Bioethics argued that physicians should not participate in the administration of lethal drugs because "the taboo against doctors killing patients . . . is the embodiment of reason and wisdom . . . without it, medicine will have lost its claim to be an ethical and trustworthy profession". The practice would cause the deterioration of physician-patient relationships because the patient would not know if the doctor has his/her best interest in mind or if the physician is receiving money from euthanasia advocates for promoting the practice or from insurance companies that no longer want to cover the terminally ill patient. While terminal diseases generally do lead to the fast death of the individual, such pressure on a patient could cause him/her to make an impulsive decision that would violate the patient's right to the pursuit of happiness, one guaranteed by the US Constitution.

As cases like Maynard's gain attention, euthanasia will continue to spur controversy and its legality will be questioned in the Supreme Court. However, until the world becomes a utopian society where malpractice is nonexistent, euthanasia should be illegal because the practice violates the basic principles of medicine and the Constitution.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID WOLNERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Wolnerman of Des Moines, Iowa, for his bravery and resiliency during a very dark time in world history. David was born in Mocev, Poland, to Pinchas and Hannah Wolnerman and at the age of 12 was taken to his first work camp. Not long after, David was moved to a concentration camp, before he was ultimately liberated by General Dwight D. Eisenhower at Dachau. It wasn't until after his time in the concentration camps that he met his wife Jennie. After the war, Jennie and David lived in Munich, Germany, before eventually making their way to the United States.

David and his family currently reside in Des Moines, and as the last Holocaust survivor in the state David has the unique opportunity to tell his story. Later this week he will be recognized by the Greater Des Moines Jewish Federation for his accomplishment and a book detailing his life experiences will be shared with the world.

I would like to thank David for his dedication to the State of Iowa and showing us just how resilient the human spirit can be. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and his family for their accomplishments. I wish them nothing but the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING CAROL SCHATZ'S TENURE AS PRESIDENT/CEO OF CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carol Schatz on being honored with the Heart of the City Award at this year's "Treasures of Los Angeles" luncheon. As president and chief executive officer of the Central City Association (CCA) of Los Angeles, Carol has played an integral role in making Los Angeles one of the world's great cities—a growing and thriving metropolis, welcoming to businesses, investors, developers, and travelers.

This year, Carol celebrates her 25th year at the Central City Association of Los Angeles. That is a remarkable milestone, and it is worth reviewing her successes during that time.

Under Carol's leadership, CCA has been one of the leading business advocacy organizations in the City and County of Los Angeles, coordinating with community leaders and elected officials to make Los Angeles a better place to live and work.

In Downtown Los Angeles, development and investment are at record levels. Downtown is now home to more than 50,000 residents, with units to house another 15,000 under construction or in the process of being approved.

Carol has played a critical role in Downtown's renaissance. At her direction, CCA has worked to transform and revitalize the area through a broad set of strategies ranging from mixed-use/mixed-income projects to new transportation amenities. Carol initiated an Adaptive Reuse Ordinance to make Downtown a housing destination, and coordinated state funding and incentives to help developers turn empty office buildings into brand-new housing. CCA also joined with the Los Angeles City Council to help reinstitute the Civic Center Authority, which developed a master plan for the area.

In 1997, Carol's efforts led to the creation of the Downtown Center Business Improvement District, a coalition of property owners in the heart of Downtown L.A. With Carol at its helm, the DCBD has brought substantial new residential and commercial investment to Downtown, and has made it a safer and cleaner place to live.

Carol Schatz's vision, hard work, and perseverance have garnered her much praise from city and state leaders, and the "Heart of the City" award is just the latest well-deserved example. I have worked with Carol for many years to keep Los Angeles moving forward, and am proud to call her a friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this great honor.



## HONORING MATT COLIN

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman TED DEUTCH to congratulate Head Coach Matt Colin, a dear family friend, for his outstanding leadership with the Wellington High School Boys' Basketball team. On February 29, he—alongside his brother Mike Colin, varsity Assistant Coach—led the Wolverines to their first state championship.

Coach Colin's leadership has been widely recognized. He received the "Coach of the Year" from the Florida High School Athletic League for 8A Basketball.

In addition to the state championship, Coach Colin guided the Wolverines through a historic season record of 29–3 and the program's longest winning streak of 16 consecutive wins.

In pursuit of their first state championship, the Wolverines adopted the San Antonio Spurs "Pound the Rock" mantra. Coach Colin used this phrase to motivate his students to persevere throughout the season, despite all odds. This is a principle that rings true in all aspects of life and has helped his students grow into leaders among their peers.

It brings me great joy to honor his leadership and mentorship in our community. I wish Coach Colin and the Wolverines continued success.

## A TRIBUTE TO JOE STOPULOS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joe Stopulos for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Joe has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work with Holmes Murphy & Associates Inc. As an Account Executive, his work-ethic and determination allow him to continuously grow his sales business. In his free time Joe likes to dedicate himself to serving others and being a leader in his community, volunteering at numerous church activities and leadership events. In all aspects of his life, Joe is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joe in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joe on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIBRARIES OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich tradition of libraries serving Jackson, Michigan.

Libraries in our community date back to March 15, 1864 when the Young Men's Association (YMA) established a reading room. In late 1865, it turned into a subscription library for YMA members.

In 1885, the Jackson Public Library was formed following a new law allowing cities to use tax revenue to support a free public library.

In 1929, the Jackson County Library was created for residents living outside the city of Jackson.

The two separate entities merged together in 1978 to form the Jackson District Library.

Today, the Jackson District Library is a vital anchor of the Jackson community where residents of all ages come to learn, research, and discover.

From story-time for children to researching family histories to taking an online course, the library provides a wide range of services.

A hub for community activity, the library will coordinate a festival in May 2015 for nationally recognized storytellers where over eleven thousand children will attend.

The Jackson District Library is a place where residents gather freely to learn and discuss the important issues of the day and where they are continually inspired to acquire more knowledge and skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 150 years of libraries in Jackson County, thank these institutions for all they contribute to the community, and wish them another 150 years of success.

## A TRIBUTE TO MIKE TAYLOR

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mike Taylor for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify

a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Mike has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Midwest Growth Partner. As Managing Partner, Mike works with others to make solid investments and avoid risk. Mike spends his free time serving others by volunteering as a youth football coach at the local YMCA. Mike's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

## MANZI MASOZERA'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Manzi Masozera attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Ever since the beginning of time, an institution that organizes a group of human beings has been essential to the stability of any civil society. From the governing bodies of Ancient Greece to Ancient Babylon, government has been around for millennia. Its existence allows for citizens to know what they can or cannot do according to law. Good government brings forth social and political order and creates the most humanly possible form of freedom and equality. Whenever someone breaks the law, whenever someone is on trial, or whenever someone fights for what he or she believes in, the government is there as an aid to make sure justice is served. I believe that the government's role in our daily lives is to abide by the Declaration of Independence and protect our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of



happiness. The differentiating factor of the American government versus the governments of other countries is the fact that America was the first to establish a written constitution that had a bill of rights and was the first to write down the idea of "God-given" inalienable rights which for years prior was only conceptualized. While the government states our laws and rights, someone has to be there to enforce it in order for us to retain stability. This is why in our democracy, we have the ability to elect our leaders to govern over us. In America we have the rights to elect senators, congressmen/women, and presidents. These leaders play an important role in our lives because they make sure that the law is followed and they even propose new laws that they feel may improve the status of the country. A good government also allows its citizens to remove leaders if they don't abide by the same laws that the citizens are required to follow. Overall, government is an essential institution that allows for order and stability in our societies. It is necessary for justice to be served for the ones who need it, and protection for the inhabitants of the country. The role government plays in our daily lives is important because it allows for peace to prevail in the ever-growing and globalized world that we live in.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KEVIN TIERNAN

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Kevin Tiernan for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Kevin has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Bankers Trust Co., where he is the Vice President of Sales and Development. It is clear Kevin has a passion for finance and his community. Kevin spends his free time serving as a mentor for the "I Have a Dream Foundation,"—he also serves on the Community Youth Concepts board of directors. His work ethic and dedication to service has and will continue to make our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Kevin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Kevin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work

and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 15

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to continue consideration of an original bill entitled, "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "WIOA Technical Amendments Act", and the nominations of Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To receive a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the Navy's current and projected capabilities to meet those threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine American food aid, focusing on why reform matters.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine IRS challenges in implementing the Affordable Care Act.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the need to reform asset forfeiture.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the national intelligence and military intelligence programs.

SVC-217

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for military construction and military family housing for select combatant commanders and select defense agencies.

SD-124

1:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the IRS impersonation scam and the government's response.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine funding the Department of Homeland Security role in cybersecurity, focusing on protection to partnership.

SD-138

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

S-116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine the National Nuclear Security Administration plans and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine if taxes are holding back small business growth.

SD-G50

2:45 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 16

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to continue consideration of an original bill entitled, "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "WIOA Technical Amendments Act", and the nominations of Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Education.

SD-124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine regulatory burdens to obtaining mortgage credit.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Energy Information Administration's annual energy outlook for 2015.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending executive business.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-192

APRIL 20

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the 2020 Census, focusing on challenges facing the bureau for a modern, cost-effective survey.

SD-342

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges for agriculture trade with Cuba.

SR-328A

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of State.

SD-419

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

APRIL 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients.

SD-215

APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD-366

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 14, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN NEWHOUSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor today because, while we were home during the Easter break, there was a tragedy in Afghanistan that largely escaped the national news.

On April 8, Army medic John Dawson was shot and killed and eight other Americans were wounded by an Afghan soldier who opened fire on them. This tragedy is yet another example of the American blood spilled in Afghanistan.

Sadly, this kind of tragedy, an American soldier being killed by a supposed Afghan ally, is nothing new. The poster I have with me today is a picture of two little girls, Eden and Stephanie, who lived in my district for a time.

Their father, Sergeant Kevin Balduf, who was stationed at Camp Lejeune in my district, died in May of 2011 in Afghanistan, along with Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Palmer, who also was stationed in my district at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

They were shot by an Afghan policeman they were training. The night be-

fore Sergeant Balduf died, he emailed his wife, Amy, and he said:

I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them.

The next day, he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, last December, when Congress passed final appropriations for fiscal year 2015, it provided \$4.1 billion for the Afghan National Security Forces and additional funding for development assistance. This is more money than the Afghan Government generates in a year.

The special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction, John Sopko, regularly produces reports of the rampant waste, fraud, and abuse of American taxpayer dollars in Afghanistan; yet we in Congress continue to spend billions in Afghanistan. To what end? Why are we going to spend billions of dollars and have troops in Afghanistan for 9 more years—for 9 more years, Mr. Speaker?

As Roger Simon, an editor with Politico, said in October 2014:

If you spent 13 years pounding money down a rathole with little to show for it, you might wake up one morning and say: "Hey, I'm going to stop pounding money down this rathole." The United States Government wakes up every morning and says: "The rathole is looking a little empty today. Let's pound a few more billion dollars down there."

Mr. Speaker, that is sad for the American taxpayer who, tomorrow, many of the American taxpayers will pay their taxes to the Federal Government; and we, in Congress, will continue to take their tax money and spend billions over in Afghanistan with very little accountability for the American taxpayer. That is unacceptable.

When you look at the limbs and the death that is going on in Afghanistan, you wonder why someone, years ago, said that Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires. Yes, Mr. Speaker, America is headed for the graveyard in Afghanistan. I don't understand my colleagues in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan once and for all. We have wasted billions of dollars and spilled so much American blood in a futile attempt to save a fractured country from itself. Afghanistan is truly the graveyard of empires that I just mentioned. It is time for Congress to lead the way and end our presence in Afghanistan.

May God continue to bless our men and women in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

### FREE AMIR HEKMATI NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to bring up the case of my constituent, a young man by the name of Amir Hekmati. He is an American citizen, born and raised in the United States, grew up in my home town of Flint, Michigan, and served in the United States Marine Corps. He is a brother; he is a son.

Three and a half years ago, he traveled to Iran. His parents are of Iranian descent. He traveled to Iran to meet for the first time a grandmother that he had never seen, traveled under his own name, notified the government that he was going.

After just a couple of weeks, he was apprehended, disappeared; and, after a few months later, it was revealed that he had been tried and convicted and sentenced to death.

A young man, an American, traveling under his own name in Iran, who had served in the United States Marine Corps, was sentenced to death simply for being an American in Iran that had served this country. He is an innocent man, and he continues to languish in Evin Prison.

I am here to make it clear that the Congress of the United States and the American people are watching the Iranian Government. If, in fact, Iran intends, as they purport to do, to try to take steps to join the international community, they cannot hold Americans like Amir Hekmati as political prisoners.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, from JOHN LEWIS to DARRELL ISSA, have joined in the effort to raise awareness around Amir Hekmati's case. It is important that we never let this case fade into the woodwork.

I think about Amir the same way that I would think about it if my own son were being held in a prison on the other side of the world, and I know that every other Member of Congress who has been engaged in this effort feels the same way. He is one of us; he is our son, and he needs to be reunited with his family.

As we now are considering, I think, a really important moment where there have been negotiations to try to deal with Iran's nuclear aspirations—and personally, I support this direction, I support the direction the administration has gone in creating a framework through negotiation to make for a more peaceful world. It is very difficult

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for many of us in Congress, especially those of us who represent those few Americans being held in an Iranian prison, to view this agreement other than through the lens of that experience.

If Iran truly intends to try to rejoin the global community, they can make a very clear demonstration of their seriousness by releasing Amir Hekmati and the other Americans that they hold. We all can play a role in making that happen. I encourage everybody out there—Members of Congress, people who want to become engaged—to get to social media. Use #freemir or #freemirnow.

We know that the Iranian Government does pay attention to what the American people think—the Iranian citizens certainly do—and we know that we have to keep the pressure on right now. It is, as I said, very difficult for many of us who support the direction that this administration has taken these negotiations and really hope that it bears fruit, really hope that it creates an agreement that makes the world—and particularly that region—safer.

We can only really accept Iran as a member of the global community not just by entering into this agreement, but by them joining the world community by not being a nation that can take a young man who served his country, who grew up here, was the captain of his high school hockey team, simply wanted to go to see the country that his parents were born in, and to visit the grandmother that he had never met. To hold him as a political prisoner, as a chip in a geopolitical struggle, is beyond the pale; and it is something that can't be accepted.

Please, my friends, my colleagues, join me in continuing to raise your voices to make sure that not one day passes—especially during this period where we are considering this potentially historic agreement—not one day passes where Amir Hekmati, Jason Rezaian, Pastor Abedini, Mr. Levinson, that their cases, their names, are never forgotten.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET FOR A BETTER AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 22, 2011, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen referred to our national debt as “the single biggest threat to our national security.”

He was correct in his statement that the United States continues to suffer from overbearing debt and, unless immediate action is taken, future generations will face unsurmountable challenges.

No one wants a future where policymakers are forced to choose between discretionary programs, like roads and bridges or educating our children, when they continue to be crowded out by mandatory spending which accounts for more than two-thirds of our annual budget.

We need a strong social safety net. We need a strong national defense. We need an America where young learners can have access to a quality education and workers can receive the skills that they need to gain family-sustaining jobs and keep businesses thriving and competitive, both domestically and globally.

Unfortunately, aspirations for a more prosperous America are not going to be achieved until we begin to get out from underneath this burden of debt.

Mr. Speaker, since 2009, the Obama administration has added more than \$7 trillion to our national debt, and today, we owe more than \$18 trillion, an amount greater than the annual gross domestic product.

While bipartisan agreements have led to some successes since 2011, Congress must continue to put forth a blueprint that aims to reduce deficit spending and provide a path to long-term fiscal stability.

Recently, the House passed a strong budget resolution that aims to reduce spending by \$5.5 trillion over 10 years to get a handle on erroneous regulations and mandates that impede job creation and promote true patient-centered healthcare solutions.

Mr. Speaker, the critics of this plan have unashamedly claimed that Republicans “want to end Medicare as we know it.” Well, those accusations could not be further from the truth. Unfortunately, these nearsighted individuals have focused more on partisan attacks rather than looking at the long-term challenges that we, as a country, face together.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Medicare hospital trust fund will be insolvent by 2030, which is closer than we all would like to admit.

The House Republican proposal presents a plan to save, strengthen, and secure Medicare for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees. It makes no changes for those in or near retirement, provides future seniors with premium support, and will result in actual savings for both beneficiaries and taxpayers.

The do-nothing alternative will only serve to break promises this country has made to our seniors and places us on a road to rationing, where beneficiaries will be burdened with arbitrary caps to medically necessary procedures and care.

Mr. Speaker, I am in no way claiming this blueprint is perfect, but please be assured that I was not elected to sit idle or squander an opportunity to en-

sure that our great country can continue to support promises that we have made.

Moving forward, as the House and Senate begin to conference and work out the details between each Chamber's respective budgets, I will remain committed to ensuring a strong national security, economic competitiveness, and an atmosphere that fosters positive growth throughout Pennsylvania and across our great country.

We have been given an opportunity to strengthen this great Nation. Let us work toward that end, rather than vilify those who look to provide us options. Our children and future generations of Americans deserve as much.

□ 1015

#### APRIL 16—D.C. EMANCIPATION DAY: HONOR WITH THE VOTE AND WITH STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, during the next 3 days, I will be coming to the floor, leading up to Thursday, April 16—D.C. Emancipation Day. That is the day that Abraham Lincoln emancipated the slaves in the District of Columbia before slaves nationwide were emancipated.

Now, no resident of the District of Columbia is a slave today as in 1863, but at the same time, the residents of the District of Columbia are not as free as the other residents of our country—our fellow Americans. In the District of Columbia, we commemorate D.C. Emancipation Day, not only to honor our forebears but to demand equal treatment from our country for the citizens who live in the Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens who live right here in the belly of freedom do not have the same rights as other Americans although they pay the same taxes and more taxes—I will argue tomorrow and show you the figures—than any other Americans. They endure undemocratic interference even with their local budget—a budget for which the Federal Government, for which the Congress, contributes not one penny—and yet that local budget comes before this body without the Member who represents the local citizens—the Member whose local budget is at issue cannot vote.

As astounding as those elements of statehood are, perhaps none is more dishonorable than the continued sacrifices of Americans who live in the Nation's Capital without having the same representation as other Americans. We are known, perhaps, in the Nation's Capital by “no taxation without representation.” If there is anything by which we could be better known, it is

by those who have fought and died since the war that created the United States of America, itself. Who would believe what those figures show?

In World War I, more casualties than from three States. In World War II—now, this is one city of which we are speaking—more casualties than from four States. By the time we get to the Korean war, more casualties than from eight States of the Union. All of that is disproportionate, Mr. Speaker. Finally, when we get to the last great war of the 20th century, the Vietnam war, more casualties from the District of Columbia than from 10 States.

Thousands have died—all without a vote—and yet D.C. citizens have secured the vote everywhere they have fought for their country. They secured the vote for the people of Iraq. They secured the vote for the people of Afghanistan. They secured the vote for citizens throughout Europe and the Mideast. But here, to this day in 2015—more than 150 years after Lincoln freed the first slaves in the District of Columbia—the residents of the District of Columbia are still not free. They will not be free until they become citizens of the 51st State of the United States and until their war dead are honored as the war dead of other States are honored—by going to war on the vote of the people, including of their own Representative, coming back, and being able to vote themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, on this first day of D.C. Emancipation Week, I ask that the D.C. war dead be honored and that those from the District of Columbia who serve our Nation today be honored with the vote and with statehood.

#### HONORING PREVENT CHILD ABUSE KENTUCKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and to highlight the important work of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

This organization is on the front lines to make sure that Kentucky's children are raised in a safe, loving home and are not abused, mistreated, or neglected. Their staff of eight train thousands of people annually. Their parent education groups, offered in every region of our Commonwealth, serve more than 10,000 people every year. Thousands of pinwheels will blanket the Commonwealth of Kentucky this month, all with the hopes of drawing awareness of child abuse and neglect in our communities, and there is much work to do.

According to the most recent national statistics on child abuse, an estimated 1,520 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States, and that was in 2013 alone. An estimated

679,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect, and those are unique instances. Children in the first year of their lives had the highest rate of victimization, that of 23.1 per 1,000 children in the national population of the same age. Just under 80 percent of reported child fatalities as a result of abuse and neglect were caused by one or more of the child victim's parents.

This is a personal cause for me. As the father of two girls and as the former president of the board of directors for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, I am incredibly proud of the great work that this group is doing for Kentucky children all year long. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in thanking Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and similar organizations around the country as we recognize the critical work of these important groups and as we recognize the importance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR A NEW TRADE MODEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are being kept in the dark by the Obama administration regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

So much secrecy forces us to ask an important question: Have any of our past free trade agreements really been net positive for our Nation and helped our workers? The answer is “no.”

Whether you look at the NAFTA accord with Mexico and Canada, where we are in huge deficit, if you look at the Korean agreement, if you look at basic trade with nations like Japan, which remains a closed market, every single agreement is all negative.

Since 1976, our country has lost 47.5 million jobs due to trade deficits resulting from free trade agreements. During that time, we have accumulated a trade deficit of more than \$9.5 trillion. What a drag that is on GDP. These growing trade deficits that outsource our wealth and weaken our economy devastate communities. Carrying a massive trade deficit has hindered economic growth and has limited our economic recovery by nearly 16 percent just in this past year alone. More and more people are slipping away from the middle class as a result, with inequality at the highest levels since the 1920s. Millions of Americans are losing faith in the possibility of upward mobility.

Let's ask ourselves: What have past trade deals brought Americans?

Just since NAFTA, Americans have lost in the manufacturing sector 5 million jobs, and that is just since the early 1990s—one of every four. More than 57,000 manufacturing facilities have closed—57,000. Washing machines that used to be made in Newton, Iowa—

Maytag—now are imported from Monterrey, Mexico. Hoppy bicycles that used to be made in Celina, Ohio, are now imported from Asia. Ohio knows well the cost of fast-track trade agreements that ship out good jobs and “Made in the USA” brands.

Since NAFTA, our trade balance with Mexico and Canada has gone from a \$5 billion annual surplus, creating jobs here in 1993, to a deficit of \$177 billion today. That translates into three-quarters of a million more lost jobs—750,000 more lost jobs—just with Canada and Mexico.

The quality of life for Americans has been declining under these agreements. Middle class America is shrinking as businesses have closed production and have moved overseas. Three out of every five displaced U.S. manufacturing workers have been forced to take a pay cut in order to secure any kind of job, and one out of three workers experiences a pay cut of more than 20 percent. These are among the luckiest workers, as frequently laid off workers over the age of 40 can't even find replacement work.

This is not just a problem for America. Workers in other countries are caught too, as one worker described to me, “like a lobster in a cage, crawling over one another just to survive,” contributing to unspeakable poverty and waves of desperate immigration to the United States from countries south of our border and elsewhere.

Clearly, NAFTA was a failure for America's workers. If we look at the Korean trade deal, which they said would be the salvation, it has worked exactly in reverse. We have already lost 75,000 more jobs to imports coming into our country from Korea. The exports going out have been just a trickle. In fact, our exports to Korea have gone down by 7.5 percent. The Korean agreement was hailed as a wonderful opportunity for the American economy, something we just could not pass up. Well, take a look at what has happened. We imported 1,288,546 vehicles from Korea in 2014 and only exported 34,186. There are 40 times more imports coming into our country than exports going out. The Korean free trade agreement has been a failure for American workers too.

With these Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations continuing to advance, America should ask: Could it possibly be a good deal for American workers?

We already have colossal trade deficits with some of the countries with which the negotiations are occurring—with Malaysia, with Vietnam, and, obviously, with Japan. The prospective TPP partners use protectionism and currency manipulation to gain unfair advantage, and, in some cases, they fail to regulate appalling labor conditions. These nations will not deliver on the promises made in support of TPP.

History should teach us that we need a new trade model. America doesn't

need more job-outsourcing trade deals. The executive branch and, specifically, the National Security Council better start paying attention to the harm it causes when it forgets its global strategies have created undue harm here in the homeland. The people in the United States are asking for a new trade model that creates jobs and economic growth in our country again—I might say robust economic growth—for which the American people have been waiting for almost three decades.

#### TIME TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL FUNDING SHORTFALL FOR OUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week on Capitol Hill, there are hundreds and hundreds of people from around the country who are delivering a message: that America is falling apart and is falling behind, and it is time for us to address the critical funding shortfall for our transportation needs.

They could not have picked a better time to come to Capitol Hill. The 10-month extension of the surface transportation legislation is set to expire in 6 weeks. It is the latest in a series of 23 short-term extensions. No nation ever became great planning its infrastructure 9 months at a time.

The Republican budget—passed last month—again proposes to cut transportation spending, which is already inadequate, 30 percent over the next 10 years despite hearing from local governments, business, labor that the Federal Government should be larger in its contribution, not smaller.

□ 1030

The unwillingness to face reality got us to where we are today, falling apart, falling behind. The country that used to have the finest infrastructure in the world was recently rated 17th, and we are falling further behind.

The gas tax hasn't been increased since 1993, and it has lost nearly 40 percent of its purchasing power. We can't pay for transportation in 2015 with 1993 dollars, but it is interesting that action has taken place on a number of different levels. Over a dozen Senators have been talking about raising the gas tax. Some of my Republican colleagues in the House have agreed that raising the gas tax is the right thing to do.

When I introduced House Resolution 680 in February that would phase in a 3-year, 15-cent gas tax increase, I was joined by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, truckers, AAA, transit, local government, contractors, and bicyclists—it is the broadest coalition you will see on any major issue—all saying to Congress, Stand up and do

the right thing. A gas tax increase is the only solution that is dedicated, sustainable for the long term, and big enough to do the job.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that, while Congress continues to dither, people at the State level are taking action in anticipation that the Federal partnership will be there. Two years ago, I was told it was impractical; it would never fly politically.

Well, what we have seen in the last 2 years, that 13 States—including 7 Republican States—have raised the gas tax. Of the State legislators that voted to increase the gas tax, 98 percent of them were reelected—I would note, a better percentage than the Senate Democrats running for reelection in the last election.

With the support of Congress, this broad coalition, we can actually step up, revitalize the economy. We can strengthen communities. We can put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work at family wage jobs in every State in the Union.

Mr. Speaker, in 1982, Ronald Reagan gave his Thanksgiving Day address, where he pointed out that the gas tax hadn't been raised in over 20 years. He pointed out needs for critical maintenance and construction. He pointed out that raising the gas tax would create hundreds of thousands of family wage jobs. Ronald Reagan called on Congress to come back and more than double the gas tax. Ronald Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill and Congress did just that, and America was the better for it.

There is no reason that this Congress cannot demonstrate the foresight and courage of President Reagan and the Congress over 30 years ago and show the fortitude that has been shown in States around the country who are betting that we are going to be there working with them.

I sincerely hope that my colleagues listen to the hundreds of men and women on Capitol Hill telling this story from the perspective of unions, local government, and business. The needs are there. Congress needs to act. The public deserves no less.

#### TAX FAIRNESS AND TAX EQUITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition and the opportunity to revise and extend my remarks and to address the body of the House.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues all know, this is the week that the American people will strike that check to the Internal Revenue Service to pay their taxes. Now, what has ended up happening through the years, as this tax that came on our books about 100 years ago and was to be a 1 percent

temporary tax, has grown and grown and grown, and it continues to eat a greater share of our incomes.

I hear from constituents every single day—every single day—about the unfairness and the overreach of the IRS. They are so fed up with this because what they observe is government continues to grow and the bureaucracy continues to grow, and what happens? It just takes away bits and pieces of our freedom every time that bureaucracy expands.

That is the reason that this week we in the House have set aside time to make certain that we are addressing those concerns that we hear from our constituents. This is a week where we are going to talk about tax fairness, tax equity, and also about overreach, which comes from a government that refuses to live within its means and continues to take more out of the pockets of hard-working taxpayers who are fighting and working so hard to live within their means. I think there basically is something immoral about taxpayers working so hard to live within their means and sending money to a government that refuses to live within its means.

Now, there are some things that we can do to address this issue and things that we ought to be doing, and we are. One is to look at a permanent repeal of the death tax. I am so pleased that Chairman RYAN and Chairman BRADY are bringing these bills forward.

The other that I want to talk specifically about for a few minutes is H.R. 622. This is a bill that I am the lead cosponsor on with Congressman KEVIN BRADY and one that is very important to my State of Tennessee, just as it is to the other States—Texas, Florida, Washington State, Nevada—that don't have a State income tax but that choose to fund their government off of other taxes, sales tax. What this legislation does is to make permanent the ability of citizens, taxpayers in those States to deduct their sales tax, their State and local sales tax from their Federal income tax filing.

Now, this is an issue Congressman BRADY and I have been working on since 2003, and that year we were successful in having the ability to deduct that sales tax restored to your State income tax, your Federal income tax filing. That is why you now have lines 5a and 5b on those forms.

This is the reason that I became so interested in this issue. When I was a State senator in Tennessee, I led not a 4-day or 4-week or 4-month, but a 4-year battle against implementation of a State income tax in my State—4 full years. It was quite a fight. The people of the State of Tennessee worked with me to make certain that we would remain State income tax-free.

Now, of course, they wanted that State income tax to pay for a health care plan. It had been the test case for

HillCare. It was known as TennCare. That program of government-run health care exceeded the expectations of its budget by not 100 percent; it quadrupled in cost over a 5-year period of time. So Tennesseans learned in 2000, 2001, and 2002 the message and the lesson of what a State income tax would do, how it would take more money out of their pocket.

As I came to Congress in 2003, one of the very first things we did was to put attention on restoring this deductibility. It is an important bill. I congratulate Congressman BRADY, Chairman BRADY for his work on it. I thank him for his partnership on the issue. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 622.

#### WEAR RED TO REMEMBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for a moment of remembrance for the girls of Nigeria. I believe, and people all around the world believe, that we can and should do more to bring our girls home, the girls who have already suffered so much.

Late on the evening of April 14, in the northeast corner of Nigeria, young girls were attending a government-sponsored secondary school when they heard gunshots. Soon after, they saw men on motorbikes entering the school compound. The men told them that they were policemen, but they were lying. The men gathered all the girls together, some 276 of them. They were mostly Christian girls between the ages of 16 and 18. Then more men came, fighters, and the one guard ran away. The men began shouting, and the girls realized that they were captured by Boko Haram.

As most know by now, Boko Haram is a homegrown Islamist insurgency. Roughly translated, their name means, "Western education is forbidden." In the eyes of the men, the girls had committed a grave sin of seeking an education. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, the birthplace of Boko Haram is Borno State in northeastern Nigeria, a place of great poverty. Estimates by Human Rights Watch suggest that more than 7,000 civilians have died at their hands, and the fatalities are just part of the horror.

To the anguish of the girls' families, some meet a fate even worse than death. Women and girls abducted by Boko Haram are forced to marry insurgent fighters, converted to Islam, and endure beatings and psychological abuse, forced labor, and rape in captivity, and the terror will last a lifetime. The terror group has now abducted more than 500 young women and girls since 2009.

Back in Nigeria that night, some of the terrified girls were forced into a truck and taken away. Others marched into the jungle. That night and the coming months a handful of them—57 of them—escaped, and reports are that some of them have died.

Now, after nearly a year of inaction, the Nigerian Army along with forces from Chad, Niger, and Cameroon have mounted an offensive against the terrorists and have retaken territory, but still the Nigerian Army says they have no clue where the girls are.

As I speak, there are over 200 frightened, abused, and desperate girls somewhere in the jungle hoping against hope that they are not forgotten. Today, April 14, marks 1 year since the girls were taken, 1 year in captivity, 1 year in terror.

Though I am glad to see that Nigeria's immediate neighbors have begun providing assistance, I believe it is time for us to call on all African leaders to do more, to come together, to provide resources, to provide manpower to unite and fight against Boko Haram. We here in America have a role to play. I encourage everyone to do whatever they can, small or large, to bring our girls home and to keep the pressure up.

Consider for a moment how thousands of terrorists who comprise ISIS and Boko Haram have had such success in recruiting people from distant lands to pledge their lives to their murderous cause by using social media platforms. Well, we are the people who created social media, and we are the billions. Can we not do better than them, pursuing a cause of mercy, not murder? Let us, the billions, overwhelm their hate with our hope. Let's defeat their violence with our vision of a better world.

I hope you will consider that you will do one small thing to help. Consider joining one of the global schoolgirl marches taking place across the world on this day. Tweet out your call to bring our girls home. Post something on Facebook, or you can join me in the purple and red ribbon campaign of remembrance. Tonight the Empire State Building in New York City will light up in red and purple in remembrance of the girls. Purple is the color of violence against women, red of bring back our girls. There will be a march from the United Nations to the Empire State Building to thank them for remembering.

Let each of us find some way that we can help to bring these girls home. If we don't, the violence will continue. If you don't stand up and fight back, they will continue abducting, murdering, raping, and killing young girls.

I call upon everyone to do what they can—particularly, the African leaders—to stand up and fight back against Boko Haram.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House. During this season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help them to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

May they and may we all be transformed by Your Grace and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy, at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:



H. RES. 199

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Meehan, to rank immediately after Mr. Marino.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Byrne and Mr. Newhouse.

Ms. FOXX (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT OFFICE MANAGER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the District Office Manager of the Office of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, April 8, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

BRYAN RUDOLPH,  
*District Office Manager.*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from a staff member of the Office of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

MARCH 31, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

SARAH ROGERS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from a staff member of the Office of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

MARCH 31, 2015.

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*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
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After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DAYNE LAHOOD.

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After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

MARK ROMAN.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### CONGRESS DESERVES VOTE ON IRAN DEAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President has put at risk the safety of American families and of America's allies, especially Israel and Arab nations, by entering into a meaningless framework with an untruthful regime.

Senator Joe Lieberman, in a recent op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, reminds President Obama that the sanctions he is conceding were put in place

by a bipartisan coalition in Congress. The article by the former Democrat Senator explains to us of a powerful time in history when leaders of both parties worked together to ratify arms control agreements in Congress during the cold war. We did not neglect our constitutional principles then in the face of World War III, nor should we now for an agreement that will allow Iran to have nuclear weapons in the future.

Our Founding Fathers were purposefully unclear on the powers of foreign policy in order to prevent one person from ruling without restraint. President Obama should submit his agreement with Iran for congressional approval. I appreciate the bipartisan efforts of Senator BOB CORKER and Senator BOB MENENDEZ.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today, on Equal Pay Day, we call attention to the fact that American women who work full time are paid only 78 percent of what men earn. For women of color, the discrepancy is worse.

This pay gap will cost a 25-year-old woman \$34,000 over the next 5 years. Over her career, she will lose \$431,000 relative to men. Women make up nearly half of the American workforce. Underpaying half of our workers hurts women, hurts families, and hurts the economy. In New York, we have the smallest pay gap among the States, but women in New York still earn only 86 cents for every dollar a man is paid. We can do much better.

When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, which requires equal pay for equal work, women's pay was 59 percent of men's. We have made progress, but time has exposed loopholes that hinder the law.

I call on the House to pass Congresswoman DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close these loopholes and bring us closer to pay equity. Let's act now to make equal pay for equal work a reality.

#### COMMEMORATING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S DEATH

(Mr. MOOLENAAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 150th anniversary of the tragic day an assassin's bullet took President Abraham Lincoln's life.

There is no greater challenge than leading a nation through an armed conflict against itself, one that divides families and longtime friends.

When responding to criticism of his efforts to save the Union, President Lincoln said, "If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

History has vindicated President Lincoln, and now, as War Secretary Edwin Stanton said, he "belongs to the ages."

Through solemn, humble, and steadfast leadership, he guided our Nation through the crisis—the horrific period of conflict between Fort Sumter and Appomattox. Sustained by faith, he stood on principle to preserve our country, to correct a nation's moral failing, and to lead a government of, by, and for the people ever closer toward a more perfect Union.

President Lincoln gave his life—his last full measure of devotion—for our country, and he will forever be remembered for his heroic work to preserve our United States of America.

#### EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which is the day that symbolizes, more than 3 months into the year, that women's wages have finally caught up to what men were paid last year.

Women deserve equal pay for equal work. It is outrageous that in 2015 a woman is still paid less for the same job that a man does. Pay discrimination is wrong. It hurts millions of hard-working families, and it hinders the growth of our economy.

That is why I and many of my colleagues have reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act—to ensure that women earn the same pay as men for doing the same work, to ensure that our wives, our sisters, our daughters, our granddaughters are treated fairly in the workplace for doing the same job that the man sitting right next to them does.

Our country should be building an economy that works for everyone so that women and their families can save, buy a home, send their kids to college, and save for retirement. Equal pay for equal work should not ever be a partisan issue. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will allow a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for this very important legislation.

#### IN MEMORY OF LAUREN HILL

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor to speak today.

Last Friday, Lauren Hill, a basketball player at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, succumbed in her battle with DIPG, a rare form of inoperable brain cancer.

Following her tragic diagnosis, Lauren became an inspiration to an awful lot of people. After miraculously and courageously playing in her first college basketball game last November, she dedicated her remaining days to combating this dreadful disease, raising more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer research.

While we are obviously saddened by the news of Lauren's passing, I would prefer to focus on just how blessed we have been to witness Lauren's courage and her resiliency and her grace in the face of insurmountable odds. She has touched and inspired our community and, in fact, our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also deeply grateful to Lauren's family for their willingness to share her story with the rest of us. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them as they grieve the loss of such a remarkable young woman.

#### ASPEN INSTITUTE PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Olympic College for being named a top 10 finalist for the Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence.

Olympic College has earned a reputation as a place that opens doors to opportunity. Whether creating opportunities for future healthcare practitioners, leading a world-class apprenticeship program with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, or the multitude of other great programs it provides, OC prepares folks for success in school and in life.

This recognition from the Aspen Institute is a testament to OC's president, David Mitchell; to the college's talented faculty and staff; and, importantly, to the students. It is also evidence of the incredible partnerships OC has developed with local employers, with 4-year universities, and with the community.

The record of success is astonishing. Get this: OC has the highest graduation rate of any community college in the State of Washington as 90 percent of students who enter a trades program at OC complete it, and 100 percent are placed in jobs.

I am proud to represent some amazing community colleges, including OC, that have been proven successful in getting people ready to take that next step, whether that is starting a 4-year degree or finding a quality job. I extend to them my congratulations.

#### FAIRNESS TO VETERANS ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as Congress begins to take up the critical and long overdue discussion of long-term infrastructure investment, it is important that we utilize one of our greatest resources—our Nation's veterans.

Right now, there are over 380,000 veteran-owned construction firms across the United States, including thousands in my home State of Pennsylvania. These veteran-owned businesses are primed to play a vital role in the rebuilding of our Nation's roads and bridges. However, right now, when it comes to Federal transportation contracts, we are failing to recognize their full potential.

That is why I have introduced the bipartisan Fairness to Veterans Act in an effort to level the playing field by providing veterans access to existing preferences. Fairness to veterans is a simple idea that says, if any group is going to get special treatment from our government, it should be those who have served in our Armed Forces.

I am proud to have the support of veterans advocacy organizations like the American Legion, local veterans groups, and a bipartisan band of lawmakers in advancing this legislation. I encourage each one of my colleagues to join us as a cosponsor and ensure that we are fighting for and are fair to our Nation's veterans.

□ 1215

#### THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS REPAIR

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, 45 days from today, temporary funding for the surface transportation trust fund expires. Despite the fact that we have 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement, 40 percent of the road surface needs substantial investment, and a \$70 billion backlog in our mass transit systems for a state of good repair, the support drops to zero in 45 days. We need an unimaginable amount of money to fund that for the next 5 years. We need \$120 billion.

Where could we find \$120 billion? Well, tomorrow the Republicans are going to repeal the remains of the estate tax. That is that two one-hundredths of 1 percent of estates that are worth more than \$10 million, under the Republican plan, will pay no taxes when they leave that money to their kids—no taxes. It costs \$270 billion to give that tax relief to two one-hundredths of 1 percent of the families in this country.

How about we spend that money rebuilding the Nation's infrastructure, put hundreds of thousands of people to work, benefit all of America with better roads, with safe bridges, with transit systems that don't kill people because of their state of bad repair? Even the wealthy might benefit from that, although they don't use the system because they fly above it in their helicopters and they don't notice from the backseat of their limousines.

#### ENJOY SOME GOOD EXERCISE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to a wonderful event taking place this Sunday, April 19, in south Florida, the 15th annual Miami Walk Now for Autism Speaks. According to the CDC, over 3 million individuals in our great country are impacted by an autism spectrum disorder. There have been dramatic scientific advances in our understanding of autism over just the past 5 years, but we must ensure that progress toward effective treatment and a cure continues.

The Miami Walk along with others taking place across our wonderful country will raise vital funds to help support important research and family services—research and services. I urge everyone to get out of the house, enjoy some good exercise for a great cause in sunny south Florida this weekend, and participate in the Miami Walk Now for Autism Speaks.

#### JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Equality for All resolution, which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgendered people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, Mr. Speaker, I watched as my State, the great Hoosier State of Indiana, enacted the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, Mr. Speaker, I have heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned citizens. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination; yet in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 States to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or

rent a home or to turn someone away from your business just because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, Mr. Speaker.

As elected representatives, we have responsibility to show America that we are better than this. I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

#### VOTERS WANT MORE DEPORTATIONS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent public opinion poll shows that the American people repudiate President Obama's immigration policies. The new Rasmussen Reports national survey found that 62 percent believe the Federal Government is not doing enough to deport illegal immigrants, up 10 points from a year ago. This is the American people's response to the President's executive amnesty orders.

Furthermore, over half feel that illegal immigrants with children born in the U.S. should not be exempt from being sent home. Also, 54 percent think that a child of an illegal immigrant parent should not automatically become a citizen, and an overwhelming 83 percent do not feel illegal immigrants should get government services.

The American people know that illegal immigration is not in America's best interest.

#### WOMEN NEED EQUAL PAY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because across the United States women continue to earn less than men for an equal day's work. In fact, women, on average, make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. For African American and Latina women, those numbers drop even lower. Even nurses, my profession, who many thought were immune to the pay gap, experience this gender discrepancy, often resulting in men who are nurses being paid thousands of dollars more a year than women.

This disparity has real consequences. A woman's economic health has a ripple effect on her family and on our local economies. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This critical bill would strengthen the 52-year-old Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and ensuring that women are paid equal wages for equal work.

Today, on Equal Pay Day, I urge our House leadership to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote because we know that when women succeed, America succeeds.

#### PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parkinson's Awareness Month.

People close to me have been impacted by Parkinson's disease. For me, it is personal. I am proud to serve as a cochair of the Parkinson's Caucus. It is just another way that I can get involved.

Sadly, there is no cure for Parkinson's disease. Treatment is available, but it is often costly or marginally effective. This is not acceptable, as far as I am concerned.

People tell me, Just increase funding at NIH. In the early 2000s, we did; we doubled the budget at NIH, but we didn't double the cures. In addition to adequate funding, we need to think critically about structural changes in our healthcare system. We need to rethink what we are doing and how we are doing it. The 21st Century Cures initiative is giving us an opportunity to find new cures and treatments for people living with rare and chronic conditions like Parkinson's disease.

#### EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which marks how far into the following year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, in our great Nation of opportunity, no woman should be making less than her male colleagues for doing similar work, yet in our country women still earn, on average, 78 cents for each dollar earned by a man doing a comparable job.

Discrimination hurts the pocketbook as well as the heart. Equal pay isn't just about fairness. It is about mothers putting food on the table for their children and saving for their own retirement security. That is why Congress must act now, to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote and give the victims of gender bias in the workplace the tools they need to seek justice.

#### MAKE A RIPPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of three people who were victims of a horrific shooting that took place in Overland Park, Kansas, 1 year ago.

On April 13, 2014, the lives of Reat Underwood, William Corporon, and Terri Lamanno were tragically cut short as a self-described anti-Semite opened fire at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom retirement community in Overland Park, killing all three victims. But rather than divide our community, this hate-filled act of unspeakable violence has turned into love, faith, and kindness to one another and has caused a groundswell of unity to show that Kansas is a State where people of all religions can call home.

One hero from that day was Mindy Corporon. Mindy lost both her father and her son on the same day. Mindy has been a symbol for courage, as she has turned her loss and pain into kindness and understanding in our community.

Mr. Speaker, now 1 year later Mindy, this week, is helping lead a program entitled SevenDays: Make a Ripple, Change the World. It is a week full of events to encourage every citizen to be a force for goodness and kindness and unity in our community and in the world; and in doing so, it is a reminder that each of us can make a ripple and help change the world.

#### REMEMBERING IRVING SMOLENS

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Irving Smolens: a soldier, a father, a husband, an American hero. And I am very proud to call him my friend.

Irving Smolens was a World War II veteran who survived D-Day, where he served with the U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division. He came home just short of his 21st birthday in 1945 to a country he loved deeply, and he helped build a community in Melrose, Massachusetts.

Irving took his experiences from the darkest moments of our past and advocated for a better, more peaceful world. Up until he left us on Saturday at the age of 90, you could still catch up with Irving at the Melrose schools, where he would recount stories of the Allied invasion in World War II for hundreds of middle schoolers at our assemblies, and he taught thousands in our classrooms.

He recently became a chevalier with the French Legion of Honor, and he was a regular at Democratic events and campaigns. He served as president of the Temple Beth Shalom in Melrose, and he was an avid jazz enthusiast and sports fan. He watched every one of the 19 innings of last week's Red Sox-Yankees game.

He was quick to pen a letter to the Boston Globe and recently took to blogging in his late eighties and to social media. Not only did he comment on politics, but he helped reconnect veterans' families with their fathers' histories.

This past fall, 70 years after Irving stepped onto the beaches of Normandy to fight the Nazis, he returned. This time he would be met by both the American President and the French President in recognition of his valor and patriotism. He was seen by a journalist caught up with Irving and asked what he had to say to President Obama, Irving replied: "I thanked him for keeping us out of war."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Irving and his family, especially his wife, Edith, and daughter, Karen. We are so proud to have known him and for his service.

□ 1230

#### HONORING RACHAEL BEVILL

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible young Granite Stater who had the distinct honor of being chosen to represent New Hampshire in the Cherry Blossom Princess Program.

Rachael Bevill, a senior at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a resident of Merrimack, New Hampshire, embodies all the qualities of a great leader.

As a student at Merrimack High School, Rachael served as class secretary and a member of her student council. Rachael also excels and competes at a State and nationwide level for public speaking and writing, placing third in both the VFW's Americanism essay contest and the Voice of Democracy speech competition.

Currently, Rachael is studying biomedical engineering. Inspired by two of her siblings who have autism, Rachael aims to design nanotechnology and regenerative medicine to make the lives of future generations with similar challenges much easier.

It is ambitious, bright, and altruistic young people like Rachael that provide such great hope for our Nation's future. I congratulate her.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ABDUCTION OF CHIBOK SCHOOL-GIRLS BY BOKO HARAM

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today marks 1 year since the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls in Nigeria—1 year, 365 days, nonstop—by Boko Haram.

UNICEF is reporting that 800,000 children have been forced to flee Boko

Haram's campaign of violence in Nigeria. Their Missing Childhoods reports that most of the girls remain in captivity, scores more of their peers have since gone missing, and the number of children who are displaced is staggering. The one bright spot is many of the girls have escaped, and 10 of them are in Virginia.

When I went to Nigeria and met with those girls, I said: What can we do to help you?

They said: We want to go to school.

As a school principal, that made me proud because education is the key to all of the Nation's ills; and, in spite of their trials and tribulations, they still wanted to go to school.

Boko Haram means Western education is sin, so we must support our girls and lift them up and let them know that we love them.

Boko Haram has reached out to ISIS, and ISIS has responded. A marriage between Boko Haram and ISIS is a marriage made in hell.

Tweet, tweet, tweet  
#bringbackourgirls. Tweet, tweet,  
tweet #followrepwilson. Tweet, tweet  
all day long.

#### ADVISORY COUNCILS

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, it is important we regularly meet with constituents in order to have a variety of viewpoints and experience to draw upon as we work towards the betterment of our country.

This past district work period, we held advisory council meetings with interested citizens from across North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District. These advisory councils represent different sectors within our community throughout the district, including ag, small business, veterans and defense, law enforcement, homeland security, health care, and education.

There was one theme that continually emerged during these meetings, and the message was clear: we must reduce the burdens of an overly intrusive Federal Government while making improvements in those areas where government has a legitimate and constitutional responsibility, such as our transportation and infrastructure needs.

I look forward to working with these distinguished men and women who have agreed to serve on our advisory councils. Their insights into issues that affect our district, our State, and our Nation are invaluable; and I thank them for their desire and willingness to serve in this capacity.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 650, PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2015, PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 685, MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 189 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 189

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 650) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 685) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. The House hereby (1) takes from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; (2) adopts an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of House Concurrent Resolution 27, as adopted by the House; and (3) adopts such concurrent resolution, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a rule and the underlying bills that make it easier for hard-working families to purchase a home.

I would like to be perfectly clear from the outset. These bills are about increasing access to affordable housing. They are about helping middle class men and women in our country gain a little bit better footing to help them along their American Dream, and that is why we are here today.

What we are trying to do is get the government out of the way so that more Americans can purchase the homes of their choice. These bills are about achieving the American Dream of owning your own home. That brings us closer to why we are here today. We are here to help families who want to own their own home and to live the American Dream.

The administration's Big Government regulations have made it harder for American families to own a home, so we are here to empower them, instead of rules and regulations by Washington bureaucrats.

The ball of red tape coming out of Washington grows daily, and day by day, it spreads beyond the housing market. It ties the hands of families who want to own their own home, as well as the hands of business that want to hire new employees and investors that want to fund the next new big idea to make America stronger and better and to build jobs.

Modest, reasonable regulation does have its place; overregulation does not. Overregulation stifles economic growth. It gets in the way and makes it harder for families to pull themselves not only out of poverty, but it keeps them from gaining the footing to get into the middle class. Ultimately, unreasonable regulation destroys a shot that people have at the American Dream.

The problem with overregulation is that it is everywhere. This administration enjoys and relishes the opportunity to inflict themselves on every part of the American economy because they believe Washington knows best. Well, we just can't live this way and have people have their say and whack at the American Dream, also.

Unfortunately, overregulation is like the weeds in the backyard; they have to be removed. One by one, that is how you gain accomplishment. That is what happened yesterday when the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Chairman JEB HENSARLING from Dallas, Texas, brought some reasonable opportunities to the Rules Committee for us to consider.

What are we doing here today? We are removing just a few of the regu-

latory weeds that were promulgated by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB. These mortgages that we are talking about have rules that make it harder for low- and moderate-income Americans to qualify for a mortgage—harder.

They negatively impact consumers and community banks who offer the majority of these loans to middle class Americans, and it makes them outside of the ability that people have to get them because of the high cost of regulation.

These costs are passed on to consumers who, once again, are victims to an overzealous regulatory regime who stated that they were there to help the consumer in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today because we have a bipartisan piece of legislation that has gained over the last few years more people who understand the issues—not only those in the Financial Services Committee, but across Congress—and we are here today because of what is a good bill to remove a few weeds from the garden one at a time. Chairman HENSARLING has given us that chance today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. SESSIONS, for the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, before we left for our district work period, this House worked in a responsible and bipartisan way to permanently fix the sustainable growth rate formula.

Unfortunately, we return to the floor this week with legislation intended to further undermine the Dodd-Frank financial reform law and give huge tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans by repealing the estate tax without even finding an offset, thereby increasing our deficit.

What we should be doing today, Mr. Speaker, is considering legislation to strengthen financial protection for consumers, create jobs, and ensure the continuation of our economic recovery; or, in honor of Equal Pay Day, we should debate and vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure that women get paid for equal work.

A full-time working woman still earns significantly less than what a man earns for comparable work. It turns out that women earn nearly 25 cents less than a man for doing the same work. Achieving equal pay for women should be the top of our priority list, but, unfortunately, this Republican majority has denied us a vote on this critical issue.

Today, instead, we will consider two pieces of legislation under a closed process to roll back important Dodd-Frank consumer protections.

H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, strips from

manufactured homeowners critical protections enacted by Congress as part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law.

Manufactured homes are an important affordable housing option for many low- and moderate-income families, especially families living in rural areas. It is critical that these homeowners are able to have access to the same consumer protections afforded to consumers with traditional mortgages.

H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act, would allow mortgages with higher fees to improperly qualify for the qualified mortgage standards established by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. By removing affiliated title insurance fees from the 3 percent cap established by the CFPB, creditors could be incentivized to direct borrowers to expensive affiliates.

Passage of this legislation could ultimately drive up the cost of mortgages, limit competition in the marketplace, and undo borrower protections.

□ 1245

A coalition of civil rights organizations, including the Center for Responsible Lending, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP, and I could go on and on and on, has urged the House to reject these bills, as they “could trigger the return of predatory lending, irresponsible underwriting, excessive fees, and the lax regulatory environment that sparked the housing crisis.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that my friends in the majority don't like the Dodd-Frank financial reform law. They have made countless attempts to overturn the commonsense provisions contained in the law that protect consumers and work to prevent another financial crisis.

But I don't think anybody in this House should want to set the stage for another financial crisis, and I have serious concerns about the process being used by the majority to repeal Dodd-Frank.

My friend, the ranking member on the Financial Services Committee, MAXINE WATERS, has worked in good faith with the majority on legislation to make technical corrections to Dodd-Frank and other bipartisan updates. In fact, just yesterday, this House passed several pieces of legislation from the Financial Services Committee with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle.

But the two bills that we are considering today fall far short of that goal. Mr. Speaker, after the passage of a clean Homeland Security bill and the SGR fix, I had hoped that bipartisan cooperation in legislating would be contagious. I was wrong.

Today, the Republicans are back to their old ways of bringing up “my way or the highway bills” that will be brought to the floor under a closed rule and then vetoed by the President.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is going to have just his opportunity today because I am sure we are going to vote on this.

I would like to advise the gentleman that I have no speakers. We spent a couple of hours yesterday in the Rules Committee fully debating this, understanding this bipartisan bill, and so I want to advise the gentleman that I will allow him to use the time. I would like to ask if he has any speakers.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I do.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In honor of Equal Pay Day, if we defeat the previous question, which I will ask Members to vote “no” on, we will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In this day and age, it is an outrage that women in the United States still make less compared to men for the same work. This bill will help close that pay gap, empower women, and ensure that they get the respect and the compensation that they deserve.

When we talk about paycheck fairness, Mr. Speaker, we also should remember that this is not just a women's issue; it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay, women have less for the everyday needs of their families, from groceries to rent to child care to doctors' visits.

This is discrimination that exists in the United States of America, and we in this Chamber have an opportunity to end it.

We cannot get the Republicans in this House to allow us to have an up-or-down, clean vote on this, so this is the only means available to us. At least have a debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts.

Congress often talks about strengthening the middle class and growing our economy. For many years now, we have had an opportunity to pass a commonsense bill that will actually help us do just that. It was the very first bill that I cosponsored.

The Paycheck Fairness Act ensures equal pay for equal work and will help us end wage discrimination for half of our workforce.

Recent reports tell us that, given current trends, pay equity between women and men will not be achieved until 2058. We shouldn't have to wait

until our children are ready to retire before women are finally paid what they are worth.

Women are losing hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime due to wage discrimination. And for women of color, it is an even worse situation. African American women, on average, earn only 64 cents, and Latinas, on average, earn only 56 cents for every dollar earned by White men.

When women aren't paid what they are worth, that means less money for their families, less money for child care, less money for gas and groceries, and less money to help them prepare for the future.

When wage discrimination persists, women and their families are less able to contribute to the economy, and that hurts all of us. Ending wage discrimination for our workforce is just common sense. That is why today, on Equal Pay Day, I urge my colleagues to recommit to restoring the middle class and growing our economy by supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I hope the gentlewoman recognizes she needs to be talking to the White House probably most of all. During the last few years, every time this issue comes up, we refer to White House pay and equity among women who work at the White House, compared to their colleagues, and so this might just be one of those bills that the White House would veto because they could follow what they choose but maybe they wouldn't want this to be the law, or maybe they would want this to be the law so they could correct what they do at the White House for equal pay for equal work, women among their colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I don't think we have any other speakers here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment that I would like to offer in the RECORD, along with extraneous materials, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Again, I will remind my colleagues that if we could defeat the previous question, we will bring up the Paycheck Fairness Act. It has been somewhat of a puzzlement to me that it has been so difficult, in this Republican-controlled House, to bring up legislation that would outlaw and end discrimination against women, and that is what this is.

When a woman is working at the same job a man is and getting paid less for that same work, that is discrimination, and there is no way around that fact. And we have the opportunity, in

this House, and in the Senate, to end it.

But yet we can't get this bill to the floor for the kind of up-or-down, clean vote that we have been looking for for now quite a long time.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, this is not just a women's issue; it is a family issue. We are all talking about how this economy is not recovering as fast as we would like it to. We all like to talk about how we wish that people would earn a little bit more in their paychecks.

Well, here is one way to do it. Make sure women get paid what they deserve, what they have earned. This should not be a controversial issue. This should not be something that requires that we can't get a vote on the floor.

So we are now kind of relying on this procedural motion, by defeating the previous question, to try to at least get a debate on this and to try to get at least some people on record as saying we ought to have an up-or-down vote on this.

As far as the underlying bill is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill that we are considering here today, again, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule because it is a closed rule, and they are two bills that would undermine the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation.

Let me remind my colleagues why we have the Dodd-Frank legislation to begin with, and that is because we saw what the excesses of some in the financial industry had done. Our economy almost was ruined because of those excesses, and consumer rights were routinely trampled on.

So we passed, in my opinion, a moderate and sensible kind of check on some of these financial institutions—that is the Dodd-Frank legislation. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and again, it is a puzzlement to me, have spent almost every waking moment that they have trying to undo that, trying to take away protections for consumers, trying to take away protections for small businesses, for homeowners. It doesn't make any sense. It doesn't make any sense at all.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question, and I would urge them to vote "no" on this closed rule.

Again, just to make this point crystal clear, the Equal Pay Act that we are talking about is nothing more than an attempt to end what continues to be a discriminatory practice in the United States. Nobody should be defending a practice that allows women to get paid less than men for doing the same job. That is discrimination, pure and simple, and we ought to bring that to an end.

So I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question and "no" on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts. He had to sit through the long hearing yesterday, and it was a most interesting one.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to point out that the Rules Committee asked Members and their offices to submit any ideas and amendments regarding this bill, and none were submitted. That is why we have a closed rule. That is why H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act, and H.R. 650, Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, are both under a closed rule because we tried to make it available to as many Members as chose, and no one took us up on it.

Mr. Speaker, we are here because we have two Members who have worked hard in committee, they have worked hard over the last few years as new, young members of this Republican majority, BILL HUIZENGA from Michigan and STEPHEN FINCHER from Tennessee, who worked very diligently inside the Financial Services Committee over the years and have brought these bills back to us.

This is not their first appearance. We now have a Senate, however, that we believe will take up these bills.

Republicans are committed to reducing the regulatory burden that makes it harder for families to get homes. In this case, it may be manufactured housing, it may be directly aimed at the middle class. It may help people a lot. The answer is, yes, it does. And that is why we are doing this.

We are taking our time today because the middle class of this country deserves a right for us to pay attention to them. And community banks, small banks back home that people walk into, see the same people, day after day, year after year, who live in these communities, community bankers are there to help grow not only the middle class but also rural America and the areas that oftentimes are in agriculture areas, perhaps in the areas where there is a lot of energy exploration.

People choose to have their own roof over their own head and need a chance to get a loan, need a chance to take care of their families.

So, look, we are willing to keep working out and reaching out to Democrats. This is a bipartisan bill, and we are willing to do whatever it takes so that individuals and families can help realize this American Dream.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I wonder if the gentleman would be kind enough to allow me to reclaim the balance of my time because I had yielded back, and two of our speakers have just shown up.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim the balance of the time I yielded back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask Members to defeat the previous question so that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) can offer an amendment for the House to immediately consider the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Three weeks ago, I reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act. My bill would finish the job started by the Equal Pay Act some 50 years ago. It would end pay secrecy across the board. It would require employers to prove that pay disparities are not based on gender, and passing the bill would give teeth to a very, very simple principle: men and women in the same job deserve the same pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act has passed the House twice already, with bipartisan support I might add. It has come just two votes shy of passing in the other body.

President Obama has called on us to pass it. More crucially still, the American people know the importance of paycheck fairness.

In October, a Gallup poll asked Americans to identify the top issue facing women in the workplace. Equal pay was, by far, the most common response among men as well as women.

All across the country today, working families are in trouble. Their wages are stagnant. They are in jobs that just don't pay them enough to be able to pay their bills. They are struggling to heat their homes and to feed their children.

Equal pay is a crucial part of the solution to this problem, since women are more than half of the workforce. Two-thirds of us are breadwinners for our families. Lower pay for women means less gas in the car, less food on the table, less money in the college fund, and less spending to support our economy.

Today is yet another Equal Pay Day. What Equal Pay Day means is that it has taken 104 days for the average woman's earnings to catch up with what the average man made last year. That is exactly 104 days too long.

Fifty-two years since the Equal Pay Act became law, a woman still only makes 78 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by a man. The gap has barely changed in over a decade.

For women of color the disparities are wider still. Their Equal Pay Day will not arrive until May or June.

Even in nursing, a profession that is more than 90 percent female, a study



last month showed that men earned \$5,100 more per year, on average, than women when controlling for education, experience, and other factors.

Clearly, we must do more to close the gender pay gap. President Obama and the Department of Labor have shown the way by taking action to protect women who work for Federal contractors. It is now time that we in the Congress act to extend real, enforceable pay equity protection to all women.

Equal pay for equal work is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. It, in fact, would reflect what today's economy is all about with women being in the workplace overwhelmingly. It is time to make it a reality for all Americans, and I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

□ 1300

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my distinguished colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. POLIS. I thank both the gentleman from Texas as well as the gentleman from Massachusetts for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Equal Pay Day.

Today, April 14, marks the day in which women's earnings from January 2014 have reached men's earnings in 2014 alone.

In one of the wealthiest, most progressive countries in the world, women still find themselves 3½ months behind men in wage disbursement. That means that for every dollar earned by men in the United States, only 78 cents are earned by women. For a woman working full time over the span of her career, that means a total loss of \$430,000, nearly \$500,000. Non-White, disabled, and LGBT women fare even worse, with some making as little as 56 cents to every dollar earned by men in comparable positions.

I am proud to join my colleagues today in recognition of the fact that this disparity is not only antiquated, but economically regressive and morally indefensible.

It has been proven time and time again that increasing pay for women has a direct and immediate impact on improving our economy and the health of American families. Fairly compensating women is not only the right thing to do, but it would increase consumer demand, create jobs, and raise the GDP.

Today, on Lilly Ledbetter's birthday, it is time for Congress to act to enable women to support America's children and families and end this crippling drag on our Nation's economic prosperity and moral stain on our country. It is time we play our part in ending the gender gap.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the gentleman was able to have these two additional bright speakers, including the gentleman from the Rules Committee, Mr. POLIS. So things worked out very well.

I want to thank my dear friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) who asked for this, and I believe that I have responded in-kind.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, thank the chairman of the Rules Committee for his courtesy and generosity in allowing two of my colleagues who feel very strongly about these issues to have an opportunity to speak. I am very, very grateful. So, as a reward, I am not going to say anything else other than to urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question and vote "no" on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, once again, the relationship that the gentleman and I share is very good. We spend hours a week with each other, and we know that occasionally we have different speakers come, and I am delighted that I was able to give him that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, as I began closing a minute ago, let's take a step in the right direction right now, right here today. Let's take these two bills that came directly from the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) at the urging of the Financial Services Committee. I believe this is the right thing to do on, I believe, an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis of that committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 189 OFFERED BY  
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1619) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole

arises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1619.

#### THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 183, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 148]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Emmer (MN)	Kinzing (IL)
Aderholt	Farenthold	Kline
Allen	Fincher	Knight
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Labrador
Amodei	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Babin	Fleming	Lamborn
Barletta	Flores	Lance
Barr	Forbes	Latta
Barton	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Benishek	Fox	Long
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Love
Bishop (MI)	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Black	Gibbs	Lummis
Blackburn	Gibson	MacArthur
Blum	Gohmert	Marchant
Bost	Goodlatte	Marino
Boustany	Gosar	Massie
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	McCarthy
Brat	Granger	McCaul
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Buchanan	Griffith	McMorris
Buck	Grothman	Rodgers
Bucshon	Guinta	McSally
Burgess	Guthrie	Meadows
Byrne	Hardy	Meehan
Calvert	Harper	Messer
Carter (GA)	Harris	Mica
Carter (TX)	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Chabot	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Chaffetz	Hensarling	Moolenaar
Clawson (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Mooney (WV)
Coffman	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin
Cole	Hill	Mulvaney
Collins (GA)	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Neugebauer
Comstock	Huelskamp	Newhouse
Conaway	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Cook	Hultgren	Nugent
Costello (PA)	Hunter	Nunes
Cramer	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Crawford	Hurt (VA)	Palazzo
Crenshaw	Issa	Palmer
Culberson	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Pearce
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Dent	Jolly	Pitts
DesJarlais	Jones	Poe (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Poliquin
Dold	Joyce	Pompeo
Duffy	Katko	Posey
Duncan (SC)	Kelly (PA)	Price, Tom
Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Ratcliffe
Ellmers (NC)	King (NY)	Reed

Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scahise  
Schweikert

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Ciocline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutsch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge

Bass  
DeSantis  
Ellison

NAYS—183

Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Krug  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebbeck  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler

NOT VOTING—9

Hanna  
Hinojosa  
Roybal-Allard

Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarella  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradner  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

□ 1333

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. HULTGREN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 148, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 185, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 149]

AYES—237

Abraham	Emmer (MN)	Labrador
Aderholt	Farenthold	LaMalfa
Allen	Fincher	Lamborn
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Lance
Amodei	Fleischmann	Latta
Babin	Fleming	LoBiondo
Barletta	Flores	Long
Barr	Forbes	Loudermilk
Barton	Fortenberry	Love
Benishek	Fox	Lucas
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (MI)	Frelinghuysen	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	MacArthur
Black	Gibbs	Marchant
Blackburn	Gohmert	Marino
Blum	Goodlatte	McCarthy
Bost	Gosar	McCaul
Boustany	Gowdy	McClintock
Brady (TX)	Granger	McHenry
Brat	Graves (GA)	McKinley
Bridenstine	Graves (LA)	McMorris
Brooks (AL)	Graves (MO)	Rodgers
Brooks (IN)	Griffith	McSally
Buchanan	Grothman	Meadows
Buck	Guinta	Meehan
Bucshon	Guthrie	Messer
Burgess	Hardy	Mica
Byrne	Harper	Miller (FL)
Calvert	Harris	Miller (MI)
Carter (GA)	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Carter (TX)	Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)
Chabot	Hensarling	Mullin
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney
Clawson (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)
Coffman	Hill	Neugebauer
Cole	Holding	Newhouse
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Noem
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Nugent
Comstock	Hultgren	Nunes
Conaway	Hunter	Olson
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Costello (PA)	Hurt (VA)	Palmer
Cramer	Issa	Paulsen
Crawford	Jenkins (KS)	Pearce
Crenshaw	Jenkins (WV)	Perry
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Pittenger
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Pitts
Davis, Rodney	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Denham	Jones	Poliquin
Dent	Jordan	Pompeo
DeSantis	Joyce	Posey
DesJarlais	Katko	Price, Tom
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Ratcliffe
Dold	King (IA)	Reed
Duffy	King (NY)	Reichert
Duncan (SC)	Kinzing (IL)	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	Kline	Ribble
Ellmers (NC)	Knight	Rice (SC)

Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions

Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden

Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1353

Mr. JEFFRIES changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. KATKO changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, during the course of the week, I was absent for legislative business; had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: rollcall 145—H.R. 1259—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—“yes,” rollcall 146—H.R. 1265—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—“yes,” rollcall 147—H.R. 1480—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—“yes,” rollcall 148—H. Res. 189—On Ordering the Previous Question—“yes,” rollcall 149—H. Res. 189—On Agreeing to the Resolution—“yes.”

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for two roll call votes on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall Vote No. 148—Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule—“no,” rollcall Vote No. 149—On Agreeing to the Resolution—“no.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189, Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, as amended, is considered as adopted.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII, and at the direction of the Committee on the Budget, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Price of Georgia moves that the House take from the Speaker's table Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, with the House amendment thereto, insist on the House amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will remind my colleagues that, the week before we left for our Easter break, the House passed a budget in this Chamber and that the Senate passed a budget as well, and this motion does something very simple. It simply says that we will work to com-

bine the best features of those two resolutions: to restrain the size and the scope of government, to reduce spending, and to balance the budget without raising taxes.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. TOM PRICE).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. VAN HOLLEN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to instruct at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Van Hollen moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed—

(1) to recede from its disagreement with the Senate with respect to section 363 of S. Con. Res. 11 (relating to the requirement for earned paid sick time to address the health needs of workers and their families); and

(2) to recede from subsection (c)(3) of section 808 of the House Amendment (relating to changing the current Medicare program, and replacing it with premium support payments).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. TOM PRICE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The House has passed a budget. It is a budget that is wrong for America. It does not reflect our country's priorities, and it does not reflect our values. What it says to the American people is work harder and take home less. That is the House budget. We also have the Senate budget. The Senate budget is also wrong for America. The Senate budget also says to the American people work harder and take home less. That is the message.

When you have got a House budget that is wrong for America and a Senate budget that is wrong for America, both which say to the country “work harder and take home less,” the midpoint between the two—or any point between the two—is also wrong for America and also says to the American people work harder and take home less.

Now, why do I say that both the House and the Senate budgets say “work harder and take home less”?

It is because, amazingly, they both actually increase the tax burden on working families. How? They actually phase out the increase in the child tax

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credit, which helps working families. They phase out the increase, or get rid of the increase, in the earned income tax credit. They entirely get rid of the higher education deduction. These are deductions that families use to help make college more affordable. They get rid of the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which help millions of Americans afford health insurance. They are squeezing hard-working, middle class families.

At the same time, the House budget calls for a big tax cut for folks at the very high end of the income scale—for millionaires. If you look at the Romney-Ryan tax plan, which this budget green-lights—sort of paves the way for—it would call for a one-third cut in the top tax rate. That is a huge wind-fall for the wealthiest in the country in the same budget that is increasing the tax burden on working families.

What else do the Republican budgets do?

They disinvest in America. They slash way below the lowest historical levels in recorded history the amount that we invest in the categories of the budget that help our kids' educations—early education, K-12, special education. They devastate that part of the budget that is used to invest in innovation and in scientific research, things that have helped power our economy.

□ 1400

Their budget assumes that the transportation trust fund will run dry in a few months. That is not accounted for within their budget numbers.

So that is what the Republican budgets do, both the House budget and the Senate budget. There is no way to remedy those problems in conference because any point between those two is bad for America.

The only way to remedy it would be if we were able to instruct the conferees to adopt the House Democratic budget proposal that we put forward a few weeks ago which actually provides additional tax relief to working families. It significantly increases the child and dependent care tax credit, so if you are a working family and want to make sure your child is in quality health care, you are going to get a little bit more tax relief; or if you have an elderly loved one at home that you want to make sure has quality care, you get a little more tax relief. If you are a two-worker family, we scale back the marriage penalty. So the Democratic budget actually provides more tax relief for working Americans while the Republican budget provides tax increases to working families.

The Democratic budget also invests in our future—in our kids' education, in scientific research, in transportation—by closing a lot of the tax breaks in the Code that actually encourage American companies to move jobs and capital overseas. We get rid of

those loopholes and say let's invest the money here in America. That is what the Democratic budget does. The rules don't permit us to instruct the conferees to do the right thing and adopt that alternative which does reflect the values and priorities of people around the country.

There are two little things where the Senate budget is actually minusculely better than the House budget, but they are important things. They are important things that passed in the Senate with a large Democratic vote and some Republican Senators as well.

One is a provision to say let's provide a fund, let's provide room in the budget for earned paid sick leave so that moms and dads who have kids who are sick at home don't have to choose between forgoing their income and caring for their kid at home. They don't have to choose between worrying about making their rent payment or their mortgage payment or their grocery bill payment on time and making sure their kids are cared for when they are sick. That is part of the Senate budget. So we are asking our colleagues to instruct the conferees to at least adopt that one little glimmer of good news in the Senate budget.

The other difference relates to the House proposal to turn Medicare into a voucher program at the end of the budget window. What does that plan do? What it does is it shifts the risks of higher costs within the Medicare system onto the backs of seniors, and the Congressional Budget Office has shown that for those seniors who choose to remain in the traditional Medicare program, their premiums would go up significantly. That is what the House budget does. It voucherizes the Medicare program. The Senate budget does not. So we are asking our colleagues to accept the Senate version which is not good when it comes to Medicare generally, but at least on this one point is better than the House bill.

Mr. Speaker, that is our motion to instruct. I wish we could instruct the conferees to adopt the Democratic budget proposal which, as I said, says to working families: We hear you; we know you are working harder than ever; we know you feel like you are on a treadmill; we know a lot of you feel like you are falling behind; and we have a budget to help you.

The Republican budget doesn't do that. It doesn't help at all. But at least maybe, in these two little things, we can send a signal today that we understand that working families are struggling, and we want to make sure that we do something to help them.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle seem to be so stuck in their Washington ways that they can't, they just

can't see or recognize a positive solution when one is presented. I remind my colleague on the other side of the aisle that we are mired in the worst recovery, economic recovery in the modern era—the worst economic recovery in the modern era—slowest. In fact, there are fewer people working right now, Mr. Speaker, than there were when the recession began. That is what the other side has brought us. They want to double down on these policies. The American people clearly understand that there is a better way. There are positive solutions that we ought to be putting in place.

I want to talk specifically about the Medicare proposal because the distortion and mischaracterization of the positive patient-centered solution that we have put forward in the area of Medicare continues over and over and over from our friends on the other side, and it really doesn't contribute to the important work, the important conversation that we must have as a nation.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that, as you know and the American people know, the Medicare program is going broke. That is not Representative PRICE saying that. That is not me saying that. That is the Medicare actuaries, the folks who are charged with letting us know, as a nation, how the program is doing from a financial standpoint. What they say is that it is not doing very well, and it is getting worse and worse and worse. In fact, in 2030, the fact of the matter is that the program will not be able to provide the services that have been promised to seniors.

So the solution for our friends on the other side is what? Do nothing. Stick your head in the sand. Don't worry about that. Don't pay any attention to that man behind the curtain. Nothing. Under their plan, seniors in this country are destined to inherit, in a very short period of time, a Medicare program that doesn't provide the services promised.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that as a formerly practicing physician, folks are concerned. I hear from my medical colleagues daily—literally, daily—the concerns that they have about our healthcare system, and especially about the Medicare program and about the challenges that exist because of governmental intervention and because of the rules and the regulations that are heaped upon more rules and more regulations to make it more difficult for them to even care for patients.

So what do we believe is the appropriate thing to do? We think we ought to save and strengthen and secure Medicare. That is the right solution. So in spite of the mischaracterization of our friends on the other side about the proposal that we put forward, it is, indeed, to save and strengthen and secure Medicare. The fact of the matter

is seniors understand and appreciate that, and they desire us, as a body, to come together and solve that challenge, solve that challenge together. So I invite my friends to join us in working together for a positive solution.

Further, I do want to thank my colleague for bringing this motion to the floor today because this is an important debate that we are having. The debate is very fundamental. It is about how we are to build a stronger nation, how we are to provide greater opportunity for all Americans.

What we believe is that we recognize that the economy is not moving as it should, that wages are stagnant, that the economy is underperforming. At the very least, our friends on the other side ought to admit that we can do better. So it is a bit troubling to see that the policies that they continue to champion look remarkably similar to the sorts of policies that have been tried and, frankly, failed over the past 6 years. While our Nation has piled up trillions of dollars of more debt, our economy hasn't grown as it should. In fact, this has been, as I mentioned, the worst recovery in the modern era, leaving millions of Americans still struggling simply to make ends meet.

Our budget is a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker. We adopted a plan that would grow our economy, that would empower individuals, that would empower families and job creators in our local communities, all the while holding Washington accountable and protecting our Nation. Our budget, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, balances in less than 10 years, and it does so without raising taxes, in contrast to the budget of our friends on the other side of the aisle and the President's budget, I might add, that never, ever, ever gets to balance.

We reduce spending at the governmental level by \$5.5 trillion over a 10-year period of time, higher than any previous budget proposal. We call for a fairer and simpler Tax Code to promote job creation and a healthy economy. We repeal ObamaCare in its entirety, all of its taxes and regulations and its mandates so that we can put in place patient-centered health care, putting patients and families and doctors in charge of health care, not Washington, D.C., expanding the opportunity for access to quality, affordable health coverage. As I mentioned, we have a plan to save and strengthen and secure Medicare and Medicaid, things that are absolutely vital for the American people, and they understand that.

Our budget provides for a strong national defense, through robust funding of troop training and equipment and compensation. We promote innovation and flexibility in the area of Medicaid so that we can save that program, provide flexibility in the area of nutrition assistance and education and other programs. Our budget proposes to cut

waste and eliminate redundancies and end the practice of Washington picking winners and losers in our economy, all the while calling for reforms to our Nation's regulatory system to improve transparency and effectiveness and efficiency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, we have endorsed an optimistic vision, a vision for America's future by credibly—credibly—addressing our fiscal and economic challenges so that we can deliver real results for the American people. Since both the House and the Senate have passed our respective budgets, we must now work together to iron out any differences that there may be between the two, and we need to come to an agreement for a unified fiscal year 2016 budget.

This conference committee is the next vital step in the days to come, and we will sit down and discuss how to advance these positive solutions in order to secure more economic growth and opportunity, hold Washington accountable, promote patient-centered health care, and ensure a strong national defense. We look forward to working with the Senate and the House Conference Committee and follow that with passage in this Congress of a unified budget to balance the budget in this Nation in less than 10 years.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would remind my colleague that when President Obama was sworn in, we were losing 780,000 jobs per month—per month. We were in a nosedive. It took a little while to climb out of that deep valley, but we have now had 61 consecutive months of positive job growth—12.1 million jobs, longest streak in history. So job growth is coming back. We have got a ways to go, no doubt about it. We need to do even better. That is why I don't understand a Republican budget that the Congressional Budget Office tells us will slow down economic growth in the next couple years. That is what the nonpartisan budget pros tell us: it will slow down economic growth. Our Republican colleagues say we don't have enough, and yet they have got a budget that the Congressional Budget Office says the next couple of years are going to slow it down just as we are continuing to grow at record levels.

They also have a budget, as I indicated, that says to people who are out there working hard: You are going to get squeezed even harder on your take-home pay. You are working harder than ever, but you know what? We are going to actually increase the tax burden on working families.

Now, let me say a little thing about this Medicare voucher plan. The way to reduce our healthcare costs is to move toward a system that rewards the delivery of value rather than volume in our healthcare system. And in fact, one

of the great untold success stories we know over the last couple years has been because we have begun to move in that direction; we have saved trillions of dollars, over a trillion dollars, without sacrificing quality of care.

The problem with the Medicare voucher plan is it doesn't improve health care by changing the incentives to move toward more value and more quality rather than quantity and volume; it actually saves Medicare money by shifting the risk of higher costs onto seniors. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office says that under their plan, those who choose to stay in the fee-for-service system would pay 50 percent more in terms of premiums. So that is the real-world impact of that proposal.

Now, what are the priorities of our Republican colleagues? We keep hearing that this is a balanced budget. It just isn't so. This is a phony argument. This budget says it is repealing the Affordable Care Act, and yet it only claims balance because of the revenues generated from the Affordable Care Act they claim to repeal. That would make Enron accountants blush.

What else? This Thursday in this House we are scheduled to vote on a proposal to get rid of the estate tax on estates for couples of over \$10 million—\$10 million. That is about 5,500 people a year. A cruise ship fits more people than that.

□ 1415

Here is what it does. For all of the estates in the country, let's just be clear what the Republican budget looks out for and what the bill they are bringing to the floor this week looks out for.

Blue, the 99.85 percent, are the estates that already are not impacted at all. The bill they are bringing to the floor of the House this week is for that teeny little sliver of red, .15 percent of estates.

That is what the Republican budget is all about, and that is what they are looking out for in a budget that cuts our kids' education funding, cuts our investment in scientific research, and increases the tax burden on working families. That is what this is all about.

Guess what, this estate tax cut for estates of couples over \$10 million is not factored into the Republican budget. That loses \$268 billion in revenue over the next 10 years. That is not accounted for in the budget they are talking about today.

Two days from today, they are going to bring to the floor a bill that busts their own budget. That is pretty amazing, and the claim that it balances is just a phony claim.

Finally, while it is providing those big tax breaks to estates of over \$10 million, it doesn't close a single tax loophole for the purpose of reducing the deficit—not one, not for corporate jets, not for hedge fund managers, not

one tax loophole closed, when they claim they want to reduce the deficit.

When you dig a little deeper, Mr. Speaker, this Republican budget is wrong for the country. It is great for folks who have already climbed that ladder. Most people who climb the ladder want to keep that ladder there, so more people can climb up, but this is a budget where people who climbed it just yanked the ladder up and said: We're on the top. Forget about the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), one of the people who will be designated as one of my fellow conferees.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I could just sit down and say I agree with everything that the gentleman has said, but I want to add my voice to this debate and rise to support the Democratic motion to instruct conferees.

As Mr. VAN HOLLEN has said, there are provisions in the Senate version that are very, very worthy of our adopting. There is the reserve fund on paid sick leave, and it also rejects the House provision on Medicare premium support, the vouchers.

I have been a member of this Budget Committee for over 5 years, and I can tell you that, while I have an appetite for leftovers, this has just been warmed over too many times. This budget is just another variation of the same themes that we have seen in the past several years.

What is this thing? The majority party has recommitted themselves to benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans while balancing the budget on the backs of the poor.

Now, I know there are many people—unfortunately, on both sides of the aisle—who are not all that concerned about the poor. They figure that the poor have done this to themselves; but what has the middle class done to deserve being hollowed even more while we provide tax breaks for the wealthiest two-tenths of 1 percent?

What have hard-working men and women and cities and mayors all over this country done so that we just ignore infrastructure improvements, ignore devolving money to the States, all in the name of providing tax breaks for the richest of the rich?

Now, the commonsense approach would be to adopt our Democratic motion to instruct conferees, and it would be very much in league with the bipartisan actions we have seen over in the Senate. It has been historic, miraculous, to see 61 Senators—both Senators from my State, both parties—voting to establish a deficit neutral reserve fund to allow workers to earn paid sick leave. It is a filibuster-proof majority over there.

Paid sick leave is good for Americans, the 13 million working men and women who don't have paid sick leave

when they need it. Millions are unable to take care of their sick kids, their parents, or their spouses because they can't afford to do it.

Workers have agonizing choices when their kids fall ill. Nearly a quarter of working adults have reported that they have lost or come close to losing their job, Mr. Speaker, for taking sick time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. MOORE. I will use it expeditiously.

I mean, 3½ days of pay loss is equivalent to a month of groceries. People can't afford to do it. It is not just good for people, it is good for our economy as well. People won't use the emergency room as much. There are 1.3 million emergency room visits every year because we don't have sick leave. People won't come to work and pass communicable diseases with paid sick leave.

Again, the Medicare voucher is just a sham, Mr. Speaker. Senior citizens and people with disabilities rely on this for their health security. I guess the Republicans have said it time and again that they would like to see Medicare wither on the vine, and adopting the provisions in the House budget will in fact accomplish that.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), a member of the Budget Committee and Rules Committee.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my chairman for yielding me the time.

I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from Maryland. I am just categorically opposed to the motion to instruct, but it is good that we are down here doing motions to instruct. Because what we have an opportunity to do, Mr. Speaker, for the first time since I was elected to this body 4 years ago, is to send House Members and Senate Members together and actually establish a budget of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I wasn't teasing. I was elected 4 years and 4 months ago, and this is the first time that we have been able to come together—and not just on a budget, but on a balanced budget—under the idea that it might be immoral to pay for our benefits today on the backs of our children yet to be born, that that might just be the wrong thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, in particular, in this motion to instruct, what troubles me is the attempt to do away with the Medicare premium support program that we have been working so hard to establish.

If anyone has a mom or dad who is on Medicare, if anybody is on Medicare themselves, they have experienced two

things. They have experienced going into the doctor's office and questioning some provision of benefits, asking the question about whether or not this should be provided, whether or not this is the right cost, and they have had a physician say, they have had a hospital attendant say: What do you care? Medicare is going to pick that up.

You know it is true. Every single person has had that happen in their family, and the result of that is a Medicare Program that will not be there for us.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if everybody across the country knows, but everybody in this Chamber knows that most American families pay more in Medicare and Social Security taxes than they do in income taxes. The highest tax burden on most American families is not the income tax; it is the tax we pay for the promise that Social Security and Medicare will be there for us when we need it the most.

There is only one budget we have got to vote on in this town that solves that Medicare issue, that says: You know what, we know the program is going to go bankrupt, and we know there are no easy solutions, but we are going to make the tough decisions today. We are not going to put it off until tomorrow.

My friend from Maryland said he wished the rules were different so that we could just substitute the Democratic budget for the budget that was passed in this House. Of course, that budget raised taxes by \$2 trillion and did nothing to solve this problem—nothing to solve this problem.

The Medicare premium support system holds the promise of keeping the commitments that we have made to every single working American through the Medicare and Social Security Programs.

If you didn't want to take tough votes, don't run for Congress. If you didn't want to be in the solutions business, you just wanted to be in the blame business, don't run for Congress.

If you want to be in the business of restoring the faith of the folks who pay that heavy tax burden, that the promises we make today will be there for them tomorrow, there is but one budget on Capitol Hill that fills that need, and this House had the wisdom to pass it. This House had the wisdom to pass it, Mr. Speaker.

I am so proud that, when we had an opportunity to either kick the can down the road or make the tough decisions, we said, Not on our watch will we break more of these promises. It is all done by giving patients more choice. Imagine that radical idea: give patients choice in their medical decisions.

Folks love their Medicare, Mr. Speaker, but they don't love it as much as they love their Medicare Advantage. Have you seen those numbers? Folks love their Medicare Advantage. For the

first time in Medicare history, we gave patients choice. It is the most popular program in Medicare.

For reasons unbeknownst to me, this administration has been trying to stomp the life out of that program since the day it was elected, but the program persists because the American people love it.

You want to talk about doubling down on something, Mr. Speaker; we are doubling down on patient choice. We are doubling down on the idea that, if you put Americans in charge of their own healthcare decisions, they will make better decisions than the government will on their behalf.

We cannot fail at this. We cannot fail. We owe America a balanced budget, and we owe America the confidence that the promises we made in exchange for the highest tax bill that they pay will be there for them when they retire.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My friend and colleague from Georgia mentioned tough choices. It is interesting that the Republican budget chooses not to cut one corporate tax break for the purpose of reducing the deficit. Apparently, that is too tough of a choice for our Republican colleagues—not to close the corporate tax break, not to cut the tax break that benefits hedge fund managers.

They don't cut a single one of those tax breaks to help reduce our deficit, but they do want to increase the premiums on seniors who choose to stay in the traditional Medicare Program.

They may call it a choice, but for most Americans, if I say your premium is going to go up 50 percent, yeah, you can choose to have your premium go up, or you can go somewhere else.

That is not a heck of a real choice for most seniors who are struggling financially. Sure, it is a pay-to-stay plan, but you have got to pay a lot more in premiums, according to the Congressional Budget Office. It is not according to me; this is according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

The Democratic budget does make the decision to close some of those special interest tax breaks to help reduce the long-term deficit, so we don't have to increase the costs and risks to seniors on Medicare, so we don't have to increase the cost on student loans and start charging students interest while they are still in college. No, we don't do that.

□ 1430

They are right. We think those are the right decisions that we made not to increase the costs of student loans and not to increase the costs and risks to seniors on Medicare.

Yes, we choose to cut some of those special interest tax breaks instead. And we certainly don't think that we

should be providing another big tax break to those estates in the country worth more than \$10 million.

Mr. Speaker, I am really pleased now to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), another person who is going to be designated a conferee, a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Maryland for yielding.

I like to read the comic strip in the paper every day, "The Wizard of Id," and, to me, the budgets that we have seen coming out of the House and Senate are kind of like "The Wizard of Id" budgets. He cast a magic spell, he went "poof," and all of a sudden we have created a balanced budget that is going to solve all this Nation's problems in the next 10 years. I don't think there are many gullible people out there who actually believe that will be the case.

But we know some things for certain in this budget. We know that many, many important government investments are going to be cut beyond any reasonable limit, and to dangerous limits.

We know, for instance, that within a matter of months, the highway trust fund is going to run out of money. We have \$2 trillion worth of unmet infrastructure needs currently on the drawing board. These two budgets cut funding to make up some of that incredibly necessary infrastructure work.

This budget slashes money for innovation, for research. The one greatest advantage this country has in the global economy is our innovative talent. This budget says we can wait for that. Not in this world that is moving 100 miles an hour. We can't wait for that. Every time we cut research we are setting back, again, our greatest advantage for years.

As my colleague from Maryland mentioned, education: devastating cuts to Head Start, K-12 education, the one thing that can guarantee a hard-working American family's children the opportunity to succeed and have a life that they dream about.

So I fully support our motion to instruct. I think we deal with two problems that clearly face us and face working families throughout our country: the ability to actually care for yourself if you are sick, or your family member, and not lose income, something virtually every industrialized nation has. We can do that.

When my friend from Georgia talked about making hard choices, this is an easy choice. Let's not worry about too many of the hard choices. Let's make the easy ones that can help.

We can do comprehensive immigration reform, which is contemplated in the Democratic budget. That not only helps reduce the deficit, it solves one of our most daunting national challenges. We could do that. That would be an easy choice.

But we do have hard choices to make. The Republicans want to voucherize the Medicare system. They say it creates choice. It also puts insurance companies back in charge of seniors' health care. I am not sure American seniors look forward to that scenario.

So we want to go in a different direction, again, providing sick leave so that people can take care of their families without losing their income, and also involving doing away with the Medicare voucher system.

We think that this will help make the budget a better budget. It is still a disastrous budget, but I urge that we accept the motion to instruct.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), a wonderfully contributing member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I was recently asked, What one issue keeps you up at night? I answered in an instant, Our government's debt: a debt that has doubled in just 8 years, a debt that now exceeds the size of our entire annual economy, a debt that is generating interest costs that are now eating us alive, roughly a quarter-trillion dollars a year just to rent the money that we have already spent.

The Congressional Budget Office warns us, in 10 years, interest costs will exceed our entire defense spending if we continue down the road we are on.

Admiral Mullen wasn't just blowing smoke when he said that, in his professional military judgment, the greatest threat to our national security was our national debt, because before you can provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare, you have to be able to pay for it, and the ability of our country to do so is coming into grave doubt.

For 4 years, this House had passed budgets that put our Nation back on the path to fiscal solvency and began paying down this enormous debt that is sapping our prosperity and threatening our futures. For 4 years, the Senate simply refused to act and, as the gentleman from Georgia said, we just kicked the can down the road.

Well, last November's election changed that. Now the Senate has also passed a budget that balances in 10 years.

Now, for the first time in many years, we have the fleeting opportunity to invoke a conference process and put this Nation back on the road to solvency. Time is not our friend, and we don't have much of it left.

The conference committee must have full latitude to act on a budget that both Houses can agree to, and the Democratic motion would hamstring that conference.

My friend from Maryland, on behalf of the House Democrats, says this budget isn't right for America. Well,



America needs to know that the Democratic budget never balances. It would continue our country down the road of debt and doubt and despair that we have been on during these long, cold years.

The gentleman from Maryland criticizes premium support to save Medicare. Well, Americans need to know that the Medicare trustees themselves are screaming this warning at us, that, without reform, Medicare will bankrupt within 15 years. That means if you are 50 years or younger, it won't be there for you.

When the Democrats say don't reform Medicare, what they mean is they are quite all right with that system collapsing on an entire generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, all that stands between this Nation and the road to solvency and recovery is the conference process that can produce a plan to balance the budget, and all that stands against that, an unfettered conference process, is this motion.

As I said, we don't have much time left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. With my remaining time, let me suggest that, with the time our country has left, we do something worthy of our time here, that we balance our budget, redeem our debt, and save our country.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just make two points. The first, as I mentioned earlier, one of the great untold success stories of the Affordable Care Act reforms, as well as other reforms in the health care system in recent years, is that we have dramatically reduced the cost of health care on a per capita basis.

In other words, the increased costs per person of health care have been dramatically slowed down, according to the Congressional Budget Office, which has helped save Medicare and other health care programs over \$1 trillion. That is the right way to do it, by realigning the incentives so we are rewarding value in our Medicare system, not volume, as opposed to the Republican voucher plan, which saves money by shifting the risk onto seniors.

The other point—and we have talked about this over and over—it just ain't so that the Republican budget balances. Again, it requires the revenue from the Affordable Care Act, that amount of revenue, in order to balance, at the same time they say they are getting rid of it.

Two days from now, they are going to add over \$268 billion to the deficit by getting rid of the estate tax for estates over \$10 million. That is not accounted

for in their budget. It puts their budget out of balance.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), another member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. I would join in urging my colleagues to defeat this Democratic motion to instruct the conferees, and I do so very much tied to the working families that I talked to back home because working families back home believe in balancing the checkbook. They have to do it every day in their lives.

What they say to me is, Why in the world can't you guys do the same up in Washington, D.C.?

In that regard, if we were to go the other route—I mean, keep in mind, the President's budget proposed going from running structural \$500 billion a year deficits to \$1.1 trillion a year deficits. This is moving in the wrong direction if we go with the instructions.

I think that when I talk to working families back home, what they tell me is we have got to deal with problems as they come along. Doing nothing is not an option.

So when there is a hole in the roof, they are out there with tin or they are out there with shingles and they are, in fact, repairing the roof. When there is a problem with the septic tank, they are out there with a shovel, digging and trying to fix it.

In the same regard, I think what the committee and what the conference have come up with with regard to looking at a way of saving Medicare could be very, very instructive. As has already been noted, within 15 years, the actuaries say that the Medicare fund will be out of money. Doing nothing is, indeed, not an option.

I think philosophically you have got to look at this and say, Did Medicare D work? It has worked. This is giving choice.

So, in essence, 50 million seniors get to decide the future of Medicare versus 15 unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Finally, I would say, what is important about this, I think, from the standpoint of working families, what they tell me is that borrowing from Peter to pay for Paul never works. It doesn't work in their budgets at home; it shouldn't work in Washington, D.C.

Yet, with this proposal to come up with paid sick leave, a lot of people would love that, but it ought to be addressed at the State level. States run on balanced budget requirements. A number of States could come in with proposals to that effect, but if we do it here in Washington, D.C., at the very time when we are running structural \$500 billion deficits, it means that we

are handing the bill off to the kids to pay for this. We are, indeed, borrowing from Peter to pay for Paul.

It is for those very reasons that I urge defeat of the Democratic motion to instruct.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Who has the right to close, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has the right to close.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. May I inquire as to whether or not the gentleman has any more speakers?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I do not. I am prepared to close.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the comments that have been made by my colleagues to bring into focus the positive solutions that we have been working for with our budget. I reluctantly oppose the motion to instruct, as it compromises the ability of the conference committee to fashion the best possible solution.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, however, that the distortions that have been presented, I think they have gone past frustrating the American people. They anger the American people about the distortion of positions here in Washington. The American people are smarter than that.

Our side of the aisle, we are interested in making certain that we assist all Americans, every single American, so that he or she has the greatest opportunity to realize the greatest amount of success in their own dreams, in their own lives, in the way that they deem to be most appropriate, not with Washington dictating to them what they must do.

□ 1445

I want to touch on a couple of very specific issues that have been mentioned by my friend from Maryland and others on the other side of the aisle.

Our balanced budget proposal gets to balance within a 10-year period of time. It does so without raising taxes, and it increases growth. Now, the growth is important, Mr. Speaker, and our friends mentioned it on the other side of the aisle, as if the policies that have been in place over the past 6 years had some magical solution that they increased growth in this country.

Well, the fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that as we see it in this chart—this is from the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, as my friend

from Maryland says. These are the projections of growth that the Congressional Budget Office has had over the last 4 years.

Four years ago, 3.0 percent. The average, Mr. Speaker, as you all well know, is about 3.3 percent over the last 40 years, growth in this country. That is in the economy, growing every year, 3.3 percent on average. And the projection 4 years ago was that it would be 3 percent. Three years ago, it was down to 2.9 percent; 2 years ago, 2.5 percent; this year, 2.3 percent. This is lost jobs, lost opportunity, fewer dreams realized all because of the policies coming out of Washington, D.C., and our friends on the other side want to double down on those policies.

Our proposal, our budget that gets to balance—which our friends on the other side of the aisle and their budget never does; the President's budget never gets to balance; something that folks back home can't do. They can't do it in their personal lives. They can't do it in their businesses. Our budget gets to balance and increases growth—increases growth—because that is what we have got to do. We have got to increase growth in this economy so that more dreams can be realized, more jobs can be created, wages can be increased. The way you increase wages is to increase the vitality of the economy, not have Washington dictate it to people.

And then this tired old characterization of our proposal to save and strengthen and secure Medicare and the way that it is characterized is to voucherize it. Well, this is nonsense, Mr. Speaker, and the American people know it.

What we propose to do is to save Medicare, not allow it to die on the vine, which is what our friends on the other side of the aisle apparently want to do. Because when you read their policies, they don't do anything to address the insolvency of Medicare that is coming in a very short period of time—not according to me, but according to the Medicare trustees—and what that means is that patients, seniors, won't be able to get provided the services that they have been promised. That is not the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

Our friends on the other side talk about all the tax loopholes, and goodness knows we have been for cutting tax loopholes and closing tax loopholes before closing tax loopholes was cool. We just can't get out and get folks to rally to the cause in a positive way from our friends on the other side of the aisle.

My friend from Maryland knows that the way that that is fashioned is in the Ways and Means Committee. It is not in the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee lays out the vision, lays out the plan, lays out the parameters that are able to be utilized. As my friend from Maryland knows, the Ways

and Means Committee is actively working right now—actively working right now—on appropriate tax reform.

It was the tax reform proposal that was put forward by our side of the aisle last year that demonstrated our willingness and desire to close loopholes and to end special treatments through the Tax Code. We believe everybody ought to be treated equally in the Tax Code, not have Washington picking winners and losers, which is what our friends on the other side tend to desire.

Then again, this distorted notion about healthcare costs and where healthcare costs are going right now. Healthcare costs are down. That is right, Mr. Speaker. Who are they down for? They are down for the Federal Government. Who are they not down for? The American people. That is who they are not down for.

What we have done with the President's healthcare program is to shift huge costs—huge costs—to the American people. If you are an individual out there, you make \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 right now, and the coverage that you are able to purchase right now—because ObamaCare has a deduction, has a deductible in your health plan of between \$6,000 and \$12,000, which countless Americans have right now. Let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you don't have health coverage because you can't afford the deductible. But that is the proposal that our friends on the other side of the aisle embrace. That is the one that they want to put forward.

And who are they harming? They are harming the American people, and the American people know it. They know there is a better solution. They know that there is a better way. There is a positive way, a patient-centered solution manner to be able to get health care back on track, and that is what we propose in the area of health care.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I think I have got one more speaker who is desirous of coming to the floor, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am going to continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Let me inquire, once again, Mr. Speaker, if I may, of how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Well, as I await one of our Members who is heading to the floor to share his concerns about the motion to instruct, let me just revisit, once again, the positive solutions that we have put forward in our budget.

This is a balanced budget for a stronger America. It is a budget that gets to balance within a 10-year period of time and does so without raising taxes. It recognizes that the American

people have realized not the full glory of ObamaCare yet, but they have seen enough. And they recognize that it is harming not just their health care; it is harming the economy.

So we repeal all of ObamaCare—yes, all of it, taxes, regulations, mandates, all of it—and we do so, again, not just because it is harming the economy, but, as a formerly practicing physician, I can tell you it is harming the health care of the American people.

We eliminate the Independent Payment Advisory Board. Mr. Speaker, as you know, that is the 15-member panel that was prescribed for by the Affordable Care Act, by ObamaCare, that stipulates to physicians whether or not they are going to pay the doctor for services rendered to seniors not just before the fact of the care being provided, but after the fact, harming the ability of seniors to be able to access quality care in this country.

We provide for a strong national defense, the resources necessary for a strong national defense, and do so at a level above the President's level.

We secure our future in the area of Medicare and Medicaid and provide an idea for how we make certain that the Social Security disability trust fund does not go broke and moves forward in a positive way.

We restore the issue of Federalism, increasing choices and opportunity for the American people at the local level, whether it is in Medicaid or nutrition assistance or in the area of education or other programs.

And then finally, Mr. Speaker, we cut waste and corporate welfare and improve accountability. We do so by ending the practice of Washington picking winners and losers. We call for reform for the regulatory system so that we increase transparency and efficiency and effectiveness and accountability.

It is a positive solution, a positive solution that the American people have been crying out for. They have been crying out for not just solutions here, but leadership here in Washington.

My colleagues on our side of the aisle have talked about how enthusiastic they are about the opportunity to have the Senate and the House come together, come together for a positive solution in the area of budget process and budget activity. So I am pleased that the gentleman from Maryland brought the motion to instruct forward. As I say, I reluctantly have to oppose it because I think it compromises and ties the hands of individuals within the conference committee.

I urge a “no” vote on the motion to instruct, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First of all, the Republican budget doesn't balance. You can't claim the revenues from the Affordable Care Act at the same time you claim to repeal

the Affordable Care Act. You can't claim balance and then 2 days later bring to the floor of the House a bill that provides tax breaks to American estates over \$10 million that is not accounted for in the budget that you claim balanced. So it doesn't balance.

It actually does increase the tax burden on working families. How? Again, it gets rid of the increase in the child tax credit; it gets rid of the bump-up in the earned income tax credit; it eliminates the Affordable Care Act tax credits; and it eliminates the higher education deduction that helps families afford to send their kids to college. So, in fact, it is increasing the tax burden on working families.

Who is it not increasing the tax burden on? Folks at the very, very top.

The chairman of the committee talks about economic growth. We need economic growth. History has taught us that economic growth comes when you have a country where the hard work of Americans and increased worker productivity is translated into higher pay and benefits so they can go out and spend money on goods and services, and the economy and everybody can move forward together.

What we have got in this budget is the same old-same old. This is trickle-down economics all over again. This is based on the theory that has been disproven in the real world, that you grow the economy by cutting tax rates for millionaires. We tried that in the early 2000s. What happened? Surprise, surprise. The incomes of folks at the very top went up. Incomes of everybody else, flat. What else went up? Deficits went up.

The chairman says the Republican budget is a budget for all Americans. Two days from today they are going to bring to the floor a bill that gets rid of the estate tax for estates over \$10 million, 0.15 percent, about 5,500 American families. As I said earlier, you can put more people on a cruise ship. That is who the Republican budget looks after.

Now, look. The Democratic budget, it takes the opposite approach. It actually provides tax relief for working families. Yes, we do close some tax breaks for special interests to help reduce our long-term deficit.

We also call for increasing the minimum wage for millions of Americans who are working hard every day, yet at the end of the year, the amount they earn still puts them below the Federal poverty level. That is not right.

We also call for equal pay for equal work. Today is Equal Pay Day. Today represents the number of days since the end of last year, the number of days more that women have to work to achieve the same pay as men in the workplace. That is not right, and the Democratic budget addresses that issue.

We also say it is not right that corporations should be able to cut their

employee pay or cut their workforce and still get a tax deduction for CEO and executive bonuses over \$1 million. Right? Pay your CEOs whatever bonus you want, pay your executives whatever bonus you want, but for goodness' sake, why should they get a tax deduction for those bonuses if they are not increasing the pay of their own workers? That is not right. That is what the Democratic budget says: we should get rid of that inequity and actually use the Tax Code not to incentivize corporate jets, but actually to incentivize greater pay for more workers.

And this motion to instruct also says, for goodness' sake, let's do what the Senate agreed to do. Let's do what the Senate agreed to do. Let's call for an earned paid sick leave provision so that families don't have to say that, in order to take care of a sick loved one at home, they have to forgo the paycheck that allows them to pay their rent and the mortgage and put food on the table.

And yes, we do not believe that you should turn Medicare into a voucher plan. We have put forward proposals for reform to move toward a system that rewards value over volume.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, despite passing on the risks of higher health care costs to seniors through that plan, there is not a shred of evidence that that plan in this particular budget will actually do anything in the end to help Medicare other than to shift that burden onto seniors.

So the Republican budget is the wrong way to go for the country. It is a budget based on a failed ideology that somehow we are going to grow our economy through trickle-down economics, top-down, trickle-down. That failed our economy.

Let's have an economy based on broadly shared prosperity. Let's reject the Republican budget, accept the motion to instruct, and ultimately adopt the Democratic alternative.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1500

#### PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 189, I call up the

bill (H.R. 650) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 650

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR DEFINITION.

Section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (cc) and subsection (dd) as subsections (dd) and (ee), respectively; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C) of subsection (dd), as so redesignated, by striking "an employee of a retailer of manufactured homes who is not described in clause (i) or (iii) of subparagraph (A) and who does not advise a consumer on loan terms (including rates, fees, and other costs)" and inserting "a retailer of manufactured or modular homes or its employees unless such retailer or its employees receive compensation or gain for engaging in activities described in subparagraph (A) that is in excess of any compensation or gain received in a comparable cash transaction".

#### SEC. 3. HIGH-COST MORTGAGE DEFINITION.

Section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (aa) (relating to disclosure of greater amount or percentage), as so designated by section 1100A of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, as subsection (bb);

(2) by redesignating subsection (bb) (relating to high cost mortgages), as so designated by section 1100A of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, as subsection (aa), and moving such subsection to immediately follow subsection (z); and

(3) in subsection (aa)(1)(A), as so redesignated—

(A) in clause (i)(I), by striking "(8.5 percentage points, if the dwelling is personal property and the transaction is for less than \$50,000)" and inserting "(10 percentage points if the dwelling is personal property or is a transaction that does not include the purchase of real property on which a dwelling is to be placed, and the transaction is for less than \$75,000 (as such amount is adjusted by the Bureau to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index))"; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking "or" at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(III) in the case of a transaction for less than \$75,000 (as such amount is adjusted by the Bureau to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index) in which the dwelling is personal property (or is a consumer credit transaction that does not include the purchase of real property on which a dwelling is to be placed) the greater of 5 percent of the total transaction amount or \$3,000 (as such amount is adjusted by the Bureau to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index); or".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER)

and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I start, I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and the leadership that he has shown in his ability to work with us and allow us to do these commonsense pieces of legislation that help our districts all over this country, especially my home State of Tennessee and the Eighth Congressional District. So I just want to definitely make sure I thank him for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be the sponsor of H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act. Access to affordable housing is of vital importance to families in my district and all across the United States. Unfortunately, due to CFPB mortgage regulations that do not reflect the unique nature of the manufactured home sales process, access to financing for manufactured homes is in serious jeopardy.

Manufactured housing serves as a critical option for those who cannot otherwise afford to buy a home. Homes are commonly available at lower monthly payments than what it costs to rent. And the average price of a manufactured home is less than \$43,000, compared to an average price of \$177,000 for a site-built home. Almost three-quarters of families living in manufactured homes have annual incomes under \$40,000.

But this important source of homeownership for American families is being threatened by current high-cost mortgage rules that are too inflexible and often lead to the denial of financing for certain homes, particularly those that are lower priced, more affordable options.

Since the CFPB's Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act "high cost" rules consider cost as a percentage of a loan, smaller size loans, like manufactured home loans, often violate points and fee caps. Manufactured home loans are typically associated with fixed interest rates, full amortization, shorter loan terms, and the absence of alternative features, such as balloon payments, negative amortization, no down payment loans, et cetera, to allow them to satisfy conservative and pru-

dent underwriting standards, and H.R. 650 won't change this.

Because of the resulting "high-cost" designation and increased lender liability associated with it, some lenders have stopped making manufactured housing loans altogether, and others have stopped originating loans under \$20,000. Many community owners have said that their tenants are being forced to sell their homes well below market value to cash buyers because potential buyers can't find financing. These below-market sales don't just hurt sellers; they hurt every homeowner in the community who feels a huge loss on the equity of their home.

Additionally, since the CFPB's rule on the loan originator definition has gone into effect, retailers have been forced to stop providing technical assistance to consumers during the process of home buying. This bill modifies the definition of high-cost loans so that manufactured housing loans are not unfairly swept under the high-cost loan designation simply due to their size.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would help ensure the availability of financing options for manufactured homes while preserving the necessary consumer protections in the Dodd-Frank Act and the SAFE Act. Let me say that one more time. This bill would help ensure the availability of financing options for manufactured homes while preserving the necessary consumer protections in the Dodd-Frank Act and the SAFE Act.

H.R. 650 not only preserves Dodd-Frank's core consumer protections, but it helps consumers by restoring access to financing. Such financing enables working families and retirees to obtain housing that is much cheaper than renting or conventional home mortgage options.

CFPB, HUD, and State oversight of manufactured lending will continue. Consumers will continue to have the wide range of mortgage protections established by Dodd-Frank, including the QM "ability to repay" requirement, the prohibition on steering incentives, the prohibition against steering a consumer to a loan that has predatory characteristics, the prohibition on mandatory arbitration, loan term disclosure requirements, and the other State and Federal laws.

This bill is about ensuring access to affordable housing, especially in rural America, where rental properties are not as abundant as in urban areas. This bill enjoys broad bipartisan support by groups including the National Association of Realtors, the Mortgage Bankers Association, the Manufactured Housing Institute, the National Organization of African Americans in Housing, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the National Association of Mortgage Professionals, the California Association of Mortgage Professionals, and numerous manufactured housing State associations.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a compromise from last year's bipartisan bill. In an effort to gain even more support on both sides of the aisle, we introduced a bipartisan compromise again this Congress. This is not a Democrat or a Republican issue. It is an affordability of housing issue for rural America. We cannot forget about rural America, Mr. Speaker. These are my constituents and the constituents of many folks here who serve in this body.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to support this. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 650, which would undermine the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act and eliminate consumer protections for some of the country's most vulnerable borrowers.

Mr. Speaker, the talking points describe this bill as one that preserves access to manufactured housing. But the reality is that we have learned this bill is a solution to a problem that does not exist. We agreed that this issue needed additional study last year, and reports we have received from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the manufactured housing industry, and the Center for Public Integrity have all shown us that this measure would not create access to affordable housing but would instead allow an incredibly profitable industry to make even more money by charging exorbitant interest rates and fees to low-income borrowers.

The industry itself asserts that it has been growing and is highly profitable even with the Dodd-Frank mortgage protections in place. In fact, according to its trade association, the manufactured housing industry recorded shipment increases in every month of 2014. The Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform found that 2014 marked a "fifth consecutive year of annual industry production increases."

Even one of the world's investors, Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffet, has been touting the post-Dodd-Frank profitability of manufactured housing. In a letter to his shareholders, he pointed out that Clayton Homes, Berkshire's highly profitable manufacturing housing subsidiary, earned a total of \$558 million in 2014—an increase of 34 percent over 2013. Yes, that is a 34 percent increase, even after the Dodd-Frank rules were in place.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is the same Clayton Homes that was the subject of a recent Seattle Times-Center for Public Integrity joint investigation that found this manufactured housing empire profits in every imaginable way—from producing the housing, to selling the housing, to originating loans that take advantage of

vulnerable consumers and leave them virtually no way to refinance.

So, Mr. Speaker, I insert this article into the RECORD. This, again, is a scathing article that was produced by The Seattle Times.

[From the Seattle Times and The Center for Public Integrity, April 7, 2015]

THE MOBILE-HOME TRAP: HOW A WARREN BUFFETT EMPIRE PREYS ON THE POOR

EPHRATA, GRANT COUNTY.—After years of living in a 1963 travel trailer, Kirk and Patricia Ackley found a permanent house with enough space to host grandkids and care for her aging father suffering from dementia. So, as the pilot cars prepared to guide the factory-built home up from Oregon in May 2006, the Ackleys were elated to finalize paperwork waiting for them at their loan broker's kitchen table.

But the closing documents he set before them held a surprise: The promised 7 percent interest rate was now 12.5 percent, with monthly payments of \$1,100, up from \$700.

The terms were too extreme for the Ackleys. But they'd already spent \$11,000, at the dealer's urging, for a concrete foundation to accommodate this specific home. They could look for other financing but desperately needed a space to care for her father.

Kirk's construction job and Patricia's Wal-Mart job together weren't enough to afford the new monthly payment. But, they said, the broker was willing to inflate their income in order to qualify them for the loan. "You just need to remember," they recalled him saying, "you can refinance as soon as you can."

To their regret, the Ackleys signed.

The disastrous deal ruined their finances and nearly their marriage. But until informed recently by a reporter, they didn't realize that the homebuilder (Golden West), the dealer (Oakwood Homes) and the lender (21st Mortgage) were all part of a single company: Clayton Homes, the nation's biggest homebuilder, which is controlled by its second-richest man—Warren Buffett.

Buffett's mobile-home empire promises low-income Americans the dream of homeownership. But Clayton relies on predatory sales practices, exorbitant fees, and interest rates that can exceed 15 percent, trapping many buyers in loans they can't afford and in homes that are almost impossible to sell or refinance, an investigation by The Seattle Times and Center for Public Integrity has found.

Berkshire Hathaway, the investment conglomerate Buffett leads, bought Clayton in 2003 and spent billions building it into the mobile-home industry's biggest manufacturer and lender. Today, Clayton is a many-headed hydra with companies operating under at least 18 names, constructing nearly half of the industry's new homes and selling them through its own retailers. It finances more mobile-home purchases than any other lender by a factor of six. It also sells property insurance on them and repossesses them when borrowers fail to pay.

Berkshire extracts value at every stage of the process. Clayton even builds the homes with materials—such as paint and carpeting—supplied by other Berkshire subsidiaries.

More than a dozen Clayton customers described a consistent array of deceptive practices that locked them into ruinous deals: loan terms that changed abruptly after they paid deposits or prepared land for their new homes; surprise fees tacked on to loans; and

pressure to take on excessive payments based on false promises that they could later refinance.

Former dealers said the company encouraged them to steer buyers to finance with Clayton's own high-interest lenders.

Under federal guidelines, most Clayton mobile-home loans are considered "higher-priced." Those loans averaged 7 percentage points higher than the typical home loan in 2013, according to a Times/CPI analysis of federal data, compared to just 3.8 percentage points for other lenders.

Buyers told of Clayton collection agents urging them to cut back on food and medical care or seek handouts in order to make house payments. And when homes got hauled off to be resold, some consumers already had paid so much in fees and interest that the company still came out ahead. Even through the Great Recession and housing crisis, Clayton was profitable every year, generating \$558 million in pre-tax earnings in 2014.

The company's tactics contrast with Buffett's public profile as a financial sage who values responsible lending and helping poor Americans keep their homes.

Berkshire Hathaway spokeswoman Carrie Soya and Clayton spokeswoman Audrey Saunders ignored more than a dozen requests by phone, email and in person to discuss Clayton's policies and treatment of consumers. In an emailed statement, Saunders said Clayton helps customers find homes within their budgets and has a "purpose of opening doors to a better life, one home at a time."

FIRST, A DREAM

As Buffett tells it, his purchase of Clayton Homes came from an "unlikely source": Visiting students from the University of Tennessee gave him a copy of founder Jim Clayton's self-published memoir, "First a Dream," in early 2003. Buffett enjoyed reading the book and admired Tim Clayton's record, he has said, and soon called CEO Kevin Clayton, offering to buy the company.

"A few phone calls later, we had a deal," Buffett said at his 2003 shareholders meeting, according to notes taken at the meeting by hedge-fund manager Whitney Tilson.

The tale of serendipitous dealmaking paints Buffett and the Claytons as sharing down-to-earth values, antipathy for Wall Street and an old-fashioned belief in treating people fairly. But, in fact, the man who brought the students to Omaha said Clayton's book wasn't the genesis of the deal.

"The Claytons really initiated this contact," said Al Auxier, the Tennessee professor, since retired, who chaperoned the student trip after fostering a relationship with the billionaire.

CEO Kevin Clayton, the founder's son, reached out to Buffett through Auxier, the professor said in a recent interview, and asked whether Buffett might explore "a business relationship" with Clayton Homes.

At the time, mobile-home loans had been defaulting at alarming rates, and investors had grown wary of them. Kevin Clayton was seeking a new source of cash to relend to homebuyers. He knew that Berkshire Hathaway, with its perfect bond rating, could provide it as cheaply as anyone. Later that year, Berkshire Hathaway paid \$1.7 billion in cash to buy Clayton Homes.

Clayton provided more than half of new mobile-home loans in eight states. In Texas, the number exceeds 70 percent. Clayton has more than 90 percent of the market in Odesa, one of the most expensive places in the country to finance a mobile home.

To maintain its down-to-earth image, Clayton has hired the stars of the reality-TV show "Duck Dynasty" to appear in ads.

The company's headquarters is a hulking structure of metal sheeting surrounded by acres of parking lots and a beach volleyball court for employees, located a few miles south of Knoxville, Tenn. Next to the front door, there is a slot for borrowers to deposit payments.

Near the headquarters, two Clayton sales lots sit three miles from each other. Clayton Homes' banners promise "\$0 CASH DOWN." TruValue Homes, also owned by Clayton, advertises "REPOS FOR SALE." Other nearby Clayton lots operate as Luv Homes and Oakwood Homes. With all the different names, many customers believe that they're shopping around.

House-sized banners at dealerships reinforce that impression, proclaiming they will "BEAT ANY DEAL." In some parts of the country, buyers would have to drive many miles past several Clayton-owned lots, to reach a true competitor.

GUIDED INTO COSTLY LOANS

Soon after Buffett bought Clayton Homes, he declared a new dawn for the moribund mobile-home industry, which provides housing for some 20 million Americans. Lenders should require "significant down payments and shorter-term loans," Buffett wrote.

He called 30-year loans on mobile homes "a mistake," according to notes Tilson took during Berkshire Hathaway's 2003 shareholders meeting.

"Home purchases should involve an honest-to-God down payment of at least 10% and monthly payments that can be comfortably handled by the borrower's income," Buffett later wrote. "That income should be carefully verified."

But in examining more than 100 Clayton home sales through interviews and reviews of loan documents from 41 states, reporters found that the company's loans routinely violated the lending standards laid out by Buffett.

Clayton dealers often sold homes with no cash down payment. Numerous borrowers said they were persuaded to take on outsized payments by dealers promising that they could later refinance. And the average loan term actually increased from 21 years in 2007 to more than 23 years in 2009, the last time Berkshire disclosed that detail.

Clayton's loan to Dorothy Mansfield, a disabled Army veteran who lost her previous North Carolina home to a tornado in 2011, includes key features that Buffett condemned.

Mansfield had a lousy credit score of 474, court records show. Although she had seasonal and part-time jobs, her monthly income often consisted of less than \$700 in disability benefits. She had no money for a down payment when she visited Clayton Homes in Fayetteville, N.C.

Vanderbilt, one of Clayton's lenders, approved her for a \$60,000, 20-year loan to buy a Clayton home at 10.13 percent annual interest. She secured the loan with two parcels of land that her family already owned free and clear.

The dealer didn't request any documents to verify Mansfield's income or employment, records show. Mansfield's monthly payment of \$673 consumed almost all of her guaranteed income. Within 18 months, she was behind on payments and Clayton was trying to foreclose on the home and land.

Many borrowers interviewed for this investigation described being steered by Clayton dealers into Clayton financing without realizing the companies were one and the same. Sometimes, buyers said, the dealer described the financing as the best deal available. Other times, the Clayton dealer said it was the only financing option.

Kevin Carroll, former owner of a Clayton-affiliated dealership in Indiana, said in an interview that he used business loans from a Clayton lender to finance inventory for his lot. If he also guided homebuyers to work with the same lender, 21st Mortgage, the company would give him a discount on his business loans—a “kickback,” in his words.

Doug Farley, who was a general manager at several Clayton-owned dealerships, also used the term “kickback” to describe the profit-share he received on Clayton loans until around 2008. After that, the company changed its incentives to instead provide “kickbacks” on sales of Clayton’s insurance to borrowers, he said.

Ed Atherton, a former lot manager in Arkansas, said his regional supervisor was pressuring lot managers to put at least 80 percent of buyers into Clayton financing. Atherton left the company in 2013.

During the most recent four-year period, 93 percent of Clayton’s mobile-home loans had such costly terms that they required extra disclosure under federal rules. Among all other mobile-home lenders, fewer than half of their loans met that threshold.

Customers said in interviews that dealers misled them to take on unaffordable loans, with tactics including last-minute changes to loan terms and unexplained fees that inflate loan balances. Such loans are, by definition, predatory.

“They’re going to assume the client is unsophisticated, and they’re right,” said Felix Harris, a housing counselor with the nonprofit Knoxville Area Urban League.

Some borrowers felt trapped because they put up a deposit before the dealer explained the loan terms or, like the Ackleys, felt compelled to swallow bait-and-switch deals because they had spent thousands to prepare their land.

#### PROMISE DENIED

A couple of years after moving into their new mobile home, Kirk Ackley was injured in a backhoe rollover. Unable to work, he and his wife urgently needed to refinance the costly 21st Mortgage loan they regretted signing.

They pleaded with the lender several times for the better terms that they originally were promised, but were denied, they said. The Ackleys tried to explain the options to a 21st supervisor: If they refinanced to lower payments, they could stay in the home and 21st would get years of steady returns. Otherwise, the company would have to come out to their rural property, pull the house from its foundation and haul it away, possibly damaging it during the repossession.

They both recall being baffled by his reply: “We don’t care. We’ll come take a chainsaw to it—cut it up and haul it out in boxes.”

Nine Clayton consumers interviewed for this story said they were promised a chance to refinance. In reality, Clayton almost never refinances loans and accounts for well under 1 percent of mobile-home refinancings reported in government data from 2010 to 2013. It made more than one-third of the purchase loans during that period.

Of Washington’s 25 largest mobile-home lenders, Clayton’s subsidiaries ranked No. 1 and No. 2 for the highest interest rates in 2013. Together, they ranked eighth in loans originated.

“If you have a decrease in income and can’t afford the mortgage, at least a lot of the big companies will do modifications,” said Harris, the Knoxville housing counselor. “Vanderbilt won’t even entertain that.” In general, owners have difficulty refinancing or selling their mobile homes because few

lenders offer such loans. One big reason: Homes are overpriced or depreciate so quickly that they generally are worth less than what the borrower owes, even after years of monthly payments.

Ellie Carosa, of Napavine, Lewis County, found this out the hard way in 2010 after she put down some \$40,000 from an inheritance to buy a used home from Clayton priced at about \$65,000.

Clayton sales reps steered Carosa, who is 67 years old and disabled, to finance the unpaid amount through Vanderbilt at 9 percent interest over 20 years.

One year later, Carosa was already having problems—peeling paint and failing carpets—so she decided to have a market expert assess the value of her home. She hoped to eventually sell the house so the money could help her granddaughter, whom she adopted as her daughter at age 8, attend a local college to study music. Carosa was stunned to learn that the home was worth only \$35,000, far less than her original down payment. “I’ve lost everything,” Carosa said.

#### ‘RUDEST, MOST CONDESCENDING’ AGENTS

Berkshire’s borrowers who fall behind on their payments face harassing, potentially illegal phone calls from a company rarely willing to offer relief.

Carol Carroll, a nurse living near Bug Tusle, Ala., began looking for a new home in 2003 after her husband had died, leaving her with a 6-year-old daughter. Instead of a down payment, she said, the salesman assured her she could simply put up two acres of her family land as collateral.

In December 2005, Carroll was permanently disabled in a catastrophic car accident in which two people were killed. Knowing it would take a few months for her disability benefits to be approved, Carroll said, she called Vanderbilt and asked for a temporary reprieve. The company’s answer: “We don’t do that.”

However, Clayton ratcheted up her property-insurance premiums, eventually costing her \$803 more per year than when she started, she said. Carroll was one of several Clayton borrowers who felt trapped in the company’s insurance, often because they were told they had no other options. Some had as many as five years’ worth of expensive premiums included in their loans, inflating the total balance to be repaid with interest. Others said they were misled into signing up even though they already had other insurance. Carroll has since sold belongings, borrowed money from relatives and cut back on groceries to make payments. When she was late, she spoke frequently to Clayton’s phone agents, whom she described as “the rudest, most condescending people I have ever dealt with.” It’s a characterization echoed by almost every borrower interviewed for this story.

Consumers say the company’s response to pleas for help is an invasive interrogation about their family budgets, including how much they spend on food, toiletries and utilities.

Denise Pitts, of Knoxville, Tenn., said Vanderbilt collectors have called her multiple times a day, with one suggesting that she cancel her Internet service, even though she home-schools her son. They have called her relatives and neighbors, a tactic other borrowers reported.

After Pitts’ husband, Kirk, was diagnosed with aggressive cancer, she said, a Vanderbilt agent told her she should make the house payment her “first priority” and let medical bills go unpaid. She said the company has threatened to seize her property

immediately even though the legal process to do so would take at least several months.

Practices like contacting neighbors, calling repeatedly and making false threats can violate consumer-protection laws in Washington, Tennessee and other states.

Last year, frequent complaints about Clayton’s aggressive collection practices led Tennessee state officials to contact local housing counselors seeking information about their experiences with the company, according to two people with knowledge of the conversations.

#### TREATED LIKE CAR OWNERS

Mobile-home buyers who own their land sites may be able to finance their home purchases with real-estate mortgages, which give them more federal and state consumer protections than the other major financing option, a personal-property loan. With conventional home mortgages, companies must wait 120 days before starting foreclosure. In some states, the foreclosure process can take more than a year, giving consumers a chance to save their homes.

Despite these protections, two-thirds of mobile-home buyers who own their land end up in personal-property loans, according to a federal study. These loans may close more quickly and have fewer upfront costs, but their rates are generally much higher. And if borrowers fall behind on payments, their homes can be seized with little or no warning.

Those buyers are more vulnerable because they end up being treated like car owners instead of homeowners, said Bruce Neas, an attorney who has worked for years on foreclosure and manufactured-housing issues in Washington state.

Tiffany Galler was a single mother living in Crestview, Fla., in 2005 when she bought a mobile home for \$37,195 with a loan from 21st Mortgage. She later rented out the home.

After making payments over eight years totaling more than the sticker price of the home, Galler lost her tenant in November 2013 and fell behind on her payments. She arranged to show the home to a prospective renter two months later. But when she arrived at her homesite, Galler found barren dirt with PVC pipe sticking up from the ground.

She called 911, thinking someone had stolen her home.

Hours later, Galler tracked her repossessed house to a sales lot 30 miles away that was affiliated with 21st. It was listed for \$25,900.

#### CLAYTON WINS CONCESSIONS

The government has known for years about concerns that mobile-home buyers are treated unfairly. Little has been done.

Fifteen years ago, Congress directed the Department of Housing and Urban Development to examine issues such as loan terms and regulations in order to find ways to make mobile homes affordable. That’s still on HUD’s to-do list.

The industry, however, has protected its interests vigorously. Clayton Homes is represented in Washington, DC, by the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI), a trade group that has a Clayton executive as its vice chairman and another as its secretary. CEO Kevin Clayton has represented MHI before Congress.

MHI spent \$4.5 million since 2003 lobbying the federal government. Those efforts have helped the company escape much scrutiny, as has Buffett’s persona as a man of the people, analysts say.

“There is a Teflon aspect to Warren Buffett,” said James McRitchie, who runs a widely read blog, Corporate Governance.



Still, after the housing crisis, lawmakers tightened protections for mortgage borrowers with a sweeping overhaul known as the Dodd-Frank Act, creating regulatory headaches for the mobile-home industry. Kevin Clayton complained to lawmakers in 2011 that the new rules would lump in some of his company's loans with "subprime, predatory" mortgages, making it harder for mobile-home buyers "to obtain affordable financing."

Although the rules had yet to take effect that year, 99 percent of Clayton's mobile-home loans were so expensive that they met the federal government's "higher-priced" threshold.

Dodd-Frank also tasked federal financial regulators with creating appraisal requirements for risky loans. Appraisals are common for conventional home sales, protecting both the lender and the consumer from a bad deal.

Clayton's own data suggest that its mobile homes may be overpriced from the start, according to comments it filed with federal regulators. When Vanderbilt was required to obtain appraisals before finalizing a loan, company officials wrote, the home was determined to be worth less than the sales price about 30 percent of the time.

But when federal agencies jointly proposed appraisal rules in September 2012, industry objections led them to exempt loans secured solely by a manufactured home.

Then Clayton pushed for more concessions, arguing that manufactured-home loans tied to land should also be exempt. Paul Nichols, then-president of Clayton's Vanderbilt Mortgage, told regulators that the appraisal requirement would be costly and onerous, significantly reducing "the availability of affordable housing in the United States."

In 2013, regulators conceded. They will not require a complete appraisal for new manufactured homes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. The investigation found that Clayton locked one disabled veteran in Tennessee, Dorothy Mansfield, into an expensive loan even though the required monthly payment would leave her only \$27 to cover the rest of her living costs. Other borrowers were quoted in expensive loan terms only to see interest and fees skyrocket once they had put down a nonrefundable deposit—or paid out large amounts of money to prepare their land for installation of the home. Just like subprime borrowers in the financial crisis, many looking to purchase manufactured housing were convinced to take out high-cost loans because they were sold false promises that they would be able to refinance to lower rates in the future.

Former Clayton salespeople have blown the whistle. They are coming forward, and they are talking. They have attested that they have pressured consumers to use Clayton-affiliated financing even if it wasn't the best deal, and some even received kickbacks for putting customers into more expensive loans.

If enacted, H.R. 650 would allow abusive lenders to charge up to nearly 14 percent interest before consumer protections are triggered, more than four times what the average borrower is paying on a home loan. There is not

one Member of Congress who would pay or is paying 14 percent interest, 12, 13, 11 percent interest. This is outrageous.

In the coming years, this number could very well grow to 16 percent, 17 percent, and likely 18 percent as interest rates rise back to normal. Even worse, the bill would also make it legal for Clayton sales personnel to steer borrowers toward high-cost loans—loans from other parts of the Clayton conglomerate—that are not in their interest—a practice we banned for all loan originators after the financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to manufactured housing, consumers are already exposed to significant risk: high interest rates, the inability to refinance, and in many cases, depreciation that starts as soon as the manufactured home is sold. Today, we consider a measure that would even further roll back key protections.

This measure would do away with a number of protections current law affords to many high-cost loans such as stiffer penalties for bad actor lenders, additional disclosures for investors and consumers who purchase high-cost mortgages, mandatory counseling so borrowers would know what they are getting into, and even the ability of borrowers to have their loan rescinded if lenders don't follow the law. They would lose all of these protections.

As the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau noted in their study of the manufactured housing industry, the individuals who apply for loans for manufactured housing "include consumers that may be considered more financially vulnerable and, thus, may particularly stand to benefit from strong consumer protections." And now, in addition to the CFPB's report, we have investigative reporting that puts names, faces, and individual stories of woe to the CFPB's description of market practices and policy failures.

Finally, the Obama administration has said that they "strongly oppose" this bill because it would "put lowest income and economically vulnerable consumers at significant risk of being subjected to predatory lending and being steered into more expensive loans even when they qualify for lower cost alternatives."

Rolling back consumer protections amidst evidence that the manufactured housing industry needs more oversight is a dangerous giveaway to a sector that already profits handsomely at the expense of vulnerable borrowers.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker and Members, I would urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I enter into the RECORD a letter from Mr. Barney Frank back in 2011, a

former chairman and former ranking member of our committee, on this issue:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter about the negative impact of the Financial Reform bill on manufactured housing. I'm very proud of the work I have done with the manufactured housing industry for years and was regretful to realize that we did have this problem. I do not think it is necessary to include manufactured housing as part of our effort to prevent abusive mortgage practices, and I am now working with my staff to see if we can find a way to make a change that would deal with the problem you currently point out.

Mr. Speaker, so much of what the ranking member, my colleague on the other side of the aisle is saying—we are not messing with those parts of the bill that strengthen protections. All we are doing is fixing the unintended consequences that happened with the Dodd-Frank bill being so big.

With that, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), my good friend, the chairman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee.

This bill isn't about profits; it is about providing an opportunity for American families to have housing choices.

H.R. 650 is an important bill for communities in my district, the Texas 19th District, and communities across America. For most of my career, I was in a home building business. For many small communities in my district, the town would make efforts to go out and work to recruit a new employer.

Oftentimes, this could be a manufacturer, cotton, or dairy production facility. This goal was to help develop the economy and provide job opportunities for the folks. However, in many of these communities, there is already a limited amount of housing stock available.

In order for these communities to grow, you have to have sufficient housing availability to attract those businesses. You can't grow your community if folks don't have a place to live, and so the manufactured housing industry has been an integral part of providing housing for rural America. Unfortunately, under the new mortgage rules coming out of CFPB, the manufactured housing industry is facing some pretty significant headwinds and regulatory obstacles.

Last summer, I had the opportunity to go and visit a manufactured housing dealer in my district. The dealer began by telling me stories of family after family that were unable to serve because of the new mortgage restrictions.

For some of these young families, this is the first home that they may own. It may be a manufactured home worth only \$15,000 or \$20,000, and they are very proud of it. Unfortunately, today, many of the families in rural



America have run out of places to turn to achieve the American Dream and own an affordable home.

Today, I want to address the issue of consumer protection. When consumer protection starts limiting consumer choices, then we have gone too far.

Unfortunately, I think many of the CFPB rules have gone too far. They are not only negatively impacting the consumers, but we also have a duty to make sure that the people we represent have the opportunities to make their own financial decisions about their housing and not the Federal Government and not one agency to make that decision for them.

This bill, H.R. 650, makes important corrections to the definition of a mortgage originator under the Truth in Lending Act. It is a bipartisan bill that ensures low- and moderate-income families have access to credit for the purchase of affordable homes.

It ensures that the CFPB rules are properly calibrated and don't consider small-balance manufactured home loans as high-cost loans under the Housing Ownership and Equity Protection Act.

For those reasons, I thank Mr. FINCHER and the bipartisan sponsors for their work on this bill, and I support its final passage.

I just want to mention that, when you look at a lot of these small communities—and it has been mentioned, Well, sometimes, people can rent, or they can own; and, in some cases, people say, you know—and rightfully so—that, sometimes, manufactured housing is a lower cost of housing for some of those people.

Let me say this: in some of these communities, it is not about whether you have a choice to rent or to own; in some cases, there is just not adequate housing stock in those communities.

If you want to choke a little small community across America, you take away the ability to provide housing. That is one of the main infrastructures for any community to grow. In many of these communities, there hasn't been a new house built in those communities in 30 or 40 years.

What you are saying to those small communities, because we are so intent in protecting Americans and we don't trust them to make their own decisions, we are just going to take away any opportunity that those small communities have to prosper and grow in the future.

Now, I don't think that is what the Founding Fathers of this country intended. They intended for this to be the land of opportunity. If we continue to do these kinds of things, we take away the opportunities of Americans that want to live in those communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage passage of this.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for

people to know that that letter that was read was back in 2011, and that was prior to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's very investigative reporting.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member WATERS.

Today, I stand in support of H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act. Manufactured housing serves as an affordable and sustainable housing option for roughly 22 million Americans. In my State of Alabama, more than 300,000 families reside in manufactured housing, which comprises in excess of 14 percent of the State's housing market.

In districts like mine, where we face tremendous economic disparities and suppressed rental markets, manufactured housing must remain an option. Oftentimes, it is the only safe and affordable mortgage option available to families.

Without this bill, working families and retirees with poor credit or limited income can't obtain credit at all and are forced into more expensive housing options; and, in some parts of my district, the more rural parts of my district, the only option for many is manufactured housing.

H.R. 650 makes a simple but necessary adjustment to these thresholds to enable lenders to fully meet the demand for affordable, responsible loans for manufactured homes.

In many ways, Mr. Speaker, this bill is an acknowledgement that manufactured housing is different from regular dwelling housing. It is, in fact, not real property, but personal property, more like a car than it is like a home.

The fact of the matter is I believe that Dodd-Frank did not anticipate—was an unintended consequence of Dodd-Frank—that manufactured housing would get wrapped into the regulatory scheme for dwelling homes.

In fact, most of the lenders are not loan originators, as it would be in the mortgage context; rather, they are lenders giving limited options—I should say giving families, working families, the only option in many, many of the jurisdictions, the rural communities, that I represent.

With all due respect, I don't see this as a predatory lending bill. This is all about access to affordability. I, like the ranking member, strongly advocate against predatory lending, would not be supportive of an industry that preys upon the most vulnerable in the community.

In fact, many of my constituents represent vulnerable communities. Instead, I really see this as an opportunity for them, many of the communities I represent, to have affordable housing at all.

It is with that that I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to

consider H.R. 650 as an opportunity for rural communities all across America to have, as a viable option, manufactured housing.

I want to repeat something that was very important. In no way does this bill take away consumer protections. The consumer protections that were established by Dodd-Frank are really important.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. The consumers will continue to have the wide range of consumer protections that Dodd-Frank affords and which I think many of us agree with.

Steering would be prohibited. We would still have truth-in-lending disclosures, which are critically important, and loan-term disclosures that are critically important; and the prohibition against mandatory arbitration and other State laws are not affected.

I see this not as a predatory lending bill, but an access to affordable housing bill, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 650.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for supporting the legislation.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his leadership on this very important issue, Mr. FINCHER, for being a champion for affordability of housing and manufactured housing in particular.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who are supporting this important legislation that I had cosponsored, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, and it is a bipartisan bill, and that is important.

Affordable manufactured housing is a key source of housing for many of our constituents, particularly those living in rural areas, including my district in central and eastern Kentucky, many of those individuals who could not otherwise afford to buy or even rent a home.

Unfortunately, due to the regulatory requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act, many lenders have stopped offering loans for manufactured houses. The loans in question are generally fixed-rate, fixed-termed, fully amortized, small-dollar loans that have nothing in common with the bad mortgage loans that brought down the housing market in 2008; yet the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has treated retailers of manufactured homes as "mortgage originators," despite the fact that they do not originate loans.

Furthermore, the small-dollar amounts of manufactured housing triggers high-cost regulatory controls

since points and fees represent a proportionally larger share of a small-dollar loan than a larger 30-year mortgage on real property.

These definitions increase the regulatory and liability burdens on retailers and lenders, driving them from the market and resulting in higher costs and reduced choice for prospective home buyers.

In fact, due to the increased lender liability associated with this mortgage designation, some manufactured housing lenders have stopped making manufactured home loans entirely, and others have stopped originating manufactured home loans under \$20,000, which is a typical price point.

The legislation before us today does nothing to roll back existing protections against predatory lending, as has been said previously by my friend on the other side of the aisle, Congresswoman SEWELL.

H.R. 650 merely clarifies the definitions for mortgage originators in high-cost loans to correct an unfortunate consequence of these regulations that the Federal Government will be protecting homeowners right out of their homes.

This legislation will reduce the bureaucratic red tape, increase access to affordable manufactured housing for American families, and let me just conclude by saying this in response to some of the arguments made by the ranking member. She made the point that manufactured home sales are increasing. Well, that is not an argument against this legislation.

On the contrary, it underscores the extent to which Americans are relying on manufactured housing in the Obama economy and the need to preserve access to lower-priced, more affordable homes, homes such as manufactured homes, which commonly are available at lower monthly payments than what it cost even to rent. It also reinforces the need for this legislation because we need to preserve access to affordable housing.

This argument, this canard that this is somehow rolling back consumer protections for lower-income homeowners, this is not true at all. This legislation does nothing to roll back consumer protections. I simply do not define consumer protection as a law that tries to protect people in a way that makes access to housing completely unreachable. That is not consumer protection.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan piece of legislation that preserves access to affordable housing and preserves commonsense consumer protections.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for me to correct statements that have been made more than once by the opposite side of the aisle about consumer protections.

H.R. 650 would remove consumer protections afforded to borrowers of high-priced mortgage loans under the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, as enhanced by Dodd-Frank, for manufactured housing loans that currently receive such protections.

□ 1530

Those protections include:

Prior to making a high-cost mortgage, the lender must receive written certification that the consumer has received counseling from a HUD-approved counselor or State agency. That would be out. Restrictions on loan terms for high-cost mortgages, including the loan payments currently only allowed in very limited circumstances; prepayment penalties banned; a limitation of due-on-demand features of loans; creditors banned from recommending default on an existing loan to be refinanced by a high-cost mortgage; no fees can be charged by services or creditors to modify or renew or extend a high-cost mortgage; late fees capped at 4 percent of past due payments and the pyramiding of fees banned; no fees for borrowers to receive a payoff statement; charges that qualify for points and fees cannot be financed into principal balance; a ban on issuing two loans in order to evade HOEPA coverage by splitting fees and rates.

All of these are protections that would be eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I would argue that the fact that home sales are increasing for manufactured homes is even more of a reason for us to want to be protective of some kind of an industry that is growing.

I represent areas in which there are a number of manufactured homes throughout the rural parts of Missouri that are included in the Fifth Congressional District. I am a capitalist. I believe that people ought to be able to make money. I think they ought to make money in the manufactured home industry, and I would like for them to make money in the Fifth Congressional District.

Yet I think that everyone in here would agree that we have all had questions about what happens when a car is purchased and the driver drives it around the corner and loses about \$1,200 in depreciation. Nobody I have ever met or had a conversation with said, Oh, I understand that. The car depreciates almost as soon as you sign the note. What happens is that this is an unintended reason for more, I think, congressional oversight of this particular industry because these homes also lose value like automobiles. Let me give you an example from the Seattle study. This is sad, and I will try and do this quickly, Mr. Speaker.

Tiffany Galler is a single mother who was living in Florida in 2005. She

bought a mobile home for \$37,165. With the loan she purchased from 21st Mortgage, she then rented the home out. She made payments for 8 years, payments totaling more than the sticker price of the home. Galler lost her tenant in November of 2013, and she fell behind on her payments. She arranged to show the home to a prospective renter 2 months later, but when she arrived at her home site, Ms. Galler found barren dirt with PVC pipe sticking up from the ground. She called 911, thinking someone had stolen her home, but she found out later that her home was 30 miles away and was up for sale for \$25,900.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLEAVER. That is a real reason for us not only to look at this industry but to protect people as it is growing.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 650, a bipartisan piece of legislation that would make commonsense changes to Dodd-Frank and restore clarity to a market that has been hit hard by unnecessary regulations.

Texas builds or manufactures over 25 percent of the Nation's new manufactured homes—almost 12,000 last year. To put that in perspective, Texas is home to 19 manufacturing facilities with an average of 185 skilled workers per factory. At a time when our Nation is still recovering from the financial crisis of 2008, now is the time to free small businesses from harmful regulations that only hurt hard-working Americans. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have access to affordable financing for manufactured homes, especially in central Texas, where the average home price for a manufactured home is \$60,000.

The one-size-fits-all regulatory approach under the CFPB is clearly not working. Instead of protecting potential consumers, the CFPB has, once again, gotten it wrong. Treating lending products for manufactured housing as high cost and predatory clearly will not protect consumers, but it will reduce access to small balance loans.

With increased lender liabilities, obtaining a high-cost mortgage has become nearly impossible. Having critical resources for low- to moderate-income families is vital in many parts of rural America. By passing the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, Congress can correct one of the many unintended consequences of the Dodd-Frank Act. This bill is fair, and this bill is logical. It must pass. I urge its immediate passage.

In God we trust.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Ranking Member WATERS, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, manufactured housing is a key form of affordable housing in my State, particularly in rural and underserved communities. More than 300,000 families in Arizona live in manufactured homes. Manufactured homes provide an affordable housing choice for many low- and moderate-income families.

Existing manufactured home owners and potential buyers are negatively impacted by current regulations. These rules inadvertently curtail a consumer's ability to access manufactured home loans or to receive effective assistance in the manufactured home buying process. These regulations unintentionally create situations where borrowers are not allowed to be matched with lenders who can help them in a timely and efficient manner.

For example, if a Realtor in Arizona works with a veteran who wants to use his or her VA eligibility to purchase a home, the Realtor connects the veteran with a number of lenders who offer VA home loans. Due to the current restrictions placed on retail salespeople, the process is different if a veteran shops for a manufactured home.

Manufactured home sale centers have a marketing table where lenders place marketing and lending materials. Manufactured home salespeople cannot assist veterans in finding lenders. Instead, when a veteran enters the home center, she is instructed to go to the table and sift through the countless brochures and loan programs by herself to determine which lender is best. There may be a dozen different lenders' information displayed on this table. As you can imagine, this is a very daunting and discouraging process for most borrowers, especially for first-time home buyers.

Had the salesperson simply been able to point the veteran in the direction of a lender that offers VA loans, the veteran would have been taken care of immediately and would have been able to have made an informed and confident decision.

H.R. 650 will remedy the unintended consequences of current regulations, providing potential home buyers with more options, better advice, and more confidence when buying a new home.

The bill also amends the definition of a "high-cost mortgage" and corresponding thresholds to ensure that consumers of small balance mortgage loans will have the opportunity to access mortgage credit. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Thank you, Mr. FINCHER, for yielding on this important measure, and thank you for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me to stand in opposition to my friend, the ranking member of the committee, and in support of H.R. 650, but I believe that H.R. 650 is a commonsense bill that actually preserves financing options for manufactured homes while preserving and maintaining consumer protections.

I want to add too that my friend from Missouri noted the health of the industry, and I would like to provide a countercomment on that. In the last decade alone—this very tough economic decade that we have had—there has been an 80 percent decline in the production of manufactured housing in the country. Some 160 plants have closed, and there has been a loss of some 200,000 jobs. Therefore, this industry is important to our Nation. As a percentage of total housing units, in my home State of Arkansas, we have 170,000 units, which is some 13 percent of housing units in our State—one of the largest percentages in the country.

For many years, I was a community banker with offices in the Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas. For many of our families, especially in rural areas, manufactured housing is not only the best option for housing, but it is the best option for clean, safe, modern, and affordable housing. Often, due to low volumes in these kinds of towns, it is the only option, as many of my colleagues have noted.

However, under the new mortgage rules issued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, many of these manufactured housing loans are now automatically considered high cost and, therefore, would subject both the consumers to higher costs and the lenders to greater liability. Therefore, many of my old colleagues in community banking offer fewer loans, and that impacts hard-working, low- to moderate-income families across Arkansas and particularly in rural America, families whose only objective is to own a home, to have the dream of homeownership.

The Director of the CFPB has acknowledged that its rules may, in fact, have this issue of constraining credit, but as the executive director of Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association said in a recent letter:

Most low-income Arkansas families don't have the luxury when it comes to their mortgage options, and many of our member businesses won't last through a few more years of decline in sales.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this letter for the RECORD.

ARKANSAS MANUFACTURED  
HOUSING ASSOCIATION,

Hon. FRENCH HILL,  
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HILL: Congratulations on your election to Congress representing Arkansas' 2nd District and on your selection to the House Financial Services Committee.

During the campaign, we visited briefly about how the implementation of 'The Dodd-Frank Act' (and the avalanche of additional regulation created by the Act) hinders job creation and increases the cost of financial services for Arkansas consumers and businesses. More specifically, we discussed how 'Dodd-Frank' has adversely impacted the members of the Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association (AMHA) and their customers—low-to-moderate income homebuyers throughout the state.

Over the past year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has implemented a number of final rules, issued interpretations of those rules, and clarifications of the interpretations of those rules—all in defense of practices that continue to disrupt consumer lending for low-to-moderate income homebuyers, particularly to purchasers in predominantly rural markets like Arkansas.

At Congressional hearing about the Dodd-Frank's 'Ability to Repay' (ATR) and 'Qualified Mortgage' (QM) rules, one of the CFPB's key witnesses testified that the Bureau recognizes "... that concerns about liability under the Dodd-Frank Act's 'Ability-To-Repay' requirement might cause creditors to constrain their lending—particularly in the first few YEARS after the rule takes effect."

In response to that statement—on behalf of an industry which over the past decade has experienced an 80 percent decline in new home production; the closure of more than 160 manufacturing facilities; and the loss of more than 200,000 American jobs—I would say that most low-to-moderate income Arkansas families don't have the luxury of taking a 'wait and see approach' when it comes to their mortgage options and that many of our member businesses won't last through another 'few YEARS' of decline in production and sales.

Throughout its continued rulemaking, the CFPB has demonstrated a fundamental lack of understanding about manufactured home lending. And, through the implementation of rules like ATR and QM, the Bureau has created additional challenges for manufactured home purchasers and lenders wishing to offer mortgage loans on manufactured homes.

As you are undoubtedly aware, lenders which provide specific mortgage products for the manufactured home industry (particularly personal property type 'home only' [chattel] loans), community banks and other financial institutions will likely offer fewer manufactured home loan options if such loans are not able to be classified as 'qualified mortgages'. The liability created by Dodd-Frank on such loans (classified as 'high cost' or 'high priced') will prevent most institutions from offering these loans to hard-working Arkansas families.

You also know that manufactured home loans tend to be lower balance loans. And, while the cost of origination for a \$50,000 manufactured home loan may be the same as the cost of origination for a \$250,000 'site-built' home loan in 'real dollars'—that origination cost (when considered against the lower-balance loan total) will more readily cause that lower-balance loan to fall outside the parameters of a 'qualified mortgage'.

The loss of mortgage options for paycheck-to-paycheck wage earners seeking to attain 'The American Dream of Home Ownership'—particularly in a state where the median annual household income is around \$40,000—will keep many Arkansas families living in rental units or dependent upon government assistance programs for their housing needs.

The manufactured home industry is asking for your immediate assistance with industry-

specific legislation to amend the provisions of Dodd-Frank which are restricting the availability of credit needed by those seeking to purchase manufactured housing. H.R. 650—The Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act—would revise the high-cost mortgage triggers for manufactured home loans and make clarifications to the loan originator definition as it applies to manufactured home retailers and their salespeople.

On behalf of the members of the Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association (AMHA) and the customers that we serve, I would respectfully request that you become a cosponsor of H.R. 650.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue of great importance to the manufactured housing industry and our customers—the low-to-moderate income families of Arkansas. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about this request.

Sincerely,

J.D. HARPER,  
Executive Director,

Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association.

Mr. HILL. Regarding consumer protection, I agree with my colleagues that this bill does not weaken any current laws. It protects consumer access to affordable credit; it preserves the consumer's choice; it helps Americans achieve financial independence; and it prevents the CFPB rules from overprotecting low-income consumers out of the option of a manufactured home.

H.R. 650 is about protecting the American Dream of homeownership. I am proud to support this bipartisan bill. I think it is common sense.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from California has 13 minutes remaining.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members, I reiterate that H.R. 650 would remove consumer protections afforded to borrowers of high-priced mortgage loans under the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, as enhanced by Dodd-Frank, for manufactured housing loans that currently receive such protections, and I read off some of those protections.

I further want to share that these lenders want to be able to originate these high-priced loans at 14 percent and even more when the interest rates change, but they want this bill to change the definition of a "mortgage originator" so that the licensing and antisteering requirements of Dodd-Frank would not apply to manufactured housing.

Not only are they going for protection for higher priced loans and higher fees, they want to change the definition so they don't look like they are originating loans, and they don't want to come under the law in terms of what we require for protection for higher priced loans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the Honorable MAXINE WATERS for continuing to be a champion for people who have been taken advantage of. She has a rich history of fighting for those who are not in a position to fight for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I guess there will be a question of "Who are you going to believe?" Will it be MAXINE WATERS, who has for decades been fighting for the least, the last, and the lost? MAXINE WATERS, who is known across the length and breadth of this country as a champion for poor people, for people who purchase manufactured homes?

MAXINE WATERS has said—and I concur with her—that this bill will create an opportunity for people to take advantage of those who are living at a level of life wherein what they pay for a home must be what they can afford, and they cannot afford to lose that home.

□ 1545

This is why she is so concerned, and I join her in this notion, that there is predatory lending taking place if this bill passes. If this bill passes, people will be allowed to steer people into homes that will have higher interest rates. If this bill passes, there will be people who will need counseling but will not get the counseling that they need to help them maintain home ownership. If this bill passes, we will go back to prepayment penalties. If this bill passes, we will not be able to bring back these protections and safeguards that have been instated under Dodd-Frank. We will eliminate them, and they will be gone forever.

We need to think before we act and before we vote. This is an important vote for those who are not going to be able to stand up and fight for themselves, but I thank God that we have got the Honorable MAXINE WATERS on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives standing here today to stand up for them.

So who are you going to believe? There seems to be a difference of opinion. When you have differences in opinions, you look to see who has been doing what and for how long. She has been fighting for these kinds of rights that we are talking about today since she has been in the Congress of the United States of America. I am proud to stand with the Honorable MAXINE WATERS.

I think that if we pass this bill, we will continue to do what many want to do, but in an incremental salami way. We will continue to slice away at Dodd-Frank. We will continue to do what those who can't repeal it in full would do in part, and that is eliminate the protections for consumers.

Mr. FINCHER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker and Members, before the next Members rise to speak on this bill, I would just like to remind everybody that this amount of interest rate that they will be getting on these loans, should this bill pass, is 10 percent above the prime rate; and from 14 percent it could go up to maybe 18 percent. There is no Member of Congress who would pay that kind of interest rate on a home loan or manufactured housing or anything else, but we are asking the most vulnerable in our society that are targeted to pay this kind of entry rate in the interest of getting credit.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding. I want to congratulate her as well on her amazing advocacy on behalf of consumers across this country and her leadership on the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. Speaker, here we are again forced to ask the question: Who calls the shots here in Washington and in Congress and on Capitol Hill? We shouldn't have to ask that question. It should be the people that call the shots. It should be everyday Americans that call the shots here, but unfortunately it is big money on Wall Street that continues to call the shots. It is big money that is leaning on Congress to water down, once again, the Dodd-Frank rules in ways that will harm consumers. With the mortgage crisis barely in our rearview mirror, the hidden hand of Wall Street is intent on rolling back critical consumer protections and stripping away important reforms that have been made to our mortgage market.

Exhibit A for today—and I say "for today" because there has actually been dozens of exhibits of this kind of legislation that have come forth over the last few months authored by Wall Street interests. But Exhibit A for today is called Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, H.R. 650. Preserving access; it sounds good, but it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. That is how they title these things around here.

This legislation would roll back critical consumer protections for our Nation's most vulnerable families, undermining a simple proposition that the owners of manufactured homes deserve the same protections as traditional homeowners; specifically, the legislation would cause interest rates to spike and would reintroduce conflict of interest into the manufactured home market.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, later on today we will see Exhibit B for today. That is called the Mortgage Choice Act, H.R. 685. That is legislation that would scrap vital consumer protections put in place by Dodd-Frank to prevent unscrupulous lenders from steering

consumers into higher fee mortgages. That is what is going on around here.

Of all the areas in need of Congress' attention, the Republican majority has chosen to once again focus on giveaways to the Wall Street crowd. American consumers deserve better than that, and I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 650 and later against H.R. 685.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the chairman of our committee, and I again want to thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, but more importantly, I thank him for his leadership, and I thank him for standing up for so many of the downtrodden, the low- and moderate-income Americans from sea to shining sea who want to realize some piece of the American Dream—they want to own a home.

Now, maybe it is not going to be quite as nice as a home that some Member of Congress might live in, you know, but it is going to be their home. In this case, it is going to be a manufactured home. I can say for many of the people who live, Mr. Speaker, in the Fifth District of Texas, if it weren't for manufactured housing, they wouldn't have a house.

As the gentleman from Tennessee so eloquently said as this legislation was being marked up in our committee, there are so many on the left and the far left who want to protect consumers right out of their homes. That is shameful, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely shameful. They should have the same equal opportunity to own a home as any Member of this body, and yet my friends on the other side of the aisle would take it away from them. No, they have got a bumper sticker slogan here. You know, they have got Dodd-Frank; we are going to aim at Wall Street. But when they aim at Wall Street, they are hitting Main Street. They are hitting Main Street, and low- and moderate-income Americans are suffering.

We have bank after bank after bank after credit union after credit union, we are talking community financial institutions who are saying, without the legislation of the gentleman from Tennessee, they have got to get out of the business. You know what that means, Mr. Speaker? It means people lose their opportunity to own that first home, which might just be a manufactured house.

First Arkansas Bank and Trust, we heard from them:

Our bank has a long history of helping consumers, especially those who, for some reason, cannot qualify for secondary market financing at the time. Due to the fact that this type of financing is now overly burdened by the qualified mortgage standards, we have ceased this type of financing.

I heard from the Central Maine Credit Union. And, by the way, we haven't

mentioned Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan. No, these are community financial institutions, Mr. Speaker.

I am sorry. This comes from Five County Credit Union:

Since October of 2010, Five County has not been offering mobile home loans to its members due to the Federal legislation.

First National Bank of Milaca. I hope I am pronouncing this right, but given that it isn't a money center bank on Wall Street, we are a little less familiar with its name. This is in Minnesota.

The high price mortgage rules have caused my bank to reduce the number of real estate mortgages we make on certain type houses, specifically mobile homes.

I could go on and on. I have got a stack of these, Mr. Speaker. That is why the gentleman from Tennessee, with his able leadership, has brought forth legislation—bipartisan legislation, I might add; bipartisan, almost half of the Democrats on our committee supported it.

The ranking member supported it before she was against it. I don't quite understand the change of mind. The need is still as great. People are still suffering. The low- and moderate-income Americans have been falling behind. Here is a chance to let them have an opportunity to get into a mobile home. But, no, no, no, no, no, we have got a Wall Street bumper sticker slogan here, and it doesn't matter who is going to get hurt.

Well, it does matter. It matters a lot, Mr. Speaker. We need to ensure that every American, regardless of their income, in a competitive, transparent, innovative capital market, that they have the opportunity to finance that mobile home. Every American should have that opportunity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FINCHER. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HENSARLING. Every single American should have that opportunity, and it is the gentleman from Tennessee who is hearing their voices and is representing their voices on the House floor today.

Again, I want to thank him for his leadership and thank him for the thousands and thousands across the Fifth District of Texas that I have the privilege and honor of representing that, just because they are low income, he knows—he knows—they still deserve that chance for the American Dream. He is fighting for their American Dream.

This was compromise language, Mr. Speaker. This is not the bill I wanted; it is not the bill he wanted. It was compromise language. In fact, the ranking member supported even a broader provision in the previous Congress. But what has happened is, yet again, the left hand doesn't always know what the far left hand is doing; and the far left hand has decided that all of a sud-

den we are going to aim at Wall Street banks, and it doesn't matter if any person working at a Walmart or working at a Whataburger loses their chance at the American Dream.

That has to stop. We need to support the legislation of the gentleman from Tennessee. I urge the House to adopt it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the gentleman just described this as a consumer protection bill for people who live in manufactured housing. We are talking about trailer homes. But yet the National Manufactured Home Owners Association is opposing this bill, along with the Alliance for a Just Society, Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for American Progress, the Center for Responsible Lending, Consumer Action, Corporation for Enterprise Development, Empire Justice, Financial Protection Law Center, the Housing Assistance Council, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Consumer Law Center, National Council of La Raza, National Fair Housing Alliance, North Carolina Justice Center, U.S. Public Interest Research Group. Are these the far left that he is talking about, the people who actually represent folks that live in the kind of housing that he is saying that he wants to protect?

Nearly 7 years ago, our housing collapse resulted in more than 5 million foreclosures and 10 million jobs lost, and so we enacted Dodd-Frank to reform Wall Street, to improve consumer protections against crippling loans and the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The two bills, H.R. 650 and H.R. 685, would strip many of these consumer protections, would allow higher fees and reduce consumer protections and permit some of the most abusive and deceptive practices that trapped borrowers into unaffordable loans. Those protections were hard earned, and they were clearly justified. Eliminating them would put us back in the same situation that led to the worst recession since 1929.

This bill, H.R. 650, would weaken consumer protections for manufactured home loans. This is a bad bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. FINCHER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, could you tell me how much time we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Tennessee has 5½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

□ 1600

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how thrilled I am

to hear that the chair of the committee has seen the light and will follow the lead of the gentleman from Tennessee, and I am looking forward to him signing on to Congressman FINCHER's Export-Import Bank reauthorization bill.

In fact, I wish I could stand here and support this in the name of consumer protection, but it isn't. When we had this hearing, the most common thread was that we needed more information about what is happening out here.

Well, unfortunately, since that hearing, we have received more information. Indeed, The Seattle Times ran an unbelievably in-depth article detailing some of the worst practices among manufactured home lenders, some of those practices which contributed to the subprime bubble and meltdown: not verifying borrowers' income, pushing borrowers into unaffordable loans, aggressive debt collection, driving up costs through hidden add-ons, overappraising homes, all of these things.

If you do nothing else, read this essay, which I flat predict today—write it down—is going to win a Pulitzer Prize. Write it down.

It has been suggested that lenders could not make a living were they held to 8 points over prime, but that doesn't square with reality. What is reality? Take out the largest lender, who averages 7 points over prime, average all the rest, and it is 3.8 percent over prime.

Don't tell me lenders can't make a living in the manufactured home market unless they are given 10 points over prime. They are making a living. In fact, they could double it and still be approximately what the single largest does.

This bill is about relaxing an awful lot of consumer protections among our most vulnerable population, requirements to do housing counseling, a ban on teaser rates, early provision of disclosures, large font statement of the consumers' rights.

This bill would go backwards on those measures and would expose the most vulnerable among us to exploitation. As a consequence, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 650 in the name of consumer protection.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle keep telling us how everybody who would make money on the most vulnerable population is somehow suffering. They are suffering because somehow they are not able to make these loans because they cannot be guaranteed the profits that they want to get.

Let me again just share some information with you. Clayton Homes, the largest U.S. mobile home manufac-

turer, as well as the two biggest mobile home lenders, 21st Mortgage Corporation and Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, are owned by Berkshire Hathaway, an amazingly profitable company whose shares trade for \$215,000 each.

Berkshire Hathaway profited to the tune of \$19.87 billion, or 12,092 per share, in 2014. The CEO of Berkshire Hathaway is Mr. Warren Buffett, the third richest man in the world.

Even though the CFPB's rule on manufactured housing was effective in January 2014, again, Clayton Homes profited to the tune of \$558 million in 2014, up from \$416 million in 2013 and \$255 million in 2012. Why do we need to provide this industry with more regulatory relief when they are already thriving?

Note that these profits come on the backs of some of America's lowest income households. In fact, 84 percent of the industry's customers make less than the U.S. median household income.

Clayton, again, is a large conglomerate of companies operating under at least 18 names, constructing nearly half of the industry's new homes and selling them through its own retailers. Many consumers think they are shopping around, not realizing that it is just different dealers with different names, all operating under the Clayton umbrella.

Let me just wrap this up by saying that this bill is absolutely a giveaway. It is my friends on the opposite side of the aisle deciding that it is more important to allow this industry to charge exorbitant interest rates and fees to this vulnerable population than it is to try and do something about reform.

We went through a recession—almost a depression—in this country because of the way loan initiators came up with these exotic products. You want to take us right back to that kind of situation.

I would ask my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill. It is not needed, and it is absolutely predatory.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am going to finish up and just hit on several accusations that have been made by my friends on the other side of the aisle. Before I do, I will read a statement from the ranking member last Congress—this was back in May 2014—on H.R. 1779, which was the bill before the compromise, which had interest rates at 14 percent, not capped at 10 above prime.

But I'm going to support the bill, and I'm supporting the bill because I have been embracing opportunities to support rural communities.

In the same vein, I'm going to support this bill, even though I have some questions about it, because, again, I want my legislators here, my friends, my colleagues, rather, who are from rural areas that are trying

hard to make sure that they provide opportunities and they realize the problems of their constituents. I want them to know that we can work together on rural and urban problems, without always being opposed simply because it's urban or simply because it's rural.

Now, that is before the compromised language, Mr. Speaker. Now, that language is significantly less. Once again, we are not doing away with the protections that Dodd-Frank makes sure that apply to folks all over districts all over our country.

Think about this. I go home every weekend. I live in a little place called Frog Jump. It is a real place in west Tennessee. My county is Crockett County, a very rural county that doesn't have a stoplight in our county, not a red light in our county. We are that small, 12,000, 13,000 people.

I go home to my constituents, the folks in my district, and they tell me: FINCHER—a lot of them call me by my last name—FINCHER, we are trying to buy a mobile home—a manufactured home—and we are happy with the price, we have been happy with all of the terms of the conditions of the manufactured home that we are trying to buy; but, FINCHER, we can't buy one because Washington has gotten in the way. We are happy with the price; we are happy with the terms; we are happy with the product, but bureaucrats and politicians in Washington seem to think they know more than we know here in Crockett County.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it is almost like, Do as we say, but don't do as we do. It is almost like they are totally against Americans having the right to choose for themselves and make the decisions for themselves, so Members of Congress should sit high on their horse, know nothing about the industry, nothing about how this is going to impact not the people at the top, Mr. Speaker.

If my colleagues are so opposed to making an income and making wealth and growing our businesses and making a profit—this doesn't hurt Warren Buffett. It hurts the people in Frog Jump and Dyersburg and Knoxville, all around this country. We somehow must get back to working for the people back home and not listening to the special interest groups.

They have been citing a story in a newspaper somewhere—I don't know where—that put all of these accusations out. We are not lessening the role of Dodd-Frank when it comes to consumer protections with this bill. All we are doing is making sure that Americans, Mr. Speaker, can have access to credit and they can own a home for themselves and not be told what to do by Washington politicians.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—this is a bipartisan bill—please, please don't be scared by the President's veto threat yesterday and



try to vote for the constituents back home in our districts that desperately need this legislation to pass.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 650 is postponed.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 189, I call up the bill (H.R. 685) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 685

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Mortgage Choice Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF POINTS AND FEES.

(a) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 103 OF TILA.—Section 103(bb)(4) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602(bb)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A) and section 129C”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting “and insurance” after “taxes”;

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, except as retained by a creditor or its affiliate as a result of their participation in an affiliated business arrangement (as defined in section 2(7) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2602(7))” after “compensation”; and

(C) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) the charge is—

“(I) a bona fide third-party charge not retained by the mortgage originator, creditor, or an affiliate of the creditor or mortgage originator; or

“(II) a charge set forth in section 106(e)(1);” and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking “accident,”; and

(B) by striking “or any payments” and inserting “and any payments”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 129C OF TILA.—Section 129C of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)(C), by striking “103” and all that follows through “or mortgage originator” and inserting “103(bb)(4)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(i), by striking “103” and all that follows through “or mortgage originator” and inserting “103(bb)(4)”.  
**SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.**

Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue final regulations to carry out the amendments made by this Act, and such regulations shall be effective upon issuance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act.

As someone who has worked in the housing industry, this is a very important issue to me and, more importantly, to all of our constituents across the country.

Last year, the qualified mortgage—or QM—ability to repay rule as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act went into effect. Nobody has a problem with that, but the QM rule is the primary means for mortgage lenders to satisfy its “ability to repay” requirements.

Additionally, Dodd-Frank provides that a QM, or qualified mortgage, may not have points and fees in excess of 3 percent of the total loan amount.

As it is ambiguously defined currently, “points and fees” include, among other charges, fees paid to affiliated, but not unaffiliated, title companies, and amounts of insurance and taxes held in escrow.

As a result of this confusing and problematic definition, many affiliated loans, particularly those made to low- and moderate-income borrowers would not qualify as QMs and would be unlikely to be made or would only be available at higher rates due to heightened liability risks. Consumers would lose the ability to take advantage of the convenience and market efficiencies and choice offered by one-stop shopping.

I, along with my good friend Representative GREGORY MEEKS from New

York, reintroduced H.R. 685, a strong, bipartisan bill that would modify and clarify the way that these points and fees are calculated. This legislation is very narrowly focused to promote access to affordable mortgage credit without overturning the important consumer protections and sound underwriting required under Dodd-Frank’s “ability to repay” provisions.

Having been a licensed Realtor and coming out of that industry, it didn’t take those of us who had been in the industry long to see that there was significant problems with the structure of what had led to the housing crisis in the last number of years.

I tell the story oftentimes of the first closing that I did, where a check was slid across the desk the table to the seller and then a check was slid across the table to the buyer. The closing agent really didn’t even know what to say.

It was the first time that they were starting to get into these zero down or even 120 percent loan to values, is what was happening.

□ 1615

I thought to myself, this is not going to end well, and that is the case. We need to have that tightened-up system.

But I think it is important to know that we have some issues with that Dodd-Frank provision. This is one of those.

I do also believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is important to note that when we first introduced this bill in 2012, in the last Congress, it looked substantially different. However, working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I made the decision to make the changes necessary to gain their support of the legislation. As a result, it has been a truly bipartisan effort at every step of the way in the legislative process.

That is why this very legislation unanimously passed both the House Financial Services Committee and the House of Representatives last Congress. In fact, as we dealt with this bill again, the new bill, H.R. 685, it passed out of committee 43–12, after, I think, some had decided that they were going to be against it after they were for it.

It seems that the White House and others on Capitol Hill have decided that, rather than taking care of consumers, and rather than trying to make the bill work, they have decided that it is a citadel that cannot be breached, and not a jot or a tittle of Dodd-Frank can be changed. Otherwise, they label it as bailouts and helping out Wall Street and all these other things.

The real truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to make sure that real Americans can obtain the American Dream and buy and own their own home.

Specifically, our bill, H.R. 685, would provide equal treatment for affiliated



title fees and title companies and clarify the treatment of insurance held in escrow.

When things are held in escrow, they don't belong to the owner, they don't belong to the bank or the title company that is holding it. All they are doing is holding them to then pay for that insurance bill that is going to be coming due. They pay for the insurance or the property taxes that may be coming up.

What happens, when someone writes that check every month, they are putting a twelfth of that total payment every month into that escrow. And it just begs to be clarified.

These commonsense changes will promote access to affordable mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income families and first-time homeowners by ensuring that safer, properly underwritten mortgages pass the QM test.

Whether or not you support Dodd-Frank overall, or specifically within this area, it is clear the law is going to require some tweaks to ensure qualified borrowers aren't locked out of homeownership and the beneficial features of a qualified mortgage.

The QM represents the safest, best underwritten mortgage availability on the market. It is the gold standard, Mr. Speaker. We should want more people getting QMs, not fewer.

Quite frankly, this is something that we should all agree on and, as I pointed out, we did last term. Our bill doesn't touch any of the CFPB's strict underwriting criteria. It doesn't in any way suspend a lender's legal requirement to determine that a borrower has the ability to repay that loan.

Mr. Speaker, this body has the opportunity to help more Americans realize a portion of that American Dream, as we talked about.

You know what the best part of it is, Mr. Speaker? We don't need to pass a grandiose law or decree. All we need to do is work in a bipartisan manner. I think the American people are begging for that, and here is an opportunity to do that. We have done it, and to reform a burdensome regulation that is negatively impacting our constituents is something that we should all strive for.

So I would like to thank my colleague, Representative MEEKS, along with many of the others on both my side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle who have worked tirelessly to help fix this flawed provision currently being implemented in Dodd-Frank.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 658 and help make the dreams of their constituents come true and a reality by ensuring that all consumers have greater access to mortgage credit and more choices and credit providers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 685, the so-called Mortgage Choice Act, which would roll back protections for home buyers, make mortgages more expensive, undermine Dodd-Frank, and undo the important work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

As its title indicates, the Mortgage Choice Act would affect choice, but in the wrong way. It would invite a return to a recent time when hard-working Americans were choosing whether to pay for medication or their mortgage, a time when they were faced with choosing between sleeping at a homeless shelter or spending one more night in the car.

These choices were and still are being made by many of those who suffered as a result of the financial crisis, a crisis that was caused in large part by predatory mortgages.

During this time, lenders often piled on excessive upfront fees by exploiting the opaque pricing and sales system for settlement services, like title insurance, which too often left borrowers without the information necessary to shop around or negotiate for lower prices.

They cared little about whether the borrower had the ability to repay the loan over the life of the mortgage because they raked in upfront fees at the point of origination.

Just to make it clear, anyone who has bought a home, who has got involved with negotiating for a mortgage would understand very clearly what we are talking about. We are going to focus on title fees, but there are a lot of fees up front that would-be homeowners are asked to pay for, including appraisal fees and inspection fees.

So during the subprime meltdown and the crisis that we had, we determined that there were many of the mortgage lenders, the originators, who were just piling on these fees. This is in addition to the downpayments they were making, and so they were making more money.

Because they were making more money, this is what caused many of our homeowners to lose these homes, because they were paying too much up front and they were being gouged with these predatory loans.

In response, the Dodd-Frank Act entrusted the CFPB with the responsibility of ensuring that lenders and their affiliated companies were restrained from charging excessive fees.

What are we talking about?

We are simply talking about mortgage lenders and originators who owned other companies like title companies, or who were affiliated with other companies like title companies. And why were they affiliated?

They were affiliated, or they owned these companies, so that they could make more money, because these affiliated companies would mark up the

price of these fees and, basically, kick back to the originator some money.

One way the CFPB achieved this was through a standard known as a qualified mortgage, which, among other things, placed a 3 percent cap on upfront fees. What they simply said was, You can't just keep charging any old thing that you want to. It doesn't make good sense that people are ending up paying 5 percent, 6 percent and on and on in these upfront fees. So we are going to put a cap on for 3 percent of upfront fees.

These 3 percent fee caps include those paid to affiliates. Don't forget, these are these companies that are owned by the originator, or affiliated with them. This 3 percent fee cap includes, again, those paid to affiliates of the lender for services such as, again, property appraisals, settlement services, and title insurance.

It is these fees that pose the greatest risks to consumers since they invite lenders to steer borrowers directly to their affiliates without open competition and with higher prices.

So, simply, what the originators were doing was saying, okay, this is who we are going to get you to pay money to for these services that you need in order to get this loan. They didn't ask you if you knew a title company. They didn't invite the independent companies in to compete. They just simply steered the borrowers into these affiliated companies.

In the past, creditors have offered incentives like reduced office rent, bonuses, commissions, or other financial perks in exchange for business referrals.

Though Dodd-Frank banned these type of kickbacks, some creditors are circumventing them by buying or creating businesses so they can profit by referring their customers to their affiliated service providers. It is worse than referral. They just write it up, and the borrower doesn't even know that they had an opportunity to shop around.

Others, like J.P. Morgan and Wells Fargo, recently settled cases of wrongdoing within the past year for engaging in a kickback scheme with an affiliated title company.

But instead of strengthening this ban on kickbacks, today, this House considers legislation that would actually incentivize these cozy relationships which increase creditors' profits at the expense of consumers. In some cases, these referral financial incentives are as much as half of the premiums home buyers pay.

Buying a home is a complex venture. How many among us who own homes have really ever shopped around for title insurance? I imagine very few.

Consumers should not have to be worried that their service providers are colluding to scam borrowers. Instead, they should be competing to provide them the best prices.

H.R. 685 would undermine the CFPB's definition of affiliated services by removing title insurance fees charged by affiliates of the lender from the 3 percent cap. As a result, creditors will actually be encouraged to direct borrowers to expensive affiliates, codifying a system of kickbacks in our laws. This is not only detrimental to consumers but to small businesses that provide unaffiliated title insurance.

So what they are basically saying is, We don't like it that you have had reform in the law. We don't like it that you have discovered that these kickback schemes go on. We don't like it that you now know that some of these originators, these lenders, own some of these businesses.

We want them to be able to charge as much in fees as they can get. Let them gouge, or let them simply write in companies that they know will pay them more money for getting this business.

So we have said, in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, that this should be limited to 3 percent. That is enough. You don't need to take more from the consumers.

Title insurance is already an uncompetitive market, and State protections are often weak and, at times, nonexistent. This measure will, ironically, ensure even fewer choices for consumers because consumers rarely know that other options exist.

As a result, they will often simply rely on what they are kind of forced to do or made to do, or the recommendations of their lender, who, under H.R. 685, can simply refer them to affiliated entities who can then charge excessive fees without regard for the 3 percent cap.

Mr. Speaker, a diverse coalition, ranging from the NAACP and the National Council of La Raza to the Center for American Progress and the Center for Responsible Lending, have all voiced their opposition to this so-called Mortgage Choice Act.

The Obama administration has pledged to veto the measure because it "risks eroding consumer protections and returning the mortgage market to the days of careless lending."

We need only reflect on the 2008 mortgage crisis to understand that lenders too often focused on profiting from upfront payments through points and fees, rather than taking care to originate loans whose value derives from long-term performance.

I am alarmed at how short our memories have become. It has barely been 5 years since the worst of the crisis subsided, and we are already welcoming a return to the abusive practices that contributed to the subprime meltdown.

□ 1630

This measure will drive up the cost of mortgages, limit competition, and ultimately

hurt consumers, so I sincerely urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I have spent hours with consumers begging for loan modifications, trying to save their homes. They didn't know what they were signing up for when they signed on the dotted line, for many of these mortgages were simply gouging them, simply telling them that they could get refis anytime they wanted. They didn't know that when they were told: Don't worry about how much money you make, we can fix that; don't worry about whether or not we are going to be able to not only refinance, but we can give you this for interest only; and on and on and on, with all of these exotic products. And they certainly didn't know about all of the fees that they were paying up front. They didn't understand that they should have had some options. They should have had some choices, but they didn't have; they didn't have because these lenders were just putting them into paying companies that they were affiliated with, that they were going to make more money off of.

This is shameful. I don't know why we are spending our time in the Congress of the United States trying to gouge consumers and trying to put us back where we were with the subprime meltdown and the crisis that was created.

We have a lot of things we should be attending to. There are a lot of concerns that our consumers have out there. Our consumers are concerned about jobs and job creation. They are concerned about pay equity. They are concerned about homelessness. They are concerned that we have the housing, to attend to those who have jobs that cannot afford to pay the price of rental housing. They are concerned that if they want to buy a home that they will be treated fairly, that they will not be gouged, that they will not be taken advantage of.

We know that when you buy a home, you have a stack of papers this high to sign. We also know that if you are well off, you can get your lawyer, you can get your representatives to read through these papers and help you get the best mortgage. We know that Members of Congress know how to negotiate, know how to bargain, know how to get the best loans, know how to shop around; but not all of our consumers are that fortunate, not all of them are prepared, and they listen to what they are told by their lenders.

I want to tell you, the business that we are involved in here with this bill where we are trying to say forget about that 3 percent cap, let these lenders charge as much as they can get, let them gouge the consumers—this is wrong. This should not be done by Members who are sent here to represent all of our constituents, all of our consumers, and more than that, the

more vulnerable of them, those who don't have high-priced lobbyists in the Halls of Congress, those who can't even get their Members of Congress to return their telephone calls if they have a complaint. We should be here dealing with the real issues of the day, not using our influence and our time to simply fatten the pockets of those who would gouge our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, first off, I will not be long. I know you have a number of Members who want to speak for this bill.

Before I begin, I want to thank Financial Services Committee Chairman HENSARLING for all the good work he and his committee have been doing not only on this bill, but on numerous bills this week. This whole week, the House will be voting on bills to promote a healthier economy, preserve consumer choice, and help people become financially independent.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it is an ironic thing here in Washington when some laws that are passed hurt more than they actually help. I truly think everyone in this body wants to do what is best for the American people, but that is not how things always turn out.

There are some in this body who, whenever a problem comes around, their gut reaction is to add more regulations, costs, and red tape. For some reason, they think paperwork can solve all of our problems, and that is exactly what happened with Dodd-Frank. Washington tried to solve a problem by regulating the big guys, but all they succeeded in doing is hurting the little guys.

When you look around, who is getting hurt most by Dodd-Frank? It is credit unions and community banks. More importantly, it is lower income families who can't get the loans they need because one-size-fits-all regulations are blocking them.

We need to give people in this country and the institutions that serve them space to live and space to grow. The Mortgage Choice Act and so many of the bills that we will see on the floor this week help open up that space.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan, Representative HUIZENGA, for being a champion of this legislation to give the American people the room they need to achieve their dreams.

So let's get behind the American people and help them reach financial independence by supporting this bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY), the vice chairman of our committee.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for his hard work on this piece of legislation. It is well crafted and is a very important reform that the American people need to understand and appreciate.

What the American people understand is that Washington regulations are preventing them, Americans, from realizing the dream of homeownership. These arbitrary, Washington-created barriers are keeping young people, recently married couples, and low- and middle-income Americans from accessing mortgages they need to own a home. That is wrong.

Right now, consumers are bearing the brunt of regulatory overreach under Dodd-Frank. According to the most recent housing data, the U.S. homeownership rate is now the lowest that it has been in 20 years. Young homeowners are being hit particularly hard. For example, in my district, in Buncombe County, in Asheville, the number of young homeowners fell to a level not seen since the year 2000. That is unacceptable.

Combine these figures with recent reports indicating serious distress in the credit markets, and it becomes clear that young, lower-, and middle-income Americans are being squeezed out of the dream of homeownership.

It is important to note that this bill will not do a number of things. Nothing in this bill undoes the Dodd-Frank requirement that lenders ascertain a borrower's ability to pay, nor does the bill in any way change the strict underwriting standards that the CFPB has set for qualified mortgages. Instead, this bill simply allows more loans to fit under the current limitation on points and fees, thereby expanding access to credit at a time when credit is still very tight. It also provides clarity to the calculation of points and fees which allow more loans to meet the requirement of qualified mortgages.

These are very important reforms, very necessary reforms, and are good for American homeownership. I congratulate my colleague for crafting this fine piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire as to the amount of time on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 20 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield 2 minutes to

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT), a new colleague of ours.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for the opportunity to cosponsor and to speak in favor of H.R. 685.

There is no question that Dodd-Frank is making the dream of homeownership more difficult for many Americans. There are a myriad of unintended consequences that were created by this regulation, and the problems are largely the result of an overreach by the Federal Government and poorly thought-out rules, rules which, in many cases, were written by people that may or may not know the difference between mortgagee and mortgagor.

The Mortgage Choice Act addresses a problem created by the qualified mortgage rule. The qualified mortgage rule treats the cost of title insurance differently depending on whether the title insurance agency is affiliated with the lender. The distinction is nonsensical. In many States like Michigan, the title insurance cost is regulated by an insurance commissioner or through a filed rate; consequently, the cost of insurance in most States is typically the same regardless of whether the title agency is an affiliate or not.

The current definition of points and fees is not only illogical, but it also increases the cost of mortgage credit by making lending less efficient and less profitable. It also reduces the mortgage options that are available to consumers; and it generally makes credit less available, which, in turn, stifles the ability of hard-working Americans to buy a home.

The one thing that the current definition of points and fees does do, however, is it gives the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau a reason to hire more staff to run around the country and audit and impose sanctions on lenders, sanctions which ultimately hurt consumers and the lending industry.

I ask my colleagues to support the Mortgage Choice Act, as it truly will afford consumers more choices as they pursue their dream of homeownership.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the chairman of our committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on our committee and for his leadership in bringing this bill through our committee on a strong bipartisan vote.

I have got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that the House Financial Services Committee just a couple of weeks ago voted out 11 different bills to help American families achieve

that coveted goal of financial independence, and part and parcel of that quest, that dream, is the dream of homeownership.

Regrettably, there are some people within this body who believe in bipartisanship more in theory than they do in practice. I regret those who supported a bill before they were against it, but that is where we are here today, Mr. Speaker.

What we are really about here is trying to ensure that low- and moderate-income people do not have their Federal Government protect them out of their homes, and what we have seen is bad and dumb regulation out of Washington do just that.

The goal of consumer protection ought to be to help empower consumers to buy homes they can afford to keep, that we have competitive, transparent, innovative markets that are vigorously policed for forced and fraud and deceptive advertising. That is the vision we have on this side of the aisle, and, frankly, it is at least a vision that some Members on that side of the aisle have as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is an incredibly modest—it is still important, but an incredibly modest bill. By definition, if it is bipartisan, it is going to be modest.

I am somewhat shocked that under our rules and procedures that this wouldn't be on the suspension calendar. And in fact, in the last Congress, there wasn't one single vote cast to object to this bill from the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the chairman of our Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee, a real leader on our committee on housing opportunity for low- and moderate-income Americans—not a single dissenting vote. But I guess that was before, again, the left hand knew what the far left hand was doing. And now, all of a sudden, we have entered yet another fact-free zone and we are having all this incredible verbiage about Wall Street, when all this bill is doing is leveling the playing field between those firms that would be affiliated and those that would not so that consumers can have a few more choices and benefit from lower cost as they try to get their American Dream.

If we followed the logic of the far left, McDonald's could serve you a burger, but they could no longer serve you fries. You would have to go across the street to Burger King for your fries there. I guess National Tire and Battery would have to be "National Tire." They couldn't sell you a battery anymore. Consumers would be protected and not have their choices recognized. I guess the phone company could no longer offer you a discount on Internet and cable and phone put together because, my lord, those are affiliations, Mr. Speaker; and apparently the far left wants to ensure that American

consumers are stripped of their economic liberty to make choices for themselves, to be able to get discounts when products are put together. I don't understand it.

□ 1645

We are trying to ensure that low- and moderate-income Americans have convenience, that they have choice, and that they have lower prices. The Truth in Lending Act will apply and should apply. We have to protect consumers against force, fraud, and deception, but we have got to quit protecting consumers right out of their homes.

So again, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for doing everything he can to help this segment of our American population. So often we hear the left and far left talk about affordable housing. Once again, it is something they recognize in theory; it is just not anything they want to support in practice.

This is an affordable housing bill. This is an affordable housing bill. Consumers will have choice under this bill, thus, the name. So we know that talk is cheap, but, unfortunately, votes tend to be expensive. This started out as such a bipartisan piece of legislation, but then somebody said: Oh, my Lord, this is a clarification or modification of Dodd-Frank, and Dodd-Frank is something that came down from Mount Sinai. It was chiseled into stone tablets.

Former Chairman Frank, who chaired our committee, doesn't seem to believe that. He came before our committee and testified at least a half a dozen different ideas he had for amending his own signature legislation. Yet there are those on the far left who would hurt the most vulnerable in our society, who would deny them fundamental economic liberties to choose the mortgages they want to allow them their American Dream of homeownership. That is not right. That is not fair. That is not economic justice.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is so critical—so critical today—that we support H.R. 685. It was designed to be a bipartisan bill. It should be a bipartisan bill, and I urge every single Member to adopt it.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my chairman, Mr. HENSARLING, this debate is not about McDonald's, it is not about Burger King, and it is not about the National Tire and Battery Company. This is about our constituents who want to be homeowners, who are gouged, who are misled, and who are steered into companies that are going to provide kickbacks for their loan originators.

We need to get rid of some of these myths. The myth that we have heard

today is we need H.R. 685 to ensure access to credit for low-income households. Well, let's talk about the facts.

The cost of title insurance is opaque. Borrowers are responsible for paying for title insurance, but title insurance pricing is basically negotiated between the lender and the title insurance company. The pricing and sales system is completely nontransparent, making it impossible for borrowers to shop for better prices on title insurance. In addition, when borrowers spend money on inflated title insurance premiums, it makes homeownership less sustainable. High title insurance prices mean borrowers have less money to put toward a down payment or to put toward improvements to their home.

Even The Wall Street Journal agrees. Here is a quote from an article from March 28, 2014: "Title insurance can cost hundreds of dollars for modest houses and thousands for multimillion-dollar properties. Yet many home buyers don't focus on the product, or the price, until they sit down at the closing."

The article went on to describe that "upstart insurers and agencies are challenging the status quo." Two insurers are "marketing directly to consumers on the Internet, offering online quotes to home buyers who plug in basic information about the property, such as location, purchase price and loan amount. And they are offering savings of up to 35 percent off what established firms charge."

But these upstart companies have had a hard time in securing market share because they don't have the profits to afford to offer kickback-like arrangements.

The CFPB has taken reasonable steps on the affiliated title insurance issue, carefully considering the industry comments in their proposed rule and deciding that the harm to consumers was too great to exclude affiliated title. The inclusion of title insurance, qualified mortgage points, and fee caps serves to limit title insurance pricing from even greater excesses.

As Professor Adam Levitin of Georgetown University, a Democratic witness at the hearing on H.R. 685, concluded: "To the extent that we are concerned about ensuring greater availability of credit to consumers, exempting title insurance from the HOEPA and QM point and fee caps is a terrible idea as it virtually guarantees that consumers will be gouged with increased title insurance costs which make homeownership more expensive."

Make no mistake; Wall Street always argues that consumer protection will hurt access to credit when they want to stop those efforts dead in their tracks. In fact, we heard these same arguments in the early 2000s as the industry lobbied against consumer protection. In 2007, Representatives Brad Miller and Mel Watt introduced, or re-

introduced from 2004, a bill supported by consumer groups to curb predatory lending practices which also would have held financial companies that securitize mortgages liable for certain violations. That bill eventually was included in Dodd-Frank as title XIV of the bill. But remember that Bear Stearns spent \$500,000 lobbying against Miller's bill and another piece of proposed mortgage legislation right up until the investment bank cratered in March of 2008.

Simply, in wrapping up this debate, it is clear that there should be a cap on fees. It is clear that when consumers try and sit down at a closing and try to do the best job that they can to protect their dollars so that they can have money left to fix up the house that they are trying to buy or they can have enough money to ensure that they are able to make the mortgages, they don't want to be steered in ways that some of these loan originators have done and continue to do. They don't want to be steered to affiliated businesses who will simply kick back some of those profits to the lender who sent them to them in the first place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle to just consider what you are spending your time on. Consider whom you are advocating for. Consider that you are advocating for people who are making lots of money. They don't really need your advocacy. They do very well because they have got high-paid lobbyists walking the halls of Washington, D.C., following us around from our offices to the toilets. Consider that if this time were better spent really supporting the reforms in Dodd-Frank and supporting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, we would be doing a better job for our constituents than coming in here trying to protect the biggest and the richest firms who are doing very well out there.

Don't forget, prior to Dodd-Frank, there was no real protection for consumers. That is why we have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They are doing a great job; and they are providing us with the research, they are providing us with the investigations, and they are providing us with the information that we should be using to protect consumers rather than coming on this floor and in our committees trying to denounce them, trying to make sure that they are not able to do business, trying to defund them, trying to discredit them, and trying to do everything that they can to keep them from being effective. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is just about that: protecting our consumers in ways that they were not protected before we had the great subprime meltdown and the great crisis that was created in this country.

We should all be trying to do our very best not to return to 2008, not to

return to a time where we were destroying communities, where boarded-up homes for blocks and blocks and blocks in communities were driving down the value of other homes in those communities. We should be trying to do everything that we can to make sure that we care about homeownership.

I hear from the other side of the aisle that somehow we don't care about people owning homes. But what I really hear when I listen to that is that they don't care what price they have to pay in order to get in a home; they don't care if they are gouged with high fees; they don't care if they are extended credit that they can't afford; they don't care that they are going to lose these homes; and finally, they don't really care whether or not they are going to get modifications so that they can stay in the homes.

As a matter of fact, many of our consumers who have tried their very best to save their homes have been turned down by the very financial institutions that put them in the position that they happen to be in. Many of those financial institutions we bailed out, and we have gotten nothing in return for much of those bailouts that we have done.

So we have an opportunity to respect not only our constituents and our consumers, but to respect the fact that we have finally evolved to the point where we have reforms.

I know and I hear from time to time that somehow we on this side of the aisle believe that the Dodd-Frank reforms are cast in concrete, that there can be no modifications, no changes. Well, you heard the chairman say that we passed out 11 bills. We passed out, in a bipartisan way, bills that some of us kind of held our nose and passed out because we wanted to show that maybe these particular bills were not that harmful and maybe weren't harmful and that we could work in a bipartisan way even though some of them questioned some of the work that had been done in Dodd-Frank.

I have said and many other members of the committee on my side of the aisle have said that we are willing to make technical corrections; we are willing to make some modifications that make good sense, but we are not willing to destroy the reform that we did, that we worked so hard for. Dodd-Frank is extremely important, and we should be about this business of implementing these reforms so that we can protect our consumers.

I am taken aback and I am surprised that many of our Members who are here advocating for the rich lenders, for the people who caused the problem in the first place, can go back home and look their consumers in the eye and tell them they are really working for them, they are really working to make sure that they can own a home. They don't really know, and I don't

think that many of those are going back and saying: Well, let me tell you what I did today. I made sure that there was no cap on fees and that the lenders can charge whatever they want working with the affiliated companies; and this cap at 3 percent that they have come up with in Dodd-Frank reforms doesn't make good sense, and they should be able to charge you whatever they want to charge you.

I don't think that we have Members who are here on this floor today that are advocating that we get rid of these caps and that we allow these lenders to have these relationships with the affiliated companies where they keep steering the business into them, steering the business into them.

How many of those who are advocating have asked the lenders: How much money are you making back on these loans, on these fees that you are allowing the affiliates to charge them? Do you really get a share in those profits? Do you really get a kickback? If so, let's have some transparency. Let's shine some light on how much money you are making. I bet you one thing. I bet you none of them will tell you: We are not making any money. We are just doing this because, well, we are just doing it because, oh, we think that this is a better way to do it.

So I am asking my colleagues in this House to reject this legislation. We have been on this floor today on two important bills, one on manufactured housing where, again, we have advocates on the opposite side of the aisle who would like to see the manufactured housing industry make more money on the poorest of people, on the most vulnerable in our society. They would like to charge interest rates above prime interest, 10 percent above prime interest. As we have stated, when the interest rates begin to rise, this means that it can go beyond 14 percent to 15, 16, 17, and 18 percent.

□ 1700

We don't know how high it could go; yet the time that we have spent advocating for the richest of the rich who are in this business to be able to gouge these poor people and the time that we are spending again on another bill that would allow the richest of the rich to gouge poor homeowners who don't know and don't understand all these fees that they are being charged and the fact that we have a cap that they want to remove, why are they spending their time representing those who really don't need their representation?

I would ask my colleagues to reject both of these bills. I would ask my colleagues to stand up for the least of these. I would ask my colleagues to make sure they remember the lessons of 2008, and they are reminded of the fact that not only are families destroyed, but whole communities have

been destroyed by what took place with this subprime meltdown and this crisis that took us into a recession, almost a depression.

We can't forget these lessons; we can't afford to forget these lessons. We are Representatives of the people. Representatives of the people don't act that way. Representatives of the people don't forget. They do everything in their power to make sure that they provide a safety net, that they provide some protection, that they look out for them, that they are their voice inside this place where we are making public policy, that the public policy includes them, that the public policy does not forget them, that the public policy is not the public policy that is designed and supported by the richest 1 percent in this country, but really, the public policy comes out of the voices of all of those who have been sent here from all over this Nation from some of the richest communities to some of the poorest communities.

We talk about jobs and the need for the creation of jobs, but I don't hear the opposite side of the aisle talking about that. I don't hear them talking about how we can create really more housing opportunities for those who want to buy and for those who have to rent.

I don't hear any talk about what we can do to provide economic development in this country, how we can repair the infrastructure, make sure that our bridges are working, that our water systems are working, that our roads are in good shape. I don't hear that. I hear time being spent on how we can help the richest of those who don't need our voice, who don't need our help.

It is time to stop this madness. It is time to call it what it is. It is time to ask: Why is it that the richest of the folks in the businesses in this country who have so many paid lobbyists, who are up and down these halls every day, get so much representation? Why is it they have so much influence? Why is it they have been able to direct the public policy in ways that the average citizen cannot do?

I want to tell you—you talk about the middle class. Yes, there is an erosion of the middle class because of the way that the middle class is not really represented. We allude to the representation, but it is really not here.

I ask my colleagues to reject this legislation, to not allow anybody on this floor to tell them that this is in the best interest of consumers because it is not.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the opportunity to come and to try to clarify some of the assertions and confused claims that have been thrown out here.

My family has been involved in construction since the 1930s—the 1930s. I will never forget the day—it was a Thursday—when I pulled up right down the street from my home and I saw my cousin's business that they now own that my dad and uncle and grandfather had started.

It is a ready-mix concrete company. Literally, all the guys' trucks were there, all their pickups. It is a small company. It is about 12 or 15 people that work there. Every single one of those cement trucks were parked in the yard, the exact place that they should not be.

I found out later that we had trucks on the way to construction sites that were turned around and came back. That is seared into my memory. I have no interest in going back to where we had been. In fact, I was one of those warning about the practices before serving in this body.

Frankly, if those who were serving in this body who wrote Dodd-Frank had actually talked to a few of the people involved in the industry, they might have understood what the interaction is between the buyer, the seller, the construction agent, the closer, the people that are providing title insurance.

The simple fact is that there is not an understanding of how this system works. We may have a common goal of serving consumers. We have very different visions about how that needs to be done.

As I said, there has been lots of assertions and sort of confused claims thrown around. Many of them, frankly, are problems completely unrelated to what this is, and I am not sure how the activity of the Transportation Committee relates exactly to what our work is on the Financial Services Committee, but I think it is an old adage: when you are losing, you keep talking. That is what has been happening here on the floor for those that have been watching.

The assertion that weak and non-existent State regulations are out there is just amazing to me, especially in California. I am betting the insurance commissioner in California would be surprised at this assertion, since California is one of the 47 States that regulates title insurance. RESPA laws, disclosure requirements written into law, transparency is a key element in this.

I was a licensed Realtor when agency disclosure first came in. This was in the midnineties. You had to declare whether you were a buyer's agent, a seller's agent, a transactional coordinator. There have been real changes, positive changes, that have happened for the consumer in that industry over the last 20 to 25 years.

The irony in this particular situation is that affiliated companies, those companies that may have been started by the same people—that is the defini-

tion, by the way. I might be a small-business owner who owns a real estate company, and I start another company dealing with title insurance. That now, because that is on my personal tax form, is an affiliated company. I can't do or charge what an unaffiliated company could do.

Now, I might buy the argument that was made earlier that these companies can just charge whatever they want to charge, but I could only buy that if my friends on the other side of the aisle would be willing to apply equally the law. The law does not apply equally here. It does not do what they claim that they are trying to do.

The other element that has been talked about a little bit—this is so ridiculous; it strikes me. It is like saying I can't shop at Walmart or at a Meijer store in our area or other places because they sell fresh produce and electronics and hardware. I need to go to a hardware store to go pick up my nails; I need to go to the corner grocer to go pick up my lettuce, and, by the way, if I want to get a flat screen TV, I have got to go somewhere else.

This is about consumers having choices and abilities to utilize a streamline. Those costs need to be disclosed, first of all. Those costs oftentimes are regulated, the vast majority of the times are regulated by the States; yet it just is a clunky system that does not work in the design of Dodd-Frank.

The assertion that any change of Dodd-Frank somehow benefits or is anticonsumer or benefits somebody on Wall Street, go and talk to those owners of those small companies in all of our States, go and talk to them about what their Wall Street affiliation is.

This bill is, frankly, widely viewed as unrealistic and unworkable. It is time that we face that reality and we change some of the elements of this. This is a modest, modest change.

In fact, it is so modest, frankly, Mr. Speaker, that our previous speaker had supported the bill, had supported it when it was in committee, had supported it when it was on the House floor, certainly did not object to it, and I guess maybe I could say supported it because, on August 1 of 2014, she, along with 12 of her colleagues—including one who has gone on to the Senate—12 Democrats signed a letter to Senator HARRY REID requesting him to take my bill up.

Mr. Speaker, I insert for the RECORD the letter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 1, 2014.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: On June 9, the House passed the Mortgage Choice Act (H.R. 3211), on the suspension calendar without objection. Senators Manchin and Johanns introduced a companion bill, S. 1577 in October, but it has not

yet been considered. We support the Mortgage Choice Act because of our concern about lower-income consumers' access to credit and their ability to select the mortgage and title insurance providers of their choice.

Passage of H.R. 3211 represents the fourth time that the House has approved virtually identical legislation without objection. In 2007 and 2009, a Democratic House majority passed essentially the same provision in the Miller-Watt-Frank anti-predatory lending legislation, and then a third time as part of the House's version of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in 2010.

The Mortgage Choice Act simply excludes the cost of title insurance from the definition of points and fees under the Truth in Lending Act regardless of whether a title insurance agent is affiliated with a mortgage lender or not. It also clarifies that funds held in escrow for the payment of property insurance do not count as "points and fees." The legislation is needed to ensure that smaller loans to creditworthy low and moderate-income consumers can select the mortgage lender and title insurance provider of their choice and obtain a "qualified mortgage," the gold standard for all mortgages.

The bill authorizes the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to implement rules governing the exclusion of reasonable title insurance charges from "points and fees." It preserves the Bureau's strong enforcement authority to require transparency and disclosure of affiliations and charges under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA). In fact, the CFPB has been vigorous in its pursuit of RESPA violations, ranging from minor disclosure errors to kick-backs for referrals by an unaffiliated title company.

We urge you and the entire Senate to quickly adopt the Mortgage Choice Act to improve access to credit, enhance competition among title insurance providers, and reinforce the CFPB's authority to define what title insurance costs qualify as excludable "points and fees."

Sincerely,

David Scott, Maxine Waters, Emanuel Cleaver, Henry Cuellar, Daniel T. Kildee, Jim McDermott, Patrick Murphy, Gerald E. Connolly, Michael F. Doyle, Betty McCollum, Gregory W. Meeks, Gary C. Peters, Members of Congress.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. My bill and Congressman Meek's bill was a good bill last Congress, and it is a good bill this Congress because it has not changed at all. It has not changed at all.

To quote it, she urged the Senate to "quickly adopt the Mortgage Choice Act," a bill that would "improve access to credit" and "enhance competition among title insurance providers."

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, my colleague was right last time, and she should be right in this Congress. Unfortunately, we are seeing that—I am afraid politics may have leaked in. The administration has issued a veto threat, and I think we may have seen why some of this change of heart has happened.

I am, frankly, disheartened for the American people that Presidential politics have already leaked into what this body should be doing, which is representing people, which is making sure



that they are getting the best end of the stick, not the sharp end of the stick.

Frankly, Dodd-Frank has delivered the sharp end of the stick, intentionally or unintentionally, way too many times. It is our job to go and fix it and to make sure that the consumers, that our constituents, are getting the best service that they possibly can.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join so many of us in a bipartisan fashion who support this bill, who believe that this is the right time and the right bill to rectify this problem, and to get on with it. I request all of my colleagues to support H.R. 685.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act included provisions that prohibited mortgage lenders from using their title insurance affiliates to gouge consumers.

Dodd-Frank created a new category of mortgages called Qualified Mortgages (QM). Lenders that issue these mortgages are granted special legal protection in exchange for keeping costs for consumers below a certain threshold. The costs considered under the QM standard encompass all compensation a mortgage lender receives—including title insurance costs a consumer pays to a company affiliated with a lender.

These provisions recognized an unfortunate reality: many lenders use their title insurance affiliates to charge consumers unnecessarily high fees. According to a 2007 report issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), for example, 70 cents of every dollar paid for title fees go toward lining the pockets of agents—not covering losses for the lender.

And the nature of the title insurance market has also opened the door to fraud against homeowners. Just recently in my home state of Maryland, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Maryland Attorney General negotiated a \$35.7 million settlement against Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase after finding that loan officers at these banks received illegal kickbacks to steer customers to a Maryland-based title company.

Americans seeking to purchase a home deserve better from the title insurance market. And by including affiliated insurance fees in its definition of costs, the QM standard represents an important first step in protecting consumers from collusion and price-gouging.

Rather than strengthen these protections, however, H.R. 685 would create loopholes to exempt affiliated insurance fees from the QM cost definition and allow lenders to hit borrowers with hundreds and even thousands of dollars in unnecessary mortgage costs.

By rolling back protections for borrowers and raising mortgage costs, H.R. 685 would hurt homebuyers just as our housing sector is beginning to stabilize from the consequences of a financial crisis caused by unscrupulous and abusive practices. I urge my colleagues to reject this destructive bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 650) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Yes, I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Maxine Waters of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 650 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

#### SEC. 4. PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM EXCESSIVE HOUSING COSTS AND PREDATORY LENDERS.

No person or lender that has been found to have engaged in unfair, deceptive, predatory, or abusive lending practices, or convicted of mortgage fraud under Federal or relevant State law may make use of the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. HENSARLING (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If

adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I know Democrats and Republicans don't agree on much, but there is one thing we can be united in saying. It is that we should not reward criminal behavior.

□ 1715

We cannot let people who are out there making obscene profits by ripping off low-income Americans use that money to buy influence that rolls back consumer protection laws.

That is why I am introducing this amendment that bans bad actors from receiving any benefit from these new provisions. If the House accepts this amendment, companies that break the law will not be rewarded by being handed a weaker set of standards.

These weaker standards do away with a number of protections current law affords to high-cost loans. They include stiffer penalties for bad actor lenders and additional disclosures for investors and consumers who purchase high-cost mortgages, as well as mandatory counseling so borrowers know what they are getting into and even the ability of borrowers to have their loans rescinded if lenders don't follow the law.

We know it is needed because we know there is fraud out there. I have submitted for the RECORD an investigation by The Seattle Times and the Center for Public Integrity, which, while shocking, is not in the least bit surprising to those of us who have been paying close attention to the predatory practices that often plague low- and middle-income home buyers. The article details a wide array of unfair, deceptive, predatory, and abusive lending practices, such as housing manufacturers steering low-income borrowers into expensive, high-interest financing arrangements with companies that they also own.

If this amendment were to pass today, any company that engaged in this kind of practice or any company that was convicted of mortgage fraud under Federal or State law would be prohibited from taking advantage of these loosened standards.

Some may argue that, like current law, this amendment will hurt the industry. I am not concerned. The Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform found that 2014 marked the fifth consecutive year of annual industry production increases. Meanwhile, mobile home manufacturing giant Clayton Homes, owned by Berkshire Hathaway, profited to the tune of \$558 million in 2014—more than double its earnings from just 2 years earlier.

This amendment is for veterans like Dorothy Mansfield, who should be honored for her sacrifice to this country. Instead, she was targeted just 18 months after being steered into a predatory market she couldn't afford.



Mansfield was facing foreclosure. It is for Active-Duty servicemembers whose homes were illegally foreclosed upon while they were battling overseas, or for their families who were overcharged as they remained at home. It is for low-income borrowers who, like all of us, are at a disadvantage when they negotiate their first home loans with companies that have probably negotiated hundreds just that week.

For many, the American Dream of homeownership has turned into a nightmare as they determine how to put food on the table and gas in the car while dealing with the loans that they have been steered into but cannot afford.

So, if we are going to remove these basic protections for veterans and servicemembers, for low-income borrowers, and for many others, let's at least do everything we can to protect them from the predators and the fraudsters we have learned about. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am just now seeing this motion to recommit, but there are a number of areas that, frankly, make very little sense to me.

The motion to recommit uses the phrase "has been found." I don't know what that means. The CFPB can enter into consent orders. Does that mean this has been "found"? Often, consent orders are entered into without any admission of liability or culpability.

Next, we have the term "predatory." We won't find this term otherwise in title X of Dodd-Frank. What does it mean? We don't know what it means.

How about "abusive"? We know the CFPB is at least charged with coming up with a definition. They have not come up with a definition yet.

We have been told that some practices that might be totally legal for the market for some consumers might be abusive to others. What does that mean?

Again, Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do here is help low- and moderate-income Americans have the housing opportunities that the rest of us have.

What we really ought to be on guard against are predatory voting practices that deny people their ability to live in a mobile home. What we really ought to be targeting is abusive voting practices that deny people lower closing

costs in order to deal with points and fees from affiliated firms. That is what we really ought to be on guard for, Mr. Speaker.

I would urge all Members to reject this motion to recommit. Regrettably, it is just one more method by which the left will say that they are trying to help the poor, beleaguered consumers, except, again, they are going to protect them right out of their homes. They are going to assault their fundamental economic liberties. They are going to take away their choices.

True consumer protection comes from having competitive, innovative, transparent markets that are accessible to all Americans—equal opportunity to access these markets and then vigorously police them for force and fraud and deception. Do not trample on the basic freedom of the American consumers to choose the mortgages that are right for their families. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. It is unfair. It is economic injustice. It is predatory legislating. It is abusive legislating. It has to stop here. Let's reject the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.  
Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 650, if ordered; passage of H.R. 685, and the motion to instruct conferees on Senate Concurrent Resolution 11.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 239, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 150]

YEAS—184

Adams	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Ashford	Chu, Judy	DeSaulnier
Beatty	Ciilline	Deutch
Becerra	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Beyer	Clay	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	F.
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Duckworth
Bonamici	Cohen	Edwards
Boyle, Brendan	Connolly	Engel
F.	Conyers	Eshoo
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Esty
Brown (FL)	Costa	Farr
Brownley (CA)	Courtney	Fattah
Bustos	Crowley	Foster
Butterfield	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Capps	Cummings	Fudge
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Cardenas	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Carney	DeFazio	Garamendi
Carson (IN)	DeGette	Graham
Cartwright	Delaney	Grayson

Green, Al	Lujan Grisham	Rush
Green, Gene	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
Grijalva	Luján, Ben Ray	Sánchez, Linda
Gutiérrez	(NM)	T.
Hahn	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Hastings	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Heck (WA)	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Higgins	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
Himes	Matsui	Schrader
Hinojosa	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Honda	McDermott	Scott, David
Hoyer	McGovern	Serrano
Huffman	McNerney	Sewell (AL)
Israel	Meeks	Sherman
Jackson Lee	Meng	Sinema
Jeffries	Moore	Sires
Johnson, E. B.	Moulton	Slaughter
Jones	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Kaptur	Nadler	Swaiwell (CA)
Keating	Napolitano	Takai
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Takano
Kennedy	Nolan	Thompson (CA)
Kildee	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Kilmer	O'Rourke	Titus
Kind	Pallone	Tonko
Kirkpatrick	Pascrell	Torres
Kuster	Payne	Tsongas
Langevin	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Vargas
Larson (CT)	Peters	Veasey
Lawrence	Peterson	Vela
Lee	Pingree	Velázquez
Levin	Pocan	Visclosky
Lewis	Polis	Walz
Lieu, Ted	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Lipinski	Quigley	Schultz
Loeback	Rangel	Waters, Maxine
Lofgren	Rice (NY)	Watson Coleman
Lowenthal	Richmond	Welch
Lowe	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth

NAYS—239

Abraham	Diaz-Balart	Jenkins (WV)
Aderholt	Dold	Johnson (OH)
Allen	Duffy	Johnson, Sam
Amash	Duncan (TN)	Jolly
Amodei	Ellmers (NC)	Jordan
Babin	Emmer (MN)	Katko
Barletta	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)
Barr	Fincher	King (IA)
Barton	Fitzpatrick	King (NY)
Benishek	Fleischmann	Kinzinger (IL)
Bilirakis	Fleming	Kline
Bishop (MI)	Flores	Knight
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Labrador
Black	Fortenberry	LaMalfa
Blackburn	Fox	Lamborn
Blum	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Bost	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Boustany	Garrett	LoBiondo
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Long
Brat	Gibson	Loudermilk
Bridenstine	Gohmert	Love
Brooks (AL)	Goodlatte	Lucas
Brooks (IN)	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Buchanan	Gowdy	Lummis
Buck	Granger	MacArthur
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Burgess	Graves (LA)	Marino
Byrne	Graves (MO)	Massie
Calvert	Griffith	McCarthy
Carter (GA)	Grothman	McCaul
Carter (TX)	Guinta	McClintock
Chabot	Guthrie	McHenry
Chaffetz	Hanna	McKinley
Clawson (FL)	Hardy	McMorris
Coffman	Harper	Rodgers
Cole	Harris	McSally
Collins (GA)	Hartzler	Meadows
Collins (NY)	Heck (NV)	Meehan
Comstock	Hensarling	Messer
Conaway	Herrera Beutler	Mica
Cook	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (FL)
Costello (PA)	Hill	Miller (MI)
Cramer	Holding	Moolenaar
Crawford	Hudson	Mooney (WV)
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Mullin
Culberson	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney
Curbelo (FL)	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Hunter	Neugebauer
Denham	Hurd (TX)	Newhouse
Dent	Hurt (VA)	Noem
DeSantis	Issa	Nugent
DesJarlais	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes

Olson	Roskam	Tipton	Emmer (MN)	Lance	Rogers (KY)	Kennedy	Meng	Scott (VA)
Palazzo	Ross	Trott	Farenthold	Latta	Rohrabacher	Kildee	Moore	Serrano
Palmer	Rothfus	Turner	Fincher	LoBiondo	Rokita	Kilmer	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Paulsen	Rouzer	Upton	Fitzpatrick	Long	Rooney (FL)	Kuster	Nadler	Slaughter
Pearce	Royce	Valadao	Fleischmann	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen	Langevin	Napolitano	Speier
Perry	Russell	Wagner	Fleming	Love	Roskam	Larsen (WA)	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Pittenger	Ryan (WI)	Walberg	Flores	Lucas	Ross	Larson (CT)	Nolan	Takai
Pitts	Salmon	Walden	Forbes	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus	Lawrence	Norcross	Takano
Poe (TX)	Sanford	Walker	Fortenberry	Lummis	Rouzer	Lee	O'Rourke	Thompson (CA)
Poliquin	Scalise	Walorski	Fox	MacArthur	Royce	Levin	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Pompeo	Schweikert	Walters, Mimi	Franks (AZ)	Marchant	Russell	Lewis	Pascrell	Titus
Posey	Scott, Austin	Webster (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Marino	Ryan (WI)	Lieu, Ted	Payne	Tonko
Price, Tom	Sensenbrenner	Wenstrup	Garrett	Massie	Salmon	Lipinski	Pelosi	Torres
Ratcliffe	Sessions	Westerman	Gibbs	McCarthy	Sanford	Loeb sack	Perlmutter	Tsongas
Reed	Shimkus	Westmoreland	Gibson	McCauley	Scalise	Lofgren	Pingree	Van Hollen
Reichert	Shuster	Whitfield	Gohmert	McClintock	Schweikert	Lowenthal	Pocan	Vargas
Renacci	Simpson	Williams	Goodlatte	McHenry	Scott, Austin	Lowey	Price (NC)	Veasey
Ribble	Smith (MO)	Wilson (SC)	Gosar	McKinley	Scott, David	Lujan Grisham	Quigley	Vela
Rice (SC)	Smith (NE)	Wittman	Gowdy	McMorris	Sensenbrenner	(NM)	Rangel	Velázquez
Rigell	Smith (NJ)	Womack	Graham	Rodgers	Sessions	Luján, Ben Ray	Richmond	Visclosky
Roby	Smith (TX)	Woodall	Granger	McSally	Swell (AL)	(NM)	Roybal-Allard	Walz
Roe (TN)	Stefanik	Yoder	Graves (GA)	Meadows	Sherman	Lynch	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Rogers (AL)	Stewart	Yoho	Graves (LA)	Meehan	Shimkus	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)	Schultz
Rogers (KY)	Stivers	Young (AK)	Graves (MO)	Meeks	Shuster	Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda	T. Waters, Maxine
Rohrabacher	Stutzman	Young (IA)	Griffith	Messer	Simpson	Maloney, Sean	T. Sanchez, Loretta	Watson Coleman
Rokita	Thompson (PA)	Young (IN)	Grothman	Mica	Sinema	Matsui	Sarbanes	Welch
Rooney (FL)	Thornberry	Zeldin	Guinta	Miller (FL)	Smith (MO)	McCollum	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Tiberi	Zinke	Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)	McDermott	Schiff	Yarmuth
			Hanna	Moolenaar	Smith (NJ)	McGovern	Schrader	
			Hardy	Mooney (WV)	Smith (TX)	McNerney		
			Harper	Moulton	Stefanik			
			Harris	Mullin	Stewart			
			Hartzler	Mulvaney	Stivers			
			Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)	Stutzman			
			Hensarling	Neugebauer	Thompson (PA)			
			Herrera Beutler	Newhouse	Thornberry			
			Hice, Jody B.	Noem	Tiberi			
			Hill	Nugent	Tipton			
			Holding	Nunes	Trott			
			Hudson	Olson	Turner			
			Huelskamp	Palazzo	Upton			
			Huizenga (MI)	Palmer	Valadao			
			Hultgren	Paulsen	Wagner			
			Hunter	Pearce	Walberg			
			Hurd (TX)	Perry	Walden			
			Hurt (VA)	Peters	Walker			
			Issa	Peterson	Walorski			
			Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger	Walters, Mimi			
			Jenkins (WV)	Pitts	Weber (TX)			
			Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)	Webster (FL)			
			Johnson, Sam	Poliquin	Wenstrup			
			Jolly	Polis	Westerman			
			Jordan	Pompeo	Westmoreland			
			Joyce	Posey	Whitfield			
			Katko	Price, Tom	Williams			
			Kelly (PA)	Ratcliffe	Wilson (SC)			
			Kind	Reed	Wittman			
			King (IA)	Reichert	Womack			
			King (NY)	Renacci	Woodall			
			Kinziger (IL)	Ribble	Yoder			
			Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)	Yoho			
			Kline	Rice (SC)	Young (AK)			
			Knight	Rigell	Young (IA)			
			Labrador	Roby	Young (IN)			
			LaMalfa	Roe (TN)	Zeldin			
			Lamborn	Rogers (AL)	Zinke			

## NOT VOTING—8

Bass	Johnson (GA)	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Joyce	Weber (TX)
Ellison	Ruiz	

□ 1748

Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Messrs. SHUSTER, WITTMAN, REICHERT, LUETKEMEYER, MEEHAN, and FORTENBERRY, and Mrs. BLACK changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. SIREs, CLYBURN, ASHFORD, SWALWELL of California, and RUSH changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 162, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

## YEAS—263

Abraham	Bridenstine	Cook
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Cooper
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Costa
Amash	Buchanan	Costello (PA)
Amodei	Buck	Cramer
Ashford	Bucshon	Crawford
Babin	Burgess	Crenshaw
Barletta	Cuellar	Culberson
Barr	Calvert	Curbelo (FL)
Barton	Carney	Davis, Rodney
Benishek	Carter (GA)	DeFazio
Bilirakis	Carter (TX)	Delaney
Bishop (GA)	Chabot	Denham
Bishop (MI)	Chaffetz	Dent
Bishop (UT)	Clawson (FL)	DeSantis
Black	Clay	DesJarlais
Blackburn	Coffman	Diaz-Balart
Blum	Cole	Dold
Bost	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Boustany	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Brady (TX)	Comstock	Elmiers (NC)
Brat	Conaway	

Adams	Cleaver	Frankel (FL)
Aguilar	Clyburn	Fudge
Bass	Cohen	Gabbard
Beatty	Connolly	Gallego
Becerra	Conyers	Garamendi
Bera	Courtney	Grayson
Beyer	Crowley	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Cummings	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan F.	Davis, Danny	Gutiérrez
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Hahn
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Hastings
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Heck (WA)
Bustos	DeSaunier	Higgins
Butterfield	Deutsch	Himes
Capps	Dingell	Hinojosa
Capuano	Doggett	Honda
Cárdenas	Doyle, Michael F.	Hoyer
Carson (IN)	Duckworth	Huffman
Cartwright	Edwards	Israel
Castor (FL)	Engel	Jackson Lee
Castro (TX)	Eshoo	Jeffries
Chu, Judy	Esty	Johnson, E. B.
Cicilline	Farr	Jones
Clark (MA)	Fattah	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Keating
		Kelly (IL)

## NAYS—162

Abraham	Bridenstine	Cramer
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Crawford
Aguilar	Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw
Allen	Buchanan	Cuellar
Amash	Buck	Culberson
Amodei	Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)
Ashford	Burgess	Davis, Rodney
Babin	Bustos	Delaney
Barletta	Byrne	Denham
Barr	Calvert	Dent
Barton	Carter (GA)	DeSantis
Beatty	Carter (TX)	DesJarlais
Benishek	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Chaffetz	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Bishop (MI)	Coffman	Doyle, Michael F.
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Duckworth
Black	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Blum	Comstock	Elmiers (NC)
Boustany	Conaway	Emmer (MN)
Boustany	Connolly	Farenthold
Boyle, Brendan F.	Cook	Fincher
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Brat	Costa	Fleischmann
	Costello (PA)	

## NOT VOTING—6

Duncan (SC)	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Ellison	Ruiz	Smith (WA)

□ 1755

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 685) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 286, nays 140, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

## YEAS—286

Abraham	Bridenstine	Cramer
Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Crawford
Aguilar	Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw
Allen	Buchanan	Cuellar
Amash	Buck	Culberson
Amodei	Bucshon	Curbelo (FL)
Ashford	Burgess	Davis, Rodney
Babin	Bustos	Delaney
Barletta	Byrne	Denham
Barr	Calvert	Dent
Barton	Carter (GA)	DeSantis
Beatty	Carter (TX)	DesJarlais
Benishek	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Chaffetz	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Bishop (MI)	Coffman	Doyle, Michael F.
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Duckworth
Black	Collins (GA)	Duffy
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Blum	Comstock	Elmiers (NC)
Boustany	Conaway	Emmer (MN)
Boustany	Connolly	Farenthold
Boyle, Brendan F.	Cook	Fincher
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Brat	Costa	Fleischmann
	Costello (PA)	

Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garamendi  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Hanna  
Guthrie  
Harris  
Harper  
Hartzer  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (PA)  
Kildee  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack

## NAYS—140

Adams  
Bass  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)

Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pascarell  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher

Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schrader  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kilmer  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Matsui  
Duncan (SC)  
Ellison

McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meng  
Moore  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Rangel  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff

## NOT VOTING—5

Ruiz  
Rush  
Smith (WA)

## □ 1803

Ms. JACKSON LEE changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently missed rollcall Votes 151 and 152. Had I been present I would have voted “no.”

# APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. VAN HOLLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 187, nays 239, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

## YEAS—187

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)

Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Yarmuth

Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutsch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda

Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone

## NAYS—239

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Duffy  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert

Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)

Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzer  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jordan

Joyce	Nugent	Shimkus
Kelly (PA)	Nunes	Shuster
King (IA)	Olson	Simpson
King (NY)	Palazzo	Smith (MO)
Kinzinger (IL)	Palmer	Smith (NE)
Kline	Paulsen	Smith (NJ)
Knight	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Labrador	Perry	Stefanik
LaMalfa	Pittenger	Stewart
Lamborn	Pitts	Stivers
Lance	Poe (TX)	Stutzman
Latta	Poliquin	Thompson (PA)
LoBiondo	Pompeo	Thornberry
Long	Posey	Tiberi
Loudermilk	Price, Tom	Tipton
Love	Ratcliffe	Trott
Lucas	Reed	Turner
Luetkemeyer	Reichert	Upton
Lummis	Renacci	Valadao
MacArthur	Ribble	Wagner
Marchant	Rice (SC)	Walberg
Marino	Rigell	Walden
Massie	Roby	Walker
McCarthy	Roe (TN)	Walorski
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Walters, Mimi
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
McHenry	Rohrabacher	Webster (FL)
McKinley	Rokita	Wenstrup
McMorris	Rooney (FL)	Westerman
Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Westmoreland
Meadows	Roskam	Whitfield
Meehan	Ross	Williams
Messer	Rothfus	Wilson (SC)
Mica	Rouzer	Wittman
Miller (FL)	Royce	Womack
Miller (MI)	Russell	Woodall
Moolenaar	Ryan (WI)	Yarmuth
Mooney (WV)	Salmon	Yoder
Mullin	Sanford	Yoho
Mulvaney	Scalise	Young (AK)
Murphy (PA)	Schweikert	Young (IA)
Neugebauer	Scott, Austin	Young (IN)
Newhouse	Sensenbrenner	Zeldin
Noem	Sessions	Zinke

## NOT VOTING—5

Duncan (SC)	Farenthold	Smith (WA)
Ellison	Ruiz	

## □ 1812

Mr. POE of Texas changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 153 of the Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. Con. Res. 11, I inadvertently voted “no”. I intended to vote “yes” and spoke in favor of the motion during floor debate earlier today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on Senate Concurrent Resolution 11:

Messrs. TOM PRICE of Georgia, ROKITA, DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. BLACK, Messrs. MOOLENAAR, VAN HOLLEN, YARMUTH, and Ms. MOORE.

There was no objection.

# REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 622, STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1195, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

Mr. STIVERS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-74) on the resolution (H. Res. 200) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## □ 1815

## REMEMBERING LAUREN HILL

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young woman and brave college athlete taken from us too soon. Her name is Lauren Hill.

Many in Cincinnati know Lauren Hill's story of strength and resolve. Lauren stood as an inspiration to us all. Her dream was to play college basketball, and she committed to the Mount St. Joseph's women's team. Then cancer struck.

Lauren was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Too many of us know the devastating feeling when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis. Knowing that her days were limited, Lauren didn't let it stand in her way. She took her fight to the court. She played with a purpose. Her purpose was for others, not for herself.

Although she passed away last Friday at the age of 19, she has left a legacy of hope for a cure. As thousands came to see Lauren play and to support her mission, she raised over \$1 million through her nonprofit, a nonprofit to find cures for those that follow in her footsteps.

Lauren Hill, you are an inspiration to the world. Number 22, God bless you.

## REMEMBERING OFFICER MICHAEL JOHNSON

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer condolences to the family and friends of Officer Michael Johnson of the San Jose Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on March 24, 2015, when he responded to a 911 call and was shot by a disturbed man armed with a rifle.

Mike graduated from the San Jose Police Academy on June 15, 2001. Over his 14-year career, Mike served as a patrolman, court liaison, prescription drug fraud specialist, and, most recently, a field training officer in charge of mentoring young cadets.

Like other officers, Mike recognized the inherent danger in wearing his badge and responding to calls, but he accepted these risks and ultimately gave his life serving his community.

He is survived by his wife, Nikki; parents, Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker; step-parents, Dann Decker and Penny Johnson; sister, Jamie Radack; a niece and nephew; his grandmother; and his in-laws. I hope they take solace in knowing that our entire community is in mourning with them. The San Jose PD is in mourning. The city of San Jose is in mourning. This Congress is in mourning.

## IN HONOR OF OFFICER MICHAEL JOHNSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman MIKE HONDA, and Congressman ERIC SWALLWELL, to offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Officer Michael Johnson, a courageous and dedicated officer of the San Jose Police Department who was killed in the line of duty on March 24, 2015, when he responded to a 911 call and was shot by a suicidal man armed with a rifle.

Mike, a 14-year veteran of the department, was known in the community for his kindness and compassion. He grew up in San Jose, graduating from Gunderson High School in 1995. His siblings knew before he did that he was bound to follow in the footsteps of his father, Daniel Johnson, who was a military police officer for the United States Army and who later joined the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department. Mike graduated from the San Jose Police Academy on June 15, 2001.

He saw himself as a protector. At Mike's memorial service, San Jose Police Department Chief Larry Esquivel said Mike was everything he looks for in an officer: a warrior and a guardian when needed, but also empathetic and eager to engage the community. His easy-going, mild-mannered demeanor and exemplary career made him an effective officer.

Over his 14-year career, Mike served as a patrolman, court liaison, prescription drug fraud specialist, and, most recently, a field training officer in charge of mentoring young cadets. He was also assigned to the covert response unit because of his skill as an expert marksman and his reputation as a model officer. He was known as one of the most skilled marksmen on the force; he medaled often at the Police and Fire Games and was set to be inducted in the competition's hall of fame. He

specifically volunteered to be a field-training officer for the department, which was his assignment when he responded to the fateful 911 call.

Mike was active in San Jose, as is his family. He and his wife Nikki planned to raise a family there. His mother, Katherine Decker, became active in making their neighborhood a better place and now serves on the executive board of the VEP Community Association, a neighborhood group that represents more than 2,000 families in Blossom Valley. Outside of work, Mike enjoyed practicing and teaching jujitsu. He had earned his black belt in 2008, served as an instructor at his dojo, and particularly enjoyed teaching jujitsu to kids.

At the memorial service, Mike's sister, Jamie Radack, said that Mike always lived life to the fullest, and took a "go big or go home" attitude to everything he did. He didn't just play chess in high school, she said; he captained the chess team. He didn't just scuba dive; he dove with great white sharks at the Farallon Islands. This passion extended to the love he showed to his family, and also to the dedication with which he served the police department. Like other officers, Mike recognized the inherent danger in wearing his badge and responding to calls. But he accepted these risks.

At approximately 6:48 p.m. on March 24, Officer Michael Johnson was among the first on scene responding to an apartment complex on Senter Road. The police had received a 911 call regarding an unstable man who was armed and threatening to harm himself and his family. Mike and three other officers carefully approached the home, knowing that each step placed them closer to danger, but also closer to protecting a family and a community. The officers were met with gunfire by the man, and Mike was fatally wounded.

Michael Johnson was 38 years old. He had married his wife Nikki in a civil ceremony on August 3, 2013, and was planning a formal wedding ceremony on August 29, 2015. Mike is survived by his wife Nikki, parents Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker, step-parents Dann Decker and Penny Johnson, sister Jamie Radack, a niece and nephew, his grandmother and his in-laws. I hope they take solace in knowing that the entire community is mourning with them. We are heartbroken by Mike's passing, but inspired by the way he lived his life and protected others. We will remember his dedication, and strive to contribute as fully to our community as he did through his service.

#### SUICIDE DRONES—IRAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while Iran pretends to want peace, it continues to prepare for war. While the administration was negotiating a deal regarding Iran's nuclear weapons, Iran was developing new war technology.

Iranian news sources indicate that since 2014, Iran has been developing combat suicide drones. This technology uses drones as suicide weapons to de-

stroy jet aircraft, helicopters, and even warships. The drone development includes drones that elude radar, have tracking devices, and fly for hours with a long range.

The Iranian Supreme Leader even stated while the nuclear weapon negotiations were taking place that he wants to destroy the United States.

Suicide drones are yet one more example that Iran is determined to have military dominance in the Middle East. Iran wants to annihilate Israel and the United States. The United States should not be disillusioned by the Iranian ruse claiming it wants peace.

The best hope for the world is for the people of Iran to rid themselves of the warlord mullahs and replace them with a rational, nonaggressive government.

And that is just the way it is.

#### EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Equal Pay Day.

It is an absolute shame that, in the United States, women earn, on average, 78 cents of every dollar that a man makes. For women of color, this gap is even worse: 64 cents for African American women and 56 cents for Latinas.

Mr. Speaker, the pay gap is harming working families in every State, but it is particularly harmful in the two-thirds of families where women are the primary breadwinners. Lower paychecks mean less money for groceries, rent, child care, and other family necessities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will make it easier for women to win pay discrimination cases and harder for companies to justify unequal salaries. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this bill with me.

#### DEVEREUX'S AUTISM ASSESSMENT CENTER

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Devereux, a national nonprofit behavioral health care organization, on the opening of their new Autism Assessment Center in Downingtown.

The center is designed to help families get access to an autism spectrum disorder assessment and diagnostic services. It will help families facing the uncertainties of an autism diagnosis and will also help individuals from birth live with the challenges that autism can bring.

With more children than ever now being diagnosed, experts agree that

early diagnosis and intervention for autism is critically important. Currently, receiving access to diagnostic testing can involve waiting lists up to 18 months. That is why facilities, such as Devereux, can provide an important service to Chester County and the greater Delaware Valley region.

I am excited to soon be taking a tour of the facilities and want to thank President Robert Kreider, Vice President Carol Oliver, the board of directors, administration, staff, and volunteers at Devereux, all of whom provide compassion and excellence in care and advocacy for so many who may be disabled but, indeed, are very able—able to live meaningful, productive lives filled with laughter, learning, and productivity thanks in part to the good work done, day in, day out, at Devereux.

#### HOUSE WILL PROTECT TAXPAYERS AND REIN IN THE IRS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, with April 15 quickly approaching, this week the House of Representatives will be taking action and voting on a number of bills to ease the pain for American taxpayers.

Across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, I have heard from constituents expressing their ongoing anxieties when it comes to the complexity of our Federal Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than 4 million words in the Tax Code and only 462 words in the Bill of Rights. This country is long overdue for a more simplified Tax Code.

This week, the House is considering legislation to ensure IRS transparency, repeal the immoral and oppressive death tax, and pass a taxpayer bill of rights. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these commonsense measures to protect the American taxpayer.

#### CERTIFICATION OF RESCISSION OF CUBA'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-26)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed: *To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith a report to the Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 14, 2015.

## THE TAX CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity tonight to address my colleagues, to address the American people on the eve of one of the most concerning days for many Americans, that of tax day, April 15.

My previous colleague alluded to measures that we will bring up this week on behalf of the American people, and I look forward to having an honest and constructive debate about the bills this week, our national tax policy.

But listen; this is a very human and uniquely American moment this evening, as many people are overwhelmed with the deadline that they face tomorrow to submit their taxes. I think it is safe to say that an appropriate word of many Americans this evening and into tomorrow is one of resentment.

There is resentment for many reasons. For many, it is simply the complexity of our Tax Code, that today, in 2015, our Tax Code is so complex that many people struggle with compliance or, for those with resources, have to turn around and spend their hard-earned resources to hire a professional simply to understand the laws and the Code that we have implemented here in Washington, D.C. For others, the resentment is about the amount of taxes they pay, and this is across all income spectrums. The resentment is related to the fact that they question how their taxpayer dollars ultimately are resourced, are spent, are obligated by this body.

Some studies have shown that as recently as 2012 over \$100 billion was spent in the areas of waste, fraud, and abuse—taxpayer dollars, not Washington's dollars, but taxpayer dollars that we each remit responsibly to our government, that we entrust our government to spend wisely, responsibly, to invest in the right priorities for the Nation, but also to ensure that the business of government runs exactly as that, as a business, an efficient business. So there is frustration by many people. And yet, even worse, the system is designed today to obfuscate responsibility.

Think about it. We live in a generation today where, for the majority of Americans, your taxes are withheld from your paycheck. The generation that enters the workforce today simply knows that if they are to be paid \$100, it is not really \$100, that there is money taken out of it. That wasn't always the case. Until World War II, we didn't withhold. In fact, it was in 1943 when Congress passed and the administration enacted the Current Tax Payment Act that began to withhold.

Now, there are a lot of arguments to be made for why we withhold—ensure the responsible flow of taxes to government—but understand what that very simple measure did. It began to slowly remove the American taxpayer, the American citizen, from the actual act of remitting, of paying for the government that they have. It made it slightly harder to recognize the responsibility that the money that is being sent to Washington every time there is money withheld from your paycheck, that in fact that is the taxpayers' money.

Instead, we have generations that have come up just assuming that you are paid \$100, but you only get \$80 or \$90. Well, that is just the way the system works and there is money coming out of it, as opposed to making that \$100 and having to remit a check to your government and then hold that government responsible.

□ 1830

I know this sounds like a crazy notion in 2015, but it is an important context for the conversation we have in terms of the amount of taxes that are placed upon the American people and the expectation for the level of responsibility of our government to actually spend those resources.

This is a very real conversation. This was brought to me just last evening by a woman who owns her own firm, her own practice, and is married to a husband who likewise owns his own firm, his own practice.

Now, in that situation, this couple is responsible actually for writing that check, for paying what we call estimated taxes each quarter, and then, at the end of the year, reconciling whether they paid enough or not. For that couple, it is a very real experience.

It is very different from a majority of Americans who are employed by an employer, and, in fact, the money is withheld because, for that couple, every quarter—every quarter—they have a conversation around the kitchen table about the amount of taxes that they are sending to their government, the amount that they are resigning over to government and what they expect in services in return. That creates a certain efficiency, a certain accountability. It is a very interesting question.

Mr. Speaker, it also leads to how much should that check be that this couple writes in estimated taxes? This is an area of broad debate, and it can be a constructive debate. What is the right marginal tax rate is something that people of differing political positions obviously have deeply held convictions.

I can tell you this, though: we live in a world where the average American is subjected to multiple taxing authorities. Consider this: we often think in this body only of your Federal mar-

ginal income tax rate and the contribution that individuals make to Social Security and Medicare and other mandatory programs.

In Washington, you might have a debate that focuses solely on what is the appropriate marginal tax rate. Well, in State capitols around the country, you have State governments having that same debate, but there is a gap.

Rarely would Washington ever consider what is the State tax obligation in a specific State, and rarely would a specific State worry about what the marginal tax rate is of the Federal Government and then extrapolate that out to taxing authorities at the local and municipal level, your school board, your water authority, energy taxes, utility taxes, and car taxes.

Mr. Speaker, think about all of the taxes that a single individual is responsible for paying; yet we have no tax ombudsman that represents the taxpayer before all of these taxing authorities.

We have no collective assessment of what is the total tax burden of a single individual, not just from Washington, but from your marginal income taxes to your mandatory contribution to entitlement programs to your State taxes to your sales taxes to your water taxes, utility taxes, school taxes, and car taxes. What is that total tax burden?

On the eve of April 15, I think it is appropriate to have a conversation about what is the total tax burden that any one individual should be subjected to, not the marginal income tax at the Federal level, not whether it should be progressive or flat, not whether it should be simpler, fairer, or flatter—which, certainly, I think every Member of this body would agree to—but what is the total tax obligation that any one individual should be subjected to?

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, taxes, fiscal issues, tax issues, are freedom issues. How much do we as government collectively, of all forms, ask for an individual to resign over to government to make decisions for them? That payment of taxes, that resignation of resources by the individual to a governing authority, those taxing issues are actually freedom issues. How much does it leave for the individual to have discretion as to the decisions they get to make for themselves?

I have actually introduced legislation, H.R. 144, called the Alternative Maximum Tax. It is a very simple proposition. It says that no one individual should have to give to government collectively more than they get to keep for themselves.

Think about it. What is the moral justification for why in the United States, this great land of liberty, this country that was founded on the notion that freedom is granted not to government to be disbursed to individuals, but freedom is granted by our Creator to our individuals, and as individuals,

we get to decide how much liberty we resign over to government?

If that is the case, if our Nation was founded on this remarkable notion that freedom is first granted to the people, how can anybody, how could we ever argue that an individual should then have to resign over more than half of their income, more than half of their resources, to government collectively?

Now, understand, this isn't simply a conversation about the marginal tax rate at the Federal level. This is saying from State to local to Federal to water district to utility district, what is the total taxation of any one individual? That ultimately is a freedom issue.

The legislation I introduced actually does exactly that. It says an individual is able to add up every single one of these taxes, and, if they hit a threshold of 50 percent, they hit a maximum tax. We have an alternative minimum tax in the country.

It says if you fully comply with our Tax Code and you qualify for tax deductions and tax credits, but Washington decides you didn't quite contribute enough, then we are going to hit you with an alternative minimum tax and say: Too bad, we don't like your math; we need more money from you.

Well, why don't we have an alternative maximum tax to protect the taxpayer? I will be honest with you. Marginal tax rates, as I mentioned, are something for political debate. I think 50 percent is way too high. I would like to see that number come down because I do believe it is a matter of freedom.

This legislation, H.R. 144, I will tell you the political strategy behind it and the absolute transparency, it is to beg the question, to ask the question, the very simple question: Should any one individual have to give to government more than they keep for themselves? It is a moral question, I believe, in 2015.

We also this week, in looking for solutions on behalf of the American people, will consider other commonsense proposals. One of them would make permanent the sales tax deduction. One in five Americans live in States that do not have an income tax but do have a sales tax. The State of Florida is one of them.

For that one in five Americans, a sales tax deduction is very important. Think about it. Income taxes at the State level are deductible on your Federal tax return; but, if you live in a State that, instead of having income taxes has sales taxes, shouldn't that be deducted just the same?

The principle behind a State income tax deduction on your Federal return is it is recognizing, as I discussed in the max tax, that if an individual is already paying and contributing a certain amount to their State for government operations, then it would not be appropriate to tax those dollars. We allow the deduction of State income

taxes from your Federal tax return. We should likewise allow the sales tax.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is something that, unfortunately, does not have a permanent place in the Tax Code. Later this week, we will consider—and I believe the House will approve—H.R. 622, to make permanent the State and local sales tax deduction.

We also will vote on H.R. 1105, which would ensure the elimination of the death tax—the death tax. Think about this. A nation that says you may have already paid money on your income, but the day you die and leave it for your family, your family has to pay another tax on that, it is as outrageous as it is insulting, and it is a very simple measure that we will consider this week to repeal that.

We do have, across the country tonight, a lot of concerned and, frankly, angry constituents probably in every single congressional district. Tax policy and budget policies, we have seen, can be very divisive.

As a Congress and as a nation, it is appropriate that we begin to have a national dialogue about how we can do better, how we can do better on behalf of the individual taxpayer because the current system doesn't work. We know that.

There is a reason that everybody has different ideas about tax reform. Well, just as we should be doing on so many other matters in this Congress, let's bring a package to the House floor.

Let the House work its will on behalf of the American people that we are elected to represent. Let's give voice to the American people that we represent and have an honest and constructive dialogue about the future of tax policy. We owe it to the American people to do our job.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of April 14, when so many people are working tirelessly simply to comply with complex regulations and laws that have been enacted by this body through multiple administrations and multiple parties—no one party bears all responsibility—but we know we have burdened the American people tonight, so let us, as we consider these bills later this week, do our job on behalf of the American people and recognize this burden that has created such resentment.

Moving forward, let's bring a tax package to the floor. Let's have an honest debate between the two sides of the aisle and do what is right on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity this evening.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### OPENING OUR EYES TO THE EPIDEMIC OF POLICE VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New

York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are moved and compelled to come to the House floor to deal with the seemingly unending problem of police violence in America. Over the last year, we have seen a parade of horrors, examples of police violence caught on video for all of America to see.

We are compelled to ask the question: What more does Congress need to see in order to understand that we have got a problem that requires Democrats and Republicans, people in the House and the Senate, working in partnership with the President to address?

I certainly am of the view that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers are hard-working individuals who are there to protect and serve their community; but how can we continue to turn a blind eye to the fact that police violence all across America essentially has presented an epidemic of injustice that we have got to deal with in a free and democratic society?

What more does the Congress need to see? We have seen 12-year-old Tamir Rice gunned down by a police officer in what many view as a driveby shooting. Tamir Rice didn't present any danger to the officer who simply pulled up and really, without warning, shot him dead to the ground, based on a call that had been made that someone seemed to have a toy gun.

Of course, in New York City, Eric Garner was strangled to death with the use of a choke hold employed by a police officer, despite the fact that, for the previous 20 years, choke holds had been unauthorized as part of the policy of the NYPD.

Eleven different times, Eric Garner, a father of six, said that he couldn't breathe, and on 11 different occasions, the officers who were there failed to respond to Mr. Garner's pleas for help. As a result, he was killed on a New York City street for all the world to see; then a grand jury fails to indict even on simple assault.

Now, of course, we have got the tragedy of Walter Scott, someone who was killed running away from a police officer after having been tased. It is not clear to me that, if a courageous bystander hadn't captured that incident on video, the officer responsible for killing Walter Scott may be patrolling the streets of South Carolina today. What more does Congress need to see to realize that we have got a problem that needs to be addressed?



Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that several of my colleagues in government are here, including the assistant Democratic leader, who has got a tremendous history of combating injustice before he got to Congress and his two decades-plus in serving the people of South Carolina in Congress.

Let me yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of South Carolina, the assistant Democratic leader, JAMES CLYBURN.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend Mr. JEFFRIES.

I visited with the family of Walter Scott. I attended his funeral; and, not long after the services were over, I was approached by two women who identified themselves as mothers of two young men who had suffered unusual and unnecessary brutality at the hands of the officer who perpetrated the unnecessary shooting of Walter Scott.

□ 1845

Both these women said to me that, throughout the North Charleston community, there is significant apprehension as to whether or not they could accept or expect any kind of relief for the pain that they are suffering.

I remained in Charleston over the weekend. On Sunday evening, I saw that the mayor of North Charleston, Mayor Summey; the chief of police of North Charleston, Chief Driggers; along with the sheriff of Charleston County, attended the healing services that took place at Calvary Baptist Church there in Charleston.

I applaud them—the mayor, the chief, and the sheriff—for responding to these three families, and there may be others, but in a way that makes us all proud.

I am hopeful that, after this weekend and some subsequent occurrences, that Congress would take a long, hard look at whether or not there is a role for us to play in responding to what seems to be an epidemic. I applaud those in the South Carolina Legislature, most especially Senator Marlon Kimpson, for his authorship of body camera legislation.

I thank the various newspapers, most recently this morning, The State newspaper, for endorsing this concept, saying that it is something that the legislature in South Carolina should authorize and fund.

Now, there are a lot of police departments that are too small to raise the necessary funds, and a lot of them are so big that the cost might be prohibitive. To that, I want to say, Mr. JEFFRIES, as I thank you, Congressman SCOTT, and Congressman RICHMOND, as well as Congressmen GOWDY and LABRADOR, for all the work you are doing trying to pull together a piece of comprehensive legislation that will reform our judicial criminal system in a way that would make things much better going forward.

Please, I ask, take a look at whether or not it is time for us here in the Con-

gress to make the funds available so that all local police departments can afford to do something that I think will address a national problem.

I also believe that the time has come for us to maybe mandate from this level the body cameras I think Congresswoman CORINNE BROWN and Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER have both proposed legislation in this area. Let's take a look at their legislation. Hopefully, your task force will take a look at their legislation and see whether or not we can incorporate that legislation authorization, as well as the funding going forward.

Now, I want to thank the Attorney General and the FBI Director for proposing that we deal with this issue of data collection. That is going to be very important as we take a look at these issues and these incidents and to see whether or not it is time for us to do something at the national level to deal with data collection.

That, too, is an expense. In fact, that is something these departments would have a problem with in terms of size, where they are so big they can't afford it or too small to raise the funds, and maybe we can find a way to help fund the storage of this data so that we can create a better climate.

Now, before I close, I want to say something that I get beaten up a lot for raising this issue, but I feel strongly about it. I am not easily intimidated, and I refuse to be bullied.

Therefore, I want to say once again, whoever is funding the activities of the American Legislative Exchange Council, they are funding the kind of legislation, stand your ground, that creates vigilante activity in this country. It is clear that is what is formed from that legislation.

They are also funding legislation that is suppressing voters; and when you suppress voters, you are, in fact, ruining activity at the community level that I think is very, very important.

They are also funding the bleaching and stacking of legislative and congressional districts, all of which I believe add to the creation of a venomous climate throughout our country.

I started my professional career as a public school teacher teaching history. I have studied the history of our great country, and I have taught it. I can say that it is clear to me that a lot of the legislation that is being proposed today, a lot of the activities that we are experiencing today, we went through this before.

I would ask anybody who may be interested in the subject to just take a look at what occurred in this great country between 1872 and those new constitutions that went in place throughout the South in 1895. You will see that, through that 23-year period, the same kind of vigilante activity, all done under the heading of Jim Crow

laws, the same activity with a different label is what we are beginning to see today.

I would hope that all the people here in this Congress and around the country will really take stock of who we are, where we are, and let us do what is necessary to move our country to common ground for all of its great citizenry.

Thank you so much.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the assistant leader, Mr. CLYBURN, for his eloquent articulation, both of the history of police violence and oppressive laws and statutes done on the color of State law designed to undermine the constitutional principle of equal protection under the law, as well as for suggesting some of the things that we can consider doing to improve this situation, one of which will be to make sure that we capture police encounters on video in a manner that benefits all involved so we can have a real understanding of what took place during the encounter.

New York City has begun an experimental program placing body cameras in a few of the precincts throughout New York City, including the 75th precinct in the east New York community that I represent.

In talking to the commander of the precinct, the officers, while many were initially skeptical, eventually embraced the presence of body cameras for a variety of reasons, one of which is that it often defuses an aggressive encounter because the officers, upon approaching a situation when they are wearing a body camera, are now required to say to the individual citizens they are confronting: This confrontation or this exchange is going to be recorded.

What the officers have found is that, in many instances, that will defuse a situation that otherwise might go in the other direction.

Body cameras are something that should be considered. In fact, many law enforcement officers in departments across the country who have gone down this road have embraced it as technology that benefits the law enforcement community, in addition, of course, to making sure justice takes place when a police officer crosses the line.

It is now my distinct privilege to yield to a new member of the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as the House of Representatives, who has already distinguished herself in terms of being a passionate advocate for justice and for progressive change in this country.

That is the gentlewoman from the Garden State right next door to New York, Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much to my esteemed colleague from New York.

I am new to Congress, and I have had quite a few occasions to come to the

floor and talk about issues that are very pressing to my community and to me. I stand here as an African American woman who represents the State of New Jersey, but I stand here as a wife, a mother, a sister, an aunt, and a cousin to African American men.

In that capacity, each and every day that one of them leaves our presence and leaves their home, I wonder if they will come back safely. I know they mean no one any harm, but I don't know that the police that they might encounter would see that in them as I do.

My community has cried out for a long period of time that there has been injustice and there has been harm and danger and needless deaths facing our young men and even some of our young women.

As a matter of fact, Mr. CLYBURN mentioned the issue of data collection as being such an important element here in helping us to find our way. I noted that The Washington Post said that, out of thousands of fatal interactions between the police and citizens, only 54 officers have been charged, and of those, most were cleared and acquitted.

We need better data collection; we need greater accountability, and we, obviously, need greater justice because, in those instances, the majority of these officers are going back into the streets, patrolling these communities, and those people who are in charge of them are still in charge of them and are still performing what should be a public service.

□ 1900

I understand that not every case that we are encountering is as clear-cut as the one we just encountered with Officer Slager. I understand that there are other cases that have resulted in other findings. I do not understand how some of these findings could have occurred given the things that we have actually seen.

I stand here recognizing that this Congress can, indeed, help these local police departments with things such as body cameras. In the cost-benefit analysis, is a life worth enough to invest in them for the police departments? I say "yes," but there are other things that, I think, Congress should be considering and on which, I think, we should be leading the way in the discussion.

One of those is that there are consequences that should not only be felt by the officer who was actively engaged in the misfortune, such as in the Slager case or even in the Brown case in Ferguson; but what about those individuals who knowingly participated in the policies that ended up creating this disparity in our society, this injustice in our society? They are given the opportunity to walk away. They are given the opportunity to retire. They are given the opportunity to resign.

They are given the opportunity to move on with their lives and to benefit from the pensions and other benefits that have been accrued by the number of years they have been working as public servants, even though it is clearly demonstrated that their service was not to the public. There need to be consequences that need to be addressed with regard to that also.

There is a lot that needs to be done. We can see it, but we can no longer be silent on it. Congress does have a role here. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the laws of this country are protecting all of our citizens. We need to do things like invest in body cameras, not just to catch those who are doing these things which are harmful to our community but to protect the good policemen who are sometimes the subject of complaints that aren't verified. I honestly believe that those who don the blue uniform do so with the expectation and the desire to protect, preserve, and to serve, but those who do not and those who allow those who do not to continue to do what they are doing need to be accountable.

I look forward to working with my esteemed colleague who is in charge of this Special Order hour and with all of those who are working to ensure that there is justice, safety, and security and that, as a mother, I don't have to worry, that, as a wife, I don't have to worry, that, as a sister, as an aunt, as a cousin, and as a friend, I don't have to worry every time a Black man who is associated with me leaves my home.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from New Jersey for her very eloquent and passionate remarks.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we clearly have to grapple with in this country is the fact that the criminal justice system is broken, and there are many components to that. We have got a situation in which far too often a police officer crosses the line, engages in unlawful conduct, and is not held accountable for that conduct. What kind of incentive does that create for good conduct to take place moving forward if, in the overwhelming majority of instances when police officers cross the line, such as in the Eric Garner case, a grand jury or a local prosecutor will often fail to hold them accountable?

The other problem that we have got to address is of overcriminalization in America, of mass incarceration. If you look at some of these encounters that have taken place and that have gone wrong and that have resulted in tragedy, they often have begun with what was, really, overly aggressive, unnecessary policing strategy being deployed to tackle, at best, nuisance-like activity.

Eric Garner is dead today because he was selling loose cigarettes, and someone at One Police Plaza gave the order to aggressively police this activity.

Crime is down in New York, but there are still a couple hundred homicides committed every year. There is still some gang activity. There are still some assaults taking place. But we want to use police resources to aggressively go after someone who is selling loose, untaxed cigarettes?

That is an overcriminalization problem connected to broken windows policing. Walter Scott is dead today because he had a broken taillight. Four children are without a father because Walter Scott had a broken taillight. We have got to evaluate this overly aggressive policing strategy connected to the phenomenon of mass incarceration.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity in this Congress to have worked closely with someone who is one of the leaders in the House of Representatives and in the Capitol in dealing with our broken criminal justice system and who works closely with colleagues on the other side of the aisle, like TREY GOWDY and JASON CHAFFETZ and others, who are interested in trying to figure out, collectively, how we can make America a fairer, more efficient place in terms of our criminal justice system.

Let me now yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Louisiana, who represents the wonderful city of New Orleans. We refer to him, of course, as the "franchise" because of his prolific baseball abilities, but he is also one of the most talented legislators here in the Capitol. I yield to my good friend, the Honorable CEDRIC RICHMOND.

Mr. RICHMOND. Thank you, Representative JEFFRIES, for allowing us to address this most important issue.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about it today and as members of the Congressional Black Caucus address this country and address this Chamber, let me just start with: this is not a Black problem; it is not an African American problem; it is not a Hispanic problem; and it is not a minority problem. This is an American problem that is eroding the fabric and the core of who we are and what makes us exceptional. As we talk about police violence and as we assess it, we try to figure out if we have a few bad apples or whether this is a systematic problem that needs to be addressed. I prefer to believe that it is the former—a few bad apples who need attention. With that, I will use an example.

Representative JEFFRIES, I am sure you know that we had a police shooting in the New Orleans airport a couple of weeks ago when a man who was otherwise peaceful lacked medical attention and was paranoid and went to the airport and intended to do harm. In fact, he did do harm, but in the process, Lieutenant Heather Sylve had no choice in this situation but to fire, to discharge her firearm, and she killed Richard White. She had no choice, and

she saved many lives. I would like to believe that there are more Heather Sylves out there than what we are seeing on the news every day. Yet the preponderance of what we are seeing every day is of shootings that are not justified.

When we talk about what we can do, body cameras won't stop the event from happening; but like red light cameras and these automated traffic tickets, what they do is change behavior because, hopefully, officers will realize that there is nothing done under the cloud of darkness anymore, that whether it is body cameras or civilians standing up and recording the interaction, whatever you do will be recorded to show an independent version of what is going on. Maybe—just maybe—that will change behavior and make officers just take notice that today is not yesterday and that you can't do the things that you used to do.

As we address it, one of the things we can also look at is the diversity of these police departments and at the diversity of the FBI, the DEA, and the ATF. Those departments and those police forces and those law enforcement organizations should reflect in their makeup the great diversity in this country. U.S. attorneys in this country should stand and fight for civil rights violations just as they do the headline-grabbing public corruption and all of the other things that they focus on.

We have the new cases, but I have old cases in New Orleans. After Katrina, I had Henry Glover. An officer on a second-floor balcony shot him dead with a sniper rifle, saying that he posed an imminent threat to that officer on the second floor. Not only was he shot and killed but the police took the body, in an abandoned car, to a levee and burned it. If we get past Henry Glover, we can go to the Danziger Bridge, where officers engaged in a firefight with six civilians. Today, we learned all of them were unarmed, and none of them fired on the police. Two of those civilians were killed.

This is a very hard conversation to have. It is a conversation that we have to have because the longer we ignore it the longer it will fester. The urban communities have been singing this song and have been reporting this for years and years and years, and it is not until new technology that we see that this was not a fabrication but a concerned community that was watching their sons and their fathers be killed at the hands of law enforcement.

We are part of the greatest body on Earth, which is the United States Congress, and we can solve problems when we have the will because, as my grandmother always said, Where there is a will, there is a way. It is time for Congress to dig up that will to make this country a more perfect Union. We all know that it is not perfect—it was not perfect when it was created, and it is

not perfect today—but with the courage of legislators like Representative JEFFRIES from New York, Representative JOHNSON from Georgia, who will speak next, and with the will of strong legislators who are not afraid to have an ugly conversation, we can wrap our hands around this, and we can make our streets safe for everyone because all lives do matter.

I think that it is time that both Republicans and Democrats and Whites and Blacks sit down and say that this is unacceptable, because the hate and the disgust and the hurt that is growing in African American and urban communities around this country is playing out to be justified.

The only thing that I can hope and pray for, Representative JEFFRIES, is that we are bigger and that we are better than that as a country. I look forward to working with you, and I look forward to working with this Congress to find solutions to these problems so that we do not have to bury another father or another son whose life was snatched from him by the hands of either an inexperienced officer or, worse than that, by an officer who just had ill intentions.

Every day, good people put on that uniform and go out and risk their lives to make sure that our communities are safe, that our children get to and from school, that our husbands and wives get to work and get home. They do that every day, risking their lives, and they sacrifice much so that we can be safe. We need to make sure that we root out those bad apples to make sure that it doesn't happen to any more families.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Orleans for his thoughtful and eloquent exposition of the situation and for pointing out that, while this is not an easy conversation for us to have around the police's use of excessive force, often resulting in the deaths of unarmed individuals such as Walter Scott and Eric Garner, it is a necessary one if we are going to continue our march toward a more perfect Union.

I now yield to another distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee, who has taken an active role within the Congressional Black Caucus and beyond to introduce progressive pieces of legislation that are designed to address this problem. He is the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Representative HANK JOHNSON.

□ 1915

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank my colleague, Congressman JEFFRIES from New York, for organizing this very important Special Order.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for hosting this.

We are here to talk about a very important subject, the extrajudicial killing of Black males in America. It

seems to be an epidemic, but it is really not. It is just simply the fact that we are hearing more about it. We are hearing more about the deaths that are occurring. We are seeing with our very eyes, looking at video, we are seeing that some of these killings appear to be unjustified. When we understand that we are seeing what has been going on for a long time but which has not been addressed, we understand that if we don't do something to address the problem, then these killings will continue.

Now, why is it that we have what appear to be unjustified homicides of African American males at the hands of law enforcement repeated daily? In the 108 days or so since the Michael Brown killing in Ferguson, we have heard of so many African American males losing their lives. It is very disturbing.

Why is it that it continues to happen? Well, I would submit, Congressman JEFFRIES, that one of the reasons is because there seems to be two systems of justice involved: one for police officers and the other for civilians. It seems that there has been a reluctance to prosecute police officers when their actions go across the line.

Now, you, as well as I, know that most of the law enforcement people, law enforcement officers out there, male and female, top to bottom, from the East to the West, are good people honestly trying to do a good job, and their job is to protect and serve us. A lot of times we make it very dangerous and we make it very hard for them to do their job; but that is their job, to protect us and to serve us.

When one of us goes astray, when one of us runs away, that doesn't give a license to a police officer to pull out a gun and stop the individual, shooting them in the back. It has happened more than once. It has happened more than twice. It has happened frequently. Sometimes we don't hear about it because the person is injured and there is no video. Other times there is video, and the person is killed, and we find out about that and we see it. But I would submit to you that it happens far too regularly, and it happens without any penalty for misconduct.

Now, I have said that most of our law enforcement officers are seeking to do the best job that they can be, but nobody is perfect and they err sometimes; and when you err and you do it and you violate the criminal law, then you should be prosecuted yourself.

So I want to take this opportunity to commend the officials in North Charleston who immediately, when they saw the video, they saw the evidence, they didn't waste any time, they didn't try to cover up or hide, they went and did the right thing. They charged the officer just as they would have charged a civilian had a civilian shot someone and it appeared to be unjustified.

I will give you an example in my State of Georgia where, on New Year's

morning, 3 a.m. in the morning, one of our local police chiefs was asleep in the bed next to his companion, who happened to be his ex-wife, and due to some problems that he heard, he went and grabbed his service revolver. He went downstairs to check on some noise but didn't find any disturbance. He came back upstairs, put the gun, according to his testimony or his statement, on the bed, and then went to sleep with his wife beside him, his ex-wife. He was awakened to a gun firing, and his wife, his ex-wife ended up being shot in the back. He called the police to report that "I have shot my wife." He was not arrested. He has not been arrested to this day, although about a month ago the solicitor who handles misdemeanor cases—excuse me. The prosecutor, the district attorney who handles felony cases said that he intended to take the case to a grand jury to ask for a misdemeanor indictment against the officer.

But there are two different systems of treatment, two systems of justice: one for the police, because if he had not been a police officer under those circumstances he would have been arrested right there that same night, charged with a felony, and he would have been forced—after being arrested, he would have had to get a lawyer to have to break the case down into something like a misdemeanor, if he was fortunate to have a good lawyer, if he could afford one.

So, when these kind of things happen and people don't get charged, then it is a license for other officers to be reckless themselves; and so what we have had is a cascade of reckless behavior which has resulted in people being killed and there being no penalty, and so it just continues. That is why it is important for Congress to take action.

There are things that we can do here on the Federal level, and Congressman JEFFRIES, I know that you have been working on some of these measures. I have been working on some, too. I will tell you, body cameras is a step in the right direction.

Mr. JEFFRIES. The gentleman raised a very important point that I want to make sure is not lost, and then I certainly look forward to you articulating some of the things you have been working on in terms of legislative proposals.

But most of us, most folks in America do believe that police officers generally are entitled to the benefit of the doubt in the context of a police encounter because of the inherent dangerousness of what law enforcement officers do. Certainly the former mayor of the city of New York famously said—this is Rudolph Giuliani:

In every case, I am going to give police officers the benefit of the doubt.

But there is peril in the misapplication of that standard because if it goes too far, as the gen-

tleman points out, there are some who believe that even if I cross the line, there will be no accountability. And in this particular case what was so chilling about the video, after Walter Scott is gunned down, is that this officer, not knowing that this entire encounter was covered on video, felt that he could drop something next to the body of Walter Scott and presumably, in his mind, that would be part of the narrative that he would use to get himself exonerated because he understood that he would be entitled to the benefit of the doubt. In the absence of video, in this particular case he could potentially have gotten away with murder.

So I thank the gentleman for raising that point. We have got to have a real conversation. In America, yes, the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers are hard-working individuals dedicated to protecting and serving; but there is a problem with the misapplication of the benefit of the doubt standard in every instance because, in the absence of video, you may allow some officers who have crossed the line to get away with being held unaccountable. That is a terrible thing for justice and for encouraging proper behavior moving forward. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you for yielding again.

I will also note, Congressman JEFFRIES, that in watching that video of the shooting in the back of the gentleman a week ago, what I saw was another police officer who arrived at the scene as the subject officer walked back, or actually ran or trotted back to the body. And as the video was slowed down in slow motion, you could see something coming out of his hand landing next to the victim, and it is thought that the item that he picked up, that the video shows that he picked up, was a taser; and it appears that it was the taser that was then dropped beside the body of the victim with the other officer looking at the scene as it unfolded.

So I would think it is reasonable to assume that that officer, the first one to arrive at the scene, who happened to be an African American it looked to me, apparently, I would think that it is reasonable to assume that he saw the officer deposit that item, which I believe to be the taser, beside the victim.

So what does that tell us? It tells us that there is a thin blue line over which law enforcement officers do not step. They protect each other. When they see wrongdoing, they do not call it out; they do not expose it. So when that happens, Congressman, it impugns the character of all law enforcement. If law enforcement is operating under that mentality, that we see no evil, hear no evil, and certainly will not speak of it if we do hear or see it, that reinforces the systemic problems that we obviously have in law enforcement

insofar as it relates to African American males.

Our lives do matter. It is important that if law enforcement officers as a group are to uphold the standards of their profession, they must step across that blue line when they see something that another law enforcement officer does which is illegal or that is not within the bounds of propriety. They must police themselves.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank Representative JOHNSON for raising a very important point. This is a difficult conversation. I understand it. It is not easy to have a conversation about law enforcement conduct that crosses the line into illegality, but we have got to ask the question: Is there a blue wall of silence that exists such that good officers who observe inappropriate conduct engaged in by bad officers are afraid to speak the truth about encounters that take place that cross the line?

If, in fact, there is this blue wall of silence, I ask the question: How can that be good for our democracy when it means that a victim of police violence in most instances will never get equal protection under the law consistent with the 14th Amendment because of this almost impenetrable blue wall of silence?

□ 1930

As we have this conversation about what we are going to do about police violence, it should be a Democratic conversation and a Republican conversation, a Black, a White, a Latino, and an Asian conversation, a blue State conversation—it happened in New York—a red State conversation—it happened in South Carolina. This is an American problem.

I thank the distinguished gentleman for raising this issue. It is a difficult one, but we weren't sent here to the United States Congress to run away from difficult issues when it is impacting the people we represent. We have got to run toward difficult issues and try to confront them.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. That thin blue line or that blue wall of silence is not a good thing for a democracy; it is not a good thing for freedom. The truth is that, when one's freedom is taken away, it affects potentially all of us in having our freedoms taken away.

The truth is that all Americans are at risk when bad actors in law enforcement are allowed to act badly and with impunity. All Americans are at risk.

I know that, Congressman JEFFRIES, you represent New York, and I know that when the two officers lost their lives at the hand of a bad guy who ambushed and killed two innocent police officers in New York, thousands of police officers came to the funeral to see off their fallen brothers, as they should do. Many other Americans watched on TV.

I was, quite frankly, greatly disturbed when the police officers—some

of the New York officers—turned their backs on the civilian head of the city of New York. They turned their backs to the mayor as he was speaking at the funeral, a sign of disrespect for civilian authority.

That attitude contributes to the thinking of some law enforcement officers that it is okay and that whatever they do is acceptable. The police organizations must come to grips with the fact that they have a responsibility to do the right thing when one of their own does the wrong thing. They have a responsibility to do so.

I know that many, many police departments don't pay their officers very well. Civil servants, in general, are not paid commensurate with the value of their services to the people that they are serving, and police are no different than that.

Police officers have the same concerns that we have, that civilians have. Sometimes, they have problems at home with their wives. They have problems with their children. They have bills to pay. They might be a little bit behind. They have a lot of pressure.

I think we should do a little more in the area of mental health evaluation and counseling and help for our officers. We should encourage them to come forward if they are hurting. It should be a part of the culture of law enforcement that you are not too big and not too powerful to be able to ask for the help that you need. Our society should be willing to give them that help, and we should be willing to pay for it as well.

This issue of Black males being killed by police officers, there are no simple solutions. There are a number of solutions that can help make this situation better. That is why we in Congress and others in State legislatures and city councils and county commissions should be discussing this issue.

We should be trying to do what is necessary to break down the systemic problems that have led to this result and to do something about those problems, to get those problems alleviated and eventually eliminated.

I am so happy that you have seen, Congressman JEFFRIES, the need for this to be a topic of discussion, and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to come here and to participate in this discussion with you. I will let you know that I am looking forward to continuing to work with you as we do what we know that we need to do in order for Congress to address this issue.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his continued leadership and involvement in this issue in trying to bring about resolution.

As we prepare to close, let me, again, make clear that, in my view and the view of, I believe, many throughout

this body and across this country, we know that the police officers—the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officials—go to work every day trying to do the right thing.

It is a difficult job; but, because you have the capacity to take a life, we have got to make sure that, when you exercise deadly force, that it is deployed only in circumstances where it is absolutely necessary, not a choke hold resulting in the strangulation of someone who is selling untaxed cigarettes, who pleads for his life 11 times and is killed on video for all of his six children to see.

We don't want to see deadly force used when someone who has been tased is running away. The Supreme Court said in 1985 that you can't use deadly force to stop a fleeing felon. Walter Scott wasn't even a felon. He stopped him because he had a broken taillight.

We just want to make sure that, in America, there is a balance between effective law enforcement on the one hand and a healthy respect for the Constitution and for civil rights and for equal protection under the law for everyone on the other. That is our objective.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 4, 2015 in North Charleston, South Carolina, following a traffic stop in broad daylight, Walter Scott was fatally shot by police officer Michael Slager. This tragedy once again brings to the forefront an issue that continues to plague communities nationwide—the alarming rate of African American deaths at the hands of law enforcement officers. Particularly troubling about this tragedy, is the video footage showing the officer firing eight times as Walter Scott is running away.

Walter Scott was a human whose life had value. He was a father, a brother, a son and a friend. His status as an American citizen gave him the right to due process. He should not have been killed by a police officer who acted, without authority, as judge, jury and executioner.

Time and again, African American families have grieved over their fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, who have been taken too soon by officers deputized with the power to protect them. The frequency of these tragedies continues to play into the deeply painful narrative that black life is not valued in this country. When I think of Walter Scott, I think of Edward Garner, Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo, Anthony Lee, and Oscar Grant. I think of their grieving families and their lost futures. I am deeply saddened that the list of unarmed black men killed by police continues to grow.

Where do we go from here?

I would echo the words of Albert Einstein: “the world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.” We must all act to protect the lives of our friends and neighbors. As a country, we must commit to recognizing the humanity in others. Before we identify with any race, religion, gender, or sexual preference, we are all human.

It is not likely that, in the absence of Mr. Feidin Santana's cell phone video, Michael Slager would ever face criminal charges. It is not likely that the investigators who investigate the police would have concluded that the officer's account of the shooting was fabricated. It is likely that, in the absence of one bystander's courage, Walter Scott would have been villainized and the police officer who gunned him down would have gotten away with murder. From this point forward, we must all have the courage to speak up and confront injustice.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1073. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Janet C. Wolfenbarger, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1074. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Thomas W. Travis, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1075. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Salvatore A. Angelella, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1076. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Brooks L. Bash, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1077. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Judith A. Fedder, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general

on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1078. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization for ten officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1079. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for FY 2015, pursuant to Sec. 717 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1996, Pub. L. 104-106, as amended by Sec. 714 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013, Pub. L. 112-239; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1080. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 2014 report to Congress on the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, pursuant to Sec. 342(e) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1081. A letter from the Director, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the annual report to Congress of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion for calendar year 2014, in accordance with Sec. 342 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1082. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Policy Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Anti-Infective Drugs Advisory Committee [Docket No.: FDA-2009-N-0443] received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1083. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2014 report on user fee collections and related expenses, as required by the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1084. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Billings [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0352; FRL-9925-51-Region 8] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1085. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Great Falls [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0353; FRL-9925-50-Region 8] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1086. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP); Amending the NCP for Public Notices for Specific Superfund Activities [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0620; FRL-9924-66-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AG76) received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1087. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Well Production Facilities; Fort Berthold Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), North Dakota; Correction [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0479; FRL-9923-70-Region 8] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1088. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of a direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0938 FRL-9925-86-Region 6] received April 10, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1089. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed items to four different end users in the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to Sec. 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-261), as amended by Sec. 146 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277), and the President's September 29, 2009 delegation of authority (74 Fed. Reg. 50,913 (Oct. 2, 2009)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1090. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1091. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1092. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1093. A letter from the Superintendent, Executive Secretary, Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission, transmitting the Fifty-first Annual Report of the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission's year-end audit of the Commission's financial records as of December 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1094. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a listing of two vacant positions within the Department of Commerce that require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1095. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1096. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, as required by Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1097. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1098. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-81; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2015-0051, Sequence 1] received April 10, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1099. A letter from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 regarding a vacancy in a Senate-confirmed position in the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1100. A letter from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting the Family Court 2014 Annual Report, pursuant to the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-114); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1101. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1102. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2014; Interim Gulf of Maine Cod Management Measures; Correction [Docket No.: 141002822-5169-03] (RIN: 0648-BE56) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1103. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 16 [Docket No.: 140903744-5258-02] (RIN: 0648-BE46) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.



1104. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD714) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1105. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015-2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Amendment 24 [Docket No.: 140904754-5188-02] (RIN: 0648-BE27) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1106. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Western Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD780) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1107. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Off Alaska [Docket No.: 140218151-5171-02] (RIN: 0648-BD98) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1108. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Run-Around Gillnet Closure [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XD731) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1109. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD823) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1110. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD733) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1111. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, trans-

mitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140117052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XD799) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1112. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the 53rd Annual Report covering the activities of the Commission for FY 2014, pursuant to Sec. 103(e) of the Reorganization Plan No. 7 of 1961, and Sec. 208 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, 46 U.S.C. 306(a); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1113. A letter from the Vice President, Government Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's Statistical Summary for FY 2014; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1114. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Allocation of Controlled Group Research Credit [TD 9717] (RIN: 1545-BL77) received April 10, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1115. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — EPCRS Update Relating to Plans with Automatic Contribution Features (Rev. Proc. 2015-28) received April 10, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1116. A letter from the Staff performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals from the Department of Defense as a follow up to an earlier transmittal of a request for enactment of proposed legislation titled the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Education and the Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, and the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1562. A bill to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-72). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1563. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that individuals having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-73, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STIVERS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 200. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; providing for consideration

of the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-74). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on House Administration discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1563 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 1764. A bill to provide for the designation of the United States Chief Technology Officer; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1765. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 1766. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to repeal a small business loan data collection requirement; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia):

H.R. 1767. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia):

H.R. 1768. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 1769. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.



By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 1770. A bill to require certain entities who collect and maintain personal information of individuals to secure such information and to provide notice to such individuals in the case of a breach of security involving such information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 1771. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to count portions of income from annuities of a community spouse as income available to institutionalized spouses for purposes of eligibility for medical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DENT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H.R. 1772. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1773. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to exempt from duty residue of bulk cargo contained in instruments of international traffic previously exported from the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1774. A bill to provide for the rescheduling of marihuana, the medical use of marihuana in accordance with State law, and the exclusion of cannabidiol from the definition of marihuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ESTY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 1775. A bill to establish centers of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1776. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 1777. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 1778. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to regulate tax return preparers and refund anticipation payment arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 1779. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1780. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 1781. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for wages paid to employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SIREN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 1782. A bill to promote human rights in Cuba, urge the Cuban Government to meet certain human rights milestones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 1783. A bill to establish the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1784. A bill to enable hospital-based nursing programs that are affiliated with a hospital to maintain payments under the Medicare program to hospitals for the costs of such programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 1785. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the recognition of voluntary verification programs for air conditioning, furnace, boiler,

heat pump, and water heater products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LANCE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESTY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SIREN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 1786. A bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1787. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1788. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for small property and casualty insurance companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 1789. A bill to ensure the safety of DOT-111 tank cars by improving standards for new tank cars and upgrading existing tank cars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 1790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1791. A bill to amend the patent law to promote basic research, to stimulate publication of scientific documents, to encourage collaboration in scientific endeavors, to improve the transfer of technology to the private sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1792. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter

into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State management of grazing permits and leases; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1793. A bill to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the Council of the District of Columbia in approving section 3(a) of the Human Rights Amendment Act of 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. DELAUNO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KEATING, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIND, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ESTY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BASS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BEYER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MENG, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. DEGETTE,

Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of Equal Pay Day to illustrate the disparity between wages paid to men and women; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that conversion therapy, including efforts by mental health practitioners to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, is dangerous and harmful and should be prohibited from being practiced on minors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FOX:

H. Res. 199. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of Rule XII,

13. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, relative to House Resolution No. 226, urging the Department of Defense and the Army to take action to support the military and civilian personnel serving at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell by reconsidering proposed cuts to these important military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. BARLETTA introduced a bill (H.R. 1794) to authorize the transfer of certain items under the control of the Omar Bradley Foundation to the descendants of General Omar Bradley; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 1764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. PITTINGER:

H.R. 1766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified in to law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed in to law by the President.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 1767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 1768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 1769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 provides that Congress has the authority "to make all Laws, which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 1771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This trade related bill is addressed under the Constitution's Commerce Clause; Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 1774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 1775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I.  
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 1777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 1778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

1) Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 1

2) Amdt. XVI

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 1779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 1780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and the sixteenth amendment

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 1781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and the sixteenth amendment

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 1783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 1784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 1785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clauses 3 and 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 1788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 1789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 1790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 8 of Section 8, Article I

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State." Article IV, Section 3, paragraph 2

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof." Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 1794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.J. Res. 44.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I: Section 8: Clause 17 The United States Congress shall have power

"To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings."

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 29: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 91: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JONES, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 93: Mr. SIRE.

H.R. 131: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. SALMON, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BARR, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. COLE, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 169: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 170: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 204: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 213: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 223: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 228: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 231: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 235: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. BOST, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 242: Mr. BERA, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 266: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 282: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 317: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 320: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 344: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 348: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 359: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 427: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 445: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 456: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 465: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 472: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 484: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 495: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 504: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 523: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 532: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 540: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 542: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DENT, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 565: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 571: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 581: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 587: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 592: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 600: Mr. UPTON and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

- H.R. 606: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. RENACCI.
- H.R. 619: Mr. POCAN and Mr. ELLISON.
- H.R. 625: Mr. MCKINLEY.
- H.R. 628: Mr. HIMES, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
- H.R. 632: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ROSS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
- H.R. 649: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 653: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. GABBARD.
- H.R. 662: Mr. JORDAN.
- H.R. 681: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 699: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. NEAL, and Mrs. TORRES.
- H.R. 729: Mr. PETERS and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 746: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PALLONE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 748: Mr. RANGEL and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
- H.R. 758: Mr. BUCK.
- H.R. 767: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. PETERS.
- H.R. 771: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. PAULSEN.
- H.R. 781: Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 784: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MACARTHUR.
- H.R. 785: Mr. BEYER and Mr. SERRANO.
- H.R. 799: Mr. BENISHEK.
- H.R. 815: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
- H.R. 817: Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 822: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 825: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 829: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 831: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 836: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
- H.R. 845: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
- H.R. 846: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. NEAL.
- H.R. 868: Mr. YOHO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 885: Mr. KIND, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 915: Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 921: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 928: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. KATKO, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. TROTT.
- H.R. 931: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 940: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 956: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. MACARTHUR.
- H.R. 973: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WALDEN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 976: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
- H.R. 980: Ms. GRAHAM.
- H.R. 985: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 986: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. COLE.
- H.R. 1013: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 1033: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 1041: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
- H.R. 1062: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. MICA.
- H.R. 1067: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
- H.R. 1075: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
- H.R. 1087: Mr. COHEN and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
- H.R. 1089: Mr. POLIS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
- H.R. 1117: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. HARDY.
- H.R. 1121: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. PAYNE.
- H.R. 1125: Mr. DELANEY.
- H.R. 1147: Mr. SALMON.
- H.R. 1150: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HILL, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. CULBERSON.
- H.R. 1154: Mr. JORDAN.
- H.R. 1160: Mr. HANNA.
- H.R. 1162: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 1170: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 1190: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 1197: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 1202: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 1206: Mr. FLORES.
- H.R. 1209: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HANNA, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LEE, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
- H.R. 1210: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 1211: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 1220: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SCHRAEDER.
- H.R. 1247: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 1270: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. POMPEO.
- H.R. 1271: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 1274: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
- H.R. 1287: Mr. PALAZZO.
- H.R. 1288: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HANNA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
- H.R. 1293: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PAYNE.
- H.R. 1299: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
- H.R. 1300: Mr. NUNES and Mr. TURNER.
- H.R. 1301: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 1308: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 1310: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. MEEKS.
- H.R. 1312: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 1318: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. HECK of Washington.
- H.R. 1331: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. RIBBLE.
- H.R. 1332: Ms. FOX and Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 1346: Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 1347: Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 1375: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 1382: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 1384: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. COLE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 1387: Mr. MESSER and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
- H.R. 1388: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. BUCK.
- H.R. 1389: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. HULTGREN.
- H.R. 1391: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 1404: Mr. TAKAI.
- H.R. 1413: Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 1421: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 1434: Mrs. TORRES.
- H.R. 1439: Mr. BEYER and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
- H.R. 1441: Mr. KATKO.
- H.R. 1453: Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 1462: Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LANCE, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
- H.R. 1465: Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 1466: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE, Mr. JONES, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. NEAL.
- H.R. 1477: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 1479: Mr. BURGESS.
- H.R. 1492: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FARR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 1496: Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 1503: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. LOEBSACK.
- H.R. 1508: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
- H.R. 1516: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BARR, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. DOGGETT.
- H.R. 1519: Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 1531: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. JONES, and Mr. COLE.
- H.R. 1534: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 1545: Mr. NOLAN.
- H.R. 1546: Mr. BARR.
- H.R. 1559: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. CONAWAY.
- H.R. 1562: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
- H.R. 1563: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
- H.R. 1571: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LANCE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
- H.R. 1589: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1598: Mr. BEYER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POLIS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 1600: Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 1602: Mr. DEFazio.
- H.R. 1605: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. McCLINTOCK.
- H.R. 1607: Mr. HONDA and Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 1608: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HANNA, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr.

KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1612: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 1619: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1624: Mr. LATTI, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 1627: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1632: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1642: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WALKER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. PITTENGER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1654: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1664: Mr. MESSER and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1666: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1674: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BROWN of Florida and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1676: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1681: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1684: Mr. DOLD, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1692: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1707: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 1709: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1710: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1714: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1732: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 1734: Mr. LATTI, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1739: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1752: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.J. Res. 22: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.J. Res. 23: Mr. KEATING.

H.J. Res. 25: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.J. Res. 42: Mr. PALMER and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Con. Res. 28: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. NUGENT, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H. Con. Res. 30: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. WALZ, and Ms. DELBENE.

H. Res. 54: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE

GREEN of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. FUDGE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VELA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 110: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H. Res. 130: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SIREN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. ESTY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. COLE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. DENT, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. GIBSON.

H. Res. 154: Mr. HARDY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H. Res. 174: Mr. HANNA.

H. Res. 177: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 188: Mr. VEASEY.

## SENATE—Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, thank You for sustaining us with Your steadfast love and unchanging mercy. Without Your compassion, all of our efforts would be in vain. Your wondrous deeds keep us secure.

May our lawmakers remember that true greatness comes through service. May they embrace their accountability to You to be responsible stewards of the opportunities You provide them each day. Lord, strengthen them in their challenging work, reminding them often of the fragility of life. Empower them to trust You without waver.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### SENATE AGENDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week looks to be a busy one in the Senate. We have a lot of important legislation to consider. We are hoping our friends across the aisle will work with us to do so in an expeditious manner. For instance, we will begin the process of finishing our work on the balanced budget before the Senate, which the Senate passed just before Easter. Passing that balanced budget was a big moment for the new Senate. For years, the budget process was ignored almost entirely in this Chamber, and the idea of a balanced budget passing was basically unthinkable. But now the Senate is under new management. Things are changing. Soon we will conference with the House to work out a final budget that will be passed by the full Congress. That is just the latest example of Congress getting back to work. I know a lot of Americans are happy to see that.

But the budget is far from the only item on the Senate's near-term agenda. The Senate will soon consider bipartisan legislation that is designed to ensure that seniors on Medicare don't lose access to their doctors. It is a solution to a broken Medicare payment system that has vexed congressional leaders of both parties for years. It would mean an end to the annual exercise of Congress passing a temporary fix to the problem one year and then coming right back to the very same cliff the next year without actually solving the underlying problem.

So the fact that we have a bipartisan reform bill here is significant in itself. The fact that it passed the House overwhelmingly is even more significant. It doesn't mean the legislation is perfect. It doesn't mean we won't have some disagreements about it. But I do think the bill deserves a vote, and it is my hope that the Senate will soon take one.

We will also continue to work to pass the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It is legislation designed to prevent women and children from being sold into modern-day slavery. It was reported out of the Judiciary Committee with the support of every single Democrat, and the Senate took up this bill with the consent of every single Democrat. There is no reason they should now turn around and filibuster this antislavery bill at this point. As a victims advocate put it, Senate Democrats should stop choosing a phantom problem over real victims.

A large, bipartisan majority of the Senate has voted repeatedly to end a very regrettable Democratic filibuster of this antislavery bill. It will only take a few more votes from our friends across the aisle to bring hope to children in chains and women suffering in the shadows. So we have been reaching out to our friends to work with them to end this Democratic filibuster of human rights legislation. The Senate should pass this bipartisan bill right away, and as soon as that happens, we will turn to the Loretta Lynch nomination.

Committees in the new Senate are also working hard to advance more bipartisan legislation. We already saw the Intelligence Committee vote 14 to 1 to approve bipartisan legislation aimed at protecting the personal and financial information of middle-class Americans from cyber criminals. Over in the Finance Committee, we see the top Republican and the top Democrat continue to discuss the best way forward to increase American exports with new trade legislation. Today, we will see

another product of negotiations between a top committee Republican and a top committee Democrat—legislation aimed at reforming our education system—considered in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. We hope to bring all of these issues to the Senate floor for debate in the very near future.

Another important bipartisan bill that will be considered by committee today is the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. The Foreign Relations Committee is set to mark that up today. The legislation is supported by a large number of Democrats, and it is no wonder why. The bill is aimed at giving Congress and the American people a say—a say—in reviewing and approving an international agreement with such wide-ranging consequences. And the American people should have a say.

The interim agreement we saw from the administration would not only allow Iran to continue to enrich uranium and retain thousands of centrifuges but also allow it to continue researching and developing even more advanced centrifuges. In other words, it seems more like an agreement built around Iran's terms rather than a plan to advance what should be our national goal, which is ending Iran's nuclear program.

It is a matter of great concern not just to our country but to the entire world. The concerns of our allies and partners with regard to Iran's aggressive behavior throughout the Middle East were made clear when I recently led a Senate delegation to Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

This is a gravely important matter, and the American people aren't just spectators here; they and the representatives they elect deserve a seat at the table too. Today's bipartisan action in the Foreign Relations Committee will help ensure they do.

As I mentioned earlier, there will be a lot of activity in the Senate this week on a range of issues. It is good for the functioning of the Senate, but it also helps underline one clear point: The new Congress is back to work again on behalf of the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

# RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, people at home cannot see it, but every desk here on the Senate floor has a name on it. Mine says "Mr. REID." Right behind me is one that says "Mrs. MURRAY." To my right is one that says "Mr. MCCONNELL." Why do I mention this? Today is National Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes how far into 2015 American women must work to earn what their male counterparts earned in 2014. That day is today. Women basically worked for nothing until today. This pay disparity between men and women doing the same work is known as the wage gap. Unlike the desks here in the Chamber, the wage gap does not bear a visible stamp of ownership, but make no mistake—Republicans in Congress absolutely own the wage gap. Their names are all over it. The Republicans' refusal to address income disparities makes them responsible for the additional 3 months and 14 days that American women work to earn what their male counterparts earn doing the exact same work at the exact same time.

Who are these working American women who are being forced to work for months just to catch up on wages? They are our daughters, our wives, our granddaughters, and our neighbors. Republicans' repeated filibusters of equal pay legislation makes them responsible for working women in our families having to make due on 78 cents for every dollar their male counterparts make.

Democrats have tried repeatedly to pass Senator MIKULSKI's Paycheck Fairness Act, which would take away the disparity. It is pretty simple: If a man and a woman do the same work—no different—they should be paid the same amount of money. Very simple. We repeatedly tried to pass this simple legislation. This legislation provides working American women with the tools they need to close the wage gap. Yet, time and time again, Republicans have stonewalled this most basic issue of fairness. Five years ago, the Republicans filibustered the Paycheck Fairness Act. Two years later, the Republicans did the same thing. Last year, they blocked the bill two times. Just last month in the budget debate, Senator MIKULSKI gave the Republicans another chance. Once again, the Republicans blocked it. Five times in 5 years Republicans have blocked equal pay for women. Five times in 5 years Republicans have told their very own sisters, daughters, and wives, and, of course, their grandchildren that they are not interested in fixing this unfair income disparity. That is why I say the Republicans own the wage gap. They own it.

Today, as we recognize Equal Pay Day, I hope my Republican colleagues

come to their senses and address this injustice which is hurting millions of American families.

American women deserve equal pay for equal work. My daughter deserves equal pay for equal work.

Would the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant Democratic leader.

## ILLINOIS TORNADOES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week on Thursday, the evil forces of nature struck in Fairdale, IL. Since that moment of terrible loss—two lives and many injuries, terrible property destruction—we have seen the better angels of our nature come forward.

This is an all-too-common picture in my part of the world in central Illinois and downstate Illinois. This is the devastation from a tornado of dramatic power and strength. Two twisters—one of them a category EF-4, with wind speeds of up to 200 miles an hour—tore through DeKalb and Ogle Counties and badly damaged the towns of Fairdale and Rochelle last Thursday evening. That picture tells part of the story of the tornadoes' path, where giant trees were uprooted, homes ripped from their foundations. The damage is stunning.

Sadly, two women, neighbors who lived in Fairdale, lost their lives in the event. Geraldine Schultz and a close friend and neighbor, Jacklyn Klosa, both fell victim to the tornado that struck their homes. Neighbors say the two friends were inseparable in life and both departed life at the same moment.

The tight-knit communities of Fairdale and Rochelle are pulling together today to help victims sort through the rubble. One tornado tracked a 25-mile continuous path from near Rochelle through Fairdale, to near Belvidere.

This is a photo of what was, until Thursday, a popular restaurant in the town of Rochelle, IL, about 80 miles from Chicago. Twelve people, including diners and staff, were inside Grubsteakers Restaurant when the tornado struck. It was a miracle. Everybody made it into the basement just in time before the twister hit. They all survived, though they were trapped in the basement for an hour and a half waiting for rescue crews to clear them.

A few people had to be treated for cuts and bruises. Everyone was covered in thick dust that had blown from overhead, but they lived through it, a terrible, terrifying ordeal. On Friday I spoke and again on Saturday with the director, the head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, James Joseph. Governor Rauner was out at the scene the next day after the tornado. We sent our staff there to monitor any possible Federal assistance that might be coordinated with the State and local effort.

We are continuing to gather the information together to see if there is a possibility of Federal help, but I have been very wary because of two recent experiences in Illinois—in Washington, IL, and Harrisburg—where tornado damage there looked so devastating and still did not meet the threshold qualification for Federal assistance.

When I spoke with Rochelle Mayor Chet Olson, and DeKalb County board chairman Mark Pietrowski, I told them to do their homework and keep track of their expenses but that it was a long shot for Federal help. I made it clear the delegation and I stand ready to help in any way we can, particularly working with the Governor.

As is so often the case when a disaster such as this strikes, the first responders, friends, and family members wasted no time rushing to the aid of people whose homes and businesses were damaged. I have no doubt the people in Fairdale, Rochelle, and all of the other areas that were struck will clean up and rebuild. They will mourn the loss of life, they will heal the wounds of those who were injured, and they will start tomorrow to make another day.

For the families of the women who lost their lives and for everybody who lost homes and property, our thoughts are with you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 11:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:36 a.m., recessed until 11:31 a.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FLAKE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

## OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, tomorrow is April 15. April 15 is a date



that causes a great deal of stress and anxiety for hard-working American taxpayers. For millions of American families, this year is going to be worse than ever before. The Obama health care law, ObamaCare, is making tax day harder for Americans.

American taxpayers who were forced into the ObamaCare system—well, they are having to fill out even more forms this year than in the past, so many forms that the Internal Revenue Service can then enforce all of the President's health care mandates. It is a complicated and burdensome process.

President Obama promised that buying health insurance through ObamaCare was going to be as easy as buying a television on Amazon. Well, why didn't the President ever say it was going to be so difficult to satisfy the IRS? Why didn't the President say that hard-working American taxpayers would have to fill out pages and pages of forms just to find out if they had actually paid the right amount for their health insurance? Why didn't the President say that people who changed jobs during the year might have to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to the IRS?

That doesn't happen when you buy a television on Amazon. Amazon tells you the price, and that is what you pay. Amazon doesn't make you fill out the forms on April 15; Amazon doesn't demand more money from you after the amount you paid. But that is what is happening to millions of Americans across the country. Taxes were already too complicated. Now, because of ObamaCare, it is much worse.

For this year's tax filing season, the IRS released seven new forms that people might have to fill out to comply with the new health care law. The instructions alone for these forms are 46 pages long.

A married couple with 2 children might have to enter numbers and other information into 133 individual boxes on just 1 of the new ObamaCare tax forms. A family could spend more time filling out one of these forms than they used to spend filling out their entire tax returns in the past.

So for people who go through all of this effort, the results actually still can be terrifying.

CNN ran a report earlier this year about the problem. The headline was: "I have to pay back my ObamaCare subsidy." They told the story of Janice Riddle from Los Angeles. She got an ObamaCare subsidy last year. Then when she got a new job, she forgot to tell the IRS about the new job. They sort of knew because she was getting paid from the new job and she was paying taxes, but she didn't actually alert the IRS about it from the standpoint of ObamaCare. So when she was doing taxes this year, she learned she has to pay back the entire amount of the subsidy, more than \$5,000.

She told CNN:

I'm in shock . . . but I have no choice. Do I want to argue with the IRS or the Obama administration?

Well, Janice is not alone. The Obama administration says as many as 7.5 million families in America will have to reconcile their ObamaCare subsidies on their taxes for 2014 when they have the filing deadline tomorrow.

According to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, last month only 4 percent of all the families who qualified for a subsidy got the right amount. So the Kaiser Family Foundation did a study last month, and what they have come out with is only 4 percent of all the families across the country who qualified for a subsidy got the right amount. The study found that half of all U.S. households that were eligible for a subsidy would have to pay back some of it with their taxes this year. The average amount they are going to have to pay back is \$794.

One of those people who just found out he owes the government so much money is Rob Tuck from Dublin, CA. According to an article last week by the Associated Press, he said he had expected to actually get a refund for his taxes—a refund of \$400 for his taxes from his work last year. It turns out his refund has been almost wiped out—wiped out—to repay some of the subsidy he got to buy an expensive ObamaCare policy. He changed jobs during the year. He got a little extra income. In America, that should be a good thing, you get extra income. Well, not for him. It came with a large pricetag from the government. He said he enrolled in the plan to avoid the tax penalties of being uninsured, and he says that now he feels penalized by the Obama administration anyway.

Another person who is feeling penalized by the President's health care law is Bill Preus of St. Petersburg, FL. He was quoted in the same Associated Press article last week. This man was only on ObamaCare for 3 months. After that time, he went onto Medicare. Well, there was poor coordination between the ObamaCare Web site, healthcare.gov, and his insurance company. Because of that, he may have to pay the IRS close to \$4,000.

Now, the man used to own an insurance agency, and, according to the article, he said he is used to complexity, but he said he never has seen anything like this. He told the Associated Press: "It's a total mess."

His tax preparer and the IRS both told him—his tax preparer and the IRS—that the best thing to do was to file an incomplete return so it would trigger an audit and then they could sort things out.

Is that the President's idea of his health care plan being as easy to use as buying a TV on Amazon? This man has to go through an IRS audit. That is what they are hoping for, to get au-

dited by the IRS. Apparently, that is the easiest way for Washington to figure out its own rules. It is outrageous.

When the President, in the past, has been asked about the health care law, he said it is actually working better than he expected. What did he expect when people are telling stories such as these?

The President's health care law is more than 2,000 pages long. It paid for thousands of IRS agents—people to investigate American taxpayers to make sure they comply with all the law's destructive and expensive mandates. But all of that complexity has become a disaster. This law has been bad for patients, it has been bad for providers, and as we reach the IRS filing deadline tomorrow, it is clear this law is terrible for taxpayers.

This isn't what Democrats promised, and it is not what the American people wanted. People didn't want more red-tape, more stress. They just wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. That is what Republicans in the Senate are working to give them. We can do it without more IRS audits. We can do it without a 2,000-page law. We can do it without making tax day harder for Americans. We can do it without all the negative side effects of ObamaCare.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, SGR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on April 2, President Obama unveiled a nuclear agreement with Iran. The purpose of the administration's negotiations with Iran was simple: Prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. But the agreement the Obama administration seems to have arrived at cast doubts on whether the administration will be able to achieve that goal. The framework does not shut down a single nuclear facility in Iran. It does not destroy a single centrifuge in Iran. It doesn't stop research and development on Iran's centrifuges. And it allows Iran to keep a substantial part of its existing stockpile of enriched uranium.

It is not surprising that Members of both parties are concerned about this agreement. Democrats and Republicans are worried because it appears the administration is not trying to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon but simply trying to manage when Iran will develop one. Again and again during the process Secretary Kerry and

the President seemed to forget that the goal of the negotiation was not a deal for its own sake but a deal that would actually stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

American priorities were sacrificed for the sake of getting an agreement. In the process, the administration may have ensured that the deal they finally arrived at is too weak to achieve its goal.

The stakes on this one are very high. The deal we are talking about here is not a trade agreement. It is not a land dispute. It is not a negotiation over water rights. It is a question of whether a tyrannical oppressive regime that has backed terrorists and announced its intention of taking the country of Israel off the map should get access to the most apocalyptic weapons known to man.

The deal we arrive at in the coming months will shape the Middle East for decades to come, and the cost of failure will be nothing less than a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Imagine for a second what it would be like to have a nuclear-armed Middle East.

Right now we are already witnessing a quasi-proxy war in Yemen with Iran supporting the Houthis and a Saudi Arabia-led coalition bombing the Houthis and supporting the ousted government. Imagine that same scenario if both major powers had nuclear weapons at their disposal. Make no mistake, that is the type of situation we could be facing if we fail to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, not to mention the threat that our ally Israel would be facing.

Today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is set to mark up a bipartisan Iran bill for consideration by the full Senate. The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 would give Congress 60 days to approve or disapprove any final agreement. This legislation would ensure the American people, through their representatives in Congress, have a voice in any final agreement with Iran.

Given the fact the ramifications of this agreement will last well beyond the Obama administration, it is essential the American people have a voice in this process, which makes congressional review indispensable. This bill would also ensure Iran is held accountable for upholding its end of the agreement by requiring the President to evaluate Iran's compliance every 90 days.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support, and I believe it will quickly pass the Senate. I am hopeful the President will listen to the concerns the American people have expressed and ensure they are addressed before any final agreement is reached.

Every Member of Congress would like to see the President successfully conclude a deal with Iran that would prevent Iran from developing a nuclear

weapon, but the President needs to remember that a deal is only acceptable if it achieves that goal. If we can't secure a deal that will prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, then we should step back from the negotiating table and reimpose the sanctions that were so successful in driving Iran to the table in the first place. Anything less than a verifiable, accountable, and enforceable deal with Iran is a failure.

One bright spot in this Iran debate has been the bipartisan cooperation I just mentioned that has characterized the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. This is a trend we are seeing a lot more of in the Republican-led Senate. There was the bipartisan Keystone bill, the bipartisan legislation to prevent suicide among veterans, the bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, the bipartisan legislation to increase penalties for perpetrators and provide restitution for victims of child pornography, and now there is the bipartisan Iran bill.

This week we have another bipartisan agreement. Today, Congress will vote to repeal the flawed sustainable growth rate formula that has been used to calculate doctors' Medicare reimbursements since its enactment in 1997. This formula was supposed to control spending, but it never worked effectively. Since 2003, Congress has had to patch the formula regularly to ensure that physicians are paid a reasonable amount for their services.

In all, there have been 17 patches or short-term fixes—Band-Aids, if you will—enacted over the last 12 years. The bipartisan solution that is being considered on the Senate Floor today repeals this flawed formula permanently and replaces it with a payment system that focuses on quality, not quantity. It also puts in place the first significant reforms in Medicare in a long time.

Without reforms, the Medicare trust fund will be insolvent as soon as 2030, leaving seniors without access to the care they have been promised. The bipartisan agreement we are passing today starts the process of strengthening Medicare and putting it on a more sustainable path going forward so that the current generation of seniors as well as future generations can enjoy the benefits they have been promised.

With the return of bipartisanship and regular order we have had here over the first few months of the Republican-led Senate, I am disappointed the Democrats are continuing to obstruct a bill that should be the most obviously bipartisan bill we have taken up all year. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would provide law enforcement with additional resources to combat the scourge of human trafficking and increase the resources available to trafficking victims.

This bill was cosponsored by 12 Democrats, in addition to 21 Repub-

licans, and it appeared to have strong bipartisan support for passage. In fact, it was reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously.

Unfortunately, Members of the Democratic Party's most extreme wing decided to fixate on a funding restriction in the bill that has been a routine part of appropriations bills and spending bills around here for decades. The Hyde amendment reflects the sentiments of a majority of Americans. That is the funding restriction that I referred to. The sentiment of a majority of Americans is that the Federal Government shouldn't be using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions. It has been the consensus view around here literally since 1976.

It is unfortunate the leftwing of the Democratic Party has taken the extreme step of holding up relief for victims of human trafficking over language that simply maintains a status quo—the status quo that has been in place around here since 1976.

Every year thousands of innocent victims—most frequently women and children—are trafficked within the borders of the United States. Many of these victims are children who are bought and sold to feed the twisted desires of sexual predators. Others are forced into lives of slave labor, compelled to work in the shadows without the protection of the law. Rescuing these innocent victims and ensuring their captors are punished must be a priority.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act has been endorsed by 200 advocacy groups, including the NAACP, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Rights4Girls, the National Association to Protect Children, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Conference of State Legislatures. It provides new tools for law enforcement and new help for trafficking victims.

It is time for the Democrats to stop obstructing this legislation and to allow the Senate to pass this bill—a bipartisan achievement and something that is much needed and long overdue. There is a crisis in this country that needs to be addressed. We can do something about it. We ought to do it, and we ought to do it now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, we are here today because our Medicare status quo

is not working and it hasn't been working for a long time.

For decades, Medicare has been on a path to insolvency. In 1997, Congress attempted to impose some fiscal discipline on the program by creating the sustainable growth rate or SGR. This is a budget-enforcing mechanism that calls for annual adjustments to the amounts physicians are reimbursed for treating Medicare patients.

The SGR was originally billed as a permanent solution to Medicare's unsustainable fiscal trajectory. The idea was to restrain Medicare spending by linking physician reimbursements to a target amount based on the general performance of the economy as a whole.

While this may have seemed like a good idea at the time—when the economy was relatively strong and stable and growing—it quickly lost its appeal when we went into the 2001 recession just a few years later.

The plan also suffered from the central planners' fatal conceit that trusts bureaucracies, rather than consumer preferences and real price pressures, to determine the cost of a particular good or service. As it turns out, the actual cost of medical goods and services and the practice patterns of physicians do not necessarily align with the health of the economy or the predictions of government bureaucrats.

So each year since 2003, the SGR formula has called for cuts to physician payments, and each year—often several times each year—Congress has passed legislation to temporarily prevent the reimbursement reductions from kicking in.

While these so-called doc fix bills have yielded some modest savings as new spending has traditionally been offset with cuts elsewhere in the budget, they have not restrained the quickening pace of Medicare spending. While they have successfully avoided cuts to doctors' pay, they have put the Medicare system in a near constant state of uncertainty and instability, leaving Medicare doctors and their patients hanging in the balance.

America's physicians and America's seniors deserve better than this, but they also deserve better than the bill before us today—H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

Congress has long wanted to repeal the SGR—and with good reason—but this is not the way to do it. Not only does the House bill double down on Medicare's broken price control model, but it does so, according to the Congressional Budget Office, while adding \$141 billion to the Federal debt over the next decade.

Let's look first at the policy implications of the underlying bill.

The new payment scheme proposed in this bill is simply more of the same inefficient form of central planning that

further embeds Washington bureaucracy into every aspect of our health care system. It continues the role of the Federal Government as price setter, rather than the price taker, in the free market. It also inflates the administration's power as the regulator and compliance officer.

The principal change proposed by H.R. 2 is to move from a Medicare payment system based on volume to one based on bureaucratic measures of quality and value, but we already know this doesn't work because it is the same policy introduced under ObamaCare that requires physicians to comply with established government guidelines and stick to rigid, one-size-fits-all best practices or pay a penalty.

Instead, we should be freeing the health care community from heavy-handed regulation and constant intrusive bureaucratic scrutiny. Doing so is the only way to allow doctors to develop individualized quality treatment plans for each of their patients and to unleash innovation in the delivery of health care.

But with the current doc fix expiring tomorrow and Medicare physicians facing a 21-percent pay cut, there is not enough time to reopen the bill and rewrite it with better policies. But there is—there is—enough time to address the fiscal irresponsibility of this bill.

That is why I am offering an amendment to this bill that would simply require Congress to pay for that \$141 billion under its normal pay-as-you-go budget rules—rules that this bill explicitly exempts itself from in section 525 of the bill. The pay-as-you-go budgeting rules, which share bipartisan support in Congress and the White House, wouldn't force us to offset the new spending immediately. Rather, we would have until the end of the year to find these savings and 10 years in which to achieve them.

My amendment would not delay or change anything else in the bill. Doctors and seniors wouldn't notice any difference. It would just require Congress to budget for the costs, just as we promised we would.

Indeed, just 2 weeks ago, the Senate passed a 10-year balanced budget, stating specifically that any SGR patch or repeal would not add to the deficit. So passing this bill in its current form would not only be irresponsible, it would be dishonest. It would be inconsistent with what we have just said with the budget.

We have known for a long time that Medicare cannot survive without structural changes to its price control system, and we know this bill, H.R. 2, does not contain such reforms. They aren't there. According to a report issued last week by Medicare's actuaries, "Under the new payment system, most doctors will see cuts in 2025."

The only way to put Medicare on a sound fiscal footing is to make it work

for America's doctors and for America's seniors. To do that, we need to work toward replacing the centralized price-fixing system of the status quo with a functional consumer market that empowers seniors' access to the high-quality, individualized health care they deserve, and that enables doctors to do what they do best, which is provide the very best medical treatment in the entire world.

This is my goal. I believe this is a goal widely shared within this Chamber. But we can't deceive ourselves: To get there, we must be responsible with the public trust and we must be honest with ourselves. To that end, I implore my colleagues to support this amendment.

To put it very simply, paying for this new spending is the right thing to do, and we just passed a budget promising that we would do it. My amendment does nothing more than hold us to that very promise.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess as under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, hopefully this afternoon we will take up a very important piece of legislation coming over from the House of Representatives that received an overwhelming vote of Republicans and Democrats alike—a package negotiated at the highest levels of the House leadership between Speaker BOEHNER and his staff and NANCY PELOSI and her staff.

What could it be that brings the political parties and the leaders of the parties in the House together to try to build a consensus and come up with a solution? Well, it is really to right a wrong or remedy a mistake Congress made back in 1997. Basically, at that time, Congress decided, in order to save money on health care costs, it would begin periodically to cut the amount of money that was reimbursed to health care providers—primarily doctors and

hospitals. That is how Congress thought way back then we were going to save money.

What has happened in 17 of the 18 times these cuts will have been implemented? Well, Congress has realized it was a mistake. Here is the problem. When you tell doctors in rural parts of Texas "You are going to earn 20 percent less to treat a Medicare patient tomorrow than you did today," well, what they are going to decide is "Can I afford to keep my doors open? Can I afford to pay the bills? And maybe I can't afford to see any more Medicare patients." When doctors simply refuse or are unable to afford to see Medicare patients, then our seniors lack access to health care they need and they deserve.

So in very difficult, contentious times politically, I think this so-called sustainable growth rate—or doc fix—bill I am alluding to which is over here from the House and which I hope we will vote on this afternoon actually represents a commonsense solution to one of our big challenges and certainly will get Congress out of this embarrassing position of every 6 months to a year or so having to come back and backfill and fix a problem we ourselves created back in 1997.

Hopefully, we will be able to pass this legislation and get it done and give physicians and health care providers the certainty they need about the reimbursement rates under Medicare and thus will allow more of them to see more seniors and provide them health care benefits under Medicare.

Now, some people may say: Well, this bill is not perfect. They would be right. It is not perfect. But actually there is no such thing as a perfect piece of legislation, particularly when it is the product of bipartisan negotiations where both sides had to give in a little in order to get to an agreement. But I do commend Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI for working in a bipartisan way and producing something that has received resounding support from the House of Representatives.

As I said, this legislation provides our health care professionals with a predictable expectation for reimbursement rates—an idea that has, sadly, only been a dream for many physicians in Texas and across the country and one that Congress can now and should make a reality.

But this legislation also does something else very significant. It not only addresses the reimbursement rate of doctors, it also introduces other changes to Medicare that will help reduce the deficit over the long term—not just for the next 10 years but 20 years out and beyond.

Now some people might say: Well, if Congress passes this legislation now, can't they come back and undo it next year? The pattern has actually been when there have been negotiated bipar-

tisan agreements on things as important as Medicare and Social Security that they tend to stick and they tend to stay in place. So I believe that while this negotiation certainly was no easy task and while it is a modest first step, the good news is it does represent real meaningful entitlement reform—something the President of the United States said he supports and something now that both parties here in Washington and Congress have been able to support.

This bill does make important strides on a difficult issue. When I said a moment ago it is not perfect, let me explain exactly what I mean by that. Not all of this bill is paid for. Today I plan on offering an amendment that would keep our country from growing into greater debt by offering a pay-for for this piece of legislation.

How would we do that? Well, my amendment—which I hope, again, we will vote on this afternoon in a series of as many as eight votes and final passage of the bill—would repeal the individual mandate from ObamaCare. That would, according to the Congressional Budget Office, free up literally close to \$400 billion that could then be used to satisfy the deficit for this so-called doc fix.

Many have rightly demanded an offset for the bill. I am very sympathetic to that, and my amendment is designed to address it, because—as the Presiding Officer knows, given his long service not only in the Bush administration, at OMB, and in the Congress as well as the Senate—we have to do something about the long-term debt and unfunded liabilities of the Federal Government. I am amazed almost daily about the lack of urgency. Perhaps that is because interest rates are relatively low and we are not feeling the drain of debt service payments to our country's creditors because they buy our debt and they demand to be paid interest or debt service on that debt. When interest rates begin to creep back up again, as they invariably will, that is going to put a real dent in everything from national security to the safety net programs that we all believe are important. So my amendment will repeal the individual mandate in ObamaCare and help pay for this appropriate fix in doctor reimbursement rates in Medicare.

You may ask, well, isn't that a pretty dramatic or controversial thing to do, to repeal the individual mandate in ObamaCare? I asked my staff to go back and get some quotes from a candidate running for President in 2008, who happens to be the current occupant of the White House. Here is what then-Senator Obama said on February 28, 2008, on one TV show:

Here's the concern. If you haven't made it affordable, how are you going to enforce a mandate. I mean, if a mandate was the solution, we can try that to solve homelessness by mandating everybody to buy a house.

Well, as the Presiding Officer knows, the President actually said when we passed ObamaCare—frankly, without my support and the support of this side of the aisle—the President claimed it would lower health care premiums by \$2,500 a year for a family of four. That has proven not to be the case. But quite clearly, the President himself, when he was running for office in 2008, opposed the individual mandate.

Here is another quote from CNN in 2008. This is Senator Obama running for President. He said:

In some cases there are people who are paying fines and they still can't afford it, so now they are worse off than they were. They don't have health insurance and they are paying a fine.

That is what the individual mandate is all about, as you know. I will go on with the quote. "And in order for you to force people to get health insurance, you've got to have a very harsh, stiff penalty."

So President Obama, back when he was candidate Obama, back when he was Senator Obama, opposed the individual mandate. All my amendment would do would be to repeal the individual mandate and allow us to obtain a savings to pay for this legislation.

I will read one more quote, because I find the irony pretty rich. Senator Obama said—and this was when he was running against then-Senator Clinton, who apparently is now again running for President. Senator Obama said in 2008:

She believes that we have to force people who don't have health insurance to buy it, otherwise there will be a lot of people who don't get it. I don't see those folks, and I think that it is important for us to recognize that if you're going to mandate the purchase of insurance and it's not affordable, then there's going to have to be some enforcement mechanism that government uses. And they may charge people who already don't have healthcare fines or have to take it out of their paychecks. And that I don't think is helping those without health insurance.

So my amendment that would offer to pay for this bill would repeal the mandate that then-Senator Obama, candidate for President, was so critical of. It would repeal a tax on the American people that coerces our citizens into purchasing health care they apparently don't want or they wouldn't otherwise buy but for the threat of government coercion.

The better way to do it, in my view, is to make health care more affordable, not to make it more expensive and say if you don't buy the government-approved care—even if you don't want what it provides—then we are going to coerce you to do it. We are going to penalize you for it. This is bad for America and hurts people instead of giving them the helping hand they need when it comes to health care.

We are going to have a lot more to say about how we need to repeal and replace ObamaCare with more affordable health insurance that gives people

access to the doctors and services they want and need. But on the present bill, no one denies the need for a long-term permanent solution to the way we pay health care providers under Medicare. So for the benefit of physicians, our seniors, and the American people, we need to do this, but we also need to find a way to pay for it.

I am hoping we pass this legislation today. I believe the current provision expires at midnight tonight. It is important that we stop kicking the can down the road and we allow our family doctors to do what we want them to do most, which is to focus on what they do best and what our families need the most. At the same time, it will ensure seniors access to the care they need. Such a meaningful solution is long overdue.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I think the American people deserve to see the contrast between how nominees were treated in the last decade, during the Bush administration, versus how they are treated in this decade, during the Obama administration.

When former President Bush nominated John Ashcroft to be U.S. Attorney General, it was controversial. I was one of 42 Democrats who opposed the nomination. Yet it only took 42 days for John Ashcroft to get a vote on confirming his appointment because neither I nor other Democrats stood in the way and blocked actually having a vote.

Now, I agree that was a different time, where filibusters were not used every single day on every single issue, unfortunately. But I remember that at that time our Republican colleagues came to the floor and said: Elections have consequences. When a President is elected, he or she has the opportunity to put forward their nominees and have a vote. Day after day people came to the floor and said: Just let us vote. Just let us vote. And we did let the vote happen.

As of today, President Obama's nominee for Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, has waited 157 days and counting, and we intend to count the days. In fact, since the Judiciary Committee reported Loretta Lynch's nomination out of committee, she has now waited longer for a vote on the Senate floor

than the last seven attorneys general combined—seven attorneys general combined. She has waited longer than seven attorneys general combined.

The U.S. Senate has the constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent to the President as it relates to his appointments. That is a serious responsibility and we are not asking that someone vote yes if they want to vote no. They have a right to vote no. We have had enough Members now come forward that it is clear she actually has the votes. We have had enough Members indicate they would support her that we know we could get a vote on the floor and that she would, in fact, be confirmed as the Attorney General. But everyone has the right to state their piece, to vote as their conscience would have them vote. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have so far withheld the respect given to other Presidents—to President Bush. They have withheld that from this President.

If this is frustrating to me, I can only imagine how frustrating it is to Loretta Lynch, who I know is eager to get on with the work of our Nation's top law enforcement official. I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Lynch in early December. She impressed me with her passion for upholding the rule of law and her belief that law enforcement could be a partner in building stronger and more cohesive communities. I talked to her about how the Justice Department could play a role in supporting ethnic diversity in communities such as Detroit and Flint and other communities across Michigan.

Loretta Lynch understands the devastating effect racial profiling has had on the relationship between the police and the public, which is why I am pleased to learn of her support for police body cameras and so many other policies that would help in that regard. In addition, she understands the threat posed by those who would intimidate Americans from participating in elections.

I regret Loretta Lynch has not yet been granted the opportunity to play her role in promoting access to the polls and preventing groups from being disenfranchised. I regret our FBI, with all it must do for the safety and security of Americans, does not have a permanent Attorney General to direct it. I regret there is not a permanent Attorney General to advise prosecutors about actions to take against banks that commit fraud against homeowners. I regret our Republican colleagues are continuing to perform the same stunts in the majority as they did in the minority: to govern by holding government functions hostage.

Those who oppose the nomination have every right to vote no, every right to fight to defeat this nomination, but if they continue to refuse to give the advice and counsel and perform the

duty they are sworn to uphold under the Constitution and continue to block a simple vote on a nomination from the President of the United States for Attorney General of this country, they are doing a disservice, I believe, to our country.

We have heard so often from people they are so tired of Congress obstructing and not acting. I would urge colleagues to get on about the business of a nomination that has been held on this floor for too long—too long—and 157 days is too long. It does a disservice to all of us to see this continue. We need Loretta Lynch as our Attorney General.

We have a lot of business to conduct in the Senate and a lot of very important topics coming up. We need to get about the business of allowing this vote. However it goes is how it goes. We have indicated, we have the votes if we are allowed to vote, but everyone has a right to express themselves. Let us put in place a competent, strong Attorney General for the country and then move on to other serious issues that we have to address in the Senate. It is time to vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I have been a strong advocate and a believer that it is time for us to fix the physicians' payment method for Medicare and Medicaid—for the providing of health care by doctors—and put it on a permanent basis right now.

We have 17 times passed last-minute legislation to avoid what now would be a 21-percent cut in doctors' reimbursement rates for doing Medicare work. That is not acceptable. We need to end that. They do not need to be worried every year whether or not Congress is going to cut their pay. In fact, they cannot do the work with a 20-percent cut. They will not do it, they can't do it financially, and it would be devastating to Medicare. I believe that, and I think all of us believe in that.

The 17 different times when this issue has come up since 2003 we have paid for it. Republicans in particular have insisted that we will find the money through some sort of other reduction in government spending and move that over to pay for this critical need, without which Medicare would collapse.

I thought now that we want to do it permanently, it should be done in a way that is financially sound and does not add to the debt and has good policy in it.

Some of my colleagues have already talked about the policy that would be in this legislation. I am not prepared to be a big critic of that. I am sure it could be done in different ways. My focus right now is just based on my experience from the Committee on the

Budget and the spending we are doing in Congress to try to get the thing done right. It must be paid for.

The bill to be advanced today contains over 250 pages. It was rushed through the House of Representatives with the promises that “it pays for all new future spending” and “it offsets all new spending.” Well, both of those statements are not true. That is just not true. The bill is not paid for and it does not offset the new spending.

Because of a desire to get this fixed, an attempt was made by the House so the Senate, on the night we completed work on the budget at 3 a.m. before recess, would pass this bill without even having a good official score—at least not one we were able to examine over a period of time—and without any knowledge of what was in the bill. Senator MCCONNELL and Members of the Congress said: No, we are not going to rush this through—\$200-something billion in expenditures over 10 years—at 3 a.m. in the morning with nobody having had a chance to look at it.

We had some 700 amendments filed to the Budget Act so we didn’t pass it that night. It has been moved forward now, and we have a deadline tonight. Presumably, if we don’t fix something tonight, physicians will begin to see cuts in their pay. Of course, too often that is what happens around here. Too often a bill that is not sound financially is moved at the very last minute and Members are told: If you don’t pass it now, then something bad is going to happen. In this case, doctors, whom we respect and admire and need, are not going to be able to get the pay they deserve and have been receiving, and they are going to be hurt by these cuts.

Well, there are opportunities to extend this. We could pass legislation this afternoon, tonight, that would extend this for a period of time, if need be, but the reason we are at the end, the last minute, is because it was designed that way.

Only days after passing the Senate budget, that we were proud to see balanced with a \$3 billion surplus, we are talking about passing new legislation that would add \$174 billion to the debt over the next 10 years. Another estimate shows that over 20 years it is a \$500 billion addition to the debt of the United States—one-half of a trillion dollars.

The bill violates the Budget Act. The Budget Control Act, which we passed in 2011, set a limit on how much spending could occur. There may be as many as eight—let me repeat, eight—violations of budget rules that are involved in this legislation. The Committee on the Budget is looking at this, and these are the numbers it may violate.

One, it likely violates section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act by spending in excess of the budget allocation of the Committee on Finance for the next fiscal year, over the next 5 years, and over the next 10 years.

Two, it may violate section 311(a)(2)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act by spending \$7.4 billion in excess of the aggregate spending top line agreed to for fiscal year 2015—this year we are in.

Three, it likely violates the Senate pay-go rules. The bill increases the on-budget deficit by \$74 billion over both the 5- and 10-year budget periods, thus exceeding the balance on the Senate pay-go scorecard.

Four, H.R. 2 increases short-term deficits. Over the 10-year budget window it would increase deficits by \$141 billion.

Now, \$141 billion and \$174 billion, what is the difference? Well, when you spend \$141 billion more than you are supposed to over 10 years, financed by deficit spending, all of that money, every penny of it, is borrowed in order to be spent, which means you have to pay interest on the money you borrow. So it is not \$141 billion, it is \$174 billion. That includes the interest on the \$141 billion over 10 years that has been accumulated and will continue to accumulate in the next decade and the decade after that.

Five, the bill increases long-term deficits.

Six, it may violate section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act by including language that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget that has not been reported or discharged from the Committee on the Budget.

Seven, it likely violates section 303(a) of the Budget Act by creating new spending in a fiscal year without a budget resolution.

Eight, it may violate section 401 of the Budget Act by creating new entitlement spending during the fiscal year.

We tried to contain ourselves, and one of the things we rightly did was to create a budget violation aimed to prevent the creation of new entitlement programs during the current fiscal year.

So these are not technical violations, as it might appear to some. They are mechanisms by which the crafters of the Budget Act deliberately tried to contain the Senate from figuring out ways to gimmick and get around spending limits. They created all these steps, each one based on history, for the most part in order to stop abuses. So it violates these provisions because it spends more money than we are supposed to be able to spend and more than what we agreed to spend.

So H.R. 2 increases long-term deficits. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office’s letter to Speaker BOEHNER, enacting this bill in its current form would increase the Nation’s long-term deficits. Long-term deficits are those deficits created after the first 10 years of the current budget window.

A lot of times they will write a bill so it looks as if it is OK for 10 years, knowing that in the future it will add to the debt. But nobody cares about that. So we made a budget point of order to try to identify long-term abuses—a good provision, I submit.

About a month or so ago we had before the Budget Committee, a professor from Boston University, I believe, who talked about the real threat to America’s financial condition. He said that we are on an unsustainable path, that we cannot continue on this path, and that it will result in financial dislocation and damage to America. And the most important thing to consider is this: What will a piece of legislation do to the long-term liabilities of the United States? Does it add to our unfunded liabilities or not? We need to be reducing our unfunded liabilities because they are so great—hundreds of trillions of dollars—and those unfunded liabilities financially threaten the very future of America.

This adds to that. We need to be figuring out ways to reduce the unfunded liabilities. I thought that is what our goal was. That is why we passed a budget that balances.

According to the Congressional Budget Office’s analysis, “taken as a whole, H.R. 2 would raise federal costs relative to current law in the second decade after enactment.”

In other words, it increases the deficit in the second decade. Some have tried to argue that in the second decade there is extra money coming in, in some way, and it will all be paid for—not so.

So let me explain. In its report to Speaker BOEHNER, the report that was used by the House as it proceeded to vote on this bill, the Congressional Budget Office indicated that not only would H.R. 2 increase short-term deficits by \$141 billion over the next 10 years but it would also increase long-term deficits over both, the first and second 10-year windows. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that this legislation would add a half trillion dollars to the debt in the next 20 years.

Half a trillion is real money—\$500 billion. We are struggling right now to figure out how we can permanently fix our highway bill so we have a long-term highway bill that is paid for. We need about \$10 billion, \$15 billion a year to achieve that. We are seeing a reduction in gasoline revenues. Congress wants to spend more than that, and we are looking for that money. This is over \$500 billion over 20 years, and \$174 billion over 10. These are huge sums of money.

The Federal highway bill is now under \$50 billion a year. Federal aid to education is about \$100 billion a year. This is just indicative of how much we are overspending.

The Office of the Actuary at CMS—the chief financial officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—is responsible for conducting and directing the actuarial program for CMS and directing the development and analysis of health care financing issues.

On April 9, Mr. Spitalnic released a review of the estimated financial effects of this legislation. Analysis conducted by the Heritage Foundation actuaries indicates that the drafters of the bill actually double-counted funds. While the bill anticipates higher premiums for Medicare Parts B and D and cuts to Medicare Part A, those savings would be \$55 billion and \$32 billion, respectively.

Medicare Part A is the trust fund American working people's money goes into off their paychecks every week. So most Americans believe they pay for Medicare. And they do, for the most part, although we are now taking in less money than is going out to a significant degree.

So what did this bill do? This bill cuts the expenditures for Medicare Part A, the trust fund part, and it claims that money—\$32 billion and \$55 billion, respectively—is now available to spend on the physicians to pay for their fix. But the physicians' Medicare part—when you go to a doctor and Medicare pays for that—that is not trust fund money. That is general revenue Treasury money.

So what has happened? They are cutting the reimbursements of hospitals and doctors. They claim it won't affect the benefits accrued to people who need health care, but it probably will. To cut the cost of providers of health care services, in effect, reduces the benefits that actually go to the patient.

So how does that money get from the trustees of Medicare—who are supposed to manage this program and take the money in that comes off our paychecks and goes to Medicare—to paying for something outside of Medicare Part A?

They take an oath to be responsible and faithful to the trust as trustees of Medicare. They don't give it to the U.S. Treasury. They loan it. There is a debt instrument. The money is loaned to them and the Federal Government pays interest. That is where we get the 30-some odd billion dollars in interest over 10 years—part of it.

The money that is being used to fund the portion that they claim is actually paid for I say is not paid for. The Congressional Budget Office has told us this technique is double counting. The money cannot be used to benefit Medicare and, at the same time, fund a new expenditure. We really have to watch this. It is something I have come to realize is one of the biggest gimmicks the Senate uses.

When ObamaCare was passed—on December 23, the night before it passed, we got a letter from the Congressional

Budget Office at my request. I read it on the floor on December 24, the day the bill passed. It said, I think, there was \$400 billion, \$500 billion in double-counted money they said was available to fund the Affordable Care Act.

Colleagues, we have got to be careful. A country goes broke by managing money this way—huge sums of money.

Beyond this gimmick, CMS Actuary Spitalnic goes on to say that H.R. 2 raises “important long-range concerns that would almost certainly need to be addressed by future legislation.”

When the bill's 5 percent annual bonuses in physician payments expire as scheduled in 2024—9 years from today—a major payment cut from most physicians would follow the next year, according to his report. The payment structure would also be troublesome in years with high inflation. So, in essence, by 2024, another round of doc fixes would be needed. In other words, not only does this bill add massively to the debt and engage in—I hate to say this—improper accounting, but it also fails to even provide the long-term solution it promises. It promises we are going to have a permanent fix of the payments of physicians. But this bill is not a permanent fix, and within 9 years we are going to be back in a situation that is unacceptable and has to be dealt with again by spending more money. By making these cuts in the outyears, the real costs are hidden.

We have a proposal that provides increases for doctors for the next 9 years and then begins to show reductions, and it claims, somehow, that this is going to pay for it. But Congress is not going to allow those reductions to take place either, because we are not going to be cutting doctors 5 percent a year for any 1 year, most likely.

It is not too late to make things right. The bill needs to go through regular order. It hasn't gone through our committee in the Senate. The House said the bill was going through the regular order. It hasn't gone through the regular order. It hasn't been through a committee where members have the chance to offer amendments. It is coming up on the floor. We are hardly having any amendments. I understand maybe we will have three amendments on each side. That is a pretty minuscule discussion when it supposedly has to be passed in a day. So the discussions will take place at midnight tonight.

Colleagues, we have to understand the importance of what we are doing. This legislation adds almost \$200 billion to the debt in the next 10 years. It breaks our past commitment and the precedent we have established to pay for these doc fixes. In fact, I have been most insistent that before we put the extra money for the physicians, we find a pay-for—some responsible reduction in spending elsewhere—so we can set priorities and pay for the doctors. This

is substantially abandoned in this legislation. I think it disregards Congress's commitment to honest accounting, the principles that we have established about how to accurately calculate the cost of legislation. It breaks the budget we had agreed to in 2011—the spending reductions in the Budget Control Act—and it violates the budget the Senate just passed a couple of weeks ago.

We need to think this through. I hate to object because I truly believe we need to take care of physicians' payments. It is absolutely wrong, and Congress has been negligent in failing to address this for years. It has been over a decade that we haven't dealt responsibly with this.

So I salute the House colleagues for saying we are going to develop a bill that fixes this over time. Unfortunately, it is not a permanent fix, as I originally thought it would be, but, it is also not a responsible fix, a grownup fix. The kind of action for which the American people depend on Congress, and hope to see, is not occurring because this bill adds to the debt.

We want to do something. We want to fix the doctors' problem, but we don't want to cut spending anywhere else.

Faced with that difficult choice, this legislation—at least to a two-thirds degree—does what we too often do: We just spend the money, commit to spending the money, and then add it to our credit card. We add it to the debt that is \$18 trillion now and growing dramatically, producing for us an annual interest payment of \$220 billion and putting us on a path—according to the Congressional Budget Office—of an almost \$900 billion interest payment in 10 years. I believe that is not good management of the people's business.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these grim remarks and to lament the difficult situation in which we find ourselves. I do believe the Lee amendment will fix this. Maybe other amendments will, too. But we certainly need to step forward and make sure we don't continue down this path.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.



MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, it is my hope that soon the Senate will be about to start voting on legislation that in one fell swoop will improve health care for millions of Americans. This discussion should start with a Medicare milestone. That milestone is abolishing once and for all the outdated, inefficiency-rewarding, commonsense-defying system of paying physicians under the Medicare Program.

As my colleague from New Hampshire knows, what I am talking about in the technical lingo of health care is the SGR, the sustainable growth rate. It is a horrendously flawed formula for paying doctors and providers who treat our Medicare patients. Yet despite this very sour pedigree, it has dominated much of the discussion about Medicare since 1997.

I wish we had put this flawed reimbursement system in the dustbin of history last year. As some of my colleagues know, I had sought to do that, along with the support of others. But I think now we have reached the point, on a bipartisan basis, where we have a chance for seniors and their providers to cross the victory line and be better off and have a better system for all Americans.

I thought I would take a minute or two before discussing some of the other health care efforts that I hope will go forward today to describe how this happens. A little over a year ago, there was not much reason to think we would not just keep passing this leaky boat. That is essentially what the Senate had been doing for years and years with this flawed program.

In fact, I remember one of our younger Members of this body was where the Presiding Officer of the Senate is sitting. I said: At this rate, we are probably going to be on patch No. 70 or 80 by the time we get around to really fixing this. So people were not very optimistic a little over a year ago. Since then, however, since that 17th patch, we saw Members on both sides of the aisle saying: It is time to start getting serious and getting traction for a permanent repeal-and-replace of this flawed reimbursement system.

In January of this year, momentum finally began to grow. In other words, we used that period in 2014 as a springboard. Discussions began with Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI. Their discussions were really based on the bipartisan, bicameral framework that was developed in 2014 when leaders in the other body and the Senate got together: Finance Members, Ways and Means Members, the Energy and Commerce Members. The combination of that work and Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI coming together leads us to where I hope we will be here before long, and that is, once and for all

abolishing this flawed reimbursement system.

If we did not take this action—and in effect it really has to be done now—without taking people through the root canal work of how the reimbursement system works at the Medicare center, what is called CMS, we do know that if Congress does not intervene, we would see physicians cut 21 percent. That would, in my view, cast a very strong shadow over our ability to serve America's older people. I mean, particularly in the rural areas of this country, we have a lot of those practices that serve older people walking on an economic tightrope right now. They are trying to figure out how to pay the staff and pay for equipment and lighting and everything else. A 21-percent cut would be enough, in my view, to really put some of those small rural practices out of business. So it was the judgment of this bicameral group that worked through 2014, that Leader PELOSI and Speaker BOEHNER picked up on this year, to come up with a very different kind of model to replace the Medicare reimbursement system that was so flawed, the SGR, with a merit-based incentive payment that rewards those who provide high-quality, high-value care. That, in my view, is how we get the best value for America's seniors who, of course, want to get the right amount of care at the right time. They want it to be of high quality.

A major part of this legislation will, in my view, help to promote better coordination of care. American health care is so fragmented and so strewn, kind of hither and yon, very often a senior can be treated by a variety of providers. No one really rides point on it. The senior ends up in the hospital emergency room.

At that point, when providers say: Who should we be in contact with? The senior is not even sure of all of the people, particularly if that senior has multiple chronic conditions—perhaps diabetes and a heart problem—the senior will not even know the array of providers they have seen, let alone have someone coordinate their care.

The good thing about this reform is it promotes that kind of care coordination. Also, physicians, as part of this, will have clear incentives to enter alternative payment models that are going to promote team services, services where there is a team of health care providers. It will require more Medicare transparency, more information about various services that are provided to older people so that there is some sunlight on this incredibly complicated system, particularly the Medicare Program that takes over \$500 billion a year and spends it in a way that has not been particularly transparent.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me closely on this for a number of years.

Finally, this legislation also makes permanent what is called the QI Program, again fancy health care lingo for an important program that pays the premiums, the outpatient premiums, for low-income older people. I think that is especially important, because it says for older people, particularly those of modest income, that there is going to be some assistance for the outpatient services, what is called Part B, which are so critical in terms of keeping older people out of long-term care facilities.

My guess would be in New Hampshire and Oregon—like in my home State of Oregon—having that kind of assistance for low-income people in the community is really key to avoiding institutional care.

I do want to note that I think all of us are going to say this bill does not meet the test of perfection. I happen to believe the bill would have been stronger had this body been involved in all of the negotiations. But clearly to have a milestone for Medicare—and that is what I think you get when you eliminate what really pretty much is a fraud. The Medicare reimbursement system has been honored more in the breach than in the observance. Every year it is waived, it is patched. I think to replace it with what I have described really is something that when the history of Medicare is written, people are going to look back and say: This was an important day. These were sensible changes. Improving care coordination, putting a new focus on quality, data transparency, coordination of health care teams, the kinds of things that this proposal does, are very much in the interests of seniors, providers, and taxpayers. I think this day will be remembered for making a very important contribution in the history of Medicare.

I do want to mention several other amendments that I hope will be offered. I also feel very strongly about the need for this legislation to reaffirm and strengthen health care in America for our most vulnerable children. There are more than 100,000 of these youngsters in my home State alone. I am talking about the Children's Health Care Insurance Program, what is known as CHIP. My hope is we will have a chance here to vote to expand on what the other body has done and have a children's health program that will be extended for 4 years and not just 2.

The CHIP program has the support of almost 40 Governors. They span the philosophical spectrum. They have achieved such strong support because these Governors who are right on the front lines with a program that involves very close coordination by the Federal Government and the State governments want some certainty and predictability. They don't want vulnerable kids and their families to be in limbo.

So I am very hopeful that amendment will be offered and that it will get the support of our colleagues.

Third, I hope there will be an amendment to improve health care for women. I believe we have all followed this debate that I think is needlessly divisive. There are so many Senators who want to find common ground to improve health care.

We have gotten bogged down and somehow virtually all the bills now seem to be a magnet for a debate about abortion. My colleague, Senator MURRAY, wishes to offer a very important amendment to expand health care services and the availability of reproductive health services for women, community-based care. I am very hopeful that that will be offered as well.

Finally, on a bipartisan basis, Senators CARDIN and COLLINS wish to offer legislation to really set aside what are very outdated approaches with respect to how Medicare provides services, therapy services, for our citizens. We are talking about physical therapy, occupational therapy, services with respect to speech.

Senators CARDIN and COLLINS want to get rid of these arbitrary therapy caps. I am very hopeful their amendment will be able to be offered as well.

One last point, on a matter that is not health care related, this legislation carries an additional program that is particularly important to the people whom I represent, and that is the Secure Rural Schools Program would be extended for 2 years.

I wrote this law in 2000 with our former colleague, the Senator from Idaho, Mr. Craig, because in most of our States—States where the Federal Government owns much of the lands, heavily forested—as a result of changes in environmental policy and other changes, a lot of these rural communities didn't have the money they needed for schools, roads, law enforcement, and basic services.

We have extended it since 2000. We have had testimony indicating we are going to need that safety net for some time, even as you try to get the harvest up in a sustainable way.

I am very pleased this program, an economic lifeline to rural communities across Oregon and other States, is going to be extended for 2 years. I think that provides us an opportunity to come up with fresh strategies, both with respect to the safety net.

I would like to—in the future, in the Senate Budget Committee—support it. I believe my colleague, the Presiding Officer, was interested to link Secure Rural Schools with the Land and Water Conservation Program and the PILT Program. We have bipartisan support for that.

I would like to see us use these 2 years to strengthen the safety net and get the harvest up in a sustainable way.

I wanted to make mention of that before I wrap up.

In closing, I think the health legislation—that I hope will be voted on shortly—represents one of those rare moments on a major issue.

I mean, I would go so far as to say—having worked with older people since my days with the Gray Panthers—I think what we are doing with the abolition of this outdated Medicare reimbursement system is laying the foundation for what will be the future of Medicare. The future of Medicare is not going to be what it was about in the 1960s when it began—a senior in New Hampshire might need the hospital for a serious injury, maybe they would see a physician, get Medicare Part B if they broke their ankle. The future of Medicare is going to be about dealing with chronic disease. It is going to be about diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke.

The reality is that Medicare has not kept up with the times. I think it is worth noting that in the big debate about the Affordable Care Act, chronic disease was hardly mentioned at all, not by anybody. That is going to be the foundation of Medicare for the future. More than 90 percent of the Medicare dollars in the future, based on the challenge of dealing with older people with these chronic conditions, is going to be about chronic disease.

The reality is, when you abolish this flawed Medicare reimbursement system and start promoting coordinated care, what would happen in the State of New Hampshire is you would start seeing teams—perhaps a nurse, a physician, a pharmacist—a team in New Hampshire or in Oregon come together, particularly where there aren't the Medicare Advantage plans, and say we can give, as our colleague from Georgia noted not long ago, Senator ISAKSON, better care at lower cost and do it for what is likely to be the type of health care services that dominates Medicare in the future, which is chronic disease. We will be better able to tackle that with the abolition of SGR.

So my hope is shortly we will vote to take that action that I believe constitutes a Medicare milestone, reaffirms our commitment to America's youngsters, improves health care services for women—from one end of America to another—and gets rid of this outdated system of therapy caps that are restricting what those who need physical therapy, occupational therapy, and others could get.

This could finally be a punctuation mark in this, the 50th year of Medicare, and an opportunity for all Senators to see that they were part of adopting a fresh set of policies to provide a brighter and healthier future for all our people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I want to mention what Speaker BOEHNER said about this bill we are about to look into—the CHIP bill and the SGR, the physicians' payment bill. Speaker BOEHNER said:

Unless the Senate passes the House-passed "doc fix" bill, significant cuts to physicians' payments will begin tomorrow. The House legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, and we do not plan to act again, so we urge the Senate to approve the House-passed bill without delay.

He summed it up pretty well. The fact is this has been a long ordeal that a lot of us have worked on for a long time, a lot of people on Capitol Hill. If we can pass this bill tonight, it will be a major accomplishment and we can go back to the child health insurance bill.

I remember standing here on the floor with Ted Kennedy on the other side passing a bill that brought a lot of angst to a lot of people but which has helped millions of children who were deprived of good health care. So this is a very important bill and I hope we don't foul it up. I don't think we will.

Madam President, I stand today in support of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. If enacted, this legislation would repeal and replace the Medicare sustainable growth rate, or SGR. That is the formula called the sustainable growth rate. It will extend the CHIP program for an additional 2 years—a program that has worked very well—and will put in place much needed reforms to the Medicare Program—something that hasn't happened in a long time.

This bill represents more than 2 years of hard work on both sides of the Capitol. It passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives with 392 votes. I expect it will also get broad bipartisan support here in the Senate. It certainly has to.

We have all grown tired of the seemingly endless cycle of passing temporary SGR patches year after year after year. It is not a new problem. It is one we have been dealing with for a long time.

A little over 2 years ago, a group of leaders from both the House and the Senate set out to fix this problem once and for all. As I mentioned yesterday, I was part of this group, as was former chairman of the Committee on Finance, Max Baucus. Together Senator Baucus and I worked with the leaders on the relevant House committees to craft legislation that would repeal and replace the SGR with an improved payment system that rewards quality, efficiency, and innovation. That legislation, which we reported out of the

Committee on Finance by voice vote in late 2013, formed the basis of the legislation before us today.

I want to compliment the House for the great work they have done on this bill. I have to give a lot of credit to them. It is my hope we will act quickly to pass this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and send it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

This legislation demonstrates what Congress is truly capable of when Members work together. We all talk about the need for more bipartisanship in Washington. This bill can be a template for how things should work around here.

It also represents a step forward in the effort to reform our Nation's entitlement programs. As I mentioned, to go along with the permanent SGR fix, the bill includes a meaningful downpayment on Medicare reform. These reforms include a limitation on so-called Medigap first-dollar coverage, more robust means testing for Medicare Parts B and D, and program integrity provisions that will strengthen Medicare's ability to fight fraud.

Clearly, these reforms by themselves won't fix all of Medicare's fiscal problems. Indeed, much more work needs to be done. But like many of my colleagues, I have been pushing for entitlement reform for years. During all that time I have seen politics and fear get in the way of progress. With this bill we have a chance to, at the very least, take a meaningful step forward—a bipartisan step, no less—in the effort to secure the safety net for future generations. Any Senator who, like me, supports entitlement reforms will welcome the changes we have made in this bill.

I am not here to say the bill is perfect. It is certainly not. But as the saying goes, we should not make the perfect the enemy of the good. This is a good bill. Once again, it passed in the House with a huge bipartisan majority and it is supported by groups across the health care spectrum. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of groups supporting this legislation at the conclusion of my remarks.

As it stands right now, in less than 12 hours doctors all over the country will face a 21-percent cut in Medicare reimbursements. In other words, we are out of time. We need to pass this legislation and we need to do it now. In fact, it is encouraging to see that even Members on the other side of the aisle support this good policy now, and I am proud of them for doing so.

Let's get this done. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 2.

I repeat what Speaker BOEHNER said today:

Unless the Senate passes the House-passed "doc fix" bill, significant cuts to physicians' payments will begin tomorrow. The House legislation passed with overwhelming bipar-

tisan support, and we do not plan to act again, so we urge the Senate to approve the House-passed bill without delay.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### H.R. 2, THE MEDICARE AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT (MACRA)

##### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), Alliance of Specialty Medicine, AMDA The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), America's Essential Hospitals, American Action Forum, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American Health Care Association, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Dermatology Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Neurology (AAN), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) American Academy of Ophthalmology.

American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), American College of Cardiology (ACC), American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), American College of Gastroenterology, American College of Physicians (ACP), American College of Radiology, American College of Rheumatology (ACR), American College of Surgeons, American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), American Health Care Association (AHCA), American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), American Medical Student Association, American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APAPO), American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT), American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), American Society of Hematology (ASH), American Society of Nephrology (ASN), American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), American Thoracic Society (ATS), Americans for Tax Reform, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, Aurora Health Care, Billings Clinic, Bipartisan Policy Center, California Hospital Association, California Medical Association, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Center for American Progress (CAP).

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Children's Hospital Association, College of American Pathologists, Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP), Digestive Health Physicians Association, Endocrine Society (ES), Essential Health, Families USA, Federation of American Hospitals, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Grace-Marie Turner for the Galen Institute, Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), Gundersen Health System, HealthCare Association of New York State, Healthcare Leadership Council, Healthcare Quality Coalition, HealthPartners, HealthSouth, Hospital Sisters Health System, Iowa Medical Society,

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), Latino Medical Student Association Midwest, Let Freedom Ring, Louisiana Rural Health Association, LUGPA, March of Dimes, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Mayo Clinic, McFarland Clinic PC, Medical Group Management Association, Mercy Health, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Minnesota Hospital Association, Minnesota Medical Association, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, National Association of Spine Specialists, National Association of Urban Hospitals, National Coalition on Health Care, National Retail Federation, North American Primary Care Research Group, Novo Nordisk.

Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Premier healthcare alliance, ReadyNation, Renal Physicians Association, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Student National Medical Association, Student Osteopathic Medical Association, Tennessee Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, The 60 Plus Association, ThedaCare, The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), The Society of Interventional Radiology, VHA Inc., Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality, Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Medical Society.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the distinguished majority leader, the senior Senator from Kentucky, is resolutely opposed to any serious conversation about climate change. Under his leadership, the Republican Party in the Senate has exactly zero legislation for addressing carbon pollution in any serious way. The majority leader has even written to Governors around the country urging defiance of the climate change regulations of the U.S. Government, namely, the Environmental Protection Agency's forthcoming clean power plan to cut presently unregulated carbon pollution from our powerplants.

I thought I should take a look at what Kentucky is doing about climate change. It turns out that Kentucky is

already crafting a plan for complying with President Obama's clean power plan. Why are they doing that? In a statement, the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet said it was because "the overwhelming majority of our stakeholders are telling us to make preparations to submit a plan."

The overwhelming majority of Kentucky stakeholders are telling the State of Kentucky to submit a plan. Kentucky has an energy and environment secretary. His name is Dr. Len Peters. Dr. Peters does not mock or disparage the EPA. Indeed, he praised the EPA at a recent national climate change conference for the flexibility and openness of its rulemaking process. Dr. Peters began his talk by saying, "I'm from Kentucky and I'm not a climate science denier."

Setting aside compliance with the administration's clean power plan, Kentucky actually had its own climate action plan, written all the way back in 2011. The Kentucky climate action plan sets forth more than 40 actions to address climate change. It would reduce Kentucky's greenhouse gas emissions by 1.3 billion metric tons between 2011 and 2030.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife within that climate action plan has its wildlife action plan. The wildlife action plan opens its chapter on climate change by quoting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Around here a lot of fun is sometimes made of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, at least on the other side of the aisle. But Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife quotes them as follows: "[W]arming of the climate system is unequivocal."

That is the Commonwealth of Kentucky, quoting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Kentucky wildlife action plan goes on to report that—and I will quote it again—"Climate change has the potential to exacerbate existing conservation threats . . . in Kentucky by altering both terrestrial and aquatic systems."

As you know, I am from the Ocean State. I am very concerned about what climate change is doing to our oceans and what it is doing to our coasts. Kentucky is landlocked. So imagine my surprise to read the Kentucky wildlife action plan's discussion of sea level rise. Sure enough, it is in there. Here is what the Kentucky wildlife action plan says about sea level rise: "With the predicted increases in severity of hurricanes and tropical storms, coupled with potential shoreline losses in Florida and throughout the eastern seaboard, people may begin migrations inland," it says. It continues, "If and when these events occur, Kentucky may experience human population growth unprecedented to the Commonwealth."

That is Kentucky's statement on this. I hope the majority leader will appreciate why I am so insistent that we tackle this climate change problem when his own home State projects that people in our coastal States will be so grievously affected by climate change that we may have to flee to landlocked Kentucky.

The State government of Kentucky is not alone. Kentucky's cities—Lexington, Louisville, Frankfurt, Bowling Green, and Villa Hills—have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, quoting the city of Lexington, "to act locally to reduce the impacts of climate change by lowering (manmade) greenhouse gas emissions."

Lexington, KY, actually proudly notes that the Sierra Club has designated Lexington a cool city for signing the U.S. mayors agreement. Maybe in time the Sierra Club will designate Kentucky's senior Senator a cool Senator. Here is hoping.

Even fossil fuel companies in Kentucky get it. Columbia Gas of Kentucky has a climate change link on its Web site that says "Meeting the Climate Challenge." Columbia Gas of Kentucky pledges to "address climate change issues through business activities which promote sustained economic growth in a manner consistent with [our] environmental obligations." Columbia Gas of Kentucky also pledges to "promote adoption of reasonable policies addressing climate change," including "appropriately crafted legislation on climate change." Regrettably, their Kentucky Senators have responded with exactly no legislation on climate change, appropriate or otherwise.

Local Kentucky news station WFPL brought on a climate scientist from NASA not too long ago who said that scientists have exhaustively studied the numerous signs of climate change—the warming oceans, the melting glaciers, the changing temperatures—and narrowed it down, and the only culprit to explain what is happening is increases in mankind's carbon emissions. The NASA scientist on the Kentucky radio station compared it to the TV show "CSI." He said, "We've looked at all the different suspects . . . and there's only one suspect that's still in the picture," and that is human carbon emissions.

Kentucky Woodlands Magazine reports that "the world is changing right before our eyes. . . . our natural systems are changing as a result of a warming climate." Indeed, the author says that "we are experiencing some of the 'predicted' effects today." They include an observed shift in Kentucky wildflower seasons. The article warns that "climate change is happening as you read this article," and it describes the result as "global climate weirdness."

One thing we know about Kentucky is that it is renowned for its horses. So

I turned to Horse & Rider magazine and found an article on climate change and horses' health. The article noted climate change's effects, including "more intense extreme weather events and the altered timing, intensity and distribution of precipitation."

Horse & Rider magazine asked the question of "how climate change might affect our horses' health." For the answer to that question, Horse & Rider magazine turned to Dr. Craig Carter of—guess what—the University of Kentucky, who said, "It's a scary thing to watch." Because "climate change affects all forms of life," he said, "mosquitoes, ticks, flies and other insects are moving northward" in describing how that move affects crops and trees and disease vectors such as West Nile virus. This University of Kentucky expert cited specific concerns for equine health, but he also offered this reminder: "It's not just horses (and people) at risk; crops are being affected, as are trees, due to beetle infestations. Climate change affects all forms of life."

Since so many of my Senate colleagues say they are not scientists, I concluded my Kentucky review where scientists gather: at Kentucky's universities. Paul Vincelli is a professor at the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. He says:

In the scientific community, it is widely accepted that the global climate is changing and the human activities which produce greenhouse gases are a principal cause. Greenhouse gases have a strong capacity to trap heat in the lower atmosphere, even though they are present at trace concentrations.

Dr. Vincelli concludes:

This trapped heat is driving many of the recent changes in the Earth's climate, including rising temperatures in the oceans, on Earth's surface, and in the lower atmosphere.

Dr. Vincelli, University of Kentucky.

Another University of Kentucky summary produced by Vincelli and his colleagues says this:

Scientific evidence that our global climate is warming is abundant . . . Practicing scientists consider the evidence of human-induced global warming to be extremely strong.

The University of Kentucky climate summary said:

In fact, 97 to 98 percent of the most knowledgeable experts—scientists who actively publish research papers in climate science—are convinced that global warming is occurring and is caused primarily by human activities.

They go on to note that "a consensus of 97 to 98 percent . . . is remarkable."

That summary adds the following warning:

Regardless of what you may read on blogs or in the media, there is almost no meaningful scientific controversy on these points.

There is just the controversy here in Congress.

Let's now move on to Kentucky State University. Kentucky State University is pleased to appoint a climate

change fellowship to “engage college students in climate change education and action” and to provide “in-depth training on climate change, how to best teach the basics of climate change.” Maybe a little of that around here might be in order.

Over at Western Kentucky University, they host the Kentucky Climate Center, which is the State climate office for Kentucky, on their campus in Bowling Green.

Eastern Kentucky University offers concentrations in environmental sustainability and stewardship, including courses on global climate change, and its Environmental Research Institute’s Web site on climate change links you right to the IPCC work on climate change that is so often derided here in Congress. Obviously, Eastern Kentucky University doesn’t think the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is unreliable.

Northern Kentucky University does even better. Former Northern Kentucky University president James Votrubia signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, pledging Northern Kentucky University to “an initiative in pursuit of climate neutrality,” i.e., having “no net greenhouse gas emissions,” if necessary by “using carbon offsets or other measures to mitigate the remaining emissions.” In 2010, Northern Kentucky University adopted an action plan calling on every department and all members of the Northern Kentucky University community to do their part to help the university achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

My tour of Kentucky’s great centers of higher learning leads me to one last Kentucky university—one that is unique in that its Web page display of notable alumni includes none other than our distinguished majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. This is the University of Louisville.

The University of Louisville goes out of its way to expose its students to the reality of climate change. Professor Keith Mountain is chair of the University of Louisville Department of Geography and Geosciences. He has lectured on “Stewardship in a Time of Global Climate Change,” a talk about “how climate change is a measurable reality and how people have contributed to the trends.” That is the chair of the University of Louisville Department of Geography and Geosciences.

The University of Louisville has also brought in Lonnie Dupre, “mountain climber, polar explorer, and a climate change activist,” to describe for University of Louisville students “his personal witness of the detrimental effects of global climate change over 25 years of polar exploring.” They brought in prize-winning ecologist Diana Wall for a University of Louisville Biology Department lecture series to talk about “fragile soil systems and their role in climate change.”

University of Louisville students have been involved, too, in Climate Change Teach-Ins, where students, faculty, and staff join together “to inform, inspire and educate others about the climate change crisis.” One student concluded, “The university needs more events similar to the teach-in to raise awareness about climate change.” I hope they will consider raising awareness among their alumni as well.

Let me close this discussion with two slides that were prepared for Kentucky’s Governor’s Conference on Energy and the Environment for a presentation on “Kentucky and the President’s Climate Action Plan.” This is a depiction of our country’s energy mix broken out by renewables, natural gas, coal, petroleum, hydroelectric, and nuclear. We can see there are a lot of layers in the cake. This layer represents coal in the U.S. energy mix as of 2012. This is Kentucky’s energy mix. As we can see, it is a black wall of coal. Even Wyoming, which produces more than four times as much coal as Kentucky, has a more diverse energy mix than this. Could they do better? I think so.

There is a song called “Warm Kentucky Sunshine.” Kentucky has a town named Sunshine. There is even a cocktail called a Kentucky Sunshine. But we would never know it from their energy mix. That is one of the reasons that Kentucky’s efforts to prepare for the Clean Power Plan are so promising.

So before our distinguished majority leader, the senior Senator from Kentucky, asks all of the other States to throw in the towel on conforming to the U.S. Government’s plan for dealing with carbon pollution, I would ask that he acknowledge that his own State recognizes climate change as a problem and as an opportunity and that Kentucky is trying to do something about it.

As to the possibilities, ask Senator GRASSLEY, whose State has 28 percent wind energy. Look at Kentucky’s mix. Iowa has 28 percent wind energy.

As to the possibilities, the distinguished majority leader could ask his deputy majority leader, Senator CORNYN of Texas, whose home State has more than 10 percent wind energy and a solar industry providing more than 330 megawatts, more than 7,000 jobs, and rapid growth.

I hope Kentucky doesn’t decide to change its present course and to throw in the towel without even trying. We can do this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### SGR LEGISLATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am hopeful—and most of us are—that soon we will be able to consider Medicare legislation that has passed the House of Representatives. It is probably best known as the SGR permanent fix.

The SGR, which is a payment system that affects physicians under the Medicare system, is badly broken. On 17 previous occasions we have extended the current policy in order to make sure that physicians don’t get an automatic cut that would deny many Medicare beneficiaries access to their physicians. These are pretty extreme measures.

We all understand that it is time to permanently fix this—not just to eliminate the problem but to substitute a payment system that encourages physicians to provide high quality care and to deal with incentives that reduce the volume of care. And that is what the legislation that passed the House of Representatives does.

It fixes the problem on a permanent basis. I am certainly hopeful we can get that enacted shortly because it already passed the deadline in regard to when the current patch expired. The bill also provides for an extension for the Children’s Health Insurance Program. I do hope we can provide a longer extension than the 2 years that is provided in the House bill. I know there will be amendments offered to deal with that.

I want to talk about an amendment I will be offering. I am not sure how much time will be available when a consent arrangement is entered into—which I hope will be soon—to consider this. It is an amendment I am offering with Senator VITTER. It is a bipartisan amendment. In previous Congresses, we have had many of my Republican colleagues who have joined me, we have had many of my Democratic colleagues. This should be, I hope, a non-controversial amendment we can adopt.

What it does is provide a permanent fix, as we do for physicians, for the physical therapy cap. I was in the House of Representatives in 1997 when we passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I was on the Ways and Means Committee. I remember a chairman’s mark coming to us. For the first time there was a cap placed on physical therapy services.

I asked the chairman of the committee why was this being done. There was absolutely no policy reason whatsoever for imposing an arbitrary cap on the amount of physical therapy services. When you think about it, what it does is discriminate against those who have the greatest needs, those who have severe needs, those who have a stroke or traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury or managing Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, arthritis.

These are the individuals who run up against the cap and therefore could be denied the ability to deal with their needs, causing them, in many cases, to incur much greater costs. It makes no sense whatsoever, the therapy cap.

For that reason, on a pretty regular basis, we have extended the revised policy. Twelve times we have done it to prevent the implementation of the therapy cap. We have acknowledged the negative consequences that would result from the imposition of such limits. In 2009, a report issued by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee, MEDPAC, it was estimated that the therapy cap, if enforced without an exception process, could harm 931,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

So we have an identical situation on the therapy cap as we do with the SGR physician reimbursement issue. That is why historically these two measures have always been moved together in tandem. What my amendment will do, cosponsored by Senator VITTER, is permanently fix the therapy cap issue by replacing the arbitrary limits on outpatient rehab therapy services with a more rational system which will require prior authorizations in certain circumstances.

So we fix it permanently, as we do the physicians' reimbursement issue. I do not need to tell the Presiding Officer that we do not always have an opportunity to get legislation done here. I do think we have a chance—an excellent chance—that this bill we will be taking up is going to be signed by the President in the next few days.

This is our opportunity to get several matters taken care of. The therapy cap cries out for that type of attention. So I would urge my colleagues, when this amendment comes up—it is cosponsored by a large number of my colleagues. As I already mentioned, Senator VITTER, who is my cosponsor. On the Democratic side, we have both Senator REID and Senator REED, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator HIRONO, Senator CASEY, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator BROWN, Senator STABENOW, Senator LEAHY, Senator CANTWELL, Senator BENNET, Senator BOOKER.

I could mention many of my Republican colleagues who have joined me in the past in the repeal of the therapy cap that are expressing an interest to help in this regard. I hope I will have their support on this amendment. Let's get it done. I think it is important for Medicare beneficiaries to know they are not at risk of losing the opportunity for their physician to treat them under the Medicare system.

If we do not take care of the SGR problem, that is a real, real concern of Medicare beneficiaries, as to whether their physicians will be available for them. The same thing is true with the therapy cap. Let's remove this uncertainty. Let's get it fixed. We have the opportunity to do that. So I would urge my colleagues to support my efforts that are supported by AARP and many of the outside groups.

Let's vote for the SGR bill but also vote for the amendment I will offer

with Senator VITTER that will permanently fix the therapy cap. We will have a chance to do that I hope either later tonight or tomorrow.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MATTHEW O'NEILL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I do not know if I am going to be able to have time to get into this. For the last several months this year, I have been taking time 1 day a month to talk a bit about an employee in the Department of Homeland Security. Of all the Departments in the Federal Government—the largest Department—it has the lowest morale. We have been working hard with them to do something about that.

We are doing small things that nonetheless is to remind everybody that folks in the Department of Homeland Security, in some cases, risk their lives, invest their lives in trying to make sure we have a life and a good life and a safe life. They are worthy of our praise. What I am going to do tonight—unless I get run off the floor because of other business—I want to talk about one of them.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department was recently the center of a budget battle on Capitol Hill. For weeks, it was unclear if the Department was going to face a shutdown, another short-term continuing resolution or receive the full-year funding they needed. Fortunately, Congress did its job and sent a clean funding bill for the rest of the fiscal year to the President's desk.

The employees are grateful for that and certainly I am as well. While the Department's employees and leadership can now return to their focus on keeping America safe from threats our country faces, we should not ignore the harm the latest debate inflicted on the already low morale of employees at the Department.

More than 200,000 men and women work for the Department of Homeland Security, really just to do one mission; that is, to create a safe, secure, and resilient place where the American way of life can thrive. Many of those employees, again as I said earlier, put their lives on the line every single day.

Whether these employees are securing our borders, securing our skies, responding to natural disasters or bolstering our defenses in the cyber world, few other Federal agencies and employ-

ees touch the lives of so many Americans on a daily basis more than do the employees of the Department of Homeland Security. There is no question that they deserve to be treated better than the way Congress has been treating them lately.

That is one of the reasons why over the past few months I have been coming to the floor to recognize the work of at least a few of the many exemplary Department of Homeland Security employees.

In February, I spoke about Ramiro Garza, Jr., a Border Patrol agent at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Garza early in February in McAllen, TX, while on a visit to the Mexican border in South Texas with Senators RON JOHNSON and BEN SASSE. In the past summer, Mr. Garza played an instrumental role in quickly setting up an emergency operations center and processing facility, which he now runs, to help Customs and Border Protection better manage unaccompanied minors and families apprehended along the southern border.

Today, I rise to speak about another dedicated and outstanding employee of the Department of Homeland Security. His name is Matthew O'Neill. Matthew is employed as a special agent within the U.S. Secret Service.

Over the past several months, there have been incidents, including some as recently as this month, that have again raised serious questions about the Agency and its ability to fulfill its responsibilities. The Agency's leadership is still addressing these incidents and taking steps to implement reforms to improve the Agency from the inside out.

So while it is important for us to usher in a new chapter for the U.S. Secret Service, it is important also that we shine some light on some brave men and women at the Agency who continue to serve our country and carry out their missions with distinction. Special Agent Matthew O'Neill is one of the many hard-working public servants whose day-to-day work deserves special recognition.

We live in a world that has become increasingly digitized. Nearly all Americans, including Members of this Chamber and me, are spending more and more of our time online, whether it is to do our banking, our shopping, communicating with loved ones or simply getting our work done on a day-to-day basis.

Americans' ability to go online in a safe and secure environment is at the core of Special Agent O'Neill's work. You see, agents in the U.S. Secret Service are not only responsible for protecting the President, the First Family, and other dignitaries as well, some agents, such as Special Agent O'Neill, do their work in cyber space—not outer space but cyber space. And



there in that cyber space are criminals who are elusive, and the threats they pose to us are sophisticated and many.

Put simply, Agent O'Neill's job is to target cyber criminals taking aim at the American consumer, businesses, and our national community online.

Financial crime has evolved dramatically in the nearly 20 years since Special Agent O'Neill began his career with the Secret Service. Not that long ago, criminals would go to a bank, perhaps maybe a jewelry store or a convenience store, to steal money and maybe some other valuables.

Today, they don't even need to go outside to steal items of great value from businesses, from the Federal Government or from the rest of us consumers and regular citizens. Criminals just need access to the Internet. These data breaches are disruptive to our economy. They cause worry and confusion for millions of American consumers and for businesses. But thanks to his dedication and expertise, Special Agent O'Neill has helped the Federal Government to try to stay ahead of the curve and keep our most sensitive information and our property secure.

Special Agent O'Neill is originally from Dumfries, VA. He graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA—that makes him a Duke—before joining his career with the Secret Service in 1998 in the New Haven, CT, office. From 2003 to 2007, he served in the Vice Presidential and Special Services Division in Washington, DC.

However, it is while serving in his current role, one primarily performed in cyber space, that Special Agent O'Neill has become one of the top cyber warriors defending our security online. In this position, he has helped to lead a number of complex transnational cyber crime investigations. These investigations have focused on crimes ranging from hacks into check-out lanes at brick-and-mortar stores to the online sale of stolen, personally identifiable information, such as Social Security numbers.

In one investigation, Special Agent O'Neill identified Web site portals that sold the personal information of approximately 30 million Americans to other cyber criminals, potentially putting victims at risk for identity theft or credit card fraud or worse.

To uncover the criminals running and participating in this scheme, Special Agent O'Neill sought and executed over a dozen Federal search warrants, made numerous undercover purchases, and painstakingly examined nearly 40,000 emails.

As a result of an extensive investigation, Special Agent O'Neill was able to trace the source of the stolen data to an individual in South Vietnam. In 2013, the culprit was arrested for his crimes. Since the investigation, Special Agent O'Neill has been able to identify and arrest over 20 other criminals

who worked in conjunction with the culprit by illicitly purchasing the stolen data.

In addition to breaking up that complex network, Special Agent O'Neill's work has also thwarted attacks involving everyday transactions, saving businesses and saving consumers from financial harm. For example, he played a critical role in identifying, tracking, and identifying three Romanian nationals who were planning to hack into the computer system of a major fast food franchise with more than 25,000 restaurants in the United States.

Time and again, Special Agent O'Neill's supervisors and colleagues have noted his commitment and dedication to duty, including his willingness to work at all hours of the day and night to track criminals who use the Internet with malicious intent.

In 2012, he was recognized as the Investigator of the Year by the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators. In 2013, he was honored by the Secret Service as its Special Agent of the Year for his efforts, and in 2014, he received the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Meritorious Service Award.

But Special Agent O'Neill's service doesn't end with his work at the Department of Homeland Security. When he is not combatting cyber crime, he is serving his neighbors and community by volunteering for a local charity that provides financial assistance to families dealing with cancer. The charity also provides scholarship money for the continuing education of oncology nurses.

I thank Special Agent O'Neill's family for sharing him with his community and his Nation. We are a safer country because of him.

In closing, the actions taken by Special Agent Matthew O'Neill attest to this critically important work done by thousands of individuals across the Department of Homeland Security every single day. These men and women are courageous, dedicated, and exemplary Federal employees who selflessly serve our country year in and year out.

Like Special Agent Matthew O'Neill, these unsung heroes and heroines walk among us every day, protecting us from the unknown or from the unexpected. And more often than not, the good work they do goes unnoticed—but not today.

Special Agent O'Neill, thank you. Thank you for your dedication to this country. Thank you for your tireless service to all of us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that at 7:10 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2, which was received from the House, and that the only amendments in order be the following: Cornyn amendment No. 1114, repeal individual mandate; Democratic amendment No. 1115, extend SCHIP; Lee amendment No. 1116, motion to strike; Democratic amendment No. 1117, women's health; Cotton amendment No. 1118, fee schedule; Democratic amendment No. 1119, therapy; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, that all amendments except the Cotton and Lee amendments be subject to a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption, the bill then be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; further, that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the votes and that the votes after the first be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the reason we are not moving forward more quickly is we first had to get some of the holds lifted, and we were able to do that on both sides, and we wanted to make sure there would be no cuts in the physicians payments.

We thought if we finished this by early sometime tomorrow, noon or thereabouts, that the payments would not be cut but we don't have that assurance yet. So we are going to have to go ahead. If something comes from the Office of Management and Budget or the White House that that would not happen, we can allow people to go to the events they have around town.

In the meantime, I agree with the Republican leader, we should go forward. If something happens during some of these votes so we can finish them tomorrow, fine. But in the meantime, to protect not only the physicians but their patients, we should move forward on this legislation now.

I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, just briefly, the point to remember here is that at midnight, roughly 5 hours from now, CMS will begin to cut payments to doctors who treat Medicare patients. If we do not act tonight, these cuts of 21 percent will be real.

I yield the floor.

#### MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2, which the clerk will report by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:



A bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

AMENDMENT NO. 1114

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 1114.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To repeal the individual mandate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ RESTORING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY.**

Sections 1501 and 1502 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 1114, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI have negotiated a package which enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the House. The one missing element is a pay-for for the so-called doc fix, for the sustainable growth rate fix. What my amendment does is offer that pay-for so that this is a deficit-neutral bill if it is adopted.

In order to find that pay-for, we would repeal the individual mandate. The latest CBO score shows it would save as much as \$400 billion. It hasn't been scored this year, so the number may be off a little bit, but there is more than an adequate amount of money to offset the deficit caused by this permanent doc fix.

I ask my colleagues to join me, along with then-Senator Barack Obama in 2008 in his campaign against Hillary Clinton, who when he was running for the Democratic nomination campaigned against the individual mandate.

Let's make that reality.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I urge colleagues to oppose this amendment. What Senator CORNYN seeks to do is to strike an idea that originally came from the Heritage Foundation. If it is adopted, sick people will definitely sign up, healthy people will stay on the sidelines, premiums will skyrocket, according to the Congressional Budget Office, by as much as 20 percent, and

start then what amounts to a death spiral for the affordability of American health care.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No time remains.

The question is on agreeing to the Cornyn amendment No. 1114.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Leg.]

**YEAS—54**

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

**NAYS—45**

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Manchin	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Donnelly	Menendez	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

**NOT VOTING—1**

Coons

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The Senator from Colorado.

AMENDMENT NO. 1115

(Purpose: To protect and retain our Children's Health Insurance Program for 4 years (PRO-CHIP).)

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1115.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. BENNET], for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr.

WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REID, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE, proposes an amendment numbered 1115.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this amendment provides an additional 2 years of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. I wish to especially thank Senators BROWN, WYDEN, STABENOW, CASEY, and REID for their leadership on this amendment.

We have made great strides in recent years to ensure that Americans of all ages have access to quality health care, but a huge part of this success in increasing access for quality health care comes from CHIP, which provides insurance to low- and moderate-income children and pregnant women. We know CHIP works. The CHIP program serves more than 8 million children, including more than 115,000 in Colorado. This is health care they might not otherwise have.

Unfortunately, the House failed to take full advantage of this moment and this momentum for compromise and only extended funding for 2 years. CHIP is authorized through 2019. This amendment would extend it for 2 additional years.

The very physicians who would be helped by fixing the SGR would also see increased reimbursement when they treat these children instead of seeing millions of them lose access to affordable, comprehensive coverage.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, remember that 212 Republicans and 180 Democrats supported H.R. 2. The decision to extend CHIP for 2 years with the current payment rate was part of the House bipartisan agreement. This amendment seeks to rewrite that amendment.

This amendment is not a vote to show who really cares more about children's health because H.R. 2 extends the CHIP program for 2 years. Everyone who supports the underlying bill is supporting children's health. If my colleagues oppose this amendment, they are no less a supporter of children's health than the 392 Members of the House who supported H.R. 2, including 180 Democrats and Leader PELOSI. Are my colleagues really saying that Leader PELOSI didn't care enough about kids in forging this agreement?

Mr. President, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I am a supporter of the Children's Health Insurance Program having participated in the initial creation of CHIP in 1997 and the reauthorization started in 2007. And while I am a supporter of children's health, this is not a

CHIP vote in a vacuum. This vote is in the context of the underlying bill and cannot be ignored.

An overwhelming majority of the House supported H.R. 2. 392 Members of the House vote for H.R. 2; 212 Republicans and 180 Democrats supported the bill. That is a sign of bipartisanship that is, on a major issue, extremely rare in the House.

The decision to extend CHIP for 2 years with the current payment rate was a part of the House bipartisan agreement. It is an agreement between House Republicans and House Democrats. This amendment seeks to rewrite that agreement.

So let's talk for a moment about what this amendment is not. This amendment is not a vote to show who cares more about children's health. H.R. 2 extends the CHIP program for 2 years. Everyone who supports the underlying bill is supporting children's health. Mr. President, 392 members of the House voted for this bill which extends CHIP for 2 years.

If you oppose this amendment, you are no less a supporter of children's health than the 392 Members of the House who supported H.R. 2 including 180 Democrats and Leader PELOSI. Are you really saying Leader PELOSI didn't care enough about kids in forging this agreement? Again, no one should accuse anyone who votes against this amendment as being insufficiently supportive of children's health.

I have also heard it said that Congress only authorizes 2 years now, there is little chance Congress will authorize two more years in 2017. That is a prediction, and as we all know, Congress can be hard to predict some times.

In two years, we will be back to consider CHIP. We will also be back to consider therapy caps, rural hospital programs, home visiting, the special diabetes program, and community health center funding, to name a few programs extended in this bill. The House agreement intentionally aligned these programs to be considered in tandem in 2017.

This amendment pulls one very specific provision out of that compromise. I have no concerns that CHIP can stand without the SGR. What we need to do is spend the next two years thinking about the future of health care coverage for children.

MAC-PAC has done some very good work examining what CHIP provides for children that is different than the private market. The pediatricians are in town this week for a conference, and as they will tell you, kids are not just little adults. Benefits and services need to be tailored to make sure that kids grow into healthy productive adults. This is something we need to settle in the next two years. It is something we can and should do. Voting against this amendment does nothing to jeopardize that process.

We have a choice here. We can pass the House bill without changes or we can amend its bill and send it back to the House. I urge Senators to support the agreement and vote against this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the pending amendment, No. 1115, offered by Senator BENNET, would violate the Senate pay-go rule and increase the on-budget deficit over the 10-year period of fiscal years 2015 to 2024. Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure pursuant to section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Leg.]

#### YEAS—50

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Portman
Blumenthal	Heller	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	

#### NAYS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Burr	Grassley	Rounds
Capito	Hatch	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 1116

Mr. LEE. I call up my amendment No. 1116, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE], for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SASSE, proposes an amendment numbered 1116.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the provision excluding the budgetary effects of the Act from PAYGO requirements)

On page 261, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 262, line 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, just 2 weeks after the Senate passed a 10-year balanced budget, we find ourselves on the very brink of passing a bill that would promptly unbalance it. We find ourselves on the brink of passing a bill that would promptly unbalance the balanced budget we just passed to the tune of \$141 billion over the next decade. This is exactly the kind of bait-and-switch behavior that has eroded the public's trust in Congress in recent years.

To honor the promises we made to each other and that we made to the American people, my amendment would simply subject H.R. 2 to the same pay-as-you-go budget rules that cover other spending bills in Congress. Paying for the new spending in this bill is the right thing to do, and we just passed a budget promising we would do exactly that. My amendment does nothing more than hold us to this very promise.

I implore my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Lee amendment.

Colleagues, the Lee amendment is the bluntest possible instrument that would cut spending across government on every possible program. The SGR, the doctors reimbursement formula, has always been a fake. The \$140 billion in this bill eliminates the budget fakery that Democrats and Republicans believe has gotten out of hand. The underlying bill gets rid of the budget fakery.

I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject the amendment, and I yield back.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.  
The legislative clerk called the roll.  
The result was announced—yeas 42,  
nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 139 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Ayotte	Flake	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Sasse
Corker	Johnson	Scott
Cotton	Kirk	Sessions
Crapo	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	McCain	Thune
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Murkowski	Vitter
Fischer	Paul	Wicker

NAYS—58

Alexander	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Graham	Perdue
Blumenthal	Hatch	Peters
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reid
Brown	Heller	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Cassidy	Manchin	Tillis
Cochran	Markey	Udall
Collins	McCaskill	Warner
Coons	McConnell	Warren
Cornyn	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wyden
Durbin	Mikulski	
Feinstein	Murphy	

The amendment (No. 1116) was re-  
jected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from Wash-  
ington.

AMENDMENT NO. 1117

(Purpose: To improve women's access to  
quality health care)

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I call  
up amendment No. 1117 and ask for its  
immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The  
clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk  
read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MUR-  
RAY], for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER, proposes an amendment numbered 1117.

(The amendment is printed in today's  
RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, many  
of us have been working for years to  
protect Medicare access for seniors, in-  
vest in our community health centers,  
and expand access to health care for  
our children. So I am glad Democrats  
and Republicans in the House were able  
to come together on these issues. But  
it is disappointing that in a bill which  
takes so many good bipartisan steps  
forward, Republicans have insisted on  
trying to score political points with  
their base on women's health.

The House SGR bill includes lan-  
guage that is just one more example of

using women's health as a political  
football. It is redundant, and it is un-  
necessary.

I am offering an amendment tonight  
that shows we are making sure women  
have comprehensive access to health  
care. It focuses on moving women's  
health care forward by providing a  
clean extension of community health  
care funding for 4 years, not 2, to pro-  
vide certainty. It will invest \$2 billion  
in safety net providers for women and  
their families through title X clinics.  
Finally, it will invest in strengthening  
the women's health care workforce to  
make sure women have access through  
their providers.

I hope my colleagues will support  
this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-  
ator's time has expired.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and  
nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a  
sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-  
ond.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-  
ator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as has  
been mentioned repeatedly regarding  
the 10-day CMS hold, this 10-day CMS  
hold period will expire tonight. Doctors  
who serve our seniors will be facing a  
21-percent cut.

Senator MURRAY's bill costs \$21.1 bil-  
lion over 10 years, and it is not offset.  
Therefore, the pending amendment, No.  
1117, offered by Senator MURRAY, would  
violate the Senate pay-go rule and in-  
crease the on-budget deficit over the  
10-year period of fiscal years 2015 to  
2024. Therefore, I raise a point of order  
against this measure pursuant to sec-  
tion 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the con-  
current resolution on the budget for  
fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-  
ator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, pursu-  
ant to section 904 of the Congressional  
Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver pro-  
visions of applicable budget resolu-  
tions, I move to waive all applicable  
sections of that Act and applicable  
budget resolutions for purposes of the  
pending amendment, and I ask for the  
yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a  
sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-  
ond.

The question is on agreeing to the  
motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk  
called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43,  
nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 140 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Boxer
Bennet	Booker	Brown

Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Leahy	Schatz
Carper	Markey	Schumer
Coons	McCaskill	Shaheen
Durbin	Menendez	Stabenow
Feinstein	Merkley	Tester
Franken	Mikulski	Udall
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warner
Heinrich	Murray	Warren
Heitkamp	Nelson	Whitehouse
Hirono	Peters	Wyden
Kaine	Reed	
King	Reid	

NAYS—57

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Ernst	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Flake	Perdue
Boozman	Gardner	Portman
Burr	Graham	Risch
Capito	Grassley	Roberts
Casey	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this  
vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 57.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly cho-  
sen and sworn not having voted in the  
affirmative, the motion is rejected.  
The point of order is sustained, and the  
amendment falls.

The Senator from Arkansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 1118

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I call up  
my amendment No. 1118.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The  
clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. COTTON]  
proposes an amendment numbered 1118.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide steady updates of pay-  
ment rates under the Medicare physician  
fee schedule)

Beginning on page 5, strike line 22 and all  
that follows through page 127, line 6, and in-  
sert the following:

(2) UPDATE OF RATES FOR 2015 AND SUBSE-  
QUENT YEARS.—Subsection (d) of section 1848  
of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-  
4) is amended by striking paragraph (16) and  
inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(16) UPDATE FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE  
OF 2015.—Subject to paragraphs (7)(B), (8)(B),  
(9)(B), (10)(B), (11)(B), (12)(B), (13)(B), (14)(B),  
and (15)(B), in lieu of the update to the single  
conversion factor established in paragraph  
(1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2015 for  
the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and  
ending on June 30, 2015, the update to the  
single conversion factor shall be 0.0 percent.

“(17) UPDATE FOR JULY THROUGH DECEMBER  
OF 2015.—The update to the single conversion  
factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for the  
period beginning on July 1, 2015, and ending  
on December 31, 2015, shall be 0.5 percent.

“(18) UPDATE FOR 2016 AND SUBSEQUENT  
YEARS.—The update to the single conversion  
factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2016  
and each subsequent year shall be 0.5 per-  
cent.”.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I want  
to replace the SGR permanently, but I  
also want to do it correctly. This bill

has two payment models in the future. The first 4 years would give physicians a half-percent increase. In future years, though, CMS would be empowered to issue qualitative, subjective rules purporting to evaluate physician performance and patient outcomes.

My amendment would simply extend the half-percent increase indefinitely. I think there are many reasons to vote for this amendment. CMS has not effectively used a blunt bureaucratic tool, such as SGR, so we shouldn't give them a nuance tool; second, CMS itself predicts we are going to have future doc fixes, which is going to undermine the stability doctors and patients need; third, the complexity of the outyear model is going to further drive consolidation, especially for rural and independent doctors; and, finally, CBO estimates this bill saves \$10 billion.

I urge a "yes" vote. Let us have a permanent doc fix that works for all doctors and patients.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to this amendment. Today, the Medicare Program is a fee-for-volume system. The underlying bill junks this and turns out the lights on millions of users.

The underlying bill before the Senate says the future will be about rewarding value and good quality care for our Medicare patients. The Cotton amendment embraces the outdated status quo and says there is no need to coordinate care, no need to pay for value, no need to pay for quality for our Medicare patients. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. COTTON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 11, nays 89, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 141 Leg.]

#### YEAS—11

Boozman	Lee	Sessions
Cotton	Paul	Shelby
Cruz	Rubio	Vitter
Inhofe	Sasse	

#### NAYS—89

Alexander	Carper	Ernst
Ayotte	Casey	Feinstein
Baldwin	Cassidy	Fischer
Barrasso	Coats	Flake
Bennet	Cochran	Franken
Blumenthal	Collins	Gardner
Blunt	Coons	Gillibrand
Booker	Corker	Graham
Boxer	Cornyn	Grassley
Brown	Crapo	Hatch
Burr	Daines	Heinrich
Cantwell	Donnelly	Heitkamp
Capito	Durbin	Heller
Cardin	Enzi	Hirono

Hoeven	Mikulski	Schumer
Isakson	Moran	Scott
Johnson	Murkowski	Shaheen
Kaine	Murphy	Stabenow
King	Murray	Sullivan
Kirk	Nelson	Tester
Klobuchar	Perdue	Thune
Lankford	Peters	Tillis
Leahy	Portman	Toomey
Manchin	Reed	Udall
Markey	Reid	Warner
McCain	Risch	Warren
McCaskill	Roberts	Whitehouse
McConnell	Rounds	Wicker
Menendez	Sanders	Wyden
Merkley	Schatz	

The amendment (No. 1118) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1119

(Purpose: To repeal the therapy cap and provide for medical review of outpatient therapy services)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1119.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. CARDIN], for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR, proposes an amendment numbered 1119.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have explained this amendment a little earlier.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator KLOBUCHAR be added as a cosponsor of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. This deals with the therapy cap on which we now have had 12 patches. It is almost the identical problem we have with the SGR, which is the underlying bill. It deals with seniors, Medicare beneficiaries, having access to therapy services, those who have had strokes, those who have serious issues and need rehab therapy.

The cap never made sense in 1997 when it was put into effect. It was not the right policy. We have had bipartisan support to correct this as we have the SGR, and my underlying amendment does that.

I ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this bill is far from perfect, but we cannot let perfect be the enemy of the good on this bipartisan compromise that passed the House with almost 400 votes.

The House leadership has made it clear to us, they will not pass another package, and I don't blame them. Time is of the essence.

The therapy caps provision may not be the best policy, but it is in place to ensure there is a governor on unnecessary utilization and spending in the Medicare Program.

Congress should use the next 2 years to find a solution to this problem and work to pay for that solution, and I intend to do that. But to have that on this bill would be a catastrophe at the end of what has been a really, really very, very tough-fought bill all the way through.

The pending amendment, No. 1119, offered by Senator CARDIN would violate the Senate pay-go rule and increase the on-budget deficit over the 10-year period of fiscal years 2015 to 2024. Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure pursuant to section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Leg.]

#### YEAS—58

Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Hoeven	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	King	Sanders
Burr	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Cassidy	Menendez	Udall
Collins	Merkley	Vitter
Coons	Mikulski	Warner
Donnelly	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

#### NAYS—42

Alexander	Ernst	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Gardner	Roberts
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Coats	Hatch	Sasse
Cochran	Heller	Scott
Corker	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on final passage.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to see that after 12 years of temporary patches to delay cuts under the Sustainable Growth Rate, Congress is finally acting to reform the Medicare physician payment system for the long term. In so doing, we not only ensure access to care for seniors but also help improve the quality of care they receive through Medicare.

However, I am disappointed that the same certainty is not provided to children and families impacted by the Children's Health Insurance program, CHIP. This legislation extends funding for CHIP for 2 years and continues policies that encourage enrollment in the program. But it does not extend this critical funding for a much longer period of time, like the 4 years my colleagues and I have been urging for months. We are missing a crucial opportunity to ensure that children and pregnant women have access to comprehensive, affordable health insurance coverage for years to come. Currently, more than 10 million children benefit from this program. In 2 years, funding for this program will expire, putting children at risk of becoming uninsured once again. Moreover, the bill takes the same temporary approach with respect to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, MIECHV, program, Community Health Centers, and other initiatives.

I am also concerned that Medicare beneficiaries will see increases in out-of-pocket costs to help pay for the legislation. Faced with the threat of looming cuts to health care providers and the resulting risk of disruption of services should doctors withdraw from Medicare, we are being forced to instead choose to increase costs on seniors, rather than any number of offsets that could have asked the wealthiest Americans or corporations to pay a little more to ensure that Medicare is protected for everyone. Indeed, the majority in the other body insisted on paying for this bill, at least in part, by increasing these out-of-pocket costs. For a bill designed to protect access to health care for seniors, it should not turn around and then demand they pay more. We should be reaffirming our commitment to protecting Medicare beneficiaries and these cuts do just the opposite. With these provisions not taking effect until 5 years from now, I hope that gives us ample time to revisit this.

After years of disagreements on health care issues, it is good to see that we can move on this bill on a bipartisan basis. So while I have the reservations I have outlined, and will support amendments to address these issues, I will vote for this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this legislation has not gone through the regular order in the Senate. It will add \$174 billion to the debt. It is subject to seven different budget points of order. We have had a series of budget point of order votes where we have affirmed the budget and the responsibility we have to adhere to it. Let's do the right thing. Let's tell the House, which tried to send this bill over at 3:30 in the morning for us to pass right before we recessed after the budget votes, that, yes, we are absolutely committed to fixing the doctors' payments and in a responsible, long-term way, but it needs to be paid for in a responsible, long-term way. Upholding the budget point of order does not kill the bill; it sends it back to committee to make sure it is fully paid for.

So let's not be afraid tonight. Let's say to our House colleagues: Colleagues, we agree with you on your vote, but we must pay for this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I need to make a budget point of order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is still time remaining in favor of the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the pending measure, H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, violates section 311(b) of the fiscal year 2009 budget resolution by causing a net increase in the long-term deficit in excess of \$5 billion in the 10-year period of fiscal years 2025 through 2034. Therefore, I raise a point of order against this measure pursuant to section 311(b) of S. Con. Res. 70, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2009, and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I move to waive all applicable sections of the Budget Act, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 71, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 143 Leg.]

#### YEAS—71

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Baldwin	Franken	Murphy
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murray
Blumenthal	Graham	Nelson
Blunt	Hatch	Paul
Booker	Heinrich	Peters
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Heller	Reid
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Isakson	Rounds
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Capito	King	Schatz
Cardin	Kirk	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Cochran	Markey	Tillis
Collins	McCain	Udall
Coons	McCaskey	Warner
Corker	McConnell	Warren
Cornyn	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Moran	

#### NAYS—29

Ayotte	Gardner	Rubio
Barrasso	Grassley	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cotton	Inhofe	Sessions
Crapo	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Daines	Lee	Thune
Enzi	Perdue	Toomey
Ernst	Portman	Vitter
Fischer	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 71, the nays are 29.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to. The point of order is not sustained, and the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we will soon be voting on final passage of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill represents more than 2 years of hard work on both sides of the Capitol. And, it represents a real step forward for bipartisan health care policy. I am proud to have been one of the authors of this legislation and I look forward to what I believe we will see—the bill pass with bipartisan support.

I want to commend everyone who worked on this legislation. I particularly want to thank Senator Max Baucus who worked with me from the beginning on this effort here in the Senate. In addition, I would like to thank the current ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN for all his work. I also want to thank our colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees who also worked very hard in crafting this SGR fix.

As with any major legislative effort, there are a number of staffers—both current and former—who also deserve our thanks. From my own Finance Committee staff, I want to thank Dan Todd, Kristin Welsh, Erin Dempsey, Katie Simeon, Kim Brandt, and Becky Shipp for all of their hard work. I also want to thank my senior team—Jay Khosla, Chris Campbell, and Mark

Prater. On the Democratic side of the committee, I want to thank Karen Fisher, David Schwartz, Matt Kazan, Juan Machado, Scott Levy, and Colin Goldfinch.

I also want to commend the efforts of Scott Raab and Monica Popp from the Senate Republican leadership offices.

In addition, from the House side, I specifically want to thank Charlotte Ivancic and Wendell Primus.

We have also gotten quite a bit of help from CBO in this effort. For that, I want to thank Lori Housman, Tom Bradley, and Holly Harvey.

CMS also provided vital technical assistance as we put this legislation together. For that, I'd like to thank Jennifer Druckman, Ira Burney, and Anne Scott.

And, of course, we couldn't have done without the help of the Legislative Councils' offices, particularly John Goetcheus, Kelly Malone, Ruth Ernst, and Phil Lynch on the Senate side and Jessica Shapiro and Jessica Cross over in the House.

I wish to once again urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is a monumental achievement. It is legislation that has been long in the offing. I wish to thank everybody on both sides for the cooperation we have had. I just want to personally express my gratitude for being able to pass this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I think tonight is a milestone for the Medicare Program—a lifeline for millions of older people. That is because tonight the Senate is voting to retire the outdated, inefficiency-rewarding, commonsense-defying Medicare reimbursement system.

As Senator HATCH noted, it has been bipartisan; it has long been bipartisan. I think this is an important night for the Senate and it is going to be long remembered.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 144 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Brown	Collins
Ayotte	Burr	Coons
Baldwin	Cantwell	Corker
Barrasso	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cotton
Blumenthal	Carper	Crapo
Blunt	Casey	Daines
Booker	Cassidy	Donnelly
Boozman	Coats	Durbin
Boxer	Cochran	Enzi

Ernst	Klobuchar	Risch
Feinstein	Lankford	Roberts
Fischer	Leahy	Rounds
Flake	Manchin	Sanders
Franken	Markey	Schatz
Gardner	McCain	Schumer
Gillibrand	McCaskill	Shaheen
Graham	McConnell	Stabenow
Grassley	Menendez	Sullivan
Hatch	Merkley	Tester
Heinrich	Mikulski	Thune
Heitkamp	Moran	Tillis
Heller	Murkowski	Toomey
Hirono	Murphy	Udall
Hoehn	Murray	Vitter
Inhofe	Nelson	Warner
Isakson	Paul	Warren
Johnson	Peters	Whitehouse
Kaine	Portman	Wicker
King	Reed	Wyden
Kirk	Reid	

NAYS—8

Cruz	Rubio	Sessions
Lee	Sasse	Shelby
Perdue	Scott	

The bill (H.R. 2) was passed.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. What is the pending business?

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

Portman amendment No. 270, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking.

Portman amendment No. 271, to amend the definition of "homeless person" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth.

Vitter amendment No. 284 (to amendment No. 271), to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 271 WITHDRAWN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, in the interests of moving the human trafficking bill forward and with the understanding that these amendments could be offered later in the process, I withdraw my amendment No. 271.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 270 WITHDRAWN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, in addition, I withdraw my amendment No. 270.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1120

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1120, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Mr. CORNYN, proposes an amendment numbered 1120.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments)

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "§ 3014. Additional special assessment

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September, 30 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

"(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

"(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

"(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

"(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

"(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

"(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines and orders of restitution arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

"(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

"(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

"(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization

Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(2) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(3) APPLICATION.—Amounts transferred from the Fund pursuant to this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 are subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 113-235 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-256).

“(f) TRANSFERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the day after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, on September 30 of each fiscal year, all unobligated balances in the Fund shall be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts transferred under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be available for any authorized purpose of the Crime Victims Fund; and

“(B) shall remain available until expended.

“(g) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(h) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) WRITTEN CERTIFICATION.—Not later than September 30, 2016, and each September 30 thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a written certification as to the total amount in the Fund.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In any fiscal year for which a written certification submitted under paragraph (1) indicates the total amount in the Fund is less than \$30,000,000, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund an amount equal to \$30,000,000 minus the total amount indicated in the certification.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

“3014. Additional special assessment.”.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Cornyn amendment No. 1120 to S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, James M. Inhofe, Tim Scott, Richard Shelby, John Thune, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, like every Member of this body, I am frustrated we haven't been able to reach an agreement to pass the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

So today—just now—we have offered a compromise amendment that provides a path forward on this important legislation. I want to express my gratitude to the majority leader for teeing up this amendment and this vote and helping us move forward to resolve this problem.

Briefly, this proposal would completely strike a provision in the underlying bill that Members on the other side have objected to regarding the application of the Hyde amendment. The proposal would replace this language with a provision negotiated by Leader PELOSI from H.R. 2, the so-called doc fix bill that we just passed overwhelmingly and that passed the House a few weeks ago 392 to 37—180 House Democrats supported this language in the House bill. The Pelosi language from this bill is similar to my proposal, in that it simply says that any funds used to provide services to human trafficking victims would be subject to the same requirements as funds under the Public Health Services Act. This would clarify that all money in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund must be derived from the General Treasury, the routine and ordinary source of all Federal funding.

In other words, requirements placed upon funds under my bill would not be placed on money derived from criminal fees or penalties, something our Democratic friends seem to have some objection to, but they would only be placed upon money drawn from the General Treasury. This is exactly what Members on the other side have asked for.

Finally, as an additional measure of good faith, my proposal would also include an amendment drafted by Senator LEAHY, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, that has been supported by every Democratic Member of that committee. This amendment would authorize the appropriation of additional funds into the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

Some Members on the other side of the aisle have filibustered this important legislation because they say they objected to language I included that references the Hyde amendment. I have now agreed to strike that language. They are also filibustering because they objected to attaching routine Hyde restrictions that have been the law of the land for nearly 40 years—the money that is outside of the General

Treasury process. Now, I have agreed to change the language of my bill so the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund only includes money drawn from the General Treasury. I have also agreed to accept the amendment from Senator LEAHY that I previously opposed in the interest of trying to get to “yes.”

I plan to speak more on this tomorrow, but I am hopeful that by finally making these changes, we can be met at least halfway by our friends across the aisle. I feel like we have continued to try to make changes in this legislation in an interest of giving them an opportunity to vote for a bill they said they all support but which they ultimately filibustered because of the objections I just addressed, and both of the major objections are addressed by this amendment and this legislation.

So I hope we can get to a resolution on this bill. The victims of human trafficking are typically young girls between the ages of 12 and 14 years old. This is justly called modern-day slavery, because these victims of human trafficking are literally enslaved and sold for sex or held for involuntary servitude against their will. Many of them come from other countries, but the vast majority of them come from right here in the United States of America.

We need to do something about this. This legislation does that “something,” and I think we have more than demonstrated good faith in trying to meet our colleagues' objections across the aisle by proposing language that works, that accomplishes the result but removes the objectionable language our colleagues across the aisle have seen fit to filibuster on.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, while my colleague is on the floor, I want to commend Senator CANTWELL for her superb work on this legislation. Senator CANTWELL has really been the leader in the effort to get the Secretary of Health and Human Services to look at alternative payment models in the Medicare Advantage Program. This is a hugely important program for us in the Northwest. It is also, by the way, very extensively used in Minnesota. I think my colleague from Washington State has done particularly important work in also looking, as part of this discussion, at what is called a value-based modifier.

Mr. President, I have some thanks to make—and I will be very brief—but before I do that, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with Senator CANTWELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. I rise to talk about a provision in this legislation intended



to move the health care payment system toward better outcomes and efficiency.

Physicians in my State and others are innovating by partnering with high-performing Medicare Advantage plans. This model can grant the health care provider significant accountability and ownership of a patient's health, with the result of achieving impressive health outcomes, reducing overlap and duplication, and saving money for everyone involved.

I was successful in including a provision in the bill requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study integrating alternative payment models in the Medicare Advantage payment system. This study will also assess feasibility of including a value-based modifier.

I look forward to working with my Finance Committee colleagues in the future to promote the innovation and efficiency taking place in Medicare Advantage.

I ask that the distinguished ranking member of the Finance Committee work with me in the future toward these goals.

Mr. WYDEN. H.R. 2 moves the physician payment system from one that rewards volume to one that rewards value. I look forward to extending value-based policies across the entire spectrum of Medicare. I agree, it is important to reward all providers and all Medicare Advantage plans that provide high value and high quality care. I look forward to working with the Senator and the entire Finance Committee to achieve these goals.

Ms. CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. WYDEN. Just a couple of quick thank-yous, and then I want to let my colleague wrap up for our side.

It is pretty clear, Mr. President, that a bill of this magnitude does not happen by osmosis. It comes about because of scores of hearings, roundtables, briefings, and countless hours of staff time. I am just going to take a couple of minutes to thank some people who did so much to make this possible.

First, I thank Leader REID and his very capable health care staffer Kate Leone. When there is a big health care issue before the Senate, Kate Leone is the person you want to have in the trenches with you. I want to thank Senator REID, because during the short tenure in which I was the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, we started working closely together on reforming the Medicare reimbursement system, and his leadership is very much a part of the success of this evening.

Second, there was staff at the various congressional support agencies who provided technical assistance. We are talking about CMS, the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, legislative counsel, and the Medicare Payment Advisory Com-

mission. I would also like to note the efforts made by Ira Burney, Anne Scott, and Jennifer Druckman in the CMS Office of Legislation and Tom Bradley and Lori Housman of the Congressional Budget Office.

I would also like to recognize Chairman HATCH and his very capable and dedicated staff. They worked many, many months on this issue, constantly reaching across the aisle—and former Hatch staffer, Dan Todd, current Hatch staffers Kristin Welsh and Erin Dempsey particularly deserve recognition.

I want to close by thanking my staff, our finance staff and personal staff, affectionately known as the health team. Some, such as Karen Fisher, Matt Kazan, Juan Machado, and former staffers David Schwartz, Scott Levy, and Colin Goldfinch have survived two Democratic chairmen and more doc fixes than they could possibly wish to remember. So this is an especially significant moment for them. Others, like Anne Dwyer, Hannah Hawkins, and Jennifer Phillips, provided invaluable insight and counsel along the way.

One last point, if I might. Having tried for years to specialize in health care, going back to the days when I was codirector of the Oregon Gray Panthers, I thought that over the years that I picked up a little bit with respect to health care policy and came to really understand the issues—not so much, particularly when I think about the extraordinary work of two very talented individuals in our office who have really been the leaders, in my view, on this SGR reform cause. One was our health chief Liz Jurinka. She deserves special notice for her persistent leadership, creativity, and focus and, secondly, her colleague, Jocelyn Moore, whom we had the good fortune—who came to us from Senator Rockefeller. She brings great expertise and years of experience to the field. Certainly, what I have learned from them, after a career of trying to specialize in these issues, has done so much to assist the committee, assist me, and I want to express my gratitude to them.

The work of the bipartisan Finance Committee staff—through all its fits and starts—is what got us here today. I want to thank all of them, and I think it is very appropriate that my colleague from Washington State, Senator CANTWELL, who has done so much good work on these issues, is going to close today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his leadership on this legislation and on health care in general. I will always think of him as a Senator who has been an advocate for reforming our health care system and oftentimes wanting to move faster than everybody here.

I am with him and the Northwest is with him, and that is why tonight is really a very proud moment for him as the ranking member of this committee to see the monumental shift in the way we have been dealing with the payment system and the Medicare access system and the children's health care program. So tonight, hopefully, we will put behind us a long-debated issue of how physicians are paid, but it will also start us on a new path to make sure people in America are guaranteed better outcomes and a process by which we will help reduce the costs of health care by focusing on both the cost of health care and the outcomes. So my colleague entered into the RECORD tonight—and I want to thank him for that—a colloquy that addresses the issue of how those who are part of accountable care organizations who will be given the resources to focus on high-performing health care systems will be able to under this study equate exactly how well they can do and how well they should be rewarded in reducing costs and giving better outcomes.

My colleague from Oregon speaks of this because he and I come from a part of the country that literally delivers better outcomes in health care at lower costs than many other States in the United States of America. Our residents want to know why the rest of the country can't practice medicine the same way. We want those savings that you get from the health care system to be plugged in or used for other purposes. They could be part of tax reform even. But we also want the citizens of our State to get better health care. We want them to have better outcomes, and we think that moving off a fee-for-service system and onto a system that focuses on the outcome of patients is the best way for our country to move forward.

So this legislation before us today builds on that process we started in the Affordable Care Act, something that is called the value-based modifier that basically takes the fee-for-service system—when you think about it, fee for service is about volume, about ordering more tests—and we are saying we want physicians to be rewarded for the outcome and the good performance and the focus on whether the patient actually gets well or is given the best health care delivery.

In essence, the value modifier seeks to emulate the success Washington and Oregon have had and give us better, healthy outcomes for patients and lower costs. This year the value-based modifier is the beginning which physicians for the first time will see an adjustment. And building on that progress, Sylvia Burwell, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, recently announced that Medicare would aim to tie 90 percent of their Medicare fee-for-service payments to quality or value initiatives by 2018. So this is

tying half of all Medicare fee-for-service payments to an alternative payment model and helping us move forward on, again, focusing on outcomes.

I thank my colleague for entering into the colloquy the ongoing analysis that we need to do to continue to make changes on the health care system and congratulate him on the significant success of getting this bill done. It means we can spend more time focusing on efficiency, on quality, on the best way to compensate physicians but also keeping the focus on the patients and making sure they get better outcomes.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL AND RAILROAD SAFETY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to state my opposition to S. 650 in its current form. This legislation would extend the deadline for installation of Positive Train Control, PTC, by 5 years. I cannot agree with allowing such an extension without addressing so many other critical rail safety matters.

As Joe Boardman, the head of Amtrak and former FRA Administrator has said, "PTC is the most important rail safety advancement of our time." The need for this technology was first brought to our attention over 45 years ago, sparked by a head-on train collision in Darien, CT in 1969. There have been many other horrible crashes since, and within the past decade alone, the National Transportation Safety Board has completed more than two dozen train accident investigations that took 65 lives and injured over 1,100 people—all of this, according to the NTSB, could have been prevented by PTC.

One of those horrific crashes occurred in 2008 in Southern California, and 25 lives were lost. PTC could have saved those lives. Accordingly, soon after that tragedy, Congress took real, thoughtful, substantive action and

gave railroads more than 7 years to implement the life-saving technology of PTC. Since then, there have been other major accidents, such as the horrific crash of a Metro-North train in the Bronx in 2013 in which four lives were lost. Metro-North did not have PTC, and the NTSB has said the technology could have prevented those four deaths. Now, as we near the end of the 7 years, S. 650 gives railroads an extension of 5 more years—and then an option for 2 more after that. So, again, we must wait and risk continued loss of life as we further put off proven, life-saving technology.

There may be issues with the deadline, and we should have a discussion about those issues. We should also have a discussion about the many other issues with PTC. These include the need for resources for commuter railroads, the need for greater transparency for all railroads and the need for dedicated spectrum to ensure commuter railroads have bandwidth to operate PTC. S. 650 doesn't address these other issues. Rather, the bill just focuses on the deadline. I want to make sure the bill solves all the other problems.

In the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I filed amendments that actually address these other outstanding issues. I want to make sure funding is available for cash-strapped passenger railroads and commuter lines. I want to bolster transparency and make sure we know where railroads truly are in the implementation process. I want to make sure commuter railroads have the frequency they need to build out PTC, and I do not want any bill to move to the floor that ignores these needs and shortchanges our commuter railroads.

Another issue I hold with S. 650 is the bill's lack of attention to other serious safety concerns that should be addressed hand-in-hand with the shortcomings PTC works to resolve. Over the past few years, we have witnessed an onslaught of other rail safety issues spurred by far too many preventable accidents. Many of these accidents have happened on Metro-North, the commuter railroad serving Connecticut, the State I proudly represent. From mid-2013 into early 2014, we witnessed five major incidents on our commuter railroad. Then, again in February 2015, we witnessed another horrific incident in which six lives were lost. These accidents have raised a host of other needs: cameras on trains, sufficient crew size, improved rail inspections, close-call reporting systems, redundant signal protection, alerters on rail cabs, speed restrictions, better Federal oversight, and safer highway-rail grade crossings.

In the committee, I filed amendments that also advance these reforms. Those reforms must be a part of any real rail safety discussion. If we are

even to consider a PTC deadline extension, it is imperative we take up other well-known measures that can improve safety while we work toward full PTC implementation. I appreciate the commitment from the chairman and ranking member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee to work with me to advance these reforms. I also appreciate the committee including a modified version of one of my amendments in the bill that passed out of the committee. Although I withdrew my other amendments in the committee, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to improve this bill further. I am confident that together we can achieve important reforms and truly advance safety for all who depend on rail.

#### EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT OF 2015

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my opening remarks at the markup of the Every Child Achieves Act.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

##### EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT OF 2015

We are meeting today to write legislation that will fix the problems with "No Child Left Behind," the federal law causing confusion and anxiety in our country's 100,000 public schools.

Working together the last few months, Senator Murray and I have found a consensus about the urgent need to fix these problems as well as a remarkable consensus about how to fix them.

That consensus is this: Continue the law's important measurements of academic progress of students but restore to states, school districts, classroom teachers and parents the responsibility for deciding what to do about improving student achievement. This change should produce fewer tests and more appropriate ways to measure student achievement. It is the most effective path to advance higher state standards, better teaching, and real accountability.

We have drafted a bill based upon this consensus which we will offer as a starting point for our deliberations.

The problems with No Child Left Behind have been created by a combination of presidential action and congressional inaction. In 2001, President Bush and Congress enacted "No Child Left Behind," requiring a total of 17 tests between reading, math and science during a child's elementary and secondary education. The results of these tests must be disaggregated and reported according to race, ethnicity, gender, disability and other measures so parents, teachers and the community could see which children are being left behind. The law also created federal standards for whether a school is succeeding or failing, what a state or school district must do about that failure, and whether a teacher was highly qualified to teach in a classroom.

If fixing No Child Left Behind were a standardized test, Congress would have earned a failing grade for each of the last seven years. "No Child Left Behind" expired in 2007 but Congress has been unable to agree

on how to reauthorize it. As a result, the law's original requirements have stayed in place and gradually became unworkable. This has caused almost all of America's public schools to be classified as failing under the terms of the law. To avoid this bizarre result, President Obama's Education Secretary offered waivers from the terms of the law. But the Secretary required each of the 42 states currently operating under waivers to adopt certain academic standards, take prescribed steps to help failing schools, and to evaluate teachers in a defined way.

So much new federal control of local schools has produced a backlash against "Common Core" academic standards, teacher evaluation, and against tests in general. Governors and chief state school officers complain about federal overreach. Infuriated teachers say that the U.S. Department of Education has become a "National Human Resources Department or, in effect, a national school board."

In each of the last two Congresses, this Committee produced bills to fix No Child Left Behind. Basically, these bills divided our committee along party lines. Even so, two Congresses ago, Sens. Enzi, Kirk and I voted with the Democratic majority to report a bill out of committee so that the full senate could act. In the last Congress, the committee majority passed a partisan bill without any Republican votes, but I committed to support Chairman Harkin in taking the bill to the floor if there would be an open amendment process. Unfortunately, these bills never reached the senate floor.

In January, Sen. Murray suggested that the two of us work together to try to bridge the partisan divide and to recommend to the full committee a solution. I accepted her suggestion and I want to thank her for it. We have listened carefully to our senate colleagues, to teachers, principals, governors, chief state school officers, students and parents and the business and civil rights communities—and to each other.

I especially want to thank our staffs—Evan Schatz (pronounced SHOTS), Sarah Bolton, and Amanda Beaumont on Sen. Murray's staff, and David Cleary, Peter Oppenheim, and Lindsay Fryer on my staff—for their hard work and the way that they worked, trying to strip aside the rhetoric and look for real solutions. I believe they, and we, have succeeded in that.

We found that no issue stirred as much controversy as testing. Our proposal maintains the reading, math and science tests and disaggregated reporting requirements established in 2001. The more we studied the problem; the issue seems not to be the 17 federal tests. A third grader, for example, is required to take only one test in math and one in reading during one year. Denver Public Schools superintendent Tom Boasberg testified before the committee that he'd like to keep math and reading tests to a total of 4 hours a year—that's about what they are right now in Denver, according to our calculations.

Instead, the problem is the federal government's accountability system for what to do about the results of these tests. This federal accountability system has greatly contributed to the exploding number of state and local tests.

Because of this, our proposal would end federal test-based accountability and restore state and local responsibility for creating systems holding schools and teachers accountable. State accountability systems must meet limited federal guidelines, including challenging academic standards for all

students, but the federal government is prohibited from determining or approving state standards or even incentivizing states into adopting specific standards. In other words, whether a state adopts Common Core is entirely that state's decision. This transfer of responsibility is why we believe our proposal will result in fewer and more appropriate tests.

Our proposal allows, but does not require, states to develop and implement teacher evaluation systems that link student achievement to teacher performance. States will be allowed to use federal funds to implement evaluations the way they see fit.

States will determine their lowest-performing schools and receive federal funds to assist those schools but the federal government will not mandate specific steps to fix those schools.

Sens. Murray and Isakson will propose and I will support an amendment for competitive planning grants to help states expand quality early childhood education by addressing the fragmentation of current early childhood federal, state, local, public and private programs.

In conclusion, I have this request for members of the committee: please exercise restraint and help us get to a result.

If we senators were students in a classroom, none of us would expect to receive a passing grade for unfinished work. Seven years is long enough to consider how to fix No Child Left Behind. The members of this committee are thoroughly familiar with the issues. Twenty of our 22 members were on the committee during the last Congress when we considered and reported a bill. Sixteen of our members were here in the previous Congress. Over the last 6 years and 3 months we have had 27 hearings on elementary and secondary education.

Knowing this, Sen. Murray and I have exercised restraint. Neither of us insisted on putting into our base bill every proposal about which we feel strongly, although we will offer some of these as amendments when we reach the senate floor. We know that to get a result we have to achieve consensus, which means more than sixty votes. We also know that in conference we will need to agree with the House of Representatives, which is of one political party, and then with the President, who is of another.

During our committee discussions, any germane amendment will be in order to the bipartisan agreement Sen. Murray and I will offer. Any amendment related to K-12 education will be in order on the senate floor. Nevertheless, I would ask each member of this committee to exercise restraint in search of a result. If we can agree on most things, let's put aside the other things until another debate and another day.

And I would ask one other thing: in offering your amendments, please keep in mind the advice we received earlier this year from Carol Burris, New York's 2013 High School principal of the Year:

"I ask that your committee remember that the American public school system was built on the belief that local communities cherish their children and have the right and responsibility, within sensible limits, to determine how they are schooled.

While the federal government has a very special role in ensuring that our students do not experience discrimination based on who they are or what their disability may be, Congress is not a National School Board.

Although our locally elected school boards may not be perfect, they represent one of the purest forms of democracy we have. Bad

ideas in the small do damage in the small and are easily corrected. Bad ideas at the federal level result in massive failure and are far harder to fix."

In other words, our well-intended guidance from Washington is usually not as effective as a decision made in the home, classroom, and community by those closest to the children.

What we heard over and over again from Democrats as well as Republicans was that while continuing measurements of academic progress are important in holding schools and teachers accountable, we should respect the judgments of those closest to the children and leave to them most decisions about how to help 3.4 million teachers help 50 million children in 100,000 public schools improve student achievement.

Fifty years ago on Palm Sunday, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first Elementary and Secondary Education Act. A good way to celebrate that anniversary is to fix the problems with the most recent version of the act so that all our children can have the best possible opportunity to learn what they need to know and be able to do in an increasingly complex world.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WALTER SCOTT THOMAS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Sunday, I will be honored and pleased to participate in a celebration of Bishop Walter Scott Thomas' 40th anniversary as pastor of the New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD. Bishop Thomas is one of the great leaders of the faith community in Baltimore. When he became pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church in 1975, the congregation numbered 200 or so people. Today, the church has over 7,000 active members. There are Bible study classes held every day of the week, a 3-year discipleship program, leadership classes, and a school for future ministers. New Psalmist has a nationally televised broadcast, "Empowering Disciples," that can be viewed locally on WJZ TV and on the Word Network. There are three worship services on Sundays and one on Wednesday. New Psalmist is committed to caring for community and for God's creation. Classes are held to teach members how to Go Green and conserve God's creation. Every year, the church helps over 500 families at Christmas, and feeds 100 disadvantaged families each month.

Bishop Thomas is known as a pastor's pastor. He makes himself available as a mentor and source of strength for other pastors. Ten years ago, 28 sons and daughters of the New Psalmist Baptist Church who pastor churches across the Nation gathered and voted unanimously to elect Bishop Thomas as president of Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors and to the office of bishop. Later that year, Bishop Thomas was elevated to the office of bishop and presiding prelate of The Kingdom

Association of Covenant Pastors. That historic occasion was held at the First Mariner Arena in front of over 10,000 people. The Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors is a newly established association consisting of men and women who have been influenced by the ministry of New Psalmist Baptist Church and Bishop Thomas.

Bishop Thomas isn't content just to lead New Psalmist Baptist Church. He served as the president of the Hampton University Minister's Conference from 1999 to 2002. Under his leadership, conference attendance doubled. Bishop Thomas is also an inspirational author of books such as "Spiritual Navigation for the 21st Century" and "Good Meat Makes Its Own Gravy". He is the editor of "Outstanding Black Sermons, Volume 4". Bishop Thomas received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland in economics. He earned his master of divinity degree from the Howard University School of Religion in Washington, DC and a doctor of ministry degree from Saint Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore. In addition to his earned degrees, Bishop Thomas was bestowed with an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Virginia Seminary and Bethune Cookman College. Bishop Thomas and his wife and committed partner in ministry, Patricia, have three children, Joi, Walter Jr., and Joshua.

New Psalmist Baptist Church has a rich history that spans over 100 years. The church was founded by Rev. Junius Gray in 1899 as the Right Independent Freewill Baptist Church. The first members—fewer than 20 people—met in the basement of a house on Russell Terrace. In 1901, the church purchased and moved to a two-story building at 1102 Parrish Alley. In 1911, the church, renamed Psalmist Baptist Church, purchased and remodeled property at Riggs Avenue and Woodyear Street. Reverend Gray pastored Psalmist Baptist Church for 47 years.

Rev. Frederick C. Atkins was called to pastor Psalmist Baptist Church in June 1948. Under his leadership, membership grew and, because of that growth, the church purchased and moved to a new building at Druid Hill and North Avenues in 1954. The \$56,000 mortgage was paid in full and burned in 1960 and the church was renamed the New Psalmist Baptist Church. Reverend Atkins served as pastor until his sudden death on March 16, 1974. Bishop Thomas, who was called to proclaim the Word of God in 1973 under the anointed leadership of Dr. Harold Carter, pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore, took over in 1975. In 1978, New Psalmist moved from Druid Hill and North Avenues to Cathedral and Franklin Streets. While in downtown Baltimore, New Psalmist grew tremendously. In 1994, New Psalmist broke ground and 2 years later, moved from Franklin and Cath-

edral Street to Old Frederick Road, a multi-million dollar worship center and ministry complex on 19 acres of land. The church continued to grow and in the fall of 2010, it moved into a brand new 4,000-seat worship facility.

New Psalmist Baptist Church is a vibrant and welcoming place. Past attendees have included the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Reverend T.D. Jakes, former President Bill Clinton in 1998, and then-Senator Barack Obama in 2007. New Psalmist Baptist Church members walk in faith and work together for the common good. The church provides job training and a fitness and health ministry; donates school supplies to children; ministers to the deaf, homeless, and prisoners and their families; hosts blood drives; partners with 12 schools across Maryland to help students, parents, and school staff members succeed in their educational mission; and is an accredited organization under the United Nations Environment Program, which seeks to create global policies that will protect our planet.

I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop Thomas and his family and friends on his 40th pastoral anniversary at New Psalmist Baptist Church and sending along best wishes to all the members of New Psalmist who know, as President John F. Kennedy said at his inauguration 54 years ago, "that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."•

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. GLENN STEELE

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Glenn Steele upon his retirement from Geisinger Health System. Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." In his 14 years as CEO of Geisinger, Glenn Steele has been the embodiment of that idea.

Geisinger is located in Dansville, PA, and is the largest rural health services organization in the country, serving more than 3 million residents throughout 48 counties. Annually, Geisinger provides over \$400 million in community support, helping to meet the needs of all Pennsylvanians in the area, regardless of their ability to pay. Under Dr. Steele, Geisinger has been a leader in delivery system reform, improving quality of care and population health while reducing cost.

Dr. Steele is a trailblazer in the health care field. With a medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and a doctorate in microbiology from Lund University in Sweden, Dr. Steele brings a unique perspective to managing a health care system. He has authored and coauthored over 460 scientific and professional articles and has been widely recognized for his in-

vestigations into the treatment of liver cancer and colorectal cancer surgery. He is also a visionary in the area of health care delivery and financing, one of the achievements for which Geisinger is most well-known. Since 2012, Dr. Steele has served on the U.S. Congressional Budget Office's panel of health advisors, cementing his reputation as a national leader.

Dr. Steele has earned numerous awards over the years. He was named to Modern Health Care's list of the 50 Most Influential Physician Executives five times and the list of the 100 Most Influential People in Health care five times. He received the CEO IT Achievement Award in 2006, American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award in 2007, the American Hospitals Association's Health Research & Education Trust Award and the HFMA Board of Directors' Award in 2011. Most recently, he was named to the Becker's Hospital Review's list of "40 of the Smartest People in Health care" for his work in health care reform. He also received the 2014 Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award, which recognizes people for innovative approaches to bringing high-value and accessible health care to their communities, permanently transforming and improving the field. That final award is a testament to Geisinger's legacy and sums up Dr. Steele's vision of health care.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, I wish Glenn Steele well in this new chapter. I have no doubt he will continue transforming health care and changing and improving the lives of people and the communities where they live. •

#### RECOGNIZING JILL LISTI DANCE STUDIO

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, among the best ways to introduce the arts into our local communities is through small businesses. Small businesses have the opportunity to harness the talent of their communities, fostering a culture of creativity and innovation. Such is the case with this week's Small Business of the Week: Jill Listi Dance Studio of Lafayette, LA.

When Jill Listi began teaching dance classes at the age of 15, she could not imagine where her love of dance would lead her. Opening her own studio at the age of 21, Listi has gained a reputation for training world-class, award-winning dancers of all ages and styles. A 25-year certified member of the Dance Masters of America organization, Listi continually innovates with the art of dance at her Lafayette studio. Many of Listi's dance groups, dance lines, and dance productions have won platinum medals and overall high point awards at their respective contests. With over 30 years of teaching experience, Jill Listi Dance Studio boasts a diverse and well-trained staff. Well known in the

world of dance and continually expanding their knowledge of technique and style, Listi's team continues to produce and inspire top-quality dancers. Many of Listi's dancers have gone on to dance professionally in the United States as well as in Europe.

Listi's dance studio is committed to providing opportunities in the arts to children and adults throughout Acadiana. The studio values the opportunity to introduce students to dance while instilling a firm foundation that promotes a respect and understanding for the art of dance. From professional dancer to first time student, Listi provides equal attention and instruction to all studio students. The Listi team believes that hard work produces achievement—a lesson that instills discipline in each studio student that translates into all aspects of life.

Congratulations again to Jill Listi Dance for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for being a champion for the arts in Louisiana.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED RESCISSION OF CUBA'S DESIGNATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM—PM 13

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report and papers, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith a report to the Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 14, 2015.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust.

At 11:45 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 299. An act to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes.

H.R. 601. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement.

H.R. 1259. An act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1265. An act to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

H.R. 1367. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 1480. An act to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 299. An act to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 601. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1259. An act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1265. An act to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1367. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1480. An act to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and referred as indicated:

S. 95. A bill to terminate the \$1 presidential coin program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1065. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the increasing prevalence and severity of malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1066. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1067. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1068. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulations; Technical Amendments" (48 CFR Parts 1001, 1002, 1016, 1019, 1028, 1032, 1034, 1042, and 1052) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1069. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-1070. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Secondary (C13-C17) Alkane

Sulfonates; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9923-64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1071. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyraclostrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9925-02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1072. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to recommendations proposed by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1073. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Brooks L. Bash, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1074. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of ten (10) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1075. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" (RIN1902-AE97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1076. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a recommendation that the Congress pass legislation making additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that the Service proposed as part of the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and final environmental impact statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1077. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), seven (7) reports relative to vacancies in the Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1078. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Synthetic Iron Oxide" (Docket No. FDA-2013-C-1008) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1079. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2012 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities—Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1080. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2014 Performance Report to the President and Congress for the Biosimilar User Fee Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1081. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2012 Regional Partnerships Grants to Increase the Well-Being of and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Substance Abuse: First Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1082. A communication from the Chairman of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1083. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1084. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2015 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1085. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1086. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Quantification of Emission Reductions From Incentive Program" (FRL No. 9924-69-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1087. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9925-33-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1088. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Response to Vacatur of the Comparable Fuels Rule and the Gasification Rule" (FRL No. 9923-12-OSWER) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1089. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Amendment to the Definition of 'Regulated NSR Pollutant' Concerning Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9925-96-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1090. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Allentown Nonattainment Area to Attainment for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9925-94-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1091. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, and 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Approval of Air Pollution Emergency Episode Plan" (FRL No. 9925-93-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1092. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Moderate Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9925-27-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1093. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additional Air Quality Designations and Technical Amendment to Correct Inadvertent Error in Air Quality Designations for the 2012 Primary Annual Fine Particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 9925-76-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1094. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife



Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomy of the Hawaiian Monk Seal" (RIN1018-BA73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1095. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Listings for Growth Disorders and Weight Loss in Children" (RIN0960-AG28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1096. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1097. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements" (Announcement 2015-11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1098. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting Airline Payment Amount Rollovers Under Public Law 113-243" (Announcement 2015-13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1099. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Instructions for Communications Pursuant to Section 1.1502-77" (Rev. Proc. 2015-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1100. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "No Rule for Refined Coal" (Rev. Proc. 2015-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1101. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modifications to Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System" (Rev. Proc. 2015-27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1102. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Period of Limitations on Assessment for Listed Transactions Not Disclosed Under Section 6011" ((RIN1545-BH37) (TD 9718)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1103. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Revising Rules Regarding Agency for a Consolidated Group" ((RIN1545-BH31) (TD 9715)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1104. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certain Employee Remuneration in Excess of \$1,000,000 under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m)" ((RIN1545-BI65) (TD 9716)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1105. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2015-6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1106. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0139)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1107. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0484)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1108. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1109. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0620)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1110. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0491)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1111. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0653)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1112. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0522)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1113. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2008-0561)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1114. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0347)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1115. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0397)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1116. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; CFM International S.A. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0521)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1117. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0070)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.



EC-1118. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Flugzeugwerke Altenrhein AG (FFA) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0536)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1119. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers and Harlan Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1001)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1120. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbopfan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0238)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1121. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbopfan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0561)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1122. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Rogue Valley, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1055)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1123. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Plainville, CT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0293)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1124. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Manchester, NH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0601)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1125. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Seattle, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0466)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1126. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bend, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0468)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1127. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Spokane, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0467)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1128. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Maxwell, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0870)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1129. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hazen, NV" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1130. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; North Adams, MA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0805)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1131. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace, and Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Prescott, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1132. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (109); Amdt. No. 3628" ((RIN2120-AA65) received dur-

ing adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1133. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (18); Amdt. No. 3627" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1134. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (57); Amdt. No. 3630" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1135. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (100); Amdt. No. 3629" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1136. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-330 in the Vicinity of Mountain Home, Idaho" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1112)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1137. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Baton Rouge, LA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1124)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1138. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3801A, R-3801B, and R-3801C; Camp Claiborne, LA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0265)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1139. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Restricted Area R-2936, West Palm

Beach, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0264)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1140. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Area Boundary Descriptions; Cape Canaveral, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0875)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1141. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Carrier Contract Maintenance Requirements" ((RIN2120-AJ33) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1136)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1142. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD733) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1143. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Run-Around Gillnet Closure" (RIN0648-XD731) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1144. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Western Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD780) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1145. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD714) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1146. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Off Alaska" (RIN0648-BD98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1147. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 16" (RIN0648-BE46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1148. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2014; Interim Gulf of Maine Cod Management Measures; Correction" (RIN0648-XD715) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1149. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015-2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Amendment 24" (RIN0648-BE27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1150. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet" ((GN Docket No. 14-28) (FCC 15-24)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1151. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the compliance of federal district courts with documentation submission requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 903. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access and administration of the United States Tax Court (Rept. No. 114-14).

S. 904. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove bond requirements and extend filing periods for certain taxpayers with limited excise tax liability (Rept. No. 114-15).

S. 905. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the lim-

itation on eligibility for the alternative tax for certain small insurance companies (Rept. No. 114-16).

S. 906. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the types of wines taxed as hard cider (Rept. No. 114-17).

S. 907. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the extension of the tax collection period merely because the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces who is hospitalized as a result of combat zone injuries (Rept. No. 114-18).

S. 908. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-19).

S. 909. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-20).

S. 910. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the special rules for accident and health plans of certain governmental entities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-21).

S. 912. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds (Rept. No. 114-22).

S. 913. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment tax credit for waste heat to power technology (Rept. No. 114-23).

S. 914. An original bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents (Rept. No. 114-24).

S. 915. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-25).

S. 916. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income (Rept. No. 114-26).

S. 917. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the excise tax on liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas (Rept. No. 114-27).

S. 918. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other nonprofit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked (Rept. No. 114-28).

S. 919. An original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants to non-corporate taxpayers (Rept. No. 114-29).

S. 920. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State (Rept. No. 114-30).

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on the Budget:

Special Report entitled "Review of Legislative Activity During the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-31).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 615. A bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 903. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access and administration of the United States Tax Court; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 904. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove bond requirements and extend filing periods for certain taxpayers with limited excise tax liability; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 905. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on eligibility for the alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 906. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the types of wines taxed as hard cider; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 907. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the extension of the tax collection period merely because the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces who is hospitalized as a result of combat zone injuries; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 908. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 909. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 910. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the special rules for accident and health plans of certain governmental entities, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 911. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 912. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 913. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment tax credit for waste heat to power technology; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 914. An original bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 915. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 916. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 917. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the excise tax on liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 918. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other nonprofit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 919. An original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants to non-corporate taxpayers; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 920. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 921. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 922. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. COATS):

S. 923. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 924. A bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to hold public hearings and receive comments from the public on its budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 925. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 926. A bill to amend the patent law to promote basic research, to stimulate publication of scientific documents, to encourage collaboration in scientific endeavors, to improve the transfer of technology to the private sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 927. A bill to provide regulatory relief for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 928. A bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 929. A bill to repeal the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a flat tax, thereby guaranteeing economic growth and fairness for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 930. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 931. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 932. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for the installation of sprinklers and elevators in historic structures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 933. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 934. A bill to amend the renewable fuel program under section 211(o) of the Clean Air

Act to require the cellulosic biofuel requirement to be based on actual production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 935. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to regulate tax return preparers and refund anticipation payment arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 936. A bill to amend the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 937. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State management of grazing permits and leases; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 938. A bill to establish the America Star program within the Department of Labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 939. A bill to require the evaluation and consolidation of duplicative green building programs within the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 135. A resolution making minority party appointments for the 114th Congress; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 358

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to

promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator

from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 707

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, supra.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend the National Labor

Relations Act to provide for appropriate designation of collective bargaining units.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 868

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 868, a bill to establish a fund to make payment to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their

families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:00-CV-03110 (ESG) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 875

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 875, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Human Rights Amendment Act of 2014.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 130

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 130, a resolution designating March 29, 2015, as "Vietnam Veterans Day".

S. RES. 133

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 133, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 930. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, millions of Americans are racing against the clock to meet tomorrow's midnight deadline to file their taxes. In the closing hours of the 113th Congress, we came together to approve legislation to extend for 1 year, just 1 year, several tax credits that are essential to small businesses and middleclass families. A 1 year extension of these tax credits was surely welcomed by many, but such a short extension leaves in place the uncertainty needed by so many families and small businesses as they look ahead to the coming year to plan large purchases, expansions, new home purchases, or even a family vacation. I hope that Congress will tackle meaningful tax reform legislation this year, so that we can protect hardworking families, hold corporations accountable, incentivize environmental protections, and encourage charitable giving.

So today, ahead of Tax Day, I am introducing three commonsense proposals, S. 930, S. 931, and S. 932, that will provide reasonable tax credits for such things as surplus food donations, art donations, and preservation of our historic buildings in communities and villages across the country.

The bipartisan Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act expands upon a proven and effective tax incentive to encourage businesses and farms to donate surplus food to their local food banks. A 2011 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that demand on food banks across the country has risen dramatically during and since the recent economic recession, with more than 50 million Americans living in food insecure households. Despite this, as much as 40 percent of the food that is produced, grown and transported in the United States goes unused as some businesses find it too costly to donate the excess food, amounting to 70 billion pounds of wasted food each year.

The Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Act addresses this by permanently extending the same tax incentives to donate food now available to corporations to all businesses, including small businesses, farmers, ranchers and restaurant owners—many of whom often have large amounts of fresh food to donate. Since the most recent extension of this tax incentive through 2013, the restaurant industry alone experienced a 137 percent increase in the pounds of food donated. This bill—cosponsored by Senators COCHRAN, STABENOW, MCCAIN, CASEY, and BLUNT, is supported by many organizations including Feeding America, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Food Marketing Institute, Grocery Manufacturers Association,

the National Restaurant Association, Hunger Free Vermont, and the Vermont Food Bank.

The Artist-Museum Partnership Act was first introduced in 2000. This legislation would preserve cherished art works for the public by allowing artists to take a fair market deduction for works they donate to museums, libraries, colleges and other public institutions. Under current law, artists that donate their created work may only deduct the cost of supplies, while a collector of the same work that donates it to qualified charitable institutions is allowed to take a tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the donated work.

Prior to 1969, artists and collectors alike were able to take a deduction equivalent to the fair market value of a work. Congress changed the law for artists more than 30 years ago in response to the perception that some taxpayers were taking advantage of the law by inflating the market value of self-created works. Since the law was changed with respect to artists, fewer and fewer of them have donated their works to museums and cultural institutions, while the government has cut down significantly on the abuse of fair market value determinations. The Artist-Museum Partnership Act would restore the law to pre-1969 and allow artists who donate their own paintings, manuscripts, compositions, or scholarly compositions to be subject to the same new rules that all taxpayers or collectors who donate such works follow.

The Artist-Museum Partnership Act is supported by such organizations as the Association of Art Museum Directors, American Alliance of Museums, Americans for the Arts, League of American Orchestras, OPERA America, Dance/USA, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the Vermont Arts Counsel, and the Shelburne Museum.

Finally, the Historic Downtown and Preservation and Access Act would create a refundable tax credit for the installation of fire sprinklers and elevators in older, multi-use buildings in historic downtowns. Each year fire destroys hundreds of vulnerable historic buildings that serve as the anchors of America's vibrant villages and downtowns, in many cases resulting in injury or loss of life. The Historic Downtown and Preservation and Access Act creates a 50 percent refundable tax credit capped at \$50,000 to encourage the installation of upfront but costly sprinkler systems in order to help prevent the loss of life, reduce property damage, and decrease Federal expenditures on rebuilding efforts after these fires.

This bill also incentivizes the installation of elevators in order to encourage the use of upper story office, retail, and housing space in historic downtown buildings that would otherwise go

unused due to inaccessibility. The new refundable tax credit, modeled after the State of Vermont's highly successful downtown historic tax credit, would allow private entities with little tax liability and nonprofits alike to install these important property and life-saving devices in historic buildings.

Congress must have a meaningful debate about how we can best reform, simplify, and streamline our complicated tax system. These are just a few of the proposals I hope Congress will consider in this debate. It is time we start working to incentivize programs that stand to best help our communities, rather than protect the wealthiest among us from paying their fair share.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Act of 2015, which was introduced today by Senator PATRICK LEAHY and cosponsored by Senators BOB CASEY, THAD COCHRAN, DEBBIE STABENOW, and ROY BLUNT.

This bipartisan bill would benefit food banks and hunger charities around the nation. At its core, the bill would provide tax incentives for small and medium business who donate food or resources to food banks. This means restaurants, farms, and other food providers can do even more in their local communities to help fight hunger.

Speaking for my state, I can tell you that hunger is a very real problem in Arizona. Currently about one in five Arizonans live below the poverty line. In some parts of the State, one-in-four children and one-in-seven seniors live in poverty—particularly on Indian reservations where unemployment rates approach 75 percent, and in minority communities. Often these individuals are left to wonder where their next meal will come from.

I am proud that Phoenix, Arizona is home to the world's first food bank, the St. Mary's Food Bank. Since its founding in 1967, St. Mary's has grown into a leading hunger organization and has distributed more than 700 million pounds of food to people all over Arizona.

I believe this bill's projected cost to the Treasury can be offset by reducing unnecessary and wasteful agriculture subsidies. I would encourage my colleagues to look at the most recent Farm Bill that was signed into law in 2013 and is projected to cost over \$996 billion over the next 10 years. It is fraught with special interest farm subsidies that we could instead reduce or terminate and use the savings to pay for the important tax incentive programs provided by this bill.

For example, the Farm Bill includes crop insurance subsidies for tobacco products, which are estimated to cost taxpayers \$33 million each year. It also provides for the USDA Market Access Program, which has long been criti-

cized by taxpayer watchdogs as a form of corporate welfare because it spends roughly \$200 million annually to subsidize advertising, market research and trade shows for large corporations overseas. The Farm Bill also includes an obscure set of USDA grants that subsidizes scientific research for large agriculture operations, such as \$25 million earmarked for the study of the health benefits of lima beans and peas, and \$1.3 million set-aside for genome sequencing of Christmas trees. Further, it calls for the creation of a USDA Catfish Office, which I have long criticized along with the Government Accountability Office and the Obama administration for being wasteful and duplicative of FDA's catfish inspection program and will ultimately cost the American taxpayer \$14 million a year. These are just a few of the many wasteful Farm Bill programs that could be eliminated to offset the estimated costs of our proposed tax incentive legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and consider these and other Farm Bill spending offsets as the bill moves through the legislative process.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 135—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 135

*Resolved*, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 114th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Cardin, Mrs. Boxer, Mr. Menendez, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Udall, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. Markey.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mrs. Shaheen, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Cardin, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Markey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Peters.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1114. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

SA 1115. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REID, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, *supra*.

SA 1116. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SASSE)



proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, *supra*.

SA 1117. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, *supra*.

SA 1118. Mr. COTTON proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, *supra*.

SA 1119. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, *supra*.

SA 1120. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1114.** Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RESTORING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY.**

Sections 1501 and 1502 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

**SA 1115.** Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mrs. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike sections 301 through 304, and insert the following:

#### **SEC. 301. 4-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

##### **(a) FUNDING.—**

**(1) IN GENERAL.**—Section 2104(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (17), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by striking paragraph (18) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(18) for fiscal year 2015, \$21,061,000,000;  
 “(19) for fiscal year 2016, \$19,300,000,000;  
 “(20) for fiscal year 2017, \$20,300,000,000;  
 “(21) for fiscal year 2018, \$21,300,000,000; and  
 “(22) for fiscal year 2019, for purposes of making 2 semi-annual allotments—

“(A) \$2,850,000,000 for the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on March 31, 2019; and

“(B) \$2,850,000,000 for the period beginning on April 1, 2019, and ending on September 30, 2019.”

**(2) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, insofar as funds have been appropriated under subsection (a)(18) or (m) of section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd), or under section 108 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–3), as such subsections and section are in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide allotments to States under the State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) (whether implemented under title XIX, XXI, or both, of the Social Security Act) for fiscal year 2015—

(A) any amounts that are so appropriated that are not so allotted and obligated before the date of the enactment of this Act, are rescinded; and

(B) any amount provided for CHIP allotments to a State under this section (and the amendments made by this section) for such fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount of such appropriations so allotted and obligated before such date.

##### **(b) ALLOTMENTS.—**

**(1) IN GENERAL.**—Section 2104(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “THROUGH 2015” and inserting “AND THEREAFTER”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2014” and inserting “2018”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

“(B) FISCAL YEAR 2013 THROUGH 2018.—Subject to paragraphs (4) and (6), from the amount made available under paragraphs (16) through (21) of subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2018, respectively, the Secretary shall compute a State allotment for each State (including the District of Columbia and each commonwealth and territory) for each such fiscal year as follows:

“(i) REBASING IN FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND EACH SUCCEEDING ODD-NUMBERED FISCAL YEAR.—For fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding odd-numbered fiscal year, the allotment of the State is equal to the Federal payments to the State that are attributable to (and countable toward) the total amount of allotments available under this section to the State in the preceding fiscal year (including payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year as well as amounts redistributed to the State in such preceding fiscal year), multiplied by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (5) for such odd-numbered fiscal year.

“(ii) GROWTH FACTOR UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND EACH SUCCEEDING EVEN-NUMBERED FISCAL YEAR.—Except as provided in clause (iii), for fiscal year 2014 and each succeeding even-numbered fiscal year, the allotment of the State is equal to the sum of—

“(I) the amount of the State allotment under clause (i) for the preceding fiscal year; and

“(II) the amount of any payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year, multiplied by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (5) for such even-numbered fiscal year.

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016.—For fiscal year 2016, the allotment of the State is equal to the Federal payments to the State that are attributable to (and countable toward) the total amount of allotments available under this section to the State in the preceding fiscal year (including payments made to the State under subsection (n) for such preceding fiscal year as well as amounts redistributed to the State in such preceding fiscal year), but determined as if the last two sentences of section 2105(b) were in effect in such preceding fiscal year and then multiplying the result by the allotment increase factor under paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2016.”

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “paragraph (18)” and inserting “paragraph (22)”; and

(II) by striking “section 108 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009” and inserting “section 301(b)(2) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “paragraph (18)” and inserting “paragraph (22)”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking “2014” each place it appears and inserting “2018”; and

(II) by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “subsection (a)(18)(A)” and inserting “subsection (a)(22)(A)”; and

(bb) in subclause (II), by striking “section 108 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009” and inserting “section 301(b)(2) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015”; and

(II) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “subsection (a)(18)(B)” and inserting “subsection (a)(22)(B)”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(E) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “or fiscal year 2014” and inserting “fiscal year 2014, fiscal year 2016, or fiscal year 2018”; and

(F) in paragraph (8)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(ii) by striking “for a period in fiscal year 2015” and inserting “for a period in fiscal year 2019”.

**(2) ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.**—There is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$16,700,000,000 to accompany the allotment made for the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on March 31, 2019, under section 2104(a)(22)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)(22)(A)) (as added by subsection (a)(1)), to remain available until expended. Such amount shall be used to provide allotments to States under paragraph (3) of section 2104(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(m)) (as amended by paragraph (1)(C)) for the first 6 months of fiscal year 2019 in the same manner as allotments are provided under subsection (a)(22)(A) of such section 2104 and subject to the same terms and conditions as apply to the allotments provided from such subsection (a)(22)(A).



(c) CHILD ENROLLMENT CONTINGENCY FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(n)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “and (D)” and inserting “, (D), and (E)”;

(II) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) for each of—

“(I) fiscal years 2010 through 2014, such sums as are necessary for making payments to eligible States for such fiscal year, but not in excess of the aggregate cap described in subparagraph (B); and

“(II) fiscal years 2015 through 2018 (and for each of the semi-annual allotment periods for fiscal year 2019), such sums as are necessary for making payments to eligible States for such fiscal year or period.”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) AGGREGATE CAP.—The total amount available for payment from the Fund for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, taking into account deposits made under subparagraph (C), shall not exceed 20 percent of the amount made available under subsection (a) for the fiscal year. In the case of fiscal years 2015 through 2018 (and for each of the semi-annual allotment periods for fiscal year 2019), there shall be no limit on the amount available for payment from the Fund.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting “before fiscal year 2015” after “fiscal year or period”;

(II) by striking “for any succeeding fiscal year”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

“(E) TRANSFERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the following amounts shall also be available, without fiscal year limitation, for making payments from the Fund:

“(i) UNOBLIGATED NATIONAL ALLOTMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2014.—

“(I) FISCAL YEAR 2014 ALLOTMENT.—As of December 31 of fiscal year 2015, the portion, if any, of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for fiscal year 2014 that is unobligated for allotment to a State under subsection (m) for such fiscal year.

“(II) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR ALLOTMENTS.—As of December 31 of fiscal year 2016, and each succeeding fiscal year, the portion, if any, of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for the preceding fiscal year that is unobligated for allotment to a State under subsection (m) for such preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) UNEXPENDED ALLOTMENTS NOT USED FOR REDISTRIBUTION.—As of December 31 of fiscal year 2015, and as of November 15 of each succeeding fiscal year, the total amount of allotments made to States under subsection (a) for the second preceding fiscal year that is not expended or redistributed under subsection (f) during the period in which such allotments are available for obligation.

“(iii) UNEXPENDED PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE FUNDS.—As of January 1, 2016, and as of January 1 of each succeeding calendar year, the portion, if any, of the amount appropriated under section 2105(a)(3)(E)(iii) for the preceding fiscal year that is not expended or obligated under such section.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and realigning the left margins accordingly;

(II) by striking “If a State’s” and all that follows through “2015,” and inserting the following:

“(i) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2014.—If a State’s expenditures under this title in fiscal year 2009, fiscal year 2010, fiscal year 2011, fiscal year 2012, fiscal year 2013, or fiscal year 2014”;

(III) by striking “or period” each place it appears;

(IV) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), by striking “(or in which the period occurs)”;

(V) by adding at the end the following clause:

“(ii) FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER 2014.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018 (and for each of the semi-annual allotment periods for fiscal year 2019), if the Secretary determines that a State is a shortfall State described in subclause (II) for that fiscal year or period, the Secretary shall pay to the State from the Fund, in addition to any other payments made to the State under this title for the fiscal year or period, an amount equal to the amount described in subclause (III).

“(II) SHORTFALL STATES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this clause, with respect to a fiscal year or semi-annual allotment period, a shortfall State is a State for which the Secretary estimates, on the basis of the most recent data available to the Secretary, that the projected expenditures for the State and fiscal year or period under this title (including in the form of coverage described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2101, or both) will exceed the sum of—

“(aa) the amount of the State’s allotments for any preceding fiscal year that remains available for expenditure and that will not be expended by the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year;

“(bb) the amount (if any) that will be redistributed to the State under subsection (f) for the fiscal year or period;

“(cc) the amount (if any) to be paid to the State in the first quarter of the fiscal year under section 2105(a)(3); and

“(dd) the amount of the State’s allotment for the fiscal year or period.

“(III) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—With respect to a State and fiscal year or period, the amount described in this subclause is equal to the amount by which the projected expenditures for the State under this title for the fiscal year or period (estimated by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent data available to the Secretary) exceed the sum determined under subclause (II) for the State and fiscal year or period.

“(IV) RETROSPECTIVE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary may adjust the determinations made under this clause with respect to a State and fiscal year or period as necessary on the basis of the amounts reported by States not later than November 30 of the succeeding fiscal year, as approved by the Secretary.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “(or semi-annual period occurring in a fiscal year)”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)(i)(II)”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “(or semi-annual period occurring in a fiscal year)”;

(iv) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “the expenditures under the State child health plan and” after “regarding”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2104(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(f)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “only in the case of a fiscal year before fiscal year 2015,” before “the amount”.

(d) EXTENSION AND UPDATE OF PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

(1) EXTENSION THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2019.—Section 2105(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(a)(3)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “2013” and inserting “2019”;

and

(ii) in the second sentence, by inserting “, except that payment under this paragraph may be made to a State for fiscal year 2014 as a single payment not later than December 31, 2015” before the period;

(B) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) UNOBLIGATED NATIONAL ALLOTMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2013.—As of December 31 of fiscal year 2009, and as of December 31 of each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2013, the portion, if any, of the amount appropriated under section 2104(a) for such fiscal year that is unobligated for allotment to a State under section 2104(m) for such fiscal year or set aside under subsection (a)(3) or (b)(2) of section 2111 for such fiscal year.”;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2019.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for making payments under this paragraph. Amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under this clause shall remain available for making payments under this paragraph until January 1 of the following fiscal year. Any amounts of such appropriations that remain unexpended or unobligated as of such date shall be transferred and made available for making payments under section 2104(n).”;

(C) in subparagraph (F)(iii), by striking “2013” and inserting “2019”.

(2) UPDATED PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE CRITERIA FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2019.—Section 2105(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “or (5)” after “paragraph (4)”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2014” after “FOR CHILDREN”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “for a fiscal year if” and inserting “for fiscal years 2009 through 2014 if”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION PROVISIONS FOR CHILDREN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A), a State meets the condition of this paragraph for fiscal year 2015 and any succeeding fiscal year if it is implementing at least 4 of the enrollment and retention provisions specified in subparagraph (B) (treating each clause as a separate enrollment and retention provision) throughout the entire fiscal year.

“(B) ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION PROVISIONS.—The enrollment and retention provisions specified in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY.—The State has elected the option of continuous eligibility for a full 12 months for all children described in section 1902(e)(12) under title XIX under 19 years of age, as well as applying such policy under its State child health plan under this title.

“(ii) EXPRESS LANE ELIGIBILITY.—The State is implementing the option described in section 1902(e)(13) under title XIX as well as, pursuant to section 2107(e)(1), under this title.

“(iii) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.—The State provides medical assistance to children during a presumptive eligibility period by implementing section 1920A under title XIX as well as, pursuant to section 2107(e)(1), under this title, and ensures that such period begins with the determination by any qualified entity that the family income of the child does not exceed the applicable level of income eligibility under the State plan. A State shall not satisfy this provision if the only type of entity recognized by the State as a qualified entity is a hospital that has elected to be a qualified entity under section 1902(a)(47)(B).

“(iv) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLANS.—The State has opted to offer a premium assistance subsidy for qualified employer-sponsored coverage by implementing section 1906A under title XIX or the option described in section 2105(c)(10) under this title.

“(v) ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIODS.—The State does not impose a waiting period for coverage of any individual under the State child health plan and ensures that no waiting period applies in the case of coverage provided to any individual eligible for coverage under the State child health plan through coverage purchased by the State under section 2105(c)(3) or employer-sponsored coverage subsidized by the State under section 1906A of title XIX or section 2105(c)(10) of this title.

“(vi) AUTOMATED TRACKING OF COST SHARING OR LOWER CAP ON COST SHARING.—In the case of a State child health plan that imposes premiums, deductibles, cost sharing, or similar charges that could (as determined by the Secretary) cause families that include an individual receiving assistance under the plan to have out-of-pocket expenses that exceed the limit imposed under section 2103(e)(3)(B), the State has either—

“(I) established, or, in the case of a State child health plan that provides child health assistance through managed care entities or organizations, required such entities or organizations to coordinate with the State agency responsible for implementing the State child health plan under this title in establishing—

“(aa) an electronic process for tracking such expenses that does not rely on documentation provided by the individual or the family; and

“(bb) a system for notifying each such family of the aggregate monthly or quarterly limits on out-of-pocket expenses applicable to the family under section 2103(e)(3)(B) and explaining to each such family that no such expenses shall be imposed on any individual in the family for the remainder of any month or quarter with respect to which the family has reached the applicable aggregate monthly or quarterly family limit imposed under such section; or

“(II) elected to eliminate deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other forms of

cost-sharing (other than premiums) imposed under this title with respect to any individual receiving coverage under the State child health plan.

“(vii) REAL-TIME ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS THROUGH THE USE OF ENHANCED DATA SOURCES.—With respect to applications and renewals for medical assistance under title XIX or child health assistance under this title for a fiscal year, the State meets the following criteria for all income determinations made using modified adjusted gross income under section 1902(e)(14)(A):

“(I) The State relies on enhanced data sources (which may include, but shall not be limited to, the data sources available under section 1137 or the federal Data Services Hub) to make the determinations.

“(II) In the case of initial applications, the State makes at least 50 percent of the determinations within 24 hours of receiving the application. If a State successfully makes the required minimum percentage of timely determinations for a fiscal year, such State shall not receive credit for meeting this provision in any subsequent fiscal year unless the State makes a percentage of timely income determinations that is at least 5 percentage points higher (or, if at least 75 percent of the State's determinations in a previous fiscal year were timely, 1 percentage point higher) than the percentage that the State achieved in the last fiscal year in which the State received credit for meeting this provision.

“(III) In the case of renewals, the State makes at least 50 percent of the determinations within 24 hours of receiving the renewal. If a State successfully makes the required minimum percentage of timely determinations for a fiscal year, such State shall not receive credit for meeting this provision in any subsequent fiscal year unless the State makes a percentage of timely income determinations that is at least 5 percentage points higher (or, if at least 75 percent of the State's determinations in a previous fiscal year were timely, 1 percentage point higher) than the percentage that the State achieved in the last fiscal year in which the State received credit for meeting this provision.

“(viii) ELIMINATION OF PREMIUMS OR RETROACTIVE REINSTATEMENT UPON PREMIUM PAYMENT.—The State has elected to either—

“(I) impose no premiums for coverage under the State child health plan; or

“(II) in the case of an individual whose coverage under the State child health plan has been terminated for failure to make premium payments, provide assistance to such individual for purposes of immediate reenrollment of the individual upon payment of outstanding premiums, with coverage retroactive to the beginning of the most recent month for which an outstanding premium has been paid, and shall not impose any waiting period or fee as a condition of such reenrollment.”.

(e) EXTENSION OF QUALIFYING STATES OPTION.—Section 2105(g)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(g)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”.

(f) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) QUALITY CARE FOR CHILDREN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Section 1139A(d)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9a(d)(1)) is amended in the matter before subparagraph (A) by inserting “, and during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, the Secretary shall award not more than 10 grants,” before “to States”.

(2) CHILDHOOD OBESITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Section 1139A(e)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9a(e)(8)) is amended by inserting “, and \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2019” after “2014”.

(3) PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES PROGRAM.—Section 1139A(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-9a(i)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and there is appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, \$45,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section (other than subsections (e), (f), and (g)).”.

(4) OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT GRANTS; NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—Section 2113 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397mm) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “2015” and inserting “2019”; and

(B) in subsection (g), by inserting “, and \$80,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, to remain available until expended,” after “2015”.

(g) EXPRESS LANE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1902(e)(13)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(13)(I)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(h) AUTHORITY TO USE INCOME DETERMINATION MADE UNDER CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the first sentence, by striking “subparagraph (D)” and inserting “subparagraphs (D) and (J)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J) USE OF INCOME DETERMINATION MADE UNDER CERTAIN OTHER PROGRAMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining income eligibility for medical assistance under the State plan or under any waiver of such plan, a State may use a determination of income made by—

“(I) the State program funded under part A of title IV; or

“(II) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

“(ii) SUNSET.—Clause (i) shall not apply after September 30, 2019.”.

**SA 1116.** Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SASSE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 261, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 262, line 4.

**SA 1117.** Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making

other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE —WOMEN'S ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE**

**SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the "Women's Access to Quality Health Care Act".

**SEC. 02. RENEWAL OF APPLICATION OF MEDICARE PAYMENT RATE FLOOR TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES FURNISHED UNDER MEDICAID AND INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS.**

(a) RENEWAL OF PAYMENT FLOOR; ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(13) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(13)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) payment for primary care services (as defined in subsection (jj)) at a rate that is not less than 100 percent of the payment rate that applies to such services and physician under part B of title XVIII (or, if greater, the payment rate that would be applicable under such part if the conversion factor under section 1848(d) for the year involved were the conversion factor under such section for 2009), and that is not less than the rate that would otherwise apply to such services under this title if the rate were determined without regard to this subparagraph, and that are—

"(i) furnished on or after January 1, 2013, and before January 1, 2015, by a physician with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine; or

"(ii) furnished on or after January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2017—

"(I) by a physician with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine, but only if the physician self-attests that the physician is Board certified in family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine;

"(II) by a physician with a primary specialty designation of obstetrics and gynecology, but only if the physician self-attests that the physician is Board certified in obstetrics and gynecology;

"(III) by an advanced practice clinician, as defined by the Secretary, that works under the supervision of—

"(aa) a physician that satisfies the criteria specified in subclause (I) or (II); or

"(bb) a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant (as such terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A)) who is working in accordance with State law, or a certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section 1861(gg)) who is working in accordance with State law;

"(IV) by a rural health clinic, Federally-qualified health center, or other health clinic that receives reimbursement on a fee schedule applicable to a physician, a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant (as such terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A)) who is working in accordance with State law, or a certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section 1861(gg)) who is working in accordance with State law, for services furnished by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse-midwife, or services furnished by an advanced practice clinician supervised by a physician described in subclause (I)(aa) or (II)(aa), another advanced practice clinician, or a certified nurse-midwife; or

"(V) by a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant (as such terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A)) who is working in accordance with State law, or a certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section 1861(gg)) who is working in accordance with State law, in accordance with procedures that ensure that the portion of the payment for such services that the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse-midwife is paid is not less than the amount that the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse-midwife would be paid if the services were provided under part B of title XVIII;".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1905(dd) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(dd)) is amended by striking "January 1, 2015" and inserting "January 1, 2017".

(b) ENSURING PAYMENT BY MANAGED CARE ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(m)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (xii), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) by realigning the left margin of clause (xiii) so as to align with the left margin of clause (xii) and by striking the period at the end of clause (xiii) and inserting "and"; and

(C) by inserting after clause (xiii) the following:

"(xiv) such contract provides that (I) payments to providers specified in section 1902(a)(13)(C) for primary care services defined in section 1902(jj) that are furnished during a period specified in section 1902(a)(13)(C) and section 1905(dd) are at least equal to the amounts set forth and required by the Secretary by regulation, (II) the entity shall, upon request, provide documentation to the State, sufficient to enable the State and the Secretary to ensure compliance with subclause (I), and (III) the Secretary shall approve payments described in subclause (I) that are furnished through an agreed upon capitation, partial capitation, or other value-based payment arrangement if the capitation, partial capitation, or other value-based payment arrangement is based on a reasonable methodology and the entity provides documentation to the State sufficient to enable the State and the Secretary to ensure compliance with subclause (I)."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1932(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u-2(f)) is amended by inserting "and clause (xiv) of section 1903(m)(2)(A)" before the period.

**SEC. 03. INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFETY-NET PROVIDERS.**

Title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1003 the following:

**"SEC. 1003A. GRANTS FOR FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS.**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to, and enter into contracts with, public or nonprofit private entities to plan, develop, or make improvements to facilities carrying out family planning service projects, and to expand preventive health services, under section 1001.

"(b) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and there is appropriated, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, to enable the Secretary to expand access to family planning services and to provide enhanced funding for the family planning program under section 1001."

**SEC. 04. STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 is amended by striking section 221.

(b) FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—

(1) COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)) is amended by striking "for fiscal year 2015" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019".

(2) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "for fiscal year 2015" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019".

(c) EXTENSION OF TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS PROGRAM.—Section 340H(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)) is amended by inserting "and \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019" before the period.

**SEC. 05. INVESTING IN PRIMARY CARE, NURSE PRACTITIONERS.**

Part B of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**"SEC. 812. DEMONSTRATION GRANTS FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER TRAINING PROGRAM.**

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration program (referred to in this section as the 'program') to award grants to eligible entities for the training of nurse practitioners specializing in women's health care for careers as providers in health centers that receive assistance under title X (referred to in this section as 'health centers').

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to enable each grant recipient to—

"(1) provide new nurse practitioners with clinical training to enable such practitioners to serve as providers in health centers;

"(2) train new nurse practitioners to work under a model of care that is consistent with the principles set forth by the Report Providing Quality Family Planning Services of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

"(3) establish a model of training for nurse practitioners that specialize in women's health care that may be replicated nationwide.

"(c) GRANTS.—Under the program, the Secretary shall award 3-year grants to eligible entities that meet the requirements established by the Secretary, for the purpose of operating the nurse practitioner programs described in subsection (a) at such entities.

"(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be—

"(1) a health center that receives funding under section 1001; and

"(2) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(e) ELIGIBILITY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for acceptance into a training program carried out by an eligible entity under a grant under this section, an individual shall—

"(A) be licensed, or eligible for licensure, in the State in which the program is being carried out as an advanced practice registered nurse or advanced practice nurse and

be eligible or board-certified as a nurse practitioner; and

“(B) demonstrate commitment to a career as a provider in a health center.

“(2) PREFERENCE.—In accepting individuals into a training program under this section, a grant recipient shall give preference to bilingual applicants that meet the requirements described in paragraph (1).

“(f) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 per year. A grant recipient may carry over funds from 1 fiscal year to another without obtaining approval from the Secretary.

“(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—The Secretary may award technical assistance grants to 1 or more health centers that have demonstrated expertise in establishing a nurse practitioner residency training program. Such technical assistance grants shall be for the purpose of providing technical assistance to other recipients of grants under subsection (c).

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019.”.

**SA 1118.** Mr. COTTON proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 5, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 127, line 6, and insert the following:

(2) UPDATE OF RATES FOR 2015 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—Subsection (d) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended by striking paragraph (16) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(16) UPDATE FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE OF 2015.—Subject to paragraphs (7)(B), (8)(B), (9)(B), (10)(B), (11)(B), (12)(B), (13)(B), (14)(B), and (15)(B), in lieu of the update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2015 for the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on June 30, 2015, the update to the single conversion factor shall be 0.0 percent.

“(17) UPDATE FOR JULY THROUGH DECEMBER OF 2015.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for the period beginning on July 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015, shall be 0.5 percent.

“(18) UPDATE FOR 2016 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2016 and each subsequent year shall be 0.5 percent.”.

**SA 1119.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the

Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike section 202 and insert the following:  
**SEC. —. MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR THERAPY SERVICES.**

(a) REPEAL OF THERAPY CAP AND 1-YEAR EXTENSION OF THRESHOLD FOR MANUAL MEDICAL REVIEW.—Section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “This subsection” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (5)(C)(iii), this subsection”; and

(B) by inserting the following before the period at the end: “or with respect to services furnished on or after the date of enactment of subsection (aa)”;

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the first sentence, by striking “March 31, 2015” and inserting “the date of enactment of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) Beginning on the date of enactment of subsection (aa) and ending on the day before the date of the implementation of such subsection, the manual medical review process described in clause (i), subject to subparagraph (E), shall apply with respect to expenses incurred in a year for services described in paragraphs (1) and (3) (including services described in subsection (a)(8)(B)) that exceed the threshold described in clause (ii) for the year.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(A) by striking “March 31, 2015” and inserting “the date of enactment of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015”; and

(B) by striking “the first three months of 2015” and inserting “the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on such date of enactment”.

(b) TARGETED REVIEWS UNDER MANUAL MEDICAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(g)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by inserting “, subject to subparagraph (E),” after “manual medical review process that”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E)(i) In place of the manual medical review process under subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall implement a process for medical review under this subparagraph under which the Secretary shall identify and conduct medical review for services described in subparagraph (C)(i) furnished by a provider of services or supplier (in this subparagraph referred to as a ‘therapy provider’) using such factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(ii) Such factors may include the following:

“(I) The therapy provider has had a high claims denial percentage for therapy services under this part or is less compliant with applicable requirements under this title.

“(II) The therapy provider has a pattern of billing for therapy services under this part that is aberrant compared to peers or otherwise has questionable billing practices for such services, such as billing medically unlikely units of services in a day.

“(III) The therapy provider is newly enrolled under this title or has not previously furnished therapy services under this part.

“(IV) The services are furnished to treat a type of medical condition.

“(V) The therapy provider is part of a group that includes another therapy provider identified using the factors determined under this subparagraph.

“(iii) For purposes of carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$5,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, to remain available until expended. Such funds may not be used by a contractor under section 1893(h) for medical reviews under this subparagraph.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to requests described in section 1833(g)(5)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)(5)(C)(i)) with respect to which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has not conducted medical review under such section by a date (not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act) specified by the Secretary.

(c) MEDICAL REVIEW OF OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

(1) MEDICAL REVIEW OF OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(aa) MEDICAL REVIEW OF OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PROCESS FOR MEDICAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall implement a process for the medical review (as described in paragraph (2)) of outpatient therapy services (as defined in paragraph (10)) and, subject to paragraph (12), apply such process to such services furnished on or after the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, focusing on services identified under subparagraph (B).

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICES FOR REVIEW.—Under the process, the Secretary shall identify services for medical review, using such factors as the Secretary determines appropriate, which may include the following:

“(i) Services furnished by a therapy provider (as defined in paragraph (10)) who, in a prior period, has had a high claims denial percentage or is less compliant with other applicable requirements under this title.

“(ii) Services furnished by a therapy provider whose pattern of billing is aberrant compared to peers or otherwise has questionable billing practices, such as billing medically unlikely units of services in a day.

“(iii) Services furnished by a therapy provider that is newly enrolled under this title or has not previously furnished therapy services under this part.

“(iv) Services furnished to treat a type of medical condition.

“(v) Services identified by use of the standardized data elements required to be reported under section 1834(r).

“(vi) Services furnished by a therapy provider who is part of a group that includes a therapy provider identified by factors described in this subparagraph.

“(vii) Other services as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) MEDICAL REVIEW.—

“(A) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION MEDICAL REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall use prior authorization medical review for outpatient therapy services furnished to an individual above one or more

thresholds established by the Secretary, such as a dollar threshold or a threshold based on other factors.

“(ii) ENDING APPLICATION OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR A THERAPY PROVIDER.—The Secretary shall end the application of prior authorization medical review to outpatient therapy services furnished by a therapy provider if the Secretary determines that the provider has a low denial rate under such prior authorization. The Secretary may subsequently reapply prior authorization medical review to such therapy provider if the Secretary determines it to be appropriate.

“(iii) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF MULTIPLE SERVICES.—The Secretary shall, where practicable, provide for prior authorization medical review for multiple services at a single time, such as services in a therapy plan of care described in section 1861(p)(2).

“(B) OTHER TYPES OF MEDICAL REVIEW.—The Secretary may use pre-payment review or post-payment review for services identified under paragraph (1)(B) that are not subject to prior authorization medical review under subparagraph (A).

“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may determine that medical review under this subsection does not apply in the case where potential fraud may be involved.

“(3) REVIEW CONTRACTORS.—The Secretary shall conduct prior authorization medical review of outpatient therapy services under this subsection using medicare administrative contractors (as described in section 1874A) or other review contractors (other than contractors under section 1893(h) or other contractors paid on a contingent basis).

“(4) NO PAYMENT WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.—With respect to an outpatient therapy service for which prior authorization medical review under this subsection applies, the following shall apply:

“(A) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a determination, prior to the service being furnished, of whether the service would or would not meet the applicable requirements of section 1862(a)(1)(A).

“(B) DENIAL OF PAYMENT.—Subject to paragraph (6), no payment shall be made under this part for the service unless the Secretary determines pursuant to subparagraph (A) that the service would meet the applicable requirements of such section.

“(5) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—A therapy provider may submit the information necessary for medical review by fax, by mail, or by electronic means. The Secretary shall make available the electronic means described in the preceding sentence as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(6) TIMELINESS.—If the Secretary does not make a prior authorization determination under paragraph (4)(A) within 10 business days of the date of the Secretary's receipt of medical documentation needed to make such determination, paragraph (4)(B) shall not apply.

“(7) CONSTRUCTION.—With respect to an outpatient therapy service that has been affirmed by medical review under this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the subsequent denial of a claim for such service that does not meet other applicable requirements under this Act or any other provision of law.

“(8) BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS.—In the case where payment may not be made as a result of application of medical review under this

subsection, section 1879 shall apply in the same manner as such section applies to a denial that is made by reason of section 1862(a)(1).

“(9) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may implement the provisions of this subsection by interim final rule with comment period.

“(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to medical review under this subsection.

“(C) LIMITATION.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of the identification of services for medical review or the process for medical review under this subsection.

“(10) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—The term ‘outpatient therapy services’ means the following services for which payment is made under section 1848, 1834(g), or 1834(k):

“(i) Physical therapy services of the type described in section 1861(p).

“(ii) Speech-language pathology services of the type described in such section though the application of section 1861(l)(2).

“(iii) Occupational therapy services of the type described in section 1861(p) through the operation of section 1861(g).

“(B) THERAPY PROVIDER.—The term ‘therapy provider’ means a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u)) or a supplier (as defined in section 1861(d)) who submits a claim for outpatient therapy services.

“(11) FUNDING.—For purposes of implementing this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$35,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2015). Amounts transferred under this paragraph shall remain available until expended.

“(12) SCALING BACK.—

“(A) PERIODIC DETERMINATIONS.—Beginning with 2019, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

“(i) make a determination of the improper payment rate for outpatient therapy services for a 12-month period; and

“(ii) make such determination publicly available.

“(B) SCALING BACK.—If the improper payment rate for outpatient therapy services determined for a 12-month period under subparagraph (A) is 50 percent or less of the Medicare fee-for-service improper payment rate for such period, the Secretary shall—

“(i) reduce the amount and extent of medical review conducted for a prospective year under the process established in this subsection; and

“(ii) return an appropriate portion of the funding provided for such year under paragraph (11).”.

(2) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of medical review of outpatient therapy services under section 1833(aa) of the Social Security Act, as added by paragraph (1). Such study shall include an analysis of—

(i) aggregate data on—

(I) the number of individuals, therapy providers, and claims subject to such review; and

(II) the number of reviews conducted under such section; and

(ii) the outcomes of such reviews.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-

troller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study under subparagraph (A), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(d) COLLECTION OF STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

(1) COLLECTION OF STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(r) COLLECTION OF STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.—

“(1) STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services a draft list of standardized data elements for individuals receiving outpatient therapy services.

“(B) CATEGORIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Such standardized data elements shall include information with respect to the following categories, as determined appropriate by the Secretary:

“(I) Functional status.

“(II) Demographic information.

“(III) Diagnosis.

“(IV) Severity.

“(V) Affected body structures and functions.

“(VI) Limitations with activities of daily living and participation.

“(VII) Other categories determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

“(ii) ALIGNMENT WITH CATEGORIES FOR REPORTING OF ASSESSMENT DATA UNDER IMPACT.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, align the functional status category under subclause (I) of clause (i) and the other categories under subclauses (II) through (VII) of such clause with the categories described in clauses (i) through (vi) of section 1899B(b)(1)(B).

“(C) SOLICITATION OF INPUT.—The Secretary shall accept input from stakeholders through the date that is 60 days after the date the Secretary posts the draft list of standardized data elements pursuant to subparagraph (A). In seeking such input, the Secretary shall use one or more mechanisms to solicit input from stakeholders that may include use of open door forums, town hall meetings, requests for information, or other mechanisms determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(D) OPERATIONAL LIST OF STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS.—Not later than 120 days after the end of the period for accepting input described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary, taking into account such input, shall post on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services an operational list of standardized data elements.

“(E) SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS.—Subsequent revisions to the operational list of standardized data elements shall be made through rulemaking. Such revisions may be based on experience and input from stakeholders.

“(2) SYSTEM TO REPORT STANDARDIZED DATA ELEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date the Secretary posts the operational list of standardized data elements pursuant to paragraph (1)(D), the Secretary shall develop and implement an electronic system (which may be a web portal) for therapy providers to report the standardized data elements for individuals with respect to outpatient therapy services.

“(B) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—The Secretary shall seek input from stakeholders regarding the best way to report the standardized data elements under this subsection.

“(3) **REPORTING.**—

“(A) **FREQUENCY OF REPORTING.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the Secretary shall specify the frequency of reporting standardized data elements under this subsection.

“(ii) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—The Secretary shall seek input from stakeholders regarding the frequency of the reporting of such data elements.

“(iii) **ALIGNMENT WITH FREQUENCY FOR REPORTING OF ASSESSMENT DATA UNDER IMPACT.**—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, align the frequency of the reporting of such data elements with respect to an individual under this subsection with the frequency in which data is required to be submitted with respect to an individual under the second sentence of section 1899B(b)(1)(A).

“(B) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Beginning on the date the system to report standardized data elements under this subsection is operational, no payment shall be made under this part for outpatient therapy services furnished to an individual unless a therapy provider reports the standardized data elements for such individual.

“(4) **REPORT ON NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 24 months after the date described in paragraph (3)(B), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the design of a new payment system for outpatient therapy services. The report shall include an analysis of the standardized data elements collected and other appropriate data and information.

“(B) **FEATURES.**—Such report shall consider—

“(i) appropriate adjustments to payment (such as case mix and outliers);

“(ii) payments on an episode of care basis; and

“(iii) reduced payment for multiple episodes.

“(C) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with stakeholders regarding the design of such a new payment system.

“(5) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

“(A) **FUNDING.**—For purposes of implementing this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841, of \$7,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Amounts transferred under this subparagraph shall remain available until expended.

“(B) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to specification of the standardized data elements and implementation of the system to report such standardized data elements under this subsection.

“(C) **LIMITATION.**—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of the specification of standardized data elements required under this subsection or the system to report such standardized data elements.

“(D) **DEFINITION OF OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES AND THERAPY PROVIDER.**—In this subsection, the terms ‘outpatient therapy services’ and ‘therapy provider’ have the meaning given those term in section 1833(aa).”.

(2) **SUNSET OF CURRENT CLAIMS-BASED COLLECTION OF THERAPY DATA.**—Section 3005(g)(1) of the Middle Class Tax Extension and Job

Creation Act of 2012 (42 U.S.C. 1395l note) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting “and ending on the date the system to report standardized data elements under section 1834(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(r)) is implemented,” after “January 1, 2013.”.

(e) **REPORTING OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.**—Section 1842(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Each request for payment, or bill submitted, by a therapy provider (as defined in section 1833(aa)(10)) for an outpatient therapy service (as defined in such section) furnished by a therapy assistant on or after January 1, 2017, shall include (in a form and manner specified by the Secretary) an indication that the service was furnished by a therapy assistant.”.

**SA 1120.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; as follows:

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

**SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 3014. Additional special assessment**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) **SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.**—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines and orders of restitution arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(d) **TRANSFERS.**—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

“(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts

available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

“(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(2) **GRANTS.**—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(3) **APPLICATION.**—Amounts transferred from the Fund pursuant to this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 are subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 113–235 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–256).

“(f) **TRANSFERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the day after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, on September 30 of each fiscal year, all unobligated balances in the Fund shall be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

“(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts transferred under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be available for any authorized purpose of the Crime Victims Fund; and

“(B) shall remain available until expended.

“(g) **COLLECTION METHOD.**—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(h) **DURATION OF OBLIGATION.**—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

“(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **WRITTEN CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, and each September 30 thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a written certification as to the total amount in the Fund.

“(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—In any fiscal year for which a written certification submitted under paragraph (1) indicates the total amount in the Fund is less than \$30,000,000, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund an amount equal to \$30,000,000 minus the total amount indicated in the certification.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

“3014. Additional special assessment.”.



**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services are authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Creating a More Efficient and Level Playing Field: Audit and Appeals Issues in Medicare."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Reducing Unnecessary Duplication in Federal Programs: Billions More Could Be Saved."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY THREATS AND CAPABILITIES**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emergency Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 14, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 9, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 9) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 9) was agreed to.

**MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 135, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 135) making minority party appointments for the 114th Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 95**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 95 be discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the time be equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half. I further ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. for the bipartisan luncheon; finally, that the Senate observe a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:11 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

GLYN TOWNSEND DAVIES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

**FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY**

CAROL WALLER POPE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)



## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. LARRY MEREDITH

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Larry Meredith, who retired on March 31, 2015 following a long and successful career in health and human services that culminated as director of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department for the past 13 years.

After earning a degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and his master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Penn State University, Dr. Meredith worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health for 30 years before coming to Marin.

Dr. Meredith led the department of Health and Human Services during challenging and exciting times. From his first day of work in Marin, Dr. Meredith has navigated the Department with distinction through restructuring and a severe economic downturn while maintaining a focus on promoting wellness and preventative health care to achieve improved, comprehensive community health.

With a bold vision for the future and an unwavering dedication to strengthening partnerships, Dr. Meredith proved time and again his merits as a devoted leader. He successfully directed Marin County's Team HHS—a staff of more than 700 employees across 10 sites—and managed a \$160M budget with multiple grants and funding streams. Those feats would be remarkable by themselves, but it's his dedication to building community relationships and inspiring collaboration among stakeholders that truly sets his service apart.

In his work and life, he has supported and strengthened commitments to many pressing community issues, including access to services for those facing mental health issues, homelessness, disabilities, and socio-economic disadvantages. His work will have a long-lasting and positive impact on Marin County for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Dr. Larry Meredith for his years of dedicated service to the people of Marin County and extended Bay Area community, and for guiding Marin to its ranking as the Healthiest County in California for six consecutive years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. On behalf of the many individuals and organizations he served, I am honored to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Meredith for his exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes as he pursues new endeavors.

NATIONAL LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of the wonderful work that linemen do across this great nation. It is a privilege that my office was able to introduce a resolution supporting the designation of April 18, 2015 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. These brave men and women toil every day on behalf of public safety, and for that every American is rightfully thankful for all that they do.

Linemen have a long and storied history in this nation. It is a profession that is often passed down from one generation to the next. The danger of working atop power lines channeling thousands of volts of electricity requires courageous and dedicated individuals up to the challenge. When storms and other catastrophic events occur in our communities, linemen are often there as first responders, working hand in hand with other public safety heroes to secure the scene.

Mr. Speaker, since these men and women often go unrecognized, and because of the unique danger they often find themselves in by tirelessly working to maintain our nation's energy infrastructure, it is entirely fitting and proper to set aside a day of national recognition, April 18, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY  
DAY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am so tired of coming down here to the floor each and every year and marking the day that women's pay finally catches up to that of a man's! Equal Pay Day is not a bittersweet occasion—it is simply a bitter reminder of the worth that this country places on the work of women. It is quite simply unfathomable! Today is a glaring reminder of the hard work that still needs to be done in order to achieve gender parity in pay.

Women are half the population! How has this inequity been allowed to stand for so long? When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women on average made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, and yet women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$11,607 between full-time working men

and women. We've made some progress—but it's not even close to being enough.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less money for the everyday needs of their families.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, in California, women in are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to an annual wage gap of \$8,183 between men and women who work full time in the state. In addition, Californian women who are employed full time lose a combined total of approximately \$37,658,902,470 every year due to the wage gap. Let me say that again: That's almost \$38 BILLION each year!

The sad reality is that the pay gap is not simply an education issue either. Nationally, women with master's degrees that work full time are paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with master's degrees. Further, women with doctoral degrees are paid less than men with master's degrees, and women with master's degrees are paid less than men with bachelor's degrees.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so critical. I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. It will close loopholes and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated in 52 years. The bill has 189 cosponsors so far. And once again this year NOT ONE is a Republican! What possible reasons are there to be against equal pay for equal work? This issue does not only affect Democrats. It affects all hard-working American women and families—regardless of their political party. Does the Majority simply not care about this problem, or is it yet another continuation of the War on Women that they continue to deny year after year?

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE  
RECOGNITION DAY

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Service Recognition Day, which was held on April, 7th. Service to our community and our country is an enduring feature of the American spirit, and today we recognize those who have made a commitment to volunteerism.

America's cities and communities are at their best when citizens are engaged and take an active role in developing solutions. The Corporation for National and Community Service operates programs that activate and empower communities to tackle some of their most pressing issues such as education, health care, national disaster recovery, and the environment.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps operate in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering both private and non-profit organizations that do vital work in their communities. These programs mobilize millions of volunteers, building skills and educating leaders nationwide. In New Mexico alone, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps involve over 5,000 individuals at more than 640 locations.

In honor of National Service Recognition Day I encourage citizens to join me in recognizing the positive impact of national service, to thank those that serve, and to find ways to become involved in their cities and communities.

CONGRATULATING JIM THOME ON  
INDUCTION INTO GREATER PEORIA  
SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of baseball player and Peoria native, Jim Thome, who will be inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on April 11, 2015.

Mr. Thome's roots in America's pastime run deep in the Illinois community, having played at Limestone High School in Bartonville and at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. He will be joining his father, grandfather, uncle, and aunt in the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame, all of whom are recognized for their contributions to baseball and softball.

His professional achievements on the baseball diamond are highlighted by his 2,328 career hits, 5 time selection to the Major League Baseball All-Star game, and 612 homeruns, placing him as seventh on the all-time homerun list.

As someone who my late brother, Dan Callahan, considered a personal friend, Mr. Thome is as exemplary off the field as his feats are on the field. Jim and his wife, Andrea, are actively involved in a number of causes, which include helping underserved children find adoptive and foster families, improving the quality of care at Illinois Children's Hospital, and aiding tornado victims in Washington, Illinois.

Jim has been recognized twice for his dedication to community service by being awarded Major League Baseball's Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award, which is given to the athlete who best exemplifies success in their community, as well as on the field.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
THE HONORABLE KEITH C.  
SORENSEN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and extraordinary work of Keith C. Sorenson. Born on September 4, 1921, in

Elsinore, Utah, he died in Redwood City, California, on March 20, 2015, at the age of 93.

Keith Sorenson was born and raised on a farm in Utah, the youngest of four children. He said "There's nothing better than living on a farm. If you ever really work on a farm, anything else you ever do seems easy." He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Utah, where he met his wife, Maxine Swinson. The family moved to Redwood City, California, and Keith joined a local law firm.

Keith Sorenson joined the San Mateo County District Attorney's office in 1949, and became District Attorney in 1953. He held the post and that of County Counsel for three decades until his retirement in 1982. During his tenure he hired Sandra Day O'Connor, a Stanford Law School graduate who was unable to obtain employment as an attorney because she was a woman. He helped found the One Hundred Club, an organization that supports the families of slain police officers.

Keith Sorenson was widely known and respected for his integrity and strong work ethic. Current District Attorney Stave Wagstaffe praised him, saying "He instilled in all of us the standard that justice and doing the right thing was the only choice for a prosecutor and that other considerations such as politics were irrelevant."

I am deeply saddened by Keith Sorenson's passing. He was a highly regarded public official, a man of enormous integrity, a trusted friend and mentor, and a source of great inspiration to me and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and contributions of Keith Sorenson, a great and good man, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his son, Thomas. Keith Sorenson made San Mateo County, the state of California and our country stronger and better, and he will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MATTEO ALOIA'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Matteo Aloia attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

UAV Drones can be defined as any unmanned aerial vehicle controlled from the ground. While drones are often associated

with American military use, commercial drones have recently become quite popular. As UAV drones have risen to the forefront of the consumer market, they have begun to pose real threats to both security and privacy.

The Washington Post claims that "The Federal Aviation Administration recently released a report detailing more than 190 safety incidents involving drones and commercial aircraft." The Washington Post also claims that "The U.S. military is rightfully worried that drones will be weaponized as killing machines and become autonomous flying IEDs (improvised explosive devices)". An example that could have turned to tragedy when, last year, a UAV drone landed on the White House Lawn, unbeknownst to the President's security detail. There was no malicious intent from the drone or its operator. However, if this drone had been intending to do damage, it obviously had the means to do so.

Many UAV drones are also equipped with audio and video capabilities. This begs the question of privacy on American soil. If anyone can fly a drone outside your house and see what you're doing, how can anything be truly private? According to Brookings, an online news source, "unlike some state houses, the U.S. Congress hasn't seriously considered or passed a bill to set general privacy standards or to regulate drones and privacy specifically". While certain state governments have ruled on the nature of privacy in relation to drones, the federal government has yet to reach a decision, and perhaps has not even seriously considered the issue. This could pose a major risk to American's individual freedoms through the invasion of privacy.

In summary, UAV Drones pose several major risks to the American lifestyle. The first risk is one of security, in that drones are difficult to detect and can be easily equipped with IEDs. The second risk is one of morality, in that drones can be used to pry into the personal lives of American citizens. Without action from the government, the problem of drones will go unsolved.

HONORING DAVID PLANK

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements and successful career of David Plank from Salem, Missouri. For over fifty years, David Plank has created beautiful watercolor paintings of birds that have been recognized and admired all over the country.

David Plank's talented skills derive from a dedication and passion for the arts, rather than from formal training. All of his drawings are completed in the open air and near the natural habitats of his subjects. David Plank never uses photographs, he captures the posture and attitude of his subjects in his drawings, and then he goes inside and paints. This unique process is what has worked for David for so many years; he estimates he has painted more than 1,400 birds throughout his career.

Among his accomplishments, he has painted eleven covers for Bird Watcher's Digest and been featured in exhibits at the Springfield

Art Museum and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. David hopes his paintings will continue to reflect the good feelings and thoughts he has for birds to future generations of on-lookers.

For his many contributions to the arts and his many successes, it is my pleasure to recognize David Plank before the United States House of Representatives.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,054,202,954.52. We've added \$7,525,177,154,041.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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HONORING TUNICA TEENS IN  
ACTION, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. (Concerned Citizens for a Better Tunica County) is an African-American, grassroots, community based, and community lead, leadership development organization that is rooted in empowering the African-American low-income communities in Tunica County, MS and the Mississippi Delta since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. was formed in July 1999 when the young members of Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County decided that they wanted more individualized training to help them do better community organizing work with their adult allies. Tunica Teens In Action started out with 17 young people ranging between the ages of 11–20 who were led by Ashley N. McKay. These bright young people realized that they needed to develop their skills to help the community and themselves to succeed in a school system that had been on academic probation for over ten years.

Tunica Teens In Action was formally incorporated in 2011 and fully transitioned from Concerned Citizens FABTC, Inc. as a youth and female led youth of color organization. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community leadership development organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County was formed in 1993 when African-American grassroots low-income moms, dads, students, and other community activists came together to fight for education reform and fair-

ness in Tunica County, MS. At that time, Tunica County was one of the poorest counties in the United States and when Rev. Jessie Jackson visited Tunica in 1985 he labeled it "America's Ethiopia" because of the devastating housing, economy, and community needs. Since 1993, Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County had been a leadership development and empowering organization for Education Reform, Youth Leadership Development, Housing and Job Reform, Democracy Organizing, and Environmental Justice. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. formally incorporated in 1997 and was a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. (Concerned Citizens) is a rural broad based grassroots community leadership development, education, and training organization working to empower the community by developing new grassroots leaders and organizers in Tunica County, Mississippi. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc.'s mission is to empower the disadvantaged and low income community (families) of color by building leadership and organization, involving students and parents using the intergenerational model, (young people and old people working together), in the community of Tunica County, MS.

"Empower" is defined as the effective participation of the community to impact the formation of public policy and effective participation in the decision making process in the educational, economic, political, environmental, and social change systems with a special emphasis on education policy in the Tunica School District that will help to create a first-rate quality public educational opportunity for all families in Tunica County and the country. With roots in the struggle for education justice, Concerned Citizens has evolved into a multi-issue community based organization that is led by low-income people of color.

The TRANSITION TO TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION: Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. mission is to develop young leaders, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, who will be able to effectively participate in their community by developing the educational skills, technical skills, and understanding thru community organizing using the intergeneration model since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action's program of work is rooted in leadership development and local community organizing that uses an intergeneration model to empower the low income communities of color. Most of Tunica Teens In Action work occurs at community trainings/workshops, at public actions to demonstrate community power, through collaborations and coalitions, social media, and in small one-on-one meetings to help educate ourselves and community.

Major Accomplishments: Prevented the white farmers from re-segregating the Robinsonville and Casino Community (1995).

Prevented the Tunica County Board of Supervisors from Abolishing the County Voter Rolls (1996).

Helped to get the Robinsonville Elementary School built for/near the Black Community (1998).

Helped to get the Tunica County School District to a "Successful" academic rating (2011).

Provided youth leadership and education training to over 25,000 persons (1993–2015).

Non-partisan Democracy Organizing—Accountable Governance trainings that helped to create over 30 new African-American accountable elected officials (2005–2015).

Provided private education college scholarships to over 200 high school graduates (1999–2014).

Provided redistricting training to community to help re-shape policy and power in Tunica County, Tate County, Panola County, Sunflower County, Tallahatchie County, Marshall County, Desoto County, Coahoma County, Lee County, Pontotoc County, and Green County (2002 and 2012).

Established P–16 Community Engagement Councils to help parents and students to have a voice in the creation of education policies for their children (2011–2015).

The staff includes Ashley N. McKay—Executive Director, Mildred P. Conley—Assistant Director, Marilyn L. Young—Education Director, Melvin Young—Resource Director, 4—Youth Interns, and a host of community and volunteers. TTIA has a 9 member Board of Directors that govern the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

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CONGRATULATING IOWA'S  
BASKETBALL TEAMS

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the collegiate basketball teams from the great state of Iowa on their seasons and their 2015 NCAA Tournament success.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes Women's team finished the regular season 26–8, earning a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Oklahoma City region. The Hawkeyes reached the "Sweet Sixteen" after wins over American University 75–67 and the University of Miami (FL) 88–70.

The Hawkeyes Men's team finished the regular season 22–12, earning a #7 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region. The Hawkeyes defeated the Davidson Wildcats 83–52 in the second round.

The Iowa State University Cyclones Men's team finished the regular season 25–9. The Cyclones won the Big 12 tournament with a 70–66 victory over the Kansas Jayhawks in the championship game and earned a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region.

Finally, I am proud to congratulate the University of Northern Iowa Panthers Men's team, from my district, finished the regular season an astonishing 31–4. The Panthers won 16 straight games down the stretch and eventually won the Missouri Valley Tournament Championship, defeating Illinois State University by a score of 69–60 in the championship game. UNI earned a #5 seed in the East region and defeated the University of Wyoming Cowboys 71–54 in the second round.

In week 11 of the regular season, all three Iowan Men's programs were nationally ranked

in the AP Top 25 poll with the Hawkeyes at #25, the Panthers at #20, and the Cyclones at #9. As a proud Iowan and devout college basketball fan, I extend my congratulations to coaches, Lisa Bluder and Fran McCaffery from Iowa, Fred Hoiberg from Iowa State, and Ben Jacobson from UNI, and their student athletes on successful seasons and I look forward to cheering them on again next year.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM  
A. NACK

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader and a valued friend of many years, William A. Nack. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, raised in San Francisco and has been a resident of San Mateo County, California for more than half a century. For the past 16 years he has been the able and highly regarded Business Manager and Executive Officer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and retired on March 1, 2015.

Bill Nack demonstrated his leadership qualities at a young age when he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1962. He earned an Associate Degree in Aeronautics, served in the U.S. Naval Reserves, and served as a Journeyman Mechanic with United Airlines where he began his close association with the union movement. He served as a union shop steward for 15 years, challenging management and championing workers. He served on union boards and committees and was a founding member of a coalition between the unions of machinists, pilots and flight attendants. Bill Nack was also a delegate to the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and chaired its Legislative Committee.

From 1987 to 1989, Bill Nack was the Assistant Business Manager for the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties, and from 1989 to 1999 served as the Deputy Executive Officer of the Santa Clara and San Benito Building and Trades Council. In 1999, Bill became the Business Manager and Executive Officer of the San Mateo Building and Trades Council, leading 14,000 union construction crafts men and women. During his time as Executive Officer he negotiated 45 Project Labor Agreements and Letters of Commitment, representing more than \$16 billion in projects that employed union members. He ensured that all of the projects were environmentally responsible and respectful of union members, their wages and working conditions. Bill has served with great distinction on many state and local boards and commissions, and is the devoted husband of Rayna Lehman and the proud father of their twin sons, Patrick and Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of Bill Nack, a great and good man, and a person of enormous integrity, and wish him every blessing in the years to come. He has strengthened and bettered our community and our country with the work of his life and I will always be

grateful to have worked with him and to call him my friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 57TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF MR. MELVIN  
AND MRS. FRIEDA DOW

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Frieda Dow on their 57th Wedding Anniversary, which occurred on March 23, 2015.

Marriage is one of the most sacred and intimate covenants that two people may enter into, and the Dows' attainment of 57 years of matrimony is worthy of commendation. May their union continue to be richly blessed as they work collectively to nurture each other, their lovely family, and their community. I am certain that the love and care that they have for one another will continue to grow and flourish in years to come.

As we celebrate the matrimony of the Dows, we also honor their large family which currently includes five sons and twelve grandchildren. I salute the Dows on their wedding anniversary, and I know that their love will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

TAYLOR NGUYEN'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Taylor Nguyen attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

During the past 15 years, America has experienced dramatic occurrences such as Hurricane Katrina and the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. Technology such as the iPhone, has immensely improved our means of communication. However, the greatest impact on the United States was the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. On this day the deaths of over 3,400 people, including police officers and firefighters, transformed the United States forever. Since 9/11, airports have been reconstructed to operate with thorough security measures, amidst the oversight of the government instituted Department of Homeland Security. Advanced searches on people and luggage

have successfully prevented another hijacking on American soil. Unfortunately, the terrorists claimed devotion to Islam have ramshackled some American's views of the Muslim community.

This tragic affair became a catalyst for protection from future catastrophes. On November 25th, 2002, Homeland security was established. Not only do they inhibit terrorist strikes, but they also monitor cyberspace and oversee our borders. The department's border security techniques have been scrutinized. Yet terrorists have been detained, and eradicated (i.e. Osama Bin Laden) as a result of the department's hard work and commitment to the American people.

The sector of Homeland Security that Americans encounter most often in the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA. This department was designed to take further precautionary measures prior to boarding an aircraft. The American people have complained that TSA is time consuming, and violates an individual's civil liberties. There have even been claims of racial profiling. TSA has received negative commentary; however the overall actions are necessary for the safety of the American people.

The Muslim Community has been dramatically affected. A poll taken one month after the 9/11 attacks by ABC news, announced that 47 percent of Americans appreciated the lives of Muslim Americans. On the most recent anniversary of the disaster, the poll was recalculated and the response was a devastating 27 percent.

Due to the terrorists claiming to be devout Islamists and Al Qaeda participants, a negative stigmatism has spread rampantly throughout the United States in the reflection of the Islamic community. Hopefully through education and understanding, Americans can welcome our Islamic community with open arms.

September 11th was a great loss for the victims' families, whose lives were forever broken, and a travesty for all of America. In the years following the attacks, America has taken a no tolerance stance against terrorism within our country and all over the world. With pride and justice, the lives lost will not have been taken in vain. They have paved a road of stronger security, and saved lives in the process. Although we have a long road ahead, we will remember, and we will build from the rubble a stronger, more valourous United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ISMAIL  
KADARE, ALBANIAN POLITICAL  
EXILE FROM FRANCE AND WINNER OF THE JERUSALEM PRIZE  
FOR 2015

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ismail Kadare, the Albanian political exile from France, distinguished Albanian author and winner of the Jerusalem Prize for 2015. Kadare is a novelist and poet who has written about Albanian history people and while delving deeply into the universal themes of freedom and human rights. He is one of Albania's most highly-regarded authors, having written about its previous totalitarian regime and Albanian culture and society. According to

the panel that selected him as the Jerusalem Prize winner, Mr. Kadare "is a teller of fascinating stories who uses implied, indirect writing. He writes about collective guilt, and especially about the truth's failure to penetrate. He seeks to expose, while hiding his tracks in layers of myth and metaphor, questions for which there are no answers and crimes for which there is no atonement. Even though his subject matter and his protagonists are generally local, their significance and importance are beyond doubt universal."

Mr. Kadare's literary career is marked by several laudable achievements, such as the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France lifetime membership, Prix mondial Cino Del Duca award in 1992, the United Kingdom's Man Booker International award in 2005, and both the Prince Asturias Award for Literature and the Honorary Degree of Science in Social and Institutional Communication by the University of Palermo in Sicily in 2009. As a testament to the universal acceptance of his literature, Mr. Kadare's novels have also been translated into many different languages which now reach broad audiences across the globe. Such accolades and recognition only scratch the surface of Mr. Kadare's admirable commitment to exercising the sacred values of democracy regardless of the circumstances he faces.

Throughout his literary novels, Mr. Kadare carefully selects figurative protagonists and narratives as a vehicle for communicating and inspiring others similarly bounded by the pressures of oppressive regimes. In doing so, Mr. Kadare's commitment to transcending governmental pressure and inspiring harmonious expression of individual freedoms is admirable. Again, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ismail Kadare for I am pleased to pay tribute to such an individual today.

CONGRATULATING CISTERCIAN  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND THE  
HOCKADAY SCHOOL FOR BEING  
RECOGNIZED AS TWO OF THE  
TOP 50 BEST PRIVATE HIGH  
SCHOOLS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cistercian Preparatory School and The Hockaday School's recent honor as two of the best 50 private high schools for academics in the United States by Niche, as recently reported by Business Insider. I have the distinct privilege of representing these two schools, which are located within my Congressional District. Having these two schools within a small geographic area speaks volumes about the dedication to academics exhibited by the 24th District of Texas as well as the surrounding area.

Cistercian Preparatory School, an all-boys school in Irving, was founded in 1962, graduating its first class in 1970. Today, the student body consists of 355 students ranging from 5th–12th grade. Cistercian has a 100% matriculation rate, and 50% of Cistercian grad-

uates in the last 5 years were either National Merit Semi-finalists or Commendees. I've also personally taken note of Cistercian students and their strong civic engagement, which should be emulated by all schools across the country. Cistercian Preparatory School's commitment to academics is a tribute to its students, teachers, and parents, with this nationwide recognition an acknowledgement of their hard work.

The Hockaday School was founded in 1913, which began with 10 female students. Located in Northwest Dallas, Hockaday now teaches over 1,000 pre-K–12 students from 10 countries. 53% of Hockaday's class of 2014 were either National Merit Finalists, Semi-finalists, or Commendees, and all 120 graduates attended college. Having recently celebrated its centennial, Hockaday continues to serve as an important part of Dallas' educational landscape. Hockaday's impressive history seems destined to be eclipsed by its incredibly bright future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this great achievement by Cistercian Preparatory School and The Hockaday School. I am confident of the continual success of both schools and the young leaders they produce.

HONORING JEWELL C. LOCKHART

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Jewell C. Lockhart.

Mr. Lockhart was born Feb. 7, 1934, in Taylor, Mississippi. He was one of nine children born to Odeal and Ruby Smith Lockhart. He grew up on a farm seven miles south of Oxford in the Taylor community. He always loved the outdoors and the open country sides. He attended Taylor Vocational High School and graduated top of his class. His love for agriculture and rural America encouraged him to pursue and obtain a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from Alcorn A&M College (now Alcorn State University), where he graduated with honors in 1956. He later received a master's degree in public financial management from American University in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lockhart served two years in the U.S. Army, which included a 16-month tour in Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1962. He went on to teach science, biology, chemistry and physics for one and a half years, and served as assistant principal in Raleigh. He worked for the United States Government and the United States Department of Agriculture for 43 years as: assistant county supervisor; county supervisor (becoming the first black county supervisor in Mississippi); assistant district director; rural estate loan specialist in Washington, D.C.; and District Director in Mississippi.

While at Alcorn, Mr. Lockhart met who would become the love of his life, Ruth Earlene Singleton. They were married in 1957,

and to this union were born two sons, Anthony Virdell Lockhart and Jewell C. Lockhart Jr. Mr. Lockhart was involved with many different organizations. He served as: a member of the board of directors and president of the United Way; the board of directors and president of the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County; and was a former board member of The Salvation Army. He also served on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity; the Greater Greenville Housing Committee; the board of directors of Mission Mississippi Delta; the board of directors of Ability to Work; and vice president of TRIAD. He was also a member of National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Mr. Lockhart was also the recipient of numerous awards and citations. Among them are: the Alcornite of the Year in 1982; the Silver Beaver Award from the Delta Area Council Boy Scouts of America; Community Service Award; 100 Black Men of Mississippi Delta, Inc. Distinguished Service Award; Delta Point of Pride Award from Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce; and Outstanding Service Award from National Council of SHADS. He was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, where he received the Membership Award.

Led to Christ at an early age, Mr. Lockhart joined New Hope First MB Church and was a constant presence and faithful servant in a number of capacities there. He served on the deacon board and as church treasurer. He was Deputy Superintendent of young adults. He was Scout Master of Troop No. 4412 at New Hope for many years and also a youth advisor. He also served as a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jewell C. Lockhart for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
THOMAS D. SEGE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of an extraordinary American, Thomas D. Sege. Thomas Sege was born on May 17, 1926, in Novi Sad, in the former Yugoslavia. He died on March 3, 2015, at his home in Woodside, California.

At the age of 12, Thomas Sege fled Yugoslavia with his parents and brother. He spent his youth in New York City and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Columbia University. He first worked at Sperry Gyroscopic in New York, and then in 1963 became General Manager of EIMAC in Silicon Valley. EIMAC merged with Varian Associates and Thomas Sege became its CEO, serving in that position from 1981 to 1990. He was a pioneer in radio transmitting tube technology and in klystron tube technology.

Thomas Sege was devoted to his family and friends, and was an avid reader, a passionate gardener and traveler. He loved to play chess, bridge and Scrabble, and spoke multiple languages. He was also a poet and a philosopher. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease for

the last 12 years of his life but never lost his spirit and humor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Thomas Sege's son Ronald, his daughter-in-law Gina Sege, his daughter Kathleen McNamara, and his grandchildren Scott McNamara, and Christopher, Jonathan, Georgia, and Alexi Sege. I ask my colleagues to honor the life of this exceptional man who made enormous contributions to our country, making us a better people and a stronger nation.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ROLLA AREA SHELTERED WORK-  
SHOP

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th anniversary of the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop in Rolla, Missouri. It is a place that empowers individuals to use their skills working in a sheltered environment with caring staff. Since its establishment in 1970, the workshop has provided quality employment for individuals with disabilities of all kinds.

Beginning in January 1969, the mother of a disabled son saw a need for a sheltered work environment for those who were too old for a State Training School. Together, the mother and two women who were involved with the Jaycettes, developed the idea for a sheltered workshop in Rolla. With the help and support of the entire community, the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop opened its doors a little over a year later. Today, the workshop has 75 disabled employees who have found an environment where they can work productively and independently. Alongside a supportive staff of eight, the employees work on printed material, collating, sorting the different kinds, packing and labeling bags, among other projects.

For the many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop before the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ESTHER TINT

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real life Rosie the Riveter, Mrs. Esther Tint, on her 100th birthday.

Five years before women gained the right to vote, Mrs. Tint was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on April 23, 1915 to immigrants Rosa Mifefera Gaetano and Frank Gaetano. The Gaetanos were a hardworking family, raising their children in modest circumstances amidst the coal mines in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mrs. Tint recalls her father carrying home large sacks of flour, from which her mother

would craft the bread that largely sustained the family.

Following a brief early marriage that produced daughter Phyllis Aisenstein, Mrs. Tint began working at International Resistance in Philadelphia; soldering and riveting parts for electric boxes that were used by the Navy as part of the war effort. Mrs. Tint eventually became an inspector at the plant. While there, she met the man who would become her second husband, Irving Nydick.

Married in 1942, Mrs. Tint and Mr. Nydick had three children, Andrea Lutz, Lynne Cohen and Jeffrey Nydick. Through her four children, Mrs. Tint is the beloved grandmother of Susan Waldman, Josh Aisenstein and Jill Karkella, as well as the adored great-grandmother of Emma Waldman, Daniel Waldman, AvaGrace Tuft, Arden Rose Tuft and Adrienne Elizabeth Tuft.

After raising her children, Mrs. Tint began working at the Federation of Jewish Agencies Thrift Shop in Center City. She was a treasured and tireless worker there for 17 years. During her tenure at the thrift shop, following the death of Mr. Nydick, she met her final husband, widower Bernard Tint. The Tints married in 1977. Their marriage lasted until Bernie's death in 2004 at age 94. Through their marriage, Mrs. Tint is the cherished stepmother of Frankee Greenberg and step-grandmother of Sherry and Gayle Greenberg.

Still sharp as a tack and always elegantly turned out, Mrs. Tint eagerly follows politics and current events. She hopes to live long enough to see a female President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and patriotic daughter of immigrants, Mrs. Esther Tint, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY  
ACT OF 2015

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of additional days a woman must work to earn what a man earned by the end of last year. The 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, has grown creaky with age and needs updating to reflect the new workforce, in which women work almost as much as men. Every Congress, Representative ROSA DELAURIO and I, along with scores of other members of Congress, introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act, to amend the EPA to make its basic procedures equal to those of other anti-discrimination statutes. As an original cosponsor, I attended the signing of the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restored the original interpretation following a Supreme Court decision that limited lawsuits on pay disparity by tightening the time frame to file such cases.

The best case for a stronger and updated EPA, with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act, occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when

female custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that female workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same or similar work as men. Had these women not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task in using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit.

Based on my own experience as the first woman to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I again introduce the Fair Pay Act (FPA) on behalf of the average female worker, who is often first steered to, and then locked into, jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held such jobs. Much of the wage inequality women experience today is because of employer-steering and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes, which result in wages being paid according to gender and not according to the skills and efforts necessary to do the job. I introduce the FPA because pay disparity most women face today stems mainly from the segregation of women and men in different jobs and paying women in female-dominated jobs systematically less. Two-thirds of white women and three quarters of African-American women work in just three areas: sales/clerical, service and factories. We need more aggressive strategies to break through the societal barriers present throughout history the world over, as well as employer-steering based on gender, which is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA requires that if men and women are doing comparable work, they are to be paid comparable wages. If a woman, for example, is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, she should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should not earn less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the legal burden. Under the FPA, as under the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. The plaintiff must show that the reason for the disparate treatment is gender discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

Remedies to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State governments, in red and blue states alike, have demonstrated with their own employees that they can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty states have adjusted wages for female-dominated professions, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated-jobs that paid less than comparable male-dominated jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when it found that traditionally female jobs paid 20 percent less than comparable traditionally male jobs. There may well be some portion of a gender wage gap that is traceable to market factors, but twenty states have shown that you can tackle the gender discrimination-based wage gap without interfering in the market system. States generally have closed the wage gap over a period of

four to five years at a one-time cost of no more than three to four percent of payroll.

In addition, many female workers routinely achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers provide it on their own as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations as a result of the shortage of skilled workers, as well as because of the unfairness to women. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep-seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the traditionally female occupations, where pay is linked with gender and always has been.

ZACH JANDA'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Zach Janda attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

In the past fifteen years many events have occurred that have shaped, molded, and changed the United States of America. Among the several elections that have transpired, the wars we have taken a part in, and the initiatives that have been taken one stands out: The infamous 9/11.

Now being only five years old when this event occurred, I was oblivious to what happened and what would happen next. In the days and weeks following the tragedy, America and its citizens as a whole rose up and defeated the immediate challenge to just give up. We came together as a whole when the rest of the world thought we could fall into confusion and anarchy. The rise in patriotism that came after 9/11 created a increase in the military enrollments and many people dropped their jobs and went to fight for their country. This can be seen through Pat Tillman: the man who left the glory and multi-million dollar NFL football career to achieve a new glory while fighting overseas.

This rise in military numbers helped to bolster the US Army, which in turn helped intimidate and suppress their enemies. With all of this great leadership and national pride that came from this tragedy there were also minor mishaps that came into play and still affect our nation today. Due to the necessity to act fast to appease the American population, President Bush rushed the USA PATRIOT Act which is becoming more and more controversial today because of the increases in technology and the ease at which the government has the ability to watch over the citizens.

Now, at the time it may have seemed alright in the public's eyes for the government to be able to watch over every move, but there were not enough provisions (because of the rush) that would provide safety nets for the citizens. I'm not going to delve into my view on the topic but the reason the citizens of America dislike the Act is because they feel as though they are being spied on. The government on the other hand only employs this act to attempt to catch, halt, and deter terrorism in the act, so saying that the government spends their money only to spy on the citizens is false.

The United States has been resilient and has continued to change for the past fifteen years due to many events. However, the travesty of September 11, 2001 stands out among the rest because of the outcomes, both good and bad, that transpired after the event.

#### EQUALITY MEANS BUSINESS' REPORT ON THE LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS & WORKPLACE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the executive summary of a report conducted by Equality Means Business, a project of Equality Florida and the Equality Florida Institute, organizations dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The report demonstrates what we already know to be true—that LGBT discrimination in the workplace is corrosive to both the domestic and global marketplace. We must continue to work diligently to ensure that all citizens are guaranteed equal rights and equal protection under the law.

The full report is available online at [http://www.eqfl.org/emb/economic\\_impact\\_study](http://www.eqfl.org/emb/economic_impact_study).

Florida State laws are negatively impacting business operations and profits to a much higher level than previously suspected. A groundbreaking study, released by Thinkspot Inc. in March 2015, demonstrates the costly negative impact on Florida's employers from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) discrimination.

Equality Means Business, formed to spotlight major employers in Florida that have adopted comprehensive nondiscrimination policies, commissioned Thinkspot to conduct research addressing the economic case for ending discrimination against LGBT people in the Sunshine State.

The study details extensive analysis of published research and findings from in-depth interviews with C-level business leaders. It reveals negative costs realized by individual employees, employers, and Florida's business community. Study findings also illuminate areas of erosion for Florida's competitive position in the global marketplace. This summary provides highlights of the study's findings.

#### THE COSTS

The costs resulting from lost productivity and employee turnover alone are estimated conservatively to exceed \$362 million annually. Other costs recognized by the state's business community include forgone new

business opportunities, product quality degradation, customer loyalty erosion, safety incidents, corporate reputation damage, and lost opportunities to attract talent—particularly among the Millennial generation.

The cost of LGBT discrimination is not isolated to the individual. Discrimination in the workplace negatively impacts the host company, its customers, its industry (e.g., supply chain), and the geo-political areas (i.e., city, county, state) those employers call home. Research demonstrates that the link from employee engagement to profits and competitiveness is direct.

#### DIMINISHED COMPETITIVENESS

For many companies, a culture of non-discrimination fostered and maintained through policies is a prerequisite for daily operations. Global corporate peers demand their vendors demonstrate "cultural intelligence." Global business opportunities (i.e., revenues) are lost in the absence of workplace discrimination protection.

Responses from business executives reveal that representative companies have interests far beyond the ability to attract and retain the best talent, as well as responding to global customers' demands for inclusion policies as a prerequisite for doing business.

The currently unrealized effort to pass federal legislation providing non-discrimination intensifies the competition between states in realizing the benefits of protection in the workplace. Florida ranks in the middle of the national pack at 25. Florida businesses are at a competitive disadvantage created by the collective perception as being hostile to the LGBT community.

The lack of protections available to LGBT people in a state like Florida stands in stark contrast to the protections available in high-equality states, where state law eliminates these differential costs.

#### INCONSISTENT POLICIES WITHIN THE STATE

In researching for the report, the authors discovered employers that made significant effort to implement internal policies that protect members of the LGBT community within the office, but felt those efforts were "undercut" by inaction or regressive action of government at the local and state levels. The interviews also revealed a perception that some governments appear to be actively working against companies' ability to create a "safe" and "inclusive" environment and fail to demonstrate critical "cultural intelligence" to industry peers and global partners.

An employer pointed out that the workplace is only one part of the factor—an employee would also need to go home and may have a partner working at a different location without protections and could face any number of other discriminations. One CEO noted where a highly-sought after C-level candidate turned down a very attractive job offer because, although the company was a great fit and provided partner benefits and other protections, the candidate did not feel he would be welcomed in the state and in the community. Potential employees considering work in Florida carefully examine the environment created by the host communities and state.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH FLORIDA BUSINESS LEADERS

In-depth interviews were conducted with participants representing organizations of varying sizes and sectors, from manufacturing and medical services to Florida's emerging tech sector. They spanned in size of workforce from 18 to 400,000. The interview findings document an overall theme that broad and consistent discrimination protection is a matter of state competitiveness.



This is especially evident for critical industries such as technology, tourism, and medical services, and for companies operating or headquartered out of the state while competing within a global market.

For many companies, a culture of non-discrimination fostered and maintained through formal policies is a prerequisite consideration for daily operations and for promoting their own relevancy among global corporate peers who demand their supply chain partners and vendors demonstrate "cultural intelligence".

#### DAMAGED STATE REPUTATION

Leaders provided continual reference to concerns over Florida's negative reputation, especially related to diversity, inclusion, and discrimination at the state-level. Executives link this reputation issue to the loss of highly sought-after candidates, the direct loss of high-potential incumbent talent, and hesitancy of large global partners considering acquisitions or including Florida companies as supply chain partners, often in a global arena.

Executives noted that when identifying their companies as operating within or headquartered in Florida, responses of industry peers, potential partners, or clients will often be negative and even express doubt about the value and validity of the company itself. Executives linked these responses directly to negative perceptions of Florida's brand as "backwards" and not promoting diversity of ideas and cultures.

Participants repeatedly noted that they had to exert deliberate effort to "overcome" negative reputational issues related with being headquartered or having major operations within Florida. On one account, a company headquartered in a major metropolitan area in Florida noted that their largest competitor (based out of California) had raised questions about how "good your talent could actually be" because they are living and working in Florida "where basic human protections are either not provided or fought against."

#### AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVE

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the participants noted plans to expand in the coming 36 months. Several reported that relocation or expansion decisions were made in favor of a location with a public policy climate that promoted diversity and non-discrimination for the LGBT community.

#### MILLENNIAL EXPECTATIONS

The executives suggest that Millennials are flocking to workplaces where they believe their values are reflected, and suggest they want a company culture that "treats all people fairly." Meanwhile, leaders report hearing frequent expressions of frustration and confusion by highly-sought younger workers at why "some older people" make a "big deal" out of non-discrimination (in and outside of the workplace) or speak actively about LGBT issues in negative, cautionary, or bigoted tones. Competing for talent, particularly for members of the Millennial generation now entering the workforce, makes inclusion and diversity a requisite.

#### SUPPORTING DISCRIMINATION PROTECTION IS STATUS QUO

Executives suggest that the "battle is over" in corporate America and the boardroom. Supporting discrimination protection is status quo for large companies and for most medium-sized firms, and a requirement for competition in many cases. Business leaders felt their competitive positioning efforts were "undercut" by negative or absent

external public policies in local markets and inaction at the state level to support business needs. Some suggested the need for state action to address these issues and eradicate both the negative perceptions of the state and cultural landscape.

#### COMPLIANCE THROUGHOUT SUPPLY CHAINS

Failing to represent the presence and authentic implementation of a non-discrimination policy can result in real, hard loss of revenue from global clients and partners as well as significant damage to brand reputation.

#### A PREREQUISITE FOR BUSINESS

For companies to compete for business, they must both have and evidence non-discrimination policies and culture. Another element relates to softer aspects of brand reputation and acceptance among industry peer groups. Leaders express "reputation" as extremely delicate and important, especially in the early stages of competitive opportunities.

#### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS

Public opinion in Florida supports the passage of legal protections from workplace discrimination for LGBT people. Survey results found that 73% of respondents supported passage of this legislation that would have added protections from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination to existing state law. Three sources of public opinion data indicate that 80% of Florida residents think that LGBT people experience a moderate amount to a lot of discrimination in the state.

The study also shows evidence of the effectiveness of state legislation. Evidence from states with sexual orientation non-discrimination laws indicates that the likelihood of a gay or lesbian employee in those areas even filing a legal complaint is estimated at only 0.01 to 0.08 percent annually.

#### TRIBUTE TO SIMON PETER WORDEN, BRIG. GEN., USAF, RET.

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Simon Peter "Pete" Worden as he retires from NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California as Director.

Pete Worden was born in 1949 in Michigan. He earned his BS degree from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Arizona. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 1, 1971, and rose through the ranks to become Brigadier General in September, 2000. He retired from active duty in May, 2004. While on active duty he served in many critical positions, including serving as an advisor in the Executive Office of the President. At the time of his retirement he was Director of Development and Transformation, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California.

After retirement from the Air Force, Pete Worden was a Research Professor of Astronomy, Optical Sciences and Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona and was a consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

In May, 2006, Pete Worden became Director of NASA Ames, where he served with great distinction. During his tenure at NASA Ames many small, low-cost satellites were launched and new thrusts in quantum computing were made. Pete can be rightly proud of the revitalization of space biology and the development of synthetic biology, and of Ames' work on the International Space Station.

I had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Pete Worden and I know him to be a gracious man of brilliance and integrity. He worked with me and GSA on a competitive bid process that resulted in the selection of Planetary Ventures, LLC as the lessee to restore historic Hangar One and the management of Moffett Federal Airfield. Because of this work, Moffett Federal Airfield will remain a federal facility, managed under a public-private partnership. This Silicon Valley hub for disaster preparedness will be maintained and available as needed for federal purposes and significant taxpayer dollars will be saved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring Pete Worden for his extraordinary service to our country which has made us a stronger, better nation.

#### REMEMBERING WAYNE PROUSE

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and a friend, Wayne Prouse. Wayne passed away on Friday, April 3, 2015 at the age of 69.

Wayne was an amazing man who shared his love of history and our country with thousands of students over a period of thirty-five years as a teacher in Orange County, Texas. Wayne's passion for history left a lasting impression on all of those he taught and he is remembered by many for his integrity and honor, qualities he strived to instill into his own students as well. He is fondly remembered by many former students whom he sponsored on trips to our nation's capital where he introduced them to the memorials celebrating the lives and achievements of our founding fathers. Wayne always taught with two goals in mind—to promote the ideals of American democracy and civic responsibility among all of his students.

Wayne's service to his community didn't end in the classroom. He proudly shared his love of history by serving on the Orange County Historical Association and as an active member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, traveling around the country reenacting famous battles. Wayne also served passionately on the board of directors for the Salvation Army, Orange County Retired Teachers Association, Texas Horseshoe Pitchers Association, and as parliamentarian for the Orange County Republican Party.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Wayne as an important member of my staff who served the constituents of our district faithfully. Most notably, Wayne was responsible for our Veteran's Video program where he interviewed combat veterans and later filed DVDs

of those interviews with the Library of Congress, where they will remain as important reminders of the service and sacrifices of these brave men and women for generations to come.

My prayers and deepest condolences go out to Wayne's wife, Andrea, his son, Brandon and his grandson, Landon. Wayne will be sorely missed by my staff, our community, and his former students, but his passion for history and the valuable lessons he taught will certainly live on.

HONORING THE PASSING OF MR.  
KENDALL FRANKLIN ROWE SR.

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of Mr. Kendall Franklin Rowe Sr., of Montross and Richmond. Mr. Rowe passed away peacefully on March 3, 2015. He is survived by his wife; Phyllis G. Rowe, and his children; Kendall F. Rowe Jr., Brenda Rowe Murray, Rebecca R. Graf and his grandchildren, as well as his sister Eleanor R. West. Mr. Rowe was a loving father, grandfather, and family man. Mr. Rowe was also a loyal patriot who served in the U.S. Army as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. Rowe will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING SARA  
MCDONALD

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara McDonald, who was named Elementary School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association on March 5, 2015.

Elementary school represents a vital moment in a child's education, and hardworking, dedicated educators, like Sara McDonald, are crucial to molding curious students into lifelong learners. As principal of Northview Elementary School, in Peru, Illinois, Mrs. McDonald has continually demonstrated her passion for education and her commitment to serving students. She serves not only as a leader of her team of teachers, administrators, and support staff, but also an example of the importance of continual education and self-improvement. Mrs. McDonald has continued her education with additional training on the Kindergarten Development Survey (KIDS), Comprehensive Literacy Model (CLM), and the Danielson Model on Teacher Evaluations, in addition to serving as the Bi-lingual Coordinator and primary grant writer for her school.

As the son of a public school teacher, I know the importance of having passionate and creative teachers in the classroom who are able to educate the next generation of Americans. For that reason, I am honored to join

with the nearly 5,000 principals and education leaders of the Illinois Principals Association and the students and staff of Northview Elementary to honor Mrs. McDonald's many accomplishments, and to congratulate her on being named Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the hard work Mrs. McDonald has done for our students and the Peru community. I congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DARREN E.  
RUSSELL

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the death of Mr. Darren E. Russell, the son of my constituent, Ms. Maxine Russell.

In 2005, at the time of Mr. Russell's untimely death, many young U.S. citizens were employed as language instructors in China, due to increased demand for English language skills in connection with the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympics. Like many Americans, Darren sought out this opportunity to work in a different culture, and to improve ties between the United States and the people of China.

Darren was loved by his students, who gave him a Chinese nickname that translates to "White Rabbit." While he enjoyed teaching his students, his relationship with his employer was not good. He was reportedly required to work seven days a week, and was subjected to substandard working conditions by his employing school, the Decai English Language Institute. His employers seized and held his travel documents, including his passport.

Further, his employing school had failed to obtain the proper work documentation for Mr. Russell, making him essentially an illegal alien in the eyes of Chinese authorities. When Mr. Russell expressed concern about his working conditions, he was removed from his employer-provided apartment and placed in virtual detention by his employers at the Cathay Hotel in Guangzhou. While there, Mr. Russell was robbed, and he therefore lacked the financial means to arrange for his departure.

In a recorded message on his father's cell phone a few hours before his death, which was deemed a hit-and-run accident by local authorities, Mr. Russell expressed grave concern for his personal safety. He sought urgent assistance from his family and the U.S. Consulate in order to return to the United States.

These circumstances raised suspicion that foul play was involved in his death. A subsequent autopsy was conducted by a board-certified pathologist in Los Angeles, California, in March of 2007. The pathologist concluded that Mr. Russell was murdered by blunt force trauma to the head; his injuries were found inconsistent with a motor vehicle accident by the pathologist.

Darren's mother has spent the ten years since April 14, 2005 seeking justice for Darren

and the truth about what happened that day. She continues to seek information about the circumstances leading up to his death, and the inability of U.S. officials to render effective assistance to Darren after his pleas for help.

Darren is remembered by those who knew him as a caring and effective teacher, someone who tried to build bridges between the American and the Chinese people. I hope that both the U.S. and Chinese governments will assist his mother's efforts to determine what happened to her son ten years ago this week.

EQUAL PAY DAY 2015

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 14th as Equal Pay Day 2015.

April 14th is not a random date of the calendar; today marks how far into the year 2015 a woman must work until her earnings for 2014 and these additional months match what a man earned in 2014 alone.

In my home state of California, for every dollar a man makes, women still make just 84 cents. The gender wage gap is even greater for women of color. It is unconscionable that 52 years after President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, which established the principle of equal pay for equal work for women in the workforce, we still have such great gender-based pay disparities. This is harmful to our families and America's global competitiveness.

That is why I strongly support the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation which would strengthen the 1963 Equal Pay Act and provide effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. It is time for Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am also proud to support the Equal Pay Resolution, which recognizes the significance of Equal Pay Day to illustrate the disparity between wages paid to men and women, and its impact on women, families, and the nation.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is an economic issue. When women are paid fairly, families and businesses prosper. When families and businesses prosper, America prospers.

HONORING MAYOR CLINT COBBINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mayor Clint Cobbins.

The Honorable Mayor Clint Cobbins is the first African-American mayor of Lexington, Mississippi, the county seat for Holmes County.

A Holmes County native, Mayor Cobbins is the seventh of eight children born to Mr. Lee Henry Cobbins and Mrs. Willie Lee Cobbins.

Mayor Cobbins grew up in the Ebenezer Community. He is a 1974 graduate of the former Lexington Attendance Center (LAC). He also attended Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi, where he received training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

In 1983, he became a certified firefighter from the Mississippi State Fire Academy. In 1987, he completed his Law Enforcement Training through the Law Enforcement Academy in Pearl, Mississippi. He served in Law Enforcement for twenty-four and a half years. He retired as Police Chief of Tchula, Mississippi. Mr. Cobbins also held a dual career as an Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Canton, Mississippi where he served for twenty-eight and a half years. In 2004, he became an ordained Elder with the Guiding Light Church of God in Christ, Lexington, Mississippi.

Since becoming Lexington's first African-American Mayor in 2012, he has been instrumental in the renovation facelift of the downtown Lexington area—completing the sidewalk project. He worked with the North Central Planning Board to restart the feeding program for senior citizens, which serves over 50 hot meals per day at the Multi-purpose Building. He also continued the Mayor's Health Council program for senior citizens.

During the summer of 2014, Mayor Cobbins held, in collaboration with Madison County Sheriff's Explorers Program, a Fire and Police Academy Safety camp for Holmes County youth ages 6 to 14, in which 102 graduated from the camp. He plans to do another camp during the summer of 2015. "We have to keep our young people busy doing something constructive during the summer months. It will help them to stay out of trouble," the Mayor said.

Also during 2014, he and the Aldermen of the City of Lexington, along with the Board of Supervisors of Leflore County collaborated with the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) in securing a recent \$495,000.00 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Dallas and BankPlus of Mississippi to do housing repairs in the City of Lexington and in Greenwood.

Mayor Cobbins and the City Board of Aldermen have also voted to work toward making Lexington a Smoke-Free City. That work is currently in progress.

Mayor Cobbins and his wife are also local business owners of Kay's Sugar Shack—a short order food business.

Mayor Cobbins is married to Karen J. Cobbins, a native of Pickens, Mississippi, and they are the parents of three adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Clint Cobbins for his outstanding services in his community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATIVE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (ISIA) OF 2015

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, a growing threat to water quality throughout the United

States (U.S.) is polluted stormwater runoff, flooding, and sewer overflow from highly urbanized areas flowing into surface waters without being treated. This is especially true for Maryland with the Chesapeake Bay and several of its tributaries, including the Anacostia, Patuxent, Potomac, and Severn Rivers that flow through the Fourth Congressional District.

Innovative stormwater solutions, such as permeable pavement, natural drainage swales, and green roofs offer an effective alternative to conventional stormwater infrastructure that has both the flexibility and economic viability to address the challenges of polluted runoff, flooding, and sewer overflows. Unlike traditional stormwater infrastructure, this approach protects, restores, and replicates the natural hydrology of the landscape. Many of these innovative infrastructure practices are more economical, increase property values, and promote jobs to design and implement them.

This week Senator TOM UDALL (D-NM) and I are proud to reintroduce the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act (ISIA) of 2015 to help stem this growing crisis in clean water management issues. The bill would:

- Promote the use of innovative stormwater solutions within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and related programs and provide technical assistance to states, local governments, and the private sector;

- Invest in planning, development, and implementation grants for community-based stormwater control projects;

- Establish up to five Centers of Excellence in various regions of the U.S. that would conduct research, develop recommendations, and provide training and technical assistance for implementing management practices for stormwater control and management; and

- Promote public-private partnerships to create jobs in the design and construction of innovative stormwater control infrastructure.

Our legislation provides an innovative, environmental, and economically cost-effective approach to water management strategies that improve water quality throughout the nation while creating good-paying jobs for the future. The goals are to:

- Improve our nation's ability to manage clean water resources, including drinking water;

- Increase research and development of innovative green infrastructure techniques;

- Create jobs across diverse sectors, such as plumbing, landscaping and engineering;

- Save taxpayer money by reducing the amount of water entering treatment plants, keeping energy costs low and prolonging the life of existing conventional water infrastructure; and

- Provide environmental and economic benefits to communities, including reduced flooding and energy use, as well as increased community greenspace and property values.

The Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act has received broad support from water and environmental organizations, including the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, American Rivers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Water Environment Federation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB KASTENMEIER

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our friend and former colleague, Congressman Bob Kastenmeier, who passed away last week at the age of 91. Congressman Kastenmeier came to Congress in 1959 and was a loyal public servant, honorably representing Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District for 32 years.

His contribution to the House of Representatives, specifically the House Judiciary Committee, left a huge mark on the State of Wisconsin and the nation.

Congressman Kastenmeier was a lifelong public servant. Prior to being elected to Congress, he served the state of Wisconsin as a Justice of the Peace for Jefferson and Dodge Counties. He was also a member of the United States Army during World War II where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant. However, even though he was willing to fight for the freedom and security of our country, Congressman Kastenmeier understood the horrors of war and courageously took a firm stance against the Vietnam War and the invasion of U.S. military troops in Iraq.

During one of the country's darkest periods, Congressman Kastenmeier was a vocal supporter of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He fought tirelessly to ensure the equality of all Americans and he led by example through his ability to successfully work with elected officials of all races, genders and political persuasions.

For twenty years, he was the lead Democrat of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Administration of Justice. He authored many important copyright law reforms during that time and was a key sponsor of the Copyright Act of 1976, which remains the foundation of the nation's copyright law. He also led the United States into the community of nations through adherence to the Berne Convention. While a Member of the Judiciary Committee he was also involved in the impeachment hearings for Harry E. Claiborne, a judge for the United States District Court for Nevada, and President Nixon.

Congressman Kastenmeier was a principled and progressive legislator who did not seek attention and was known to vote his conscience. However, his contributions have been recognized nationwide. The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin honored our great colleague by naming the courthouse the "Robert W. Kastenmeier United States Courthouse."

Congressman Kastenmeier will be greatly missed, but he has left a legacy that will live forever. I am proud to have served with him and we are eternally grateful for his dedication, knowledge, and integrity. I am also proud that he was my friend.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends around the world.

HONORING PASTOR KENNY  
FOREMAN

## HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, and my friend, Pastor Kenny Foreman, upon his 85th birthday, as well as in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his church, Cathedral of Faith. I have had the privilege of knowing Pastor Foreman for many years, and I can personally attest to his lasting legacy of achievement through selfless ministry. His is the epitome of a life dedicated to serving others.

Pastor Kenny Foreman and his beloved wife, Shirley, are leaders and founders of the Cathedral of Faith, one of the most prominent Churches in Santa Clara County. Pastor Foreman's life story is truly one of faith and commitment to his beliefs and his community. Pastor Foreman has been in ministry for over 60 years and has served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California for over 35 years.

Born the youngest of three children to Hansel and Mabel Foreman in Crowley, Louisiana, he began traveling the United States full time as an evangelist minister by the age of seventeen. In 1953, Kenny met Shirley, the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Lowry of Trinity Church in Oakland, California. Pastor Foreman and Shirley Lowry wed in 1957, and ever since have committed their lives to ministry. As newlyweds, Kenny and Shirley Foreman traveled to Kansas City, Missouri in response to their calling and vision to establish a church. Kenny and Shirley spent their honeymoon converting an old theater into a place of worship. Pastor Kenny preached and played the guitar while Shirley played the organ, accordion, and piano. Later, they would be joined by their two sons, Ken and Kurt, who would also become active members of the Cathedral of Faith.

Their work with the Calvary Temple in Louisiana grew to serve a congregation of more than 2,000 persons, becoming one of the largest charismatic churches in the nation.

In 1965, Kenny, Shirley and their two sons, Ken and Kurt, were invited to San Jose, California to conduct a crusade and eventually lead the Friendly Bible Church. Immediately after becoming Pastor of Friendly Bible Church, Pastor Kenny began producing a weekly, half-hour television program entitled, "Kenny Foreman Presents Abundant Living." It was one of the first religious programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and was eventually nationally syndicated. Today, Kenny Foreman is the only local minister and programmer who has remained on the air for over 40 years. Throughout these years, Pastor Foreman has never received any income for his television ministry, and all financial support that his congregation had received was funneled back into the operations of the ministry.

It soon became evident from the growth of the congregation that a church would have to be built. Thus, in 1976, fourteen acres of property were purchased in San Jose, California to house what is now the Cathedral of Faith. It

would be a sanctuary that would seat nearly 3,000 people and was conceived in Pastor Foreman's spirit. Eventually, the grand opening of the Cathedral of Faith was celebrated on March 15, 1981. On January 1, 1982, the Cathedral of Faith became the home of The Religious Channel: 24 hours of Christian programming on Gill Cable, the largest cable company in the nation at that time.

The Church has never stopped growing. Even after all these years, Outreach Magazine has named Cathedral of Faith as one of the fastest growing and largest churches in America.

Pastor Foreman and Cathedral of Faith have had an amazing record of community involvement. The work of the church has exploded into over seventy active ministries, including, among many other community outreach programs, "Reaching Out," a food assistance program that operates from a 16,000 foot distribution complex serving 50,000 families annually and providing food for over 200,000 people. The California Department of Agriculture has recognized Reaching Out as one of the most efficient food programs in the state.

The church has also created a program called "California Youth Outreach" in order to meet the needs of young men and women that had fallen prey to gangs and drugs; it also serves on the Mayor's gang task force. I recall fondly working with Kenny in the early 1980s as their successful efforts were underway to grow these important services. The Cathedral of Faith also provides child care, early childhood education services, a family life center, a sponsorship program for children in Mozambique, an addiction recovery program, and even a university preparatory academy to prepare a diverse population of 7th–12th grade students in the central San Jose areas and surrounding neighborhoods to enter and excel in the best colleges and universities in the nation.

Kenny has never forgotten his own humble roots, and his life has been filled with joyful, generous, forgiving, and loving service. It is an honor to call Pastor Kenny Foreman a friend, and it is my privilege to honor him and his wife, Shirley, as significant persons in the 19th Congressional District. I would like to take the occasion of Pastor Foreman's 85th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Cathedral of Faith to thank him and his family for their many gifts and contributions to the community of San Jose, and I wish him many more healthy, happy and blessed years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE U.S.  
HOUSE STAFFER, ALYSON ROSE  
SINGFIELD

JANUARY 24, 1958–APRIL 7, 2015

BELOVED MOTHER, STEPMOTHER,  
DAUGHTER, GRANDMOTHER, SIS-  
TER, AUNT, COUSIN, FRIEND,  
DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

## HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, a dedicated

public servant who touched the lives of thousands of my constituents, and my life-long friend, the late Alyson Rose Singfield, who died on April 7, 2015 after a courageous battle with breast cancer at the much too young age of 57 years old.

Alyson was the beloved mother of Hope Lynn Stevenson, Tommy Stevenson and Earl Johnson.

She was a caring stepmother.

She was the loving daughter of Rose and the late Waldorf Singfield.

She was a proud grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to many.

Her death was a huge loss for me, my staff, and for the St. Louis community that Alyson loved and served so well for many years.

As my Community Outreach Director, Alyson brought her immense talent, creativity and dedication to work every day.

She helped create and coordinate outstanding programs like my Congressional Youth Cabinet, the Congressional Art Competition, my Congressional Internship Program and many others.

She was also my personal representative on the Regional Health Commission.

Alyson also served on the Board of Directors of the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers, one of our nation's most outstanding Federally Qualified Health Centers.

My thoughts and prayers are with Alyson's wonderful family and her many friends at this painful hour.

Alyson's legacy of love, service, and her courageous spirit will always remain in our hearts.

She will never be forgotten.

May God bless her with perfect peace and eternal rest, and may he bless all who mourn her with strength, faith and renewed determination to continue the good works that she established.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring the memory of Alyson Rose Singfield for her legacy of duty, honor, integrity, compassion, faith and dedicated service to the citizens of Missouri's 1st Congressional District, the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States of America.

## BRIAN RERICH'S ESSAY

## HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Brian Rerich attends Alvin High School in Alvin, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government holds a power constitutionally given to those who represent the people, for the people, in order to make decisions on the people's behalf to protect rights of life, liberty, and property as stated by the Founding Fathers. The foundation of all governments are based around the concept of united groups banning together to protect each other or their own property from other groups of the uncivilized, leading to formations of countries with ideologies reflecting the ideas or aggressions on which they were founded regardless of governmental nature.

Philosophically a government's role in everyday life should be to fulfil its duty of creating, and enforcing laws which protect the people and their rights while having their best interests at heart. Governments should also terminate those that violate those rights and laws or cause aggression to the people, given that the punishment is just and fair from prison to military action, even if it is members of the regime that must be terminated. However the government should remain checked and balanced to ensure that it is constantly protecting and representing the people. It is not the government's job to regulate or judge every aspect of a person's life, but to safeguard it, even if it means defending a person from themselves in some cases. As stated in The Declaration of Independence, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness", the only thing the government is required to do is help the people it governs. The Government has a responsibility just as the people who give it power do. They must protect and serve with integrity and distinction for the betterment of society and humanity. This ensures progression, protection, unity, and equality for all, preserving that which is the fabric of America, as well as what was sewed into it during its founding.

#### HONORING CHARLES TILLMAN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Charles Tillman a native of Brookhaven, Mississippi. Mr. Charles Tillman earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Alcorn State University and his Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Southern California.

He has more than thirty years of experience in education through his service as the former counselor at Lanier High School, as a former Assistant Principal at Hardy Junior High School and as a former Principal at Rowan Junior High and Brinkley Junior High School.

His contributions to the local community include: the Town Creek Project, Midtown Federal Housing Rehabilitation Program, Midtown Community Service Centers, and a Community Economic Development Grant. He has also served as: President of the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Association, a Habitat for Hu-

manity board member and a 2004 Mississippi Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

He has served on various committees in the City Council and among the community such as the Mayor's Advisory Committee, Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Keep Jackson Beautiful, and Jackson School Board President. He was formerly the Chairman of the Council's Budget Committee.

Councilman Tillman has been awarded: a pedestrian crosswalk on North Mill Street in his honor, the Boy Scouts of America Seminole District's Principal-of-the-Year Award, Governor's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Voluntary Community Service and National Council of Negro Women's Appreciation Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service.

He was married to the late Issie Patterson and has two children, Vanessa and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilman Charles Tillman for his dedication in serving.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to announce the beginning of our effort to reauthorize and extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which is providing health care and financial assistance to over 70,000 first-responders and survivors all across the country. These are the 9/11 heroes—the firefighters, the police officers, the EMTs, the volunteers—who came to Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, to sift through the rubble and help their fellow men and women. The clock is ticking for the heroes and survivors of 9/11. In just over 500 days, the programs that help them cope with 9/11 related illnesses will expire.

After 9/11 we made a promise not only to pursue justice against those who attacked us and to rebuild but also to take care of those who were injured in those attacks and the heroes who risked life and limb in the recovery efforts.

Our commitment to "never forget" knew no bounds and no party lines when joined in unison on the steps of the Capitol back in 2001. This Congress we must make sure we keep that promise by permanently extending this vital legislation.

The health of those who were there in the aftermath of 9/11 was forever changed. More than 70,000 people in all 50 states and in 429 of the 435 congressional districts have benefited from the World Trade Center and National Health Programs. The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is helping more than 10,000 people who were made ill by 9/11 and has determined they are eligible for more than \$1 billion in economic assistance because of the hardships and the losses they suffered.

So far medical research has identified more than 60 types of cancer caused by 9/11 toxins. Thousands suffer from diseases that don't go away in a year and sometimes don't present themselves for decades. Diseases and injuries that can make it impossible to find and keep work.

Making these programs permanent is the least that we as a grateful nation can do for our heroes and heroines of 9/11. I thank my colleagues Reps. JERROLD NADLER, PETER KING, and the entire New York delegation, as well as other Members from across the country who have committed to working together in this fight for reauthorization.

#### RECOGNIZING CORPORAL RICHARD VANA FOR ACTIONS DURING WORLD WAR II

#### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Corporal Richard Vana of the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Vana served during World War II and fought valiantly during the Battle of Okinawa. As a member of the Marine Raiders, Corporal Vana was just one of a small group who survived all 99 days of this bloody campaign.

On June 1, 1945 Corporal Vana was rejoining his company after filling in a defensive position when he came under mortar fire from the Japanese. During this mortar attack, Vana took shelter in a foxhole with another marine. Within moments, a neighboring foxhole was struck by mortar fire, and one of Corporal Vana's comrades was severely wounded. Under constant enemy fire, Corporal Vana and another marine, PFC Stuart Upchurch, helped to rescue the wounded marine and take him to shelter from the enemy. Corporal Vana and PFC Upchurch performed emergency life-saving medical procedures until a Navy corpsman could provide assistance.

Without the heroic actions of Corporal Vana and PFC Upchurch the wounded marine surely would have died from his wounds. Their life-saving action upheld the motto of the Marine Corps. The unwavering courage and gallantry of Corporal Vana deserves the utmost respect and gratitude. These actions reflect great credit upon Corporal Vana, his unit, the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the United States of America.

#### CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY HOPE

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Hope, Inc., located in Parsippany, New Jersey as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Community Hope, a non-profit organization created in 1985, was created by families and

mental health professionals who sought to provide a safe haven for young adults who were recovering from debilitating mental illnesses. Today, Community Hope offers housing and essential services to young adults and individuals recovering from mental illness. This non-profit strives to be a model for organizations seeking to assist people suffering from mental illness by implementing a comprehensive housing and support program for these individuals. Community Hope's mission is to support people and their families, including veterans, in combating mental illness, addiction, poverty, and homelessness.

For thirty years Community Hope has offered housing and care for those suffering from mental illness. Community Hope's first therapeutic residence included professional counselors who assisted individuals in successfully transitioning back to communal and familial life after years of psychiatric hospitalization. In 2004, Community Hope proudly opened the largest transitional housing program in New Jersey for homeless veterans.

Over the past fifteen years, Community Hope has vastly expanded its operations. During the course of these fifteen years, Community Hope has increased the number of individuals it assists from 57 to over 400. The non-profit has also increased its budget by almost \$10 million since the year 2000. Originally operating under the name Project Hope, the organization currently inspires hope through its several housing facilities, including the Valley Brook Village at Lyons Veterans Hospital, which assists veterans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless.

Community Hope continues to expand its presence in New Jersey with the goal of assisting as many people recovering from mental illness as possible. In particular, this non-profit launched its multi-year 450 Campaign in 2011. Through this campaign, Community Hope seeks to serve as many as 450 individuals a day who require assistance. The 450 Campaign was so successful that it has transformed into the 1,250 Campaign, with the goal of assisting 1,250 individuals in one calendar year. Community Hope has also expanded its role in helping veterans and their families through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. Community Hope was one of the first organizations to be awarded an SSVF grant to establish this program, and now is the largest SSVF Program in New Jersey.

Community Hope also hosts events to raise awareness about mental health issues and fund its operations. Community Hope's upcoming events include its Flag Day 5k Run and Fun Walk, the 19th Annual Sparkle of Hope Gala, and its Annual Learning Forum and Wellness Fair, which is focused on contemporary living and spirituality.

To celebrate 30 successful years of providing housing and care for individuals with mental illness, Community Hope is hosting its Thirtieth Anniversary Reception on Thursday, April 30th. The reception will be held at the Lowenstein Sandler Reception Center, located at 75 Livingston Avenue in Roseland, New Jersey.

I commend the members of Community Hope, its Board of Trustees and Board of Directors, especially its chief executive officer, J.

Michael Armstrong, for their dedication to providing for the welfare of individuals battling mental illness. Community Hope serves as the perfect model for other non-profits seeking to administer these critical services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Community Hope as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

#### LAUREN HILL—PROFILE IN COURAGE

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, athlete, student, daughter, friend, fighter and hero—this was Lauren Hill. At just 19 years old, Lauren fought the beast of cancer on the basketball court as the world watched. As everyone scrambled and stressed filling out their March Madness brackets, hoping to have the perfect bracket, Lauren was battling a brain tumor.

Lauren was a freshman basketball player at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a high school student when she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. But Lauren wasn't going to let a tumor stop her.

She set off to college to achieve her dream: to play on a college court. And of course, she did it.

The NCAA allowed Mount St. Joseph move up its opening game so that Lauren could play.

Xavier University even offered their arena so more people could come watch her shoot some hoops. Tickets to the game sold out in less than an hour. 10,000 people came to watch Lauren doing what she loves—play basketball. Among the 10,000 was legendary Tennessee Women's Basketball Coach Pat Summitt and some notable WNBA players.

Because the tumor had so aggressively attacked the right side of her body, her dominant side, Lauren shot a left-handed layup just 17 seconds into the game. And by no surprise, she made it. But she was not quite done.

She made the last basket of the game. This time, she shot the layup with her right hand. One can only imagine what it was like in the arena that day. The spectators were able to watch such a strong soul and example be able to live her dream in spite of her illness. Tears and smiles filled the arena.

When she wasn't on the court, Lauren worked to raise awareness and money for cancer research through her nonprofit foundation.

She never let the disease define her, because she was Lauren, a college basketball player, who was just doing what she loved. In watching her strength, she has given so many hope—hope that even in the midst of a battle for life, there is faith.

As a father of four kids (three of them being girls), and a grandfather of 11 kids (7 of them being girls), I know how special our girls are. Lauren Hill definitely left an impression not only on her team and school community, but the rest of us as well.

Thank you Lauren, for so selflessly sharing your story with the world. Thank you for inspiring and encouraging all of us.

President Kennedy would have referred to Lauren Hill as a "profile in courage."

And that's just the way it is.

#### PHILLIP PRATER'S ESSAY

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Phillip Prater attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

"OBAMACARE" . . . one of the most important changes in the history of healthcare reform. Millions of Americans desperately in need of some form of health insurance are going to benefit mainly because individuals got involved in the political process.

The political process reaches far back to when our founding fathers created this great democracy. They instilled during that time that a democratic society is effective only if individuals are given the opportunity to express their concerns and actively participate in the political process.

Laws in government are made that affect our lives each and every day. Some of these laws are positive, yet some are negative. But we have to live by them. However, apathy is contagious. Our democracy could be a stake if we chose to ignore hearing about and participating in the political process. If you don't participate, then you can't and should not complain about an outcome that greatly affects you. Some individuals believe that government has no bearing on our daily lives. But this is farthest from the truth. Government affects every single aspect of our lives.

For example, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools. Many thanks to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. and countless individuals, who marched thru city streets, participated in freedom rides, and some ultimately paying the ultimate sacrifice so that future generations could live and VOTE in a land of opportunity. It also paved the way for other civil rights legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you're eligible to vote, then vote!!!!!! This is by far the easiest way to get involved in the political process. But pulling the lever also means understanding the issues that candidates are for or against, so that you can make the right vote.

Another way is to write your representative and present your opposing views or disapproval on a topic that you firmly agree on.

Other ways to get and staying involved in the political process are as follows:

Volunteer to help with voter registration drives

Educate voters by developing voter guides

Volunteer to work on a political campaign

Participate in protest rallies and marches

Attend a debate or a town hall meeting

Getting involved in the political process by every individual is critical if our democracy is to continue as the greatest country in the world!!!!

**RIEMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES**

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riemann Family Funeral Homes on the occasion of the opening of their Jackson County location. This facility will continue the legacy of service the Riemann family has provided the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast for nearly a century.

In 1920, Ernest and Ruth Riemann moved from Michigan to South Mississippi and purchased Wilder Funeral Homes. They would be proud of the success and growth of their family business.

Today, with locations all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast this new Jackson County location provides the Riemann family another opportunity to compassionately serve their neighbors, friends, and family during life's most difficult times.

The Riemann family is blessed with a dedicated and professional staff that combined has hundreds of years of experience. Like the Riemann family, they are committed to faithfully serving their community.

Once again, I would like to thank the Riemann Family for their four generations of dedicated service to the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE 2015 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT "CREATE, GROW, SUSTAIN: LEADING BY EXAMPLE"**

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is wholly fitting that I rise today, Earth Day, to call attention to a report that attests to all of the wonderful strides our nation's largest companies are taking in the interest of sustainability—strides taken not in response to government mandates, but because they are good for customers, good for employees, good for the bottom line, and good for the communities in which these companies do business.

Mr. Speaker, for several years Business Roundtable, a fine organization that represents CEOs of more than 200 of the coun-

try's largest companies, has released a comprehensive Sustainability Report in conjunction with Earth Day. The companies participating in the report—most of the Roundtable's members—submit considerable information about the many ways in which they are striving to take sustainability to an even higher level.

Some companies have focused on drastically reducing the energy they use or increasing their use of renewable energy. Others have cut their waste production while increasing their commitment to reuse and recycle in ever more innovative ways. Still others have built sustainability into their products and workforce policies. Many have made progress on several fronts at once.

The 2015 edition of the Business Roundtable's Sustainability Report, "Create, Grow, Sustain: Leading by Example," is hot off the presses, and it is a pleasure for me to introduce it into the RECORD today. What is most notable—and impressive—to me is that the CEOs themselves contributed to this report through signed letters. These leaders personally attest to the steps taken by their companies and are justifiably proud of them. What a perfect way to mark this Earth Day.

Beyond that, what is most striking about the long list of accomplishments in the area of sustainability by our nation's largest firms is that for the most part, their actions have been taken not because they were forced to by regulations and legislation but because they were good for the bottom line. We see this happening more and more. Companies are using their ingenuity to reduce their impact on the environment, not because they are threatened with government action, but because they consider solid corporate citizenship, including lessening their environmental footprint, to be a major company value.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will take the time to review "Create, Grow, Sustain: Leading by Example" so that we all can share with our constituent companies the many lessons that Business Roundtable companies have to offer.

**EQUAL PAY DAY**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, roughly three months into the New Year, we commemorate Equal Pay Day—the typical time into the year where a woman's wage catches up to what men were paid the previous year. This day symbolizes the blatant and persistent wage gap between men and women. Even in 2015, women earn only 78 cents to every dollar made by a man. It's time to make equal pay not just a nice slogan but a reality for women and families.

Unequal pay is not just a women's issue—it's a family issue. Our country is evolving and more than ever before families rely on income from two parents. In fact, two out of three families now depend on the wages of working moms. Additionally, women are the primary breadwinners in 40 percent of U.S. households. It is a very real consequence that when

women are discriminated against in the workplace the entire family struggles. This serves as an urgent reminder why we need to work together to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Women have made remarkable strides in workforce participation and higher education. Today women make up nearly half of all workers as compared to 37 percent in 1970 and receive nearly 60 percent of all bachelor degrees granted in the U.S. Yet, regardless of the level of academic achievement, women's median earnings are still less than men's earnings. Sadly, a recent study by the American Association of University Women found that regardless of a woman's college major, occupation, age, geographic region, hours worked and more there is still an unexplainable seven percent wage gap a year after college graduation.

The gap in wages only grows from there, leaving a disproportionate impact on women and their families throughout the rest of their lives. The Joint Economic Committee found that lower earnings "can result in smaller private savings to draw upon in retirement, smaller contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans, smaller Social Security benefits, and smaller paychecks for those women who continue to work later in life." The disparity is even more devastating when calculated over a course of a woman's career. By the time a woman retires it's estimated that she's lost over \$430,000 to the pay gap.

It is important to recognize that women make tremendous contributions to our nation's economy with potential to make even more. It's estimated that greater pay equity between men and women would produce nearly half a trillion dollars of additional income, stimulating our economy by close to three percent of 2012 Gross Domestic Product. Also, by closing the wage gap between men and women we could cut the poverty rate in half, raising an entire nation to a better standard of living.

Paying women their equal share has many implications. It means that we are a nation that stands for equality. That we are choosing to uplift women and families, reduce poverty and boost our economy. That is why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and providing effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation that confronts discrimination in the workplace. It is time for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of our nation's hardworking women and families.

**GIRLS OF STEEL**

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Chairman's Award at the 2015 Buckeye Regional FIRST® Robotics Competition in Cleveland, Ohio.

This is the most prestigious award at FIRST and it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best



embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The Chairman's Award is presented to the team judged to have the most significant measurable impact of its partnerships among its participants and community over a sustained period, not just a single build season. The winner is able to demonstrate progress towards FIRST's mission of transforming our culture. I think that winning this award is a remarkable accomplishment that speaks volumes about the dedication these young women have in pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math or "STEM" careers, along with the hundreds of hours they have spent conducting outreach in the community. They even served to inspire the two female tech characters in the recently released Pixar film, "Big Hero 6".

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through FIRST every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are valuable tools for helping our young people explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can produce in my district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work in encouraging young people in these pursuits. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Fifty young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these aspiring STEM professionals by name. They are Vishi Agrawal, Sonia Appasamy, Isabella Arnone, Arushi Bandi, Emilia Bianchini, Madeline Butch, Tristan Close-Abuyen, Samantha Eppinger, Adelle Fernando, Mackenzie Ferris, Payton Ferris, Marie Gerges, Kyra Halbert-El-liott, Corinne Hartman, Kristina Hilko, Sydney Hnat, Anna Jablonowski, Alaina Kotchey, Greta Lazzara, Jisue Lee, Sophia Lee, Sylvie Lee, Gayathri Manchella, Clara McCormick, Sree Mekala, Cheyenne Meyers, AJ Molder, Hera Mukhtar, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Maddie Oppelt, Sanam Parwani, Helen Paulini, Sofia Porter Bacon, Priya Ray, Rachel Sadeh, Isabella Salvi, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Kriti Shah, Makayla Shreve, Annika Urban, Molly Urbina, Becca Volk, Mhairi Webster, Ziya Xu, Alayna Yates, Julia Young, and Natalie Young.

In addition, I want to commend the staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. As a result of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind. This will be their fifth consecutive trip in five years and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

#### CONGRATULATING ZACH JOHNSON

##### HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Johnson, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native, on his 9th place tie at the 2015 Masters Tournament held at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.

Zach Johnson attended Regis High School, lettering on the varsity golf team. The 2007 Masters Champion made the cut at even par after the first two rounds. He followed up on Saturday and Sunday with back to back 68 stroke rounds to finish with a final score of -8, his lowest ever final score at Augusta.

I also wish to commend him for his community service and charity work. Founded in 2005 by Johnson and his wife Kim, The Zach Johnson Foundation through the "Birdies that Care" program has raised over \$800,000 for organizations that serve at-need children in the Cedar Rapids area. In the golfer's own words: "This Foundation will fulfill a dream of mine and Kim's to give back to Cedar Rapids in a long-lasting, meaningful way."

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Zach Johnson on his successful 2015 Masters and would like to recognize him for giving back to his community. I look forward to cheering on a fellow Iowan during the rest of the tournaments this summer.

#### HONORING ERIC HUBER

##### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Huber of Fredericktown, Missouri, for his outstanding achievement of receiving his Eagle Scout Award. This award is not easily attained and cannot be achieved without a steadfast determination to succeed.

In order to receive this award, Eric completed several steps and a service project exemplifying patriotism and his commitment to serve others. He first worked as an assistant scout master with Troop 408 Scout Master Ken Braun. He also constructed and installed four benches along the hiking trail at Amidon Memorial Conservation Area for his service project. The Missouri Department of Conservation was grateful to Eric, his Scout troop and the volunteers for their contribution to the Amidon Memorial Conservation Area because it will benefit Missouri residents for years to come.

At a young age Eric has shown values such as honesty, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. He has shown commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education and he has made himself an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Eric is a role model for young and old alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

#### HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA'S TWENTY PEARLS OF WISDOM

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom. The Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

On October 26, 2013, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom were approved as an official interest group under the leadership of the 24th Regional Director, Adrienne P.K. Washington. Under the leadership of the current Regional Director, Mary Conner, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom chartering ceremony is slated for May 16, 2015. It is during this ceremony that they will learn of their Chapter's name.

Launching new dimensions of service throughout Yazoo County and its surrounding area, Mississippi's newest chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha shall continue steadfastly in its aim to be of service to all mankind as they strive by culture and merit. Energizing Yazoo County and its surrounding areas with C4 power, enabling members to connect, communicate, collaborate, and celebrate.

Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom members actively participate in Yazoo and surrounding communities through annual: MLK Day of Service; Voter Registration Blitz; HIV/AIDS Abstinence Workshop; Lean & Serve Curb Appeal; Scholarship Award (Yazoo & Humphreys Counties; Warm Heart Warm Feet; Lunch & Learn; MCT2 Preparation; School Supply Drive; Easter with Elders; Reading Can Be Fun; Kids Network Toy; Empowering Teen Girls; College Adoption; Breast Cancer Awareness—Pink Matters 5 Mile Walk; Caring with Coats—Esther Stewart Buford Foundation; MLK Day of Service Can Food Drive; Yazoo City Manna House; Earth Day—Think Pink-Go-Green; A Day of Thanksgiving H.A. Scott Senior Citizen Home; and Pink Goes Red for Cardiovascular Disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom for its dedication to serving others, giving back to the community and perpetuating the rich heritage of Yazoo.

A TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WEISS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jeremy Weiss for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jeremy has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Sogeti USA, LLC. As a management consultant, Jeremy focuses on transforming business operations to improve their overall effectiveness and efficiency. Jeremy spends his free time serving others by volunteering at the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa and Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity—just to name a few. Jeremy's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jeremy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jeremy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

CONGRATULATING HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Human Services Association, a non-profit organization based in my 40th Congressional District, on the celebration of their 75th anniversary.

Human Services Association (HSA) was founded as an outreach effort of the Presbyterian Church in 1940, when floods in Southeast Los Angeles County highlighted pre-existing poverty in Bell Gardens and surrounding cities. While HSA remains affiliated with the Presbyterian Church today, all of HSA's services have been administered on a non-sectarian basis since 1975.

Over time, HSA's services have evolved to meet the needs of the community. In HSA's early years, it operated under the name Westminster Center, and focused on recreation programs and group work. It later changed its name to Bell Gardens Community Center, and became a multifunctional social service agency. Its staff and volunteers provided direct services, and it collaborated with other agencies to provide additional services on-site. In 1974–1975, the organization envisioned expanding its human services into the cities of Southeast Los Angeles by increasing its services and funding capacity. As a result, the organization incorporated, and it adopted the name Human Services Association. Today, HSA is the largest community-based nonprofit organization in Southeast Los Angeles, and provides clients throughout Los Angeles County with an array of comprehensive services to support individuals throughout their lives.

HSA's programs and services for children and families include: Early Head Start; Head Start; State Preschool; Los Angeles Universal Preschool; Parenting Classes; Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention; Domestic Violence Support Services; Choose Health LA Kids, an early childhood obesity prevention initiative focusing on children ages 0–5 and their families; and a Family Preservation Program designed to protect children by strengthening and preserving families whose children are at risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

HSA's services for seniors include: the Congregate Meals Program, which provides a hot, nutritionally balanced meal to seniors five days a week, as well as social activities at the meal sites; the Home Delivered Meals Program, which offers homebound seniors a daily hot meal and a friendly, reassuring visit; the Home Based Care & Registry Referral Program, which matches workers with senior citizens aged 60 and over who need assistance in the home; and the Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center (ADCRC), which allows memory-impaired and/or socially isolated senior citizens to spend their days in a caring, supportive environment, and provides English and Spanish support groups to the family members of the participating seniors.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I salute Human Services Association, its Board of Directors, and its supporters. They have played a vital role in providing critical services to Southeast Los Angeles families over the past seventy-five years. I wish HSA continued success as it continues its mission to provide families with compassionate and comprehensive care which promotes wellness and builds strong communities.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENT WILLETT

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brent Willett for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brent has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Cultivation Corridor. As Executive Director, Brent utilizes his communication skills to attract business to Iowa and to help expand existing businesses. Brent spends his free time serving others by volunteering as a one-on-one mentor at Capitol View Elementary School and by helping an emergency food pantry organize its food drives. Brent's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brent in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brent on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EARLHAM HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham High School Boys Basketball team for qualifying for the Iowa Boys State Basketball Tournament for the first time in their school's history. The Earlham team placed third in the tournament.

The roster was led by Canyon Hopkins, named to the Class 1A All-Tournament Team, but Earlham had many outstanding players. Congratulations to: Dan Schmidt, Alan Schmidt, Zach Schreck, Derek Hensley, Ben Williamson, Micah Bailey, Grant Detrick, Andy Algreen, Josh Smith, A.J. LePorte, Gable Johnson, Joey Harkins, Drew Williamson and Mason Madren on a great season. This team also had two dedicated managers. T. J. Harkins and Dominic Braet who also deserve recognition.

The team was led by Coach Kevin Williamson and Assistant Coaches James Severson and Tim Harskamp. Coach Williamson also received the Class 1A Coach of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and coaches demonstrates that hard work, dedication, and perseverance deliver results. I am honored to represent them in the

United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the Earlham High School Boys Basketball team on their accomplishments this year. I wish continued success to this team and school in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO VERA DAUGHTON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vera Daughton on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Vera celebrated her 100th birthday on April 5th, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Vera's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Vera has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Vera in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Vera on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

EQUAL PAY DAY: TIME TO CLOSE  
THE WAGE GAP

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for long overdue passage of legislation to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.

According to the American Association of University Women, women in my state of New Jersey have a wage gap of 80 percent—for every dollar men in New Jersey make, women make only 80 cents. Nationally, it's 78 cents.

All told, over the lifetime of work, college educated women will lose an estimated \$1.2 million as a result of the pay gap.

The wage gap is not just a women's issue, it's a family issue. Four in 10 American households with children now include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family. Closing the wage gap would allow women to invest more in their children's health and wellbeing and help boost economic stability and security for American families.

As a remedy, I twice supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, now Public Law 111-2. By overturning the United States Supreme Court decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber, we restored and enhanced both the protections against pay discrimination in the workplace and the remedies available for women who have been discriminated against.

While the Ledbetter law was a clear step in the right direction, the numbers demonstrate how much more work we as a society have to do.

Today, I signed on as a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act—legislation I have previously supported twice when it was brought to the floor of the House for a vote.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would increase penalties for employers who pay different wages to men and women for equal work, create a grant program for negotiation skills training for women and girls, and increase training and outreach to ensure effective implementation.

This legislation would build on the Equal Pay Act and the Ledbetter law by disincentivizing pay discrimination and encouraging employers to enforce equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Speaker, based on data between 2003 and 2013, AAUW predicts that if current trends continue, the wage gap will not close for 124 years.

Over 50 years after the signing of the Equal Pay Act, we are still more than a century away from equal pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is necessary to reverse the current trajectory and help accelerate progress to our shared goal of equal work for equal pay.

A TRIBUTE TO CAMERON MICKAEL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the heroic ac-

tions of sixth-grader, Cameron Mickael of Mount Ayr, Iowa.

On a recent Sunday night, Cameron was eating dinner with his mother, Cindy, and Grandfather Charles, when a piece of food became lodged in his grandfather's throat. Charles was trying to apply the Heimlich to himself with no success. It was then that Cameron stepped in. Cameron jumped up, grabbed his grandfather and performed the Heimlich. Charles credits Cameron with saving his life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent future leaders like Cameron Mickael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I applaud his lifesaving effort today. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Cameron, thanking him for a job well done, and wishing him a bright future.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES HARDY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Hardy, history teacher at East Union School. Mr. Hardy received the Gilder Lehrman Iowa History Teacher of the Year award.

This award, sponsored by Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, recognizes outstanding American history teachers who possess a strong commitment to teaching American history and who exhibit creativity and imagination in the classroom. Each year, the Institute enhances the education of more than a million students by offering support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

I applaud and congratulate James for providing the youth in Iowa's 3rd district the education that they will need to be successful in the future and for being recognized with this prestigious award. I am proud to represent him, his fellow teachers and students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating James Hardy and wishing him well and continued success in the future.

**SENATE—Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Protector, mountains shake in Your presence and islands skip for joy. We praise You because Your ways are just and true. Lord, You know our hearts and minds like an open book. Thank You for the security we have in You, for You alone remain our rock and refuge.

Lead our lawmakers on the road that You have chosen, providing them with strength for their journey. Keep them safe as You provide them with the patience to wait for Your harvest. Lord, help them in the making of our laws to execute justice for the oppressed and to set the captives free. Give us all the grace to love and pray, even for those who hurt and wrong us.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. McCONNELL. Later this morning the Senate will move to go to conference with the House on the budget resolution. The vote on that motion will occur before lunch. After about 10 hours of debate, which is stipulated in the statute, we expect a series of votes on motions to instruct conferees on the budget. Senators should expect those votes later this afternoon or this evening.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, just hours ago, 100 percent of Senate Democrats followed the lead of Republicans and Democrats in the House, including

NANCY PELOSI and the pro-choice caucus, in voting to endorse the bipartisan principle that Federal funds leaving the government should be subject to bipartisan Hyde language. Given that Americans overwhelmingly support what Hyde does, it is no wonder this principle has been applied by both parties—both parties—to appropriations and authorizing legislation for as long as anyone could remember.

We hope the Democrats' statement of support for Hyde in last night's Medicare vote will finally clear the way for passage of antislavery legislation they have been filibustering over the very same Hyde principle. It was never a morally tenable position. Never. Considering what we saw just 12 hours ago, it is no longer politically tenable either. Democrats couldn't possibly justify voting for Hyde language in order to keep doctors—as they did just hours ago—but then look an abused victim in the eye and tell her she is not worth it. OK to vote for Hyde to help doctors, but then not OK when it comes to victims of sexual trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious problem in our country. It is hard for a lot of people to believe, but it occurs in every single State. I recently saw a news report about a local nonprofit that is worried about trafficking at big events such as the Kentucky Derby. "They'll take a girl to one city for one to two weeks," an official with that group said, "then they'll go to another city, and they just follow these circuits . . . it's really hard to get them out of it . . ."

Look, it is unconscionable for anyone to continue filibustering this human rights bill over a principle that has been a fixture—a fixture—in Federal law for decades, that was in the bill when Democrats endorsed it, cosponsored it, and voted unanimously to support it in committee, and that was endorsed again by Democrats just last night.

But just to ensure there are no possible excuses left to continue this filibuster, Senator CORNYN offered another compromise last night to eliminate any remaining pretext. His compromise ensures that, by supporting this bill, Senate Democrats would only be endorsing the same Hyde language that 100 percent of them just voted to support last night, less than 24 hours ago. Remember, this is essentially language endorsed by NANCY PELOSI and the pro-choice caucus.

It is actually the third compromise we have offered on the Senate floor to our friends across the aisle. First, we offered our colleagues a simple up-or-

down vote last month to strike the language that they once were for before they decided to be against it. Then, before the recess, Senator CORNYN offered to make the monies in the fund subject to the appropriations process, something our Democratic colleagues had said was important to them.

So this is now the third compromise we have offered on the floor. It is time for our Democratic friends to show a little courage to finally bring their party's filibuster of antislavery legislation to an end. A large bipartisan majority of the Senate has already demonstrated its commitment to doing so, and all that is needed now are a couple more Democrats to join us. That is all that is needed now, a couple more Democrats willing to show the same level of compassion to enslaved victims they offered to doctors—to doctors—just a few hours ago.

As an official with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women put it: "Our Democratic colleagues should stop choosing a phantom problem . . ."—a phantom problem—" . . . over real victims."

Because as the Los Angeles Times said:

The Hyde Amendment has been the law for many years. A fight over whether a fraction of the projected millions of dollars in aid to victims of trafficking and hunters of traffickers can be used on abortion services seems fruitless, and the bill should not be derailed by such a fight.

This has gone on long enough. It is time for Senators of conscience to stand up and end this filibuster now.

**A BALANCED BUDGET**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, before Easter, the Senate passed a balanced budget. The House of Representatives did as well. The next step in the process is for each Chamber to appoint Members to a conference committee that can work out any differences between those bills, and then send unified legislation back to Congress for a final vote. We are taking that next step today.

Some of our friends across the aisle seem eager to use this opportunity to rehash some of the same votes we took in passing the budget. The outcome of those votes won't be different, so I am not sure what the point would be, other than to slow down the process for its own sake. So I would urge them to reconsider and decide if that is really what they want to do.

But either way—either way—the new Congress is determined to keep working to finalize the budget. After years

of a Senate that often refused to even consider a budget, this is a big change. And it is another example of the new Congress that is back to regular order and back to work.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. The Republican leader talked about two issues: one, sexual trafficking, and, two, the budget. His statements regarding the two are illogical as anything can be. Illogical.

First of all, let's talk about sexual trafficking. Senators on this side of the aisle, with rare exception, are not wild about the Hyde amendment, but it has been the law of the land for some 30 years. And why is it the law of the land? Because it has been put in appropriations bills over these many years. But what my friend the Republican leader failed to mention is that if the Cornyn amendment or the Cornyn language were adopted, it would change women's reproduction rights permanently. You see, the Hyde amendment has always applied to taxpayer-funded money. But what Senator CORNYN, the author of this bill and this amendment, wants to do is direct this to private money. They are two totally different things. Hyde has never, ever in the past applied to private money—nontaxpayer dollars. So that is why my friend's argument is totally illogical. Illogical. It has no basis in fact. We are not going to stand by to enlarge this so-called Hyde amendment to private money.

Now we have tried. We have tried. Ten different offers have been made to Senator CORNYN and Senator MCCONNELL to work our way through this. There are many ways we can handle this. But they feel—my friend the Republican leader and the assistant Republican leader feel this is their opportunity to broaden Hyde. We are not going to allow that to happen. It would be wrong. We have made 10 separate offers of ways to get to yes, but Republicans appear unwilling to compromise about the Hyde language, and that is unfortunate.

To carry on the illogic of the Republican leader, every organization has a mission statement, a summary of their goals and values. Congress is no different. There are mission statements that are done every year and they are called a budget. We have our mission statement; the Republicans have theirs. The budget sets forth our core values as a party, a statement of our values that tells the American people what we really care about and whose side we are on. We are committed to a budget that puts the middle class first,

a budget that supports hard-working families, creates jobs, and invests in our future. The Republicans, by contrast, are hell-bent on passing a budget that creates a war on the middle class and serves the interests of special interests and the superwealthy.

Let's take a look at what the Senate Republican budget does. Remember, this is their statement of core values, and their war on the average American from Reno to Las Vegas to Chicago to Louisville—it doesn't matter where you go—is an attack on the middle class. Why do I say that? It deprives more than 16 million Americans of health coverage. That is the first thing their budget does. It devastates Medicare. It makes Medicare something we would not recognize, and they do it, of course, at the expense of America's seniors. It cuts Medicaid and hurts millions of families who are not able to pay for their care.

Everyone thinks Medicaid is just for poor people. Some people don't think they have much value in our society and Medicaid is something that shouldn't get much of our attention. But a significant amount of Medicaid money goes to people who are in rest homes and convalescent centers. So the money they are whacking from Medicaid hurts not only the young but the old. It guts nutrition assistance. It guts food that can go to people who are hungry. It undermines job training and employment services for millions of American families. It cuts billions in financial aid for college students.

The Republicans not only want to cut aid to families as it relates to education, but then the debts they have accumulated, which are larger than credit card debt—they don't want to cut them any relief whatsoever. We have tried that lots of times. Our budget reflects that; theirs doesn't.

While the middle class is decimated by Senate Republicans—and who benefits? Special interests and the superrich. They are protected more than ever. The Republicans refuse to close a single loophole to reduce this deficit.

A single tax loophole they will not touch. They will not end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. They will not close loopholes for the wealthy, including hedge fund managers. They will not take away wasteful and unneeded tax breaks for the very powerful oil and gas industry. They are attacking the middle class while protecting the super wealthy. That is wrong.

Now, the Republican budget is also dishonest. I heard the Republican leader come here and boast. He boasted about the balanced budget they have. That is absolutely not true. Their budget does not balance the budget. It is simply dishonest to say so. The Republican budget claims to add more money for defense, but it does not.

It is no wonder that the New York Times called the Republican budget "a trillion dollar con job." "A trillion dollar con job" is the Republican budget. I agree with the New York Times. In the coming days, as we move forward toward a conference—now remember moving forward toward conference has become kind of a joke around here because we do not have conferences like we used to. That is too bad.

There will be no meeting of the conferees. There will be no debate in open session as to how the budget should be changed. The Republicans will get to conference. There will be meetings held by the Republicans. Democrats will not be invited. If they are invited, it is pro forma: Here is what we have decided to do. The conferences, as we used to do them around here, do not exist. It is a rare occasion when they do.

We will not be looking into our efforts to try to improve the budget. We are not looking to obstruct the process to force another all-night vote-arama. We could. Under the rules we could offer endless, endless motions to instruct: 5, 6, 50, 100, 200. We could do that. We are not going to do that. But we will be offering a few motions to make clear where we stand on important issues.

For example, there will be an amendment that men and women who do the same work should be paid the same money. If my daughter works here and a man works here and they do the same job, they should be paid the same amount of money. We have tried to do that. The Republicans have filibustered this five times over the last few years.

We are going to offer an amendment to provide sick leave to help families get through tough times. We are going to offer an amendment to ensure that same sex spouses have equal access to Social Security and veterans' benefits. We are going to offer an amendment to relieve the crushing burden of costly student loans. No one has worked harder on this issue than the assistant Democratic leader. I heard him yesterday talk about this at a meeting we had—the crushing, crushing costly student loans. We are going to offer an amendment to address the economic and national security threats posed by climate change.

In the West, we are in the midst of a 15-year drought. This is the 15th year. Lake Powell, the largest manmade lake in America, could go dry very quickly. Hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water will not go into that lake this year because of what is happening up in Colorado.

So when we are done offering what we feel should be ways to improve this dishonest budget that the Republicans put forward, the American people will have no doubt which party stands with the middle class and which stands with the special interests and billionaires. Yes, we have set forth what we believe

are our core values, and we believe our core values are what the American people need.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, and with the Democrats controlling the first half.

The assistant Democratic leader.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S DEATH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was 150 years ago today—150 years ago today—when who is called the last casualty of the Civil War died. He was a man who was born in the Presiding Officer's home State of Kentucky. He grew up for a part of his life in Indiana but spent his formative years in my State of Illinois.

He was a country lawyer, an unlikely Congressman who, because of a political deal, was given a chance to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served only 2 years. He brought his family here to Washington for that experience.

They lived just across the street, in a boarding house where the Library of Congress now sits. His family did not like Washington in those days in the 1840s and returned back to his wife's home in Kentucky.

He stayed out here and served in Congress and liked it. He wanted to serve for a longer period of time but was reminded that this was not part of the agreement—only 2 years. So he left Washington, went back to Springfield, IL, practiced law, but continued to aspire to higher office.

In 1858, he ran for the Senate against a man named Steven Douglas. They had historic debates across the State of Illinois. When the votes were finally counted, Douglas was the victor, and this man returned to the practice of law. Just 2 years later, though, he was elected President of the United States.

He came to Washington at one of the most dangerous times in our history. The Civil War had started, and there was a question as to whether the Union could survive, whether the United States of America would survive. This simple country lawyer from what was considered the frontier of America in those days led our Nation during the most dangerous moments in our history.

He watched as more Americans died in that Civil War than in any war that

we have ever witnessed. He saw a nation bitterly divided. The war raged on for years. There were moments—bleak and dark moments—when it looked as if the North would fail and the division of the country would begin.

But eventually the North prevailed in a victory that really the American people had given so much to achieve. In April of 1865, this was a tumultuous period. I commend to all of my colleagues a book written by Jay Winik, a Senate staffer entitled "April 1865," if you want to get a feel for what it was like in America that month.

Many things occurred. The second inaugural address of this President is one of the most beautiful, touching, and moving speeches ever given by a President, where he turned toward the enemy who had fought the North for so many years and basically extended an olive branch when many others would have done just the opposite. "With malice toward none" and with "charity for all," he gave that speech right outside here—right outside the Senate Chamber on the porch.

Then, in celebration of the victory of the Union, he and his wife attended a play not far from here, at Ford's Theatre. It was there that an assassin took his life. So 150 years ago today, Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, was assassinated. We have learned a lot from his life, from his leadership, and we enjoy the blessings of liberty and the Union today because that President and the men and women who stood by him saved the Union.

I reflect on this because I come from what is known as Mr. Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, IL. I am not an expert on Lincoln. I am just a fan, as so many people are, not only across the United States but around the world. I hope we can remember him just for a moment today and reflect on the need for all of us to extend an olive branch to our personal enemies and to our political enemies and try to find how to eliminate an enemy by making a friend, as Lincoln said.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I cannot believe that Loretta Lynch still sits on this Executive Calendar of the Senate. It is put on our desk every day we are in session. She has been on that calendar for a longer period of time than any nominee for Attorney General in the last 30 years.

Senators can vote for or against Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General. That is their right. But an Attorney General nominee whose qualifications and character are unquestionable deserves better than the treatment she is receiving from this Senate. Ms. Lynch deserves a timely vote, just as other Attorney General nominees of other Presidents have received.

She was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 26 in a bipartisan vote. Nine Democrats and three Republicans voted for this Presidential nominee. She has now been pending on the Senate calendar right here for 48 days—48 days on this calendar. Not one word has been spoken on this floor in derogation of this fine woman, this fine nominee.

The last seven Attorney General nominees combined—all seven of them—had to wait on the Senate floor for a total of 24 days—seven nominees, 24 days. For Loretta Lynch it is 48 days.

The Senate has confirmed other nominees while the human trafficking bill has been pending on the floor. There is no procedural obstacle. While that bill has been pending, the Senate has voted on nominees for Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. And on Monday we voted on a Federal judge. It is routine for the Senate to consider nominees on the Executive Calendar while still considering legislation.

It has been 158 days—more than 5 months—since Ms. Lynch's nomination to be Attorney General was announced. A vote still has not been scheduled. This is far longer than any recent Attorney General nominee has had to wait. Janet Reno waited 29 days. John Ashcroft, a Republican nominee, waited 42 days. Alberto Gonzales, 86 days. Michael Mukasey, 53 days. Eric Holder, 64 days. But when it comes to Loretta Lynch, it is 158 days.

The last Attorney General nominee whose nomination took this long to process was Edwin Meese in 1984, who faced questions and investigations relating to questions of ethics. There have been no such allegations—none—that have been raised against Loretta Lynch.

Senate Republicans have the capability to bring up nominations promptly. The majority leader, Senator McConnell of Kentucky, can walk to this floor and within a minute call her nomination, and it will be voted on immediately. It is in his power to do it. Why will he not do it? Why will he not give this woman, who has such an extraordinary life story, a chance to serve as the first African-American woman in the history of the United States to serve as Attorney General?

There is no substantive reason—not one. I welcome any Republican Senator to come to the floor and make the case against Loretta Lynch. No one did it in committee. No one has done it on the floor. It is time for us to move forward and approve this nomination.

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLIO VACCINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer probably does not remember these days because of his age, but I do. When I was a child, polio was a scare that every family felt. I had friends in school who were stricken with polio. Some of them, in the most extreme cases, ended up in something called an iron lung. The Presiding Officer has probably seen pictures of it. It is an incredible situation where someone would be encased in this tube, this metal tube that would help them breathe.

Many were stricken with polio and ended up crippled, and their lives were compromised to some degree in those days because disabilities were not treated as well then as they are now. Parents did not know what to make of this. No one knew what caused polio. My mother, God bless her, had a theory that one of the things that might cause polio was playing in the street after a rainstorm in the flooded waters.

She would just ban me from doing that. "That can cause polio," she said. That was my mother's theory. It was as valid as any other theory in those days. No one knew what was going on, what was causing it. Many Americans lived in fear of that infectious, viral disease that attacks the nerve cells and the central nervous system causing muscle wasting, paralysis, and sometimes death.

In 1952, nearly 60,000 children in the United States were reported to have polio, with more than 20,000 cases of paralysis. There was a panic about this epidemic. Families were afraid for their kids and the scientists struggled to understand the disease. Dr. Jonas Salk, a pioneer in the field of vaccine research, was recruited in 1947 by the University of Pittsburgh to be the director of virus research and to work on finding a polio vaccine.

His work caught the attention of Basil O'Connor, the president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, now known as the March of Dimes Foundation. The organization decided to fund Dr. Jonas Salk's work to develop a vaccine against polio. For 5 years, Dr. Salk worked tirelessly on this effort while the country donated their dimes to the foundation to support his work.

Then, on April 12, 1955, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr.—an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan and a mentor to Salk—announced that Salk had discovered a polio vaccine that was safe and effective.

When the announcement was made, it was as if time stood still. I still remember it as a kid. Americans turned on their radios and TVs to hear the details. Department stores set up loudspeakers and judges suspended trials so everyone in the courtroom could hear this good news.

April 12 was deliberately chosen for the announcement because it marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the most famous polio survivor of all, former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt also founded what would become the March of Dimes Foundation in 1938, without which Salk might not have been able to complete his work.

A massive field trial, the first of its kind, was conducted on over 1.8 million children to prove the vaccine was 80 to 90 percent effective. Church bells rang across the country, factories observed moments of silence, and parents and teachers wept to finally be relieved of this fear.

But it had only just begun. The U.S. Government invested heavily in mass production of the polio vaccine and led campaigns across the Nation to see that every kid was vaccinated. I hated the thought of getting a shot, but the notion that I would be protected from polio for life was certainly worth it.

As a result, polio was eradicated from the United States in 1979.

Sunday, we marked the 60th anniversary of the announcement of the discovery of the first safe and effective polio vaccine. In commemoration of that announcement, I submitted a resolution last month celebrating the discovery of the polio vaccine and supporting the efforts to eradicate that disease around the world.

The resolution also encourages Federal funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for biomedical and basic scientific research so more lifesaving discoveries can be made. Thanks to the work of scientists funded by the CDC and nonprofit organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, polio has been eradicated in all but a handful of the world's poorest nations.

The success of the polio vaccine shows us what medical research can accomplish. If we can do this with polio, then we can do it again.

I thank Senators KIRK, LEAHY, SHAHEEN, MURRAY, BOXER, COONS, MARKEY, ISAKSON, AYOTTE, and REED of Rhode Island for cosponsoring my resolution.

I also thank the March of Dimes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the U.N. Foundation's Shot@Life campaign, the Rotary Club, and RESULTS for supporting this resolution.

But today, America's place as world leader in cutting-edge biomedical research is at risk. We no longer invest as we should in basic scientific research.

From 2003 to 2012, the U.S. investment in the NIH research didn't even keep up with inflation, and the number of research grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health has declined every year for the past 10 years.

This is shameful. It is shameful in a great Nation such as the United States, where we have seen achievements such

as a polio vaccine, for to us walk away from medical research.

One decade ago, 30 percent of qualified NIH proposals were funded. Today, it is half that—15 percent, the lowest rate in America's modern history.

Dr. Francis Collins, who directs the National Institutes of Health, told me that inadequate funding of basic medical research will cause some of America's best young researchers to take their talents to other places and even other countries. It has already started.

We are on the verge of losing a generation of medical researchers in America. In 1982—listen—18 percent of NIH primary investigators, medical researchers, were under the age of 36—1982, 18 percent under the age of 36. Today, 3 percent are under the age of 36. Young researchers have given up.

If Congress and the President don't want to put money into the NIH, they are going to go someplace else. How many Jonas Salks are we losing because of our cuts to basic medical research? How many lifesaving discoveries are being delayed and ignored? With the right commitment, we can change this.

I tried to gather on the floor—during the debate on the budget resolution—a dozen different Senators who cosponsored amendments calling for more money for medical research. They were from both sides of the aisle: Senator COLLINS on the Republican side of the aisle, interested in Alzheimer's; Senator WICKER of Mississippi, also interested in medical research.

I brought them all together and said: Why don't we cosponsor the same amendment. We are all trying to reach the same goal. They agreed, and it passed unanimously on a voice vote as I hoped it would.

This is what we need to do. Dr. Collins spelled this out in clear terms. We need to increase the funding in biomedical research by 5 percent over inflation every year. Five percent over inflation for 10 years, Dr. Collins tells me, will dramatically change medical research in America.

Can we afford it? Can we afford a 5-percent real growth in biomedical research? Think about it for a second. Do you know what that will cost us over 10 years—5 percent real growth in biomedical research. It is going to cost us \$150 billion. That is a lot of money, isn't it?

Do you realize that once every 68 seconds in America someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's? I didn't believe that when my staff told me. I checked it, and it is true. Once every 68 seconds an American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and we know what that means: for most of those patients, a steady decline to death, and for their families, the heartbreak of losing communication with someone they love and then caring for them in this state of Alzheimer's disease—once every 68 seconds.



Do you know what it costs us as a government to care for Alzheimer's victims last year, Medicare, Medicaid? We estimate \$200 billion.

Now, step back, a 5-percent growth in biomedical research over 10 years will cost \$150 billion. What if that research could find a way to delay the onset of Alzheimer's for months—maybe for years—and, God willing, find a cure.

What I am saying is whether it is Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, each and every one of these is praying for and depending on medical research to give Americans who are stricken a fighting chance. It is up to us. We have to make that decision.

I would take this question to the Iowa caucus, to the New Hampshire primary, any State, any city in the Nation, and ask the crowd that you would assemble, that anyone assembles, what do you think is a high priority? Do you think biomedical research by our government is a high priority?

I know the answer, because every one of us lives in fear that someone we love will be diagnosed with a serious illness. You know the first questions you would ask that doctor: Doctor, is there a medicine, is there a surgery, is there something I can do, something that can be done?

And you pray, pray to God, that the doctor says: Yes, we have a new medication in clinical trials at the NIH. It is very promising, and this may be the answer for your son, your daughter, your wife, your mother, and your father. That is what this comes down to—real life, real family challenges.

The American Cures Act I introduced a couple of years ago sets this 5 percent funding goal. I have talked to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and asked them to join me. This shouldn't be a Democratic idea, not a Republican idea. This is as basic as it gets.

The next great scientific and medical breakthroughs will be discovered by researchers if we fund the research, but it isn't just a matter of biomedical research at the NIH. I had a visit with Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and over breakfast we talked about the American Cures Act.

He said: Senator, let me put in a word here. Do you know who develops the technology for diagnostic evaluations—whether it is MRIs, PET scans, and things of that nature? Do you know who develops the technology for the application of radiation therapy for cancer victims? A lot of it is done right here at the Department of Energy.

He awakened me to the fact that we think about NIH automatically in biomedical research—and we should. There is more to the story.

So I have really reached out and said: American Cures Act, 5 percent real growth for biomedical isn't enough. We need 5 percent growth when it comes to innovation, the next breakthrough when it comes to diagnosing breast

cancer at an early stage, treating cancers with radiation, other things. The American Innovation Act would provide an annual budget increase of 5 percent for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the Department of Defense science and technology programs, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Scientific and Technical Research, and the NASA Science Directorate.

You say to yourself, can we afford it? I will say what I know. I know that when we embark on scientific research of real value, it not only can cure disease, in the process it will create a company. It will create many companies. It could create many jobs in the right fields and develop our economy in the right way.

We are debating this now on the floor of the Senate. They are not debating it in Beijing. They have decided they are going to pass us. The Chinese have embarked on a medical program in medical research and other research, determined—within the next 20 years—to pass the United States.

Will we let that happen? The men and women of the Senate will make that decision, and the men and women of the House and the President.

All told, the American Innovations Act would invest \$100 billion over 10 years; the American Cures Act, \$150 billion—\$250 billion.

How much money will we spend on our budget in that 10-year period of time? Somewhere in the range of \$18 trillion to \$20 trillion. This is a tiny, little decimal point, but what a difference it could make.

Some of my colleagues talk about burdening our children and grandchildren with debt. I agree. We shouldn't. But the way to reduce our deficit and grow our economy is not by killing research and innovation. It pays for itself many times over. We have cut the budget deficit by two-thirds since the start of the recession which we just went through 7 or 8 years ago.

Now it is time to close the innovation deficit. In the last years of Jonas Salk's life, he was searching for an AIDS vaccine. He didn't need to do that. His place in history was assured, but Jonas Salk wasn't content to rest on past achievement. After all, he was an American, and when his early efforts failed, he was undeterred. Jonas Salk said: "You can only fail if you stop too soon."

This is a decisive moment of a historic opportunity for America and for Congress. We must continue to invest in basic science and research in order to reap the rewards of decades of work by the best scientific and medical minds of the world. The only way we can fail is by stopping too soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TAX DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been said that April is the cruelest month. I think that pretty much captures how Americans feel as tax day approaches each year. This year, Americans will spend 114 days working to pay their Federal, State, and local taxes. In other words, Americans may have submitted their Federal tax returns or be getting ready to submit them tonight, but they are still not done working off their taxes. In fact, Americans won't start earning a dollar for themselves until April 25, almost one-third of the way through the year.

Americans spend 6.1 billion hours every year trying to comply with the Tax Code. That is an average of 19 hours for every man, woman, and child in the United States or an average of 76 hours for a family of four. Almost half of small businesses spend more than \$5,000 each year on tax compliance; that is \$5,000 on top of their tax bill.

Paying taxes is never going to be on the top of Americans' list of favorite activities, but it doesn't have to be the torturous process it has become. The Tax Code takes too much time to comply with, and it takes too much money from hard-working Americans.

Comprehensive tax reform is long overdue. Unfortunately, instead of tax reform, under the Obama administration Americans have just gotten more taxes. The President's health care law created or raised taxes to the tune of more than \$1 trillion over the first decade. Several of those taxes have hit families making less than \$250,000 a year, despite the President's campaign pledge not to raise taxes on families making less than \$250,000.

Let's take the ObamaCare medical device tax. Thanks to this tax, families are now facing higher prices on life-saving medical equipment such as pacemakers and insulin pumps. ObamaCare taxes are also driving up prices for families on essential drugs such as EpiPens and asthma medications. Other ObamaCare taxes are costing American families in other ways.

The ObamaCare employer mandate tax is discouraging employers from expanding and hiring, which means fewer jobs and opportunities for American workers. Then there is the individual mandate tax that last year began hitting American families without government-approved insurance. For 2015, the individual mandate tax penalty is \$325 per person or 2 percent of household income, whichever is greater. In

2016, that tax penalty will rise to \$695 per person or 2½ percent of household income, whichever is greater.

But that is not all ObamaCare is bringing to tax season. This year, a full half of Americans receiving ObamaCare health insurance subsidies discovered they have to pay back some or all of their subsidies because they didn't estimate their income correctly. Ultimately, just 4 percent of households receiving subsidies had the correct subsidy advanced to their insurance companies. Unfortunately, the confusion and mistakes are par for the course for ObamaCare. The administration apparently finds the law so confusing that it sent out incorrect ObamaCare forms to more than 800,000 people. Yet the administration wants us to believe ObamaCare is somehow working.

We need to repeal this broken law and its trillion dollars' worth of taxes, and we need to reform our bloated Tax Code. We need to cut rates for families so that Americans can spend more of the year working for themselves and less of the year working for the Federal Government. We need to cut rates for businesses, both large and small. The U.S. currently has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. That puts American businesses at a huge disadvantage compared to their foreign competitors, and American workers suffer the consequences—lower wages and fewer opportunities. Reforming both corporate and individual tax rates would go a long way toward making American businesses more competitive and opening new opportunities and higher paying jobs for American workers.

Of course, any tax reform measure should include reforms to the IRS. From mishandled customer service to the Agency's most serious offenses—the First Amendment violations involving the deliberate targeting of groups for extra scrutiny based on their political beliefs—this Agency, the IRS, is long overdue for reform.

The IRS Commissioner himself, John Koskinen, was quoted in Monday's Washington Post as saying: "We certainly can't afford to have taxpayer service be any worse than it is, although it is hard to imagine it being much worse than it is." That is a quote from the IRS Commissioner himself. When even the IRS Commissioner admits the Agency's taxpayer services can't get much worse, that is a signal the Agency is ripe for reform.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I close, I would like to take a moment to talk about what I think is a bright spot for our economy, and that is bipartisan trade promotion authority. Previous free- and fair-trade agreements have been a boon to the economy, expanding opportunities for American workers

and giving American farmers, such as many of those I represent in South Dakota, and manufacturers access to new markets for their goods. Nearly every one of those trade agreements was negotiated and enacted using trade promotion authority.

The idea behind trade promotion authority is very simple: Congress sets negotiating priorities for the administration and requires the administration to consult with Congress during that negotiating process. In return, Congress promises a simple up-or-down vote on the legislation instead of a lengthy amendment process that could leave the final agreement looking nothing like what was negotiated. That up-or-down vote is the key. That is what gives our trading partners the confidence to put their best offers on the table, which allows for a successful conclusion of negotiations.

Trade promotion authority expired in 2007. Republicans have been trying to get it reauthorized ever since. Currently, the administration is negotiating two key trade agreements—the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the United States-European Union trade agreement—that are unlikely to be concluded in the near future unless trade promotion authority is finally renewed. These agreements will expand opportunities for American workers and open new markets for American goods. A bipartisan reauthorization of trade promotion authority will help bring those agreements to a speedy conclusion, and that will be good news for American workers and American businesses.

The challenges facing our Nation are best solved when Members of both parties come together to find solutions for the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on trade promotion authority and other issues that will grow our economy, create better paying jobs for American workers, and increase the take-home pay of middle-income families in this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

#### NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015. To the surprise of many people, including me, it was unanimously reported, which makes me begin to wonder just how much Iran nuclear agreement review there will be in this act.

I was an original cosponsor of the Corker-Menendez bill that would give Congress and the American people a voice in what is likely to be the most significant nuclear arms agreement in this decade. I think the likelihood, as we move toward the agreement, as it

appears to be structured, is that it won't be able to contain the desire of other people in the neighborhood—and maybe in other places in the world but certainly in the neighborhood—to be just as capable of producing a nuclear weapon as we allow Iran to be.

Supporting this bill does mean that Congress really gives the opportunity for these negotiations to advance, not Congress putting the brakes on these negotiations. Specifically, the bill would give Congress the opportunity to review and weigh in on a deal that has already been made. It does appear to prohibit the administration from removing sanctions while Congress reviews and while Congress votes on a final deal, if that is what Congress decides to do. It doesn't require Congress to vote, as I read it, but I look forward to having the people who unanimously voted for this in the Foreign Relations Committee explain how it really does involve the Congress as the Constitution would suggest the Senate would be involved. This does permit removal of sanctions only if the Congress passes a joint resolution approving the agreement, I have been told.

The new bill reported out of committee makes the following changes in the original bill. Under the new bill, the congressional review period isn't going to be 60 days, it would be 30 days. The new bill removes the provision requiring the administration to certify to Congress that Iran is not providing material support to terrorists plotting against the homeland or against U.S. entities.

We are continuing to be told: Well, that is a different topic. I don't know why that is a different topic at all. A nuclear-capable Iran that is supporting terrorism is obviously more dangerous than a nuclear-capable Iran that is not supporting terrorism. The weapon that you can see being built, the weapon that would compare to weapons we may have built, and other powers, in the past was perhaps not nearly as dangerous as the weapon being built that could be used by some terrorist.

This bill does appear to give Congress the ability to intervene but only to intervene after the parties have made the deal. I am not particularly offended by that. If this were a real treaty, the administration would obviously be negotiating that treaty and then would bring the treaty to the Senate for approval, as the Constitution requires and as has happened over and over again on treaties involving nuclear capacity, nuclear ability, nuclear build-up, or nuclear build-down. That is not a new thing for the Senate to deal with, but apparently nobody in the administration wants this to be this kind of treaty. Now, there is, apparently, a way to weigh in before it is implemented but in a way that I think we are going to have to look at very carefully if and when that legislation comes to the floor.

A nuclear-armed Iran, an Iran that is nuclear weapons capable—whether that is in 6 months or 12 months or monitored or unmonitored—is a major threat, in my view, to the United States. It is a major threat to our allies in the region. Lifting these sanctions only empowers Iran to have more influence in the region. The sanctions did bring Iran to the negotiating table, but they have been given a lot of breathing room since these negotiations started a couple of years ago. We wouldn't be negotiating, I don't think, if the sanctions hadn't been working.

With what has happened to oil prices, those sanctions would have had a more dramatic effect on the economy of a country in which we have every reason to believe the population is inclined to be very friendly toward the United States. They are educated, they are capable, and they have long-term ties with many of their family members in this country. But, of course, the population is not in control of the country; the country is controlled by a small group who has only one view of how the world can work, and, frankly, that small group appears to have only one view of what they think about the United States of America. If you listen to the comments the Supreme Leader, the religious leader, makes over and over again, that view is dependably negative about our country and our people and our system of government and our ability to live side by side with each other. So we should be concerned about that.

The agreement would allow them to continue to enrich uranium. It would allow them to retain centrifuges, which we said, by the way, we wouldn't do. That was a point we wouldn't negotiate away. It would allow them to continue to have thousands of centrifuges—something we also said we wouldn't allow them to do. It would allow them to continue developing new and better and more sophisticated ways to enrich uranium, to weaponize, to have the ability to create a weapon.

Frankly, it is not even clear what agreement has been agreed to. To listen to our description of the agreement is a very different description of the framework. There is no agreement, everybody agrees to that, but there is supposedly a framework.

This framework would build two very different houses. If we listen to their description of the agreement and we listen to our description of the agreement, we are looking at very different things.

This week, for example, the Supreme Leader saw this very differently than the President—the so-called deal—with respect to when the sanctions would be removed and what would be happening.

President Obama and Secretary Kerry have put a tremendous amount of effort into reaching an agreement—in fact, such amount of effort that it

has been clear from the very start of the negotiations who wanted an agreement the most. What hasn't been clear and what isn't clear to me is why we are so eager to just check the box and move on here, and assume that sometime in the next few years Iran will become a friendlier state and will not want to head in a bad direction. Not only does it head Iran in a nuclear-weapons direction, but it heads many other people in the neighborhood in the direction of wondering if they have this capacity, why wouldn't we want to have this capacity?

Most Americans don't believe Iran will stick to a deal. Frankly, I have great questions about that myself.

Whether the President likes it or not, this is an international agreement with wide-ranging consequences. The Congress and the American people have a role to play here. The Foreign Relations Committee has made a proposal about what that role should be. But it seems to me that proposal is still a long way away from the constitutional protection that should be involved when we reach an agreement of this kind, or when we negotiate a treaty.

A number of us sent a letter a few weeks ago which got a lot of attention. I thought the reaction to that letter was pretty interesting.

The immediate reaction from the Secretary of State was: Well, this isn't a treaty, it is just an agreement. The Senate doesn't have to approve an agreement. The President would be bound by it, and it would be such a good agreement—according to the Secretary of State—that the next President would want to be bound by it as well.

This is a pretty significant moment to decide that we may or may not be bound by what is decided.

The Iranian Foreign Minister then was able to give us some sense of his understanding. I think the phrase he said the next day was: We know international law is what really matters here, not the law of any given country.

I have been all over my State, as many of us have, in the last couple of weeks. I don't think there is any courthouse, any coffee shop, or any gathering of people in Missouri where they would say: Well, really, international law is what we care about. We don't care about what the Constitution says when we are dealing with other countries.

Then 72 hours after that letter was sent, the President's Chief of Staff said: Really, the President would probably want to take this to the U.N., but he probably wouldn't want to take it to the U.S. Senate.

We will see how this debate goes on the proposal that the Foreign Affairs Committee is making, but it clearly does not bode in the direction of a treaty approved by two-thirds of the Members of the U.S. Senate. In my view, we

are still a long way from a final agreement.

There seems to be a lot of disagreement as to what the framework means. But as we move toward that final agreement, our number one priority should be to do everything possible to prohibit Iran—whose influence in the world and the region is already disproportionate—from having the capacity to ever have a nuclear weapon. I hope our negotiators continue to keep that in mind, and I hope there is not nearly as much disagreement about the final agreement as there is about what the framework itself says.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### THE BUDGET

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, later today, maybe as early as 11 o'clock or so, we are going to begin a discussion of the budget. As we know, the budget is a set of national priorities. A budget has to do with our vision of where America is and where America should be. We are now in the process of moving the budget to a conference committee between the House and the Senate.

When I think about a budget, I think about a document designed to address the problems facing our country. In that regard, I find the Republican budget that will likely pass to be totally inadequate, and a budget whose priorities are way, way out of place with where the American people are.

When we talk about the needs of America, the most significant need and the most significant economic problem we face is that for 40 years the American middle class has been in decline. Today we have over 40 million Americans living in poverty, almost more than at any time in the modern history of America. Our real unemployment is not 5½ percent; real unemployment is 11 percent. And despite the modest gains of the Affordable Care Act, we still have 35 million Americans who have no health insurance.

While millions of Americans work today longer hours for lower wages than used to be the case, despite a significant increase in productivity, what we are seeing as a nation is an obscene level of income and wealth inequality. That reality speaks to the fact that since the Wall Street crash of 2008, about 99 percent of all new income today is going to the top 1 percent. I know people find that amazing, but it is true. Which means that no matter what the GDP may be—2 percent, 5 percent—it doesn't really matter, because virtually all the new income goes to the top 1 percent.

In terms of distribution of wealth, what we are seeing in America today is worse and more unequal than any major country on Earth, and worse in

America than at any time since the late 1920s. Today we have the top one-tenth of 1 percent owning more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Unbelievable—the top one-tenth of 1 percent owning more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Today we have one family owning more wealth than the bottom 42 percent of the American people—that is, the Walton family of Walmart.

A recent report came out by *Forbes* magazine which pointed out—and this is almost beyond belief—that the wealthiest 14 people in this country, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Koch brothers, others, saw their wealth increase between 2013 and 2015, a 2-year period, by \$157 billion. That is just an increase in their wealth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I will be back on the floor dealing with the budget as the ranking member, but I am happy to yield the floor at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for the last several weeks we have been trying to get unstuck on an important piece of legislation that would combat modern-day slavery.

At a time, I think most people were unaware of this phenomenon of sex trafficking primarily of teenaged girls between the ages of 12 and 14. I think the country has become much more aware about this scourge, this dark side to our culture and our society, and much more interested in trying to figure out what we can do to address it.

At a time when we are really beginning to see some true bipartisan cooperation and progress here in the Senate—and I say that because of things like the budget we passed last night, which was a very important piece of legislation we passed to reform Medicare, particularly to improve access for our seniors to Medicare services performed by doctors and hospitals by making sure they had a predictable and sustainable reimbursement rate, and what happened yesterday in the Foreign Relations Committee, where we had a unanimous vote on Congress's prerogative to represent our constituents on having a voice on the very important negotiations taking place between Tehran and the United States and our allies on Iran's aspirations for nuclear weapon.

Then I think about other things that are happening that are encouraging here, after a long period of stagnation and dysfunction over the last 2 years. I think we are on the cusp of a breakthrough on trade. Why in the world wouldn't we want to be open to markets when basically 80 percent of the

purchasing power of the world and 95 percent of the world's population lies outside of our shores? Why wouldn't we want to open those markets to our farmers and ranchers and our manufacturers—people who grow things and who make things—and wouldn't that be great for our economy and job creation?

So imagine my surprise when after these past few weeks we have been stuck on something that has enjoyed such broad bipartisan support as combating human trafficking. Senator after Senator has come to the floor and talked about this and why we ought to act to do something about it.

Just to refresh everyone's memory, what we are trying to do is pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. What it would do is create a victims compensation fund, in essence, from the fines and the penalties assessed against people who are engaging in child pornography and other sex-related crimes. In other words, it would address the demand side, and take the money from fines and penalties assessed against the demand side and use that to help the victims—to help them be rescued, and to help them heal and get on with their lives.

This legislation has enjoyed broad support outside of these Chambers. More than 200 different organizations—law enforcement organizations, victims rights organizations, faith-based groups, people who want to lend a helping hand to provide beds and a secure place to stay while people heal. Unfortunately, there is just not enough money. There is a huge need across America for the resources this legislation would provide. We estimate, based on historic data, that there could be as much as \$30 million generated from the fines and penalties associated with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act that would then be available to be granted by the Department of Justice to help these victims.

So imagine my surprise when after Senator after Senator on both sides of the aisle endorsed this legislation—I think at last count we had 30 cosponsors, an almost equal number on the Democratic side as the Republican side. Then this legislation sailed through the Senate Judiciary Committee and got the unanimous vote of all Democrats and all Republicans. Then it came to the floor, and at least initially we bypassed the traditional procedures to bring legislation to the floor because all 100 Senators agreed that this was important enough and significant enough and urgent enough that we needed to act on it quickly.

So imagine my surprise when, all of a sudden, it was brought to my attention that some people objected to a provision in the legislation known as the Hyde amendment, which has been the law of the land for 39 years.

To refresh everybody's memory, in the very polarizing debate over abor-

tion, this is the one consensus item that has been the law of the land for 39 years that Republicans and Democrats have voted for repeatedly. What it says is that no taxpayer dollars can be used to fund abortion except in the case of rape or in the case of the mother's health. Those are basically the exceptions. Do you know what? I cannot imagine that those exceptions would not apply in the vast majority of cases involving human trafficking because tragically they do involve rape, certainly sexual assault of a minor who is incapable by virtue of their tender age, unable to legally consent, and certainly people who are coerced into this sort of activity who do not want to be.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Hyde amendment itself would provide broad exceptions to provide health care services to the very victims we are talking about, some of our colleagues across the aisle said that what this bill does is it expands the Hyde amendment. The way it does it, they claim, is that it now would apply to the fines and penalties that would be assessed on criminals, primarily child pornographers, consumers, purveyors, and other people guilty of various sexual crimes. They claim that is somehow an expansion of the Hyde provision.

This is getting more and more baffling because actually last night, in an overwhelming vote—I think it was 92 votes in favor of the so-called doc fix and also funding community health centers and an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program—the very same Hyde-type provision that was contained in the bill we voted on last night is contained in the amendment we are going to vote on tomorrow on the Senate floor. If this provision is good enough for doctors and hospitals, why in the world isn't it good enough for victims of human sex trafficking? I think the answer is obvious: It is and it should be.

In an effort to try to get us unstuck in order to try to catch a wave based on what we are doing generally here in the Senate—finally being productive and making things work—I have tried to take something that virtually all Democrats have voted for previously and to put that in the bill in order to eliminate their cause for concern. I am not going to question at this point whether it is a legitimate complaint. I, frankly, disagree. But let's get on with getting the bill passed and getting something important done.

This morning, I heard a familiar argument that was made by the Democratic leader, Senator REID. The good news is that I have made a change in the legislation that would directly address what the Democratic leader said is their main objection. Here is their objection. I don't agree with it, but here is what it is and here is what I have done to try to address it. Their claim is that the fines and penalties

are private dollars, not public dollars, and that attaching the Hyde language to those fines and penalties is somehow an expansion of the Hyde provision.

As I said, I disagree with that, but what I would ask my colleagues to do is look at page 3 of the legislation, lines 3 through 7. What we have done to address their concern is to say that no longer will the fines and penalties associated with this fund be directly appropriated and paid out in grants to the victims of human trafficking. Instead, what page 3 of our amendment says—which we will vote on tomorrow, S. 178—this paragraph is entitled “Transfers.” It says:

In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

What we tried to do in order to maintain the status quo on the Hyde amendment is say that the money which will actually be used to help the victims will now come from the general fund. It will be an amount equal to the fines and penalties that were going to be available under the original bill. But because of the objection, because of the stated concern, we are trying to find a way to get unstuck and keep our focus on these victims and not on some phantom objection based on—again, I am not going to reargue here today; I am just going to say we need to get this done, and this provision does that.

Mr. President, may I ask what the order of business is?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time reserved for the majority under morning business has expired.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I will wrap up.

As I have told a number of our colleagues across the aisle who believe passionately in the importance of this topic, I think this amendment we will vote on tomorrow addresses their stated concerns. It certainly addresses the concerns stated by the Democratic leader this morning.

I would just say that of all the Senators on the other side of the aisle who agreed to cosponsor this legislation, who previously objected to voting on the bill and passing it—I would ask them to please take a close look at that provision. Again, page 3, lines 3 through 7 of my amendment now would provide that instead of the fines and penalties being directly appropriated into these programs for grant purposes, that money would come from a general fund of the Treasury in an equivalent amount of the fines and penalties. So, money being fungible, there is no loss of funds, but what we have done is we

have tried to address their concerns, I think in a way that eliminates them.

All the Senators who cosponsored this legislation, for which I am very grateful—Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator WYDEN, Senator COONS, Senator UDALL, Senator CASEY, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator HEITKAMP, Senator SCHUMER, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator PETERS, and Senator DURBIN—I hope all of our Democratic friends who previously objected based on the original provision will take a look at this change because it does directly address their stated concerns.

Let's get this done. We will vote on this tomorrow. But I would rather not wait for that time. I would rather try to get this done today if we can. We might be able to do that by agreement if everyone agrees that this provision, this change, addresses those stated concerns.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I move to close morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Morning business is closed.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message from the House requesting a conference on S. Con. Res. 11, the budget resolution.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the House insist upon its amendment to the resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) entitled “Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025,” and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Tom Price of Georgia, Mr. Rokita, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mrs. Black, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Yarmuth, and Ms. Moore be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

Mr. ENZI. I move to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to make some comments about the budget and the process.

Last month, the Senate Budget Committee took an important first step in helping to change the way we do business in Washington by reporting out a balanced budget. This is crucial as we begin to restore the trust of the American people.

This week, we will take the next step and start to work on a joint balanced budget resolution with our colleagues in the House that will expand America's economy and increase opportunities for hard-working families. A balanced budget approved by Congress will help make the government live within its means and set spending limits for our Nation. A balanced budget will also boost the Nation's economic output by more than \$500 billion over the next 10 years. That is according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

Why the urgency? Hard-working families are fed up with the President's spend-now-pay-later policy and are closely following our efforts to produce a balanced budget. Senate Democrats could only muster two budgets in 8 years, and we will soon have one after only 4 months. It is time to show taxpayers that Congress is committed to a balanced budget to make our government more effective and accountable, but we are running out of time.

Recent media reports note that the lawmakers in 27 States have passed applications for a constitutional convention to approve a balanced budget amendment. I have to add that there are new applications to do that same amendment in nine other States, and they are close behind.

Now, if just seven of those nine States approve moving forward on the balanced budget issue, it would bring the number of applications to 34 States. This would mean the two-thirds requirement under Article V of the Constitution would force Congress to take action. It is no wonder hard-working taxpayers across the country are feeling anxious.

Federal revenues have hit record highs. Yet we are on track to overspend by nearly \$1 trillion a year. I think we are at the \$560 billion level of overspending this year.

How much does Congress get to make decisions on? Congress spends about \$4 trillion a year, but only gets to make decisions on \$1½ trillion. Now, if we overspend by over \$500 billion, we are spending half more than what we take in. No family can exist very long by spending half more than they take in year after year after year.

We looked at the President's budget and the President increases taxes by \$2½ trillion and still gets a wider and wider and wider gap of overspending as time goes by to that trillion-dollar mark out there in 10 years.

Just this week, headlines around the country reported: “Budget Deficit in

U.S. Widens as Spending Exceeds Record Revenue.”

On Monday, the Treasury Department reported that spending by the Federal Government exceeded its revenue by more than \$439 billion from October through March, which is \$26 billion more compared to the same period last year. In fact, CBO is forecasting that for March our Nation spent more than \$44 billion, up 19 percent from last year. We are getting more money, and we are spending more money.

American taxpayers understand we overspend. The more we overspend, the more debt we owe, and the more debt our children and grandchildren will owe. In fact, we have done this so consistently that it is not just our grandchildren and our children who are faced with the crisis, it is us as well—everybody in America.

I mentioned that we get to make decisions on \$1½ trillion dollars a year, which is \$1,100 billion. If anybody knows how big \$1 billion is, they know how big \$1,100 billion is. But that is all we get to make decisions on.

The amount of interest we paid last year was \$235 billion. Interest doesn't buy you a thing, but we spent \$235 billion on interest. Now, that is pretty close to 1 percent for the fee for that borrowing. So if \$235 billion is 1 percent interest, what would the normal 5 percent cost? Every single dime we get to make a decision on. That means no defense, no education, no HELP. Everything will be by the wayside just so we can pay the interest on our debt. That is why we have to be concerned about the overspending that is happening.

American taxpayers understand that the more we overspend, the more debt we owe and the more debt our children and grandchildren owe. If that tax rate goes up, we will soon be responsible for paying off that debt at the expense of everything else America expects. This is why Republicans in Congress are focused on passing a balanced budget that will ensure that Washington will once again live within its means, just like hard-working families do every day.

Now, we don't get that balance for 10 years, but it moves toward that goal every year. Ten years is too long. For next year's budget, we are going to have to figure out better things to do to get it back into a framework where our interest will not exceed our expenditures. That is the interest exceeding the expenditures, not the revenue, and again we had a record revenue. That is why we are focused on passing a balanced budget, just like hard-working families do every day.

What does the Senate-passed budget do? Well, here is what it does: It balances the budget in 10 years with no tax hikes. It protects our most vulnerable citizens. It strengthens the national defense. It improves job growth and opportunity for hard-working fam-

ilies. It slows the rate of spending growth.

Now, it doesn't recede the spending growth, it slows the spending growth. That is the best we have ever been able to do in Washington. When we talk about a cut in Washington, what we are talking about is giving them less than what they asked for, not less than what they have.

It preserves Social Security by reducing spending in other areas to fully offset Social Security's rising deficit and encourages our Nation's leaders to begin a bipartisan, bicameral discussion on how to protect Social Security and avoid the across-the-board Social Security benefit cuts that will occur later under the law unless we take action, but that is something that has to be done jointly. There would be too much blame otherwise, and as far as the budget, the reason we have to preserve Social Security by reducing spending in other areas to offset Social Security is because we are not allowed to do anything with Social Security in the budget.

This budget will also protect our seniors by safeguarding Medicare from insolvency and extending the life of the Medicare trust fund by 5 years. It ensures Medicare savings in the President's health care law and makes sure those savings are dedicated to Medicare. If it comes from Medicare, it ought to go back to Medicare instead of seeing it go to more overspending on new programs that are outside of Medicare.

Our balanced budget continues funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and creates a new program based on CHIP to serve low-income, working-age, able-bodied adults and children who are eligible for Medicaid.

It increases State flexibility in designing benefits and administering Medicaid Programs to encourage efficiency and reduce wasteful spending, and it provides stable and predictable funding so long-term services and support are sustainable both for the Federal Government and the States.

As the Senate and House begin budget negotiations next week, it is worth noting that the strong economic growth a balanced budget can provide will serve as the foundation for helping all Americans grow and prosper.

One of the goals of a Republican balanced budget is to make our government more efficient, more effective, and more accountable. If Congress does its job, we can have some flexibility and eliminate what is not working, starting with the worst first, and then we can eliminate and streamline what is left.

The reason I emphasized “the worst first” is because one of the things we talk about constantly is the need to prevent the sequester. In some cases, it is absolutely essential to prevent a sequester, but the sequester should have

been done in the efficient way of eliminating the worst first. Instead, there was a memo that went out that said: Make it hurt. That should never happen in America. That is why we saw some of the decisions that came down that seemed pretty ridiculous.

One of the decisions that affected Wyoming was—I hope everybody will come and see the Grand Tetons—marvelous mountains that look like part of the Alps were transplanted over there and made a little bit taller. A lot of people like to stop and take pictures there regardless of the season—whether it is snow covered or the aspens are golden in the foreground or whether everything is lush and green, and, of course, you see wildlife all through that valley. Naturally, people like to stop and take pictures.

Well, a bunch of signs were printed up that said you cannot use the turnouts. A bunch of barricades were bought so you could not pull onto the turnout, and the sign said it would be illegal to park along the highway.

Where did the money come from for the barricades? Where did the money come for the signs that said we could not use the parking lots to take pictures? Well, I called to find out whose brilliant idea that was and why parking lots would be closed, and I was told that there would not be any garbage pickup. I suggested they just remove the garbage cans.

When people in Wyoming and across the Nation visit a national park, they can haul their garbage another 20 miles before they throw it out. That way the beautiful vista could still be photographed instead of people still parking along the highways to take those pictures and then getting ticketed. That is just one small example of cutting the most important first instead of the worst first. I am sure there are examples in every State.

It didn't just happen with facilities like that. The people at Head Start came to see me and said they got a 7.5 percent cut in the sequester. It was supposed to be 2.3 percent.

How did it get to 7.5 percent? After checking into it, it appears the Washington bureaucracy decided to keep more than their share of the money instead giving it to the kids across America who were supposed to have it. It did get restored, but the discouraging part was that when I asked the people who talked to me before how things were going, they said: Well, we got the extra money, but in order to meet the employer requirements in Wyoming for ObamaCare, we had to spend all of that money, so none of the kids happened to go back to Head Start. That was very disappointing. That is not the way to run a government and it is not the way to run a business. It should never have happened.

We need a budget that can eliminate waste and streamline what is left and start with the worst first.

Of course, another of my suggestions is that we have a biannual budget. Mr. President, \$1,100 billion is too much money to look at in 1 year. Twelve bills to allocate that money to the different agencies are too many bills for us to handle in 1 year, particularly if they are going to get scrutiny.

I suggested we write the number of bills that we do and separate them into two packages of six and that we do the six tough ones right after the election, because we have a little more appetite for doing them then, and the six easy ones just before an election. Then we would be able to get all 12 of them and be able to scrutinize all 12 of them.

Why is that important? Well, in going through this budget process—and like I said, I only had about 8 weeks to start to put the budget together—one of the things I discovered was that we have a whole bunch of programs that are out of authorization. The ability to spend for them has expired, but that doesn't stop us from spending on them. It should at least constrain us a little bit.

Some of those programs go back to 1983. They expired in 1983, 1987, and on up to the present day. How many of them? Two hundred and sixty programs. There were 260 programs that we haven't looked at to see if we ought to continue to spend money on them or if we ought to revise how we have been spending the money. If they have expired—most of them had been in existence for 6 years before they expired, and in those 6 years, we should have been able to find if there were any flaws or changes. Hopefully, there was somebody who was looking out for it and found some efficiencies that helped with the spending.

So there were 260 programs. Do we know how much that amounts to that we are still spending and there is no authority to spend? It is \$293 billion a year. That is a year. Usually, when we talk about the budget we are talking about over 10 years. So that would only be \$29 billion a year if it were over 10 years, but it is not. It is \$293 billion a year of expired authorizations, expired permissions to spend money. We have to get that corrected as well.

One of the ways we can do that is through a biennial budget, so that we are looking at half of them in a year instead of everything the government does every year. The dollars have gotten so big that we can't get through them efficiently, effectively, and scrutinizing them as good accounting in a year.

There is one exception on that, which is that we look at defense every year. Defense is the most important constitutional requirement given to this body. So we would continue to do that each year. Incidentally, defense is the one authorization that is not out of authorization, and that is because we do it every year. I don't know how many

decades we have done the authorization—the permission for spending—for defense.

Another troubling situation I discovered through this process was that there are some items that are not authorized that were in defense that we are spending money on anyway. I get comments from the people on the committee that looks over defense saying: How can they spend that money when we just did an authorization that said no, that is not one of the authorized items? So there are some problems we need to definitely work on with budgets. That is what we have done while putting this budget together, in trying to eliminate some of the inconsistencies we have, but we have not touched that \$293 billion in unauthorized spending.

So when people say we need more money for the nondefense items, I want them to take a look at that \$293 billion and see if they can't find \$29 billion, \$90 billion, whatever, out of \$293 billion that they think might be more effectively spent in a different way.

I know when I came to Congress there were 119 preschool children's programs. Everybody has ideas for preschool programs, and they are good ideas. We know that if we teach kids better before they go to school, they do better in school, there are fewer drop-outs, there is less crime, and the whole world is better.

There were 119 programs. Senator Kennedy and I worked on that, and we got it down to 69 programs. The ones we got rid of are the ones that were under our jurisdiction. So that left a whole bunch more. In the meantime, I have been able to work that down to 35 programs. And in the child care grant program last year, I got an amendment passed—it was one of 14 amendments that we considered—which required that those 35 go down to just 5 and that all 5 be put under 1 department. I am hoping that is what the administration is doing. That would save enough money to fund the truly preschool education programs really well, and that is what we need to do. There is a lot of money right there.

So if Congress does its job, we can have some flexibility and eliminate what isn't working, starting with the worst first, and then we can eliminate waste and streamline what is left. But to do this, first, Congress must do what it has not done in the past 8 years. It has to scrutinize every dollar for which they have a responsibility. If government programs are not delivering results, they should be improved, and if they are not needed, they should be eliminated. It is time to prioritize and demand results from our government programs. When these programs are reauthorized, I am hoping there is a matrix in there that says this is what we plan to do and this is how we will know if we got it done. Then we will have an

easy evaluation of whether they are getting their job done. That is mostly what happens in the private sector, and it is an efficient way of doing it in the public sector as well.

I have made enough speeches about efficiency in government that I had someone come up to me and say: I hate to say this, but the job I am doing isn't worth having anybody do. He said: I am reluctant to mention it because if they eliminate that job, I am probably fired. Well, I took his suggestion, and I spoke to the right people and that job got eliminated, and he got promoted. That is what has to happen. We have to take the people who are innovative in government, who are figuring out ways to do things better and more efficiently and more effectively and move them into the positions where they can really do the job.

So that is what I am counting on. In the coming weeks, hard-working taxpayers will get to see something they have not had the chance to experience in the last 8 years, and that is an open and transparent legislative process. We are starting that process today with the appointment of the conferees for the conference committees, and we will have amendments this afternoon. Members of Congress from both the House and the Senate will come together as part of the Senate-House budget committee to create a balanced budget that will boost our Nation's economic output and help restore the promise of a government that is more effective and that will put more people to work.

A balanced budget will allow Americans to spend more time working hard to grow their businesses or to advance their jobs, instead of worrying about taxes and inefficient and ineffective regulations. Most importantly, it means every American who wants to find a good-paying job and a fulfilling career has the opportunity to do just that.

I look forward to joining my colleagues in both the Senate and the House—Republicans and Democrats—as we take this next step to deliver a government that is more accountable to each and every American.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me applaud Senator ENZI and his staff for their very hard work.

I certainly agree with Senator ENZI that we need a government that is accountable, that we need to get rid of waste in government, and that we need to get rid of duplicative programs. I don't think there is any debate on that. I look forward to working with Senator ENZI and others to make that happen. However, the Republican budget is far, far more than that.

Today, I rise in strong opposition to the motion to go to conference on the budget resolution.



The budget resolution the Senate passed on March 27 moves this country in exactly the wrong direction, and the House budget resolution, in many respects, is even worse. The Federal budget is more than just a long list of numbers, although God knows there is a long list of numbers in the budget. The Federal budget is about our national priorities and about our values. It is about how we assess the problems facing our country, of which there are many—and I am not sure Senator ENZI would disagree with me if I laid it out—and how we go forward in addressing the problems on which there is a fundamental divide. That is what the Senate is now dealing with. What are the problems facing our country and how do we move forward?

Let me begin by saying that despite the modest gains of the Affordable Care Act, there remain in this country 35 million Americans who have no health insurance. That means that when they get sick, they may not be able to go to the doctor or they may end up going to the emergency room at very high cost.

I have spoken with doctors all over this country who tell me that when people don't have health insurance, because they delay going to the doctor, sometimes by the time they go into the doctor's office, it is too late. The doctor says: Why didn't you come in here 6 months ago when you noticed your symptoms? And they say: I don't have any health insurance; I couldn't afford it. So we are losing tens of thousands of people every single year who die—or become much sicker than they should be because they don't have health insurance.

The United States remains the only major country on Earth that doesn't guarantee health care to all people. Thirty-five million Americans have no health insurance. What is the Republican solution to this problem? Well, it is a brilliant idea. They are going to end the Affordable Care Act and make \$440 billion worth of cuts to Medicaid, which will result in 27 million Americans losing their health insurance on top of the 35 million we already have uninsured.

I know the newspapers are not particularly interested in it. We won't see it on network TV. That is the reality. They don't deny it. There are 16 million people covered by the Affordable Care Act who would lose their health insurance because this bill ends it. Then, a \$440 billion cut to Medicaid, and another 11 million gone. Sixteen plus 11 is 27 million Americans. What is the idea? What happens to those people? How many of them die? How many of them suffer? It is not an issue for them. They are working on something. They have been working on something for about 15 years for health care. If it hasn't happened in 16 years, it isn't going to happen.

That is what is in this budget.

This budget denies over 2.3 million young adults the right to stay on their parents' health insurance plan until the age of 26. We used to have this absurd situation. My wife and I have health insurance to cover our kids, but when they turn 18, they are not on our plan. It is gone. Right now, young people are on the plan until they are 26. It is gone under this Republican budget.

We finally overcame a situation that is so vulgar it is hard to imagine that it existed in America, and that is that people who have serious illnesses such as cancer, heart disease or diabetes would walk into an insurance office and say: I need insurance. The insurance company would say: Oh, we can't cover you for your diabetes, your heart disease, your cancer because it is a pre-existing condition and we don't want to pay out all of that money if it recurs.

Think about that, how crazy that is. What do people want insurance for? They want insurance to cover their needs. If I had breast cancer or colon cancer 5 years ago, sure, I want to make sure my insurance company covers that. It is a preexisting condition. Under the Affordable Care Act, we did away with that discrimination. That would come back. So all Americans who have serious health illnesses: Know that if what they put into this budget goes into effect, insurance companies can reject you.

Not only has this Republican budget ended the Affordable Care Act and made \$440 billion in cuts to Medicaid, it would also increase prescription drug prices for 4 million seniors and persons with disabilities who are on Medicare Part D by reopening the doughnut hole. That means that at a time when senior poverty is increasing and so many seniors in Vermont—I speak to them all the time and I suspect it is the same in Wyoming or maybe not—are saying: I am living on \$13,000, \$14,000 a year; I have to heat my home in the winter—if you live in Vermont, you do—I have to buy food; I have to pay for medicine; I can't do it all. So we closed the so-called doughnut hole, which means that seniors would not have to pay out-of-pocket for their prescription drugs. The Republican budget reopens the hole. All over this country, seniors will be paying more for their prescription drugs.

The Republican budget not only undertakes a vast attack on health care in this country, which will decimate life for millions of people, but then on another issue of great consequence, education, it is equally bad.

A couple of months ago in my State of Vermont I held three townhall meetings at colleges and universities in the State to talk to young people about the cost of college and about student debt. In Vermont—and I suspect in the other 49 States as well—we have families who are struggling to afford to

send their kids to college, and then we have others who are leaving college terribly deep in debt. Just yesterday, I was flying here from Burlington, VT, and I sat next to a woman who said her six kids went to college and graduate school, and all of them are deeply in debt.

So clearly, what a sensible budget does is two things. It says, first, how do we make college affordable so that young people will be able to get a higher education; and second of all, when they graduate, how do we lower student debt, which is today so oppressive?

The Republican budget does exactly the opposite. What the Republican budget does is cut \$90 billion over 10 years in Pell grants. Pell grants are the major Federal program making it possible for low-income and working-class families to get grants to go to college. This would increase the cost of college education to more than 8 million Americans. Think about it. Our job is to lower the cost of college; this budget increases it.

At a time when working-class families in Vermont and all over this country are having a hard time finding good quality, affordable preschool childcare, the Republican budget makes significant cuts in Head Start which means that 110,000 fewer children would be able to enroll in that program. Under the Republican budget, 1.9 million fewer students would receive the academic health they need to succeed in school by cutting about \$12 billion in cuts to the title I education program. Dropout rates in low-income communities all over this country for high school kids are atrocious. The Republican budget cuts significantly the funding that we put into public schools in low-income communities.

At a time when the middle class is disappearing and we have more people living in poverty today than at almost any time in modern American history, today there are millions of families who are struggling to put food on the table. I know maybe on Capitol Hill people don't know that, but that is a reality. People are making 9 or 10 bucks an hour. They have a few kids. They are having a very difficult time affording food—basic nutrition. We have an estimated 40 million people that are what they call "food insecure." That means people who on any given week, any given month, depending on what is happening, have a hard time feeding their families. The Republican budget would make massive cuts in nutrition programs in this country by, among other things, cutting \$10 billion to the Women, Infants and Children Program over the next decade.

I honestly have a hard time hearing people talk about family values and how much they love families and children, and you have a program which has done a really good job in terms of

prenatal care for pregnant woman, making sure they get the health care and the nutrition they need, making sure their babies get the care they need. Who really thinks we should cut these programs? What kind of Nation are we or what kind of Senate are we that people would vote to cut these programs—not to mention massive cuts in the food stamp program.

But in the midst of all of these devastating cuts in health care, education, and nutrition that impacts working families, the Republican budget does something else which is quite incredible. And I suspect that people who are listening are saying: BERNIE SANDERS is being partisan; he is not telling the truth; it really can't be this bad. One of the problems we have is convincing people this is reality. This is reality. This is the Republican budget. I know the media doesn't write about it much, but that is what it is. In addition to making cuts to health care, nutrition, education, other programs, what else do they do?

At a time when the wealthiest 400 Americans—400 Americans—paid a tax rate of 16.7 percent in 2012, at a time when hedge fund managers pay a lower effective tax rate than working families, truckdrivers, and nurses, what the Republican budget does based on an amendment they did abolishes the estate tax. The estate tax provides a \$269 billion tax break. For whom? For the middle class? Good. Low-income people? That is great. Not so. This repeal of the estate tax applies to the wealthiest—not 1 percent, but the top two-tenths of 1 percent. Republicans passed a tax proposal which impacts the top two-tenths of 1 percent and leaves nothing for 99.8 percent of Americans. Cut education, cut health care, cut nutrition, and give the tax breaks to billionaires. By repealing the estate tax, the average tax breaks for multimillionaires and billionaires would be about \$3 million.

When you go around Vermont and you go around America, do people say: Hey, what we really need, what our major priority is, is not to feed the hungry, not to make college affordable, not to create jobs, but to give a tax break to billionaires? That is in their budget.

Not only do they give a huge tax break to the wealthy—what else do they do? They raise taxes on low-income and working families—folks who do not make a whole lot of campaign contributions. What the Republican budget does is increase taxes by not extending the benefits we put into the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit. It allows those additional benefits to expire, which means that low-income and moderate-income families will pay more in taxes.

In fact, we estimate that tax hike for low-income and middle-income families will be about \$900 apiece for more

than 13 million families. Raise taxes to low- and moderate-income families and lower taxes for billionaires. Anybody believe those are the priorities that should be in a budget for the American people?

I will have more to say about this budget later. But the Republican budget does not address the significant problems facing America: how we create the millions of jobs we need, how we raise the minimum wage to a living wage, how we address pay equity so women workers don't make 78 cents on the dollar compared to men, how we rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. It doesn't address any of those issues. But what it does is make a bad situation worse. I would hope that my colleagues would have the courage to stand up to Wall Street, to stand up to the big money interests, and start defending the working families of this country and vote no on this resolution.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as part of this discussion, I want to mention something that was very significant that happened last night. It happened after the press went to bed, I think, but a very important thing, and that is a thing called the doc fix passed. The SGR passed this body last night in a very bipartisan way, after a series of amendments that were open floor amendments. That is what is supposed to happen around here.

One of the reasons I mention that is, I have always said if you can't see a doctor, you don't have insurance at all. With the way we have been setting up Medicare payments for doctors, we have been driving them out of the profession. We have been eliminating doctors. We have been having doctors tell their kids don't become a doctor, because of what Congress is doing, holding them hostage every 6 months. That got taken care of last night.

I don't know, we have been doing that for, I think, about 18 years, just 1 fix at a time. So it is nice that we are finally able to make that permanent.

I mentioned that was Medicare. This is the first budget the Republicans have gotten to participate in in many years, but the Democrats got to work on the health care bill, and that was part of their budget. In fact, it was part of the reconciliation in the budget, which is a special way of passing something without 60 votes. In that budget they took \$714 billion from Medicare, and they didn't put it into Medicare. There were just some comments about how the budget I worked on has a little over \$400 million of Medicare savings. That Medicare savings is what the President suggested should be done in Medicare savings, and we put that Medicare savings back

into Medicare. That is the only way you can save the fund.

So we have taken into consideration a lot of these issues. The cost of college—I have been through numerous hearings in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. I used to be chairman of the committee and I have been ranking member of the committee, and I expired my time as ranking member on that committee, but we did a lot of hearings on the cost of college. Probably the biggest suggestion I can have for people living in the East is send your kids West.

I was checking to see why more people couldn't get into community college on the east coast. I am not talking about the big colleges, which also have a very big problem on the number of students they can take and are very selective in what they take, but I found out that most of the community colleges were filled out here. Consequently, some for-profit colleges were able to charge considerably more than community college and we looked into ways to eliminate that practice. Of course, the way it got eliminated, if you did that to the public colleges as well, we would put them out of business. But I would mention that it is less expensive for an out-of-State student to go to the University of Wyoming or one of our community colleges than it is to get in-State tuition in most of the places in the United States.

There was a mention of estate tax. That is a recommendation that was put in as a deficit-neutral measure. I am not sure where the raising the taxes on the poor comes from, except for the comment that the extensions that we do annually on that weren't in there. There is a good reason why those aren't in there. We have provided a reconciliation instruction that would allow for tax reform, although the chairman of the committee said we are going to do that in a bipartisan way.

We are going to have tax reform that will take care of fairness and simplicity and accountability in our tax system. This is a particularly important time to talk about that. Today is tax day, and I hope everybody in America has or will file their taxes today. I know there has been some difficulty getting through on the lines to be able to talk to the IRS about tax problems, and I want to chastise the IRS a little bit for that. They are trying to show they need more money, instead of allocating personnel to where they are really needed. If they answer more questions right now, they don't have as many things they have to do later, and they will collect more money than if they don't answer those questions. The proper committee needs to take a look at whether they have adequate revenue to do their job, but again, there are inefficiencies there. They are talking about needing more money because

when they audit, they are able to get \$4 to \$6 for every dollar they spend. They should be embarrassed. Public auditors in a company expect to get \$15 to \$20 per dollar that they audit. They have got to come up with a better selection procedure for who needs to be audited, and go after the big bucks. There are a number of things the IRS ought to do.

When I first came to Washington, I tried to talk to different agencies about inefficiencies they had. I was a freshman, so I had a lot of time to do some of those things. One of the agencies I wanted to look at as an accountant was the IRS. As a result of some of my meetings at the IRS, we had some hearings here about being taxpayer friendly. People might recall that the people who served as witnesses in the past had to be voice-modulated behind screens. That should not happen in America. We should have a tax system that people can comply with without the gestapo kinds of tactics that are sometimes used.

So we need to do something to make our tax system more efficient, more accountable, and fairer. I am convinced that Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN, the chairman and the ranking member of the committee, are going to do some things on taxes, and I think the American people will like it. They are past due. They can end those complications and get more accountability, which will make the IRS's job a lot easier and also make it better for hard-working taxpayers in America.

So there are a lot of things a budget can do. I am hoping we will do them.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me just pick up on a couple of the points my friend from Wyoming, Senator ENZI, made. The Republicans often say, and Senator ENZI said it now, that Democrats cut \$714 billion from Medicare. To the best of my knowledge, not one penny involved in those cuts cut any benefits to the American people.

What the Affordable Care Act attempted to do—and maybe we made some progress, as Senator ENZI pointed out, last night with the so-called doc fix—is to make Medicare more efficient. What is wrong with that? What is wrong with saving money? What the American people want us to do is make programs more efficient. In fact, Senator ENZI was talking about that a moment ago. He is right. But the idea, the implication, that those cuts resulted in benefit cuts is not accurate.

Furthermore, what some of that money—those savings—went to is filling, plugging the doughnut hole so that seniors would not have to pay money out of their own pockets for prescription drugs.

So if you could save money in a bureaucracy—and God knows the U.S.

health care system is the most wasteful and bureaucratic of any in the world—if we can make the system more efficient, save money, put that money into helping seniors afford prescription drugs, what is the problem with that? I do not think so.

Senator ENZI talked about the IRS and people having difficulty making connections, which is clearly not right. He is right. He also mentioned, quite correctly, that for every dollar we invest in various parts of the IRS which do audits, we can make—what was that, \$4 to \$6? I think that is a pretty good investment. Most business people would say: All right, I can get \$4 to \$6 for every dollar that I invest. Let's do it.

I look forward to working with Senator ENZI and other Republicans to, in fact, do just that. We can argue about the Tax Code, and we will. But I think we don't argue that when people owe it, they should pay it. Right. We should change it if we do not like it.

So if we can invest a dollar into the IRS and get \$6 to \$4 back, I think that is a pretty good investment. Senator ENZI was right in saying that last night we passed a pretty good piece of legislation. Not perfect by any means. I had some serious concerns about it. I voted for it. One of the reasons I voted for it is it extended for another 2 years a program that I worked very hard on—that is, the Federally Qualified Community Health Center Program which is playing a huge role in providing health care and dental care and low-cost prescriptions drugs and mental health counseling to many millions of Americans in all of our 50 States. We got a significant increase. I fought very hard for a significant increase in that program as part of the Affordable Care Act that was going to expire.

As a result of yesterday's legislation, in addition to the doc fix, we have extended—and I see Senator BLUNT here, who has been active in that as well—we were able to extend for another 2 years funding for the Community Health Center Program, something that I think was important.

Senator ENZI was right. I think that is a step forward. But that should not be confused with the budget. The Republican budget is an unmitigated disaster—tax breaks for billionaires, cuts in programs that Americans desperately need, raising taxes for low-income working families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to disagree in the House amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees.

Mr. TESTER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 145 Leg.]

#### YEAS—54

Alexander	Ernst	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Cassidy	Heller	Rounds
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Cochran	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott
Coons	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	Kaine	Sullivan
Cornyn	King	Thune
Cotton	Kirk	Tillis
Crapo	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Warner
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

#### NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Boxer	Leahy	Schatz
Brown	Manchin	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Shelby	Vitter
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S DEATH

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today we honor the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death. We all know

the tragic story: On the evening of April 14, 1865, the 4-year anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War and just days after its end at Appomattox, President Lincoln was shot while attending the theater. The next morning, his last, labored breathing ceased.

His fanatically unreconciled assassin was enraged by Lincoln's achievements: his saving of the Union; his emancipation of the slaves; his forecast that the freed slaves would soon be voting; his rededication of the Nation to the Declaration and to the Constitution in which it is embodied. Lincoln lived for these things, and he also died for them.

Days earlier Lincoln's assassin, in attendance at the second inaugural, had ignored the reelected President's eloquent plea "to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds," doing so "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

A year-and-a-half earlier, dedicating the cemetery at Gettysburg, Lincoln had said that "history would little note nor long remember" what he said. Here he was wrong—or at least falsely modest—for the Gettysburg Address is among the most beautiful and memorable speeches in history. He called upon us to "be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us," and "that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

His words call upon us still to take "increased devotion" from those at Gettysburg and every war since who gave "the last full measure of devotion." Soon he would be among those honored dead, the final and most poignant casualty in the same war, and his death is another reason for us to renew our devotion to our great country.

We should think, then, about Lincoln's message, which is like the message of our Nation. On the question of equality, Lincoln was as precise as a mathematician and as lyrical as a poet. Of equality and slavery, he said:

As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

Of equality and the Declaration, Lincoln said:

I think the authors of that notable instrument intended to include all men, but they did not intend to declare all men equal in all respects. They did not mean to say that we are all equal in color, size, intellect, moral developments, or social capacity. They defined with tolerable distinctness, in what respects they did consider all men created equal—equal in "certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This they said, and this they meant.

Now put these propositions together. We are unequal in most respects, but we are equal in our rights. We own ourselves, and no one else may own us. We own the government, and the government does not own us. We are entitled

to our lives with the talents that God gave us. Any form of government that interferes with these rights is wrong.

But in the world today are rogue nations that are growing in strength and violate these principles. They constitute a menace to our freedom and to civilization itself.

At home, our government grows ever greater in its size, in its reach, and in its expense. The law is flouted increasingly by high authority. And our people say with increasing intensity that they mistrust and even fear their government. It may be for the people, but it is less and less "of and by" the people.

On this 150th anniversary of Lincoln's death, let us be here reminded and dedicated to that cause for which Lincoln himself gave the last full measure of devotion. Let us dedicate ourselves, in Lincoln's words, "to finish the work we are in," so that we "may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:44 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FLAKE).

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally.

The Senator from Vermont.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I send to the desk my motion to instruct conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation related to retirement benefits, which may not include legislation cutting benefits under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under title II of the Social Security Act, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, I happen to believe the Republican budget we will be discussing today moves us in exactly the wrong direction. At a time when the middle class is in decline and the gap

between the very rich and everybody else is growing wider, what the Republican budget does is make ferocious attacks on programs desperately depended upon by working families while at the same time providing outrageous tax breaks to the very wealthiest of the wealthy. That makes no sense to me at all.

One area where the Republican budget is negligent—one of many areas where the Republican budget is negligent—is in the issue of Social Security. Social Security is perhaps the most important and successful Federal program that was ever initiated. It is life and death to millions of seniors and people with disabilities in this country, and it has a history of enormous success. Before Social Security was established, about half of the seniors in this country lived in poverty. Today, while too high, that number is somewhere around 10 percent.

Unfortunately, in recent years what we have seen is an increase in senior poverty. We have seen many seniors struggling to pay their bills, to heat their homes, and to buy the medicine they need. It seems to me that in this moment, not only should we not be talking about cutting Social Security, as many of our Republican colleagues are, we should be talking about expanding Social Security benefits. I have introduced legislation to do just that. But today I rise to bring forth legislation—bring forth a motion to instruct the budget conferees to include a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect retirement benefits by not cutting Social Security benefits, by not raising the retirement age, and by not privatizing Social Security. So in essence, what this motion to instruct says is that we go on record as Members of the U.S. Senate that we will not cut Social Security benefits, that we will not raise the retirement age, and that we will not privatize Social Security.

At a time of massive wealth and income inequality, when 99 percent of all of the new income generated in this country is going to the top 1 percent and when over half of the American people have less than \$10,000 in savings, the last thing any Member of the Senate should be thinking about is cutting Social Security. Today, the average Social Security benefit is just \$1,328 a month—not a lot of money.

Now, 20 percent of senior citizens are living on an average income of just \$7,600 a year. Frankly, I don't know how anybody lives on an income of \$7,600 a year. I don't know how you buy food. I don't know how you buy the medicine you need, how you take care of your basic needs. But that is the reality. More than one-third of our senior citizens rely on Social Security for virtually all of their income. In other words, Social Security for them—more than a third—is not just a small part of

their total income, it is virtually all of their income. Two-thirds of American seniors depend on Social Security for more than half of their income.

The reality is, despite some of the rhetoric we hear around here or see on TV, we do not have a Social Security crisis. America has a retirement crisis. Given this reality, our job is to expand Social Security benefits, not cut them.

I have been distressed that in three out of the four major Budget Committee hearings held this year, Republicans invited witnesses who testified in support of cutting Social Security. John Engler, the head of the Business Roundtable, representing the CEOs of some of the largest corporations and Wall Street banks in this country, was one of the Republican witnesses. Mr. Engler and the Business Roundtable are the leaders of corporate America. These are the guys who make millions of dollars a year in salary. These are the guys who have huge retirement benefits. They are asking Congress to cut Social Security COLAs for senior citizens and disabled veterans and to raise the retirement age to 70 years of age.

Imagine that. People who are multi-millionaires and have huge retirement benefits are coming to Capitol Hill and telling Members of Congress to cut Social Security. It turns out, in fact, that the CEOs of the Business Roundtable have retirement benefits of their own of some \$88,000 a month. So we have the heads of large corporations who have retirement benefits of \$88,000 a month—\$1 million a year—and they are telling the Congress to cut benefits for people who are trying to survive on \$14,000 a year. That is an outrage.

I am getting a little bit tired of being lectured by CEOs of large corporations who want to cut the Social Security benefits of elderly people. That is wrong.

I am also tired of hearing folks on TV say that Social Security is going broke. Well, the truth is Social Security is not going broke. Social Security has a \$2.8 trillion surplus and could pay out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 18 years. Now, is 18 years a terribly long time? No, it is not. Should we develop legislation to extend Social Security for decades after those 18 years? Yes, we should, and I have done that. But, please, I hope that my colleagues will not stand up here and tell us that Social Security is going broke because it is not.

I believe the American people feel very strongly that in these difficult times Social Security is a major safety net for so many of the elderly and disabled. When we vote tonight, our job is to send a very, very clear message that the Senate is not going to cut Social Security, it is not going to privatize Social Security, and it is not going to raise the age at which people get those Social Security benefits.

With that, I yield the floor for the Senator from Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I thank the ranking member of the Budget Committee, the Senator from Vermont.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending motion and call up my motion to instruct, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. SCHATZ moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security and veterans' benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, the Senate held an important vote on an amendment to the budget resolution, and 56 of our colleagues, including 11 Republicans, joined me in affirming the need for legislation to ensure that all legally married spouses, including gay couples, have access to Social Security and VA benefits that their families have earned.

This amendment passed with bipartisan support because it is fundamentally about fairness.

Imagine a veteran who served his country for decades fighting for equality and freedom around the world and he gets married in a State that allows gay marriage. If he is permanently disabled from his service, his spouse is eligible for veterans' spousal benefits. They have earned these benefits. But if they move or if they drive over the border from Florida into Georgia, for example, they lose those benefits. The same scenario applies to our seniors and their right to Social Security spousal benefits.

Why does this happen? Simply because the Federal right to these benefits happens to be defined in law with respect to the State of residence rather than the State of celebration of the marriage. In other words, eligibility for these Federal benefits is based on where you live, not where you were married. So we have one Federal right and two unequal outcomes based on the person's residence. This is the definition of unequal treatment under the law.

No one is denying that Americans earned their Social Security and veterans' benefits regardless of whether they are gay or straight. And since the Supreme Court's decision in the Wind-

sor case struck down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act, no one can deny that the Federal Government is required to recognize all legal marriages.

For almost all Federal agencies, this went into effect right away. Gay married couples can now file joint taxes. In legal proceedings before the Federal Government same-sex spouses are given the same legal rights as all other spouses. Under the Family and Medical Leave Act, an employee can now take leave to care for a same-sex spouse. These are just a few of the ways that the Federal Government brought its policies into line with the law.

The Social Security Administration and the VA, however, are tripped up by an old wording in their authorizing statutes. Working together, we can fix this. We can pass legislation to ensure that all legally married couples receive equal treatment under the law regardless of where they live. The amendment that the Senate voted to include in the budget affirms the need for this legislation.

Allowing unequal treatment under the law goes against American values, and it goes against our Constitution. Equality under Federal laws should not end when you cross State lines. We are not debating whether gay marriage should be legal in all 50 States. That question is currently in front of the Supreme Court. We are debating whether a Federal right should be afforded to all Americans regardless of where they live.

For those who are concerned with preserving States' rights, I understand that perspective, but we should all support fixing the statutes governing Social Security and veterans' benefits. Fixing these statutes does not impact State law whatsoever. In contrast, by not fixing these statutes, the Federal Government is ignoring the laws of States that allow gay marriage. It actually does harm to States' rights to allow this situation to continue.

This is not an ideological proposal, and I should point out that the Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, and the Senator from New Hampshire, JEANNE SHAHEEN—this was originally their idea. First, Senator MURRAY provided this as a piece of legislation on the Social Security side, and JEANNE SHAHEEN, likewise, presented this on the VA side. We worked together during the so-called vote-arama to merge these proposals into one because the same principle applies for both Federal benefits, which is that equal protection under the law should not depend on which of the 50 States an American citizen resides in. This is about treating veterans, disabled Americans, and our seniors equally, no matter where they live or what their sexual orientation may be.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield time to the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Vermont and also the senior Senator from Wyoming for their work.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion be set aside and that my motion be sent to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending "Too Big To Fail" bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets, as set forth in amendment 994 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as agreed to by the Senate).

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this amendment, about which I asked to instruct the conferees, passed by a voice vote, and I appreciate the acceptance of it by Senator ENZI and Senator SANDERS during the vote 2 weeks ago. We know too big to fail is still with us. We know that it is really all about those megabanks that are over \$500 billion in total assets. That is what my amendment speaks to.

In the 6½ years since Wall Street pushed our economy to the brink of collapse, the biggest banks have gotten, as we know, bigger.

Think about this statistic. Just 18 years ago, the 6 largest banks in the United States had assets equal to 18 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product. Today, the 6 largest banks have assets equal to 63 percent of our GDP, with an average of more than 5,000 legal entities operating in 57 countries.

These institutions are not just massive, too big to fail in terms of size. They are risky and complex. In many ways they are too big to fail, they are too big to manage, as we have seen from the mistakes they have made, and they are too big in many ways to regulate.

If a financial institution is too big to understand, then it is probably too complex to manage and too opaque to regulate. Dodd-Frank requires large banks to produce an annual living will explaining the bank's plan for its own rapid and orderly resolution through the bankruptcy process in the event of material financial distress or failure.

Last year, the largest 11 banks—all 11 of them—were informed that their living wills were insufficient. In other words, it was not clear to the regu-

lators that these 11 banks would know how to go through resolution. That means they failed to show that their collapse would not cause devastating harm to our economy as a whole. It raises this question: What happens if one of these banks fails?

Today, I urge the Senate to instruct budget negotiators to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to ensure that the largest Wall Street megabanks can be put through bankruptcy or resolution without a taxpayer bailout. This is the amendment that Senator VITTER, my Republican colleague from Louisiana, and I spoke out about, and it was passed unanimously in the Senate a couple of weeks ago.

Congress should act on the remedies provided in the law for any bank that cannot produce a credible living will this year. We need to end the cycle that enables large, unsafe banks to enjoy government bailouts. The public is cynical about these too-big-to-fail banks. The public does not believe they are not too big to fail, if you will.

The cycle that allows Wall Street to pile up private profits while forcing American taxpayers to be ready and willing to pick up the tab for their losses and failures is outrageously bad public policy. The American people don't want Congress to wait until we are faced with another crisis. Congress needs to take action now to prevent future economic collapse and future taxpayer-funded bailouts.

As Senator SHELBY, the senior Republican who sits on the banking committee with me, told the Senate banking committee last month, if a bank is too big to fail, it is it probably too big to exist.

This motion to instruct will put the Senate on record that the American taxpayer should never ever again be on the hook for risks taken by megabanks.

I ask my colleagues to vote yes.

#### PAID SICK LEAVE

Mr. President, for too many Americans, a sick day means a day without pay. Each day workers across the country face impossible dilemmas. Do they go into work knowing the risks to their own health and to others around them or do they stay home and lose a paycheck? Do they send a sick child to school, knowing they are risking the health of their daughter and her entire classroom or do they jeopardize their job by taking a day off? This is a choice too many families face, and it needs to end.

Guaranteeing paid sick and family leave to all Americans would protect public health and increase economic security for millions of families.

In the 20th century, unions fought for workers' rights to collectively bargain—and often one of the protections they were bargaining for was paid sick leave. But after decades of attacks on our labor movement and on our middle

class, most Americans are not protected by unions. Too often they have no protection if they have to miss work because of their own illness or that of their child.

43 million workers—including 2 million Ohioans—currently have no paid sick leave. Workers earning the lowest wages are the least likely to have paid sick days and are often unable to afford to take a day off when they or their children get sick.

Not only does this affect their own health, but these workers are often working in service jobs where they risk infecting others. They are often caring for seniors or children or working in stores, hotels, or restaurants where they risk food contamination.

Adults without paid sick days are 1½ times more likely than adults with paid sick days to report going to work with a contagious illness, according to the National Partnership for Women and Families. That's why the National Partnership for Women and Families and more than 100 employers support this legislation. And so do many business owners, who realize that healthy workers are often more productive workers.

But too many do not, and that is why I urge my colleagues to pass the Healthy Families Act. This legislation would end the agonizing choice faced by families by allowing workers to earn up to 7 days per year in paid sick time.

This plan is good for both workers and businesses. Employers already providing sick time would not have to change their policies as long as they meet the minimum requirements and businesses with fewer than 15 employees would be exempt.

We know that when workers are healthy, they are more productive, and providing sick days decreases turnover and gives employers safer, healthier, and more stable workplaces. Paid sick leave will also save precious health care resources.

When workers go in sick, they can spread illnesses like the flu, and they increase the risk of workplace injury. The American Journal of Public Health found that the lack of paid sick days contributed to an additional 5 million cases of H1N1 during the 2009 pandemic.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research found that paid sick days could decrease emergency room visits by 1.3 million each year, saving the country \$1 billion in health costs. And most importantly, guaranteeing paid sick leave will give families the peace of mind that they can protect their jobs, their families, and their health. That is why it is far past time for us to finally guarantee paid sick leave for all of our workers.

My colleagues have all seen and heard me talk about my canary pin.

Our duty to protect our workers continues and our work is not yet finished.



To truly embody the spirit of this pin, we must extend paid sick leave to all Americans—not just those lucky enough to be represented by a union or wealthy enough to have a high-wage job with protections.

No parent in America today should have to choose between a paycheck and a sick child. No worker should have to choose between his job and his health.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Healthy Families Act without delay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Vermont.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion be set aside and that my motion be sent to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Ms. WARREN] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision to make college more affordable for middle-class families by allowing borrowers with outstanding Federal and private student loans to refinance at the equivalent interest rates that were offered to Federal student loan borrowers during the 2013-2014 school year and to fully offset the cost of such a program by requiring millionaires to pay at least a 30 percent effective Federal tax rate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that any time under quorum calls this afternoon be charged equally, regardless of who spoke last.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, 2 years ago today, the people of Boston came face-to-face with terror at the finish line for the Boston Marathon. The cowardly attack and its aftermath took

four lives, injured many more, and forever changed the lives of the survivors and their families.

In the face of this horrific terrorist attack, Boston responded with courage and community. Our heroic first responders acted swiftly and their bravery saved many lives.

In the days, weeks, and months after the marathon, families and friends came together to lift each other up, to raise the spirit of our city, and to help us heal.

Now, 2 years later, Boston continues to move forward together. A jury just reached a verdict that is another step toward justice for victims and for their families. The strength and perseverance of survivors continues to inspire us, and our community works to keep alive the memories of Krystle Campbell, Lu Lingzi, Martin Richard, and Sean Collier.

Recently, Mayor Marty Walsh announced the city of Boston will now recognize April 15 as One Boston Day. One Boston Day is a chance to honor the victims and survivors of the marathon bombing and an opportunity for people to give back to the community through acts of service. This day helps us remember that in the face of tragedy and violence, our community responds with an open heart.

Next Monday, tens of thousands of people from across the Nation and around the world, once again, will come to Massachusetts for the 2015 Boston Marathon. Our Commonwealth, once again, will commemorate Patriots' Day with reenactments, baseball, parades, and celebrations.

Today, as we mark One Boston Day and the second anniversary of the attack at the Boston Marathon, we recall the spirit of strength and resilience that brought our city and our Commonwealth together, the same spirit of strength and resilience that helps us heal.

As a tribute to honor the victims and survivors of the attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon, I ask my colleagues to join Bostonians in a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I would like to join Senator WARREN and the rest of the Senate in observing a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

The people of the United States will always remember the victims of the previous acts of terrorism that have occurred in the United States and will always stand together as one people. Two years ago today, three innocent people were killed and hundreds injured in two bombings that occurred during the running of the 117th Boston Marathon. On the happiest day in Bos-

ton, Patriots' Day, two bombs detonated by the two evil men took lives, limbs, and livelihoods away. That day, we lost Martin Richard, an 8-year-old boy from Dorchester; Krystle Campbell, from Arlington; and Lu Lingzi, who came to the United States from China; and 232 innocent people were also wounded in the bombings.

In the aftermath of the attacks, Officer Sean Collier, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology police force, was assassinated by the two twisted individuals who bombed our city. Officer Collier wasn't just protecting the best and the brightest minds, he was the best and brightest, an impressive and loved officer who has been greatly missed on campus and in our community.

I want to express my deepest thanks to all of the men and women in law enforcement in Massachusetts and around the Nation for their unwavering determination, courage, and resolve to bring to justice those responsible for the Boston Marathon bombings. We were "Boston Strong" because we were Boston ready, with the best training and personnel available to save lives and to seek justice.

Many others responded decisively: the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, fire and rescue workers, caregivers, Armed Forces, and thousands more who, through their many expressions of care and compassion, brought forth comfort, hope, and the promise of recovery.

Today, under the leadership of Mayor Marty Walsh, the city of Boston is turning April 15 into a new tradition, honoring the resilience, generosity, and strength called One Boston Day. As Mayor Walsh said, "It's a day everyone should come together, spread goodwill throughout the city and recommit ourselves to our deepest values."

Mayor Walsh is right. This is a day for the citizens, businesses, and organizations in the city of Boston to display their humanity and draw neighbors together.

Thank you, Mayor Walsh, for helping all of us understand that the compassion and support we all felt that day should never be forgotten but instead should be a part of our lives every single day.

May the light of One Boston Day shine as an example of how our Nation responds to times of crisis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now observe a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

(Moment of silence.)

Mr. ENZI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR  
2016—Continued

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SANDERS. I send to the desk my motion to instruct conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to setting aside the pending motion?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include the provision in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate that provides for the establishment of a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, protecting rural service, allowing the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I move to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 11, a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, to include in the conference report the provision in the concurrent resolution as passed by the Senate establishing a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to strengthening the U.S. Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, and protecting rural services.

During the so-called vote-arama, that amendment passed by voice vote. This time I hope we can get a strong rollcall vote on it because it is terribly important that we tell the Postmaster General of the United States that the U.S. Senate wants a strong and vibrant U.S. Postal Service.

What we are saying to the Postmaster General of the United States is pretty simple; that is, do not destroy up to 15,000 middle-class jobs, do not shut down up to 82 mail processing plants, stop slowing down mail service delivery in this country. Speed it up by reinstating strong overnight delivery standards for first-class mail.

I do not know about Arizona and I don't know about Wyoming, but I can tell you that in Vermont we have gotten a significant number of complaints from people who are upset by the slowdown of mail delivery standards. It is, to my mind, just unacceptable, and what we are saying now and will have to say in the months to come is you can't shut down another 82 processing plants, you cannot continue with these

inadequate mail delivery standards, and it has to change. The American people and the business community are entitled to know that when they put a letter or document in the mail, it is going to get delivered in a prompt way. Today, that, sadly, is not the case.

For over 230 years and enshrined in our Constitution, the Postal Service has played an enormously important role for the people of our country and for our economy, and that mission today remains as important as it has ever been. The beauty of the Postal Service is that it provides universal service 6 days a week to every corner of our country, no matter how small or how remote. It will deliver mail on Wall Street and it will deliver mail to a home at the end of a back road in the State of Vermont.

The U.S. Postal Service supports, through its efforts, millions of jobs in virtually every sector of our economy. It provides decent-paying union jobs to some 500,000 Americans and, by the way, is the largest employer of veterans in this country.

Whether you are an elderly woman living on a dirt road in a rural area or you are a wealthy CEO executive on Park Avenue, you get your mail delivered 6 days a week, and the American people pay for this service at a cost which is far less than any place else in the industrialized world. In other words, we get a pretty good bargain when we put a stamp on an envelope.

Unfortunately, despite the success and popularity of the Postal Service, it is under constant attack and has been under constant attack for years, including from those who would like to privatize the Postal Service and ultimately destroy it. Let's be clear. The same people who are attacking the Postal Service are often the same people who are attacking Social Security, Medicare, and so forth, and they essentially want to move to the privatization of virtually every major public institution in this country.

Today, the U.S. Postal Service is in the process of shutting down up to 82 mail processing plants and eliminating up to 15,000 decent-paying jobs. This is in addition to the 141 mail processing facilities that were closed between 2012 and 2013. In January, the Postal Service ended overnight delivery for first-class mail. It didn't get a whole lot of attention, but it happened.

The purpose of this motion is to put the Senate on record in strong opposition to these plant closings and to demand that the Postal Service reinstate strong overnight delivery standards and not destroy good-paying jobs.

We have been told that all of these horrendous cuts are necessary because the Postal Service is experiencing terrible financial problems. They are losing money every single year. Well, the truth is somewhat different. The major reason the Postal Service is in tough

financial shape today is not because of email or the Internet, the major reason the Postal Service is hurting financially is because of a mandate signed into law by President Bush in December of 2006, during a lame-duck session of Congress that forces the Postal Service to prefund 75 years of future retiree health benefits over a 10-year period. No other government agency or business in America is burdened with a mandate anywhere close to what the Postal Service has to expend, which is \$5.5 billion a year. So the main point is that when you see articles telling you the Postal Service is having financial problems, the main reason—the overwhelming reason—is this necessity to prefund 75 years of future retiring health benefits over a 10-year period at about \$5.5 billion a year. In fact, all—A-L-L—all of the so-called financial losses posted by the Postal Service since October 2012 are due to this prefunding mandate. That is it. Without that mandate, they would be making a modest amount of money.

We don't hear much about it, but I think it is very important for the American people to understand the reality of the finances in the Postal Service. Excluding the prefunding mandate, the Postal Service has actually made a \$1.8 billion profit. So it is a modestly profitable operation excluding the \$5.5 billion prefunding mandate.

Revenue at the Postal Service has been increasing in recent years. At a time when Postal Service revenue is going up, it makes no sense to eliminate thousands of jobs and slow down the mail service that millions of Americans rely on.

We should be working to strengthen the Postal Service and not to send it into a death spiral. Before this prefunding mandate was signed into law, the Postal Service was also profitable. In fact, from 2003 to 2006, the Postal Service made a combined profit of more than \$5 billion.

I think there is broad bipartisan support, especially from Senators who come from rural areas and who understand just how important the Postal Service is to the people of our States.

Once again, when offered as an amendment at the vote-arama, this passed by voice vote. We are going to ask for a rollcall vote when the voting takes place. I hope we win this vote with a very strong vote and send a message to the Postal Service that we want our Postal Service to provide the quality mail service the American people deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, that passed by a voice vote, which is considered unanimous around here. You cannot get more unanimous than that. I am hoping that out of the 10 to 13 votes we are going to have this afternoon, that some can be done on voice votes. I do

not think there is anybody who disagrees with what the Senator has said about closing the postal plants and the extra time it is taking for deliveries. You can add to that how little money it saves because the employees who are in one town, even though their job got moved somewhere else, still have to be retained in that town at some job. It does not amount to much in the way of savings, but it really hurts in the way of efficiency, delivery, and trust in the post office.

So I think we will all be behind you on that one again. I hope that by the time we get to that, it will be a voice vote again.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending motion and call up Senator BURR's motion, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], for Mr. BURR, moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to addressing student loan debt, which may include reducing overlapping student loan repayment programs and creating a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option, as included in section 358 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate.

Mr. ENZI. I would mention that this is a side-by-side to Senator WARREN's amendment. I am hoping that at the time we vote, we can do 1 minute on each side so they have a chance for their explanation.

I now yield 10 minutes to the Senator from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the need for the Senate to pass trade promotion authority legislation. It is no secret that trade matters in the ability of the United States and our businesses here to sell goods to foreign markets and to buy what we need from abroad to keep our businesses humming along right here at home and to keep Americans employed. This is paramount to our Nation's prosperity. You do not need to be an economist to see it. Anyone who owns an iPhone, drives a foreign car, or shops at Costco—everyone understands even in a small way that trade is beneficial to American companies and to customers alike. Likewise, American farmers and manufacturers and service providers want and need to sell their corn, cotton, beef, tractors, furniture, airplanes, their businesses and financial services to customers around the world who want and need them. Sadly, not all countries see it that way, and they throw up barriers to American

goods and services. They do not want them entering their countries. That is why passing trade promotion authority is so important.

Increasing free trade levels the playing field for U.S. companies. It increases competition. It increases access to foreign markets.

According to the Office of U.S. Trade Representative, the United States is the world's largest economy, the largest importer, and the largest exporter of goods and services. In 2014, figures from the International Trade Administration show that the United States exported a record \$2.35 trillion in goods and services.

For those of us who represent border States, this issue hits close to home. In recent years, Mexico has been America's third largest trading partner and our second largest export market. According to the Arizona-Mexico Commission, Arizona ports of entry are gateways to \$41.6 billion in U.S.-Mexican trade annually, of which nearly \$16 billion is attributed to Arizona's own trade with Mexico.

Simply put, without trade promotion authority, the United States would be forced to stand on the sidelines as other countries move forward with their own trade agreements. Without renewing fast-track authority, there is little chance of a successful resolution of the ongoing negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. This agreement will allow American companies to do business more freely with some of the world's fastest growing economies.

As the Washington Post editorial put it this week, "To this boon to the U.S. and world economies, add the fact that TPP would ensure that the Pacific Rim plays by U.S.-style rules and regulations rather than China's neo-mercantilist rules, and you have a compelling case for swift approval." I agree. But unless we pass trade promotion authority legislation, it will be difficult for the United States to become part of this vital partnership.

I am proud to continue to voice my support for free trade. I look forward to the Senate giving trade promotion authority careful consideration in the coming weeks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion be set aside so that I may call up my motion, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to amending the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to allow for punitive damages, limit the any factor "other than sex" exception, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information, as included in amendment 362 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as not agreed to by the Senate).

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to offer a motion to instruct the conferees based on a bill that I have offered for the last three Congresses; that is, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

What does the Paycheck Fairness Act do? It finishes the job that we started with Lilly Ledbetter. It would, in fact, instruct the conferees to make three reforms:

No. 1, to advance the cause of making sure that women get equal pay for equal work. It would stop retaliation for sharing pay information. Often workers are harassed and humiliated just for asking about coworkers' salaries.

No. 2, it would stop employers from using any reason to pay women less: Oh, the guys do harder jobs. Women aren't breadwinners. OK, it is time for equal pay for equal work.

It would also allow for punitive damages for women who are being discriminated against when the only deterrent against pay discrimination is the threat of paying women backpay. Discrimination can be factored into the cost of doing business.

Yesterday was Equal Pay Day, something we, unfortunately, commemorate each year. It symbolizes that it takes 104 days longer in a year for a woman to earn what a man earned the previous year.

What does that mean? It means that for what a man earns in 365 days, it takes a woman 469 days to earn the same amount of money—104 days more.

We don't commemorate this day with joy but with a call to action. We need to make a change in the Federal lawbooks to finally get equal pay in the Federal checkbooks.

Now, we want this in the budget act because we know this will be an important way of dealing with a variety of issues. We worked on this legislation for a number of years and, quite frankly, we are frustrated. We are frustrated that time and again we are trying to advance this cause.

It started over 50 years ago. In 1963, Lyndon Johnson, moving on the civil rights legislation, thought that equal pay for women would be an easy thing to pass. At that time, only 11 percent of mothers were in the workforce. Now,

there are over 70 percent of mothers in the workforce.

At that time, women were, again, paid 59 cents for every \$1 a man earned. Well, we passed the Civil Rights Act. Now, 50 years later, we are up to 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns. So it has taken us 50 years to advance 20 cents.

Well, that just doesn't work. The women in America feel sidelined, red-lined, and pink-slipped for the way they are discriminated against, and then they face the harassment and intimidation when they simply ask questions to get the pay they deserve.

What we now know, again, is that the facts speak for themselves. Women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man makes. For women close to the retirement age, the wage gap increases to almost \$14,000 a year. By the time she retires, the average woman has lost almost \$400,000 in a lifetime of wages.

The impact is you get less in Social Security benefits, you have less in savings, and you face the grim possibility of poverty. What we also know is that this has a tremendous impact in terms of single mothers.

Over the weekend, there was a terrific article in the Washington Post saying if you wanted to eliminate poverty among children, you could take a major step in doing so if you closed the pay parity gap. In effect, by paying single women and single mothers equal pay for equal work, you could reduce the poverty rate among children by over 20 percent.

What a startling fact. Well, the fact is that we have been fighting for this for a long time.

I urge the adoption of this amendment. I think it makes important fiscal policy, and it is important for the family's checkbook and for our checkbook.

I wish to close with these remarks. I think it was the day before, in the New York Times. They were talking about how we are essentially subsidizing those people who are paid the minimum wage.

Now, my background is that I was a social worker. The Presiding Officer is familiar with that. But when you look at the four major components of government subsidies to the poor—Medicaid, TANF, the child care development subsidy, and there is one other thing that I just don't recall at this minute—for actually people who are working—oh, food stamps. Working every single day, they are eligible for government subsidies because they are not paid enough for what they do.

What we often find is that not only is the minimum wage a terrible place to begin, but as you move up the work ladder, often women are in jobs where they are paid less than the men who work beside them. As a result—and it often is the case—we end, then, by dealing with that by our paying for it

in Medicaid, in food stamps, and earned income tax credit.

Now, I support those programs. I think when people are poor they need our help, but our goal is to make sure that if you were poor and you want to have a way to get ahead, we should help you.

If you want to be middle class, we should help you get there. One of the ways to do that is to make sure we pay equal pay for equal work.

I hope that my amendment is adopted. I could debate this in more ways, but year after year we come to the floor and we show the disparity between what women make from men for the same job.

This isn't just a woman's issue. Many men here support this. I can tell you who supports it: fathers. Fathers, fathers, fathers. Why do they support it? They work hard to make sure that in many instances their daughters get a break, try to get an education, try to get ahead only to find that although they shouldered the same responsibilities for car payments, paying off student loans, and all of that, they, in fact, are not paid equal pay for equal work. We can change that by voting for the Mikulski amendment in this budget bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion be set aside so that I may call up my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, the clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. BENNET] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed—

(1) to insist that the final conference report include provisions in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate for the establishment of deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to—

(A) responding to the causes and impacts of climate change, including the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change; and

(B) Department of Defense initiatives to bolster resilience of mission critical department infrastructure to impacts from climate change; and

(2) to recede from the position of the Senate regarding provisions in the concurrent

resolution as agreed to by the Senate for the establishment of deficit-neutral reserve funds that undermine the response to climate change, including prohibitions on the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I send to the desk a motion to instruct conferees. I am offering this motion on behalf of Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to setting aside the pending motion?

Without objection, the clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for Mrs. MURRAY, moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this is a motion to instruct budget conferees to keep in the bill the Senate-passed deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time. This was an amendment which passed during a vote-arama of the Senate by a vote of 61 to 39. So it passed with pretty strong bipartisan support, and I would hope we could pass this language again.

The truth is, at a time when millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages, when our middle class continues to decline, we also have another serious problem in that only 53 percent of workers report having paid sick leave. Well, you know, people get sick. That is a fact of life, and it is unfortunate that only 53 percent of workers report having paid sick leave. This means people are going to work when they are not well. I don't know about you, but I am not enthused about walking into a restaurant where someone who may have the flu or have some other problem is serving food or preparing food. I don't think that is terribly healthy for this country, not to mention that when there are so many contagious illnesses out there, I don't know that we want to have people who are ill and contagious going to work.

So this is a very simple motion and basically reiterates what we had in the first discussion. Again, it won by 61 to 39.

All over this country, States and cities are in the process of enacting paid sick leave legislation, and they are seeing economic benefits from that. They have seen mothers more likely to return to work and higher employment in the leisure, hospitality, education, and health sectors.

So, again, this is the same language Senator MURRAY offered. I strongly support this motion, and I hope my colleagues will vote for it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I send to the desk a motion to instruct conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for Mrs. MURRAY, moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision to build on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and provide sequester relief in 2016 and 2017 by closing tax loopholes.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this motion is being offered on behalf of Senator MURRAY, and it would instruct budget conferees to build on the Bipartisan Budget Act and provide sequester relief in 2016 and 2017 by closing tax loopholes.

As the ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, I rise today to offer a motion to instruct conferees, on behalf of Senator MURRAY, to S. Con. Res. 11, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, to provide 2 years of sequester relief by closing tax loopholes. This is a concept, an idea I very strongly support. Many Members on both sides of the aisle are concerned that Congress will not be able to pass and enact appropriations bills at the sequester levels. The President's fiscal year 2016 budget provides sequester relief. Moreover, the President has indicated he will veto legislation that does not lift the sequester caps.

Discretionary spending has already been cut by \$1.6 trillion, and non-defense discretionary spending is currently on track to be the lowest in 50 years. Nondefense discretionary spending is on track to be the lowest in 50 years.

Instead of continuing to cut non-defense discretionary spending, we

need to increase funding for programs, such as education and infrastructure, that reduce income inequality and that create the millions of jobs we so desperately need. We can fund these investments by looking at wasteful spending in the Tax Code that has allowed major corporations to pay very little, if anything, in Federal income taxes.

Each and every year, we are losing well over \$100 billion in revenue because large, profitable corporations and some of the wealthiest Americans in this country are stashing their profits in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, and other offshore tax havens.

Further, the GAO has reported that the effective tax rate of large, profitable corporations is just 12.6 percent—much lower than the 35-percent statutory rate because of these tax loopholes. That is much lower than what millions of middle-class workers pay to the IRS because of the loopholes written into the Tax Code by corporate lobbyists.

In 1952, 32 percent of all of the revenue generated in this country came from large corporations. Today, that figure is down to just 11 percent. Right now, there are so many loopholes in our Tax Code that it ends up that many large corporations making billions of dollars in profit pay nothing—zero—in corporate taxes to the Federal Government.

As a few examples, General Electric made over \$5.8 billion in profits in the United States last year but paid just nine-tenths of 1 percent of that amount in Federal income taxes. Time Warner made \$4.3 billion in profits and paid nothing in Federal income taxes; in fact, it got a rebate of \$26 million. Xerox made \$628 million in profits in 2014 and paid nothing in Federal income taxes; in fact, it received a tax rebate of \$16 million.

I strongly support this motion which has been introduced by Senator MURRAY to provide sequester relief, particularly for nondefense discretionary programs, and I would hope very much that this motion to instruct will receive wide bipartisan support.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion be set aside so that I may call up my motion, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate, which would substantially increase out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for senior citizens, and not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the House of Representatives, which would end Medicare as it currently exists by turning it into a voucher-based premium support system and eliminate the guaranteed healthcare benefits earned by the people of the United States.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, my motion would instruct conferees to remove from the budget resolution any Medicare cuts that would increase out-of-pocket costs for senior citizens, eliminate guaranteed benefits, or make structural changes to Medicare by turning it into a voucher-based premium support system.

It is incredibly important that something as important as health care for senior citizens and those with disabilities be protected and honored. People are paying into this system. They have paid into this system their whole lives. They have the confidence of knowing that health care is available to them, those now on Medicare, and we need to make sure we are strengthening this health care system, not fundamentally changing it from a guaranteed system to some kind of a voucher system or making other kinds of changes that will cost people more money.

When we began this process, my hope was that we could have a spending plan that really would address the middle class and a budget resolution that would make it very clear that this is about giving every American a fair shot—a fair shot to stay in the middle class or to work hard and get into the middle class—that this is really about strengthening our country. We don't have an economy without a middle class. It is not the other way around. We don't have an economy without a middle class. That is the economic engine.

I was hoping for a budget that would reflect one of our core beliefs—that if you work hard in America, you are going to have a fair shot to be able to get ahead. But that is not what this budget is about. Unfortunately, this budget does not do that. Instead, Republicans have written a budget that continues to rig the system for the wealthy and the well-connected rather than creating opportunity for everybody to make it.

That is really the fundamental fight we have had through this whole budget process. How do we grow the economy? Is it the top down? Do we give to those one more time at the very top and hope that it trickles down and that somehow people who are working hard every

day will actually feel it and have money in their pockets, or do we focus on the middle? Do we focus on those working hard to get into the middle class and create an opportunity to grow from the bottom up, which is the way we know the economies grow?

So I am deeply concerned about the cuts to Medicare in this budget. I am also deeply concerned about the other cuts to health care in this budget. We all wish we could control whether we get sick or whether our children get sick or whether moms and dads get sick, but the reality is that health care is an issue for all of us. It is not a frill; it is a necessity. Medicare has addressed that for seniors and people with disabilities in a way that gives them peace of mind and confidence in a quality medical system.

We just addressed through a bill last night the whole question of making sure that doctors are paid and that they are available to people who are on Medicare. We have another part of the health care system called Medicaid, which is a lifeline to so many Americans who continue to feel the effects of the great recession and are struggling for basic health care needs. In fact, 80 percent of the Medicaid Program spending—80 percent of the dollars—goes to seniors in nursing homes and in some way impacts all of us—friends, neighbors, relatives.

So we are looking at a budget on the Medicaid front—when we combine it all, eliminating the Medicaid expansion and having the other cuts in the budget—of a \$1.2 trillion cut in the Senate budget. The Senate Republican budget cuts Medicaid health care—80 percent of which goes to seniors in nursing homes—by \$1.2 trillion. It is even worse in the House. I worry when we are now looking at going to conference with the House of Representatives, where their combined cut was \$1.7 trillion to Medicaid, of which most of the money goes to low-income seniors in nursing homes. They would then also turn it into a block grant and cut it on top of that, and we don't even know if it would get spent on health care.

Unfortunately, this budget, while not really balancing, is attempting to be balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans in our country, and our seniors are taking a huge hit in this budget. The House cuts all together \$316 billion and moves away from the guaranteed benefit to something that has been called vouchers or premium support or other structures that don't look like Medicare.

In the Senate, all together now, when you add it up and the effects of what was done last night, we are looking at a cut of \$566 billion.

My amendment would stop that \$566 billion cut in Medicare or at least it would instruct—I should clarify that. I wish it would just automatically stop

it, but it would instruct the final conference committee to not move forward on that \$566 billion in Medicare cuts. We are talking about Americans who have worked hard all their lives, and they have earned that health care benefit.

Let me also say that when we think about a budget that would reflect opportunity for everyone to get ahead or one that keeps a system rigged against the average American, we saw vote after vote where, unfortunately, colleagues on the other side of the aisle let opportunities slip away to provide real equal pay for women, equal pay for equal work. Yesterday was the day in which women finally made as much money in 2014 as a man made in 2014. It took the majority of women in this country until yesterday to make the same amount of money. We have an opportunity to fix that. The Republican colleagues said no. We had an opportunity to invest in rebuilding America—roads, bridges, water, sewer systems, crumbling infrastructure. Our distinguished ranking member is a champion on the issue of infrastructure. We had an opportunity to create millions of jobs and Republican colleagues said no. We had an opportunity to invest in education but instead we saw—and we see—a bill that takes away funding for Pell grants that doesn't help millions of Americans who are struggling to pay back college loans.

I just left a group of high school students from Brighton, MI, and the question I received was, What are you doing about the cost of college—and I am worried about the cost of college. I want to do the right thing. I want to go to school. They want to do what we are all asking them to do to get skills so they can compete in a global economy, be responsible adults.

Too many will come out of that college experience with more than enough debt to buy a big house, and then they will not be able to buy the house as they dig themselves out of debt.

We all know that in this bill, the Republican budget, both in the House and Senate, repeals the Affordable Care Act—between 16 million American people, health care gone, on top of all of the cuts to Medicare for senior citizens, senior citizens in nursing homes under Medicaid.

When we had an opportunity to close tax loopholes, I offered again my Bring Jobs Home Act to say a company should not be able to move on paper out of this country and avoid paying their fair share to contribute to the services of America. They still breathe the air. They still drink the water. They still drive on the roads. They still get the educated workforce. But they move on paper, and now they are not a part of those contributing to America. I don't think that is very patriotic, frankly. We had a chance to close that

and instead support the middle class, people working hard, increase their earned-income tax credit, and Republican colleagues said no.

So, unfortunately, we have in front of us a budget that says no to opportunity to the majority of Americans and yes to continued policies that, frankly, have not worked because they are focused on the privileged few.

If I might take just 1 more minute, I want to put my hat on as ranking member, former chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and say also that as a Member of the Budget Committee and the Agriculture Committee, I strongly urge the leadership in the Senate not to accept the reconciliation instruction related to agriculture and to, therefore, open the farm bill, all of the phases of the farm bill that we worked so hard to get passed in a bipartisan basis.

I commend the chairman for not including that reconciliation instruction in the Senate. I very much appreciate that, but the House does. We have Members on both sides of the aisle deeply concerned about reopening what is economic certainty. We have a lot of places that there is not certainty. But in rural America at least we have 5 years of economic certainty through the farm bill, and we have nearly 400 agricultural organizations led by the American Farm Bureau, food groups, conservation groups, nutrition groups that have asked us not to open the farm bill again in this process. I am very hopeful the Senate's position on that will be the position that is maintained.

I offer an amendment that we will be voting on Medicare. I think it will be wonderful if we came together and said no to the cuts in Medicare and that we would show that we understand what is at stake for that program. Also, I hope we will very clearly indicate that we want to stand with rural America and our farmers and make sure they do not have to worry about opening the policies of the farm bill until the 5 years on the farm bill has been completed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I yield such time as the Senator from Nebraska needs to offer two motions. Those will be the last two offered, after which I think both sides are prepared to yield back their time and begin voting on the 13 different votes which we will be asking consent on when she finishes her speech.

I yield time to the Senator from Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending motion and call up my motion, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Which motion does the Senator wish to call up first?

Mrs. FISCHER. Equal pay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mrs. FISCHER] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information, as included in section 356 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending motion and call up my motion, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mrs. FISCHER] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the resolution S. Con. Res. 11 be instructed to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax credits for employers providing paid family and medical leave.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back except for 5 minutes equally divided between the managers and that the Senate vote on the pending motions to instruct in the order listed, with 2 minutes equally divided in the usual form between each vote, and that all votes after the first in the series be limited to 10 minutes: No. 1 would be Brown on Wall Street banks; No. 2 would be Sanders, postal plant closures; No. 3 would be Burr, student loans; No. 4 would be Warren, student loans; No. 5 would be Sanders, Social Security; No. 6 would be Schatz, same-sex marriage benefits; No. 7 would be Bennet, climate change; No. 8 would be Fischer, side-by-side to Mikulski; No. 9, Mikulski, equal pay for equal work; No. 10, Fischer, side-by-side to Murray; No. 11, Murray, paid sick leave; No. 12, Murray, eliminate sequestration; and No. 13, Stabenow, Medicare cuts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as I have indicated on many occasions, I think this Republican budget is, frankly, a disaster. It causes severe harm for some of the most vulnerable people in this country. It throws 27 million people off of health insurance. It forces elderly people to pay more for prescription drugs. It cuts \$90 billion in mandatory Pell grants at a time when young people are struggling to be able to afford to go to college. Pell grants are one of the significant ways that they are able to go to college; \$90 billion is cut. It cuts Head Start significantly, such that 110,000 fewer young children will be able to enroll in Head Start. It cuts title I education program money directed to schools with low-income kids, the schools who need help the most.

At a time when so many of our families are struggling to put food on the table, this budget cuts nutrition programs, including the WIC Program, by \$10 billion. That is the nutrition program that goes to pregnant women, mothers, and infants. It makes other massive cuts in nutrition. It makes cuts in affordable housing. It makes cuts in job training.

Now, in the midst of all of this, what it does also, unbelievably, while wreaking havoc on the lives of millions of working families, it decides that we can afford to give huge tax breaks to the very, very, very wealthiest—the top two-tenths of 1 percent—by abolishing the estate tax which would provide \$263 billion in tax breaks for the wealthiest two-tenths of 1 percent of the American people. But then, after giving huge tax breaks to the very, very, very rich, what it does is raise taxes for low-income and working-class families by increasing taxes by \$900 apiece for more than 13 million families by allowing the expansion of the earned-income tax credit and the child tax credit to expire.

So massive cuts in health care, education, and nutrition for working families; huge tax breaks—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for one more minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. As I was saying, huge tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires and then increased taxes for low-income and working people. This is moving the country in exactly the wrong direction.

Today, our side of the aisle brought forth 10 separate motions to instruct, which, if passed, would make this budget a much better document, and I hope very much that both sides of the aisle will support these motions.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the ranking member for his cooperation to date and look forward to working with him on the conference committee, along with the Members of the House, both the Republicans and the Democrats. The purpose of that is to make this is a better budget bill.

I will reiterate that I had about 4 weeks to put it together and 4 months to get it done. We have not done one in 8 years, so it was quite a challenge. We are getting closer now, and today we will have an opportunity to voice some concerns. I am glad we are at this point. I look forward to working with the conferees.

I yield back any time.

#### BROWN MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Ohio related to Wall Street banks.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this motion is being offered by Senator BROWN of Ohio. Our big banks are too big. The largest banks are now 38 percent larger than they were before the crisis. In terms of outstanding loans, one out of seven Americans is being pursued by a debt collector. U.S. banks are so big that the six largest financial institutions in this country today have assets of roughly \$9.8 trillion, which is equivalent to 60 percent of the Nation's GDP.

Being big and powerful is good for the banks and bad for this country. For example, Bloomberg says the too-big-to-fail subsidy is massive. By being big, they get huge subsidies. It amounts to \$83 billion a year, and that is why I support this provision to stop too big to fail.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this bill is cosponsored by Senator VITTER from our side. If a big bank fails under the Senator's reform, there is nothing that protects the taxpayers from having to save the bank. In other words, this approach does not do what many experts believe is needed, which is to expand the bankruptcy laws to permit an orderly disposition to failed banks without taxpayer bailouts.

I will note that the specific policies listed are all authorities that exist today in various financial regulatory agencies, and I believe all Senators support the goal of eliminating the risk of taxpayer bailouts.

Having said that, I ask that all the Republicans support this motion and offer to take it on a voice vote.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.



The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Leg.]

#### YEAS—86

Ayotte	Gardner	Murphy
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Barrasso	Graham	Nelson
Bennet	Grassley	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Perdue
Blunt	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Heller	Portman
Boozman	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Cantwell	Isakson	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sanders
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Kirk	Scott
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sessions
Cochran	Lankford	Shaheen
Collins	Leahy	Shelby
Coons	Lee	Stabenow
Corker	Manchin	Sullivan
Cornyn	Markey	Tester
Daines	McCain	Thune
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Warren
Ernst	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

#### NAYS—11

Alexander	Crapo	Sasse
Burr	Flake	Tillis
Coats	Hatch	Toomey
Cotton	Risch	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Reid	Vitter
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The motion was agreed to.

#### SANDERS MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion to instruct offered by the Senator from Vermont relative to postal plant closures.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, in the State of Vermont and I expect all over this country, especially in rural areas, what we have seen is a significant slowdown in mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. What this provision is about is the establishment of a deficit-neutral reserve fund which establishes a moratorium to prevent the shutting down of up to 82 mail processing plants all across this country. It is asking that we reinstate overnight delivery standards, undo what the Postal Service has done, that we protect rural services, and that we allow the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age.

The basic financial problems of the Postal Service are that they have to pay \$5.5 billion every year in retirement benefits. That program already has \$50 billion in its account. Do away with that, and the Postal Service will make a modest profit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is a huge concern, particularly in rural America, about the closing down of the processing centers in States. Our State no longer has a processing center. It takes at least an extra day to get the mail.

So I would urge my colleagues to accept this motion, and I would ask if the sponsor would take it by voice vote.

Mr. SANDERS. I have to call for a rollcall vote on this one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Leg.]

#### YEAS—85

Alexander	Franken	Murphy
Ayotte	Gardner	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Risch
Booker	Heitkamp	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Crapo	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Ernst	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Moran	
Fischer	Murkowski	

#### NAYS—11

Cassidy	Kirk	Rubio
Coats	Lee	Tillis
Corker	Paul	Toomey
Flake	Perdue	

#### NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Reid
Cruz	Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

#### BURR MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion to instruct by the Senator from North Carolina relative to student loans.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to offer a motion to instruct conferees that would insist that the final conference report on the budget include a provision to address student loans. This very simple motion to instruct tracks the amendment introduced by me and Senators KING, WARNER, and ALEXANDER that was included in the budget resolution by a voice vote.

The Senate has already demonstrated its support by unanimously passing this under a voice vote.

I yield to my cosponsor, Senator KING.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment. This simply simplifies the repayment options for students under the present student loan program, which is, frankly, very confusing—up to nine different programs with confusing names and confusing terms. This boils it down to two simple ones: a fixed repayment schedule or a variable schedule based upon income. I should mention that I see this as an important stand-alone provision.

I am also going to support Senator WARREN's amendment on refinancing student loans.

I believe this is an important amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 148 Leg.]

#### YEAS—97

Alexander	Franken	Nelson
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	
Flake	Murray	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Vitter
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The motion was agreed to.

#### WARREN MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Massachusetts relative to student loans.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I support simplifying student loans—the motion that just passed 97 to 0—and I commend Senators KING and BURR, but it is not enough. We need to cut the interest rate on student loans. The Federal Government should not be making a profit off the backs of our kids who are trying to get an education.

This bill is paid for by asking millionaires and billionaires to pay taxes at the same rate as middle-class families.

This is a bill which really puts it to the Senate. Are we here to work just for the millionaires and billionaires or are we here to work for young people who are trying to get an education? This Senate works all the time for billionaires. Today, I hope we can make it work for our students.

I urge adoption of this motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Warren motion. What the Senator wants to do is to create yet another repayment program, which ultimately ends up costing students more than the income-based repayment. She puts hundreds of

billions of private debt on the Federal books and pretends the cost is free. Rather than fixing the maze of repayment programs, she adds to it with a new program that is ultimately less generous than the existing program. Whereas the Federal Government income-based repayment program and other related loan repayment programs will cap payments as a percentage of an individual's income, Senator WARREN's legislation would only lower the interest rate on those payments, potentially steering students into higher monthly payments than they face in those other programs. So I urge my colleagues to oppose the Warren motion.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Ms. WARREN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Leg.]

#### YEAS—45

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Manchin	Shaheen
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	McCaskill	Tester
Donnelly	Menendez	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

#### NAYS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Vitter
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The motion was rejected.

#### SANDERS MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Vermont relative to Social Security.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, Social Security is arguably the most important Federal program we have. It is life and death to millions of senior citizens, people who have to figure out how they pay for food, how they heat their homes, how they pay for their medicine. Social Security is not going broke. It could pay out all benefits for the next 18 years.

What this provision does is make it clear that we go on record to not cut Social Security benefits, not raise the retirement age, not privatize Social Security. Let's stand with the seniors of this country. Let us protect Social Security, not cut it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, under the budget rules we can't do anything to Social Security. So this doesn't provide permission or denial of anything that we can do at the present time. We cannot touch Social Security under the budget.

So I ask for the Senator to take a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Leg.]

#### YEAS—84

Alexander	Corker	Hirono
Ayotte	Cornyn	Hoeven
Baldwin	Cotton	Isakson
Barrasso	Crapo	Kaine
Bennet	Daines	King
Blumenthal	Donnelly	Kirk
Blunt	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Enzi	Leahy
Boozman	Ernst	Manchin
Brown	Feinstein	Markey
Burr	Fischer	McCain
Cantwell	Franken	McCaskill
Capito	Gardner	Menendez
Cardin	Gillibrand	Merkley
Carper	Graham	Mikulski
Casey	Grassley	Moran
Cassidy	Heinrich	Murkowski
Collins	Heitkamp	Murphy
Coons	Heller	Murray

Nelson	Rubio	Thune
Paul	Sanders	Tillis
Peters	Schatz	Toomey
Portman	Schumer	Udall
Reed	Shaheen	Warner
Risch	Shelby	Warren
Roberts	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Rounds	Sullivan	Wicker
	Tester	Wyden

## NAYS—13

Coats	Johnson	Sasse
Cochran	Lankford	Scott
Flake	Lee	Sessions
Hatch	McConnell	
Inhofe	Perdue	

## NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Vitter
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The motion was agreed to.

## SCHATZ MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Hawaii relative to same-sex marriage benefits.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on this motion, I think we are willing to yield back all time and accept it on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that had the vote on the Schatz motion to instruct conferees been conducted by a rollcall vote, I would have voted nay.

## BENNET MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Colorado relative to climate change.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to offer a very simple motion to instruct the conferees to address the economic and national security threats posed by climate change. During our consideration of the budget, I offered an amendment that outlined these threats and highlighted the need to act. That amendment passed the Senate by a 53-to-47 vote. It was supported by both Republicans and Democrats. The same language should be included in the final budget conference.

During the markup, the Budget Committee adopted a complementary amendment which discussed the importance of climate change initiatives in the Department of Defense. The language should be included in the final budget resolution.

Let's make it clear that the Congress plans to respond to the serious economic and national security threats posed by climate change.

I urge a "yes" vote on this motion to instruct.

I yield the floor, and I ask for a voice vote.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we are willing to accept it on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the motion?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## FISCHER MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Nebraska relative to equal pay.

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, this motion takes an important step forward by providing necessary updates to current law regarding nonretaliation. The change was supported on a bipartisan during our recent budget debate.

This motion reinforces current law by banning gender discrimination under both the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Contrary to the claims of some, both of these laws enable women to sue for discrimination.

Furthermore, my motion contains language similar to President Obama's April 2014 Executive order stating that employees cannot be punished for exercising their First Amendment rights by speaking with employers or coworkers about their wages.

I cannot support the motion of the Senator from Maryland. It removes merit pay, which I believe provides women with opportunities to advance in their careers, and merit pay recognizes a woman's hard work and her contributions. It also eliminates any liability cap under the motion of the Senator from Maryland, which I believe benefits only attorneys and not families. For the first time we are able to do this.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Leg.]

## YEAS—57

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Cochran	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott
Corker	Kaine	Sessions
Cornyn	King	Shelby
Cotton	Kirk	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Donnelly	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McCaIn	Warner
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker

## NAYS—40

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Tester
Casey	Merkley	Udall
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Peters	

## NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Vitter
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The motion was agreed to.

## MIKULSKI MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Maryland related to equal pay.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I have an alternative and far more comprehensive approach than the Senator from Nebraska just offered. Although I respect her and her advocacy for women, the Mikulski amendment in the well would really finish the job we started with Lilly Ledbetter. Yes, it would deal with the issue of harassment on the job if one asks for information, which the Fischer amendment only dealt with. My amendment would go several steps further. No. 2, it would provide punitive damages for women who have been wrongly denied equal pay for several years. No. 3, it also eliminates the false reasons people give for not paying equal pay for equal work.

The Mikulski amendment is more comprehensive, more robust, and will really finish the job and close the loopholes big corporations have had for years. So if my colleagues like the Fischer amendment, they will be crazy about the Mikulski amendment. Go all the way, not just part of the way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does anyone wish to speak in opposition?

Mr. ENZI. We yield back our time, and we will take a voice vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 152 Leg.]

#### YEAS—44

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Manchin	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	

#### NAYS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Vitter
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The motion was rejected.

FISCHER MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Nebraska relative to paid sick leave.

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. President.

Workplace flexibility is a necessity for our 21st-century families, and Senator KING and I have come up with a proposal that I think really addresses this in a way that is voluntary and incentivizes businesses to truly help families, help those hourly workers meet the needs they are facing in this workplace environment and in their family environments.

I yield the rest of my time to Senator KING.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment and in support of the United States finally joining the civilized nations of the world in providing for family leave for our citizens. I know this amendment doesn't go as far as some would like, but I believe it is very credible, enforceable legislation that can move forward and really change the lives of thousands and millions of people across this country.

I commend the Senator from Nebraska for bringing this amendment forward, and I intend to support it and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, if all time is yielded back, we would be willing to take a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MURRAY MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Washington relative to paid sick leave.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

Congress, we have to vote on an economy that works for all of our families, not just the wealthiest few. Today, 43 million Americans do not have access to paid sick days, and when they are sick, they have to choose between losing money out of their paycheck or toughing it out and showing up to work.

I was delighted that during our budget debate, a bipartisan majority—61 Senators strong—agreed that Congress should allow workers to earn paid sick days. The amendment that just passed is voluntary. It would only benefit a select number of people who work for employers who already do the right thing.

This amendment will make sure that we boost worker productivity and reduce turnover, which are benefits to both employers and employees. I urge my colleagues to vote for this in a strong vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we would be willing to accept this on a voice vote, and we yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MURRAY MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2

minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Washington relating to sequestration elimination.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, Democrats and Republicans agree that the automatic spending cuts across defense and nondefense investments are terrible policy and need to be fixed. The bipartisan Budget Act we passed last Congress did exactly that for the past 2 years and offered us a template for how we can tackle this challenge in a bipartisan way, once again.

We do not need to rely on gimmicks in this budget or the hopes that we will somehow solve this later. We can fix this now in this conference. I urge my colleagues to support this vote instructing the conferees to roll back sequestration, allow the Appropriations Committee to do their work and not kick this can down the road for all of us to address later.

I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is a difference between how it got voted through last year, which was actually an appropriation rather than a budget. This does raise taxes in order to overcome the sequestration. So I am urging a "no" vote. We have agreed to have a voice vote on this one.

We yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was rejected.

STABENOW MOTION TO INSTRUCT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the motion offered by the Senator from Michigan relating to Medicare cuts.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, my motion would instruct conferees to remove from the final budget resolution any Medicare cuts that would increase out-of-pocket costs for senior citizens, eliminating guaranteed benefits or making structural changes to Medicare by turning it into a voucher-based system or premium support system.

I think one of our greatest concerns in this budget, among many, is the fact that when you add it all up, there are \$566 billion in Medicare cuts in this Senate resolution. Shockingly, it is more than even the House cuts. I would urge that we stand with people who pay into a health care system that works. They have earned those benefits. They are counting on those benefits.

Seniors and people with disabilities across the country need to know Medicare is an intact, guaranteed health care system for them.

I urge support for my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am going to urge my colleagues to reject this

motion to instruct. I credit Senator STABENOW's instincts to approach the question of Medicare seriously. I am sure she knows we all take Medicare's future seriously. There are some problems with Medicare that need to be solved.

The budget shows Medicare's rate of growth for an average annual rate of 6.4 to 5.5 percent over the next 10 years. Why does the budget resolution adopt these numbers? Because Republicans and the President agree we must act on policies which extend the life of the Medicare trust fund.

The budget does this by adopting the President's goal of extending the life of Medicare's hospital insurance trust fund by at least 5 years. According to the Medicare trustees themselves, the hospital insurance fund could be insolvent as early as 2021, just 6 years from now.

Independent actuaries at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid report that over the next 75 years, the Federal Government has promised more than \$35 trillion in Medicare benefits. So Republicans joined with the President in looking to extend the life of the hospital insurance trust fund and make the Medicare program sustainable.

So I ask that you reject this motion to instruct.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, if I might take just 1 more moment, I do not think I used all my time.

I just want to say for the record, the President of the United States is not supporting \$566 billion in cuts to Medicare.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Leg.]

#### YEAS—45

Baldwin	Durbin	Manchin
Bennet	Feinstein	Markey
Blumenthal	Franken	McCaskill
Booker	Gillibrand	Menendez
Brown	Heinrich	Merkley
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Mikulski
Cardin	Hirono	Murphy
Carper	Kaine	Murray
Casey	King	Nelson
Coons	Klobuchar	Peters
Donnelly	Leahy	Reed

Reid  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer

Shaheen  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall

Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NAYS—52

Alexander  
Ayotte  
Barrasso  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Coats  
Cochran  
Collins  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Daines  
Enzi  
Ernst

Fischer  
Flake  
Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hatch  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Kirk  
Lankford  
Lee  
McCain  
McConnell  
Moran  
Murkowski

Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Sessions  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—3

Boxer

Cruz

Vitter

The motion was rejected.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. KING conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the world famous Kilgore College Rangerettes on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

In an effort to increase female enrollment and to keep fans in their seats during halftime at football games, Kilgore College Dean of Students B.E. Masters invited Gussie Nell Davis to create an all-women's precision dance-and-drill team. On September 19, 1940, the Rangerettes performed their first halftime show during a Kilgore College football game.

With their signature Western-styled red, white, and blue uniforms and cowboy hats, the Kilgore College Rangerettes brought show business to the football field. Their precise and graceful performances captured the hearts of the fans and pioneered a brandnew type of halftime show.

The Rangerettes have attained national and international recognition.

Dubbed "The Sweethearts of the Grid-iron," the Rangerettes travel across the country performing at high-profile events, including every Cotton Bowl halftime show since 1951, the 60th Pearl Harbor Memorial Commemoration, Presidential inaugural events, and multiple Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades. Their fame and prestige have spread across the globe with performances in Venezuela, the millennial St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ireland, and a 15-day tour of Romania.

The Rangerettes' achievements and honors have been highlighted in cover stories in magazines including Life, Newsweek, Esquire, Texas Monthly, and Texas 24/7. Additionally, they were featured in the Cinerama movie "The Seven Wonders of the World." Today, they continue to set training and performance standards to which other drill teams aspire.

I am honored to congratulate the Kilgore College Rangerettes on their 75th anniversary and look forward to their continued tradition of excellence as they perform across Texas, the United States, and the world.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Loretta Lynch's nomination to be Attorney General has languished on the Senate floor for 48 days. This unnecessary wait time is twice as long as the last seven Attorney General nominees combined. Under any standard, she is not being treated fairly. For nearly 7 weeks, she has waited for her confirmation vote to be scheduled by the majority leader. She has now earned the support to be confirmed, and if the leader would simply schedule her vote, this eminently qualified prosecutor could get to work as our next Attorney General.

Last month, after Ms. Lynch's nomination had already been pending on the floor for weeks, the majority leader inexplicably chose to hold her nomination hostage until he got his way on a partisan provision in unrelated legislation. That Loretta Lynch is being denied a confirmation vote over human trafficking legislation is a cruel irony since she has a proven record of prosecuting child rapists and human traffickers. If Members want a prosecutor with a deep commitment to fighting human trafficking, then they should support Loretta Lynch.

The American people deserve to know that while the majority leader said he would block a confirmation vote on Ms. Lynch until we passed unrelated legislation, the Senate has voted 74 times on other matters. If the Senate can vote on a Republican budget, legislation to increase payments to doctors, and on the confirmation of several other nominees, then of course we can and should vote on the nomination of our Nation's next chief law enforcement officer. There is simply no excuse.

Every additional day that Ms. Lynch's nomination languishes on the floor is another day Senate Republicans fail to govern responsibly. This Congress, it took more than 3 months for Senate Republicans to schedule a vote on a single judicial nominee. And even though the Senate finally did confirm a district court nominee this week, nine more judicial nominees are waiting to be considered. This is no way to respect the dedicated public servants who have been nominated and no way to treat our coequal branches of government.

The Republican leader has the opportunity to show the American people what we can do when we work together. He should call Loretta Lynch's nomination up for a vote without further delay.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JOB CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator KING in recognizing the Job Corps program on its 50th anniversary. Job Corps helps at-risk young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. On August 30, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation creating Job Corps. Today, one-half century later, generations of graduates in Maine and across America demonstrate why Job Corps has been one of our Nation's best investments.

Since its founding, more than 2.7 million young people have entered the Job Corps program with the determination to succeed and have graduated with the confidence and the skills to do so. The success rate is extraordinary. Nearly 86 percent of Job Corps graduates find employment in their fields, go on to higher education or serve our country in uniform. Job Corps students do not just learn a trade—they cultivate high aspirations and a commitment to service.

As I travel throughout Maine, I have extensive conversations with small business owners and workers about the challenges they face. While there is no doubt that our Nation's unemployment rate remains unacceptably high, I have met with employers in Maine who have jobs available but who cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions.

With two centers in Maine, Job Corps not only helps young people in our State gain the skills that lead to rewarding careers, but it also improves their lives, assists employers, and strengthens communities. The Penobscot Job Corps Academy in Bangor, ME, and the Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone, ME, have the capability

to serve nearly 800 at-risk youth on a daily basis. Over the past several decades, these two centers have compiled an impressive record of success in preparing disadvantaged youth for the workplace or higher education.

The combination of skills, self-confidence, and determination Job Corps offers can help young people overcome the setbacks, obstacles, and failures that often are part of life. The focus on community service at both centers helps to create the involved citizens that are so important to Maine's future. These centers put these young men and women on a path to being successful and vital contributing members of our country.

Job Corps was founded on the noble idea that, if given the opportunity, the support, and the training, America's young people could overcome any obstacles and achieve. For 50 years, Job Corps graduates have turned that idea into reality. I congratulate Job Corps again on this accomplishment.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I join the senior Senator from Maine in congratulating Job Corps on 50 years of service to our country's youth. Across the Nation, Job Corps provides training and career skills to economically disadvantaged young adults, helping them attain a high school diploma or equivalent and career technical training to prepare them for success in today's job market. This program is extremely important, giving young people who need a second chance the opportunity to forge a better career for themselves through hard work and meaningful study.

The Penobscot Job Corps Center in Bangor, ME, and the Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone, ME, have consistently proven to be outstanding assets to our State, helping young Mainers prepare to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education every year. Through a combination of unique learning experiences, these institutions are helping the next generation of Maine students work towards stable, long-term jobs.

In October of 2013 I was proud to congratulate the Penobscot Job Corps Academy for its certification as a Center of Environmental Excellence. This distinction recognizes Job Corps campuses that show leadership in implementing Job Corps' guiding principles for high performance green buildings. At the time, the Penobscot Job Corps was one of only two centers in the country to receive this distinction.

This initiative prompted Job Corps facilities across the United States to not only reduce their environmental impact, but to also teach their students to live and work sustainably. The skills and knowledge that students receive from this program will surely help them compete in an increasingly environmentally focused labor market.

Job Corps centers are an important facet of our workforce development

system and have a proven record of success in preparing disadvantaged students to obtain and hold a job or pursue opportunities in higher education. I wish Job Corps another 50 years of success, and I am proud of the many young people in Maine and across the country who have used this program to make a better life for themselves.

The contributions of Maine's Job Corps centers simply cannot be overstated, and I look forward to watching their continued development.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### GREELEY HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this year marks 70 years since the spring of 1945, when Allied forces liberated concentration camps, a major milestone in the end of the Holocaust.

For more than 30 years, the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances has helped raise awareness of the atrocities of Nazi crimes and the perils of anti-Semitism, hatred, and intolerance. This month, the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances will continue its longstanding tradition of remembering the victims of the Holocaust, commemorating the end of this horrific part of our history, and educating Coloradans about the importance of the Holocaust with discussions, films, exhibits, and workshops. This year's events will include presentations by Holocaust survivor Nathan Taffel.

It is my pleasure to commend the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances Committee for their dedicated service to this critical cause and to congratulate the Committee on its 32nd Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances, 70 years after the end of the Holocaust.●

##### RECOGNIZING EDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the heroic first responders of Edgewater, NJ, and surrounding communities, who successfully extinguished one of the largest fires in the history of Bergen County. On Wednesday, January 21, 2015, a massive fire destroyed an apartment building and displaced over 1,000 Borough residents, leaving many homeless during the bitter mid-winter months.

At 4:20 p.m. that day, smoke billowed along the western skyline of the Hudson River as Edgewater first responders rushed to the scene of a 7-alarm fire. Mayor Michael McPartland declared a local state of emergency, and the Edgewater Fire Department fought to control the blaze, which ultimately destroyed 240 of the 408 apartments in the complex. While civilians and first responders reported no serious injuries,

hundreds of residents lost their homes, pets, and possessions. Were it not for the quick response of Edgewater's dedicated first responders, there could easily have been loss of life, and property damage would have been far greater.

By the end of the event, 35 departments and agencies from across the region had responded to the call for help. Over 500 police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other emergency personnel were on the scene, many of whom stayed until 7 a.m. the next morning. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor some of these brave individuals for their fearless service to our community:

Chief of Police William Skidmore, head of the 27-member Edgewater police force, who made sure his officers secured the fire perimeter and controlled crowds, ensuring that both emergency personnel and residents remained at a safe distance.

Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Christiansen, who worked closely with Chief Skidmore to lead coordination efforts among the many county, State, and Federal emergency services that responded to the fire.

Fire Chief Tom Jacobson, who managed the overall firefighting response and coordinated 250 firefighters, 2 fireboats from the Fire Department of the City of New York, 2 Jersey City marine units, and 1 New Jersey State Police boat in fighting the blaze.

First Aid Squad Captain Kathy Frato, who led her team of EMTs in assisting residents and those firefighters who continued to battle the fire into the morning hours.

The firefighters of the Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department, who worked through the night to battle this massive blaze.

All of the first responders of the Edgewater Fire Department, Police Department, and First Aid Squad, in addition to the first responders from the 35 assisting municipalities, who helped to protect life and property. Their courage and commitment to their community is an example to all, and I could not be more grateful for their service.●

#### CONGRATULATING JOE VENTO

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Grammy Award-winning musician Joe Vento on receiving the Century Award, an accolade well deserved in recognition of his many sacrifices. Mr. Vento has served both this great Nation and the city of Las Vegas throughout his life and is a true inspiration for all Nevadans.

Mr. Vento's passion for music began at an early age and had him playing the piano and accordion in New York by age 4. He later used his talents in a different setting, bringing the joy of music to those around him in time of war. Mr. Vento was in the U.S. Army

Band near the end of World War II and served in World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam. He received a battlefield commission of three stars from Marine Commandant Lew Walt during his time in Vietnam at a special concert for U.S. troops. Mr. Vento not only deserves recognition for his bravery in serving our country but also for his determination in providing entertainment for those courageously fighting for our freedom alongside him. His actions prove his selflessness and compassion for others.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women who lay down their lives for our freedoms. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Vento for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Vento's service to others did not end on the battlefield. He spent the next 70 years bringing incredible music to the city of Las Vegas. In the 1950s, he began performing with the Three Sons and remained with the group for 27 years. He made numerous appearances on prestigious shows, appeared in command performances at the White House and Imperial Palaces in Tokyo and Beijing, and conducted performances with Victor Borge, Nelson Eddy, and the Veteran Tonight Show Big Band. He also performed at the Paris hotel in Las Vegas. Most recently, Mr. Vento has lent his musical talent to the Royal Resort just off the strip. Mr. Vento's unwavering commitment to the Las Vegas community will never be forgotten. His music will be legend for years to come.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Mr. Vento on his award and in recognizing his years of service to both the United States of America and the Las Vegas community. I wish him the best of luck in all of his musical years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM KAPOURALES

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a dear friend, a dedicated public servant and a passionate West Virginia leader, Sam Kapourales, who is celebrating his 80th birthday on April 19, 2015. After proudly knowing Sam and his lovely wife Dee for more than four decades, it is a special privilege to celebrate Sam's vast achieve-

ments and his many years of steadfast service to Mingo County, to West Virginia, and to our Nation.

I have never met anyone more humble, community-minded and family-oriented than Sam. Throughout his 80 years, and still today, Sam has always answered the call of service. At every turn of the road—whether as the mayor of Williamson in Mingo County for nearly 21 years, as the prosperous business owner of Kapourales Properties, as a successful pharmacist or as an invaluable member of countless boards and organizations that focused on helping others and impacting our local communities—Sam has never lost touch with his faith, his family and those in need.

As a devout Mason, Sam has led a life devoted to personal reflection, self-improvement and social betterment. He is a pure, true-blue West Virginian who has shown time after time that he loves his State and the people of West Virginia through his actions of service and philanthropy. For instance, Sam served as president of the Childhood Language Center in Charleston, where children with speech impediments could receive necessary treatments and services.

He also helped recruit much-needed medical services and physicians to the Tug Valley region as a sponsor of the Tug Valley Area Ambulance Service. And as proud Shriner and member of the Beni Kedem Temple in Charleston, even serving a term as Potentate—a true honor indeed—Sam helped raise funds to transport disabled, burnt or sick children to regional medical facilities. Sam and Dee even started a scholarship to provide additional educational opportunities for graduating seniors at Mingo Central High School.

Yet Sam's tireless community efforts do not even begin to stop there. Throughout the years, Sam served as a member on the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, the West Virginia Health Care Authority Board, and the West Virginia Housing Development Authority Board. He was Director of the First National Bank of Williamson, the First Bank of Charleston, the Summit State Bank, and the Energy Services of America Corporation. He also chaired the advisory board of Southern West Virginia Community College of Nursing.

Because of his passion, discipline, and staunch work ethic, it is no surprise that Sam has been recognized for his community efforts multiple times throughout the years. Yet to Sam, he says that the greatest of honors bestowed upon him is being a recipient of the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite, which is only granted for exceptional service to Freemasonry. His entire life, I never knew Sam to turn down participating in worthwhile cause or helping a neighbor in need. And I truly think that dedication stems from that of Sam's mission as a heartfelt Mason.

Sam's unwavering dedication to Mingo County and the Mountain State, accompanied by his innovative vision, inspirational spirit, and savvy aptitude, have helped countless West Virginians throughout the years. His loyalty, trustworthiness, and dedication know no bounds. So today, I join his wife Dee his two wonderful daughters, Stephie-Anna and Susanna, and all West Virginians in wishing Sam Kapourales a very happy birthday. I look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with my dear friend for years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, with an amendment.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. MOORE as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 12:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 650. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

H.R. 685. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 650. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 685. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1152. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9923-82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1153. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiram; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9924-86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1154. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9924-60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1155. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-methylpropyl ester; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9924-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1156. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)" (FRL No. 9924-40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1157. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1C IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1158. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1A FIR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1159. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops—Import Regulations; Changes to Reporting Requirements to Add Electronic Form Filing Options" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0093; FV15-944/980/999-1 IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1160. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Residual Interest Deadline for Futures Commission Merchants" (RIN3038-AE22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1161. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on the Impact of the Homeland Security Act on Immigration Functions Transferred to the Department of Homeland Security"; to the Committees on the Judiciary; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1162. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1163. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-147); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1164. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-140); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1165. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-121); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.



EC-1166. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0029-2015-0031); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1167. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six months ending June 30, 2014"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1168. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan for the period of June 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1169. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1170. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Salvatore A. Angelella, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1171. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Thomas W. Travis, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1172. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1173. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) for the Unitary and Baseline/BLU-108 variants of the Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1174. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2015 Annual Report to Congress on the Department of Defense Chemical and Biological Defense Program"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1175. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1176. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order

13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1177. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of Section 235 Home Ownership Program Regulations" (Docket No. FR-5829-F-01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1178. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2014 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1179. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1180. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporate Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Regulation A" (RIN3235-AL39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1181. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1182. A communication from the Executive Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2014 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1183. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2014 management reports; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1184. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1185. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Support Documents Requirements for License Applications Under the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AG00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1186. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Beyond Traffic 2045: Trends and Choices"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1187. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Commerce, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1188. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD813) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1189. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish" (RIN0648-XD587) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1190. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Final Rule" (RIN0648-XD516) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1191. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olympia Coast National Marine Sanctuary Regulations; Correction" (RIN0648-BE48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1192. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, and Regulatory Changes; Final Rule" (RIN0648-BD18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1193. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Regulations on Introduced Species" (RIN0648-BC26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1194. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund; Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime" ((RIN3060-AG49) (DA 15-249)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1195. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Jig Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1196. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 53rd Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1197. A communication from the Deputy Chief Management Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1198. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food and Drug Administration Regulations; Change of Addresses; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1199. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1200. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee; Anti-Infective Drugs Advisory Committee" (Docket No. FDA-2009-N-0443) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1201. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Regulation: Removal of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act Implementing Regulations" (45 CFR Part 1340) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1202. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1203. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands" (RIN1004-AE26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1204. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation: Technical and Administrative Changes to Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation" (RIN1991-AC07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1205. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1206. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency Energy, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1207. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1208. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1209. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1210. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1211. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1212. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of En-

ergy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1213. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1214. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1215. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1216. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management), Department of Energy, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1217. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Demand and Energy Data Reliability Standard" (RIN1902-0261) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1218. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Annual Determination to Implement the Sea Turtle Observer Requirement" (RIN0648-BE35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1219. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Northern Long-eared Bat with 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BY98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1220. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP);

Amending the NCP for Public Notices for Specified Superfund Activities” ((RIN2050-AG76) (FRL No. 9924-66-OSWER)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1221. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination of Attainment of the 1-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard in the Southeast Desert Nonattainment Area in California” (FRL No. 9925-32-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1222. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Cellulosic Waiver Credit Price and Minor Amendments to Renewable Fuel Standard Regulations” ((RIN2060-AS48) (FRL No. 9924-71-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1223. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Tribal Implementation Plan and Designation of Air Quality Planning Area; Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians” (FRL No. 9924-45-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1224. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Public Participation for Air Quality Permit Applications” (FRL No. 9925-19-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1225. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Control of Sulfur Emissions from Stationary Boilers” (FRL No. 9925-24-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1226. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; 2014 Iowa State Implementation Plan; Permit Modifications; Muscatine, Iowa” (FRL No. 9925-60-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1227. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9925-53-Region 4) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1228. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Well Production Facilities; Fort Belthold Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation), North Dakota; Correction” (FRL No. 9923-70-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1229. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; State Boards Requirements; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead and Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9925-46-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1230. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Great Falls” (FRL No. 9925-50-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1231. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Billings” (FRL No. 9925-51-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1232. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Revision to Allegheny County Rules; Preconstruction Permit Requirements—Nonattainment New Source Review” (FRL No. 9922-77-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1233. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idaho; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 9925-65-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1234. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applications of Bioassay for Radioiodine” (Regulatory Guide 8.20, Revision 2) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1235. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Withdrawal of Partial Exemption for Certain Chemical Substances” ((RIN2070-AK01) (FRL No. 9924-84)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1236. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “TENNESSEE: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 9924-83-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1237. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 9924-73-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1238. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Priorities List” (FRL No. 9924-32-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1239. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval, Disapproval, and Limited Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits” (FRL No. 9924-49-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1240. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9925-13-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1241. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Plan Approval and Operating Permit Fees” (FRL No. 9925-17-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1242. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air

Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Revisions to Emission Inventory Requirements, and General Provisions" (FRL No. 9925-11-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1243. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Washington Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Revision Approval" (FRL No. 9924-94-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1244. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Tennessee Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Primacy Approval" (FRL No. 9924-92-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1245. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and Revision of the Venting Prohibition for Certain Refrigerant Substitutes" ((RIN2060-AS04) (FRL No. 9922-26-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1246. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List" (FRL No. 9925-52-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1247. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; San Joaquin Valley; Reclassification as Serious Non-attainment for the 1997 PM2.5 Standards" (FRL No. 9925-30-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1248. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho" (FRL No. 9925-77-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1249. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Justice's 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation and Compliance Report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1250. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs,

Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1251. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1252. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Detainees Not Seeking Asylum"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1256. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "H-2B Nonagricultural Temporary Worker Visa and Status"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1257. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on crime victims' rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1258. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Controlled Group Research Credit" ((RIN1545-BL77) (TD 9717)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1259. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System Update Relating to Plans with Automatic Contribution Features" (Rev. Proc. 2015-28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1260. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2015-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1261. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treasury Decision (TD): Amendments to Excepted Benefits" ((RIN1545-BM44) (TD 9714)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1262. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—April 2015" (Rev. Rul. 2015-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1263. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure: United States and Area Median Gross Income Figures" (Rev. Proc. 2015-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1264. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the report of proposed legislation entitled "Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act" or the "GROW AMERICA Act"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1265. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1266. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corrections to Rev. Proc. 2014-59" (Rev. Proc. 2015-24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1267. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 911(d)(4)—2014 Update" (Rev. Proc. 2015-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1268. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2014 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1269. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1270. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1271. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-81; Introduction" (FAC 2005-81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1272. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the District of Columbia Family Court Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1273. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Portland, ME, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area" (RIN3206-AN11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1274. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1275. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2014 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1276. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Peace Corps' fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1277. A communication from the Director, Government Publishing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1278. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Oversight Improvements Must Continue to Ensure Accountability in Use of Public Funds by D.C. Public Charter Schools"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1279. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1280. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1281. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1282. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1283. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report relative to the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-1284. A communication from the Chief of the Regulation Policy, Tracking, and Control Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reimbursement for Caskets and Urns for Burial of Unclaimed Remains in a National Cemetery" (RIN2900-AO99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BURR, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 754, An original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-32).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 940. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to study the feasibility of providing certain taxpayers with an optional, pre-prepared tax return, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 941. A bill to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 942. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 943. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 944. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to prohibit certain waivers and exemptions from emergency preparedness and response and security regulations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 945. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to provide for the expansion of emergency planning zones and the development of plans for dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 946. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 947. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 948. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 949. A bill to provide a taxpayer bill of rights for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 950. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 951. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 952. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 953. A bill to facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 954. A bill to establish procedures regarding the approval of opioid drugs by the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 955. A bill for the relief of Vichai Sae Tung (also known as Chai Chaowasaree); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 956. A bill to clarify the collateral requirement for certain loans under section 7(d) of the Small Business Act, to address assistance to out-of-State small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 957. A bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 958. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for team and joint venture offers for certain contracts; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 959. A bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 960. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 961. A bill to protect information relating to consumers, to require notice of security breaches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 962. A bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. COONS):

S. 963. A bill to require the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to submit a report on small business innovation; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 964. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for consultation with State and local governments, the consideration of State and local concerns, and the approval of post-shutdown decommissioning activities reports by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 965. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 966. A bill to extend the low-interest re-financing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 967. A bill to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly

available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 525

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to reform the Food for Peace Program, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 725

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.



ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 757

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to improve student academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. RES. 116

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 116, a resolution providing for free and fair elections in Burma.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 959. A bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act, which I have introduced with my colleague Senator CANTWELL. Few issues are as important to the American people as the availability of good jobs in our communities. Unemployment in Maine and across the country remains unacceptably high. It is crucial that we continue to improve job training initiatives to help people find jobs in fields with open positions.

Many business owners in Maine have told me that they have jobs available, but they cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions. One way for employees to acquire the skills needed to succeed in these in-demand fields is through apprenticeship programs. Apprentices gain hands-on experience that is invaluable to employers and can help workers secure a well-paying job.

According to the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, more than 44,000 participants graduated from the apprenticeship system in fiscal year 2014. In Maine, there were almost 700 registered apprentices. That number, however, is likely insufficient to meet tomorrow's needs. One manufacturer in Maine esti-

mates that nearly 2.7 million manufacturing employees are expected to retire in the next decade. We must do all we can to ensure that an adequate pool of skilled workers is available to fill these well-paying jobs.

Our bill helps achieve this goal by giving tax credits to businesses that hire apprentices. To ensure that workers are given adequate time to prove their value, the apprentice must be employed for seven months in order for a business to claim the credit. Our bill also provides incentives for experienced workers who spend at least 20 percent of their time passing their hard-earned knowledge on to the next generation. These workers would be allowed to receive some retirement income early, without facing tax penalties. Finally, our bill ensures that the brave men and women who defend our country are given credit for the skills they learn while serving. Training received while serving in the Armed Forces would count toward an apprentice's training requirement.

This bill would help better align the needs of our Nation's employers with potential employees to promote hiring and the creation of new jobs. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I am pleased to join Senator CANTWELL in introducing it.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 962. A bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Equity in Law Enforcement Act to extend Federal benefits to law enforcement officers who serve at private institutions of higher education and rail carriers. Through this legislation, these individuals would be eligible for many of the same benefits provided to public law enforcement officers, including line-of-duty death benefits and access to federal grant opportunities through the Department of Justice's Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant and Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, JAG, programs.

In 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits PSOB program was enacted to aid in the recruitment and retention of public safety officers. Recognizing the danger that law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders face while serving in our communities, the PSOB provides a one-time financial benefit to survivors of officers who die as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Although the officers protecting our private universities and railways face the same risks, they are currently not



included in the PSOB program These brave individuals protect our communities every day, enforce the law within their jurisdiction, and receive similar training to their government counterparts. However, they are currently excluded from the line-of-duty federal death benefits available to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local governments, and from access to federal grant programs for protective body armor and other equipment.

Since 1960, approximately 35 college or university law enforcement officers have lost their lives while protecting our communities. While some families of officers that have been gravely injured while serving at public universities have received PSOB line-of-duty death benefits, the families of those who lost their lives while serving at private institutions have been ineligible. We should fix this inequity.

Inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial are the names of the heroes who gave their full measure while protecting our communities. This memorial includes Patrol Officer Joseph Francis Doyle, who was killed in the line of duty at Brown University in 1988, as well as the other officers who died while working at private universities and colleges and on our railways.

A recent name on the Memorial is Patrol Officer Sean Collier. Today, we mark the second anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings, an act of terror that tragically killed three and injured hundreds of others. Three days after the bombings, during the manhunt for the attackers, Officer Collier of the MIT Police Department was shot and killed by the perpetrators on the university's campus. Officer Collier died while not only bravely serving the students and faculty of MIT. He was also serving the city of Boston, working with others in the law enforcement community during an exceptionally difficult time to keep the city and our nation safe. However, since he was employed by a private university, Officer Collier was not eligible for line-of-duty death benefits. To honor Officer Collier's service and sacrifice, this bill would be retroactive to April 15, 2013, the day of the Boston bombings.

I am pleased that Senators AYOTTE, LEAHY, WHITEHOUSE, and MARKEY have once again joined me in introducing this legislation, which would ensure that officers who have lost their lives protecting our communities and their families are eligible for the benefits associated with law enforcement work as well as access to the protective equipment they need. The bill would only apply to officers who are sworn, licensed, or certified to enforce the law within their jurisdiction, and is supported by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

I urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring and passing the Equity in Law Enforcement Act.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 965. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill that would prohibit the IRS from targeting any U.S. citizens for exercising their constitutional rights under the First Amendment.

The history of the IRS offers abundant examples of the Agency trampling on these rights. In the most recent controversy, which came to light in 2013, the IRS applied a heightened scrutiny to applications from conservative groups that were seeking tax-exempt status. Delaying these groups' applications suggests an attempt to chill the constitutional right of speech and association by groups that hold conservative views. No matter what your political views, the details that have emerged are truly alarming. The IRS admitted that it deliberately targeted conservative groups' applications for tax-exempt status for extra review if they included such words as "tea party," "patriots," or "9/11" in their names. It also acknowledged targeting applications from groups that criticized how this country is being run or whose purpose was to address government spending, government debt, taxes, or simply to make America a better place. These inappropriate criteria stayed in place for more than 18 months and resulted in substantial delays in processing the applications of many different groups. In some cases, the applications remained outstanding for more than 2 years.

The IRS also sought to compel some of the targeted groups to divulge their membership lists. IRS officials have subsequently admitted there was absolutely no reason for Agency personnel to have sought that kind of information.

Such behavior, unfortunately, is not a one-time aberration, and the targets have been on both sides of the aisle. A May 2013 Time magazine article noted that the IRS has been involved in scandals going back at least as far as the Kennedy administration, which used the service to investigate so-called rightwing groups. President Nixon employed a secret IRS operation to investigate and audit political opponents. During the Johnson administration, the IRS targeted some antiwar activists. In the decades since, a number of political activists from both the conservative and liberal ends of the spectrum, as well as whistleblowers, have been subjected to intimidating and discriminatory scrutiny by the IRS.

The IRS's history of abuses demonstrates that Congress must be ever-vigilant in protecting taxpayers. The Agency's power allows it to pervade the most sensitive aspects of Americans' private lives. Irrespective of whether those singled out are liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, Independent or Green Party members, regardless of their personal views, the targeting of private citizens for exercising their First Amendment rights is out of bounds and cannot be tolerated.

Seventeen years ago, when the IRS was accused of using abusive tactics towards taxpayers, Congress responded by passing the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act. That act created the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, strengthened taxpayer protections against unauthorized collection activities, and established an oversight board to ensure that taxpayers are properly treated by the IRS.

The bill I am introducing today builds on the 1998 act, as well as an amendment I authored in 2013, which became law, that prohibited the IRS from using funds provided through the fiscal year 2014 IRS funding bill to target American citizens for exercising their First Amendment rights. That prohibition on the use of funds was continued in the fiscal year 2015 funding bill, and the legislation I am offering today would make that prohibition permanent.

The First Amendment is one of our most cherished and sacred freedoms, and its free exercise must be vigorously protected.

It has been said the power to tax is the power to destroy. The American people cannot and will not tolerate any abuse of that power.

It is imperative that Congress act to make sure the power of the IRS is never again used to harass or abuse Americans for exercising their First Amendment rights. The bill I have introduced is tailored to that end. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight Hearing: The President's FY 2016 Budget Request for Nuclear Regulatory Commission."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate

on April 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "American Food Aid: Why Reform Matters."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "IRS Challenges in Implementing the Affordable Care Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Need to Reform Asset Forfeiture."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Catch Me If You Can: The IRS Impersonation Scam and the Government's Response."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on April 15, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-  
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session at 2 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 1 and Calendar No. 51; that the Senate then vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL  
16, 2015

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of S. 178, with the time until 11 a.m. divided in the usual form; and finally that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to the Cornyn amendment be at 10:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. ENZI. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:34 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

LINDA STRUYK MILLSAPS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2018, VICE PAUL JONES, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE  
HUMANITIES

THOMAS EDGAR ROTHMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2016. (NEW POSITION)

THE JUDICIARY

WILHELMINA MARIE WRIGHT, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, VICE MICHAEL J. DAVIS, RETIRING.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

PETER J. OLSON, OF MARYLAND  
BENJAMIN I. PETLOCK, OF FLORIDA  
NICOLAS RUBIO, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED:

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

CRAIG A. ANDERSON, OF WASHINGTON

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MIKE OKAMURA, OF VIRGINIA  
PETER O'MEARA EVANS, OF VIRGINIA  
MARCUS A. MCCHRISTIAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIC JAMES MENDENHALL, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

OMAR AHMED ALI, OF GEORGIA  
KATHLEEN A. BRESNAHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ARLEEN GRACE R. GENUINO, OF CALIFORNIA  
GABRIEL HONS-OLIVIER, OF FLORIDA  
DIANE MARGARET KOHN, OF MICHIGAN  
TRACEY R. THORNTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JOSEPH W. A. VASQUEZ, OF ALASKA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FAREED A. ABDULLAH, OF GEORGIA  
JAMES ROBERT ABESHAUS, OF FLORIDA  
EMILY GRACE ABRAHAM, OF ILLINOIS  
YVON ACCIUS, OF FLORIDA  
JONATHAN DANIEL ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
CASEY L. ADDIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOBBY (ROBERT) ADELSON, JR., OF FLORIDA  
OMAR SYED AHMED, OF VIRGINIA  
RACHEL A. AICHER, OF NEW YORK  
CAROLINE A. AMBERGER, OF FLORIDA  
MATTHEW R. ANDRIS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DAVID N. ARIZMENDI, OF FLORIDA  
LAUREN BROOKS ARMENISE, OF MARYLAND  
BRANDON C. BARON, OF FLORIDA  
DEANNA KRISTINE BEARDEN, OF TEXAS  
HARVEY LEWIS BEASLEY, JR., OF FLORIDA  
ALISON L. BEHLING, OF WEST VIRGINIA  
GEOFFREY N. BENELISHA, OF TENNESSEE  
AARON S. BENESH, OF FLORIDA  
ADAM RYDER BENZ, OF FLORIDA  
SOMER BESSIRE-BRIERS, OF NEVADA  
THOMAS DEE BEVAN, OF UTAH  
RAIN CHE BIAN, OF NEW YORK  
CORI BICKEL, OF GEORGIA  
THOMAS M. BILLS, OF OHIO  
IRMIE KEELER BLANTON III, OF FLORIDA  
MATTHEW L. BLEVINS, OF COLORADO  
CARLO WISE BOEHM, OF TEXAS  
BENJIMAN C. BOHMAN, OF ARKANSAS  
THOMAS CHARLES BOLLATI, OF FLORIDA  
COREY BORDENKECHER, OF INDIANA  
ADRIENNE C. BORY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JON BOWERMASTER, OF MICHIGAN  
ERIN ELIZABETH BOYER, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ALEXIA MCNEAL BRANCH, OF CALIFORNIA  
STEVEN ARTHUR CONNETT BREMNER, OF MISSOURI  
M. ALLYN BROOKS-LASURE, OF VIRGINIA  
THEODORE BROSIUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
THOMAS V.B. BROUNS, OF CALIFORNIA  
ALISON SARAH BROWN, OF WASHINGTON  
IAN T. BROWN, OF TEXAS  
ANYA YAKHEDT'S BRUNSON, OF FLORIDA  
ZSOFIA BUDAI, OF MINNESOTA  
CHRISTINE BUZZARD, OF OKLAHOMA  
SARAH EMILY CALDEJON HAMILTON, OF TEXAS  
JUAN MANUEL CAMMARANO, OF MARYLAND  
JUAN CARLOS CAMPOS, OF FLORIDA  
ALFRED JOHN CANIGLIA III, OF MISSOURI  
AMELIA S. CANTER, OF TEXAS  
CHRISTIAN HIRAM CARDONA, OF NEW YORK  
ELLIOT ROSS CARMEAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DAVID RYAN CARR, OF OREGON  
MELANIE ROSE CARTER, OF WASHINGTON  
AMANDA J. CAULDWELL, OF CALIFORNIA  
MICHAEL CAVEY, OF WISCONSIN  
VICTORIA MORGANNE TYSZKA CEDENO, OF MICHIGAN  
ANDREW CHAPMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
HOWARD H. CHYUNG, OF NEW YORK  
EMILY KATHLEEN CINTORA, OF ARIZONA  
BENJAMIN LEE COBURN, OF GEORGIA  
WILLIAM BENJAMIN COCKS, OF FLORIDA  
PAUL C. COLOMBINI, OF MARYLAND  
PATRICK EVANS CONNALLY, OF WASHINGTON  
JOSEPH G. CORDARO, OF TENNESSEE  
SETH AARON CORNELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JOANNE ILENE COSSITT, OF CONNECTICUT  
ROCCO COSTA, OF CALIFORNIA  
LOGAN RISHARD COUNCIL, OF NORTH CAROLINA

GREGORY ROY COWAN, OF TEXAS  
 LISA MARGARET COWLEY, OF TEXAS  
 TODD WILSON ARDELL CRAWFORD, OF OREGON  
 ANDREW D. CROSSON, OF TENNESSEE  
 ROBERT J. CROTTY, OF WASHINGTON  
 EVA HELENE D'AMBROSIO, OF INDIANA  
 JACKSON C. DART, OF MICHIGAN  
 IRENE ARINO DE LA RUBIA, OF FLORIDA  
 CARRIE A. DENVER, OF VIRGINIA  
 JULIA SAMPSON DILLARD, OF CALIFORNIA  
 AMANDA WICKHAM DIXON, OF TENNESSEE  
 CHRISTOPHER J. DOSTAL, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 RUTH LILLIAN DOWE, OF NEW YORK  
 MICHAEL JOSEPH DURMAN, OF FLORIDA  
 SHEILA-ANNE P. EBERT, OF NEVADA  
 JESSICA DAWN EICHER, OF COLORADO  
 DONYA SHANE ELDRIDGE, OF FLORIDA  
 BENJAMIN S. EMBURY, OF VIRGINIA  
 DONALD CLAYTON EMERICK, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 RYAN SCOTT ENGEN, OF WASHINGTON  
 MARY CHRISTINE ERMEL, OF TEXAS  
 ANNA ESTRINA, OF VIRGINIA  
 JACQUES PAUL ETIENNE, OF NEW YORK  
 ALEXANDRA ELIZABETH EVANS, OF TEXAS  
 MONICA SAGEBIEL EWING, OF TEXAS  
 S. ADAM FERGUSON, OF UTAH  
 SAMUEL R. FERGUSON, OF UTAH  
 KEVIN CHRISTOPHER FISHER, OF UTAH  
 DOUGLAS GEORGE FOWLER, OF WYOMING  
 JASON O. FROHNMAYER, OF OREGON  
 KEVIN T. FUREY, OF MONTANA  
 MAIDA A. FURNIA, OF VIRGINIA  
 BRENDA B. GABRIEL, OF FLORIDA  
 SOPHIE YAN GAO, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 MARC GARTNER, OF CALIFORNIA  
 PHILLIP M. GATINS, OF FLORIDA  
 JOSEPH P. GIBLIN, OF NEW YORK  
 DAMON MATTHEW GOFORTH, OF TEXAS  
 ARIEL M. GORE, OF ILLINOIS  
 NAIMA NILAJA MARIAMA GREEN, OF OHIO  
 ANDREW M. GRILLOS, OF CALIFORNIA  
 NATALYA IVANOVNA GROKH, OF VIRGINIA  
 GRETA L. GROMOVICH, OF KANSAS  
 SARAH REBECCA GROSSBLATT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 CASSANDRA HAGAR, OF TEXAS  
 KRISTY L. HALLER, OF MARYLAND  
 JAMES W. HALLOCK, OF NEW YORK  
 JASON MATTHEW HAMMONTREE, OF CALIFORNIA  
 PAUL MICHAEL HANNA, OF FLORIDA  
 CHRISTINE L. HARPER, OF ALABAMA  
 VANESSA H. HARPER, OF CONNECTICUT  
 NOEL URBANO HARTLEY, OF TEXAS  
 HAKIM J. HASAN, OF OREGON  
 JOHN TRYGVE HAS-ELLISON, OF TEXAS  
 KRISTIN KARIN HAWKINS, OF VIRGINIA  
 ANNALIESE HEILIGENSTEIN, OF TEXAS  
 CHRISTOPHER D. HELMKAMP, OF VIRGINIA  
 CHARLES A. HENDRIX, OF MINNESOTA  
 JAMES M. HENRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 HEIDI HERSCHDEDE, OF WISCONSIN  
 ZEHLA HIRJI, OF NEW YORK  
 JOHN OMAR HISHMEH, OF VIRGINIA  
 CHRISTIN HO, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 KURT DANIEL HOLMGREN, OF VIRGINIA  
 DANIEL JOSEPH HORSFALL, OF TENNESSEE  
 BRIAN HOYT, OF CALIFORNIA  
 JULIA MAGDALENA HOZAKOWSKA, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 TRAVIS A. HUNNICUTT, OF CALIFORNIA  
 SHARLINA HUSSAIN-MORGAN, OF NEW YORK  
 JASON S. HWANG, OF NEW JERSEY  
 THOMAS B. HWEL, OF CALIFORNIA  
 MEGAN R. IHRIE, OF TENNESSEE  
 GREG PARDO III, OF TEXAS  
 RYAN SCOTT INGRASSIA, OF CALIFORNIA  
 RYAN M. JANDA, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 CYNTHIA L. JEFFERIES, OF TEXAS  
 JAMES WESLEY JEFFERS, OF WEST VIRGINIA  
 SAMANTHA ANN JENKINS, OF WASHINGTON  
 JEREMY R. JEWETT, OF WISCONSIN  
 CHRISTOPHER A. JONES, OF ILLINOIS  
 TODD HAROLD JUNGENSEBERG, OF TENNESSEE  
 ANDREA R. KALAN, OF TEXAS  
 IVAN FAIAMA KAMARA, OF ARIZONA  
 CHRISTOPHER A. KEELEY, OF UTAH  
 ANDREW E. KELLY, OF VIRGINIA  
 MATTHEW A. KELLY, OF NEW YORK  
 DEVIN JAMES KENNINGTON, OF MARYLAND  
 JOHN PAUL KILL, JR., OF GEORGIA  
 CRAIG P. KIM, OF WASHINGTON  
 MICHAEL KISELYCZNYK, OF NEW YORK  
 NOLAN S. KLEIN, OF TENNESSEE  
 JEFFREY KLICK, OF TEXAS  
 JOHN CHARLES KMETZ, OF OKLAHOMA  
 JOEL ERIK KNIGHT, OF NEW MEXICO  
 THOMAS D. KOHL, OF FLORIDA  
 DEREK R. KOLB, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DANIELLE KORSHAK, OF NEW YORK  
 LYNN CHUANG KRAMER, OF TEXAS  
 JINGPING LAI, OF CALIFORNIA  
 NATALIE BONJOC LEAHY, OF CALIFORNIA  
 ANDREW D. LEBKUECHER, OF MINNESOTA  
 STEPHEN F. LECOMPTÉ, OF TEXAS  
 CHUNG JOON LEE, OF CALIFORNIA  
 SONAM LIBERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 ELIZABETH SHIU-MING LIU, OF FLORIDA  
 EMMA CONDON LOMAX, OF MINNESOTA  
 BENJAMIN J. LOWENBERG, OF WISCONSIN  
 BONNIE M. MACE, OF IOWA  
 DANIELLE ANNE MANISCALCO, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 RACHEL M. MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA  
 THEODORE THOMAS MASSEY, OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDER MAYER, OF TEXAS  
 MOLLY KATHERINE MAYFIELD BARBEE, OF FLORIDA  
 MATTHEW ROBERT MCALLISTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 PATRICK CALEY MCCORMICK, OF TEXAS  
 DEBORAH M. MCFARLAND, OF ARIZONA  
 BRADLEY T. MCGUIRE, OF VIRGINIA  
 KERRY EVELYN MCINTOSH, OF VERMONT  
 DAVID DIXON MCKAY, OF UTAH  
 MAUREEN A. MCNICOLL, OF VIRGINIA  
 THEODORE ANDREW MEINHOVER, OF MINNESOTA  
 MARC A.J. MELINO, OF WASHINGTON  
 MEGHAN E. MERCIER, OF FLORIDA  
 MEREDITH T. METZLER, OF TEXAS  
 ADAM L. MICHELOW, OF ARIZONA  
 KARL J. MILLER, OF FLORIDA  
 SCOTT M. MILLER, OF TEXAS  
 CATHERINE T. MILLER-LITTLE, OF TEXAS  
 MOLLY LYNN MITCHELL-OLDS, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 YANG ZHANG MONTEIRO, OF FLORIDA  
 JAIME LYNETTE MOODY, OF LOUISIANA  
 KRISTINE MORRISSEY, OF MARYLAND  
 GRANT HANLEY MORROW, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 KAITLIN D. MUENCH, OF CONNECTICUT  
 VINCENT M. MUT-TRACY, OF VERMONT  
 JULIE NAUMAN, OF FLORIDA  
 RAY PATRICE NAYLER, OF CALIFORNIA  
 BOBBIE S. NEAL, OF VIRGINIA  
 MARK L. NEIGHBORS, OF VIRGINIA  
 KEVIN D. NELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 DANIEL WESLEY NEWMAN, OF NEW YORK  
 KRISTLE WANITA ONIKE NORMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
 EMLY YASMIN NORRIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 BRANDON RENE NUGENT, OF TENNESSEE  
 VAYRAM A. NYADROH, OF ILLINOIS  
 MARTIN N. OBERMUELLER, OF NEBRASKA  
 ALBERT FRANCISCO OFRECIO, OF CALIFORNIA  
 LARA A. O'NEILL, OF FLORIDA  
 MELISSA S. O'SHAUGHNESSY, OF FLORIDA  
 MARCIA Y. OUTLAW, OF ARIZONA  
 BENNY A. PADILLA, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DANIEL L. PALMQUIST, OF MINNESOTA  
 JACK PAN, OF NEVADA  
 CHARLES PARK, OF NEW YORK  
 CAROLYN JOY RATZLAFF PARKER, OF TENNESSEE  
 DIANA CHU PARTRIDGE, OF ARIZONA  
 STEPHEN PATRICK PAZAN, OF NEW JERSEY  
 DAVID D. PEMBERTON, OF INDIANA  
 MICHAEL PENNELL, OF TENNESSEE  
 DEAN R. PETERSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 JESSICA BRIANNA PFLEIDERER, OF MINNESOTA  
 MARLENE HESS PHILLIPS, OF TEXAS  
 JEAN PHILLIPSON, OF VIRGINIA  
 JONATHAN PINOLI, OF FLORIDA  
 ALISANDE L. PIPKIN, OF NEW YORK  
 MICHAEL A. POINTER, OF LOUISIANA  
 MICHAEL JOHN POLYAK, OF MICHIGAN  
 KATHRYN STANSBURY PORCH, OF VIRGINIA  
 KIRK S. PORTMANN, OF WASHINGTON  
 CHRISTINE ANANDA PRINCE, OF CALIFORNIA  
 PAUL PROKOP, OF CALIFORNIA  
 SARAH R. QUINZIO, OF VIRGINIA  
 RENEE MICHELLE RAGIN, OF NEW YORK  
 HEIDI M. RAMSAY, OF VIRGINIA  
 JEFFREY R. RANDS, OF IDAHO  
 AJAY SHASHIKANT RAO, OF NEW MEXICO  
 KATHERINE REEDY, OF NEW YORK  
 CHRISTOPHER T. REYES, OF VIRGINIA  
 JOHN LUKE REYNOLDS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
 CHRISTOPHER M. RICHARDSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
 ABIGAIL ELIZABETH RICHEY-ALLEN, OF MINNESOTA  
 ANNA ELIZABETH RICHEY-ALLEN, OF MINNESOTA  
 JEFFREY M. RIDENOUR, OF WASHINGTON  
 GLORIA P. RIGOR, OF VIRGINIA  
 BENJAMIN PATRICK RINAKER, OF NEBRASKA  
 NATHAN P. RINGGER, OF UTAH  
 DANIEL O'MALLEY RITTENHOUSE, OF NEW YORK  
 LASHANDA LELIA ROBERTS, OF MARYLAND  
 DAVID ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA  
 SETH R. ROGERS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
 TANIA J. ROMANOFF, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 HELEN VAN WAGONER ROSEMONT, OF VIRGINIA  
 ZACHARY R.S. ROTHSCHILD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 LADONNA S. SALES, OF TENNESSEE  
 TODD BENSON SARGENT, OF VERMONT  
 RICHARD SAUNDERS, OF FLORIDA  
 TIMOTHY LINCOLN SAVAGE, OF CALIFORNIA  
 JOSEPH R. SCHALLER, OF WASHINGTON  
 ANDREW J. SCHEINESON, OF VIRGINIA  
 KATHRYN SCHLIEPER, OF WASHINGTON  
 SCOTT EVAN SCHLOSSBERG, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEMARK F. SCHULZE, OF NEVADA  
 TAMARA L. SCOTT, OF MARYLAND  
 BRIAN A. SELLS, OF OHIO  
 VIKRUM AARON SEQUEIRA, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 ELIZABETH E. SHACKELFORD, OF MISSISSIPPI  
 SUJATA PRADEEP SHARMA, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 ALEXANDER DANIEL PERRY SHARP, OF KANSAS  
 JEROME L. SHERMAN, OF NEW YORK  
 JASON MATHEW SHOW, OF TEXAS  
 JAMIE LEIGH SHUFFLEBARGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 JOHN THOMAS WOODRUFF SLOVER, OF COLORADO  
 CESAR GUILLERMO SORIANO, OF VIRGINIA  
 JUDITH CHRISTINE SPANBERGER, OF MINNESOTA  
 LANTA V. SPENCER, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 MATTHEW RYAN STEELE, OF KANSAS  
 KRISTEN L. STOLT, OF VIRGINIA  
 BRIAN M. STRAIGHT, OF VIRGINIA  
 PAUL STRAUSS, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DANIEL STREBE, OF TEXAS  
 BRIAN J. STREET, OF FLORIDA

GEORGE JAMES SULLIVAN, OF NEW YORK  
 PAUL SWIDER, OF FLORIDA  
 MICHAEL CHARLES TAPLEY, OF TEXAS  
 ANOOD MEHMUD TAQUI, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DENISE M. TAYLOR, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 MORGAN C. TAYLOR, OF MONTANA  
 RONALD M. TAYLOR, OF VIRGINIA  
 DENIS TEST, OF MAINE  
 DARREN THIES, OF WISCONSIN  
 MARTIN K THOMEN IV, OF TEXAS  
 HEATHER JOY THOMPSON, OF NEW YORK  
 JAMES PORTER THROWER, OF FLORIDA  
 BRETT FORSTER THURMAN, OF ILLINOIS  
 MATTHEW A. TOTILO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 JENNY GRAY TRAILLE, OF VIRGINIA  
 MATTHEW UPTON TRUMBULL, OF OHIO  
 EVELINE W. TSENG, OF NEW YORK  
 KAITLIN ELIZABETH TURCK, OF VIRGINIA  
 ERIN M. UZES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 MAUREEN PATRICIA VAHEY, OF DELAWARE  
 JOHN S. VELA, OF VIRGINIA  
 WILBUR ARMEL VELARDE, OF CONNECTICUT  
 JOSHUA D. WAGGENER, OF TEXAS  
 KARIN S. WALLACE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 MIMI WANG, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 SHELLEY WESTEBBE, OF FLORIDA  
 JASMINE N. WHITE, OF OHIO  
 HILLEARY CARTER WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
 KEVIN J. WILSON, OF GEORGIA  
 JOHNATHAN PAUL WINSTON, OF TEXAS  
 BENJAMIN ASHER WITORSCH, OF VIRGINIA  
 ALICE ELIZABETH WOLFRAM, OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEREK WONG, OF MARYLAND  
 SUZANNE YUEH WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 THOMAS TUNG-WEI WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 MATT YARRINGTON, OF FLORIDA  
 SAMUEL S. YEE, OF CALIFORNIA  
 NIAMBI A. YOUNG, OF GEORGIA  
 WILLIAM QIAN YU, OF WASHINGTON  
 NADIA ZIYADEH, OF VIRGINIA  
 ANDREW J. ZIVRZDIN, OF NEW YORK

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2012:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DANIEL M. PERRONE, OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2013:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

PAUL DAVID BROWN, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2014:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

MATTHEW STEPHEN COOK, OF NEW JERSEY

HENRY KAMINSKI, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ANTHONY S. AMATOS, OF VIRGINIA  
 BRITTANY L. ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA  
 JASON L. ANDERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 PAUL ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA  
 TANYA R. AUSTIN, OF ILLINOIS  
 DANA BARNHILL, OF WASHINGTON  
 SHIRIN BASKEY, OF VIRGINIA  
 MARC D. BASKIN, OF VIRGINIA  
 BRANDON A. BATEMAN, OF WASHINGTON  
 SUSAN L. BEACH, OF VIRGINIA  
 HEATHER BEGGS, OF ALASKA  
 SAMANTHA ELIZABETH BESORA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 ROBERT CHARLES BITTING, OF VIRGINIA  
 ANDRE P. BORDEAUX, OF VIRGINIA  
 TIMOTHY E. BOSTIC, OF VIRGINIA  
 JAMES S. BRADLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
 RHIANNON M. BRAMER, OF FLORIDA  
 MARGARET A. BRASWELL, OF VIRGINIA  
 TIMOTHY S. BROWN, OF MICHIGAN  
 KELLY RAYE BROWNE, OF VIRGINIA  
 A. ANTHONY BURRELL, OF VIRGINIA  
 LEO T. BUSH, OF VIRGINIA  
 ANDRES K. CALDERON, OF TEXAS  
 MARIA MONASIERA CAMACHO, OF NEW JERSEY  
 SPENCER KEITH CARGILL, OF VIRGINIA  
 MATTHEW CARNEY, OF VIRGINIA  
 RADHIKA CHANDRASEKARAN, OF MARYLAND  
 JENNIFER R. CHAPPELL, OF VIRGINIA  
 HOOJU CHOI, OF VIRGINIA  
 JENNIFER CHRISTIAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 JACQUELINE L. CHURA-BEAVER, OF VIRGINIA  
 CYBELE COCHRAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 KATHLEEN M. COLLIER, OF VIRGINIA  
 JEANNE COOPER, OF TEXAS  
 MATTHEW COTY, OF VIRGINIA

ERIC R. COULSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
MICHELLE ANTOINETTE CRAFT, OF VIRGINIA  
KENYA RENEE CRANFORD, OF VIRGINIA  
IAIN ALEXANDER CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND  
EAVAN K. CULLY, OF NEW YORK  
SARAH JOHANNA CUNNINGHAM, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHANIE L. D'ADAMO, OF VIRGINIA  
MEGHAN E. DEAN, OF WASHINGTON  
MICHAEL R. DESMOND, OF VIRGINIA  
CONOR S. DICKINSON, OF MISSISSIPPI  
HEATHER A. DIEHL, OF VIRGINIA  
LEVI MICHAEL DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREW SPENCER DUMM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SARAH ELIZABETH DUNN, OF VIRGINIA  
GRANT S. EARNEST, OF VIRGINIA  
AMBER ESSATHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
REBECCA A. FERNANDEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
LAWRENCE FOSTER, OF MINNESOTA  
BRIAN PAUL GALLO, OF FLORIDA  
PAUL ST. PETER GARR, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JEFFERSON GEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW JOHN GERDIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
M. GEORGE GHOBRIAL, OF VIRGINIA  
LAILA MARIE GILLAM, OF COLORADO  
MATTHEW J. GODWIN, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL GORMLEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SHIRLEY GREEN, OF TEXAS  
BARRY S. GREENBERG, OF CALIFORNIA  
LAWRENCE J. GROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTOPHER JAMES GROTH, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHARLES FITZGERALD HARRISON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
TODD HEFFNER, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN JAMES HILLBERY, OF VIRGINIA  
BREANNE ASHLEY HITE, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN J. HOLZER, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
JOSHUA LOWELL HOOVESTOL, OF COLORADO  
SONG HUANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALEXANDER S. HUGHES, OF MARYLAND  
DARREN M. HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY S. HYRE, OF VIRGINIA  
MELY AIMEE JACOBSON, OF TEXAS  
JAE-MAN JEON, OF VIRGINIA  
FLORA YVONNE JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL C. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA  
CESARE JORDAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
KIMBERLY DENA KEARNEY, OF VIRGINIA  
ABDUL W. KHALIEQUE, OF CALIFORNIA  
SHANEICE KING, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL JAMES KLINE, OF VIRGINIA  
AARON J. KREUL, OF VIRGINIA  
SAVO LABAN, OF VIRGINIA  
LORI JESSICA LABINE, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM R. LAGERGREN, OF TENNESSEE  
ANH-THAO P. LAM, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRA A. LANOUE, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL T. LAWSON, OF FLORIDA  
JEFFREY DAVID LEARY, OF MARYLAND  
AUSTIN LEWIS, OF TEXAS  
TERRI M. LEWIS, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID S. LIN, OF VIRGINIA

GEORGE C. LIN, OF VIRGINIA  
FRICKA KAICHY LING, OF MARYLAND  
CLARENCE LOBDELL, OF TEXAS  
YERI LOPEZ, OF WISCONSIN  
HEATHER MARIA LORESCH, OF ILLINOIS  
MICHAEL SEAN LOWE, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINA LOWRY, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES R. LOWRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JOSEPH F. LUX, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER L. LYONS, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN MACWILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN MALENA, OF NEW YORK  
LESLIE A. MALLOY, OF MARYLAND  
DOUGLAS T. MANN, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN J. MARTIN, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSICA MARTIN, OF CALIFORNIA  
MEGAN MARTIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DANIEL B. MARVIN, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH ELIZABETH MIELKE, OF NORTH DAKOTA  
DANTE JAMES MILLER, OF VIRGINIA  
JARED MANUEL MIRANDA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GENEVIEVE MOINUDDIN, OF VIRGINIA  
FOREST CHAD MOORE, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHRISTOPHER J. MUMOLA, OF MARYLAND  
LIZA KATERINA NEGRIF, OF VIRGINIA  
WENDY E. NEWBY, OF VIRGINIA  
TAMORA J. NOBILSKI, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
GILLIAN SUSAN OAK, OF CALIFORNIA  
BRIGID AKINYI OTIENO, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
REBECCA A. OTIS, OF VIRGINIA  
ELLEN MARGARET OTT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MICHAEL H. PAESANO, OF FLORIDA  
LINDSAY MARIE PALADENI, OF OREGON  
JANE PARK, OF VIRGINIA  
LAURA PARRISH, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW T. PENNEY, OF VIRGINIA  
VICTOR MANUEL PEREA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTOPHER FERNANDO PEREZ, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHANIE K. PETERSEN, OF NEW MEXICO  
JONATHAN D. PITTMAN, OF MARYLAND  
PETER ANDREW POPOVICH II, OF VIRGINIA  
TRISHA LYONS PRESTO, OF MARYLAND  
EUGENE A. QUARRIE III, OF VIRGINIA  
MONIKA RAJ, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMINA S. RAMIREZ, OF MICHIGAN  
SAMIDHA REDKAR, OF OHIO  
ALEXANDER M. ROSENBLATT, OF MAINE  
JABEZ ROSS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MICHELLE ELYSE SAKS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LUIS GUILLERMO SALAS, OF CALIFORNIA  
KIONDRA SAMPEY-SAGNA, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
JASON CHRISTOPHER SCANGAS, OF VIRGINIA  
ASHLEIGH ELIZABETH SCHAMBACH, OF VIRGINIA  
SARAH SCHLECK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JOHN CHRISTOPHER SCHNIER, OF VIRGINIA  
BRYAN EDMUND SCHUBERT, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CALVIN SCOTT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALI MASUD SHAH, OF VIRGINIA  
LESLIE A. SHIMER, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN V. SKERRY III, OF VIRGINIA

DAVID RAYMOND SKORSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WILLIAM A. SLOAN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
JULIA MARIE SMART, OF VIRGINIA  
NEAL C. SMILEY, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON  
HOLLY SMITH, OF MARYLAND  
MATTHEW DAVID SMITH, OF OKLAHOMA  
THOMAS ALAN SNYDER, OF MINNESOTA  
KEVIN J. SOUSA, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHELLE LEE SOWERS, OF VIRGINIA  
KYLE MATTHEW SPECTOR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CARRIE C. SPIRAKUS, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS E.K. SPOONER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTOPHER GEORGE STAFF, OF OREGON  
WILLIAM E. STANGE, OF WASHINGTON  
DONNIE PAUL STEVENSON, OF FLORIDA  
GREGORY STEVENSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES G. STRAIT, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW A. SUMA, OF VIRGINIA  
IRENE SWANSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES SWIFT, OF GEORGIA  
SARAH RACHELLE TEPPERMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ESTHER TETRUASHVILI, OF NEW JERSEY  
EMMA JANE TEWKSBURY-VOLPE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANNA THERET, OF VIRGINIA  
TREVIS M. THOMPSON, OF VIRGINIA  
ANTHONY TOLEDO, OF VIRGINIA  
AMANDA SUSAN TOLLEFSON, OF WASHINGTON  
CHARLOTTE FLEISHMAN TORRES, OF VIRGINIA  
BANU ZERA TREFZ, OF FLORIDA  
ZOE ROSE TREUER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
EMILY ANNE TURNER, OF VIRGINIA  
AMELIA BLISS VANDERLAAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GEORGINA VEGA, OF VIRGINIA  
FREDERIC VELLUCCI, OF VIRGINIA  
DANIEL EDWARD VERBOSKI, OF TEXAS  
BRIAN T. WAITE, OF MARYLAND  
BRETT G. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA  
HOLLY WALKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY J. WALLACE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TRAVIS JAMES WARNER, OF KANSAS  
BENJAMIN JOSEPH WEINER, OF TEXAS  
RICHARD A. WESCH, OF TEXAS  
PATRICK S. WHEELER, OF WASHINGTON  
JONATHAN MARK WHITE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY M. WILLEY, OF FLORIDA  
MATTHEW L. WILLIGER, OF OHIO  
JONATHAN WILSON, OF VIRGINIA  
MELISA WILSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CLAUDIA T. WINANT, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH WITTERS, OF VIRGINIA  
GRAHAM M. WOOD, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN DAVID WOOD, OF VIRGINIA  
BECKY D. WOODSON, OF VIRGINIA  
ALFRED K. YI, OF VIRGINIA  
MIKE JOHN YOLER, OF MARYLAND  
ELENA ZLATNIK, OF MONTANA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 15, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 15, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, the man pictured alongside me will go a long way towards determining who lives in the White House for the next few years. No, he is not a pollster or a campaign spin doctor. No, this is a Federal judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, the Honorable Judge Andrew Hanen.

The lawsuit by 26 Republican Governors and attorneys general seeking to block the executive actions taken by the Obama administration on immigration was filed in his court. He has not ruled yet on the constitutionality of the case.

He ordered a preliminary injunction, however, saying he thought the States have standing to bring the suit—or at least that the State of Texas did. That was enough for him to stop the implementation of the program nationwide.

Not surprisingly, just last week, the judge refused the government's request to lift his injunction and allow the plan to move forward.

Here is the reality: Congress mandates that about 400,000 people will be deported this year out of a total of 11 million.

The Secretary of Homeland Security developed a plan to choose between hardened criminals and those immigrants who have lived here for at least 5 years, have U.S. citizen children, and can pass a criminal background check at their own expense.

The plan also requires immigrants to renew their temporary status periodically to prove again that they have not committed crimes or fraudulently sought out services or benefits.

It is that plan for the parents of U.S. citizens in American families, people who have been working and staying out of trouble for years, that the Texas judge here believes will cause irreparable damage to the State of Texas and, therefore, must be stopped nationally.

Just as they had hoped, the judge ruled that Texas might some day in the future suffer irreparable harm because of driver's licenses. In other words, people who qualify for driver's licenses and who take the test and pay their fees for driver's licenses—if they live in Texas and apply for those driver's licenses in Texas—will be doing the State irreparable harm.

I have a driver's license. It is right here. I had no idea I was causing irreparable damage to the State of Illinois just by applying for it and paying for the driver's license and learning the rules of the road and buying car insurance; but who am I to disagree with a Federal judge?

On Friday, the Department of Justice will argue before the fifth circuit court in New Orleans that the President's executive actions should move forward. It is well known that the fifth circuit is among the most conservative.

Look what happened a couple of weeks ago in that very same circuit court. They ruled on a lawsuit related to the State of Mississippi which, like Texas, felt it might some day in the future be dealt damage by the deferred action program announced by the President for DREAMers back in 2012.

The panel of judges from the fifth circuit looked at the program, the evidence, and the cost of the State of Mississippi, and the fifth circuit judges said Mississippi is not harmed and, thus, does not have legal standing for the lawsuit.

That bodes well for the country and the President's executive actions. In the meantime, Judge Hanen still hasn't

ruled on the case. Maybe he is running out the clock, trying to make the immigrants in cities like Chicago and Houston lose hope or stop preparing to sign up or maybe magically self-deport and give up on watching their children, their U.S. citizen children, grow up in America.

It might turn into a drawn-out series of rules and appeals that wind up in the Supreme Court, which could take us well into 2016.

2016 is an election year, where Latino U.S. citizens—not immigrants we are discussing, but their neighbors, cousins, spouses, and coworkers who are citizens of the United States—are not likely to vote for a party that is making sure that their neighbors, cousins, spouses, and coworkers are still a top priority for deportation.

I have a feeling the citizens will support the candidates and the parties that support their communities. I also have a feeling that the decision to drag this fight out in the courts will be one the Republican Party regrets from a political point of view; just like the decision not to allow a vote on immigration reform over the past 2 years will be seen as one of the biggest and most consequential political mistakes of all time.

How long does a vote take? Fifteen minutes—it might sound too much like a Geico commercial, but just 15 minutes could have saved the Republicans a great deal of heartache.

The failure to take those 15 minutes for a vote might mean that there are no Republican Presidents for a long time who would nominate judges like this one.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I began a series of remarks leading up to tomorrow, Emancipation Day, in the District of Columbia, when Lincoln and the Congress freed the slaves in the District 9 months ahead of the Emancipation Proclamation.

There are no slaves living in the District today, nor is there a single free and equal citizen living in your Nation's Capital. Freedom from slavery did not give residents freedom as equal citizens.

During yesterday's remarks in this series, I spoke about D.C. residents

going to war, to every war since the Nation was created, without ever having a vote. Today's remarks fit today, April 15, the day when D.C. residents will be the only Americans who pay Federal taxes without a vote for or against those taxes or anything else. For us, it is not tax day; it is taxation without representation day.

It is no overstatement to say that this House is obsessed with taxes, that is to say, tax cuts. There are tax cut bills on the floor this very week. Our residents are not demanding tax cuts—take the money—but they are demanding the rights that go with the taxes they pay.

We want an end to no vote on this floor; an end to local matters coming to Congress without a vote on this floor; an end to D.C.'s local budget, of all matters, coming to Congress, even though there is not one dime of Federal money in it, only local money.

We want an end to every Member getting a vote on District matters that come to this floor except the Member who represents the District of Columbia. We want an end to this mountainload of injustice, and that comes with statehood.

The best way to see the injustice of paying taxes without representation is to compare D.C. residents and what taxes they pay with what other Americans pay. Look at who pays the highest taxes in the United States of America, D.C. residents—this is per capita, my friends—compared to who pays the lowest, Mississippi. What is that, a third of what D.C. residents pay?

The two largest States in the Union, New York and California—New York taxpayers pay a little more than \$8,700 per capita, California a little more than \$8,000 per capita—both compared to our \$12,000 per capita. Southern States average between the \$4,000 and \$5,000 per capita range. The Midwest states average in the \$6,000 range. Ohio is \$6,130. Iowa is \$6,019.

Even States with many wealthy taxpayers, like Virginia and Florida, are within the \$7,000 tax range, but D.C.—650,000 residents—pays \$12,000 per resident. Find your State on my Web site. You will not find one state paying what District of Columbia residents pay.

Today is April 15, and nobody enjoys paying taxes, but we believe that the constituents of my colleagues will join the moral outrage of my constituents when they learn that D.C. residents are not only paying more federal taxes per capita than any other Americans, but that added up, this amounts to more dollars than 24 of our States are paying, all with representation.

D.C. residents pay more than their full freight to support the United States Government. The time is overdue to permit D.C. citizens to join the Union of States as the State of New Columbia, the 51st State of the Union.

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is April 15. This is the day that our income taxes are due, a day that is difficult enough under the best of circumstances, but made even more difficult, purposefully, for millions of Americans.

My Republican friends have decided to take out their differences with the IRS by deliberately torturing the American taxpayer. Ours is the largest tax system in the world that relies primarily on voluntary compliance. Most Americans, in fact, do comply, but an ever-increasingly complex tax system makes that compliance difficult.

It should be noted that it is not the IRS that makes the Tax Code complex; it is Congress that makes the Tax Code complex, a Congress that is sometimes so late in meeting its obligations with tax changes that the Service has difficulty even printing the forms on time as these changes occur every single year.

In order to help citizens with Congress' complex tax system, the Internal Revenue Service runs the largest consumer service operation in the world, but this process has been deliberately sabotaged by the Republican approach to the agency budget.

The agency has 30,000 fewer employees today than it had in 1992. The real budget adjusted for inflation is about the level we had in 1998, when we had fewer taxpayers filing returns and a Tax Code that was smaller and less complicated.

If Congress had truly been partners with the agency in improving its service in streamlining and modernization and giving them today's computers, maybe it would be possible to keep pace, but the IRS has been given a budget that prevents it from modernizing its information technology. It uses applications for its computers that were running in the early 1960s.

The IRS is virtually a museum of computer technology, but you cannot modernize the simple call service function of answering phones and talking to taxpayers, yet Congress has deliberately slashed that money available for those positions.

When you visit the IRS offices, which I have and which I hope every one of my colleagues does before they reduce those budgets yet again, they will find employees who simply cannot meet the needs of their customers.

Our employees don't like putting people on hold for 20 minutes, 30 minutes, or more or dropping the calls altogether. It frustrates the taxpayer, and it breaks the hearts of our employees.

□ 1015

Now, it is no secret that some people forget to declare all of their income,

and, frankly, there are some people who actually cheat on their taxes, but Congress has not equipped the IRS to do the audits necessary to actually collect the money that is due—billions and billions of dollars—which would pay for badly needed government services or reduce our debt.

They refuse to fund some positions that would not just pay for themselves but would collect 10, 20, 30 times or more their annual salaries, and Congress is deliberately making it worse with yet another budget cut while watching the exodus of highly trained, skilled professionals who have better things to do with their lives than work in an impossible situation and constantly be under attack.

I have no doubt that there are times when the agency has not performed in ways that we would all like, but the solution is not to torture the taxpayers and fail to equip the agency to do its job while continuing to make the Tax Code ever more complex.

This is gross political malpractice. It is not fair to the taxpayers; it is a disservice to our employees; and it makes it hard to fund the needs of our Nation. They may think it is good politics to make the taxpaying experience as miserable as possible, but it is, ultimately, bad judgment; it is poor politics; and it is a disservice to the American public.

Many of my colleagues have been looking at scandal within the IRS. Whatever problems they uncover or imagine, the real scandal is how the Republican budget is treating the American public and the people who work for them at the vital service of the Internal Revenue Service.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATRINA ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Katrina Adams, president of the United States Tennis Association.

Mr. Speaker, the community in which I live, work, and represent is well-known for its production of high-profile and world renowned male athletes, individuals like Ernie Terrell, world heavyweight champion; basketball stars Doc Rivers, Isaiah Thomas, Mark Aguirre, Mickey Johnson, Kevin Garnett; footballer Darryl Stingley; and countless others who have excelled in athletics. All of them are males.

However, I take this opportunity to mention two females. One is Dorothy Gaters, the girls' basketball coach and athletic director at the John Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois, the winningest high school basketball coach in the Nation. The other is Katrina Adams, who grew up not far

from Marshall High School and whose parents still live in the East Garfield Park community.

Earlier this year, Katrina Adams became the first African American and the first former pro tennis player to become president and CEO of the United States Tennis Association, which is a 134-year-old organization that had barred Black athletes from its premier event—the U.S. National Championship, currently known as the U.S. Open—until 1950, when it allowed Althea Gibson to compete.

At 46, Adams is the youngest of the 53 people—among them, just four women—who have been the USTA leaders, an unpaid volunteer position.

In an article done by the Chicago Tribune, the writer states that, although her term lasts only 2 years, Adams understands that her being the face of the U.S. Tennis Association can have a significant impact, especially at a moment when the best female player in the world, Serena Williams, is also an African American.

Katrina is supposed to have said:

I think having an African American as president is a huge statement. It shows how far we have come within the USTA as a whole.

As family, friends, community leaders, old coaches, volunteers, and tennis fans gathered to congratulate and honor Katrina, they were reminded of something her mother, Yvonne, told her many years ago.

Her mother said:

Katrina, other little Black girls may not want to reach where you are, but they will want you to do well, and you are showing them they can do it if they put their minds to it.

Philip Hersh also mentions in his article something that Billie Jean King is supposed to have said to her friend Katrina. She said:

Katrina, if you can see it, you can be it.

Her being the first person of color as the U.S. Tennis Association president—and as a former pro besides—sends a strong message.

Her family, friends, and former classmates at Whitney Young High School, at Northwestern University, and in the East Garfield Park community were, indeed, a proud bunch as they gathered to salute the young lady they had watched grow up in the inner city, become a high school and college tennis star, a tennis pro, and, ultimately, the president of the United States Tennis Association.

Congratulations to you, Katrina. We are all proud of your accomplishments.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME EQUALITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a bill to extend the

Supplemental Security Income program, known as SSI, to Puerto Rico.

Of all of the disparities that Puerto Rico faces because it is a territory and not a State, few are as damaging as its exclusion from SSI.

SSI provides monthly cash assistance to blind, disabled, or elderly individuals who have limited or no income. We are talking about the most vulnerable members of our society. SSI applies in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia. However, since the program's inception in 1974, it has not been extended to Puerto Rico. Instead, the Federal grant program, known as Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, or AABD, applies in Puerto Rico.

The Social Security Administration sends monthly SSI payments directly to beneficiaries; whereas the AABD program is administered by the Puerto Rico Government, using an annual block grant provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The gap between the treatment that is provided to beneficiaries in the 50 States and the treatment that is provided to their fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico is, in a word, shocking.

According to the most recent Federal statistics, the average SSI payment to beneficiaries is \$540 a month and is close to \$650 a month for beneficiaries who are under the age of 18. By contrast, based on the most recent data that has been furnished to my office, the block grant that the Federal Government provides to the Puerto Rico Government is only \$33 million a year.

With this limited funding, the Puerto Rico Government provides an average payment to adult beneficiaries of just \$74 a month. Let me repeat that—\$540 a month in the States versus \$74 a month in Puerto Rico. To add insult to injury, the Puerto Rico Government is legally required to meet a 25 percent match in order to receive this block grant. The States, obviously, do not have to make any matching payments for their residents to receive SSI assistance.

In 2014, the GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, it would receive up to \$1.8 billion a year under SSI. That is 54 times as much as the territory receives annually under AABD. Again, let me repeat that—54 times greater. The GAO estimated that, if Puerto Rico were a State, 300,000 island residents would qualify for SSI payments. Under the current program in Puerto Rico, only 35,000 individuals receive assistance. Thus, Puerto Rico's exclusion from the SSI program means that its government cannot provide decent monthly payments to residents who cannot support themselves. It also means that the Puerto Rico Government cannot assist hundreds of thousands of extraordinarily needy residents at all.

Those who seek proof of how Puerto Rico is harmed by its territory status

need look no further than the treatment it receives under SSI. Those who want to comprehend why, roughly, 240,000 island residents relocated to the States between 2010 and 2014 in search of a better quality of life should realize that Puerto Rico's unequal treatment under key Federal programs, including—but not limited to—SSI, is a major contributing factor to this migration.

Let me be crystal clear on this point. Politicians in Puerto Rico and the States who defend Puerto Rico's current status must accept the undeniable truth that this status is harming the people of Puerto Rico. When they rationalize or excuse Puerto Rico's territory status, they are complicit in Puerto Rico's mistreatment.

But make no mistake. The era of inequality is coming to an end. I stand side by side with a large and growing army of proud U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico who refuse to accept such shameful treatment any longer. We believe in full equality for Puerto Rico under the American flag. We will fight for it until we achieve it, and we will achieve it soon.

#### BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I address the House to discuss a number of concerns that I believe we need to confront as quickly as possible.

Yesterday and today commemorate, sadly, the snatching of over 200 girls from northern Nigeria—the area in which the girls lost their innocence and their right to a good quality of life.

It was in the dark of night when heinous thugs, armed with horrific weapons, burst into the dorm rooms of sleeping girls who were preparing to take exams to improve their lives. Their parents had worked hard. They were like any other parents here in the United States or around the world, loving their children; and these heinous thugs with their vile leader, Boko Haram, stole them—stole their innocence and, in a certain sense, their virginity. Now we are struggling to find them.

For over a year, many of us pressed the Nigerian Government to find and bring back the girls. In the spring of 2014, I traveled to the northern state with my colleague Ms. WILSON and with my colleague from Texas, and we met with broken families and with the girls who had escaped. We saw the northern state. We were not welcomed by the words that we were saying, which was “bring the girls back.” We met with generals in our military. We saw our military's compassion under the Africa Command, and we saw that they were ready to be of assistance. Those generals, I must say, said that they were ready.



In the course, Boko Haram has killed 15,000 people. There are thousands who are displaced—1.5 million, I believe the number is—and these girls are still missing. They are said to have been married off, but some girls are worth rescuing. All girls are worth rescuing. All children are worth saving. Today, we will stand on the steps of the Capitol, begging for help from the international community.

I must make mention that the African Union, through the auspices of the United Nations, has developed a strategy and a military effort, led by Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria, but they are still not found—they are still not caught—and Boko Haram continues to be the heinous, vile organization that should not exist in attacking the innocent people of Nigeria. Boko Haram has declared itself part of the family of ISIL. That alone stands to promote them as a heinous terrorist group, and they should draw the attention of the world just like ISIL has drawn the attention of the world.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I am calling upon the United States, who I believe has a deep commitment to find these girls, to be able to engage in an intensified effort to find them and a collaborative effort with our expertise, continued, to be able to assure that these girls are brought home, but that Boko Haram does not continue to flaunt itself.

Let me add al-Shabaab, that did the heinous killings of students in Kenya. We must be concerned about a continent that is our friend, a continent that desires to do trade and business with us, a continent that looks to America—Africa, who loves America. You can see the array of Africans who are here in the United States. I have the largest population of Nigerians—wonderful, good people, doctors and teachers, lawyers, public servants. But we must stand with them to bring these girls back.

Let me show you the mutilating and destroying of Christian artifacts, the destruction of towns left in their midst. They don't care, and I am outraged that they are standing.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, as I ask for them to be rescued, as I go to express this in an open forum to our community, our Nation. Let me add that part of the work of the Department of Justice deals with issues of human trafficking, and sometimes it takes it internationally.

So I conclude my remarks by saying that we must—confirm as General, Loretta Lynch, the Attorney General nominee of the United States of America. This is an African American woman that has been held without conscience. She is qualified; she is ready to serve; and I would ask my colleagues to show to the world what kind of country America is—that we follow

process, and that this individual be allowed to serve her nation as she desires to do.

# RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

# AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) at noon.

# PRAYER

Reverend Kenny Gooden, Union Grove Baptist Church, Yadkinville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, today, we humbly come into Your presence, confessing our sins, asking You for mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We come, recognizing Your greatness and Your power, understanding today that, from Heaven, You oversee all that we do. We come, thanking You for the many blessings that You have bestowed upon this Nation in years past. For Your divine protection, provisions, and the power that You have bestowed upon us, we are grateful.

Today, we make these requests:

We pray for the Members of this great body that You grant to them safety, divine wisdom, and knowledge as they make decisions which affect both history and every American citizen.

We pray that You give to them a love for both You and this Nation that is unwavering and unsurpassed.

We also pray today for Your protection over the men and women who serve in our Nation's military all around the world.

And, above everything, we pray today for a real, true revival of righteousness in America, and we make this prayer in the name that is above every name and to which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess—the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

# THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

# PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

# WELCOMING REVEREND KENNY GOODEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Reverend Kenneth "Kenny" Gooden, today.

Reverend Gooden is a vital part of the religious community in northwest North Carolina, and he has faithfully shepherded the flock at Union Grove Baptist Church in Yadkinville for 25 years.

He previously served the faithful of Pilot View Baptist Church in High Point and of West Yadkin Baptist Church in Hamptonville. He attended North Iredell High School, Mitchell Community College, and Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

He is accompanied today by his wife, Tina; his daughter, Hannah; and his son, Hunter.

Reverend Gooden's service to God cuts to the very heart of the gospel message of love. He has brightened and enriched the lives of many throughout the years, and we are blessed to have him in our community.

I hope that his words of prayer will remain with all of us as we do the people's work.

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 15, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 15, 2015 at 8:34 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 15, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 15, 2015 at 11:46 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 9.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE RULES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1979, Social Security began to use rules to help decide who should receive disability benefits. A lot has changed since then, and, yet, believe it or not, Social Security continues to use the same rules from 1979.

It is time Social Security caught up. That is why, today, I am introducing the Guiding Responsible and Improved Disability Decisions Act of 2015, which would require Social Security to update its rules. This bill is, simply, common sense.

The American people want, need, and deserve a disability program that works, and they expect Social Security to make consistent and accurate decisions when determining who should receive benefits.

On behalf of America's hard-working taxpayers, I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing Social Security into the 21st century.

#### ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my alma mater, Roosevelt University, on the 70th anniversary of its founding in Chicago, Illinois.

From its founding, the university has stood by its mission: to make higher education available to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status, racial or ethnic origin, age, or gender.

At the 1945 dedication of Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt said:

We can prepare to help the rest of the world and do it without fear, do it with goodwill.

For 70 years, the university has upheld the values of inclusiveness, opportunity, and social justice. In the next 70 years, I know Roosevelt will continue to provide transformational experiences and opportunities for discovery, shaping generations of socially conscious citizens.

I had an extraordinary experience at Roosevelt, learning as much from my fellow students as from my classroom work, and the school was very kind to me.

As my friend, colleague, and fellow alum, BOBBY RUSH, said:

Roosevelt loved me before I loved Roosevelt.

Congratulations to Dr. Chuck Middleton and to the entire Roosevelt community on the university's 70th anniversary.

Go, Lakers.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA SAYS, "NO MORE"

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, men and women will come together and take a stand against sexual assault at the sixth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes march in Columbia, South Carolina.

Men from across the State will don high-heeled shoes and join women and other community leaders to raise awareness and funds to support survivors of sexual assault and sexual violence. Just one victim is too many, and we must stand with survivors to prevent sexual assault.

I am grateful for the Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Cumbee Center, and countless other organizations for their advocacy, for their continued efforts to prevent sexual assault, and for their support to survivors.

Chaired by Ginny Walker, I am grateful my oldest son, State Attorney General Alan Wilson, will be one of the leaders of the Walk a Mile today. They are making a difference with efforts to end sexual assault and sexual violence.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

My sympathy to the family of the late John Duncan of Laurens County, South Carolina, the father of our colleague Congressman JEFF DUNCAN.

#### PREVENT DANGEROUS GUNS FROM REACHING DANGEROUS PEOPLE

(Mr. GALLEGO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today, in America, 48 children and young people will be shot, and seven will die. Today, in America, 45 people will be injured in gun-related accidents, and 55 will take their own lives with guns. Yet, today, in America, zero new Federal gun laws will be debated here in this body.

This is unacceptable.

Yet we know smart gun laws work. We know background checks keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, criminals, and the mentally ill. We know banning assault rifles and high-capacity magazines protects police officers and the communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, after the Newtown shootings claimed the lives of 20 innocent children, President Obama asked the Nation whether we were prepared to admit that we are powerless in the face of the carnage caused by guns. That is not an admission I am ready to make. This isn't a problem we can ignore.

Mr. Speaker, instead of politics as usual, let's come together to prevent dangerous guns from reaching dangerous people.

#### CONGRATULATIONS, KIMBERLY KEENAN

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ms. Kimberly Keenan.

Ms. Keenan has been both the principal and the assistant principal of Tampa Palms Elementary School in the school district of Hillsborough County, Florida, for 18 years. She has recently been appointed to serve as the supervisor of Language Arts and Writing for Hillsborough County. The school district is the eighth largest in the United States, and it is located in Florida's 15th Congressional District.

Under her leadership, Tampa Palms Elementary has been rated as an A-rated school for 16 years in a row and is a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

During her time at this school, Ms. Keenan has created a culture that embodies her motto: "Hard work pays off all the time." Her efforts to help every child to be treated with love and respect has enabled countless students from diverse backgrounds to learn, gain confidence, and take with them the knowledge and the skills needed to help them make their way in this world.

Our Nation's teachers are the open door to education and opportunity by

their working long hours and with, sadly, less recognition than they deserve.

Ms. Keenan has spent years shaping young minds. She has touched many lives of those at Tampa Palms Elementary, including those of the students and parents, and they are indebted to her for her life's work. I am proud to recognize her achievements.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

This day was established by the Israeli Parliament in 1951, and it coincides with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Later, Congress established annual Days of Remembrance, which we also celebrate this week. Memorial and educational activities will take place in schools, places of worship, and communities across this Nation.

This is a time to mourn the millions of victims of the Holocaust, and it is an annual reminder to Americans—indeed, to all of humanity—that we must never forget the evil that man visited upon his fellow man.

It was a Supreme Court Justice from western New York, Robert H. Jackson, who served as the lead American prosecutor of Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trials. In recognition of his work to expose the horrors of the Holocaust, we named the new Federal courthouse in Buffalo in Jackson's honor.

Tomorrow, in western New York and across the country, Americans will memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, and we will pray for vigilance and for the resolve to stop such evil from ever happening again.

#### IRAN AGREEMENT

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to express my support for the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which has now passed out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with unanimous support.

This important step shows that there continues to be momentum to move forward on this vital and necessary bill to ensure accountability and congressional oversight over any deal with Iran.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move quickly to enact this bipartisan legislation so that the American people can have a say in any final agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I remain extremely concerned that the administration's latest

agreement with Iran means that we are headed for a historically bad deal. An agreement that sunsets by the time my youngest daughter is in college does nothing to secure our long-term national security.

In the weeks ahead, Congress must stand strong and unequivocally reject any deal that leaves intact Iran's nuclear infrastructure, that cements Iran's position as a nuclear threshold state, that unwinds the sanctions architecture in exchange for empty promises, or that legitimizes a sure-to-fail inspection regime that falls short of "anywhere, anytime" inspections.

Mr. Speaker, we must not be fooled into false choices, and Iran must not be left with any path towards a nuclear weapon.

□ 1215

#### THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP SHOULD LISTEN TO AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I join many of my colleagues today proudly wearing red and this pin to ask us to remember to bring our girls back who were kidnapped by Boko Haram.

Mr. Speaker, I also returned to Washington this week from a busy district work period, where I advocated for homeownership, explored funding for early childhood through college education, and heard from seniors and veterans about their need for access to affordable health care.

Unfortunately, it is very clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Republican leadership continues to turn a deaf ear to the American people, to our seniors, to our veterans, and to the next generation by putting forward legislation that does not work for my district in central Ohio or this Nation.

Democrats, however, have put forth plans to help hard-working American families by making it easier to own a home, making it easier to send our children to college, and making it easier to have a secure and enjoyable retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Republican leadership should listen to American families and help them attain the tools they need to achieve economic security for now and the future.

#### PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today Americans across the country face the annual deadline to file their tax returns. Taxpayers shudder at the mere mention of the IRS, and that image hasn't

been helped since the Federal Government's most feared agency admitted to singling out conservative groups for unprecedented invasive scrutiny. As Americans, we expect our government to preserve, protect, and defend our rights, not target them for political gain and control.

The House is poised to pass several pieces of legislation today that will help ensure that all taxpayers are treated fairly and hold IRS employees accountable for their actions.

Tomorrow the House will vote to repeal permanently the death tax so that families who have lost loved ones are not faced with an enormous financial burden in the wake of that loss. While it represents only a tiny fraction of Federal revenue, the death tax can be devastating for a family. We must repeal this unreasonable and unfair burden on thousands of American families, small businesses, and family farms.

#### CONDEMNING BOKO HARAM

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been a year since 276 girls were abducted from Chibok Secondary School in northern Nigeria by the militant Islamic group Boko Haram. Since then, we have heard numerous tales of unspeakable atrocities committed by the group, the continued abductions of schoolgirls who have been trafficked and murdered, and the sickening discovery of a mass grave with beheaded remains in a formerly Boko Haram-held territory in northern Nigeria.

Just when we thought that Boko Haram had reached its evil peak, the group swears an unholy alliance to ISIL.

I would like to commend my House colleagues for unanimously passing a resolution I introduced condemning Boko Haram. It sent a strong message to the world that America will never tolerate terrorism, and this Congress will never abide terrorists.

We must continue to stand together to fight Boko Haram's brutal victimization of innocent men, women, and children, and defend the basic human right of schoolgirls in Nigeria and around the world to receive an education. We can never forget our girls, and we can never forgive the cowardly crimes of Boko Haram.

#### TAX DAY BRINGS ANOTHER PAINFUL REMINDER OF IRS ABUSE

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, bringing us another painful reminder of our broken Federal Tax Code, which is being enforced at the heavy and, many times, unfair hand of

the Internal Revenue Service. Simply put, American taxpayers are sick and tired of this out-of-control agency. The IRS has grown too large, too powerful, too aggressive, and too involved in the everyday lives of the American people.

Today the House will pass a series of bills to end this abuse, and we invite the U.S. Senate and the President to join us. Our bills will protect the hard-working taxpayers and hold the IRS employees accountable. We create a taxpayer bill of rights, ensuring the American taxpayers are treated with the respect that they deserve. We will take steps to end the politicization of the IRS, which abusively and illegally targeted conservative American citizens.

From lost emails to refusing to testify before Congress, the IRS abuses must end. I urge my colleagues to support these commonsense bills to bring transparency and accountability to this runaway agency.

#### ONE YEAR AFTER THE BOKO HARAM KIDNAPPING

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. I rise today in solidarity with the Nigerian people who are still terrorized by Boko Haram.

It has now been 1 year since 276 schoolgirls were abducted from their dorms and classrooms by Boko Haram. This militant terrorist group continues its violent attacks—kidnapping, rape, murder, and brutality—against children, women, and men.

One year ago the international community joined in the social media campaign #bringbackourgirls to raise awareness of this tragic kidnapping. We speak out today to say these girls have not been forgotten, as 219 of them remain missing, their fates unknown. Many American individuals and organizations as well as government leaders are continuing efforts to aid the Nigerian people who have been victimized and to prevent future violence.

We must keep in mind the atrocities committed by Boko Haram as we and our allies continue to fight extremist groups around the world.

#### BRING BACK OUR GIRLS 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that we have not yet succeeded in bringing back the 219 Nigerian girls abducted by Boko Haram on this day last year. For a moment, the plight of those young schoolgirls captured the attention of the world, spurred by millions of tweets and a hashtag that demanded justice, but as is so often the

case with faces of color, their disappearance quickly left the headlines.

We can neither forget nor give up on these girls. Their abduction was a violent challenge to peace, to freedom, and to the right of every girl to choose to better herself through education.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in calling for a renewed effort to bring back those girls and to bring justice to those responsible.

#### GIRLS SHOULD NOT FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY WANT AN EDUCATION

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring back our girls. I recently returned from a bicameral delegation mission to several African countries, focusing on terrorist threats. The girls are still on everyone's minds, as are the increasingly frequent and violent attacks of Boko Haram.

With Boko Haram's recent alignment with ISIL, we must do more to counter the growing worldwide threat. We must work with the Nigerian Government and President Buhari, along with the Governments of Chad, Kenya, Cameroon, and any other nation willing to stand up and fight. Building partner capacity by assisting in military training and sharing intelligence will go a long way in the fight to end this cancer.

We must also ensure that the voices of women everywhere are elevated, not just in Nigeria, but around the world. Nowhere in this world should girls fear for their lives just because they want an education.

#### WE OWE TAXPAYERS A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans will take their hard-earned income through toil and labor and send a significant portion of that sweat equity to Washington, D.C., for this Congress to spend, sending trillions to continue to feed a bloated and inefficient government. According to the IRS, Americans have spent 6.1 billion hours and \$168 billion just simply having their tax returns prepared. These taxpayers bear a heavy burden for our actions here.

Last year our Federal Government took in more money from the American people than ever before. Washington doesn't have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem, which is easy for Congress because they are spending other people's money.

Americans expect, when they send their tax dollars to Washington, D.C.,

that we will be good stewards of that money, that we will treat it with the respect for the American people that worked hard to earn it and send it here.

So today, as Americans head to the post office to drop their returns before the deadline, we owe them a great debt of gratitude; and in that, I ask that Congress renew its efforts to reduce spending, reform programs, balance our budget, and reduce the heavy weight of the tax burden on these hard-working American people.

#### BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, 1 day after the 1-year anniversary of the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls in Nigeria, I rise to encourage my colleagues here in Congress to continue in their efforts to help bring back our girls. We have protested, demonstrated, tweeted, and spoken about this issue on a number of occasions. Now, with a new Nigerian leader in place, I encourage Muhammadu Buhari to do all that is within his power to defeat Boko Haram and bring back our girls.

In an effort to improve the quality of life of their young daughters, can you imagine, as a parent, sending your child off to school and never seeing them again? This is the case for hundreds of families. This is not right. No family or child should feel threatened when it comes to improving their lives through education.

Therefore, as we continue to call for the total annihilation of Boko Haram, we should also use this moment to emphasize the importance of establishing safe learning environments for all children. I commend USAID and other human rights organizations for the work that they have done to accomplish this goal.

As a person of color, a mother, and an American, I urge you all to do much more to stop Boko Haram and promote safe, quality education for young girls and boys around the world.

#### TODAY IS TAX DAY

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Today is tax day, April 15, and one of the things that I wanted to bring to the attention of Congress, really, is the amount of waste and abuse that takes place not just within the bloated Federal Government, but within the IRS.

I serve as the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations. In this last go-around, we reduced—or cut, actually—the IRS' budget by about \$100 million

to \$300 million. The IRS Commissioner was before us to tell us that that is too much; it is too much; it is too much; the sky is going to fall; we are not going to be able to process returns; we are not going to be able to give taxpayers assistance.

But what needs to be told on this floor, Mr. Speaker, is that the IRS sends out tens of billions of misapplied or fraudulent payments—tens of billions. This has to stop. It is not an issue of not making sure that people pay their taxes.

I am all for making sure that things are applied fairly and equitably, but we have an obligation of responsibility to make sure that money is spent appropriately and efficiently or safeguarded. It is not our money.

I just wanted, today, to take the opportunity to recognize the hard-working moms and dads, individuals across this country who have written their check to Uncle Sam, and they expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned dollars.

There are a few bills we are working on this week I urge this body to pass. Whether it is balancing the budget or making sure that we eliminate the death tax, we will have our opportunity to make sure that we are holding the Federal Government accountable.

□ 1230

#### WATER WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our most precious natural resource: water.

It is Water Week here in D.C.; but in the San Joaquin Valley, in California, it is always Water Week.

At first glance at this picture, you might think this was taken in an underdeveloped country thousands of miles away. It is not. These are the squalid living conditions in California's San Joaquin Valley. They are a direct result of the extreme lack of water in California.

While, in part, the drought is to blame, our inability to move the limited water is exacerbating the crisis. While conditions like these are unacceptable, I think to all of us in the richest country in the world, we must do something about it.

It takes water to grow food, period. California grows half the Nation's fruits and vegetables and more, but this year, some estimates say that 1 million acres out of 6 million acres usually in production will be fallowed.

In the short term, we need to act on operational flexibility to deal with this crisis. In the long term, it is time that we fix this broken water system not

just for California, but for the West and for the entire world to whom we provide a large part of the food supply. This is the challenge of the 21st century.

#### TACKLING THE TAX CODE

(Mr. HARDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that has hampered the growth and prosperity for both individuals and businesses.

Our economy continues to struggle. Our Tax Code shouldn't be working against us. Each year, hard-working Americans have to navigate the Internal Revenue Code, which stands at tens of thousands of pages. Moreover, the agency charged with collecting taxes from Americans has been scrutinizing and delaying critical paperwork for conservative groups.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to advance the conversation surrounding the comprehensive tax reform. From the individual Code to the corporate tax system, reform needs to result in a fairer, flatter system that works for Americans and their businesses, not against them.

As we labor through another tax day, it is a reminder, Mr. Speaker, that we haven't addressed the Code in close to 30 years. We have the ability to tackle the Tax Code only if we are willing to make hard decisions.

#### ADOPT A LONG-TERM HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL

(Mr. DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in 45 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money. That means that 90 percent of the road projects in this country will grind to a halt. That is a national tragedy, particularly when there are numerous bipartisan proposals in this Congress to deal with the situation.

Rather than just focusing on the macro statistics, we decided to reach out to my constituents and find out what they think about America's infrastructure. We received hundreds and hundreds of responses detailing all the problems my constituents have with long commute times, concrete falling down from bridges and hitting their windshields, and water interruptions.

We cannot let this happen in the United States of America in the year 2015. I encourage this Congress to adopt a long-term highway funding bill and stop with short-term measures that just delay the inevitable.

Let's invest in America's future; let's invest in our infrastructure, and let's stop Americans from having the problems that they have to deal with day in and day out with an underinvested, aging, decrepit infrastructure.

#### BOKO HARAM

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with my colleagues to focus the attention of the world on the 276 young women who were kidnapped by Boko Haram—219 whose whereabouts remain unknown—in Chibok, Nigeria, just a year ago in April.

This kidnapping, this act of terrorism, was an attack on the basic human rights of women and girls to participate in the civil society, in this instance by attending school to develop their individual talents and God-given potential.

These young women were violently abducted for the explicit purpose of preventing their full participation in the civil society of Nigeria.

Now, a year after their kidnapping, these young women are still missing, and Boko Haram continues to terrorize the people of west Africa, forcing millions of people to flee their home and undermining the foundations of democracy.

We must continue in our efforts to find these girls and bring their abductors to justice. The destabilization of Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad has implications for the entire continent of Africa and, indeed, the world.

We have called on the community of nations to bring back our girls.

#### BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what you have seen today is the powerful impact of the women of the United States Congress.

Earlier today, we joined on the steps of the United States Capitol; and in that area that we joined with the young girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, women of faith, and many other advocates, we stood there, arm-in-arm, listening to the stories of those young girls who jumped out of trucks and escaped the violence of Boko Haram and their very thuggish leader.

The Boko Haram are terrorists. A year ago, they stole the "world's girls." I led a delegation, joined by my colleagues, to Nigeria. In that effort, we saw the families who were crying and broken. We protested at the Nigerian Embassy and made a direct call to the then President to ask him to denounce Boko Haram.

Today, we have been on the floor. Working with my colleagues, we have continuously said: bring the girls back.

Mr. Speaker, in Nigeria, 15,000 have been killed because of Boko Haram. Also, 1.5 million are displaced persons, 800,000 of which are children.

I end my remarks by saying: bring the girls back. I am delighted to have been with Congresswoman MALONEY and Congresswoman WILSON. We will never give up on bringing the girls back. They are the world's girls. They are our girls.

#### THE GIRLS OF CHIBOK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the 1-year anniversary of the kidnapping of the girls of Nigeria, there were solemn acts of remembrance in Nigeria's capital.

In the Republic of the Congo, they tied red and purple ribbons around the capital. There was a solidarity protest near the Eiffel Tower in Paris and a gathering in London to call for the girls to be returned.

In my home city of New York, as the sun was setting, the Empire State Building was lit up brightly in purple and red, purple for violence against women and red for the girls of Chibok.

It seems like the very act that ripped them from the arms of their parents has somehow tied the rest of the world together, united us in our outrage, and armed us with hope.

Feelings are not enough. It is time for action. It is time for the governments of Africa to unite and to act. Already, the Governments of Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon are holding Boko Haram accountable.

It is time for Western countries to unite because we will never, ever forget our girls. We could not forgive our failure to act.

#### BOKO HARAM

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1-year anniversary of the tragic kidnapping of 276 girls in Nigeria.

I welcome Patience and Saw to Washington, two of the girls who are with us all day. I thank all of the Members of Congress for taking part in this sad, sad anniversary. We are wearing red and purple today to note the horrible atrocity.

How much longer do we have to wait before the girls are returned to their families? How many more people must die before Boko Haram is defeated? How many more families must be separated? How many more women will be raped?

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram must be stopped. We must do everything we can to help the Nigerian Government in bringing back our girls.

We must continue to march, continue to demonstrate, continue to protest,

continue to pass legislation, and continue to tweet #bringbackourgirls and #followrepwilson until our girls are returned home.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 622, STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1195, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 200 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 200

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010

to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1245

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for three important bills: H.R. 622, the State and Local Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015; H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015; and H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act.

House Resolution 200 provides for a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 622 and H.R. 1105, and a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 1195.

The resolution provides 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair

and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means for H.R. 622 and H.R. 1105, and 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services for H.R. 1195.

The resolution also provides for consideration of the two amendments offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) on H.R. 1195 and provides a motion to recommit for each bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the resolution and the underlying legislation. Each of these bills is important to providing fairness and certainty for our Nation's Tax Code, ensuring our Nation's small businesses and family farms are able to pass on to the next generation and ensuring our Nation's community banks, credit unions, and small businesses are able to work with Federal regulators and have their voices heard.

Today is April 15. It is tax day. Millions of Americans are filing their taxes today. They go through this annual process, and many Americans are frustrated today because sometimes the Tax Code is frustrating.

Unfortunately, many Americans are also frustrated by the fact that millions of Americans have to wait until the last minute to find out what the Tax Code will be because so many provisions in our Tax Code are temporary.

Last year, the so-called tax extender package, which was a batch of tax provisions, was retroactively applied for the entire year of 2014, but it didn't get signed into law until December 19. That is less than 2 calendar weeks from the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, we are determined to provide a little more certainty and a little more fairness in our Tax Code for the future, and that is what these bills are about today. We are moving forward with important legislation that permanently extends a couple of sections in the Tax Code.

H.R. 622 is a very straightforward proposal. In our Tax Code today, American taxpayers have the option to deduct their State taxes. They can deduct their income taxes. Of course, that provision is permanent. It is in law permanently.

But if they want to deduct their sales taxes, that is an annual provision that has been—it was part of the tax extender package last year, which wasn't even renewed until December 19. This is an issue of fairness.

Some States, like Ohio, where I happen to reside, have an income tax. Other States have a sales tax in its place. For the States that have sales taxes, having this uncertainty is patently unfair, and it pits one State against another. It advantages States that have an income tax and disadvantages States that have a sales tax.

States like Texas and Florida, where millions of Americans live, do not have

an income tax, and Arizona, they have a sales tax. So we should treat these two tax systems the same. We should be fair and say, if the income tax deduction is permanent, the sales tax deduction is permanent as well.

Certainly, I know the gentleman from Colorado brought up some good points yesterday in the Rules Committee meeting. While you could move to make the income tax deduction temporary, and that would also provide certainty, I think, until we can do tax reform, we should make these provisions permanent because of Congress' inability to, in a timely way, provide certainty to the American public.

In tax reform we can have the discussion about deductible as an overall concept, and I think that is a fair debate to have. But if we are not going to renew it until December 19, 12 months into the year, that does not create a fair and certain system for our taxpayers.

We want to ensure that taxpayers across the country are treated equally and fairly by our Tax Code. This underlying legislation would permanently extend the sales tax deduction, just like the income tax deduction is permanently in law.

H.R. 1105 is a proposal to repeal the death tax. The death tax conflicts with the American Dream, and it is inherently unfair.

The death tax hurts family businesses, family farmers, and ranchers. In fact, according to the Joint Economic Committee, the death tax hurts economic growth and activity by discouraging savings and small business growth. It represents a tiny fraction of Federal revenue, but its impact on families is enormous.

The death tax violates the basic premise of the American Dream that if American individuals work hard and provide for their families, that they will get to keep some of that money.

Many Americans spend their entire life working hard to build a nest egg for their families, and yet, through the Federal Tax Code, the Federal Government can take up to 40 percent of certain estates just because somebody was unfortunate enough to die.

In my district, which covers parts of rural Ohio, this is often a problem for small family businesses and family farms. As the price of land continues to go up and the price of farm equipment, it is a capital-intensive business, and unfortunately, when you have the power to tax something, you have the power to destroy it.

When these assets trigger the tax in the death tax, what many times happens is part of the family farm or part of the family business has to be sold and liquidated, taken away from the family, just to pay the tax collector.

In fact, the death tax is one of the reasons that some family businesses have been lost from one generation to

the next. I don't think it is fair at all for family businesses to have to pay that type of price.

Family businesses and farms should be able to pass on what they have worked so hard for and what has already been taxed to the next generation, instead of giving 40 percent back to the government.

The death tax represents double and sometimes triple taxation, and it further penalizes people from saving and investing in their family or their business and their family farm. I am glad we have an opportunity to move forward on this proposal and repeal the onerous death tax.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1195 would create a small business advisory council for the CFPB and codify two other councils that the CFPB did create on their own.

These councils can advise and consult the CFPB in the exercise of its functions under the Federal consumer financial laws and provide information on emerging practices in the consumer financial products and services industry.

H.R. 1195 provides for a small business council to advise the CFPB regarding small business concerns. It is important that the CFPB receive this input from people who are close to the action, who know what is going on in consumer finance, and it is critical for small businesses and community-based financial institutions to have that kind of input and dialogue with the CFPB.

Small business is the engine of our economy, and we need to ensure its viability in the future by making sure that our Federal regulators are well-informed of the issues affecting small business as they move forward with important regulations.

I look forward to debating these bills with our House colleagues, and I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The rule here today provides for consideration of three bills, all of which I oppose in their current form. I want to talk about each of those.

We also have, under this rule, a closed process. This resolution contains the 19th and 20th closed rules of this Congress.

Instead of having an open debate about taxes here on tax day, we see nothing more than recycled partisan measures and attacks on consumer protections that are disguised and under the guise of a small business advisory board, which had historically been a bipartisan effort.

While discussing tax legislation on tax day may not seem the most exciting piece of legislative news to our constituents, I hope they are watching today, Mr. Speaker. This rule and this



bill we are bringing under it really demonstrate the gulf that exists between our two parties when we talk about things like middle class economics.

This is a \$296 billion tax cut. So if we have \$296 billion in taxes cut, who are we going to cut taxes for?

This bill affects 100 families in Colorado. With the same amount of money, \$296 billion, we could cut taxes for every American adult by \$1,000.

That \$1,000 would mean a lot to middle class families, Mr. Speaker. It might help pay for your kids' college tuition. It might help pay for a family vacation.

But instead of directing money there, we are directing it to the very wealthiest Americans, namely, those who die with more than a \$10 million estate for a married couple. I think we see a stark contrast on priorities.

While I disagree with the policies and tactics that are under consideration, I think it is important to talk about what a Democratic majority would do here on tax day. We would certainly not be about to consider a bill that applies to literally zero percent of taxpayers, Mr. Speaker.

Let me clarify, because that may seem strange to some people that this applies to zero percent of taxpayers. But the bill we are considering with regard to the inheritance tax on estates over \$10 million would apply to 0.15 percent of taxpayers. That can be rounded down to zero.

It doesn't even apply to those taxpayers. It applies to them after they are dead. So it applies to zero living Americans.

Mind you, we won't have a debate about the broken immigration policies that impact over 11 million immigrant workers who would grow the tax base.

We won't have discussions on reducing taxes for the middle class, but we are having policies that affect a few thousand dead people, a few thousand rich dead people, I might add.

If there were a Democratic majority on tax day, we would be working to provide tax relief to middle class families, rather than offering a bill that would gut one agency whose sole purpose is to protect middle class consumers and delivering a tax break to rich, dead families.

We have another bill under this rule, ostensibly about a small business advisory board. This is a worthwhile effort to provide a small business advisory input to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Unfortunately, it is a minimal cost, \$9 million, but the Republicans are offering a way of paying for it that guts the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They are effectively cutting off your arm to remove a splinter in your pinky.

Well, look. If the majority was consistent when they say the deficit mat-

ters and we must pay for legislation—but we are dealt with two bills that are mutually exclusive.

On the one hand, they are handing out \$269 billion in deficit spending through providing tax cuts to 1,000 Americans who are already dead. And on the other hand, they are saying this \$9 million dollars, somehow we have to figure out a way of paying for, and they are effectively gutting the financial protection agency to do it.

That is because this \$9 million is apparently a step too far, even though they are offering two bills, one that adds \$269 billion to the deficit, and the other adds \$42 billion to the deficit, which I will talk about in a minute.

In this year alone, the House Ways and Means Committee has given Congress nine tax expenditure bills, at a cost of \$317 billion, all unfunded; \$317 billion in tax expenditure spending, not even including this \$269 billion that they are looking at doing today.

□ 1300

And what bothers me most about this rule today is where we say to ourselves: Look, we will spend \$269 billion for a tax expenditure for dead rich people, \$42 billion on a tax reform that will ultimately make tax reform harder, but we can't spend \$9 million on a bill to help small business.

I am sure that we all have a lot of ideas on both sides of the aisle about how we can spend money. If we have \$269 billion in tax expenditures to use, why don't we direct that to a tax cut for small businesses or to reducing the corporate tax rate, which is one of the highest in the world, or reducing the middle class tax rate? But instead, it is being directed entirely to approximately 100 dead people in Colorado, rather than allowing businesses to keep more of their money so they can reinvest in their infrastructure and create jobs, this precious tax break we are giving to 100 dead people in the State of Colorado.

We should be talking about tax reform today. We should be talking about how to reduce taxes for the middle class. Instead, we are having a closed debate about another set of bills that will likely not pass the Senate, and if they got to the President's desk, he would veto.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule. The repeal of the estate tax is very hard to explain to our constituents. That is because it is \$269 billion that benefits almost no one—less than 100 people in the State of Colorado.

Now, when my friends call this the "death tax" or somehow say this will help small business, let's keep in mind, you don't even pay inheritance tax on the first \$5 million of your estate, \$10 million for a married couple. So you can die with a \$5 million small business, a \$10 million small business for a couple, and your heirs pay zero tax on that—zero tax.

What we are saying now is that the very limited number of families that might have estates of \$50 million or \$60 million, instead of paying tax on that, should pay zero tax on that and just have the costs of that added to the deficit.

There are a lot of ideas about spending \$269 billion. We could say, oh, we could spend it on schools or science and research. Or even, if we limit ourselves to what we want to do with taxes, why aren't we lowering taxes on business? Why aren't we talking about reducing the marginal rate? Why aren't we talking about reducing all the tax brackets across the board? Why aren't we talking about a tax refund to middle class families? Instead, we are spending \$269 billion on a few hundred dead rich people. From a tax policy standpoint, that has got to be one of the least productive ways to attempt to cut taxes.

You want to cut taxes on small businesses? No argument here. Give it to them while they are living.

I was a small-businessman before I got here. I would have loved to have been able to keep more of my own money to be able to invest in the growth of my small business rather than receive a tax break when I am already dead. This makes no sense in the world.

Look, we would all love to get rid of every tax, wouldn't we—estate tax, business tax, income tax—but we all agree that government needs so much money to function.

We have a House budget. The House budget that this body agreed to stipulates a certain amount of tax breaks. It is up to our body to decide how to deliver those tax breaks.

I honestly think that almost every businessowner would rather see lower rates while they are alive so they could grow their companies faster, creating growth and employing people, rather than a tax break after they are dead.

Proponents of this bill tell stories about how many businesses or farms are harmed every year by the estate tax. Well, how many of those same farms and businesses are harmed by the hard-earned money that they are forced to turn over to the government every year? Why aren't we saying: Give less of your hard-earned income to the government every year?

But no, the Republican tax-and-spend approach continues to oppress small businesses with higher and higher taxes, oppress the middle class with higher and higher taxes, while they are only concerned with delivering a tax break to dead rich people. I simply disagree that this is an efficient way to use our Tax Code to spur economic growth.

Chairman RYAN knows full well that I am enthusiastic about having a discussion about our Tax Code: how to cut taxes for business, reduce the burden on small businesses, simplify and

streamline the Tax Code by reducing tax expenditures, and bringing down tax rates to ensure that the capital expenditures by businesses and reinvesting in businesses are determined by businessowners rather than by lobbyists here in Washington.

These bills are a step in the wrong direction, away from tax reform, and are detrimental to the American middle class and to American small businesses.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume because I have three quick points in response before I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

First, with regard to the death tax, it is important to remember whose money it is in the first place. This money has already been taxed, and it is being taken. Some small businesses, like the gentleman's from Colorado, grow to be big businesses, and we are for that in America, and that is great. But just because somebody has the misfortune to die doesn't mean the government should take up to 40 percent of their assets.

Second, with regard to the CFPB, this bill was bipartisan, and I hope that we can get it back to a bipartisan bill because the input from small businesses and credit unions and community banks is something that both sides of the aisle agree on. The disagreement is on the pay-for.

Unfortunately, the gentleman from Colorado and his side of the aisle, when they were in charge, when they passed the Dodd-Frank bill, did not subject the CFPB to the appropriations process. Therefore, anytime we make any change that requires money, it requires an offset.

So this offset simply says, beginning in 2020, it reduces the cap of the amount that the CFPB can take from the Federal Reserve as an exact offset. It was done by the CBO, was what the chairman of the Financial Services Committee said to us, and they did it as an exact offset for exactly the \$700,000 a year it allegedly, according to the CBO, will take to run these three advisory committees. It doesn't apply any cap until the year 2020. It does apply a cap exactly offset by the amount that it will have cost to run these committees for the budget window, and that starts in the year 2020.

I am really disappointed that we didn't find a bipartisan offset. I know that the chairman of our Financial Services Committee did say in the Rules Committee that he talked to the minority whip's office when he did the offset. Obviously folks on the other side of the aisle are upset about that. I am really sorry about it because I do want to acknowledge that it started as a bipartisan bill that passed our Financial Services Committee, which I happen to sit on, on an overwhelmingly bi-

partisan basis. In fact, I believe it was unanimous.

So my last point to the gentleman from Colorado is, on comprehensive tax reform, we completely agree. America needs comprehensive tax reform, and nothing in these underlying bills would preclude us from doing comprehensive tax reform.

But it is important that the American people know that we want to end the death tax. They know that we want to create a situation where there are permanent deductions that are the same for income tax States and sales tax States, and they will be treated fairly. Both those bills are about fairness. And of course the CFPB advisory committee bill is about input and making sure there is a real dialogue with small business before the CFPB creates regulation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the combined rule, bringing all three of these very important bills to the floor today. However, I rise to speak primarily about H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act, which is so vitally important to the people of my home State of Tennessee.

Some people refer to today as tax day, the day on which individual income tax returns are due to the Federal Government. But actually, Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, every day is tax day, counting sales taxes, gas taxes, property taxes, all of the taxes that people pay directly, and then all of the hidden indirect taxes we pay on everything in the cost of goods, taxes that are passed on to the consumer in the form of higher prices because, to stay in businesses, businesses have to pass their taxes on to the consumer in the form of higher prices.

We are an overtaxed nation, Mr. Speaker. Most taxpayers will pay more in taxes of all types this year than on food, clothing, and housing combined. Per person, the Federal Government collected a near record amount in revenues over the past 12 months: \$3.3 trillion just to the Federal Government, and another \$1.5 trillion, or perhaps even more, to State and local governments.

Despite what some people say, Washington does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem—and higher taxes won't solve it. Tennessee is a prime example of that. It is an example for the Nation, leading the way, because it is a low-tax State.

The State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act is especially important to my State because it will help Tennessee families make ends meet by keeping more money in the

pockets of hard-working individuals. This deduction is a matter of fairness for Tennesseans to ensure that they are treated the same way the Federal Government treats those in States with State income taxes.

The State and local sales tax deduction allows residents in States with no State income tax, such as Tennessee, to deduct their State and local sales tax payments from their Federal income tax. This puts Tennessee on equal footing with taxpayers in other States who can deduct their State income taxes from their Federal tax obligation.

This is a matter of fairness, Mr. Speaker. As the gentleman from Ohio just said, Tennesseans shouldn't pay a larger share of taxes than other taxpayers simply because we pay sales tax and we rely on sales tax instead of income tax. Making this deduction permanent will provide certainty to Tennesseans who itemize their taxes and allow them to plan their family budgets.

People all over the country, Mr. Speaker, are moving from the high-tax States to the low-tax States. Tennessee benefits from this. Jobs are being created. Our State's economy is one of the strongest in the Nation because we keep our taxes low. This is an example the Nation should follow and certainly not one that the Nation should penalize in any way.

I urge support for this legislation.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, before further yielding, I yield myself such time as I may consume to address some of the points of my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio.

He asked, Whose money is it? I think if you ask any small-businessperson, any person whom we are talking about here—people that are worth over \$10 million—and you say, "Look, would you rather pay higher taxes while you are alive or after you are dead?" I would bet almost everybody would rather hold on to more of their money. Whose money is it? Let them keep more of their own while they are alive and pay it after they are dead. I certainly would. I would much rather pay the government after I am dead than while I am alive, if we have to pay them at all.

Number two, he said, Why can't we come up with this pay-for? Well, look, this body, at its very best, just came together around a package over \$100 billion for SGR.

This is \$9 million. It is not that hard to pay for \$9 million for the U.S. Government. We probably spent \$9 million of U.S. Government time just having this debate right here, keeping the lights on and C-SPAN flowing and the Chamber going. For goodness' sake, \$9 million—it is easy.

If you allowed this to come up under an open rule, Mr. Speaker, plenty of Members could have offered \$9 million

pay-fors. Take it out of almost any account; it is such a relatively small amount of money. You could take it from almost any government agency you want, and I am sure you can find \$9 million to agree on to fund this rather than a backdoor attempt to gut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Finally, the gentleman from Ohio said nothing in here precludes tax reform. Of course he is right; nothing precludes tax reform. We are just moving further and further away from tax reform by making permanent special interest tax cuts that we all agree are part of the discussion for tax reform to eliminate in order to bring down taxes. So it is moving further and further away. It doesn't preclude it. It makes it harder.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Equal Pay Day. If we defeat the previous question, we will offer an amendment to the rule that would allow the House to consider H.R. 1619, the Paycheck Fairness Act, introduced by Representative DELAURO, which I am proud to cosponsor.

I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask Members to defeat the previous question so that the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) can offer an amendment for the House to immediately consider the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Yesterday we marked yet another Equal Pay Day. What is Equal Pay Day? That means that it took 104 days for the average woman's earnings to catch up with what the average man made last year—104 days. That is exactly 104 days too long.

It has been 52 years since the Equal Pay Act became law, and a woman still makes only 78 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by a man.

□ 1315

That is almost \$10,000 a year or almost half a million dollars over the course of the average career. The gap has barely changed in over a decade. Even in nursing, a profession that is more than 90 percent female, a study last month showed that men earned \$5,100 more per year on average than women, when you control for education, experience, and other factors.

Clearly, we must do more to close the gender pay gap. That is why, 3 weeks ago, I reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act. My bill would finish the job started by the Equal Pay Act. It would end pay secrecy across the board.

It would require employers to prove that pay disparities are not based on gender. Passing the bill would give real teeth to a very simple principle: men and women in the same job deserve the same pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act enjoys bipartisan support. It has passed the House twice already and came just two votes shy of passing in the Senate. President Obama has called on us to pass it.

More crucially still, the American people know the importance of paycheck fairness. In October, a Gallup poll asked Americans to identify the top issue facing women in the workplace. Equal pay was, by far, the most common response among men as well as women.

All across the country today, working families are in trouble. Wages are stagnant. The single biggest issue that we face today in our economy is that men and women are in jobs that do not pay them enough money to live on.

Many are struggling—struggling—to feed their children and to heat their homes. It is time that we look at equal pay because equal pay is a crucial part of the solution to this problem.

Women are half of the workforce. Two-thirds of us are breadwinners for our families. Lower pay for women means less gas in the car; less food on the table; less money in the college fund; and, yes, less spending to support our economy.

President Obama and the Department of Labor have shown the way by taking action to protect women who work for Federal contractors. It is high time that we in the Congress acted to extend real, enforceable pay equity protection for all women.

Equal pay for equal work is the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do, and it is the popular thing to do. It is time to make it a reality for all Americans.

For those of us who are in the Congress, we all come to this institution from different parts of the country. We come from different skill sets, different educational backgrounds, and different philosophies, yet we are in the same job, and men and women in this institution get paid the same amount of money. That ought to be extended to every woman in this Nation.

That is why we should defeat the previous question here so that we can introduce the paycheck fairness bill. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, before yielding to the gentleman from Texas, I don't think we are going to solve necessarily the philosophical disagreement we have on the death tax because, clearly, we think death is bad enough, it shouldn't be a taxable event; and the gentleman from Colorado thinks it is a preferable tax.

On the other one, I would just ask the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. Speaker, whether he thinks that having a temporary deduction for sales tax States like Texas—the gentleman from Texas is about to speak—is fair when we have a permanent deduction for income taxes for States like Ohio.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STIVERS. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. As we talked about yesterday in the committee, it seems like the answer that would move us toward tax reform would mean making the deduction of income tax temporary rather than make them both permanent, moving us away from reform.

Mr. STIVERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Colorado.

It appears to me it doesn't matter which we choose. We need to equalize the treatment, and neither one takes us further away from tax reform because, in tax reform, we are going to have the entire debate.

Whatever we do, we just need to move to a system that is fair, and I don't think it is fair today to States like Texas that we are not going to let you know whether you can deduct your sales tax until December 19. It just does not make sense.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio yielding. I rise in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from Ohio makes a great point. It is not right to have some States given preference versus other States when their States have different methods of taxation.

I want to focus my remarks primarily on the death tax. I want to first commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), who is the sponsor of the underlying legislation.

I have had a bill to deal with the death tax and supported doing away with it completely since I have been in Congress. I want to express appreciation for the 79 Members who have cosponsored my bill in this Congress, which is substantially similar to the bill we will vote on tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the reason this issue is so important is because the death tax has a huge effect on farmers, ranchers, and small businesses of all kinds, including those in my district. It is one of the issues I have heard the most about.

It hangs like a cloud over business growth and job creation. Now, what we often hear is: Well, the thresholds are so high that it really doesn't affect anybody but the very rich.

I just want to make two points. Number one is we see continual efforts to increase taxes on estates. Even the President's budget request this year had a different method of increasing taxes. It makes it very difficult for any farmer, rancher, or small-businessowner to plan because you never know what the government is going to do next.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it is wrong to levy a tax on what someone tries to leave to their children after they have already paid taxes on it when they earn it and then have the government come and want them to pay taxes on it again.

It is wrong for an estate of \$100, and it is just as wrong for an estate of \$100 million. We pay taxes when we earn it the first time. We should not have the government come in after death when we are trying to leave it to our heirs, our children, and then take another bite out of it.

There are too many farms, ranches, and small businesses who have had to sell just in order to pay the tax. If there is one thing we want people to do in this country, it is to work hard, to save, and to leave something for our kids so that they can have a better life.

The death tax punishes you for doing that. That is why it is so fundamentally wrong, regardless of whether you are leaving a farm, a ranch, a small business, or a lifetime of savings.

It is time to get rid of it completely so it does not hang over us in this country. I support the rule and the underlying legislation. I hope my colleagues will as well.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman from Colorado for his very lucid explanation of where we are today.

Let me say that I hope my colleagues will join me in eliminating sequester. We can put that on the floor today that would in actuality provide more funding for education, for military pay, and for the infrastructure. We need to be doing serious work here.

Let me join my colleague, Congresswoman DELAURO, in opposing the rule and the previous question in order to be able to assure that we pass pay equity. Today, in 2015, whether we have the death tax or the sales tax, we have women who are making 75 cents on a dollar and cannot make ends meet. We are having women who are not in the body of this august House and Senate working every day and getting 75 cents on the dollar. It is time for pay equity now.

Let's hear the voices raised up to be able to support the working women of America who over almost a century ago—not yet—were fighting for the right to vote. We have gained the right to vote, but we are still in an unequal economic circumstance. I want my colleagues to be as energetic about providing for pay equity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say something that is sort of bifurcated. I will say to you that, on the death tax, there is an equity in that. There is an equity in that because the ability to build that estate has been through the gracious laws and hard work of the people,

a combination that you are in the capitalistic system that is here in America and, therefore, the death tax is simply the transfer tax that goes on the basis of all of this money that you have made to be able to help run this government.

I don't really think that that is offensive at all because there are many tax breaks that have come to the individuals with these huge estates through their lifetime: capital gains tax; many different taxes that they have; R&D taxes, research tax that gives them a benefit. It is not like we are taking money. It is an investment in America.

Let me also add that I do come from Texas, and I do think equalizing of taxes is very important. I really do. What I would like to say to my friends is let us have a comprehensive tax reform. Let's get rid of sequester. Let's pass pay equity. Let's address the tax problems of people who make \$50,000 a year, and that does impact those who pay sales tax. That is a reasonable approach.

Let's look at everybody in the circle of life, if you will, and make sure that, when we leave this floor tomorrow, we have addressed the concerns of all. Let us look closely at the death tax and the fact that they are not being punished; it is a transfer based upon the bounty of wealth that has been gained over the years and invested because of a capitalistic system that allows that wealth to grow.

I don't think anybody can challenge that when you have become a Rockefeller.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The Rockefellers were most notorious, positively, for giving money back because they realized that they had gained money through the system here in the United States, their hard work—I am not denying that—but, in the overall system that we have, allowed their money to grow.

I would just make the argument that we can do well together in doing a comprehensive system. I certainly will not ignore the fact that the equalizing of taxes through the sales tax deduction is an important step, but I would like to take many steps.

I would like my colleagues to join me in relieving the sequester but also not voting for the previous question so that pay equity can come to the floor. Vote for the women.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding. I rise in strong support of the rule and especially in strong support of the underlying legislation to repeal the death tax in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at what the death tax is, this is an attack on family-owned businesses. You are talking about people who have built up, as part of the American Dream, built up businesses that are creating jobs across this country.

These people, by the way, paid taxes all along the way as they were building up that business. The business has already been taxed multiple times in some cases by the Federal Government; yet because of the death tax, when the businessowner dies, the first thing the Federal Government does is Uncle Sam shows up not to issue condolences to the grieving family, but to send them a massive tax bill that, in many cases, Mr. Speaker—in many cases—threatens the very existence of that business.

What we hear from small-businessowners all across the country and family-owned businesses is that, in many cases, when their loved ones die, while they are trying to figure out how to grieve and how to take care of the family from there, in many cases, they have to spend those first few weeks figuring out how or even if they can keep the family-owned business.

In many cases, we see people having to sell their family-owned business that they wanted to pass on to the next generation just to pay the death tax.

This is morally wrong, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Government taxes people on their death after they have already paid taxes building up their businesses, wanting to pass on the American Dream.

Part of the American Dream is not just to own a home or to create good jobs for people, but to be able to pass that on to your kids so that they can experience and live that same dream as well and continue to grow and create jobs.

What we see so many times because of this death tax is that many businessowners spend so much of their time and their resources trying to figure out how to shield their business from the death tax.

A lot of people aren't paying this tax. They are paying a lot of accountants and attorneys to figure out how to avoid the death tax so they can pass it on to their kids. That is money—millions and billions of dollars—that they could be spending growing their business, growing jobs, and creating more opportunities for other people not only to have that first job, but to then go out and create their own small business.

But, lo and behold, if they are too successful, Mr. Speaker, and they grow that business big enough and they have kids they want to pass it on to, eventually, they are going to die, and the one constant they know is that their kids will have to face that same decision of whether or not to sell the family business just to pay the Federal Government over their death.

This is morally wrong. It is time we repeal this death tax and preserve the American Dream for those family-owned businesses all across this country.

□ 1330

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I have a hard time understanding why the Republicans, of all the parties, support H.R. 622, which incentivizes States and Governors to increase their taxes. This is a State and local tax extender. It is a step away from tax reform. It adds billions to our deficit.

Do my Republican colleagues realize that this bill and its sister policy deducting State and local income tax simply subsidizes high-tax States? That is what this does.

You are saying to Governors, Raise taxes as much as you want, Ohio Governor. Raise taxes as much as you want, Colorado Governor. Don't worry, the Federal Government will bail you out. We are going to have a Federal bailout for your own high taxes.

That is what this bill does, and you cannot dispute that. They are saying, Oh, it treats it the same. Oh, well, let's give this same bailout to Texas that we give to Ohio. Okay, let's bail out Texas for their high taxes and Ohio for their high taxes—brilliant, brilliant.

It seems like it is at odds with everything the Republican Party pretends to stand for while, here in this body, they are actually advocating to bail out States with high taxes.

For me, in some ways, that is actually the most troubling bill we are considering under this rule not because it is the worst policy of the three—that great distinction is owned by directing an enormous tax break to dead people rather than living people—but because the underlying policy of deducting State and local taxes can be defensible.

This signals that the majority has no interest in comprehensive tax reform. It moves us further away from tax reform by enshrining one of the tax loopholes that incentivizes States to raise taxes permanently in the Tax Code rather than including it as part of a package that brings down tax rates for American businesses and American individuals.

Here on tax day, why aren't we debating tax reform and reducing our tax rates? I am sure to say that there has been someone here on the House floor saying those exact words since 1986, the last time this body took on tax reform, but instead, the House Ways and Means Committee has given us these "extender" bills that all the ones passed this year have moved us \$317 billion away from tax reform, away from cutting rates for American families and businesses.

Each billion that is put in the Tax Code represents an additional billion-dollar hurdle to ever getting a bipartisan tax reform deal done.

Now, look, I understand tax reform will be hard. No one agrees on what the final product should look like, even though the President and Chairman RYAN and others have indicated their support for the concept, but it should be and needs to be the goal of this Congress.

We can simplify the Tax Code and bring down tax rates. We can streamline the code. We can make sure that businesses invest wherever their productivity is most enhanced rather than optimize their expenditures to fit the Tax Code that lobbyists have inserted here in Washington, D.C. We can champion small businesses and middle class taxpayers rather than dead rich people and States with high sales taxes.

These discussions about tax extender policy move the baseline further and further away and make tax reform harder and harder to ever get done. Again, it is not adding any certainty to taxpayers.

If you listen to the majority, the folks who understand how these numbers add up at the end of the day, they know they can't take tax extenders that cost tens of billions of dollars completely "off the table." You can't shield that money and still lower rates in the way that they are promising. The numbers just don't work.

If extenders like this are "still on the table," why are we even calling this permanent? We are just further confusing people and injecting uncertainty. Republicans are telling Governors: go ahead and raise your sales taxes; we will bail you out.

At the same time, they are saying it is not off the table that some day we might cut that for tax reform, but they are moving further and further away from tax reform.

This bailout of high-tax States is simply a step away from tax reform and a step towards encouraging Governors to raise their sales tax by letting them know that the Federal Government is here to bail them out.

We will debate this bill today, not pay for it, make it harder to get to tax reform, send a message to Republican States like Texas that it is okay to raise your sales tax, but my hope is, hopefully, this is our last one.

Maybe we can begin a serious discussion that Chairman Camp started with his outline on tax reform that Chairman RYAN has paid lip service to, and I hope that we will work on a bipartisan proposal that we can begin without haste.

Finally, I want to address the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. Again, Republicans took a bipartisan bill to add a small business advisory board to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It came back costing \$9 million—not billion, not trillion—\$9 million.

Rather than allowing Members of both sides to come up with a way of

paying for it, rather than cutting some bloated line of Federal bureaucracy that both sides could have agreed on to pay for \$9 million, they are handcuffing the entire agency with effectively a policy rider pay-for that effectively restricts the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in its entirety rather than extending their arm to come up with a bipartisan pay-for. It should be easy to find a bipartisan pay-for for \$9 million.

These concepts represent a stark difference between our parties: Democrats wanting to cut taxes for middle class and businesses, Republicans wanting to cut taxes for rich dead people and incentivize States to raise their sales tax.

These rules allow for consideration of a tax bill that only serves the needs of a few thousand Americans rather than cutting taxes for the middle class. It allows the consideration of a bill that moves us further away from tax reform by bailing out States like Texas. After a self-executing amendment, this rule would drastically cut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

We should be having a conversation of comprehensive tax reform. We should be talking about how we can make the Tax Code work better for the middle class and small businesses and bring down rates. We should streamline our Tax Code and make our businesses more competitive.

I hope my colleagues oppose this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Equal Pay Day. If you defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to consider H.R. 16, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In one of the wealthiest countries in the world, it is unacceptable that women are paid significantly less than men for filling the exact same role. It is long past time that Congress acted to close the wage gap. This bill would do exactly that.

I join Representative DELAURO in advocating we finally enable women, support America's children and families, and end the crippling drag created by the gender pay gap on our Nation's economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question.

I urge a "no" vote on the rule and the underlying bills. Instead of talking about providing a tax cut for dead Americans, we talk about providing a tax cut for living Americans. Instead of bailing out States and encouraging

them to raise their taxes even more, we give them an incentive to reduce their taxes and, at the same time, reduce the Federal tax rate.

Yes, we can—si, se puede. Si, se puede. Si, se puede.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the underlying rule and bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

These bills today are about fairness. While I certainly agree with the gentleman from Colorado about the incentive in the deductibility of sales tax, it is really important that we put sales tax States and income tax States on a level playing field.

Because Congress last year and the President did not enact these tax extenders until December 19, it is important to create a permanent system that creates certainty that does not prevent anything from being considered in comprehensive tax reform. In fact, our side of the aisle has proposed comprehensive tax reform last year and continues to work to enact comprehensive tax reform that simplifies the Tax Code and lowers the rates.

On the death tax, we just have a fundamental disagreement. We think that repealing the death tax is fair. Small businesses and family farms should not be forced to be sold to pay the tax collector.

With regard to the CFPB, I think getting input from small businesses, credit unions, and small banks will ensure that financial regulations passed by the CFPB are thoughtful and understand what the impact will be on the overall economy.

It is unfortunate that the pay-for has become comprehensive. The pay-for is a simple offset that ensures that the CFPB doesn't spend more money than it costs to operate the CFPB, minus the small \$700,000 a year cost for these three advisory councils.

It is too bad that that became partisan, but I understand from the Financial Services Committee that that effort was worked with the minority whip, and it is too bad that it became partisan.

The differences between the parties are clear. Republicans are for fairness in the Tax Code and ensuring we give input from our small businesses and Main Street before big Washington regulators crush small businesses with oppressive regulation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 200 OFFERED BY  
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House

resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1619) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1619.

#### THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

The Republican majority may say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the pur-

pose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. STIVERS. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1058) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1058

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2015".*

**SEC. 2. DUTY TO ENSURE THAT IRS EMPLOYEES ARE FAMILIAR WITH AND ACT IN ACCORD WITH CERTAIN TAXPAYER RIGHTS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 7803(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) *EXECUTION OF DUTIES IN ACCORD WITH TAXPAYER RIGHTS.*—In discharging his duties, the Commissioner shall ensure that employees of the Internal Revenue Service are familiar with and act in accord with taxpayer rights as afforded by other provisions of this title, including—

"(A) the right to be informed,

"(B) the right to quality service,

"(C) the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax,

"(D) the right to challenge the position of the Internal Revenue Service and be heard,

"(E) the right to appeal a decision of the Internal Revenue Service in an independent forum,

"(F) the right to finality,

"(G) the right to privacy,

"(H) the right to confidentiality,

"(I) the right to retain representation, and

"(J) the right to a fair and just tax system.".

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1058, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today is tax day. We are bringing to the floor today a number of bills aimed at one thing, recognizing the fact that the IRS works for the taxpayer, not the other way around. It is their job in the Internal Revenue Service to make paying your taxes as easy as possible.

This marks the day that most Americans are sending their taxes in; but just ask any of these Americans who probably went to the mailbox today if it is getting any easier, ask them if the IRS is making it easier for them to fill out their forms to do their civic duty. They will tell you that it is clearly not how the IRS is working today.

We have learned a lot. We have conducted rigorous oversight, led by Mr. ROSKAM here, into the Internal Revenue Service, into how they operate. We have learned all too well that bureaucracies don't always do what is efficient; they do what is convenient—at least what is convenient for them.

What we are doing is telling the IRS that they are going to have to clean up their act. We are saying that we think most of these bills are common sense, and we are saying that it is pretty much simple, like don't target people because of their political beliefs, don't tax donations to tax-exempt groups, don't send taxpayer information to your private email—simple stuff, things that citizens should automatically expect from the Internal Revenue Service but have not been getting lately.

□ 1345

That is why we are bringing these bills to the floor. It is so that we can put the taxpayer in front, so that we can put the taxpayer first, so that we can realign the balance so that the Internal Revenue Service, like any other government agency, works for the taxpayer and not the other way around.

I want to make one more point.

All of this confusion, all of this unfairness, and all of this frustration that we are sensing and that we see on tax day is because our Tax Code is an absolute mess. It is way too complicated. It punishes people for saving; it punishes people for investing; it punishes people for working—all of the things that we need in order to build a healthy economy. It is going in the wrong direction.

We need to make our Tax Code simpler. We need to make it fairer. We need to make it easier for people to comply with. We need to make it flatter. We need to make it more internationally competitive. We need to make it so that it can help our economy heal and grow more jobs. We think these bills are the right bills to put the taxpayers back in the driver's seat, to reassert their rights.

I just want to say how proud I am of the members of our committee—of Mr. ROSKAM, of Mr. MARCHANT, of Mr. MEEHAN, of Mr. HOLDING, of Mr. RENACCI, of Mr. KELLY—who all were involved in doing vigorous oversight of this government agency, who found problems, and who have acted on behalf of hard-working taxpayers to right these wrongs and to make sure that they don't happen again.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the author of H.R. 1058, the chairman of the Oversight Committee, the person who is in charge of our investigation and who is a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a very sobering thing to get a letter from the Internal Revenue Service and to not know what is inside. It is one thing if you go to the mailbox, and it is one of those ones that is a little bit colorful, and you say, Hey, that is a tax refund in there, and isn't that a delightful piece of mail? Everybody is happy to see that. Yet, when you get one of those other ones that is black and white and has all of that sort of nefarious print—and you know the kind I mean—it sends a chill through you.

Now, why does it send a chill through you? It sends a chill through you based on sort of the past disposition of the Internal Revenue Service. You get this feeling of: Is this an organization—is this an entity?—which has unbelievable authority? Are they being fair? Are they treating me, as a taxpayer, the way I ought to be treated?

The reason this becomes so important is that we have got a tax compliance system in the United States 99 percent of which is voluntary. It is a remarkable thing that 99 percent of American taxpayers voluntarily pay their taxes, and yet they are paying taxes into a system in which their confidence is shaken, and it is shaken grievously. It is shaken so much that, on a bipartisan basis, Mr. Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee reported out on a voice vote these things on which Republicans and Democrats have come together. They have said we know one thing: we know what impunity looks like when we see it, and we see impunity has seeped into the culture at the Internal Revenue Service, and on a bipartisan basis, we are going to do something about it. I think this deeply resonates with the American public.

H.R. 1058, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2015, has received input and support from Nina Olson of the National Taxpayer Advocate. Mr. Speaker, let me read a couple of sentences that she said about this.

She says: "A Taxpayer Bill of Rights would provide taxpayers with critical information to assist them in their dealings with the IRS, provide the IRS with foundational principles to guide employees in their dealings with taxpayers, and serve as a benchmark to help the IRS leadership and Congress monitor the extent of the agency's compliance with these rights."

In just the height of gracious understatement, she says this: "After a difficult period for the IRS, a Taxpayer Bill of Rights has the potential to restore taxpayers' trust in both the IRS and the tax system."

Mr. Speaker, here is what the Taxpayer Bill of Rights calls for. These would then be enumerated rights the taxpayers would have, and under this legislation, it would be the responsibility of the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service to make sure



that these would be in place and that employees would be familiar with these and that the Internal Revenue Service would be acting in accordance with them. It is a list. Let me read it. It is brief, and you are going to love it:

The right to be informed; the right to quality service; the right to pay no more tax than the correct amount of tax; the right to challenge the position of the Internal Revenue Service and to be heard; the right to appeal a decision of the Internal Revenue Service in an independent forum; the right to finality; the right to privacy; the right to confidentiality; the right to retain representation; and the right to a fair and just tax system.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility in Congress, and that is to recognize our role in this whole enterprise. Clearly, what has happened is the American public has delegated authority to us, their elected representatives. We, in turn, and some of our predecessors, have delegated that authority to the Internal Revenue Service. I would argue—and, I think, on a bipartisan basis that argument is echoed—that that authority has been abused.

All right. So then what is the remedy?

The remedy is Congress comes together, as reflecting the American public, and it says, We are going to reclaim this. We are going to make this right. There is a whole series of bills today that, I think, will enjoy very, very strong support out of the House.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the theme that Chairman RYAN articulated. He said that we are reminded today that the Internal Revenue Service works for the public. The public does not work for the Internal Revenue Service.

I think that today's debate and the focus with which we on a bipartisan basis come to this is meant to do a couple of things. It is meant to restore confidence in an agency whose confidence has been undermined. It is meant to assert and assume a responsibility that we in Congress have, and it is meant to restore the confidence of the American people in the democratic process on an overall basis.

I thank the chairman for his leadership in bringing these bills before the committee, and I urge the passage of H.R. 1058.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1058.

Today, this day, April 15, is the due date for Americans to file their tax returns. On this day, it is important for the House to consider a taxpayer bill of rights.

This legislation would ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with the rights guaranteed to taxpayers under the Internal Revenue Code. These include the right to be informed, the right to be heard, the

right to privacy, the right to appeal, and the right to a fair and just system.

Mr. Speaker, we must do all we can to protect taxpayers' rights. In addition to passing this act, Congress must ensure that the agency has the resources it needs to properly serve American taxpayers. This year, American taxpayers finally felt the shock of the billion-dollar cuts to the agency's budget. Taxpayers seeking assistance waited in lines for hours. Few could reach a live person when they called the help hotlines, and according to press reports—to written reports, television, newspapers, and magazines—in New York, the Internal Revenue Service office even ran out of paper to print extra tax forms after taxpayers waited in long lines for hours. That is not right. That is not fair. That is not just.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act takes an important step in the right direction. It is timely and it is just. I hope that we can come together to make sure that our constituents are receiving the services and the protections they deserve.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Illinois and my Republican colleague—the chairman—and others for bringing this bill to the floor today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the ranking member, which are that the American public has an expectation that they are going to be treated with respect and with dignity. With that, I urge the passage of H.R. 1058.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I support H.R. 1058, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2015. On this tax day, we must do more for our taxpayers. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for H.R. 1058.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1058, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IRS EMAIL TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1152) to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue

Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1152

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "IRS Email Transparency Act".*

#### SEC. 2. IRS EMPLOYEES PROHIBITED FROM USING PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNTS FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

*No officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service may use a personal email account to conduct any official business of the Government.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1152, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate and thank Mr. MARCHANT of Texas, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, for bringing this issue to the floor. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia, who is the ranking member of the subcommittee, for partnering, along with other members of the minority on the Ways and Means Committee, on this.

This is a perfect example of Congress' seeing an abuse that was made and rectifying it, and that is why these laws are here.

For the purpose of explaining what this particular bill does, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT).

Mr. MARCHANT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your leadership in helping advance the IRS Email Transparency Act.

Mr. Speaker, we have an important responsibility in Congress to protect American taxpayers. That is what our constituents sent us here to do. I believe we have the opportunity to do that today. By moving forward this bill, we put safeguards in place for taxpayers, and we bring greater transparency and accountability to the IRS.

H.R. 1152 is a clear, straightforward bill that will prohibit the IRS' officers and employees from using personal email accounts for official IRS business—a very commonsense thing.

This bill came as a result of the Ways and Means Committee's investigation into the IRS' targeting of taxpayers based on their political beliefs. Many of those wrongly targeted were in my district in Texas. The underlying issue of H.R. 1152 is about finding ways to fix the problem and ensuring that such abuses never happen again. This is something that will impact all Americans.

One of the abuses the committee discovered in our investigation was that some IRS employees used their personal, nonsecure email accounts to conduct official IRS business. In doing so, they also disclosed confidential taxpayer information.

□ 1400

Lois Lerner, a former IRS official at the center of the agency's targeting scandal, routinely conducted official business involving taxpayer information on her personal email account. If that is not bad enough, nothing on her personal email is subject to official recordkeeping, which conveniently keeps taxpayer information outside the orbit of proper security.

Such reckless behavior by the IRS breaches the trust between the American people and their government. This is wrong in principle and has failed in practice.

Currently, the IRS employee manual only says that sensitive but unclassified data can't be emailed outside the IRS network, but it says nothing about an outright prohibition. In other words, it is bad practice, but it is not prohibited. It clearly didn't stop Lois Lerner from betraying the confidence of the American taxpayer.

This bill makes it against the law for IRS employees to share confidential tax information on their personal email account. As I said at the outset, Congress has a responsibility to protect taxpayers. Just avoiding a repeat of past failures cannot be our ambition.

So let's put commonsense safeguards in place, shine the light of transparency on the IRS, and provide greater accountability to the American people. The IRS Email Transparency Act does just that.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1152, the IRS Email Transparency Act.

In 2012, the Internal Revenue Service prohibited employees from using personal email accounts for governmental or official purposes. This bill simply makes this commonsense rule a Federal law.

H.R. 1152 responds to the investigation into the processing of tax-exempt applications. This investigation started nearly 2 years ago, in May 2013. To date, the agency has spent more than \$20 million to produce more than 1.3 million pages of documents, including 78,000 emails from Ms. Lois Lerner.

Mr. Speaker, to date, there has not been one shred of evidence produced to support the Republican claim that the processing of applications was politically motivated or intended to target the President's political enemies. The inspector general even stated that no one outside of the agency was involved in setting the standards for processing tax-exempt applications. The delays experienced by groups were the result of incompetence at the agency in the Exempt Organizations Division.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) and my Republican colleagues for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

One of the questions I get at home a lot is: How did the Lois Lerner scandal happen? How did it come to pass that that happened, and how do you make sure that it doesn't happen again?

Mr. MARCHANT's bill doesn't deal necessarily with Lois Lerner 1.0, but it deals with Lois Lerner 2.0. So it is a prohibition against this very cavalier attitude that we have seen coming from the Internal Revenue Service, and that is to be cavalier about taxpayer information. It hasn't just been leaked through emails. It has been leaked in other sources and in other ways and shapes and iterations, but the effect is the same, and the effect is devastating.

So this takes away any ambiguity that somebody can use their own private email account and begin to do official activity. If that is the bright line that is necessary, that is the bright line that Mr. MARCHANT's bill creates.

So what we want to make sure is that we do more than simply say Lois doesn't work here anymore, as if that is the remedy, but to actually change these underlying policies, reclaim this authority, and make sure that this can never happen again.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today is the day that we should declare that the IRS cannot take our personal tax information and put it on their private email account so that it could be subject to discovery by other people and people who will not observe and revere that information.

I urge passage today of H.R. 1152.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The question is on the mo-

tion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1152, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TAXPAYER KNOWLEDGE OF IRS INVESTIGATIONS ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1026) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1026

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer Knowledge of IRS Investigations Act".*

#### SEC. 2. RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE STATUS OF CERTAIN INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 6103(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

*"(11) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REGARDING STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.—In the case of a person who provides to the Secretary information indicating a violation of section 7213, 7213A, or 7214 with respect to any return or return information of such person, the Secretary may disclose to such person (or such person's designee)—*

*"(A) whether an investigation based on the person's provision of such information has been initiated and whether it is open or closed,*

*"(B) whether any such investigation substantiated such a violation by any individual, and*

*"(C) whether any action has been taken with respect to such individual (including whether a referral has been made for prosecution of such individual)."*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by this section shall apply to disclosures made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1026, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, I would like to thank Mr. KELLY,

a member of the Ways and Means Committee, along with the minority ranking member for their diligence in uncovering this problem also. You are seeing a theme here, Mr. Speaker, which is both the Republican and Democratic side of the Ways and Means Committee in conducting oversight saw abuses that needed to be fixed. We are fixing these abuses so that they can't happen again, in this statute.

For the purpose of describing this particular legislation, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), the author of the bill.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1026, as has been described, this actually had come before Congress before. Dr. BOUSTANY and Mr. ROSKAM have presented this. This is about taxpayer knowledge of IRS investigations.

Now, this would make sense to almost everybody to understand what exactly has been going on. Under section 6103 in the Tax Code, it is a felony to disclose or to compromise people's tax information and give it to other groups to work with. We shouldn't have to pass laws like this; but unfortunately, laws are not made and governments are not run by angels but they are run by men, so we have to have oversight over what has happened.

This piece of legislation gives the same rights to those people whose information has been violated, whose information has been compromised, as is given to IRS personnel. We found out 2 years ago, and Dr. John Eastman really made the point of it for the National Organization for Marriage, their tax information on their people, their members, was given out, and it went to Human Rights Campaign. Now, you would think by the name of that that it makes sense, Human Rights Campaign, those are probably good people, but you cannot divulge private tax information to anybody else. It is a felony to do that. But section 6103 also prevented those whose tax information was divulged, they couldn't get information on it. They weren't allowed to even inquire and were not allowed to be informed of what was taking place. Did it in fact take place? Well, we knew it took place because it was out in the public.

Secondly, who was it who divulged it? We don't know. We can't talk to you about that because that is protected under the Tax Code.

Well, is there an investigation? We can't tell you that either, because that is protected. We can't tell you who it was who divulged it, who they divulged it to, is there an investigation or is there not an investigation. And at the end of it, was there proof found that this was actually done? If so, what is the penalty for it? Those are basic tenets of what we are as Americans.

So I submit to people, this is not a Republican or Democrat issue, as we know it—Mr. LEWIS is a good friend of mine—it is American tenets. It is what we firmly believe as Americans. Nobody should be able to do that to us; and if they do that to us, we should be able to inquire about the status of that. This piece of legislation gives every single taxpayer the same rights as those doing the investigation, those doing the leaks and the findings.

Now, if we are to restore the American people's confidence in our form of government, this is essential. We can't allow these things to happen and then say, well, we could have helped you except for one thing in the Tax Code, section 6103(e). What is going to happen, those people are going to look at us and say: I have absolutely no idea what you are talking about. We say: Well, we can't really let you know what happened.

So if it really is an American principle and if we really do need to have faith and trust and feel that we are all being treated the same way and in an honest way, and if that is the only way to restore the confidence that the people need to have and the trust they have in our form of government and those of us who they have sent to represent them, then this type of legislation has to take place.

I am so proud of what our Committee on Ways and Means is doing today under Chairman RYAN and under Mr. ROSKAM. What are we doing? We are protecting taxpayers and taxpayers' rights. This is so fundamentally American. This shouldn't be anything you even have to stop and think about.

So what we are proposing today under H.R. 1026 is that the taxpayers have the same information and the same knowledge of what is going on with their accounts, what has been divulged, who divulged it, is there an ongoing investigation, what were the findings of that investigation and who is being held responsible, and more important than that, who is being held accountable? These are felonies. Until we get to the point where the American people have faith and trust in us again and restore their confidence, we have nothing.

In America's House, we as Members have got to make sure that every single day we safeguard the rights of every single American. Unfortunately, this has not taken place in the past, and we have to move forward with it.

I do know that today being April 15 is a day that most people dread. Listen, tax revenues are necessary. We need to have an agency to collect them. But by the same token, when it turns out that those people in that agency—and not all of them, but we have some people in there that are violating individuals' rights, then we have to come forward and we have to champion legislation that protects the same people who

voted us into office and sent us to defend them.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1026, the Taxpayer Knowledge of IRS Investigations Act.

Earlier this afternoon, the House passed H.R. 1058, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act. Two of the rights included in that bill were the right to confidentiality, the right to be informed. This bill complements that legislation.

Generally, tax returns are confidential and may not be disclosed unless authorized by the Internal Revenue Code. Section 6103 of the Code provides certain exceptions. These do not include telling a taxpayer if there has been an unauthorized disclosure of his or her tax return information. Fines, criminal penalties, or both apply to the unauthorized inspection or disclosure of tax return information.

H.R. 1026 would allow the Internal Revenue Service to update a taxpayer on the status of investigations of unauthorized disclosure of his or her tax return. They would be allowed to know whether the investigation started, is open, or is closed.

This is a simple, commonsense bill. Taxpayers have a right to know if their tax return information has been compromised.

□ 1415

I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my Republican colleague; the ranking member of the subcommittee; and the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) has 17½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

This one, this case, really boils my blood. Let me just try and describe in a simple way what Mr. KELLY is fixing here and what happened to honest, hard-working taxpayers in America in this case.

There is an organization that is a nonprofit organization advocating freely in our free speech society for their view on a cause—I won't even say what cause it is—advocating for their view, a charitable nonprofit.

The Internal Revenue Service took their confidential filing and list of their donors to their cause, and the Internal Revenue Service broke the law and leaked it to an outside individual not with the Internal Revenue Service. This list of donors to this cause went out on the Internet. It was released to the public by the opponents of this cause.

Guess what happened. The people who confidentially, privately donated—exercising their free speech rights to advocate for a cause—found themselves intimidated, found themselves harassed because their personal, private information had been released by the IRS to the public.

This organization asked the Internal Revenue Service: What just happened? How did this private document with the private information of our donors to our cause get out there on the Internet and hosted on the page by our opponents of our cause?

The Internal Revenue Service in turn said: We can't answer your question.

The advocates of the cause, trying to defend the privacy of their donors—a free speech right—said: Well, are you investigating this? Are you looking into this? Are you holding somebody responsible? Is there an investigation into how this private information got out on the Internet?

They said: We can't answer that question.

Unbelievable—that is not freedom; that is not liberty. That is not how this IRS will ever act again if we have any say-so over this.

That is why Mr. KELLY is writing this bill, to make sure that people's privacy is protected and that it is not leaked to the public or to the opponents of a cause that they care about.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, you are noticing a theme here, and that is intimidation and impunity. That is a bad combination when a culture of impunity develops and an agency says: We can do what we want, when we want, and how we want to; and we can intimidate who we want, how we want, and when we want to.

Said another way, here is what the IRS did: the IRS broke the law, and then they used the law to conceal it. They broke the law, and they used the law. That is a manipulation. That is a manipulation that no side of this Congress is going to stand for.

That is a manipulation that has to be answered. That is a manipulation that has to be put down, that we cannot be complicit with. You cannot break the law and then use the law to conceal it. That is exactly what happened in this case.

In other words, the IRS releases this information in violation of the law; and then, when they are asked about it, they say: Well, we would just love to tell you about it, but it is against the law for us to tell you about it.

That is ridiculous. That is so jarring that now we have had a situation and we have had a culture that has developed over a period of time at the Internal Revenue Service where breaking the law and using the law to conceal it is considered what? It is considered normal.

I am proud of the House today because the sensibilities of the House of Representatives is to say that is not normal, that is not acceptable, that is not right, and that will not be tolerated.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I support the piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything my colleagues have said. I think Americans need to look at what is going on in their House—America's House—today and to understand that we do understand the difference between right and wrong. We also understand that sometimes absolute power corrupts absolutely.

We started years ago looking into this. We still don't have all the answers. I would just tell some of our fellow citizens that we are not done yet because we knew those things have happened.

I think what the chairman has expressed and Mr. ROSKAM has expressed is the outrage we feel because it is not only our responsibility, it is our duty to protect every single one of America's citizens. To divulge the information that was divulged and to do it in such a way to use the law to break the law makes absolutely no sense to any of us.

This isn't really about either side of the aisle. This is about all of us, together, doing what is right for the American people. This should reaffirm to the American people that we are here acting in their best interest and defending them every single day that we sit in session and that we sit in office.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1026, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1314

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right to Appeal Act".*

#### SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL RELATING TO ADVERSE DETERMINATIONS OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7123 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end of the following:*

*"(c) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL RELATING TO ADVERSE DETERMINATION OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.—*

*"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe procedures under which an organization which claims to be described in section 501(c) may request an administrative appeal (including a conference relating to such appeal if requested by the organization) to the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals of an adverse determination described in paragraph (2).*

*"(2) ADVERSE DETERMINATIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an adverse determination is described in this paragraph if such determination is adverse to an organization with respect to—*

*"(A) the initial qualification or continuing qualification of the organization as exempt from tax under section 501(a) or as an organization described in section 170(c)(2),*

*"(B) the initial classification or continuing classification of the organization as a private foundation under section 509(a), or*

*"(C) the initial classification or continuing classification of the organization as a private operating foundation under section 4942(j)(3)."*

*(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to determinations made on or after May 19, 2014.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1314, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for his work in crafting this legislation and for bringing it to the floor. This, too, is one of the important things that we needed to do to restore some trust and confidence and accountability at the Internal Revenue Service.

For the purpose of describing the legislation, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the chairman for his recognition and support of this very, very—once again—thematically important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of what is commonsense legislation, H.R. 1314. What it does is gives tax-exempt status applicants whose application is denied the right to appeal that decision. That seems fundamental, doesn't it, in a country like ours, where the Constitution built within it the concept of the right to petition your government for the decisions that they make.

The purpose of the legislation is simple. What it will do is codify in statute the requirement for the IRS to create a mechanism by which 501(c) organizations—tax-exempt organizations—if they get an adverse determination of their tax-exempt status, they can request an administrative appeal to the agency's internal Office of Appeals.

My colleague from Illinois talked about the concept here of impunity. To me, this is a lot of what this speaks to. The idea that an administrative agency—in this case, the IRS—will take this application and then would make a decision—it was because of the good work that was done in the previous Congress by this committee and the Oversight Subcommittee of this committee, that they exposed the reality that, in many cases, these particular appeals, these particular decisions, were being made after the applicant was being targeted because of the fact that they had chosen to express particular political views in the context of their application.

What was done was that those applications, once denied, were diverted to a different part of the structure in which they went to die. That made the IRS the judge; the jury; and, in fact, the executioner because you were done with respect to your application. There was no place else to go.

Now, I have to say that, when this came to light because of the work of this committee, the IRS did issue interim guidance in May 2014 that ensured that all groups subject to a denial would have the right to appeal the decision.

This bill today, H.R. 1314, codifies that guidance into law so there is no ambiguity and that, once again, we don't have the ability of the IRS to indiscriminately and *sua sponte* make their own decisions about when American taxpayers should have the right to be able to petition for an appeal of an adverse decision.

Mr. Speaker, I will enter in the RECORD a letter from the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council which supports the legislation.

The group writes: "H.R. 1314 is an important bill as it allows taxpayers an additional right to petition their government when they disagree with a decision."

That is the fundamental challenge that we have to the impunity which has been taking place.

SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL,  
Vienna, VA, April 13, 2015.

Hon. PAT MEEHAN,  
Cannon Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MEEHAN: The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council is pleased to support H.R. 1314, a bill that would allow for an appeals process for those organizations that are denied tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

H.R. 1314 is an important bill as it allows taxpayers an additional right to petition their government when they disagree with a decision by the IRS to deny tax-exempt status. Given the clear and well-documented bias by IRS staff that thwarted and delayed the approval of organizations based on their ideology, more accountability and protection for taxpayers is needed. H.R. 1314 provides that check.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

KAREN KERRIGAN,  
President & CEO.

Mr. MEEHAN. I urge my colleagues, as they have on our subcommittee and our committee with their unanimous support from both sides of the aisle, to support this commonsense taxpayer protection and to send an unmistakable signal to the American taxpayers that they should not be targeted by the IRS for their political views.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1314. Currently, not all 501(c) organizations are able to appeal decisions regarding the application for tax-exempt status; instead, the right to appeal depends on whether the application was processed inside the Internal Revenue Service.

This bill would give the right of an administrative appeal to all organizations that apply for tax-exempt status. It is a good, commonsense bill. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" on H.R. 1314, and I thank the chair of our full committee and the sponsor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman from Georgia as well for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

This is a classic example of the IRS basically putting the American taxpayers in a nice little cul-de-sac. They would come in; you would have a process, and they would review something and so forth and so on.

Then rather than moving you through where you could get a disposition, rather than moving you through to where you could get an answer, rather than moving you through so you

knew that there was somebody unbiased that was looking at something, they essentially moved you into a cul-de-sac and just kind of let you walk around the neighborhood for a while and not particularly caring about the disposition of this.

□ 1430

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, these bills that we are discussing today, many of them were authored and have been highlighted and brainstormed by Dr. CHARLES BOUSTANY, the former chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee. And now, on a bipartisan basis, folks have come together.

So I want to congratulate Mr. MEEHAN for the procedure by which this has now been expedited and the expectation that people will be fairly considered and fairly reviewed and that they won't be stuck in a cul-de-sac with no way out.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I think the point has been made very articulately by all of the speakers who have talked about what really is a fundamental and simple issue, which is the right to appeal to your government.

What concerned me the most when we began to look at what occurred with the IRS conduct in the context of the applications by the organizations which were denied based on their perceived political views or religious views, that the process for these particular applicants was changed; that it went to a different division, where, as my colleague from Illinois identified, it went to die in the cul-de-sac.

So this is a question of fundamental fairness, that every American taxpayer should have the right to be treated equally. That is all we are asking for here, fundamental, equal treatment, and the right, when you disagree with the decision by an IRS administrative official, to have somebody else question that decision.

That is fundamental. It is simple. It is basic American, and I am very proud that we have colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have joined together to petition to assure that that right is codified into law. That is what we accomplish today.

I am grateful for the support of all of my colleagues and the leadership of the chairman of the subcommittee, who has been helping to bring to light these abuses. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr.

RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1314, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## IRS BUREAUCRACY REDUCTION AND JUDICIAL REVIEW ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1295) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1295

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "IRS Bureaucracy Reduction and Judicial Review Act".

### SEC. 2. ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF INTENT TO OPERATE AS 501(c)(4).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter F of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "SEC. 506. ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF INTENT TO OPERATE AS 501(c)(4).

"(a) IN GENERAL.—An organization described in section 501(c)(4) shall, not later than 60 days after the organization is established, notify the Secretary (in such manner as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe) that it is operating as such.

"(b) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—The notice required under subsection (a) shall include the following information:

"(1) The name, address, and taxpayer identification number of the organization.

"(2) The date on which, and the State under the laws of which, the organization was organized.

"(3) A statement of the purpose of the organization.

"(c) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of such a notice, the Secretary shall send to the organization an acknowledgment of such receipt.

"(d) EXTENSION FOR REASONABLE CAUSE.—The Secretary may, for reasonable cause, extend the 60-day period described in subsection (a).

"(e) USER FEE.—The Secretary shall impose a reasonable user fee for submission of the notice under subsection (a).

"(f) REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION.—Upon request by an organization to be treated as an organization described in section 501(c)(4), the Secretary may issue a determination with respect to such treatment. Such request shall be treated for purposes of section 6104 as an application for exemption from taxation under section 501(a)."

(b) SUPPORTING INFORMATION WITH FIRST RETURN.—Section 6033(f) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and",

(2) by striking "include on the return required under subsection (a) the information" and in-

serting the following: "include on the return required under subsection (a)—

"(1) the information", and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) in the case of the first such return filed by such an organization after submitting a notice to the Secretary under section 506(a), such information as the Secretary shall by regulation require in support of the organization's treatment as an organization described in section 501(c)(4)."

(c) FAILURE TO FILE INITIAL NOTIFICATION.—Section 6652(c) of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) NOTICES UNDER SECTION 506.—

"(A) PENALTY ON ORGANIZATION.—In the case of a failure to submit a notice required under section 506(a) (relating to organizations required to notify Secretary of intent to operate as 501(c)(4)) on the date and in the manner prescribed therefor, there shall be paid by the organization failing to so submit \$20 for each day during which such failure continues, but the total amount imposed under this subparagraph on any organization for failure to submit any one notice shall not exceed \$5,000.

"(B) MANAGERS.—The Secretary may make written demand on an organization subject to penalty under subparagraph (A) specifying in such demand a reasonable future date by which the notice shall be submitted for purposes of this subparagraph. If such notice is not submitted on or before such date, there shall be paid by the person failing to so submit \$20 for each day after the expiration of the time specified in the written demand during which such failure continues, but the total amount imposed under this subparagraph on all persons for failure to submit any one notice shall not exceed \$5,000."

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part I of subchapter F of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 506. Organizations required to notify Secretary of intent to operate as 501(c)(4)."

(e) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any fees collected pursuant to section 506(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by subsection (a), shall not be expended by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate unless provided by an appropriations Act.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to organizations which are described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and organized after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CERTAIN EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of any other organization described in section 501(c)(4) of such Code, the amendments made by this section shall apply to such organization only if, on or before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) such organization has not applied for a written determination of recognition as an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of such Code, and

(B) such organization has not filed at least one annual return or notice required under subsection (a)(1) or (i) (as the case may be) of section 6033 of such Code.

In the case of any organization to which the amendments made by this section apply by reason of the preceding sentence, such organization shall submit the notice required by section 506(a) of such Code, as added by this Act, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 3. DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS FOR 501(c)(4) ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7428(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (C) and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) with respect to the initial classification or continuing classification of an organization described in section 501(c)(4) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), or".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to pleadings filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1295, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. HOLDING for bringing this bill to the floor, bringing it through committee.

I would like to thank the ranking member from Georgia as well for his support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for the purpose of describing his bill.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

H.R. 1295, the IRS Bureaucracy Reduction and Judicial Review Act, has two simple goals. First, it will provide newly formed 501(c)(4) organizations with a mandatory yet simple process for registering with the IRS. Within 60 days of establishment, a new 501(c)(4) will be required to provide notice of formation and intent to the IRS. The IRS, in return, must issue an acknowledgment of receipt to the notifying organization.

Second, this legislation would offer 501(c)(4)s the ability to seek judicial review should the IRS deny their application for recognition, fail to act on the application, or inform an organization that it is considering revoking or adversely modifying its tax-exempt status. This would be conducted under the 7428 declaratory judgment procedure that is currently afforded to other tax-exempt organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this legislation does not change the requirement for 501(c)(4)s to file an annual 990 or alter any of the other reporting requirements currently mandated for 501(c)(4)s.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Chairman ROSKAM of the Oversight Subcommittee, leading a team of us, we



know that last year the IRS spent nearly 10,000 hours reviewing 501(c)(4)s. So this legislation before us would simplify the review process for the IRS and allow them to better focus their resources on the thousands—thousands, Mr. Speaker—of 501(c)(3) applications which are outstanding and languishing for review.

So I urge the support of this bill, and I thank the chairman.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1295. I support the improvements the bill makes to the taxpayers' exempt process for social welfare organizations.

Under current law, social welfare organizations are not required to file for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, although many organizations do apply for greater certainty. From 2009 to 2012, the number of social welfare organizations applying for tax-exempt status nearly doubled, from 1,800 to 3,400 requests.

But for an organization that simply starts operating as a social welfare organization without applying for tax exemption, the agency does not have any information on the organization until it files its annual information return. This return, known as Form 990, may not be due until more than a year after the organization has already been operating.

This bill, which I think is a good bill, is a commonsense bill, requires all social welfare organizations to file a notice of formation with the agency no later than 60 days after the organization is established. The intent is to provide the agency with certain key information.

I believe this bill could have done more. Currently, social welfare organizations are permitted to engage in political campaigns. However, an organization's primary work cannot be engaging in political activities.

I am concerned that the information required to be provided to the agency under this bill, and in the first annual information return, may not be sufficient. It is important that the agency can clearly identify all cases in which the organizations engage in an inappropriate amount of political activity.

To address this concern, the bill should require these organizations to indicate whether they engage or intend to engage in political activity.

Although this bill does not go far enough, I support the improvement it makes. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for H.R. 1295.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman RYAN for yielding.

Congressman HOLDING's idea is a great idea, and we should enact it with dispatch and get it done with. And the reason is, according to the IRS, their 2014 data book—this is published by the Internal Revenue Service—they have said that they have spent 10,000 hours reviewing 4,000 applications for 501(c)(4) organizations, which sounds sort of interesting.

Except there is a plot trap. And you know what the plot trap is? They only said "no" to eight of them.

So, said another way, the way PETER ROSKAM thinks about the world, that is 10,000 hours of a complete waste of time. That is 10,000 hours from an organization that is saying, Oh, we are just begging for mercy, and we are not able to meet these claims, and we are not able to make these calls.

Now, I have got an email here that the Commissioner sent out to all the IRS employees at the beginning of this year. It is January 13, 2015. And you know how normally, around a dinner table, when people say, Hey, you know, it is getting really tough out there. We are going to have to do what? We are going to have to do more with less.

That is what we do, as Americans, don't we? We do more with less. That is who we are as a people.

But that is not the Internal Revenue Service. Oh, no, no, no, no, no. They don't disappoint. You know what the Internal Revenue Service says?

We are going to do less with less. We are going to do less with less.

So this is an organization, now, that has spent 10,000 hours of taxpayer time, completely squandering it. Stay tuned next week, and come to the Oversight Subcommittee, where you are not going to be disappointed when you learn more things about the IRS budget and some of the things that we are going to be discussing.

But my point is this: Representative HOLDING's concept says, this is a complete waste of time. Let's clean this up. Let's free up 10,000 hours so that we can do more with less and reject the IRS notion that the best that they can do is to do less with less.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for the purpose of closing on his bill.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Georgia for the support of this bill.

I thank the chairman, Mr. ROSKAM, of the subcommittee, for the support of this bill because, by streamlining the registration process for newly formed 501(c)(4)s with the IRS and providing them with the ability to seek judicial review similar to such review that other tax-exempt organizations have, we can have a process, Mr. Speaker,

that is both simpler and fairer for the folks who want to get involved in their communities and across the Nation.

Civic engagement should not require jumping over hurdles or a long, drawn-out review process by the IRS. If you play by the rules, the IRS should not be a hindrance to your activities.

So, once again, I urge support of this bill.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1295, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PREVENT TARGETING AT THE IRS ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 709) to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 709

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Prevent Targeting at the IRS Act".*

#### SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR TAKING OFFICIAL ACTIONS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (10) of section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 is amended to read as follows:

*"(10) performing, delaying, or failing to perform (or threatening to perform, delay, or fail to perform) any official action (including any audit) with respect to a taxpayer for purpose of extracting personal gain or benefit or for a political purpose."*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 709, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?



There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI) to describe the contents of his bill, and thank Mr. RENACCI for bringing this issue to our attention, for crafting this legislation, for moving it through committee on a bipartisan basis.

□ 1445

Mr. RENACCI. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge approval of H.R. 709, the Prevent Targeting at the IRS Act.

This bipartisan legislation has over 50 cosponsors and actually passed by voice vote in a previous Congress. I think the overwhelming support for this legislation shows that the vast majority of Members, regardless of their party affiliation, believe the IRS should be above politics.

Congress has already acted to create a list of fireable offenses at the IRS. In 1998, the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act passed by a vote of 402-8. It sought to bring accountability to the IRS by allowing for the immediate termination of IRS employees who engage in the so-called "10 deadly sins" against taxpayers. Many of the Members in Congress today supported those reforms back then.

Unfortunately, while that legislation covers many offenses, it did not include political targeting. I have no doubt this was a simple oversight.

This is not a partisan issue. I cannot imagine any Member would support a process for removing an employee for bad behavior but somehow not consider political targeting to be a bad enough behavior. It is absolutely unacceptable for a government official to consider the political leanings of any taxpayer when conducting official business. If a Federal employee engages in political targeting, that employee should be fired. It is that simple.

My legislation will make sure of it. It specifically spells out that any IRS employee, regardless of political affiliation, who targets a taxpayer for political purposes will immediately be relieved of his or her duties. If you work for the IRS, you cannot target taxpayers for political purposes. There should be no controversy in that.

This legislation does not change any of the procedures for removing an IRS agent. It just adds "political targeting" to the list of the 10 deadly sins already in existence.

Though it has been nearly 2 years since we learned that the IRS targeted individuals based on their political beliefs, the American public's lack of trust in this Federal agency remains—and rightly so. Political targeting contradicts the very principles this country was founded upon, and there is no room for it in our democracy. It will not be tolerated.

The IRS needs this legislation; the entire Federal Government needs this

legislation; and, most importantly, the American people need this legislation. They need to know that they will not be targeted by their government for political purposes. They need to know that those who are entrusted with the vast power of the Federal Government will act in a responsible and professional manner and will be reprimanded if they don't. They need to know that the government is accountable to them and not the other way around.

I urge all Members to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 709. This legislation removes certain protections that are otherwise available to Federal employees if an employee conducts his or her official duties with the intent to extract personal gain or for a political purpose.

H.R. 709 responds to the investigation into the processing of tax-exempt applications. This investigation started nearly 2 years ago, in May of 2013. To date, the agency has spent more than \$20 million to produce more than 1.3 million pages of documents, including 78,000 emails from Lois Lerner.

Mr. Speaker, to date, there has not been one shred of evidence produced to support the Republican claim that the processing of applications was politically motivated or intended to target the President's political enemies.

The inspector general even stated that no one outside the agency was involved in setting the criteria for processing tax-exempt applications. The delays experienced by groups were the result of incompetence at the agency in the Exempt Organizations Division.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for H.R. 709.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I appreciate my colleague from Ohio bringing forth this important legislation.

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary." James Madison wrote these words 227 years ago in his 51st Federalist Paper. It is an elegant way of expressing an ugly truth, that a government of the people cannot always be trusted to do right by the people and, thus, must hold itself in check for the sake of the people.

When Madison penned the Federalist Papers, it was with a fresh view of what the British Parliament did to exert government control over the lives of the colonists, leading to the famous Boston Tea Party and, ultimately, a revolution.

The targeted discrimination and unfair treatment of conservative organizations with the words "Tea Party" and others in their names that took place at the IRS under the direction of Lois Lerner shows what happens when government no longer feels accountable to the people and when the Constitution becomes simply a list of suggestions. Agencies can then become a political weapon for one party to use against the other.

It is sad that we actually have to pass legislation to address these inexcusable actions. Every employee of the IRS, of this entire Federal Government, is ultimately a public servant. Once you stop serving the public and start serving political agendas, it is time for you to do something else.

This bill will add targeting taxpayers for political purposes to the list of the 10 things that can get you fired as an employee of the IRS.

I am not sure what is more upsetting about that sentence: that our government is so bureaucratic that only 10 things might get you fired at the IRS, or that political discrimination wasn't already one of those things.

I urge my colleagues to support this straightforward, commonsense measure.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you a story. I want to take you back to 1996. A friend of mine in Illinois, my former law partner, Al Salvi, was running for the United States Senate. He loaned himself some money to his campaign.

The Federal Election Commission—a different agency than we are talking about, but stick with me. This is like a 'Seinfeld' episode. It is all going to come together at the end. The Federal Election Commission said: You did that the wrong way. You violated Federal election law. They placed him under investigation. World War II headlines in the Chicago papers. He goes on, and he loses the election for the United States Senate.

Now, political scientists can debate whether he would have won or whether he would have lost, but let's face it, being under investigation by the Federal Election Commission generally does not help you win a political campaign.

At the end of that campaign, the Federal Election Commission came and they made a very large settlement demand. I don't remember off the top of my head how many hundreds of thousands of dollars they were demanding from him, but he said: I didn't do anything wrong, and I am not going to pay you any money.

The Federal Election Commission said: That is fine. We are going to sue you—which they did. They filed a lawsuit against him in Federal court. A Federal judge reads the pleadings, dismisses the case—against the Federal Election Commission—and finds in favor of Al Salvi.

You would think that this drama all ended there. Oh, no, no, no. The Federal Election Commission came back, and they said: Well, we know you won, but we are still going to make a settlement demand of you. We are going to lower the amount, but we are still going to make a demand because, if you don't pay us, we are going to appeal the judge's ruling.

Al Salvi is a pretty sophisticated lawyer. He talked to the lawyer at the other end of the line and said to that person: Let me talk to the person who had authority on this case because you don't understand. I won; you lost. I am not going to pay you any money. Let me talk to the person with authority on the case at the Federal Election Commission.

That person got on the phone with Al Salvi and said this: If you pledge never to run for office again, we will drop this case.

Al Salvi said: Put that in writing.

The person said: We don't put that in writing, and we never lose.

That person was Lois Lerner.

Now, you take that disposition, you take that attitude, you take that long arm of a bureaucrat who reaches into the sanctity of the ballot booth, and you've got a real problem. And you up the wattage on that, you move her over and you give her the type of authority that not the Federal Election Commission has, but the Internal Revenue Service to grab somebody by the throat and to do whatever they want with them, with the possibility of imprisoning them, that is a problem. That is a problem that the gentleman from Ohio, Representative RENACCI, is trying to make go away.

We had a hearing in the last Congress. I hear a lot of testimony. We all hear a lot of testimony. But this testimony was inspirational to me because these were people that came in before our committee.

Committee members, you will remember this.

They told us about how they had been targeted. But you know what was the most incredible thing? They kept faith with their country when it didn't look like their country had kept faith with them. They said: This isn't America. My America doesn't target me. My America doesn't shun me out of the public square.

But you know the one that got the most attention in my mind was the pro-life group in Iowa who was asked by the Internal Revenue Service: Tell us about your organization; tell us about your activity.

They gave a list of activities, and one of the activities they said was: We have prayer meetings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. ROSKAM. We have prayer meetings.

And the IRS said: In writing, under penalty of perjury, tell us about your prayer meetings.

The hair on the back of my neck is tingling at this moment as I am describing this to you because it is so scandalous.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROSKAM. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I believe the specific question from the IRS to the pro-life group from Iowa was: What do you pray about?

Mr. ROSKAM. So can you imagine that? You are a nice little group, minding your own business, in Iowa, with a point of view, and the Internal Revenue Service starts roughing you up?

This targeting is insidious. This targeting is poisonous. This targeting is without a defender. There is nobody who is getting up on this floor today—no voice is saying, "Oh, yes. Let him do it. It is fine. It will all settle out." Not the ranking member, he is not defending this. There was nobody. Not the chairman, he is not defending this.

Everybody in this House should all be saying that we all have the right to come in and make our arguments and try to persuade the public to vote for us, and it should be never a bureaucrat who manipulates and uses power to an end and abuses somebody who, by good faith, is coming into this process.

This is an incredibly important piece of legislation. I urge its passage.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

This one is the one that really takes the cake with us because we recognized a persistent pattern of targeting and harassment by the Internal Revenue Service over groups, and the only thing that grouped these groups together, the only thing that was similar, was their political persuasion, their political beliefs.

So the question that I get asked a lot from hard-working taxpayers in Wisconsin is: Did the IRS really target people based on their political beliefs? And the answer is: Absolutely yes, they did.

That is tyrannical; that is beyond the pale; and that, with the passage of this bill, will be illegal. It will make it extremely clear, no ifs, ands, or buts.

And let me tell you one other thing, Mr. Speaker. There is still a long ways to go with the investigation that is still underway, but what we already know is that this targeting happened. People were targeted based on their po-

litical beliefs, and this law makes that a crime.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman; I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his comments; and I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia, my colleague from the other side.

□ 1500

Look, it is pretty simple. It is unacceptable for a government official to consider the political leanings of any taxpayer when conducting official business. If a federal employee engages in political targeting, that employee should be fired. It is that simple.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to support H.R. 709 to prevent targeting of the IRS, a commonsense piece of legislation.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 709, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## FAIR TREATMENT FOR ALL GIFTS ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1104) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1104

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Fair Treatment for All Gifts Act".*

### SEC. 2. DEDUCTION FROM GIFT TAX FOR GIFTS MADE TO CERTAIN EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 2522(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting a semicolon and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) an organization described in paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).".

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to gifts made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) *NO INFERENCE.*—Nothing in the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be construed to create any inference with respect to whether any transfer of property (whether made before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this

*Act) to an organization described in paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is a transfer of property by gift for purposes of chapter 12 of such Code.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1104, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), the chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee and the author of this bill for the purpose of describing his bill.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I have a riddle for you:

What is it that brings together the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Prosperity, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Tea Party Patriots all under one tent? Mr. Speaker, it is the Fair Treatment for All Gifts Act, H.R. 1104.

Here is the point. This is why all these groups from a wide range of political perspectives have all come together. They have come together because the IRS has started sniffing around about the possibility of doing something that every one of those groups really finds jarring, and that is assessing a tax liability on gifts to nonprofit organizations.

Now, you would have thought that this would be pretty settled doctrine, that gifts to nonprofit organizations, those types of contributions, are not taxable events. Yet the Internal Revenue Service wrote a letter. It is this type of letter. It is the kind of letter that I described in an earlier bill. You get it, and it is very unsettling, Mr. Speaker. They just wrote some donor, and they said, Your gift tax return was assigned to me for examination. The IRS has received information that you donated cash to some organization, and it begins to lay out a theory as to why this should be a taxable event.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a taxable event. Mr. Speaker, this should not be ambiguous. And, Mr. Speaker, the Internal Revenue Service should not be wasting its precious time, which it seems to have so little of; shouldn't be going after American donors to all kinds of groups—left, right, center, up, down, any which way—and giving them a hard time about the contributions that they are making.

One final point. We have got a system, Mr. Speaker, that depends on the generosity of Americans. The American public is an incredibly generous group. The American public is sacrificial in their giving in many ways, and the donations and the generosity of the American public is absolutely foundational for our civic life. So, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1104 clarifies that, and it says donations to those tax-exempt organizations under 501(c)(4), (5), and (6) of the Tax Code are not taxable.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1104. On this day, it is wise for the House to consider a bill to increase certainty for taxpayers. This bill brings clarity to what has historically been uncertain tax treatment for contributions to social welfare organizations, agricultural associations, labor unions, and trade associations.

With this bill, Mr. Speaker, amounts contributed to such organizations will not be subject to the gift tax.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for H.R. 1104.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the chairman, the chairs of the subcommittee, and all of the members of the committee for supporting this piece of legislation and the other pieces.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Are you getting a theme here, Mr. Speaker? So what has happened here is individuals were giving donations to tax-exempt organizations, nonprofit organizations. As they should have, they did not expect to have to pay taxes on those donations. The Internal Revenue Service sent these letters to these donors, to these particular organizations, obviously stirring up a lot of confusion and threatening them with a big tax bill.

This makes it really clear. These organizations are tax-exempt organizations, and therefore you don't owe gift taxes for a donation to these organizations. It is crystal clear. It is made even more clear in this bill because, Mr. Speaker, it is very important for the operation of our society that that space that occurs between ourselves and our government is full, is vibrant, and is alive.

We call that space civil society. It is where we live our lives. The deeply woven fabric of civil society are all these various groups, nonprofit groups, all kinds of groups, advocating for something—advocating for the environment, advocating for the economy, advocating for the disabled, advocating for this cause, advocating for that cause, advocating for this person, and advocating for that person. It is how we lead our lives. It is how we inte-

grate with one another. It is how we have a community.

So, Mr. Speaker, the last thing we want to do is have the IRS parachute itself in and divide itself and make people think that they can't participate in civil society. Civil society is so core to who we are as Americans and so core to our ability to live our freedoms and to help others. That is what is so important about this.

So when people are hit with an intimidating letter from the Internal Revenue Service and are being told that by participating in civil society, by participating in civil dialogue, and by exercising their free speech rights they are going to get hit with this huge, massive tax bill that they didn't expect, that is harassment. That is targeting. That is not going to happen once this bill passes. That is one other mistake that was made that is being rectified because of Mr. ROSKAM's diligence.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all the members of the committee who on a bipartisan basis saw that this was wrong and on a bipartisan basis agreed with this solution. That is why I am just so pleased that we are bringing these bills to the floor. JOHN LEWIS, SANDY LEVIN, PETER ROSKAM, and PAUL RYAN are arm in arm agreeing on this. We are standing up for citizens, we are standing up for taxpayers, we are putting the taxpayer in charge of the IRS, not the other way around, and we are standing up for our free speech rights for our civil society. That is why on this tax day, April 15, we are bringing these bills to the floor and passing these bills on a bipartisan, unanimous basis because this is the signal we want to send to Americans on tax day that we are not going to take this anymore, and we are going to reassert our rights.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) for closing on his bill.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make one other point to echo something Chairman RYAN said as it relates to civil society, and it is an important thing to think about.

There is the Federal Government here, and there is the individual here. The only thing that sort of comes in between as a buffer—there are a couple of things. One is family. I think that is a very important buffer. The other buffer is civil society. It is a restraining influence, the capability of individual, family, and civil society to push back.

So we are on the floor today, and we have been interacting with JOHN LEWIS, our friend from Georgia, who has a reputation that is unbelievable, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve with him. Why? Because of the work that he did in the civil rights movement. It is an inspiration.

But can you imagine what it would have been like if a bureaucrat at the time had said, Well, I am just going to send one of these kind of letters to the donors of the NAACP or any of these organizations? Can you imagine what happens?

Here is my second point. A letter like this? What does it do? It has a chilling effect, doesn't it? All of a sudden you have donors who say, I don't know, I don't know. This is going to be a taxable event. Well, maybe I am not going to give. Or I am going to end up on some list, I don't know. Or I am going to find my name in the paper in this way, and I don't want my name in the paper. Whatever it happens to be. But the impact and the damage, Mr. Speaker, is the same. It has a chilling effect, doesn't it?

Here is the final point. The IRS backed off really fast on this once we asked about it. This wasn't a situation where they doubled down, they said, Oh, no, no, no, the statute that you all passed absolutely gives us this authority. They backed off, and they said, No, we are not going to do that anymore. That tells you something too, doesn't it? It tells you that the ground upon which they thought they were operating was pretty soft ground.

So let me just conclude by saying this. Today, the nature of this debate, the intensity that you have heard from both sides of the aisle, the Members are reflecting not ourselves and just our world view, Mr. Speaker, but we are reflecting what we are hearing at home, and we are reflecting the desire of the American public who want to have confidence in these institutions. They want to know that the tax-collecting body of the United States that is the Internal Revenue Service is just going to collect the taxes and is not going to mess with them and is not going to put them through all kinds of paces and manipulate them and make their lives miserable and actually abuse power. That is all they want. Isn't that a very real expectation? It is not asking too much.

So my suspicion is that the debate today—and it is my hope that the other body will pick up these bills and move forward on them, recognize the bipartisan nature of them and recognize the timeliness and the ripeness of them. These need to be fixed. These problems need to be fixed now. There is an urgency to them. But this is not a false claim that this work is completed. In fact, this is going to be a work in process, because it is our responsibility to get an Internal Revenue Service that moves away from the disposition and the attitude of impunity—which is saturated up until now—back to where it should be. I think we can do it. I am confident with the bipartisan support in this House we can reflect back and say April 15 of this year, this was a good day.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, before I yield the balance of my time back, it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the chairman, the chairman of the subcommittee, and all of the Members on the other side. We did come together in a bipartisan fashion.

In a real sense, we all live in the same house—the American house—and we must continue to look out for this house, not just this building, but the more than 300 million people in our country. That is the right thing to do. That is the fair thing to do. That is the just thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I can't top that, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1104, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

#### CONTRACTING AND TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1562) to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1562

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. 2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States Government that no Government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts.

##### SEC. 3. DISCLOSURE AND EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS FROM DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any executive agency that issues an invitation for bids or a request for proposals for a contract in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold shall require each person that submits a bid or proposal to submit with the bid or proposal a form—

(1) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

(2) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the agency in-

formation limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(b) IMPACT ON RESPONSIBILITY DETERMINATION.—The head of any executive agency, in evaluating any offer received in response to a solicitation issued by the agency for bids or proposals for a contract, shall consider a certification that the offeror has a seriously delinquent tax debt to be definitive proof that the offeror is not a responsible source as defined in section 113 of title 41, United States Code.

(c) DEBARMENT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the head of an executive agency shall initiate a suspension or debarment proceeding against a person after receiving an offer for a contract from such person if—

(A) such offer contains a certification (as required under subsection (a)(1)) that such person has a seriously delinquent tax debt; or

(B) the head of the agency receives information from the Secretary of the Treasury (as authorized under subsection (a)(2)) demonstrating that such a certification submitted by such person is false.

(2) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may waive paragraph (1) with respect to a person based upon a written finding of urgent and compelling circumstances significantly affecting the interests of the United States. If the head of an executive agency waives paragraph (1) for a person, the head of the agency shall submit to Congress, within 30 days after the waiver is made, a report containing the rationale for the waiver and relevant information supporting the waiver decision.

(d) RELEASE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall make available to all executive agencies a standard form for the authorization described in subsection (a).

(e) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to incorporate the requirements of this section.

##### SEC. 4. DISCLOSURE AND EVALUATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any executive agency that offers a grant in excess of an amount equal to the simplified acquisition threshold shall require each person applying for a grant to submit with the grant application a form—

(1) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

(2) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the executive agency information limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(b) IMPACT ON DETERMINATION OF FINANCIAL STABILITY.—The head of any executive agency, in evaluating any application for a grant offered by the agency, shall consider a certification that the grant applicant has a seriously delinquent tax debt to be definitive proof that the applicant is high-risk and, if the applicant is awarded the grant, shall take appropriate measures under guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget for enhanced oversight of high-risk grantees.

(c) DEBARMENT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the head of an executive agency shall initiate a suspension or debarment proceeding against a person after receiving a grant application from such person if—

(A) such application contains a certification (as required under subsection (a)(1)) that such person has a seriously delinquent tax debt; or

(B) the head of the agency receives information from the Secretary of the Treasury (as authorized under subsection (a)(2)) demonstrating that such a certification submitted by such person is false.

(2) **WAIVER.**—The head of an executive agency may waive paragraph (1) with respect to a person based upon a written finding of urgent and compelling circumstances significantly affecting the interests of the United States. If the head of an executive agency waives paragraph (1) for a person, the head of the agency shall submit to Congress, within 30 days after the waiver is made, a report containing the rationale for the waiver and relevant information supporting the waiver decision.

(d) **RELEASE OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall make available to all executive agencies a standard form for the authorization described in subsection (a).

(e) **REVISION OF REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall revise such regulations as necessary to incorporate the requirements of this section.

#### SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) **PERSON.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “person” includes—

- (i) an individual;
- (ii) a partnership; and
- (iii) a corporation.

(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “person” does not include an individual seeking assistance through a grant entitlement program.

(C) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.**—A partnership shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such partnership has a partner who—

- (i) holds an ownership interest of 50 percent or more in that partnership; and
- (ii) has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(D) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.**—A corporation shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such corporation has an officer or a shareholder who—

- (i) holds 50 percent or more, or a controlling interest that is less than 50 percent, of the outstanding shares of corporate stock in that corporation; and
- (ii) has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(2) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given such term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(3) **SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “seriously delinquent tax debt” means a Federal tax liability that—

- (i) has been assessed by the Secretary of the Treasury under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

- (ii) may be collected by the Secretary by levy or by a proceeding in court.

(B) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Such term does not include—

- (i) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code;

- (ii) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending;

(iii) a debt with respect to which a continuous levy has been issued under section 6331 of such Code (or, in the case of an applicant for employment, a debt with respect to which the applicant agrees to be subject to such a levy); and

(iv) a debt with respect to which such a levy is released under section 6343(a)(1)(D) of such Code.

#### SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall apply with respect to contracts and grants awarded on or after the date occurring 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate being here today. We have done this in a good bipartisan way. This is a good, strong bill. This bill has come under a previous Congress and done quite well.

H.R. 1562 will increase tax compliance by Federal contractors and grant recipients and deny contracts or grants to those with seriously delinquent tax debt.

I am pleased to, again, present this bill to the House with Representative JACKIE SPEIER, like we did in the past. I also appreciate the help of Representative JOHN CARTER in his cosponsorship.

The bill has a long history of bipartisan support, including from then-Senator Obama and President Obama. While he cannot claim that he has commented specifically on this exact bill, this bill before us was something that was originally introduced by then-Senator Obama years ago.

Five years ago, President Obama directed his administration to crack down on tax cheats that are seeking government contracts. The President said:

All across this country, there are people who meet their obligations each and every day. You do your jobs. You support your families. You pay the taxes you owe—because it's a fundamental responsibility of citizenship.

The steps I'm directing today and the steps I'm calling on Congress to take are just basic common sense. They're not going to eliminate all of the waste or abuse in government contracting in one fell swoop. Going forward, we'll also have to do more to hold contractors more accountable not just for paying taxes, but for following other laws as well.

I wholeheartedly and totally agree with the President's approach on this.

On April 15, 2013, the House passed this very similar piece of legislation by a vote of 407-0. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act.

Two years later, we are considering essentially the same bill today with some very minor changes. For example, the definition of “seriously delinquent tax debt” now exempts individuals determined by the IRS to be under economic hardship.

Let me remind my colleagues of what this bill does. H.R. 1562 denies contracts or grants to those with seriously delinquent tax debt. The bill requires contractors and potential grant recipients to certify their tax status when submitting a proposal for a contract or a grant.

If the agency finds the contractor or grantee to have seriously delinquent tax debt, then they would be referred for suspension or debarment and would not be eligible for new awards.

There are exceptions in the bill for those that are trying to do the right thing so they should not be covered under the definition of “seriously delinquent tax debt.”

Such people, including those who are paying their back taxes through debt installment plans or in the process of hearings with the IRS to finalize a determination of their debt or experiencing economic hardship as determined by the IRS, have exceptions.

In 2007, then-Senator Obama introduced legislation to address this contractor accountability issue.

The bill before us today is simple. If contractors and those applying for grants don't pay their taxes, they will not be eligible for lucrative Federal contracts or grants.

At its core, this bill is about contractor and grant recipient accountability with taxpayer dollars. Whether we like it or not, the law requires we pay taxes. We expect the same from contractors and grant recipients.

To give you some perspective on how much money we are talking about, the Federal Government spends about \$1 trillion annually on contracts and grants, \$1 trillion on just contracts and grants.

Most recently, in fiscal year 2014, the Federal Government spent \$444 billion on contracts and \$591 billion on grants. That is a lot of money and demands a lot of tax compliance.

Over the years, the GAO—the Government Accountability Office—has identified thousands of Federal contractors with substantial amounts of unpaid taxes.

Here are a few examples given to us by the GAO. Tens of thousands of recipients of Federal grant and direct assistance programs collectively owed more than \$790 million in Federal taxes as of September 2006.

Approximately 27,000 defense contractors owed about \$3 billion; 33,000 civilian agency contractors owed roughly

\$3.3 billion, and 3,800 General Services Administration contractors owed about \$1.4 billion in unpaid taxes. We are talking about roughly \$7.7 billion in uncollected taxes.

At least 3,700 Recovery Act contract and grant recipients owed more than \$750 million in known unpaid Federal taxes while receiving over \$24 billion in Recovery Act funds. We have 3,700 contractors that already owe \$750 million; and what do we do? We gave them \$24 billion in additional contracts.

GAO also found contractors were not paying payroll taxes or owed substantial property or other assets and still—still—didn't pay their taxes.

For example, under a VA-HHS contract for healthcare-related services, a contractor was paid more than \$100,000 in Federal funds. The contractor also had an unpaid tax debt of more than \$18 million. The owner was purchasing multimillion dollar properties and unrelated luxury vehicles while not fully paying its payroll taxes. It goes on and on.

The tax accountability problem has become a potential national security problem. In 2014, the GAO found 83,000 Department of Defense employees and contractors who held or were eligible for security clearances had unpaid Federal tax debt totaling more than \$730 million.

Now, not all contractors are tax cheats; the vast majority do pay their taxes on time and in full. Those who fail to satisfy their tax debt have a cost advantage over those who do pay their taxes.

You are competing for Federal contracts; you are competing for grants. Some pay taxes; some don't. Who do you think is going to give the lowest price and potentially get the next grant or contract? The person who can undercut them because they don't pay their taxes—it is just not fair.

Further, many fulfill dangerous missions, invest in cutting-edge technology, and provide assistance for the poor and others in need.

Contractors who do not play by the rules should be held accountable.

Unfortunately, despite our past efforts, we haven't been able to get this bill over the finish line. I hope the House will again support this bill, as it did in the year 2013, and that the Senate will finally bring this bill up and pass it as they should. Hopefully, this Congress will be a bit different.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1562.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1562, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act.

This bill is nearly identical to a bill introduced in the last two Congresses by Chairman CHAFFETZ and is very

similar to legislation reported by the Oversight Committee and passed by the House in the 110th Congress. I supported this legislation each time it has been introduced, and I continue to support it today.

The Government Accountability Office has reported that government contractors owed more than \$5 billion in unpaid Federal taxes in 2004 and 2005. Unpaid taxes owed by contractors include payroll taxes—amounts required to be withheld from employee wages—as well as corporate income taxes.

GAO has also found that some contractors with unpaid tax debts are repeat offenders that have failed to pay their taxes over many years, including one case for almost 20 years.

This legislation will allow the Federal Government to make sure that contractors seeking to do business with the Federal Government have paid their taxes before they can receive a Federal contract.

The Federal acquisition regulation was revised in 2008 to require contractors to certify that they do not owe a delinquent tax debt to the Federal Government. This bill builds on that requirement by providing Federal agencies the means to verify contractors' claims.

This legislation will also ensure that responsible contractors no longer have to compete with tax delinquents.

I would just like to reiterate that I fully support the legislation. It is imperative that we ensure that all contractors that are doing business with the government have complied with their tax obligations. I believe this bill does just that.

I urge all of our Members to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to reiterate my pleasure in working with both sides of the aisle on many, many pieces of legislation. We don't always agree, but I think the tone and tenor that is happening in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is going in the right direction.

We have worked well with our staff. That wouldn't happen without the leadership of the ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS, and I do appreciate it.

We have voted for this bill unanimously in the past. It is a new Congress with new Members, but I would encourage this passage today.

I believe in the spirit in which the President and previously Senator Obama has urged that Congress act on this issue. It is imperative that we act on this issue today, hopeful, with passage, that we would get the Senate to act as well. We are talking about billions of dollars of taxpayer money. It is the fair and right thing to do. I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1562.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1563) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that individuals having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1563

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. INELIGIBILITY OF NONCOMPLIANT TAXPAYERS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—INELIGIBILITY OF NONCOMPLIANT TAXPAYERS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

#### “§ 7381. Definitions

“For purposes of this subchapter—

“(1) The term ‘seriously delinquent tax debt’ means a Federal tax liability that has been assessed by the Secretary of the Treasury under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and may be collected by the Secretary by levy or by a proceeding in court, except that such term does not include—

“(A) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code;

“(B) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending;

“(C) a debt with respect to which a continuous levy has been issued under section 6331 of such Code (or, in the case of an applicant for employment, a debt with respect to which the applicant agrees to be subject to such a levy); and

“(D) a debt with respect to which such a levy is released under section 6343(a)(1)(D) of such Code;

“(2) the term ‘employee’ means an employee in or under an agency, including an individual described in sections 2104(b) and 2105(e); and

“(3) the term ‘agency’ means—



“(A) an Executive agency;  
 “(B) the United States Postal Service;  
 “(C) the Postal Regulatory Commission;  
 and  
 “(D) an employing authority in the legislative branch.

#### “§ 7382. Ineligibility for employment

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), any individual who has a seriously delinquent tax debt shall be ineligible to be appointed or to continue serving as an employee.

“(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—The head of each agency shall take appropriate measures to ensure that each individual applying for employment with such agency shall be required to submit (as part of the application for employment) certification that such individual does not have any seriously delinquent tax debt.

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service, shall, for purposes of carrying out this section with respect to the executive branch, promulgate any regulations which the Office considers necessary, except that such regulations shall provide for the following:

“(1) All applicable due process rights, afforded by chapter 75 and any other provision of law, shall apply with respect to a determination under this section that an applicant is ineligible to be appointed or that an employee is ineligible to continue serving.

“(2) Before any such determination is given effect with respect to an individual, the individual shall be afforded 180 days to demonstrate that such individual's debt is one described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 7381(a)(1).

“(3) An employee may continue to serve, in a situation involving financial hardship, if the continued service of such employee is in the best interests of the United States, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

“(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall report annually to Congress on the number of exemptions requested and the number of exemptions granted under subsection (c)(3).

#### “§ 7383. Review of public records

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall provide for such reviews of public records as the head of such agency considers appropriate to determine if a notice of lien has been filed pursuant to section 6323 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to an employee of or an applicant for employment with such agency.

“(b) ADDITIONAL REQUESTS.—If a notice of lien is discovered under subsection (a) with respect to an employee or applicant for employment, the agency may—

“(1) request that the employee or applicant execute and submit a form authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the agency information limited to describing whether—

“(A) the employee or applicant has a seriously delinquent tax debt; or

“(B) there is a final administrative or judicial determination that such employee or applicant committed any act described under section 7385(b); and

“(2) request that the Secretary of the Treasury disclose any information so authorized to be disclosed.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION FORM.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to all agencies a standard form for the authorization described in subsection (b)(1).

“(d) NEGATIVE CONSIDERATION.—The head of an agency, in considering an individual's

application for employment or in making an employee appraisal or evaluation, shall give negative consideration to a refusal or failure to comply with a request under subsection (b)(1).

#### “§ 7384. Confidentiality

“Neither the head nor any other employee of an agency may—

“(1) use any information furnished under the provisions of this subchapter for any purpose other than the administration of this subchapter;

“(2) make any publication whereby the information furnished by or with respect to any particular individual under this subchapter can be identified; or

“(3) permit anyone who is not an employee of such agency to examine or otherwise have access to any such information.

#### “§ 7385. Adverse actions for employees who understate taxes or fail to file

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c) and paragraph (2) of this subsection, the head of an agency may take any personnel action against an employee of such agency if there is a final administrative or judicial determination that such employee committed any act described under subsection (b).

“(2) PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘personnel action’ includes separation but does not include administrative leave or any other type of paid leave without duty or charge to leave.

“(b) ACTS.—The acts referred to under subsection (a)(1) are—

“(1) willful failure to file any return of tax required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, unless such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect; or

“(2) willful understatement of Federal tax liability, unless such understatement is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

“(c) PROCEDURE.—Under regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, an employee subject to a personnel action under this section shall be entitled to the procedures provided under sections 7513 or 7543, as applicable.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—INELIGIBILITY OF NON-COMPLIANT TAXPAYERS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

“7381. Definitions.

“7382. Ineligibility for employment.

“7383. Review of public records.

“7384. Confidentiality.

“7385. Adverse actions for employees who understate taxes or fail to file.”.

#### SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me be clear right away. We have got great Federal workers. They care; they are patriotic; they work hard, but we have got a few that are bad apples. We have got to give the tools necessary to the leadership within the administration to do what is right and, if necessary, allow them latitude to let those people go.

We voted on a similar bill years ago before I got into Congress. We gave this right and authority. We gave it to the IRS. Guess what, the IRS has the best tax compliance in all Federal Government—who would have thought.

I was pleased to see that Congressman STENY HOYER voted for that piece of legislation, that Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS voted for that legislation.

We want to take that same power, that same right that we gave the IRS years ago because it worked—it worked—and we want to give that to the other departments and agencies.

Now, there are a lot of exceptions; there are a lot of ways to get out of this, but the basic principle is true. One, Federal workers do a better job of paying their taxes than the general public, and we should pat them on the back, and we should recognize them for that; but, two, when you do have a few bad apples, you have got to allow leadership the ability to let those people go if they continue to thumb their nose at the system and the taxpayers.

We just heard testimony from the DEA: I can't fire anybody, even though they were engaged in some very nefarious activity.

We heard the administrator of the EPA say: I can't let anybody go, even though the person is watching 4 hours of porn a day.

Four hours a day, they couldn't fire them. Let's give them some latitude because we have a test case. It has worked. We want tax compliance.

The President's fiscal year 2016 budget asks American taxpayers to spend \$275 billion to pay Federal workers an average salary of more than \$78,000; yet the IRS reports that more than 100,000 Federal civilian employees owed more than \$1 billion in unpaid Federal income taxes in 2014—more than \$1 billion.

□ 1530

Now, there are lots of reasons people can't do that. There are people who need to have their wages garnished, and they are. There are people who are disputing what the IRS said. Again, this bill doesn't affect those people. The adjudication process continues on, and this bill doesn't affect those people. As a last resort, we need a tool



that the IRS has for its employees. We need that tool for the other departments and agencies because, like it or not, the law requires that we pay taxes.

Five years ago, President Obama directed his administration to crack down on tax cheats. It was specifically targeting and discussing contractors, but I would argue that the same principle for contractors should be in place for Federal employees. How can you look the contractors and the employees in the eyes and say, Well, we have got two totally different standards of principles? The principle is the same—pay your taxes, and there is not a problem. If you are in trouble and if you are trying to get out of it, not a problem. We will work with you. Yet, for those of you who are just screwing over the American taxpayer, bye-bye. You can't even apply.

The President said:

All across this country, there are people who meet their obligations each and every day. You do your jobs. You support your families. You pay the taxes you owe—because it's a fundamental responsibility of citizenship.

I totally and wholeheartedly agree.

The Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act makes individuals with seriously delinquent tax debt ineligible for Federal employment. It is defined as an outstanding Federal tax debt that has been assessed and may be collected by levy or court proceeding. The legislation does not affect employees who are working to settle their tax disputes or resolving outstanding liabilities.

I want to also remind everybody that the committee and I, as the prime sponsor, accepted every Democrat amendment that was offered—100 percent.

Several other safeguards are carved out in the bill, including provisions offered by the minority in the previous Congresses.

Individuals are provided full due process rights and have an additional 180 days to demonstrate their debts meet one of the exemptions of the bill. That was, I believe, offered by Congressman LYNCH. We accepted it. We thought we would get broader support because of it, and we would hope we would today.

The bill also provides a financial hardship exemption if the individual's service is in the best interest of the United States. The person who is leading that department or agency still has discretion. If he says, It is in the best interest, in my judgment, for the United States to continue to have this person serve, he is allowed to continue to serve.

The bill demonstrates a simple principle: individuals collecting Federal salaries funded by taxpayers have to follow the rules and pay their taxes.

Those charged with the stewardship of our Federal resources and programs

should not be delinquent in their taxes. As all Americans file their taxes today, so should Federal employees, and most of them do—in fact, at better rates than civilians do.

Last month, in testimony before the committee, the GAO warned Congress of tens of thousands of Federal employees who were eligible for security clearances but who still had unpaid tax debts. I would argue that that is a potential security risk. It shows a vulnerability.

During the hearing, Members discussed the IRS employees' high rate of tax compliance.

From 2009 to 2013, IRS employees had a 0.8 percent delinquency rate compared to 3.3 percent for civilian workers throughout the government.

The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, which, again, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and a host of other people voted in favor of, requires the removal of IRS employees who are found to have willfully failed to have filed their tax returns and who have willfully understated their Federal tax liabilities.

The House passed the conference report for this bill by a vote of 402–8. Overwhelming. I have never heard another Member complain that the IRS has this provision in place. Let's even the playing field. Let's give that same tool to the rest of the Federal Government. Don't give it just to the IRS. Give it to the Department of Defense. Give it to the other departments and agencies because the financial results of that work.

This bill makes Federal workers subject to the same standard as that for IRS employees. Not all Federal workers are tax cheats. This is not about politics. I appreciate the good work that has gone on in this bill. Unfortunately, despite past efforts, we have not been able to get this bill over the finish line. I hope the House will again support the bill, as it did in 2012, and that the Senate will act on this bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015.

The bill seeks to resolve a problem of tax compliance that simply does not exist—a fact confirmed by the Internal Revenue Service. This measure is based on ideology rather than on facts, and it will perpetuate a negative image of Federal workers.

This legislation is very similar to H.R. 249, introduced in the last Congress, which I opposed in committee and on this House floor. I remain opposed to this legislation because the purpose and intent of the bill is the same as the measure from last Congress. It would require Federal agencies to fire Federal employees who are delinquent in paying their taxes.

Everyone, including Federal employees, should pay their taxes. There is no argument on that. My Republican colleagues seem to believe that there is a serious problem with Federal employees not paying their taxes and that it requires a legislative fix. There is not, and the chairman, I think, admitted that.

Last Congress, after committee consideration, former committee chairman—Chairman ISSA—and I sought information from the IRS on their rules and procedures regarding debt collections, options for resolving delinquencies, and payment options. Without waiting for these answers, the Republican leadership rushed this bill to the floor. During this Congress, we were able to obtain valuable information from the IRS which the Republicans have chosen to ignore by bringing this legislation to the floor.

The IRS has a mechanism in place already to recoup funds from Federal employees who fail to pay their taxes. It is known as the Federal Payment Levy Program. Under this program, the IRS can impose a continuous levy on Federal salaries and pensions up to 15 percent until the debt is paid. The IRS can initiate additional levies in cases when it determines that it is appropriate to do so. Data from the IRS shows that all Federal employees who owe taxes and who do not qualify for financial hardship exemptions or who are not involved in bankruptcy, litigation, or pending offers in compromise are subject to having their wages levied. That can happen today.

Since the start of the levy program, the IRS has been extremely successful in recovering delinquent taxes from Federal employees. According to the IRS, the levy program has collected over \$5 billion since 2000. These facts indicate that the IRS is succeeding in recovering delinquent taxes in 100 percent or in nearly all cases involving Federal employees. The fact is that the IRS has confirmed that it does not have a problem in collecting delinquent taxes from Federal employees. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do not see a problem with the government's ability to recover delinquent taxes from Federal employees.

I do not understand why, despite this fact, we are debating this measure on the floor today. According to the IRS, the 2014 tax compliance rate for the Federal community was 97 percent. This is higher than the 95 percent tax compliance rate for Members and staffs of the House of Representatives. It is also much higher than the 91 percent compliance rate for the general public.

This legislation is designed to demonize Federal employees rather than to help the government recoup delinquent taxes. It is interesting to note that we want to collect the taxes, but we will never get them if we fire people. In fact, the Congressional Budget

Office concluded that these proposals would increase costs, by the way, to the taxpayers. Let me repeat. The CBO determined that these provisions would actually increase costs. That is because it would require agencies to spend time and resources in reviewing public records to find tax liens filed against current or prospective employees even though the gains would be minimal. Keep in mind that we already have a process to levy these funds that might be delinquent.

For these reasons and more, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. I thank the chairman for his leadership on this particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to talk about what this bill is and what it is not.

When we talk about tax compliance, it becomes very easy to focus on those hardship cases, very easy to focus, as the gentleman opposite just talked about, on that 3 to 5 percent, depending on which agency you are talking about. This bill is really not about those with hardship cases, as there is already an exemption there. This bill is not about trying to penalize Federal workers. It is really about fairness, Mr. Speaker.

Why is it fair that 97 percent in some agency—94 and 95 in others—pay their taxes on time, and yet we continue to give others a free pass?

My friend opposite would many times suggest, Oh, well, they are complying better than this group and that group; but we need to look no further than the IRS because the IRS implemented a different standard within their agency. Guess what happened, Mr. Speaker? Their compliance went way up. They have one of the best records, that we get to oversee, with the Federal employees.

When we started to look at this, the chairman was very careful to make sure that hardship cases—the ones that all of our hearts go out to when people have family situations that preclude them from being able to pay their taxes on a timely basis—are an exemption. Yet I would say, whether it is Congress or whether it is the Federal employees, we are held to a different standard because we are paid with the hard-working American taxpayers' dollars. It is a higher standard than the private sector's. It is difficult for us to acknowledge that, but we are under the scrutiny that we should be because we have the authority to tax and spend. When you have both of those authorities, Mr. Speaker, it is a different standard.

I, for one, can tell you that, from the Federal employees' standpoint, it is all

about making sure that we are fair to them. What happens is, when the headline is "Federal employees are not paying their taxes," for whatever reason it may be, it paints in a bad light the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who do everything right and on time.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what we must do is not only address this for the integrity of the American people but address it for the integrity and the spirit of those Federal workers as well.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want somebody to answer for me: How do you get the money from somebody who is fired, who has no job?

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the ranking member said this was a bill to solve a non-existent problem. Everybody ought to pay their taxes—everybody. Everybody ought to pay their taxes. Now, if you are really rich, you can find an accountant who can find you about every loophole there is that we have given. You want to have a bill on the floor closing loopholes.

□ 1545

The chairman admits that Federal employees pay their taxes voluntarily and correctly at a higher percentage than the general public. Should every one of them pay? Should it be 100 percent? The chairman is right; it should be 100 percent.

The gentleman from North Carolina talks about our Federal employees, and they ought to be treated correctly. We are their board of directors. I will tell you, folks, if any board of directors of any large corporation in America treated its employees the way we treat them, they would all quit, and the company would go bankrupt, because we treat our Federal employees very poorly—very poorly.

The general public, of course, thinks they are loafing and they are not working hard and this, that, and the other, and that is wrong. We have the best civil service in the world.

This does convey the message that somehow you are not doing what you are supposed to do. I know the gentleman gets up and says this is a very small percentage. When a Member of Congress doesn't pay his taxes and he gets indicted and he has to quit this body, it besmirches all of us.

The gentleman from Maryland is absolutely correct. It has not been mentioned, but there is a provision in law that allows the IRS to go in and take the salary of Federal employees. That is what the gentleman is talking about. Unlike the private sector, where you have to go through a lot of rigmarole—properly so, to protect the taxpayer—the Federal employee is subjected to

the IRS having special authority going and taking part of their salary.

Now, by the way, this mentions Federal employees. I don't know whether the ranking member knows the answer to this, but are Members of Congress included in that definition? The answer? The gentleman is shaking his head, saying no. Yet the Congress as an institution has a lower rate of paying, some 95 percent as opposed to 97 percent, of Federal employees.

What is this all about? This is about, frankly, saying government is bad and the people who work for them aren't so hot either. Now, I don't think the gentleman from Utah thinks that is the message. I understand that. The gentleman is my friend. I like him. He is a bright and able fellow. But that is the message we are sending. It's a bad message.

I will tell you, I represent 62,000 Federal employees, and I tell all of them and all the unions, if they are not performing their job, if they are watching television 4 hours a day, they ought to be fired. I will support the gentleman in that effort because we ought to demand performance, and that is why we have, in the IRS Code, you can take the salary if they are not paying their taxes. That is not true of any other employee in America. You have got to go through a legal process, et cetera, et cetera, as you should.

So I would urge my colleagues to defeat this bill, as we did in the last Congress on suspension, and yes, tell all of our employees, "You need to pay your taxes," and make sure if they don't, IRS gets their fees; and if they are not performing their task and it undermines their performance, then we ought to subject them, just as every other employee, to being removed, but not simply to say, arbitrarily, this employee, these employees, our employees, America's employees, will be treated more harshly than the American people and the American workers around this country are treated. Treat them the same. That is fair. That is what they hope for.

We shut down government for 16 days, sent our employees home. The gentleman from North Carolina talked about there are some bad circumstances for some people: they have got to pay a mortgage payment or a rent payment or a car payment or a college tuition. We sent them home and we said: We are not paying you. We came back later and we said: Oh, no, we are going to pay you. But we caused them a great deal of angst.

I will tell you this: that is not the way to treat people. We didn't send them home because we didn't have the money to pay for them. We didn't send them home because America was bankrupt. We sent them home because we disagreed with a policy the President was pursuing or we wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, over which

they had no control. But we sent them home without pay. Very frankly, those who were critical employees we kept working, but we didn't pay them. What way is that to run any organization, much less the greatest country on the face of the Earth?

I urge my colleagues, show respect and fairness to those who work for our country in the civil service of our country. Reject this legislation. Vote "no."

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard speeches on this floor about fairness, about treating them the same. I will remind Members that on June 25, 1998, the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act—which Mr. HOYER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and others voted in favor of—gave this same power and authority to the IRS, gave them the same authority and power. Why not treat them equally and fairly? Why not treat them exactly the same as the IRS employees? Why are the IRS employees treated so unfairly?

Other Members that are standing here on this floor today voted in favor of that bill. So it was okay back then, just gave it to them. Guess what; tax compliance went up.

I take issue with this quote, "ideology rather than facts." The facts are, every single year the number of Federal employees not paying their Federal taxes has gone up. In fact, in 2008, we roughly didn't collect \$962 million; in 2014, \$1.14 billion.

If you pay your taxes, you are trying to pay your taxes, you don't have a problem. But if you want to be fair, if you want to be the same, if you want to treat them equally, then give the other departments and agencies the same power that we gave the IRS.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. What other employee in America is subject to being fired because they don't pay taxes? Does the gentleman want to include either Members of Congress in this bill or all private sector employees?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the spirit in which that is asked. I would hope the gentleman would join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1564, the Members of Congress Tax Accountability Act. There are constitutional reasons why we can't include them in this provision, but this bill has been referred to the Committee on House Administration, and I would encourage all Members to get behind this because there should be a higher standard for Members of Congress. That should be more readily available to the public. You should have to disclose that liability. Right now, you don't. So I introduced that bill as well.

I would also argue that Federal employees taking taxpayer dollars have a high standard and that the evidence that we have—and I have said it repeatedly, and I know the gentleman has heard this—Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER voted in favor of this same bill years ago, and it has worked. I have never heard anybody say, "This is a problem. We have got to change this. We have got to take it out." I have never heard anybody offer an amendment. In fact, we accepted 100 percent, every amendment that was offered by the Democrats. We accepted them. We accepted them.

I want to tackle a couple other things.

Mr. HOYER. I don't think I got the answer to the private sector employees.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Fair enough.

Reclaiming my time, since I didn't yield it, but reclaiming my time, I said, clearly, I don't think this should be part of the private sector. I think working for the Federal Government is a privilege, it is an honor, and I take great exception, Mr. Speaker, to the idea and the notion that we treat Federal workers so poorly that if we were a company everybody would quit. Well, they can quit. They don't. You look at the turnover rate in the private sector versus the turnover rate in the Federal Government, we treat them pretty darn well.

Can we do things better? Yes. Part of that is weeding out the bad apples. If you are sitting there watching pornography on your computer 4 hours a day, then you should be fired. If you are a DEA agent down serving in Colombia and you have sex slaves coming before you paid by them, then you should fire them. If you are a Federal worker thumbing your nose at the Federal Government, not paying your taxes, then you should be eligible to be fired by the supervisor. That supervisor, don't we trust them to make that decision and say: You know what? This person is so vital, they do such good work, we are going to keep them?

But you know what? 24,833 Federal employees didn't even file a Federal tax return, didn't even file one last year. Is that too small a percentage to worry about? How do you look people in the eye who are all working in this room at some government office and they are all paying their taxes, but these eight yahoos over here aren't paying their taxes?

I believe that standing up for the Federal workers means, you know what, we owe it to all of you that are doing a good job to make sure that they are too. If they don't and they are not getting good, guess what. A, you are not going to be hired, and, B, you are eligible to be fired.

Mr. Speaker, it is exactly what Mr. HOYER voted for, and it worked. It worked. It was a good piece of legisla-

tion. It was a good vote. Guess what. The IRS now has the highest—less than 1 percent of their people don't pay their Federal taxes. Give that same tool to the other departments and agencies, and I think we will have even better compliance, and we can look the American people in the eye and say: You know what? We are doing everything we can. Stop picking on Federal employees.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I would hope the gentleman would make it very, very clear he is not making an analogy between the two instances that he cited for firing, on which I would agree with him, and a Federal employee, for whatever reason, says: Mr. MEADOWS may not have paid his taxes. Certainly the gentleman is not making an analogy between the two instances he cited and the latter, I hope; because if he is, he is doing exactly what I think this bill does.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 7½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Utah has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard some words here on the floor describing this bill as simply actually a bill to protect Federal workers who are in compliance from that small percentage who aren't. We had a hearing today in the Subcommittee on Government Operations of the committee of which Mr. CHAFFETZ is full committee chair, and I asked the question of the tax advocate of the IRS: How would you characterize 97 percent compliance when the broad public compliance with tax compliance is 83 to 86 percent? So how would you characterize 97 percent? The answer was: Extraordinary.

This is a solution in search of a problem, and the protestations to the contrary notwithstanding, this is another way—albeit cloaked in respectability and sanctimony—of whacking Federal employees again. We just heard it: scratch the surface, and suddenly they are all watching pornography; they are all sitting around not doing work; they are all, in fact, not filing taxes, and they ought to be fired—let me go through the list of firing offenses—allowing the impression that this actually characterizes the Federal workforce.

My friend, the minority whip, said that if you were a CEO and managed your company this way, you would be fired or your company would go out of

business. My friend from Utah took exception to that. But for those who say we ought to run the Federal Government as a private company, what CEO would keep his or her job who froze wages for 3 years; who disparaged his workforce as being overcompensated, unproductive, lazy, too many of them, and we are going to crack down on you; go after their benefits and make sure they are reduced; threaten not to pay your bills while you are at it? What company would stay in business? What CEO would ever get away with that? That is what we are doing here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. We are disparaging the Federal workforce. No matter how you put lipstick on a pig, it is still a pig.

□ 1600

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman in this room that it was President Obama who introduced the pay freeze.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my office watching some of this dialogue, and I will pick right up where the gentleman from Virginia just left off.

This is not an attack on Federal workers. I sat on the subcommittee, Mr. Speaker, when we had the hearing on this issue. This is not an attack on Federal workers. This has absolutely nothing to do with Federal workers and everything to do with taking care of the people who pay for those Federal workers, taking care of the people who pay the taxes.

The story was told of what happened yesterday in the hearing about the DEA. You can accept the services of a prostitute from a drug lord, let the drug cartel members watch your guns and your cell phone, and still not get fired.

It is not an attack on Federal workers. People back home see that and think that we are crazy. They think we are completely nuts and that we do not know how to run the country. You have to look at that hearing yesterday and think: you know what, they may be right.

This bill is an attempt to at least try to send the message back home to people and make it very clear: if someone is going to audit you for not paying your taxes, at the very least that person will have paid their taxes.

That is not a slam on Federal workers. It is going to the American people who pay the taxes and saying: look, we may not do the best we possibly can, but at least we pay attention to some things, and we are going to make sure that the people that are auditing you

are at least following the law that they are making you follow.

That is not an unreasonable thing to ask for, and it is certainly not an attack on the larger Federal workforce. It is simply trying to reaffirm for people back home that we are not absurd and that we are not crazy and that we are not running this country in any mindless fashion, that we actually do pay attention to what is important to folks back home.

If we can't fire the guys taking the prostitutes from the drug lords, maybe we can make sure the people doing the audits pay the taxes. That is what this bill is about, which is why it should pass.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let's put in context what is happening on this floor today. This is tax day, and what the majority does each tax day is pull out tax bills. Some of them are good bills; some of them have the appearance of everything but the kitchen sink.

There are some Members of their party who are running for President on abolishing the IRS. Well, you can't abolish it; so what they are doing is targeting working people in the Federal Government to point out that Republicans are not asleep on tax day.

What the Republican majority is doing today is a gratuitous, useless, slap in the face of Federal employees who apparently do understand that they have an affirmative duty, even beyond others, to pay their taxes because they do so at a rate that is almost twice that of the general public which is more than twice that of other Americans.

The best that can be said about this bill is that it is entirely superfluous. It does what already can be done. What can be done is this: existing statutory authority gives the Federal Government, the IRS, the ability to collect Federal, State, and local taxes from all Federal employees.

If federal agencies find that there is a delinquent taxpayer, they can already, under Federal law, go from counseling to removal for all Federal employees. That is in the law already, my friends.

In their wisdom, Congresses in the past have wanted to keep Federal employees paying their taxes until they paid them off, so Congress didn't cut off its nose to spite its face by taking away their jobs as this bill allows.

They tried something that has worked, the Federal Employee/Retiree Delinquency Initiative, which matches up Federal employees in all the agencies, not just the IRS, with delinquencies so they have their very low delinquency rate today.

The IRS also can levy past the usual limit of 15 percent until the govern-

ment gets all its money. The IRS have the discretion to do this for all Federal employees, not only IRS employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. Chairman ISSA called this bill entirely cosmetic—conceded that this bill was cosmetic when it was introduced before.

If you want to do something about taxes for the American people, stop cutting the IRS so that the IRS can start collecting taxes and cutting the deficit.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) has 2¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), my good friend.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act.

I just want to point out that this is indeed about Federal employees, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act. It is all about Federal employees.

While I have the greatest respect for the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ), I remain concerned that the practical effect of H.R. 1563 will be to significantly diminish the privacy rights of our dedicated Federal workforce.

It is important to note that Internal Revenue Code section 6103 provides that all citizens, for all citizens, Federal tax information—including tax returns, annual wage and tax statements, and tax penalty notices—is strictly confidential and must remain in the trust of only the IRS. It must remain in the trust of only the IRS and the individual taxpayer. That is it. It is not open to general knowledge.

Under this bill, though, tax information—which now includes health information because of the Affordable Care Act—is all going to be shared among every single Federal agency to take so-called adverse personnel actions against one of its employees where the agency finds that an individual has willfully fallen behind on his or her taxes or failed to file a return on time.

Now, we have completely blown this out. If it is not about Federal employees, this is what we are going to do to every American taxpayer. We are basically deputizing the bosses of all these Federal employees to be able to delve into their personal tax information, their personal healthcare information that is now held by the IRS.

We are blowing this completely out so that we are damaging all of these

Federal employees' privacy rights, and we also present the possibility that, in the future, this will be done to every American citizen. This is not a good idea.

I think that we have every opportunity to make sure the people pay their taxes. There is a greater compliance rate among Federal employees than there is among the general public.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015. While I have the greatest respect for the gentleman from Utah, Chairman CHAFFETZ, I remain concerned that the practical effect of H.R. 1563 will be to significantly diminish the privacy rights of our dedicated Federal workforce.

Importantly, Internal Revenue code section 6103 provides that all federal tax information—including tax returns, annual wage and tax statements, and tax penalty notices—is strictly confidential and must remain in the trust of only the Internal Revenue Service and the individual taxpayer. Current law therefore prohibits any federal agency—other than the I.R.S.—from delving into personal tax information to determine an individual's tax compliance status.

In stark contrast, H.R. 1563 would authorize the head of not only the I.R.S. but every federal agency to take so-called "adverse personnel actions" against one of its employees where the agency finds that an individual has wilfully fallen behind on his or her taxes or failed to file a return on time. In order to defend yourself against such an adverse personnel action under H.R. 1563, you must demonstrate that your failure to pay your taxes or file a return on time stemmed from a "reasonable cause."

In other words, this bill deputizes agency administrators, managers, and foremen as bonafide tax investigators—authorizing them to examine and determine the tax compliance status of agency employees. In addition, H.R. 1563 essentially requires all federal workers to affirmatively defend their failure to pay taxes or file a return on time by requiring them to provide agency management with specific and satisfactory reasons for their non-compliance. If you're behind on your taxes because you went through a health care crisis and want to keep your federal job, you're going to have to share the details of your medical emergency with your employing agency under this bill. If you're behind on your taxes because you're going through a divorce but still want to keep working at your federal agency, you're going to have to disclose the facts surrounding your divorce to your federal manager.

Now, I understand that this bill may seek to address those rare instances where federal bad actors intentionally try to cheat on their taxes. In practice, however, H.R. 1563 will broadly diminish the tax privacy rights of all federal employees. That's in spite of the 97% tax compliance rate for federal workers reported to our committee by the I.R.S. for 2014. It's also in spite of the existing federal payment levy program that already allows the I.R.S. to levy federal salaries and wages in order to recover delinquent tax debts in a cost-effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the solution to achieving 100% tax compliance across the

federal workforce is to waive the individual privacy rights of dedicated federal workers across the board. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unfortunately, all that is in this bill is pure symbolism without any substance, and it is very, very sad. I am disappointed to say that the House majority seems more interested in ideology and political messaging rather than facts and evidence.

Here are the facts. There is no problem to solve. The IRS confirmed that they have no problem collecting delinquent taxes from Federal employees. Federal employees have a much higher tax compliance rate than the American public and even Members of Congress and their staffs.

CBO has estimated that implementation of this measure will actually increase the cost to American taxpayers.

I, again, ask the question: When somebody is fired and does not have a job, where does the money come from? The fact is that we already have mechanisms in place to get the money. I do believe with all my heart that this is another effort to demonize our Federal employees, and it is very, very sad.

I urge all Members to vote against this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here are the facts. I just love it when Washington, D.C., says, Oh, there is no problem. We have got a hundred thousand-plus people—Federal employees—who don't pay about \$1.1 billion in taxes. That number is up from \$962 million in 2008.

The problem is getting worse, but there is one department, one agency, where it is getting better, where it did improve, and it was in the IRS. We should pat them on the back.

There is one fundamental thing that we changed. In a bill that was voted on and supported by Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. HOYER and the 400-plus Members of this body, the Congress gave the ability and the authority to the head of the IRS to terminate the employment of one of their workers if they are not paying Federal taxes.

Guess what. Now, they have the best tax compliance rate in the Federal Government. Let's give that same tool to the rest of the departments and agencies.

You know what is a slap in a face to the Federal worker? When you don't get rid of the bad apples. When you have got somebody who is thumbing their nose, not playing by the rules, not doing what they are supposed to be doing. Guess what. It goes into the morale of the institution.

I think, as a Federal employee being paid by the taxpayers, one of your fun-

damental responsibilities is to file and pay your Federal taxes.

A fact: last year, we had 24,833 people who, as Federal employees, didn't even file a return. Can we solve that? Absolutely, we can solve that. We should require it.

When somebody goes to fill out an application, they should certify that they are fully compliant with the taxes. If there is a hardship, if they are in dispute over taxes owed, if their spouse gets into problems, if they are having their wages garnished, there are all of these outs.

Even at the finish line, based on an amendment offered by Mr. LYNCH, which we accepted, you get another 180 days to then go forward to your administrator or whoever is leading your department and agency and say: I am valuable; I am trying.

Still, the leader can say: Oh, you know what? I am going to give you a waiver or allow you to continue.

If we don't give them the authority—which they have at the IRS—then you limit the tools, and you are not getting rid of the people who are the bad apples.

We can make sure we get the best Federal employees but weed out the bad apples. I want to see people on both sides of the aisle say: let's pat the back of the overwhelming majority who are patriotic, hard-working, dedicated employees, but we are going to get rid of the bad apples.

That is what this bill does. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1563, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### —

#### HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

#### —

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1629

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 4 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 200; adopting H. Res. 200, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1562 and H.R. 1563.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 622, STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1195, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 200) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 183, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

YEAS—240

Abraham	Allen	Amodei
Aderholt	Amash	Babin

Barletta	Hardy	Pittenger	Davis, Danny	Kildee	Pocan
Barr	Harper	Pitts	DeFazio	Kilmer	Polis
Barton	Harris	Poe (TX)	DeGette	Kind	Quigley
Benishchek	Hartzler	Pompeo	Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Rangel
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Posey	DeLauro	Kuster	Rice (NY)
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Price, Tom	DelBene	Langevin	Roybal-Allard
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Ratcliffe	DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Black	Hice, Jody B.	Reed	Deutch	Larson (CT)	Rush
Blackburn	Hill	Reichert	Dingell	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)
Blum	Holding	Renacci	Doggett	Lee	Sánchez, Linda
Bost	Hudson	Ribble	Doyle, Michael	Levin	T.
Boustany	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)	F.	Lewis	Sanchez, Loretta
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell	Duckworth	Lieu, Ted	Sarbanes
Brat	Hultgren	Roby	Edwards	Lipinski	Schakowsky
Bridenstine	Hunter	Roe (TN)	Ellison	Loeb	Schiff
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (AL)	Engel	Lofgren	Schrader
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (KY)	Eshoo	Lowenthal	Scott (VA)
Buchanan	Issa	Rohrabacher	Esty	Lowey	Scott, David
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Rokita	Farr	Lujan Grisham	Serrano
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Rooney (FL)	Fattah	(NM)	Sewell (AL)
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen	Foster	Luján, Ben Ray	Sherman
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Roskam	Frankel (FL)	(NM)	Sinema
Calvert	Jolly	Ross	Fudge	Lynch	Sires
Carter (GA)	Jones	Rothfus	Gabbard	Maloney, Carolyn	Slaughter
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Rouzer	Galego	Maloney, Sean	Speier
Chabot	Joyce	Royce	Garamendi	Matsui	Swalwell (CA)
Chaffetz	Katko	Russell	Graham	McCormack	Takai
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)	Grayson	McDermott	Takano
Coffman	King (IA)	Salmon	Green, Al	McGovern	Thompson (CA)
Cole	King (NY)	Sanford	Green, Gene	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Collins (GA)	Kinzing (IL)	Scalise	Grijalva	Meeks	Titus
Collins (NY)	Kline	Schweikert	Gutiérrez	Meng	Tonko
Comstock	Knight	Scott, Austin	Hahn	Moore	Torres
Conaway	Labrador	Sensenbrenner	Hastings	Moulton	Tsongas
Cook	LaMalfa	Sessions	Heck (WA)	Murphy (FL)	Van Hollen
Costello (PA)	Lamborn	Shimkus	Higgins	Nadler	Vargas
Cramer	Lance	Shuster	Himes	Napolitano	Veasey
Crawford	Latta	Simpson	Hinojosa	Neal	Vela
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (MO)	Honda	Nolan	Velázquez
Culberson	Long	Smith (NE)	Hoyer	Norcross	Visclosky
Curbelo (FL)	Loudermilk	Smith (NJ)	Huffman	O'Rourke	Walz
Davis, Rodney	Love	Smith (TX)	Israel	Pallone	Wasserman
Denham	Lucas	Stefaniak	Jeffries	Pascrell	Schultz
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Stewart	Johnson (GA)	Payne	Waters, Maxine
DeSantis	Lummis	Stivers	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Watson Coleman
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Stutzman	Kaptur	Perlmutter	Welch
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Thompson (PA)	Keating	Peters	Wilson (FL)
Dold	Marino	Thornberry	Kelly (IL)	Peterson	Yarmuth
Duffy	Massie	Tiberi	Kennedy	Pingree	
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy	Tipton			
Ellmers (NC)	McCaul	Trott	Adams	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
Emmer (MN)	McClintock	Turner	Duncan (SC)	Richmond	Young (AK)
Farenthold	McHenry	Upton	Poliquin	Ruiz	
Fincher	McKinley	Valadao			
Fitzpatrick	McMorris	Wagner			
Fleischmann	Rodgers	Walberg			
Fleming	McSally	Walden			
Flores	Meadows	Walker			
Forbes	Meehan	Walorski			
Fortenberry	Messer	Walters, Mimi			
Fox	Mica	Weber (TX)			
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Webster (FL)			
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup			
Garrett	Moolenaar	Westerman			
Gibbs	Mooney (WV)	Westmoreland			
Gibson	Mullin	Whitfield			
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Williams			
Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Wilson (SC)			
Gosar	Neugebauer	Wittman			
Gowdy	Newhouse	Womack			
Granger	Noem	Woodall			
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Yoder			
Graves (LA)	Nunes	Yoho			
Graves (MO)	Olson	Young (IA)			
Griffith	Palazzo	Young (IN)			
Grothman	Palmer	Zeldin			
Guinta	Paulsen	Zinke			
Guthrie	Pearce				
Hanna	Perry				

NAYS—183

Aguilar	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Ashford	Bustos	Clay
Bass	Butterfield	Cleaver
Beatty	Capps	Clyburn
Becerra	Capuano	Cohen
Bera	Cardenas	Connolly
Beyer	Carney	Conyers
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Costa
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Boyle, Brendan	Castro (TX)	Crowley
F.	Chu, Judy	Cuellar
Brady (PA)	Cicilline	Cummings
Brown (FL)	Clark (MA)	Davis (CA)

#### NOT VOTING—8

Adams	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Richmond	Young (AK)
Poliquin	Ruiz	

□ 1700

Mrs. CAPPS, Messrs. AGUILAR and DOGGETT changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. DENT, MCCLINTOCK, AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and SESSIONS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 182, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

AYES—242

Abraham	Amodei	Barton
Aderholt	Babin	Benishchek
Allen	Barletta	Bilirakis
Amash	Barr	Bishop (UT)

Black Heck (NV)  
 Blackburn Hensarling  
 Blum Herrera Beutler  
 Bost Hice, Jody B.  
 Boustany Hill  
 Brady (TX) Holding  
 Brat Hudson  
 Bridenstine Huelskamp  
 Brooks (AL) Huizenga (MI)  
 Brooks (IN) Hultgren  
 Buchanan Hunter  
 Buck Hurd (TX)  
 Bucshon Hurt (VA)  
 Burgess Issa  
 Byrne Jenkins (KS)  
 Calvert Jenkins (WV)  
 Carter (GA) Johnson (OH)  
 Carter (TX) Johnson, Sam  
 Chabot Jolly  
 Chaffetz Jones  
 Clawson (FL) Jordan  
 Coffman Joyce  
 Cole Katko  
 Collins (GA) Kelly (PA)  
 Collins (NY) King (IA)  
 Comstock King (NY)  
 Conaway Kinzinger (IL)  
 Cook Kline  
 Costello (PA) Knight  
 Cramer Labrador  
 Crawford LaMalfa  
 Crenshaw Lamborn  
 Cuellar Lance  
 Culberson Latta  
 Curbelo (FL) LoBiondo  
 Davis, Rodney Long  
 Denham Loudermilk  
 Dent Love  
 DeSantis Lucas  
 DesJarlais Luetkemeyer  
 Diaz-Balart Lummis  
 Dold MacArthur  
 Duffy Marchant  
 Duncan (TN) Marino  
 Ellmers (NC) Massie  
 Emmer (MN) McCarthy  
 Farenthold McCaul  
 Fincher McClintock  
 Fitzpatrick McHenry  
 Fleischmann McKinley  
 Fleming McMorris  
 Flores Rodgers  
 Forbes McCally  
 Fortenberry Meadows  
 Foxx Meehan  
 Franks (AZ) Messer  
 Frelinghuysen Mica  
 Garrett Miller (FL)  
 Gibbs Miller (MI)  
 Gibson Moolenaar  
 Gohmert Mooney (WV)  
 Goodlatte Mullin  
 Gosar Mulvaney  
 Gowdy Murphy (PA)  
 Granger Neugebauer  
 Graves (GA) Newhouse  
 Graves (LA) Noem  
 Graves (MO) Nugent  
 Griffith Nunes  
 Grothman Olson  
 Guinta Palazzo  
 Guthrie Palmer  
 Hanna Paulsen  
 Hardy Pearce  
 Harper Perry  
 Harris Pittenger  
 Hartzler Pitts

## NOES—182

Aguilar Butterfield  
 Ashford Capps  
 Bass Capuano  
 Beatty Cárdenas  
 Becerra Carney  
 Bera Carson (IN)  
 Beyer Cartwright  
 Bishop (GA) Castor (FL)  
 Blumenauer Castro (TX)  
 Bonamici Chu, Judy  
 Boyle, Brendan F.  
 Brady (PA) Clark (MA)  
 Brown (FL) Clarke (NY)  
 Brownley (CA) Cleaver  
 Bustos Clyburn

Poe (TX) Deutch  
 Poliquin Dingell  
 Pompeo Doggett  
 Posey Doyle, Michael F.  
 Price, Tom Duckworth  
 Ratcliffe Edwards  
 Reel Ellison  
 Reichert Engel  
 Renacci Eshoo  
 Ribble Esty  
 Rice (SC) Farr  
 Rigell Fattah  
 Roby Foster  
 Roe (TN) Frankel (FL)  
 Rogers (AL) Fudge  
 Rogers (KY) Gabbard  
 Rohrabacher Gallego  
 Rokita Garamendi  
 Rooney (FL) Graham  
 Ros-Lehtinen Grayson  
 Roskam Green, Al  
 Ross Green, Gene  
 Rothfus Grijalva  
 Rouzer Gutiérrez  
 Royce Hahn  
 Russell Hastings  
 Ryan (WI) Heck (WA)  
 Salmon Higgins  
 Sanford Himes  
 Scalise Hinojosa  
 Schweikert Honda  
 Scott, Austin Hoyer  
 Sensenbrenner Huffman  
 Sessions Israel  
 Shimkus Jackson Lee  
 Shuster Jeffries  
 Simpson Johnson (GA)  
 Sinema Johnson, E. B.  
 Smith (MO) Kaptur  
 Smith (NE) Keating  
 Smith (NJ) Kelly (IL)  
 Smith (TX) Kennedy  
 Stefanik Kildee  
 Stewart Kilmer  
 Stivers Kind  
 Stutzman Kirkpatrick  
 Thompson (PA)

## NOT VOTING—7

Adams Price (NC)  
 Bishop (MI) Ruiz  
 Duncan (SC) Smith (WA)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1706

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## REMEMBERING PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, at 7:22 this morning, 150 years ago, we lost one of the greatest leaders of our Nation: President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln understood American exceptionalism. We know this for many reasons, but one great reason was his words at Gettysburg. He told the crowd that our Fathers had brought forth on this continent a new nation, one conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. It was his vision that this Nation would have a new birth of freedom; and, for that beautiful vision, many have fought and died.

President Lincoln understood the cost of freedom. He was a Member of this, the people's House, for one term before he rose to become—what I believe—one of our greatest statesmen.

He struggled and never gave up to pass the 13th Amendment, so that no one here would ever again have to endure the sin of slavery. He died for the dream that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness would finally become more than just words, that it would be a promise kept to all.

As we remember Lincoln as one of the greatest American leaders and the truest embodiment of American principles, our country still feels the mark of his great presence today. I thought it was important that we memorialize it here.

## CONTRACTING AND TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1562) to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

YEAS—424

Abraham	Bost	Carter (TX)
Aderholt	Boustany	Cartwright
Aguilar	Boyle, Brendan F.	Castor (FL)
Allen		Castro (TX)
Amash	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Amodei	Brady (TX)	Chaffetz
Ashford	Brat	Chu, Judy
Babin	Bridenstine	Cicilline
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Clark (MA)
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Clarke (NY)
Barton	Brown (FL)	Clawson (FL)
Bass	Brownley (CA)	Clay
Beatty	Buchanan	Cleaver
Becerra	Buck	Clyburn
Benishek	Bucshon	Coffman
Bera	Burgess	Cohen
Beyer	Bustos	Cole
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Collins (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Byrne	Collins (NY)
Bishop (MI)	Calvert	Comstock
Bishop (UT)	Capps	Conaway
Black	Capuano	Connolly
Blackburn	Cárdenas	Conyers
Blum	Carney	Cook
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Bonamici	Carter (GA)	Costa



Costello (PA)	Holding	Mica	Sinema	Tonko	Waters, Maxine	Collins (NY)	Johnson, Sam	Ratcliffe
Courtney	Honda	Miller (FL)	Sires	Torres	Watson Coleman	Conaway	Jones	Reichert
Cramer	Hoyer	Miller (MI)	Slaughter	Trott	Weber (TX)	Cook	Jordan	Renacci
Crawford	Hudson	Moolenaar	Smith (MO)	Tsongas	Webster (FL)	Cooper	Joyce	Ribble
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NE)	Turner	Welch	Costa	Katko	Rice (NY)
Crowley	Huffman	Moore	Smith (NJ)	Upton	Wenstrup	Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Rice (SC)
Cuellar	Huizenga (MI)	Moulton	Smith (TX)	Valadao	Westerman	Cramer	Kilmer	Rigell
Culberson	Hultgren	Mullin	Speier	Van Hollen	Westmoreland	Crawford	Kind	Roby
Cummings	Hunter	Mulvaney	Stefanik	Vargas	Whitfield	Crenshaw	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
Curbelo (FL)	Hurd (TX)	Murphy (FL)	Stewart	Veasey	Williams	Cuellar	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Davis (CA)	Hurt (VA)	Murphy (PA)	Stivers	Vela	Wilson (FL)	Culberson	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Davis, Danny	Israel	Nadler	Stutzman	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)	Curbelo (FL)	Kline	Rohrabacher
Davis, Rodney	Issa	Napolitano	Swalwell (CA)	Visclosky	Wittman	Davis, Rodney	Knight	Rokita
DeFazio	Jackson Lee	Neal	Takai	Wagner	Womack	DelBene	Kuster	Rooney (FL)
DeGette	Jeffries	Neugebauer	Takano	Walberg	Yarmuth	Denham	Labrador	Ros-Lehtinen
Delaney	Jenkins (KS)	Newhouse	Thompson (CA)	Walden	Yoder	Dent	LaMalfa	Roskam
DeLauro	Jenkins (WV)	Noem	Thompson (MS)	Walker	Yoho	DeSantis	Lamborn	Ross
DelBene	Johnson (GA)	Nolan	Thompson (PA)	Walorski	Young (AK)	DesJarlais	Lance	Rothfus
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Norcross	Thornberry	Walters, Mimi	Young (IA)	Diaz-Balart	Latta	Rouzer
Dent	Johnson, E. B.	Nugent	Tiberi	Walz	Young (IN)	Dold	Lipinski	Royce
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Nunes	Tipton	Wasserman	Zeldin	Duffy	LoBiondo	Russell
DeSaulnier	Jolly	O'Rourke	Titus	Schultz	Zinke	Duncan (TN)	Long	Ryan (OH)
DesJarlais	Jones	Olson	NOT VOTING—7			Ellmers (NC)	Loudermilk	Ryan (WI)
Deutch	Jordan	Palazzo	Adams	Price (NC)	Woodall	Emmer (MN)	Love	Salmon
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Pallone	Duncan (SC)	Ruiz		Esty	Lucas	Sanford
Dingell	Kaptur	Palmer	Pelosi	Smith (WA)		Farenthold	Luetkemeyer	Scalise
Doggett	Katko	Pascrell	ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE			Fincher	Lummis	Schweikert
Dold	Keating	Paulsen	The SPEAKER pro tempore (during			Fitzpatrick	MacArthur	Scott, Austin
Doyle, Michael	Kelly (IL)	Payne	the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-			Fleischmann	Maloney,	Sensenbrenner
F.	Kelly (PA)	Pearce	ing.			Fleming	Carolyn	Sessions
Duckworth	Kennedy	Perlmutter	□ 1716			Flores	Maloney, Sean	Shimkus
Duffy	Kildee	Perry	Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California			Forbes	Marchant	Shuster
Duncan (TN)	Kilmer	Peters	changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”			Fortenberry	Marino	Simpson
Edwards	Kind	Peterson	So (two-thirds being in the affirma-			Fox	Massie	Sinema
Ellison	King (IA)	Pingree	tive) the rules were suspended and the			Franks (AZ)	McCarthy	Smith (MO)
Ellmers (NC)	King (NY)	Pittenger	bill was passed.			Frelinghuysen	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Emmer (MN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Pitts	The result of the vote was announced			Garrett	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Engel	Kirkpatrick	Pocan	as above recorded.			Gibbs	McHenry	Smith (TX)
Eshoo	Kline	Poe (TX)	A motion to reconsider was laid on			Gibson	McKinley	Stefanik
Esty	Knight	Poliquin	the table.			Gohmert	McMorris	Stewart
Farenthold	Kuster	Polis	FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX			Goodlatte	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)
Farr	Labrador	Pompeo	ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015			Gosar	McNerney	Tiberi
Fattah	LaMalfa	Posey	The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-			Gowdy	McSally	Tipton
Fincher	Lamborn	Price, Tom	finished business is the vote on the mo-			Graham	Meadows	Trott
Fitzpatrick	Lance	Quigley	tion to suspend the rules and pass the			Granger	McKinley	Turner
Fleischmann	Langevin	Rangel	bill (H.R. 1563) to amend title 5, United			Graves (GA)	Meehan	Upton
Fleming	Larsen (WA)	Ratcliffe	States Code, to provide that individ-			Graves (LA)	Messer	Valadao
Flores	Larson (CT)	Reed	uals having seriously delinquent tax			Graves (MO)	Mica	Wagner
Forbes	Latta	Reichert	debts shall be ineligible for Federal			Griffith	Miller (FL)	Walberg
Fortenberry	Lawrence	Renacci	employment, and for other purposes, as			Grothman	Miller (MI)	Walker
Foster	Lee	Ribble	amended, on which the yeas and nays			Guinta	Moon (WV)	Walorski
Fox	Levin	Rice (NY)	were ordered.			Guthrie	Moulton	Walters, Mimi
Frankel (FL)	Lewis	Rice (SC)	The Clerk read the title of the bill.			Hanna	Mullin	Weber (TX)
Franks (AZ)	Lieu, Ted	Richmond	The SPEAKER pro tempore. The			Hardy	Mulvaney	Webster (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Lipinski	Rigell	question is on the motion offered by			Harper	Murphy (PA)	Wenstrup
Fudge	LoBiondo	Roby	the gentleman from Utah (Mr.			Harris	Neugebauer	Westerman
Gabbard	Loebach	Roe (TN)	CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the			Hartzler	Newhouse	Whitfield
Gallagher	Lofgren	Rogers (AL)	rules and pass the bill, as amended.			Heck (NV)	Noem	Williams
Garamendi	Long	Rogers (KY)	This is a 5-minute vote.			Heck (WA)	Nugent	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Loudermilk	Rohrabacher	The vote was taken by electronic de-			Hensarling	Nunes	Wittman
Gibbs	Love	Rokita	vice, and there were—yeas 266, nays			Herrera Beutler	Olson	Womack
Gibson	Lowenthal	Rooney (FL)	160, not voting 5, as follows:			Hice, Jody B.	Palazzo	Woodall
Gohmert	Lowe	Ros-Lehtinen	[Roll No. 157]			Hill	Palmer	Yoder
Goodlatte	Lucas	Roskam	YEAS—266			Himes	Paulsen	Yoho
Gosar	Luetkemeyer	Ross	Abraham			Holding	Pearce	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Lujan Grisham	Rothfus	Aderholt			Hudson	Perry	Young (IA)
Graham	(NM)	Rouzer	Aguiar			Huelskamp	Pittenger	Young (IN)
Granger	Luján, Ben Ray	Roybal-Allard	Allen			Huizenga (MI)	Pitts	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	(NM)	Royce	Amash			Hultgren	Poe (TX)	Zinke
Graves (LA)	Lummis	Ruppersberger	Amodio			Hunter	Poliquin	
Graves (MO)	Lynch	Rush	Ashford			Hurt (TX)	Polis	
Grayson	MacArthur	Russell	Babin			Hurt (VA)	Pompeo	
Green, Al	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)	Baretta			Issa	Possey	
Green, Gene	Carolyn	Ryan (WI)	Barr			Jenkins (KS)	Price, Tom	
Griffith	Maloney, Sean	Salmon	Barton			Jenkins (WV)	Quigley	
Grijalva	Marchant	Sánchez, Linda	Bates			Johnson (OH)		
Grothman	Marino	T.	Beatty					
Guinta	Massie	Sanchez, Loretta	Becerra					
Guthrie	Matsui	Sanford	Beyer					
Gutiérrez	McCarthy	Sarbanes	Bishop (GA)					
Hahn	McCaul	Scalise	Blumenauer					
Hanna	McClintock	Schakowsky	Bonamici					
Hardy	McCollum	Schiff	Boyle, Brendan					
Harper	McDermott	Schrader	F.					
Harris	McGovern	Schweikert	Brady (PA)					
Hartzler	McHenry	Scott (VA)	Brown (FL)					
Hastings	McKinley	Scott, Austin	Bustos					
Heck (NV)	McMorris	Scott, David	Butterfield					
Heck (WA)	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner	Capuano					
Hensarling	McNerney	Serrano	Cárdenas					
Herrera Beutler	McSally	Sessions	Carney					
Hice, Jody B.	Meadows	Sewell (AL)	Carson (IN)					
Higgins	Meehan	Sherman						
Hill	Meeks	Shimkus						
Himes	Meng	Shuster						
Hinojosa	Messer	Simpson						

Farr	Lieu, Ted	Sánchez, Linda
Fattah	Loeb sack	T.
Foster	Lofgren	Sanchez, Loretta
Frankel (FL)	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Fudge	Lowe y	Schakowsky
Gabbard	Lujan Grisham	Schiff
Gallego	(NM)	Schrader
Garamendi	Luján, Ben Ray	Scott (VA)
Grayson	(NM)	Scott, David
Green, Al	Lynch	Serrano
Green, Gene	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Grijalva	McCollum	Sherman
Gutiérrez	McDermott	Sires
Hahn	McGovern	Slaughter
Hastings	Meeks	Speier
Higgins	Meng	Swalwell (CA)
Hinojosa	Moore	Takai
Honda	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Hoyer	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Israel	Neal	Titus
Jackson Lee	Nolan	Tonko
Jeffries	Norcross	Torres
Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Van Hollen
Jolly	Pascrell	Vargas
Kaptur	Payne	Veasey
Keating	Pelosi	Vela
Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Velázquez
Kennedy	Peterson	Viscosky
Kildee	Pingree	Walz
Kirkpatrick	Pocan	Wasserman
Langevin	Rangel	Schultz
Larsen (WA)	Reed	Waters, Maxine
Larson (CT)	Richmond	Watson Coleman
Lawrence	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Lee	Ruppersberger	Wilson (FL)
Levin	Rush	Yarmuth
Lewis		

## NOT VOTING—5

Adams	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Ruiz	

□ 1723

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE BOSTON MARATHON VICTIMS

(Mr. CAPUANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago today, one of the most cowardly acts in American history was perpetrated on the people of Boston, of Massachusetts, of America, and, in fact, of the world when two lowly cowards blew up two bombs in the middle of the Boston Marathon, which is a celebration of American patriotism and of the birth of this country, killing three innocent people and, later on in the day, shooting a police officer in, again, another cowardly act, and injuring over 275 people.

I just want to take a moment of the House's time to remember the people who died that day, the people who were injured that day, and to think for a moment as to what a wonderful country we have the good fortune to live in.

God bless the United States of America.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask everyone to rise to share a moment of silence with me.

## TAX DAY AND IRS ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, Americans strongly dislike tax day, and Uncle Sam is set to take in record levels of Americans' tax dollars again this year. These are dollars that the hard-working taxpayers take out of their wallets, and they are too often used to grow Washington's bureaucracy at the expense of growth elsewhere in the country.

Western Pennsylvanians are rightfully frustrated with the Federal Government's overreach into their daily lives. Back in Pennsylvania's 12th District, I regularly talk with folks who are appalled by the IRS' hypocrisy, corruption, and abuse of power.

From IRS' attempts to shut down people who disagree with the administration's political agenda to Federal employees owing thousands in back taxes, the IRS needs to be held accountable to the people. Washington bureaucrats are not above the law. Americans spend countless hours and precious financial resources in filing their tax returns by April 15. They are following the law. It is only fair for the American people to expect that the IRS does the same.

I was proud to support several bills today that are designed to protect taxpayers, to restore the public's faith in our system of laws, and to prevent the IRS from abusing its power.

□ 1730

## BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I stand here today 1 year since Boko Haram kidnapped 270 young girls attending school in Chibok, Nigeria. This kidnapping received international attention for a short time; then, like the girls, the spotlight disappeared, and yet our children remain hidden and subjected to unimaginable crimes.

Innocent girls who cry out to be liberated cannot be forgotten. They are as Maya Angelou's caged birds who sing with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still, and their tune is heard on the distant hill, for the caged birds sing of freedom.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today in saying, "Bring Back Our Girls."

## UNITED STATES SET TO BE A NET EXPORTER OF NATURAL GAS IN 2017

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, earlier this week the Energy Information Administration released its annual forecast of U.S. energy trends and predicted that the United States will become a net exporter of natural gas by 2017.

As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, I understand the magnitude of this geopolitical transition and the implications for ensuring American energy security through continued natural gas development and investment. By becoming a net exporter of natural gas by 2017, the United States will be able to build and strengthen its economy, help to improve the environment, and remain globally competitive.

As one of the Nation's top producers of natural gas, Pennsylvania continues to help drive record-breaking oil and natural gas production domestically. The Energy Information Administration's recent projections place the United States closer than ever to obtaining energy independence, while signaling longer term market stability that will make energy prices more affordable for businesses and families throughout Pennsylvania and all across the country.

## FISHER HOUSE ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fisher House Foundation on their 25th anniversary and to thank them for their services to our military and veteran families.

The Fisher House Foundation is the result of the vision and efforts by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher. They wanted to provide a home away from home for the families of servicemen and -women while their loved ones received treatment, and their vision has come to fruition.

Since the first Fisher House opened in 1990, over 250,000 families have saved \$282 million in lodging and transportation costs. The 64 locations throughout the United States and Germany have provided families 5.8 million days of lodging.

Just a few weeks ago, I was fortunate and proud to participate in the groundbreaking of Nevada's first Fisher House, located across the street from our new VA hospital. What a wonderful day it was.

Congratulations, Fisher House Foundation, and thank you and your volunteers for all you do to make a difficult time just a little easier for our Nation's heroes.

## HONORING DR. DONNA E. SHALALA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize one of the most profound educational leaders of her generation, Dr. Donna Shalala.

As the head of my alma mater, the University of Miami, Donna made it her goal to see UM become the next great American research university. Never one to leave a promise unfulfilled, under her unparalleled guidance, the university has consistently ranked in the top 50 research institutions.

Through leadership, service, and selflessness, Donna has positively impacted our south Florida area as a school administrator and a community leader. It is with great pride, admiration, and affection that I join our community and University of Miami students, professors, and grads in thanking Dr. Shalala for her hard work and dedication.

Donna, you are an outstanding member of our south Florida community, and we will certainly miss you. I wish you good fortune and all the best in this new, exciting, next chapter of your life.

Oh, yes. Go Canes.

Thank you, Donna.

#### SUPPORTING THE DAY OF SILENCE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, every year three-quarters of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender kids in this country are verbally harassed at school. Nearly a fifth will be physically assaulted. It is time for the bullying and abuse to stop.

Every year GLSEN organizes the National Day of Silence. This Friday, kids across the country will take a daylong vow of silence to draw attention to the abuse their LGBT friends and classmates have to deal with every day.

Counseling and outreach have done a lot to help these kids, but change is not coming fast enough, so I am once again introducing a resolution supporting the Day of Silence. LGBT kids deserve to be able to go to school and feel safe. I invite my colleagues to join me and cosponsor the resolution.

On another matter, yesterday is the 1-year anniversary that the Nigerian schoolgirls were kidnapped by the terror group Boko Haram. I am wearing these ribbons today to say "Bring Back Our Girls," and I thank our colleague FREDERICA WILSON of Florida for being a champion on this issue.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DUKE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Duke University and its Division I men's basketball team on winning the 2015 national championship. Duke's win against the University of Wisconsin at Madison marks their fifth national championship victory.

At the team's helm is the winningest coach in Division I men's basketball history, legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski. We refer to him as Coach K. This year's team, led by senior Quinn Cook, continued the tradition of excellence in my district in Durham, North Carolina, by earning the 88th schoolwide NCAA tournament victory. Even more impressive, Madam Speaker, is the fact that the Duke University Blue Devils had five All-ACC Academic players, which is the most in the school's history.

Today I introduced a resolution, along with my colleagues, to recognize the team for its extraordinary achievement. I urge quick consideration of my resolution and encourage my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Duke University Blue Devils on their historic tournament win.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOKO HARAM KIDNAPPING OF NIGERIAN SCHOOLGIRLS

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Speaker, a year and a day ago today, 276 innocent Nigerian schoolgirls were tragically taken away from their boarding school and their family.

One year later, more than 200 of these girls are still missing, and Boko Haram continues to prey on the Nigerian people. The kidnapping of these schoolgirls is just one example of the appalling acts of terror committed by this group, who, according to the Human Rights Watch, have killed more than 2,000 people and forced 800,000 children to be displaced from their homes.

We simply must do more to combat their efforts.

I commend President Obama for publicly expressing his willingness to assist Nigeria in its efforts to dismantle this group.

Additionally, I encourage the incoming President of Nigeria, President Buhari, to remain committed to his pledge to implement an aggressive effort to combat Boko Haram and to protect his citizens.

I hope, with the anniversary of these attacks upon us, we are all regvanized to do what we can to bring back our girls and protect our other innocent citizens from any future attacks.

I thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON for her leadership on this issue.

#### BOKO HARAM IS A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

(Ms. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, it is very heartbreaking to think that it has been a whole year since our girls, 276 girls, were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria. I think the importance of memorializing this is to talk about the nature of terror and its cruelty, to take these children, these babies, away in the name of religion.

It is extremely important for us to galvanize all around the world and to focus on the main thing. The main thing is these are criminal organizations. These are not religiously motivated people. These are people who will maim, cripple, and kill anyone for their political objectives.

I want to thank FREDERICA WILSON for her leadership in bringing us all together today, and Mrs. MALONEY from New York, and I pray that our resolve will be reignited today.

#### PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2013, women who worked full time earned, on average, only 78 cents for every dollar a man earned. The figures are even worse for women of color. African American women earned only approximately 64 cents and Latinas only 56 cents for each dollar earned by a White male. This is absolutely and unequivocally unacceptable in the United States of America. The average woman would have lost \$420,000 throughout her working lifetime as a result of this pay gap.

In my district, women make up 51 percent of the population, yet there is still a 76.4 percent wage gap in their annual median earnings. That is why I am a sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would work to close the gender wage gap by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage differentials are based on factors other than sex, and strengthening penalties for equal pay violations.

Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet. Equal pay is not simply a women's issue; it is a family issue.

#### SMALL BUSINESS TAX

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, small businesses are vital to the strength and dynamism of the American economy, generating 63 percent of new private sector jobs over the

past two decades. But it's not just about the entrepreneurs. It is also about helping workers that depend on small businesses for their paycheck, whether it be young people paying down their college loans, immigrants hoping to provide a better life for their loved ones, or moms and dads looking for a little more income while the kids are at school. Small businesses not only strengthen Main Street, they play a vital role in keeping our neighbors prosperous.

One of the many challenges that small businesses face is a cumbersome and overbearing Tax Code. Most small businesses file their taxes as S corporations or sole proprietorships, both of which are taxed at individual rates.

Congress needs to get serious about reforming and simplifying the Tax Code. Creating a broader, flatter tax base will allow for lower rates for both individuals and businesses. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find ways to reform our Tax Code so small businesses and their workers can thrive.

#### HONORING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I was tempted to rise when my friend Mr. MCCARTHY from California was speaking of the great, late President Abraham Lincoln and his legacy—really, a dichotomy of a man, a very complicated individual. We know of his great achievements, of ending slavery, of maintaining our Union—great achievements—and very difficult achievements for him as well, passing the 13th Amendment.

We think of how dysfunctional, maybe, Congress is today and the lack of cooperation. Under the conditions that then-President Lincoln was operating, it is a marvel that he was able to pass such incredible legislation with such ramifications, and positively.

But I think one of the great things about Lincoln that oft times goes unnoticed is one of the legacies that was unintended by himself directly: he dies. He is shot on the 14th of April 1865. He dies on the 15th of April 1865.

One of the greatest things about Abraham Lincoln is, on the 16th of April, the Sun rose again on the Republic of the United States, a better nation for his having lived, but continued despite his absence. How wonderful a legacy is that, that this Republic, greater than any man or woman, lives on, a better place for him having lived.

May God rest the soul of Abraham Lincoln.

□ 1745

#### CONGRATULATING THE IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Irving Independent School District for being recognized by the College Board as the 2015 Advanced Placement District of the Year in the midsize category. This award recognizes the efforts Irving ISD has made in ensuring the academic success of our local school children.

Since 2008, Irving ISD has increased by 70 percent the number of students taking AP courses and has increased by 83 percent the number of students who scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam. Not only are more students taking AP courses at Irving, but they are also earning good scores, and that is really important.

I represent almost all of South Irving and District 33. Three out of the five high schools in the Irving ISD are located in South Irving.

To every teacher, principal, staffer, and parent at Cardwell, MacArthur, Nimitz, Singley, and Irving High, congratulations on this outstanding academic achievement. Thank you for making all of us Texas proud.

#### PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Today, low-wage workers across the country rallied in small towns and big cities. Their request is very simple: a livable wage and the right to organize.

This isn't rocket science. These folks turn on the news and see reports on stock market gains on Wall Street. They see companies reporting record profits. They see the prices for bread and a carton of milk rising every month. Then they open their paychecks and see the same amount that they have seen for the past 10 years.

This is a crisis that my colleagues across the aisle keep trying to brush under a political rug. That may have worked in the past, but it is just getting too big to be hidden.

According to UC Berkeley economist Emmanuel Saez, the Nation's 100 richest families have as much wealth as the 80 million families that make up the bottom 50 percent in wealth. Meanwhile, Republicans keep trying to peddle the same, tired "work hard and get ahead" rhetoric.

Madam Speaker, American workers are doing just that. They are stringing together 40-hour weeks whenever they can. In many cases, they are not given the opportunity to even do that, but they are being paid wages that cobble together to just over \$15,000 a year.

Even when McDonald's raises wages for the fraction of its workers behind the counters of their corporate stores, they will only get a raise of \$5,000. \$5,000 will make a huge difference for those families, but at \$20,000, they have gone from drowning to just barely keeping their heads above water.

That is not enough to pay for a college education or to buy a home. That is not enough to save for retirement. That is not enough to pay for medical bills. Madam Speaker, that is not enough to achieve the American Dream.

My Progressive Caucus colleagues and I are here on the floor tonight to stand with workers in the fight for \$15, that is \$15 an hour and the right to form unions.

It is time to support working families, and it is time to make it possible to work hard and get ahead.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), one of the chairs of our caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I had an interesting story today. I was talking with a young lady named Stacy Mitchell, who is a researcher.

She does a lot of research on this issue of what is the economic effect of raising the minimum wage because what you hear so many conservatives say is, if we raise the minimum wage, maybe there will be a lot of workers who simply will not be employable because they don't have the skill level to be employed, they don't bring enough value to the business to pay them \$15 an hour.

What she showed—and this is through research—is that low wages lead to workers who have a lot of high turnover. High turnover leads to mistakes, leads to errors, leads to training errors, leads to bad customer service when the workers don't have a firm grip on what they have been doing. High turnover and the need to retrain then leads to a loss of money, and they have calculated that to about \$12,000 a year for the average small business.

Now, folks who are interested in learning more about this can contact the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. This is a small-business organization that says that we can have more economic viability if we focus on small

business and not just the big-box retailer.

Of course, it is interesting because, whenever you talk to the big-box retailer about raising the minimum wage or whether you talk to McDonald's or Walmart, they always say: yeah, we are making record profits; but what about the small business?

It was pretty surprising to hear that there are a lot of small businesses that have decided to pay people a better wage, keep them on the job, and as they stay on the job, they learn the job better, serve the customer better, and end up making the business more profitable overall.

A lot of businesspeople, whether it is Costco or Ben & Jerry's, are challenging this idea by the rightwing conservative business types that squeezing the most out of the worker, hurting the worker, taking the most out of the worker, paying the worker the least you can possibly afford—not any health care, not any sick days—just squeezing the life out of that worker is not a good business model. There are other ways to do it. There are ways for everyone to succeed.

Now, sometimes, my friends on the other side of the aisle like to say: Have you ever run a business? In fact, I have. I am a businessowner. I ran my own law firm for years. I employed investigators. I employed legal assistants. I even hired some lawyers.

When people arrogantly talk about, Oh, I know business, and you don't, it always makes me chuckle a little bit because I actually have run a business—owned a business—and actually have run fairly large nonprofits, which are also businesses.

It is clear to me that the real thing that I cared about as a businessperson is customers coming through the door. I needed people with money who could pay me. That is what I needed. If nobody was making any money, they couldn't pay me.

What was always better for me is being in a vibrant, strong community with an economy where prosperity was shared so that people had some business for me.

It is funny; I never worried about taxes too much. I can't imagine too many small-businesspeople staying up all night worrying about taxes. You know what they are worried about? Customers coming through the door, clients coming through the door, people who need haircuts, people who need meals, people who need a lawyer to do their will—that is what you have got to have.

But if the average working class person is broke because they have been getting paid \$7 an hour or whatever, they can't spend money with you.

It was interesting to me, when I first got to Congress, this was right before the real hit in the financial system in 2008. I was at a committee hearing, I

will let the gentlewoman know, and I asked one of the witnesses at the committee hearing what their opinion was about Americans having negative savings because I found a statistic that Americans had a negative 2 percent savings rate.

That meant that you were borrowing to consume. That meant that you didn't have money, and you had to go to the credit card, the payday loan, title loan, something like that, to make it through the week.

This person looked at me and said: Well, there is so much equity people have in their homes; that is not a problem.

This is an economist I will never listen to again. The bottom line is, when you pay people more, they can save. They can save for retirement. When you pay people more, that makes them more loyal to you. I actually paid people as much as I could—way over minimum wage—and the reason why is I needed my legal secretary to know how to prepare documents the way I needed them.

I needed her to know how to prepare the document so that I could read it over, make sure that this divorce or this will or whatever it was that I was doing for them was right; and the better she got at what she was doing, the faster I could work. I was happy to pay her because the customer was happy to pay. The real job was getting customers in the door, and paying workers better was smarter and more profitable for me.

I absolutely reject this model that you squeeze the life out of the worker and try to make sure that they don't have anything except for the bus fare to get back to work the next day. This is absolutely wrong. Yes, you can run a business like that; you can make a lot of money like that, but you will ruin society doing things like that.

I actually liked paying taxes so we could have the Metro rail to get people to work, so the bus would come. I didn't mind being able to turn on the spigot and have clean water come out of the faucet in Minnesota.

I don't understand these people who claim to be for business, don't want to pay any taxes, don't want to train anybody, don't want to pay any decent wages, and hate health care. It is the craziest thing in the world. It is actually bad for business and leads to very extremes in society, the extremely rich and the vast ocean of the poor.

How many people have you talked to who sit back and say, You know what, you used to be able to get into the middle class by becoming a small-businessperson or getting a good union job?

The conservative rightwing attacks both. The conservative rightwing attacks unions. The conservative rightwing doesn't like unions, and they are union busters, so union membership has declined. As they have pushed this

right-to-work garbage, what we have seen is wages go down at the very same time.

It is a funny thing about these big, big, big business types. Whenever they come to my office asking for whatever, they always talk in terms of the small business. I always find it somewhat amusing when the big businesses that pay poverty wages say: well, if we raise the minimum wage, it is going to hurt small business.

I think to myself: Man, when was the last time you were ever running a small business? You don't pay any taxes because you have got lawyers trying to figure out how to get around them. You don't deal with what the small-businessperson has to deal with.

They actually have to earn a living and come up with a product or service that people really want, and they don't get tax breaks the way you do. They don't have an army of lawyers to help them escape their responsibility to help fund the U.S. Government.

What does all that have to do with today? Well, low-wage workers have finally gotten sick of it. Today, over 200 cities are standing together to call for \$15 an hour. Thirty different countries are standing in solidarity with low-wage workers, calling for \$15 an hour.

I am proud that, in my own city of Minneapolis, low-wage workers have gone out and are on strike to demand \$15 an hour. These are the people who make the hamburgers, they fry the chicken, they sweep the floors. They do the stuff that, if it doesn't get done, the business crashes.

I am going to tell you honestly, in the business I ran, if I wanted to go on vacation for a day or two, I probably could; but, if my legal secretary and my investigator and the lawyer that I hired didn't show up, I would be in trouble. I couldn't go anywhere.

I guarantee you that you can't show me a CEO of a business that is a big business who can't show up or go on a long golfing trip, whatever; but, if you let the people who actually fry the chicken not show up, this place will grind to a halt.

□ 1800

So I was very glad to see tens of thousands of low-wage workers in more than 200 cities standing together to call for \$15 an hour. These workers are White, they are Black, they are Latino, they are Asian. They are young, they are old. Some of them are senior citizens.

These workers, some of them were born in the United States, and some of them came here from other places. They are diverse, but they are unified in the idea that in America we ought to have a fair economy that makes sure that everybody can climb the ladder of success, not just a few who want to concentrate wealth at the very top.

Then after they get to the top, they don't want to pay any taxes, they don't

want to pay for public services, and they want to divide people. They want to divide people.

These workers, they don't care if you are straight or gay. They want to know, Are you down with raising the wage?

They don't care if you are Latino or maybe you are Black. They don't care. They care about, are you for an economic ladder that everyone can climb if they work hard.

We are in an America today where the people at the top, many of them are highly divisive. They want to split the straight from the gay, the Black from the White. They want to break everybody up because they know that is the only way they can keep the control that they have.

So we are unified around our common humanity, our love of this country and our belief that this is the land of opportunity. That is just not some slogan. It has got to be real, and it has got to mean something. And anybody who puts in a hard week of work ought to be able to do well by their family.

Here is one of the most amazing things. This statistic really blew me out.

And by the way, please just ask me to yield when you are sick of me going on.

I just thought I would share this little statistic with you because it really did shock me, because, you know, the conservative rightwing is very proud of how they claim, Oh, we are self-reliant. We don't ask anybody for anything. We believe people should work for themselves. And they are real hard on folks with government assistance.

But did you know that—I am looking for this statistic right here. I had it just a moment ago. It blew my mind when I saw it.

It showed that if you add up all of the public assistance that low-wage workers have to rely on because their bosses will not pay them properly—Uncle Sam has to pay if the people don't have a livable wage. If they don't have enough for rent and food because their job won't pay them enough, then these people go on public assistance.

If you add up all that public assistance, it basically is a subsidy to Big Business, and I think that number is about \$150 billion. It is about \$150 billion of welfare, welfare that some of these conservative corporate types are mooching off the American people.

And their chest is always poked out about how we work for ourselves. We don't rely on anyone.

Well, wait a minute. These folks work hard every day, getting splattered with grease, pushing a broom, making hamburgers, customer after customer, on your feet all day long. These folks work hard, but \$150 billion of accumulated subsidy to the working poor.

I will never forget how Walmart—yes, I said the name. And by the way,

I want to congratulate them for raising the wage. You ought to say what is good when it happens. Thank you, Walmart, for raising the wage.

But I do have to tell on you a little bit because last Christmas, which is the spirit of giving, they put out a bucket asking their customers to put canned goods in the bucket so that their customers would give canned food goods so that they would distribute them to their workers. I am sure somebody thought that was a clever business idea.

Wait a minute. You want the customers to give free canned goods to your workers because you will not pay them?

You know, McDonald's had this proposed budget that was proposing, I don't know, all kinds of crazy things that—undignified things people were asked to do.

At the end of the day, though, I just want to say that these workers who have gone out, over 200 cities, where workers are going out on strike, saying that we need to get paid more, I am very proud of these people.

This is a great American tradition. Civil disobedience, striking has been something in America, sometimes when you don't have any bargaining power, when you don't have a union, when the National Labor Relations Board will not protect you quickly enough because it has been weakened by the conservative wing, then you have got to strike. What else are you going to do?

America's elected leaders and CEOs are finally waking up to the reality that a low-wage economy, in which many can't afford basic necessities and are forced to rely on public aid, isn't good for working families, or the economy, or the taxpayer.

Last year, the President issued executive orders that ensured the minimum wage and workplace protections for Americans working under Federal contracts.

And over the last few months, what we have seen is that employers like Walmart, Target, T.J. Maxx, McDonald's, have announced raises for the employees.

Do you really believe they would have done it without these strikes? Absolutely not. They wouldn't have given these poor folks a penny. They had to go on strike. They had to. They had no choice. They were pushed to the brink.

I am about to yield back to the gentlelady, but I just want to tell folks about the model employer and labor rights.

In Congress we can help support this movement by continuing to join workers in their strikes and by fighting for action at the Federal level.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus is calling for a model employer executive order that gives preference for Federal contracts to companies that do

more than just pay the minimum by providing things like livable wages, paid leave, health benefits, and respecting their employees' right to collectively bargain.

That will restore the American middle class.

As I take my seat, I just want to point out to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, in 1957 there were a lot of things that America needed to improve. We had racism, segregation. Women could not rise to their potential. There were a lot of things America needed to do better at.

But in 1957, about 35 percent of the American workforce was in a union. And guess what? One person could feed a family of four. One person could feed a family of four.

Now, because people have been pushing trickle-down economics, Reaganomics, whatever, and we say we are going to squeeze the workers, we are going to offshore their job, the rich won't pay any taxes, and we are not going to provide any services, and we are going to break the unions, now, for 40 years, we have seen wages flat, and we have seen this thing happen. We have seen these bad outcomes.

But you know what?

Today is a new day. People are wise to it, and they are unifying together to push back and make a brand new economy where we can have the public sector and the private sector work together for the betterment of the American people.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentleman for the fine points that he has made. I can speak from a personal perspective. I am one of four siblings, and my father was the bread earner and my mother was the woman who was taking care of our family. And he, indeed, did provide a good and wholesome living for his family.

Madam Speaker, right now, tens of thousands of American workers in fast food and child care and home care and airport services, and even in professional positions in higher education, are not being paid enough to survive. And what that means, and I believe that my colleague did mention it, it becomes a drag on the economy.

Our economy does rely on consumers buying products. They want not just products that they need. Spending is what gives companies, big and small, the revenue to expand and hire more workers. Ideally, it is also what gives companies the revenue to increase wages.

But if you ask the workers who are fighting for \$15 an hour, they will tell you that a wage increase has been nowhere in sight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from the great State of California, Congresswoman LEE.

Ms. LEE. Let me thank you, Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN, for yielding and for hosting this important

Special Order on the need to provide all Americans a good-paying job and the right to form a union.

I want to thank you for your tremendous leadership each and every day, for making sure that we stay on point on all of these economic issues that mean so much to people who are working yet still live below the poverty line. So thank you again.

This afternoon, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which I am proud to serve as the whip of, welcomed experts and low-wage workers to the Hill for a forum.

Now, each of the workers told powerful stories, and I hope that these are stories that Members here on both sides of the House will listen to. They spoke of struggling to get by, despite working full time on paychecks that are just too small. I hope we will take their struggles to heart and join the Congressional Progressive Caucus in our efforts to ensure a good-paying job for all Americans.

Too many Americans are still struggling to find a job that pays more than the bare minimum. They don't want to just get by. They want to get ahead, and they want to live the American Dream. They deserve to live the American Dream.

They are looking for a job that pays an actual living wage, a job that will provide them with paychecks big enough to lift themselves out of poverty into the middle class, a job where they can take care of their families and make sure the bills are paid, and maybe save for retirement. These are American values that everyone wants to live by and to achieve.

A few decades ago, these jobs were accessible to most Americans. Yet, because of the Great Recession and wage stagnation, too many Americans are working harder and harder for paychecks that keep them trapped in poverty. In the world's richest and most powerful Nation, this really is a disgrace.

A report released just 2 days ago from the University of California at Berkeley, in my district, found that allowing companies to pay workers wages that keep them in poverty costs taxpayers \$152 billion a year. That is outrageous.

Instead of doing the right thing and paying for a living wage, these corporations are reaping record corporate profits while leaving families to struggle and taxpayers on the hook.

Now, as a former small-businessowner myself, I can tell you that paying poverty wage is no way to run a business. Paying a living wage with benefits is good for business, and it is the right thing to do.

As we continue to build support for the Good Jobs Movement, I know that more and more businessowners will see the benefit of paying a living wage and will join our cause.

Everyone deserves a job that allows them to make a living and provides them with the right to form a union. It is the economically sensible thing to do. You can ask any college or high school student who has taken Economics 101.

When we empower workers to fight for themselves and provide them a big paycheck, our country becomes fairer and our economy grows. People who are working should not be living below the poverty line. So \$15 an hour, that is the minimum that we should be paying our workers.

Certain parts of the country, \$15 an hour just barely, barely helps them put food on the table. So we need to get to a living wage, and we need to talk about what that means in different parts of the country.

So I want to thank you, again, Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN, for your leadership, for bringing us together. We have got to stay focused on this because everyone deserves a path out of poverty into the middle class. Everyone in our country deserves to live the American Dream.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman from California for sharing her insights with us and the very important points that have been made.

As I stated a moment ago, our economy relies upon consumers buying products that they want, not just products that they need. But \$15 an hour is what we are trying to fight for, and even with that, that will barely provide the needs of these families.

They can barely cover their rent or keep food on the table. They can't buy new cars and support the American auto industry. They can't afford new clothes, supporting American retailers, and they can't buy computers or smart phones, supporting Silicon Valley.

Six out of the ten largest corporations with median wages of less than \$15 also rank among the most occupations projected to add the most jobs in the coming years. And as the low-wage workforce grows, the declining purchasing power of Americans means that there is less demand for goods and services in the economy.

□ 1815

If we want to grow our economy, if we are focused on creating jobs, we need to support the people that do just that.

I would like now to yield to my colleague from the great State of Texas, who stands up for working-class families every single solitary day and has even introduced legislation to secure a living wage for the families in our country.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much. And I especially appreciate your remembering that I was reared in Florida. That is important to me. I now dwell in Texas, of course. But not

many people remember that, so thank you so much. I am honored to be on the floor with you this evening.

I think this is a very timely topic that we are having an opportunity to give some opinions on, and I think that it is important for us to remember that America is not a poor country. America is not a poor country, and I want to emphasize that because too often we come to conclusions about what we should do based upon our lack of resources. I think that is appropriate to come to conclusions based upon a lack of resources, but the truth is that we are still the richest country in the world.

We are still the richest country in the world. As a matter of fact, in America, 1 in every 12 American households—1 in every 12—have investable assets of \$1 million or more; 1 in 12 have investable assets of \$1 million or more. As a matter of fact, in the United States of America, in 2013, we were fortunate enough to have the average CEO make \$11.7 million. That is 331 times what the average worker made. The average worker made \$35,293. So the average CEO did well.

And by the way, I don't begrudge the CEO who makes \$11-plus million. I do not. I believe in capitalism. I believe that in this country you should succeed on your merits or fail on your merits. And if a CEO can make \$11-plus million, I think that is great. I do think that that CEO ought to pay a fair amount of taxes, just as the person who makes \$35,000-plus pays a fair amount of taxes. But I think it is a wonderful thing, \$35,000 versus \$11.7 million.

Now, a full-time worker, a full-time worker, the average CEO that year made 774 times what a full-time minimum wage worker made—774 times.

We are in the richest country in the world; 1 in 12 households has investable assets of \$1 million or more.

In 2007, an interesting thing occurred. A man made \$3 billion. I don't begrudge him. I salute him for making \$3 billion. I don't envy him for making \$3 billion. I commend him for making \$3 billion. I would note, however, that he did not pay ordinary income tax on that \$3 billion. I think that if you are going to make \$3 billion, you ought to pay your fair share of taxes on it.

Mr. Speaker, \$3 billion, that is a lot of money, and it is very difficult to get your mind around it. So let me help you understand what \$3 billion is. It would take a minimum wage worker working full time 198,000 years—198,000 years—to make \$3 billion. I don't begrudge the person who made the \$3 billion. I salute him. That person made about \$400 a second.

This is the richest country in the world. People are making money in this country. Just because those of you who are at home, you don't know these people, I want you to know they are



there. They are there, and they are doing quite well, and they ought to be the first in line to talk about raising the minimum wage.

It would take 198,000 years for a minimum wage worker to make \$3 billion. A hedge fund manager made \$400 a second. At \$400 a second, it would take that hedge fund manager about 37.7 seconds to make what a minimum wage worker makes in a year—37.7 seconds. I don't begrudge him. I commend him. I salute him. But I do think he should pay a fair amount of taxes on it.

I think that paying a fair amount of taxes is the American way. Others pay their taxes, a fair amount. I think people who make billions of dollars ought to pay a fair amount of taxes as well.

When Dr. King gave his speech, when they had the March on Washington back in August of 1963, they had a list of 10 demands. Number eight on that list of 10 demands was to have a wage that people could make a living on. At that time, it was thought that \$2 an hour would be a sufficient amount of money. Today we would call that a living wage. It was \$2 an hour in 1963. Well, today, that \$2 an hour would be about \$14.90. So there is a rationale for the \$15-an-hour hue and cry that we hear.

A lot of things have changed. A lot of things have also remained the same. Fifteen dollars an hour is not an unreasonable amount of money in the richest country in the world, in a country where we have people who can make \$400 a second, hundreds of times what a minimum wage worker makes, more than 700 times what a minimum wage worker working full time makes in a year.

This is the richest country in the world. However, in the richest country in the world, we still have people who work full time and live below the poverty line.

For edification purposes, I believe every person ought to work his or her way out of poverty. I would like to see subsidies ended and people have wages that will allow them to work their way out of poverty. If I had my way, we would have people without subsidies who work hard, succeed on their merits, fail on their demerits, and elevate themselves out of poverty by simply working full time and not living below the poverty line.

It is interesting to note that, in 2015, the poverty threshold for a family of four is \$28,850—for a family of four. I pray for the people who have to live off of that amount of money with a family of four, but that is what it is.

I believe that we should not only raise the minimum wage, but we should index it. I think that we should index it to poverty because right now a full-time worker with a child makes about \$15,080 a year. That is below the poverty line of \$15,930 a year—working full time, living below the poverty line

in the richest country in the world where at least one person made \$400 a second, where the average CEO made more than \$11 million a year. It seems to me that we are talking about trying to bring a balance between the CEO's salary and the workers'.

At one time in this country there was a sense of moral responsibility that CEOs had for their workers. CEOs would literally sit and talk to the board of directors and talk about the needs of workers and how workers should be paid so that they could take care of families, so that they could educate children. There really was, at one time, this sense of moral responsibility to workers that CEOs had.

I saw an example of that just today. A CEO decided that he was going to cut his salary so that his workers could have a better quality of life, with higher earnings that would be paid to them.

We have a responsibility to each other in this country. We who happen to be blessed are not blessed so that we can just enjoy it all ourselves; we are blessed so that we may be a blessing to others. That sense of moral responsibility to those who are less fortunate than we has to return. If we don't get that sense of moral responsibility so that others can receive some of the blessings and some of the goodness of the richest country in the world, we do ourselves a disservice.

Dr. King reminded us that life is an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly. What happens to people who are living below the poverty line directly will indirectly impact all of us.

How does it happen? Well, here is how it happens:

When they live below the poverty line and they are being paid a salary and they don't get health care, they are going to get health care in the richest country in the world. It is just that it is going to cost us a lot more. When they live below the poverty line and they are working full time, they are going to get subsidies. Taxpayers are going to take care of that.

So there is an indirect impact on you, taxpayers, who are listening to me right now. You are paying for it. They are not getting it on the job. We are paying for it. We are subsidizing very wealthy people by paying a minimum wage on the job and then providing subsidies for people from the Federal Government such that they can have a decent living in the United States of America, the richest country in the world.

What impacts others indirectly impacts all directly. Health care, food subsidies, this is all coming out of the pockets of taxpayers. Why not have a wage that allows people to take care of themselves?

In this country, we tend for some reason to equate our net worth to our

self-worth. That is unfortunate. We shouldn't do it, but a good many people do. A good many people do. And a good many people don't feel so good when they work full time and live below the poverty line, taking care of a family, playing by the rules.

Some would say, well, that living wage, that minimum wage is just a wage that you start out with. It is just a wage for young people. The statistical information does not bear that out. Unfortunately, too many people find themselves in minimum wage jobs for more than just a few months.

If you think about it, a good many of you who are listening to this, you know people who have been in minimum wage jobs for years and years and years. You know people who are doing their best to make ends meet at \$7.25 an hour.

This is the richest country in the world, and 1 in 12 American households have these assets that I have talked about, have these investable assets of \$1 million or more. I think that in such a rich country we should be able to allow people who are willing to work—willing to work; not people who are asking for a handout, but people who want to work, they want to earn their way through life—we ought to be able to pay them a decent wage.

What we have in Congress would raise it to \$10.10 an hour, far below what I think it should be; because I am of the opinion that it should be \$15 an hour based on what Dr. King said in 1963 with that list of 10 demands, number eight, which was to raise it to \$2 an hour, which, by today's standards, is right at \$15 an hour.

□ 1830

I think it should be 15, but I don't believe we will get 15 through the House, and I regret to say that. I support the bill that would raise it to \$10.10 an hour.

My bill, Mr. Speaker, the Original Living Wage Act, would raise it higher than \$10.10 an hour and would index the minimum wage to poverty so that as the poverty rate goes up—at some period of time, I'm willing to negotiate what that period is—the minimum wage would go up, too; and we wouldn't find ourselves on the floor trying to debate what the minimum wage ought to be, as we are doing currently.

I know that not everybody thinks that there should be a minimum wage at all. There are some people who think that market forces should control. Well, market forces have, in this circumstance, produced some very unpleasant circumstances for people who are working and trying to make ends meet on jobs that pay what we will call entry-level wages if we don't have a minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I am of the opinion that we ought to raise the wage, and I think we ought to index it to poverty. The

bill that seems to have more support, and I confess that it does, would index it to the CPI. I am not a hard person to get along with. I can live with indexing it to the CPI, but I do think that it should be indexed, and I do think that we should raise it.

I say this to you, my dear friends, because Dr. King, who was so far ahead of his time—so far ahead of his time—was the preeminent fighter for those who live in the streets of life and those who are trying to eke out a living on little, who have learned how to take very little and do a lot with it, Dr. King was a fighter and a champion for these folk.

I think that as we continue to celebrate the anniversary of his birthday—now, he is being recognized on the Mall, there is a statue on the Mall—I think we ought to go further and recognize what he asked for in 1963, and that was a living wage. I think that it is time for us to honor the request of Dr. King which has not, to this date, been honored; and let us let everybody work his or her way out of poverty.

I thank you so much for this great opportunity to speak, and I pray that you will continue to be strong and carry on. You have done a stellar job. What you are doing now, you don't do for yourself. What you do now, you do for people you will never meet and greet, people that will never get to touch your hand, but they will be blessed by what you are doing to help them elevate themselves to a better standard of living.

God bless you, my dear sister, and I pray that you will continue to be strong and continue to carry on.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Congressman, it has been an honor to share this moment with you in this Special Order hour. It has been a blessing to me. Texas is very, very lucky and very fortunate to have you as a Representative. Florida must be very proud because you were born there.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. God bless you, too.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). The gentlewoman has 15 minutes remaining.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on something that my colleague had alluded to, and that is the impact of low wages and the government's need to subsidize. I think that he sort of spoke to it in a generalized way, but I would like to just share with you what I think happens with an individual and a family that has a \$15,000 income.

Since it is not enough to keep food on the table, those Americans have to turn to food stamps. Since the jobs don't come with health care, we have got to rely on Medicaid. Because \$15,000 a year doesn't pay for the rent in most cities, those Americans rely on low-in-

come housing or subsidized housing through Section 8 vouchers, or they are homeless and living in shelters.

These workers' children are enrolled in children's health insurance programs, and these families are getting support through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the TANF program.

Fifty-two percent of fast-food workers rely on public assistance programs; 46 percent of childcare workers rely on public assistance; 48 percent of home care workers rely on public assistance; and, Mr. Speaker, 25 percent of part-time college faculty—highly educated adjunct professors—rely on public assistance.

According to a Berkeley report, the Federal Government spent \$127.8 billion on working families in these programs. California spent almost \$3.7 billion because of low-wage workers; New York, \$3.3 billion; Texas, \$2.1 billion; and Illinois and Florida both spent a little more than a billion.

This isn't funding for Americans that are uncharacteristically down on their luck or temporarily out of work or in some other moment of crisis. This money is spent on full-time, hard-working Americans who simply are working for corporations who maximize the CEO's benefits at the expense of the workers' salaries.

Mr. Speaker, if my Republican colleagues are so adamant about reducing government spending, shouldn't we be worried about why these folks are trying to work full-time but still need food stamps to make ends meet?

We have also spent a lot of time in this Congress debating tax breaks for the wealthy and for corporations. In fact, earlier this afternoon, we argued about whether or not the 5,000 or so wealthiest families in this country, the only people who have enough money in their estates to qualify for the estate tax, should get a \$2.5 million tax break.

Every year, we let corporations deduct unlimited amounts of bonus pay for executives, regardless of whether or not the companies' workers get pay raises or not, unlike that one special CEO who sees life differently and believes that to whom much is given much is required.

Corporations have written off \$66 billion between 2007 and 2010 while letting the low-wage workers who make up the rank and file of their companies struggle.

My colleague, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, has a solution for this, requiring companies to raise wages for their workers if they want to keep qualifying for that tax break. It is a simple solution that wouldn't mean companies suddenly have to raise pay for their workers; they just need to stop expecting the government to cover the exorbitant salaries of their executives if they can't pay the rest of their employees a liveable wage.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I stand with the millions of workers

fighting for 15. Lifting pay for low-wage workers will boost their purchasing power, pumping more money into our economy and giving businesses the revenue to create more jobs.

Lifting pay for low-wage workers will reduce government spending. Lifting pay for low-wage workers will open the doors to the American Dream for the millions who have already demonstrated that they are ready and willing to work and to work hard for it.

By standing together and fighting for the \$15, these workers have already made their voices heard in the living rooms, the boardrooms, and the statehouses all across this country. It is time for D.C. to lend an ear as well.

It is my privilege and my honor to stand with those who are simply seeking a fair wage for the work that they do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor for me to be here today with several colleagues to talk about and highlight a very serious environmental risk to our communities.

For the last 58 years, this Nation has embraced nuclear power as an inexpensive, clean, and nearly inexhaustible power source for our growing society; yet, in all that time, we have not yet addressed a key problem caused by nuclear power, and that is how to safely dispose of spent nuclear fuel.

We have gathered a good crew of folks here, Mr. Speaker, and it is an honor for me to yield to my good friend from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Illinois' indulgence in allowing me to speak on this important subject this evening.

Mr. Speaker, located in my central Washington district is the Hanford site, which has played a pivotal role in our Nation's security and defense for decades. As part of the Manhattan Project, the Hanford site produced plutonium for the bomb that eventually brought an end to World War II, and continued work at the site was critical during the cold war.

However, this work also resulted in massive amounts of nuclear defense waste. Today, Hanford is the world's largest and most complex nuclear cleanup site, with over 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste in 177 temporary underground storage tanks.

The Federal Government has a legal and a moral obligation to clean up this waste. The importance of Yucca Mountain cannot be overstated. Hanford is

scheduled to send more nuclear defense waste to Yucca Mountain than anywhere else in the Nation.

The high-level defense waste at Hanford will be treated at the waste treatment plant, which is currently being constructed, to turn this waste into glass that can then be sent to Yucca.

The waste treatment plant is over 70 percent complete, and the glass produced will meet the geological specifications of Yucca Mountain; yet the Obama administration has moved the goalpost by illegally shutting down Yucca, which will take us back to square one and harm the already challenging Hanford cleanup.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has spent decades and billions of taxpayer dollars studying the right place for the repository. The conclusion was Yucca Mountain, the subject of one of the most thorough and extensive reviews of a major government project ever conducted.

It is the lawful repository for nuclear waste, and Congress has reaffirmed this fact many times over. There is no scientific reason why Yucca cannot and should not move forward.

Earlier this month, I visited Yucca Mountain and was impressed by the substantial work that has already been completed. The development of the site has taken decades and has come at great taxpayer expense, costing Americans over \$15 billion.

Because DOE has failed to begin accepting used nuclear fuel, as required by contracts signed with the electric utilities that own the reactors, liability and settlement estimates now range from \$13 billion to \$50 billion—a blow to taxpayers and ratepayers—all due to the failure of the President to move forward with the legal repository.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, we do not have the time or the resources to just start over. Doing so would change Yucca from being the Nation's most secure national repository into a monument of government waste and all in violation of the law. After getting a firsthand look at Yucca, I can see why it was selected as the best place for our Nation's defense waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel.

I am disappointed the administration has continued efforts to push ahead with its plan to circumvent Yucca, as well as the repeated affirmations by Congress that Yucca is the lawful repository. I look forward to working with my colleagues here in Congress—especially the members of the Nevada delegation—to ensure that the law is upheld and Yucca Mountain moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman from Washington.

I just want to highlight, again, if I may, you mentioned a statistic just a

moment ago that was talking about the fact that because the government hasn't moved forward with Yucca Mountain, the fact that we are actually paying to store this material all over the country to Exelon and other companies along those lines, it was anywhere between \$15 and \$50 billion.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Over the course of those contracts, that is correct.

Mr. DOLD. That is astounding. I thank the gentleman from Washington for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS). He is the dean of the Illinois delegation and someone whose leadership, when it comes to Yucca Mountain, has been extensive.

He is certainly someone who understands what we need to be doing in terms of making sure this material gets off the shores of the Great Lakes and from our neighborhoods all around the country and put into a safe location about 150 miles from any inhabitant in Yucca Mountain.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the time and just for having this national debate. The State of Illinois is a large State with a lot of nuclear power.

We are very fortunate to have that, not only to have the power generated, but to have the jobs, high-paying jobs, to be located around our State and paying a lot of taxes to our local communities, our local schools, and the like. It would even be better if the Federal Government would keep its promise.

Part of the movement to promote nuclear power was a promise by the Federal Government. In fact, they enforced a fee on those States that have nuclear power to go into a fund, the nuclear waste fund, to fund long-term geological storage.

□ 1845

Now, you might say: Why a long-term geological storage? Why a centralized location? Because the world community, the best scientists have determined that one repository, one location, is better than 104, not counting defense sites—one geological repository—in other words, someplace in the ground—is better than above ground—or in the case that you are particularly concerned about, next to Lake Michigan.

That is not the only location that isn't what you would think would be some sensitive areas, whether it is large lakes, large rivers, flood plains, and the like. The world community, the scientists, have all said: let's get it all located in one place, and let's put it in long-term geological storage location.

The Federal Government passed a law in 1982 called the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It had 10 locations. The top pick in that location was Yucca Mountain;

then they narrowed the list down to three. The top pick of the three was Yucca Mountain. Then the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act said: that is where we are going to send it.

Now, after that, 30 years, \$15 billion, the greatest scientific minds in the world, this is the most studied piece of ground on the planet, has concluded, based upon a report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—an independent science commission of our government—said that, once Yucca Mountain is closed, it will be safe for 1 million years. That is a long time.

That is really what has turned this debate again back into this country because it has always been a question of the science. Will the science prove it? We don't know. We have to do the studies; we have to do the research.

Well, fortunately, we were able to finally get the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to render the safety evaluation report which said, once closed, this site will be safe for 1 million years.

Now, as you mentioned, Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from Las Vegas. It is in the desert. It is a mountain in a desert. It is 1,000 feet below the crest of the mountain. It is 1,000 feet above the water table.

The other story that is not told very well, until you go out and visit, is it is surrounded by the nuclear test site, the place where our government used to test nuclear weapons. There is an Air Force base there, so the adjoining land around Yucca Mountain is all Federal land.

When people say, Well, you need to get local buy-in, local folks to decide, well, the Federal Government is the local folks in this case.

I appreciate you highlighting not just Yucca Mountain, but the need for communities around this Nation to start having this debate again because the Federal Government has already invested.

We have a site. It is time to move forward. It is time to get the spent nuclear fuel, in your case, or the defense waste, like Congressman NEWHOUSE, it is time to get that in a single repository.

Mr. DOLD. Can the gentleman shed a little light?

Many people might be watching this and not know who actually owns the nuclear fuel. Many people don't realize that private entities can't own this. This is actually all owned by the government. Private entities can use it for power, but the actual nuclear fuel rods, the spent nuclear fuel rods, are owned by the government.

Can you shed a little light on that? This is actually the government's problem here.

Mr. SHIMKUS. It is the government's fuel; it is the government's waste. You highlighted this earlier. When we don't have a long-term repository to take

the spent nuclear fuel or the defense waste—mostly, the spent nuclear fuel—we have to pay the nuclear utilities to hold that spent fuel because we have an obligation by law to receive that.

Even from a fiscal conservative position, we should be moving forward. We should get a return on the investment of 30 years and \$15 billion, especially since the NRC has said this location is safe; but then we should relieve ourselves from having to pay the additional cost to utilities for holding the waste that we should be holding.

I appreciate your leading this Special Order and, of course, again talking about the local issues that are very important in your district, but they are important in districts all around this country.

Someone has to lead the charge and make that statement for the Federal Government to start doing what it is legally obligated to do. I am just happy to join you, and I thank you.

Mr. DOLD. Well, I certainly appreciate your leadership, and it is great to have you speak on such an important topic.

This is an environmental issue; it is a safety issue; it is an economic issue—and one that we have to step up and solve.

I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend, who understands these issues and understands them very well.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Congressman DOLD.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to discuss an important matter that we have heard tonight and talk a little bit about it more, that impacts both my home State of Texas and, as we have heard already, the Nation.

Nuclear power is a clean, efficient, and virtually inexhaustible fuel source. Many people rely on it. In fact, in Somerville County, Texas, Comanche Peak is a nuclear power plant that generates enough power to supply about 1.15 million homes in normal conditions and 460,000 homes in periods of peak demand.

Nuclear waste, however, must be isolated for tens of thousands of years to safely degrade. Yucca Mountain—we have talked a lot about it tonight—is the official Federal nuclear waste repository and is the law of the land under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

The Department of Energy has concluded that the repository would have little to no adverse impact on future populations or the environment; yet President Obama and HARRY REID effectively have delayed the Yucca program in 2009 without proposing any kind of alternative energy or energy strategy.

Now, like many other nuclear power plants across the United States, Comanche Peak in my district has been paying dues for storing waste, which some think could be as much as \$30 bil-

lion which, of course, is simply passed on to its customers. That is what always happens.

Nuclear waste in our communities poses an environmental risk, a terrorism risk, and prevents communities from redeveloping the property. The facility at Yucca Mountain represents our best option to dispose of spent nuclear fuel in a safe, environmentally friendly, and secure way for centuries to come.

Now, if we fail to act, we will continue to spend billions of dollars storing nuclear waste in a way that ultimately leaves our communities vulnerable to environmental disaster or terrorism.

We cannot punt this problem to future generations. We have a habit of doing that. We need to find a solution, and we need to find that solution today. I believe we need the Federal Government to quit breaking promises to the American people.

Mr. DOLD. I thank my good friend from Texas, and I certainly appreciate your leadership on this.

Again, highlighting the fact that this is also an economic issue is this land, all of a sudden, can't be redeveloped oftentimes; and, frankly, the property taxes for a lot of these communities can't be developed to its fullest extent.

As jobs in the economy continue to be that constant drumbeat around the country and certainly in our communities, you know better than many in terms of what we need to do to create jobs, and this is one of the things that I think the government is falling short on.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, there is no question about it. It is about jobs, and it is about growth. We need Yucca Mountain to come online, so we can begin to develop these properties and also protect the safety of America and Americans.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman for your leadership.

As we continue to talk about this, again, it just highlights, Mr. Speaker, how many communities, how many sites we have around our country that are impacted by spent nuclear fuel, whether it could be defense or whether it be for civilian purposes.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my good friend.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Thank you for yielding; and, Congressman DOLD, thank you for your leadership on this issue.

I am very grateful. I represent the Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell Counties of South Carolina. I had the privilege of working with Congressman JIM CLYBURN, very bipartisan. A portion of this site is located in Allendale County, South Carolina. We have worked together on the issues relative to the Savannah River Site, which should be noted is where the defense waste is currently being placed.

It is a consequence of the cold war, but it also is a consequence of victory in the cold war. I know that the persons who worked in the Savannah River Site are very, very grateful for the opportunities that they have had to provide for the protection of the American people, and it has been successful.

It is particularly meaningful to me because I am the only Member of Congress that actually worked at the Savannah River Site, so I know firsthand that it is really very professional, and it is also very environmentally sound.

We were talking about why are we here. For me, it is due to the environment and jobs. The environment we know is in danger if we have different sites around the country that could be addressed.

In the Department of Energy, I have another distinction. I was very grateful to be the deputy general counsel of the Department of Energy in 1981 and 1982. The defense waste bill came up through that time.

It was determined that there should be a geologic formation to place the waste of our country, whether it be defense waste or whether it be commercial. It was determined—and I know that you will be going through this to explain—that, indeed, Yucca Mountain is ideal.

None of us would ever want to put any community, any State at risk, but we know well that Yucca would not be of risk to the people of the West, but it would be very sound, and it would be very environmentally secure, and it would also, indeed, help create jobs.

Our State has been so fortunate to have the Savannah River Site, but we also have another distinction. We are one of the most nuclear-intensive States in the country. Nearly 60 percent of all the power that is produced in the State of South Carolina for almost 30 years has been nuclear.

We know what the consequence of this is, and that is that we have reliable energy, we have green, clean energy, and we have a level of inexpensive energy, which has a consequence of promoting jobs.

The jobs that have been created are quite self-evident in our State. We have a circumstance with the providing of low-cost energy. South Carolina now—particularly with the development of the BMW facility at Greer, South Carolina, of all things—is the leading exporter of cars in the United States, creating jobs in our State, our region, but then providing for extraordinary export around the world.

Additionally, South Carolina is the leading manufacturer of tires. Right next to the Savannah River Site is the Bridgestone facility, and this is a Japanese investment, over \$1 billion.

Then right down I-20, not far in the district I represent, is the Michelin facility. There are two plants adjacent to

each other. I was there recently with Ambassador Gerard Araud of France because we appreciate the French investment.

In fact, the Michelin facility is the largest Michelin facility in the world, nearly 2 million square feet with nearly 2,000 employees. Again, this is because of the success that we have with nuclear power.

Then further down I-20, we are very grateful of a German investment. Continental Tires has just announced that they just completed a half-billion-dollar facility in South Carolina. Then we also welcome from Singapore the Giti Tire company, which has announced a quarter-of-a-billion-dollar facility to be located in the upper part of South Carolina.

Over and over again, it is because we have safe, secure, clean energy. In fact, I want to commend the Obama administration. They actually have provided for the licensing of three new nuclear reactors in our country.

Two are located at the V.C. Summer facility at Jenkinsville, South Carolina, which is, again, adjacent to the district I represent in Fairfield County; and then directly across the Savannah River from the district that I represent is the Vogtle plant at Waynesboro, Georgia.

We are very supportive of these. All of them will be so helpful to achieve the environmentally very important determination of a geologic formation.

Then there is an economic side. Just as the people of Illinois, the people of South Carolina, and also the people of Pennsylvania have, through their rates, paid over \$1 billion into the fund to build Yucca, so our people are invested.

We have done it in good faith, and we need to follow the law. The law is that, indeed, this be the geologic formation, which is safe for the American people and creating the opportunity for jobs.

□ 2000

A final point. South Carolina has taken this so seriously. I want to commend our Governor, Nikki Haley. I also want to commend our Attorney General, Alan Wilson. They have actually filed a suit—and it was inspired largely by U.S. Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and U.S. Senator TIM SCOTT—to enforce the law. The law needs to be enforced. It would be beneficial to the people of our State, and it would be beneficial to our region of South Carolina and Georgia, but it would also be beneficial to the American people.

I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue so the American people understand how environmentally sound this is, how positive it is, the energy that is being produced because of this, and then the potential for jobs, not just in our region but across the United States.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his insight.

Certainly, he knows, in living close to and representing an area that is very close to the water there on the Savannah River, that it is very close to what my particular issue is with spent nuclear fuel being just a few hundred feet away from the greatest fresh surface water we have in the world. Ninety-five percent of the world's fresh surface water is in the Great Lakes. Storing that nuclear fuel so close, I think, is not only an environmental risk and a terrorist risk, but it is jeopardizing where 30 million Americans actually get their drinking water. It is really just a jewel of a natural resource and one that we need to protect, so I certainly appreciate your leadership.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. DOLD. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard today from different people from around our country about the need for us to move forward with Yucca Mountain. Again, just highlighting some of the points: Yucca Mountain is 100 miles away from the Colorado River, further away from any inhabitants, sitting 1,000 feet above the water table, 1,000 feet below ground.

Mr. Speaker, I came today wanting to share with you a story about my district and, more specifically, about a portion of my district in Zion, Illinois.

Zion has 25,000 residents and sits on the shores of Lake Michigan. Yet, due to the obstruction of the administration, tons of spent nuclear fuel remain stored at Zion. It is stored on the shores of the Great Lakes, literally just a few hundred feet away from the shore where 30 million Americans receive their fresh drinking water.

We need to make sure we do everything we can to protect what, I believe, is the jewel of our ecosystem in the Great Lakes, but so long as the fuel remains there, the city of Zion cannot use this site to bring in new businesses or new jobs on that site, and it continues to suffer from lost revenue from lost property taxes. The uranium that has been used in the nuclear reactors stays radioactive for tens of thousands of years. It stays radioactive after it has been removed from the reactor, and it must be isolated from the environment in order to allow it to safely degrade.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has not done its part to take charge. As we talked about earlier, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is the one that actually owns the fuel, so it is sitting now in our communities as opposed to going to a site we have spent nearly \$15 billion researching and putting money into—Yucca Mountain.

For the past three decades, the policy of the Federal Government has been to push forward with a long-term, deep geologic repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Thirteen years ago, the Department of Energy determined that

Yucca Mountain was the best and safest location in which to store America's nuclear waste. Indeed, it is the law of the land, as we have heard tonight, and we have spent billions of dollars to study the site and get it ready to be able to store our spent nuclear fuel.

Mr. Speaker, despite the billions of dollars spent, nothing has been done on Yucca Mountain since this administration has taken office. The administration cut off funding for Yucca Mountain and ensured that nothing would be done to get this site ready—this despite the three decades spent studying the site and the over \$15 billion spent. If we do not proceed, that money will be completely wasted. Further, the administration has failed to bring forward any kind of alternative, meaning that spent nuclear waste continues to sit in our communities where, I would argue, it should not be.

America's nuclear power plants have produced over 71,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel over the past six decades, and while it has created jobs and clean energy, we do have an obligation to make sure that it is stored, and stored safely. We need to make sure that it is stored in a long-term facility. But, instead, spent nuclear fuel remains at plants at least 75 nationwide sites, including at Zion.

There is a solution to this problem which affects not only Zion but the entire country. We can fund the Yucca Mountain project and ensure that we will solve the problem once and for all. If we don't, the only alternative right now is to leave the waste where it is, stored in places like Zion, leaving both Zion and the drinking water for 30 million Americans vulnerable to an environmental disaster or to a terrorist event, leaving the residents of Zion with a large plot of land in the heart of their community that, frankly, we can't use.

The only responsible course of action is to tackle this problem today. We have seen the statistics out there, and as we look at what the facts are, the Department of Energy has determined that the deep geological disposal is the safest method to store spent nuclear fuel.

If we just look at the difference here, in Zion, Illinois, on the shores of Lake Michigan, there are 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste—waste stored above the ground, about 5 feet above the water table and just a few hundred feet away from the shores of Lake Michigan.

Yet Yucca Mountain, on the other hand—a place where we have spent \$15 billion, where our experts have said is the safest place for us—is where we actually tested a nuclear weapon. It is near an Air Force base. So, when people talk about the neighbors, as Congressman SHIMKUS talked about earlier, the neighbor is the Federal Government. The Federal Government

owns the spent nuclear fuel. The Federal Government owns the land around it. The Federal Government owns the site at Yucca Mountain—Yucca Mountain, again, 100 miles away from the Colorado River.

The storage that we are talking about would be 1,000 feet above the water table, because it is important that we protect our water, and 1,000 feet below ground. This is the ideal spot. Yet we have come not on science; this hasn't been objected to by the scientific research. This has been objected to for political reasons. Frankly, I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, the politics has to end because what it is doing is jeopardizing communities across our Nation. We should be transporting this spent nuclear fuel to the safest location possible to make sure that we are not putting our citizens at risk, that we are not damaging or potentially damaging the environment.

The Department of Energy has concluded that the repository would have little or no adverse impact on future populations or the environment. These are key. So we are going to take a look at what the Department of Energy has to say and at the studies that have been done. Literally, Yucca Mountain is probably the most studied piece of real estate that we have in our Nation today. All of the studies that have come back say this is the spot at which we should be storing this spent nuclear fuel. Instead, it is staying all across the country at the cost to the taxpayers.

The Federal Government owns the nuclear fuel, and when it refused, according to the law, to take that nuclear fuel back and deal with it, we had our companies out there that basically said, Well, what are we supposed to do with it? So they sued on breach of contract, literally costing the taxpayers billions of dollars. We heard my colleague from Washington say that it could be as much as \$50 billion that the hard-working taxpayers are going to pay to keep the spent nuclear fuel where we don't want it to stay.

The government has an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to step up and do the right thing. I, for one, am delighted to be able to be here today to tell you about the story of Zion, Illinois, but we recognize that this is a situation that is impacting over 104 different sites. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

There are some on the other side of the building, Mr. Speaker, who are specifically holding this process up. We need to move forward. We need to make sure Yucca Mountain is approved, open, and, again, able to store this for up to a million years. It is the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats—we have got those in the Illinois delegation to my south who rely on Lake Michigan. This is something that we should all be united behind.

I am honored to be able to come up and talk about this, but I am also saddened that it has taken so long and that, if we do nothing, it will be potentially decades longer. This is unacceptable. The citizens of our country demand that the United States Government abide by the law and by its obligations to store the spent fuel at Yucca Mountain.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### D.C. EMANCIPATION DAY: INJUSTICE AND PROGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in advance of D.C. Emancipation Day, and I know that it is not a national holiday, but it is, yes, a holiday in the District of Columbia. It commemorates the day when the slaves in the District of Columbia were liberated by the Congress and Abraham Lincoln 9 months before the national Emancipation Proclamation.

Astonishingly, 150 years later, full freedom and equal citizenship have not yet come to the residents of the District of Columbia.

You don't have to be the Holmes family in the District of Columbia, who have lived three generations here paying taxes without representation. Indeed, my great grandfather, Richard Holmes, was a runaway slave from Virginia. When Lincoln and Congress freed the slaves 150 years ago, Richard Holmes was not freed, because he was a runaway slave rather than a slave whose master lived in the District of Columbia. So he had to wait the 9 months for the Emancipation Proclamation, but he was working on the streets of Washington like a free man as they were building Washington. He became free, but his great granddaughter—grateful for all that my family has done—cannot say that we are free today.

The greater shock will not come from those of us who are longtime residents. It will come from those who moved to D.C. yesterday, from those who are not three generations here but who are one day here, when they find that their rights are gone, that the rights they had in every State of the Union have vanished except for a few.

They can vote for President, but they can't vote for whoever represents them on this House floor. They have Congress interfering with their local business. This will astonish the average American, and most Americans have no idea this is the case for the 650,000 residents who live in their Nation's Capital. People have taken for granted that the vote that is emblematic of statehood would follow them—I don't

know—from Utah and California, from Alaska and Maine to the District of Columbia when they moved here. They had no idea that their local budget, for example, which is a budget raised exclusively in the District of Columbia, would have the big foot of the Federal Government kicking it around—indeed, that it would even be in the Congress.

Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia is not a mere commemoration. It is not like George Washington's birthday. It is alive with a fervor against this rank injustice that I have begun to speak about this evening. I am going to speak about the injustice, but I am also going to talk about progress because we have been encouraged—we who live in the District of Columbia—and the many allies we have to fight as we begin to make some substantial headway.

□ 1915

Most Americans—indeed, all other Americans—obtain their full rights by going through a citizenship ceremony or by simply being born here. All you have to do to have your full citizenship rights, when all is said and done, is to pay taxes. You don't even have to have participated in all of the Nation's wars or any of the Nation's wars the way the residents of the District of Columbia have done ever since the first war, the war that created the United States of America. You don't have to have paid all the taxes ever since you have been in the Union of states the way the District of Columbia residents have.

The reason you don't is that the statehood simply comes with where you live, and that is what has not happened to us. Where do we live? We are proud to live in the Nation's Capital. There, you would expect rights to flourish first and foremost.

When I spoke of not having the vote, do understand I have the vote in committee, and I am very grateful for that vote because it does allow me to carry home some important benefits to the District of Columbia, but what I don't have is the right to come to this floor and have the same vote that each of my colleagues has on business that affects the District of Columbia and the Nation.

Even matters that affect the District of Columbia, our own budget comes to Congress; and every other Member, who had nothing to do with raising the funds, gets to vote on that budget, but not the Member elected by the people of the District of Columbia. How painful it is that I have been able to speak on a number of wars that our country has entered, most recently Afghanistan and Iraq, have gone to Arlington to bury those killed, residents killed in those wars who went to war, secured the vote for residents of Afghanistan and Iraq but came home to find no vote or, in the case of those who died, did not come home at all.

And yet I am in a Republican House where “federalism” is the byword. Indeed, I understand why, because nothing was more important to the Founders than their own local laws and keeping the Federal Government, which was then kept deliberately weak, out of their affairs. What mattered to them was what was most local. So the very notion of interfering with the local business of a jurisdiction of any kind was unthinkable for our Framers.

It is the very meaning of statehood, this localism, this thing that says that there is territory and there are laws, there are habits for you only. They will differ vastly across the country, but that is your prerogative; that is the prerogative of statehood. That is why the residents of the District of Columbia seek to become the 51st State, and know it will happen. Perhaps later than sooner, but it must happen because of the principles I have begun to describe.

It must happen because we have been called out and continue to be called out internationally, because we have signed treaties where we are now in violation. We are in violation of a treaty we signed in 1977, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee, the U.N. Human Rights Committee, has called us out once again as it did in 2006, and they recited the reason for it.

The Human Rights Committee, looking at what has been done or, as it turns out, not been done said, and I am quoting them, the United Nations delegation to the U.N. “remains concerned that residents of the District of Columbia do not enjoy full representation in Congress, a restriction that does not seem to be compatible with article 25 of the covenant.”

Then they cited article 2, and I won’t quote from it entirely, but it says that the treaty we signed requires that we “adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present covenant.”

What are those rights? In this covenant, in this treaty that we the United States has signed, says all persons are “equal under the law and are entitled, without discrimination, through the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground,” and then they name the grounds. Here are the grounds: “such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth—and here is the one that applies to the District of Columbia and its residents—“or other status.” What is our other status? That we reside in our own Nation’s Capital—and for that reason, and that reason alone, are denied equal rights with other citizens of the United States of America.

Worse than being denied your rights is getting a right and then having it taken from you. Even that has happened to the residents of the District of Columbia. Shortly after I was elected to Congress, I wrote a memo indicating that since, as a Delegate, by rules of the House, I could vote in the Committee of the Whole, it followed that I should be able to vote in the Committee of the Whole when it meets on this floor. The Democrats were in control, but even they said: We must send this to outside counsel. Nobody from the District of Columbia has ever voted on this floor.

They sent it to outside counsel. They said that the District of Columbia votes by rule in committee, so by rule, yes, if the majority pass a rule, the District can vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. That rule was passed. Every time that the Democrats are in power, I get to vote on the House floor—by no means on all business, but certainly on business in the Committee of the Whole, and some of that really affects and is important to the District of Columbia. It is not the whole and complete vote. It is not what we are entitled to.

Why would anyone want to take it from us when we pay taxes without representation? But sure enough, when my good friends on the other side of the aisle write their rules, they write the District right out of the rules and take from us a vote that we have actually exercised on the House floor with the concurrence of the Federal courts of the United States. Right after we were granted that right and after I began to exercise it, my Republican colleagues actually sued the Congress for giving the District the vote in the Committee of the Whole. The District Court said: It is your discretion. What Congress has done is legal; the matter is legal and constitutional. And the Congress—the Republicans, not the Congress, took their suit against the Congress, the Democratic Congress to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals, the Federal Court of Appeals said: Yes, what Congress has done is legal, in its discretion and constitutional. And I proceeded to vote.

I think it is probably unheard of except in coups or dictatorships to snatch a vote or a right that someone once held, but that is what happened to the residents of the District of Columbia. No wonder there is rage in the city about such treatment.

Now, you might say: Well, there surely must be some reason why the residents of the District of Columbia don’t have the vote. No one has found any such a reason yet. They have only found reasons why we should have the vote.

Some will say: Oh, you are much too small to have the vote. After all, you are only a city. Well, a city is whatever you call it, so is a State. But if the size

determines that you have the vote, then Vermont and Wyoming should not have the vote because we have more population than either of those two States.

Vermont and Wyoming are not alone. Those are the states where we have notably more residents than they have. We have more than 650,000 residents. But there are more than half a dozen States that are in the same range of population as the District of Columbia and have a Representative—no more than one, just like the District of Columbia has one in this House—and two Senators. The District of Columbia has no Senators.

Who would say that that is fair?

And yet if you look down to the states with comparable population, the first tier that are almost exactly like the District of Columbia: North Dakota, Alaska, Vermont, of course, and Wyoming. And then there is another tier that are above us but very close in population: Delaware and South Dakota. I want them to keep their vote, and I want them to keep their two Senators. All we are asking is that District of Columbia residents be treated equally.

I have been speaking all week in preparation for Emancipation Day tomorrow, April 16. I began with two important, what I call debt-paid, paid-in-full obligations of citizenship. The first is participation in the armed services—although we know nobody is required to participate in the armed services today—and the second is payment of taxes. Pretty much today, April 15, if you have earned enough money, even a relatively small amount, you are going to have to pay some taxes.

It is hard to say which of those is most important. They all, of course, surround citizenship. Both support our government: those who go to the service, those who pay their taxes. I won’t say what is most important, but I started with military service for a reason: anyone who enters the service, especially today, does so voluntarily, knowing she is taking personal risk of her life.

Service in the armed services is so important to our country that undocumented immigrants have been granted citizenship by serving in the Armed Forces, and that has now been formalized. Young people who grew up in the United States but came with their parents as undocumented children without any legal status have always joined the armed services. In recognition of that, our country has now said that, at least for those who have special language or medical skills, if they join the armed services, after 6 months they can apply for citizenship.

Just consider the premium that we are placing on service in the Armed Forces, a premium that is more than



deserved, and yet there is no cognizance taken of the fact that our residents who lived in the District of Columbia since its formation in 1801 have fought and died in the armed services; and even before that they fought in the Revolutionary War that led to the formal formation of the United States and the District of Columbia. So by any measure, District of Columbia residents have gone beyond the call of duty in serving their country and earned the right—earned, earned painfully, with their lives—the full right to be treated as full and equal citizens of a State.

□ 1930

This chart shows how the right to be the 51st State has been tragically earned. In World War I, there were more casualties from D.C., this small territory than three States; in World War II, there were more casualties from the District of Columbia than from four States—and it only rises.

In the Korean war, there were more casualties than from eight States of the union, almost all of which were larger in size and had more population. The Vietnam war, where we have the very most casualties—more men and women were killed than from 10 States in the Union.

There is a very special part of our service in the Armed Forces. The District of Columbia was not a majority African American city until almost 1960. Today, it really is not a majority African American city. I grew up in a city that was largely White.

During that period, for most of its history, the District of Columbia was a segregated city, segregated by the Congress of the United States. I went to segregated schools, for example; yet look at how residents of the District of Columbia who had no vote of any kind at that time, had no home rule government. The city was run by three commissioners—no mayor, no city council, nobody to go to who was responsible to you—yet look what its residents did.

The first African American Army general was born and raised in the District of Columbia. The first African American Air Force general was also born in the District of Columbia.

The first African American Naval Academy graduate was born right here in the District of Columbia. The first African American Air Force Academy graduate was born in this city. The roster continues into recent years, where we had the first Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the first African American female aviator in the D.C. National Guard.

Don't tell me District residents haven't paid their dues and then some; yet I have sometimes had some difficulty getting our armed services personnel duly recognized.

Perhaps the most poignant was a mother who wrote me—and I thank this Congress for helping me to correct

this injustice. It may seem small to you, but it didn't seem small to my constituents. They are the parents of Jonathan Matthew Rucker, a D.C. native high school graduate who then proudly joined the Navy, instead of going to college.

He graduated from Naval Station Great Lakes. His parents went to see him graduate. Tomi Rucker, his mother, is an investigator with the D.C. Fire and EMS Department. His father, Michael Linwood Boyd, is a sergeant in the Special Operations Division of the D.C. police department.

They enjoyed attending their son's graduation from naval boot camp. The Navy called out the names. As the name of each young person was called, the Navy raised the state flag. The name of Jonathan Matthew Rucker was called, and no flag was raised. Why? What in the world? What could they have been thinking, that we weren't a State, so the flag shouldn't be raised?

Well, this Congress, controlled by my good Republican friends, was also amazed. I very much appreciate that they passed my bill that was attached to the Defense authorization bill that the Armed Forces now must display the D.C. flag—and we learned only with the visibility of this incident that there were D.C. veterans who had come home from wars and, every flag was raised, except the D.C. flag.

I must tell you, I think it was because D.C. is not a State, for God's sake. At some point, you just have to draw the line. Just make us a State, and maybe those kinds of things won't happen.

Take our World War I memorial. Every State had a World War I memorial—paid for by people in that State—so was ours, 100 percent. Indeed, they collected money even from schoolchildren.

There has actually been an attempt to take our D.C. War Memorial—because it happens to be located on the Mall—and convert it into a national World War I memorial because there is no World War I memorial on the Mall.

Well, sorry about that, but we paid—not only in treasure, but in the lives of almost 500 D.C. residents. I thank my Republican colleagues for working with me to maintain the D.C. War Memorial. The D.C. World War I memorial had become, really, a war memorial for all D.C. veterans.

What I did was to work closely with my colleagues so that we would get a real World War I memorial that could be respected. That means there is going to be a wholesale redevelopment of the Pershing Park, which many always considered a World War I memorial.

It is not located on the Mall, but it is located right in a prime location on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the White House, and we were able to come to a compromise, the kind of compromise

that makes the world go round and makes this House look good.

Today, of course, was tax day, and my Republican colleagues came forward with any number of bills. Some were worthy bills, bipartisan bills. Some were nonsense. Some were just straight out demagoguery. My colleagues are very concerned with tax cuts, even bills this week.

Many will be surprised about the District of Columbia and taxes. This is one of the great unknown factoids of the United States. Residents of the District of Columbia, per capita, per resident, pay the highest taxes in the United States, Federal taxes, more than any Americans.

If you are in Mississippi, you pay the lowest per capita, at just about \$4,000, compared to our \$12,000. If you go to my Web site, you will find out where your State stands.

I will go down the top 10: the District of Columbia, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts—this is in rank order, by the way—Maryland, New York, Nevada, Wyoming, New Hampshire, and California.

The largest States—let's take California and New York—they each pay in the \$8,000 range. D.C. is \$12,000 per capita. This is all per resident.

You say: well, look at the small States; they must be like you.

No, they are not. Small States, like Rhode Island—we are \$12,000, and they are at \$7,000. We are at \$12,000 per resident, and in Vermont, they are \$6,000. North Dakota is at \$6,000. Montana is at \$5,000.

Those are the States with small populations, so population can't be the cause. The cause is that the District has middle-income people, rich people, and, yes, because it is a big city, poor people, and when you add it all up, Uncle Sam gets more than his due without D.C. getting statehood and the rights that come with it.

Only statehood can end this bucketload of injustice. Only statehood can end no vote for the Member from the District on this floor, no matter what the bill, even if the bill is about the District of Columbia. Only statehood can end the outrage of bringing the District's local budget for Members to vote on who have nothing to do with it and have contributed not one penny to it.

Only statehood can keep this Congress from interfering with the local laws of our local jurisdiction, using their own preferences to overturn the democratic will of the legislature of the District of Columbia.

But, it is not all terrible. We have made progress. This is a country that makes progress slowly, so we are not about to give up. We are trying to get the elements of statehood even as we try to get what we are entitled to.

Budget autonomy—so that our budget won't have to come here—was not

only in the President's budget, but my bill for budget autonomy was in the Senate appropriations bill last Congress. They put it in their budget. That, I am afraid, did not pass because we cannot get yet the kind of consensus we need from the House.

The residents of the District of Columbia want to have sole dominion over their own money. That is \$7 billion that we raise ourselves in the District of Columbia, so residents put it to referendum.

The city was sued after that referendum which passed by almost 85 percent of the vote. Now, that is in court to see where it goes. But residents are not going to give up. If they can't get statehood, they are trying to get any part of it that they can.

Other elements of statehood have also been introduced in the House and the Senate so that our local laws don't have to come here, for example.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time I have had on the floor for Emancipation Day. I want to leave you looking forward, not backward. We are overjoyed by making some progress.

We know that, ultimately, the denial of rights will be seen as un-American, especially when that denial concerns the residents of our own Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1117. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1C IR] received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1118. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1A FIR] received April 13, 2015,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1119. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crops — Import Regulations; Changes to Reporting Requirements To Add Electronic Form Filing Option [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0093; FV15-944/980/999-1 IR] received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1120. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2014 Performance Report to the President and Congress for the Biosimilar User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1121. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No.: RM15-6-000] received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1122. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — "Applications of Bioassay for Radioiodine" Regulatory Guide 8.20, Revision 2, received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1123. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2014 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements [Docket No.: 141204999-5186-01] (RIN: 0694-AG41) received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1124. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the annual report pursuant to Sec. 2(8) of the Senate's Resolution of Advice and Consent to the Treaty with Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1125. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter regarding commitments in the Joint Plan of Action, pursuant to Secs. 1245(d)(1) and 1245(d)(5) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2012, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1126. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) programs or projects in countries described in Sec. 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1127. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-010); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1128. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Syrian Sanctions Regulations received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1129. A letter from the General Manager and Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1130. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1131. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1132. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1133. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1134. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments received April 8, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1135. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1136. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1137. A letter from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3349, regarding a vacancy in a Senate-confirmed position in the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1138. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Corps' FY 2014 report, pursuant to Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1139. A letter from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's No FEAR Act Data Tables for FY 2015; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1140. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed

Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02 and 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD818) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1141. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No.: 141126999-5235-01] (RIN: 0648-BE69) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1142. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Restrictions Regarding the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, the Whale Shark, and the Silky Shark [Docket No.: 130703588-5112-02] (RIN: 0648-BD44) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1143. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; Framework Adjustment 8 [Docket No.: 141103917-5223-02] (RIN: 0648-BE60) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1144. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Fisheries; California Swordfish Drift Gillnet Fishery; Vessel Monitoring System and Pre-Trip Notification Requirements [Docket No.: 140528460-5122-02] (RIN: 0648-BE25) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1145. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XD846) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1146. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2015-2016 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass [Docket No.: 130403320-4891-02] (RIN: 0648-XD828) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1147. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifica-

tions and Management Measures [Docket No.: 140902739-5224-02] (RIN: 0648-BE49) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1148. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting for consideration the proposed "Criminal Judicial Procedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1149. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report titled "Department of Justice Activities Under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act FY 2014" pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1997f; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1150. A letter from the Senior Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulation and Enforcement, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Electronic Chain of Custody and Control Form in DOT-Regulated Drug Testing Programs [Docket No.: OST-2015-0045] (RIN: 2105-AE35) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1151. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting other materials, as required by 49 U.S.C. 24315(a)(2); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1152. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Cooper River Bridge Run, Cooper River, and Town Creek Reaches, Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0040] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1153. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the "2012 Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Substance Abuse: First Annual Report to Congress", as required by the Child and Family Services Improvement Act, Pub. L. 112-34; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1154. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revised Listings for Growth Disorders and Weight Loss in Children [Docket No.: SSA-2011-0081] (RIN: 0960-AG28) received April 7, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1155. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for FY 2014" pursuant to Sec. 1869(f)(7) of the Social Security Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 373. A bill to direct the

Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-75, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 404. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (Rept. 114-76). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 533. A bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-77). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 984. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Train, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-78). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1168. A bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-79). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1324. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-80). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 979. A bill to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point" (Rept. 114-81). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Oversight Plans for All House Committees (Rept. 114-82). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 373 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. REED, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1795. A bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to make publicly available on-line tools to allow individuals eligible for disability benefits to assess the impact of earnings on the individual's eligibility for, and amount of, benefits received through Federal and State benefit programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 1796. A bill to withdraw all Federal land located within the Rainy River Drainage Basin in Minnesota from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and operation under the mineral leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 1797. A bill to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, including Ebola, through coordinated domestic and international efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 1798. A bill to prohibit the Department of the Treasury from assigning tax statuses to organizations based on their political beliefs and activities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1799. A bill to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to prohibit certain financial benefits for referrals of business and to improve the judicial relief for certain violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. REED, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 1800. A bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to update the medical-vocational guidelines used in disability determinations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1801. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a tax credit for providing programs to kindergarten, elementary, and secondary students that promote economic and financial literacy; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 1802. A bill to promote energy efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1803. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the work opportunity tax credit for veterans and to allow an exemption from an employer's employment taxes in an amount equivalent to the value of such credit in the case of veterans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KIND, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1804. A bill to protect the public, communities across America, and the environment by increasing the safety of crude oil transportation by railroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KATKO, Mr. REED, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 1805. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to simplify the peti-

tioning procedure for H-2A workers, to expand the scope of the H-2A program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 1806. A bill to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 1807. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 1808. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions for 1 year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. DOGETT, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 1809. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1810. A bill to revise the Uniform Crime Reports, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System, to direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to include information in those reports pertaining to law enforcement-involved justifiable homicides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 1811. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, to provide for cash relief for years for which annual COLAs do not take effect under certain cash benefit programs, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 1812. A bill to establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1813. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to tax bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in the same manner as bona fide residents of possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOLD, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. LoBIONDO, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1814. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARDY (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 1815. A bill to facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 1816. A bill to exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1817. A bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 1818. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures for veterans with military emergency medical training to become civilian emergency medical technicians; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 1819. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception for certain public-private research arrangements from the business use test for purposes of determining private activity bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 1820. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself, Mr. GUINTA, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 1821. A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 1822. A bill to extend the supplemental security income program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 1823. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the mortgage interest deduction with respect to boats only if the boat is used as the principal residence of the taxpayer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 1824. A bill to repeal the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a flat tax, thereby guaranteeing economic growth and fairness for all Americans; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1825. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to prohibit certain employees of the Transportation Security Administration from using the title of "officer" and from wearing metal badges or uniforms resembling those of law enforcement officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1826. A bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1827. A bill to allow funds under title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to be used to provide training to school personnel regarding how to recognize child sexual abuse; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1828. A bill to provide a taxpayer bill of rights for small businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 1829. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess and submit to Congress a report on the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to convey information to, collect information from, and serve individuals with limited English proficiency; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H. Res. 201. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity through poverty reduction in the United States and abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. JONES, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. TROTT):

H. Res. 202. A resolution congratulating the 2015 national champions, the Duke University Blue Devils, for their win in the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MOORE, Mr.

McGOVERN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 203. A resolution expressing support for designation of June 2015 as "National Men's Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 204. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 13, 2015, as a national day of celebration of the diversity in the United States, known as Diversity Day in the Nation; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H. Res. 205. A resolution congratulating the administration, staff, students, and alumni of Roosevelt University on the occasion of the University's 70th anniversary; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TAKAI (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H. Res. 206. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2015 as "National Learn to Swim Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 1796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers."

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers; and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 3.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

USC Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 1 ("The Congress shall have Power To Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the Common Defence and general Welfare of the United States[.]") (This bill would provide a tax credit to entities that implement financial literacy programming for students—empowering said students, and in turn, improving the nation's "general Welfare.").

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 1802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 1804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 1805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 and 4, of Section 8, of Article I.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 1808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by

this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 1810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as interpreted by Steward Machine Company v. Davis and by Helvering v. Davis ("general welfare" and general taxation).

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 1812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 1813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, US Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 1815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution".

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 1816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or officer thereof.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.R. 1818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 1819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 and the 16th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico:

H.R. 1820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 1821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article, 1 Section 8

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution; and to make rules and regulations respecting the U.S. territories, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 1823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 1824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Per Article 1 Sec 8 of the Constitution: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 1826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 1828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare for the United States; but all Duties, imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

By Mrs. TORRES:

H.R. 1829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 9: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 93: Mr. POE of Texas.  
H.R. 114: Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 140: Mr. SANFORD.  
H.R. 173: Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 174: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 237: Mr. COOK, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. RIBBLE.  
H.R. 249: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 267: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 311: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 317: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 333: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 343: Mr. COURTNEY.  
H.R. 363: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 379: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. LEWIS.  
H.R. 427: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 446: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.  
H.R. 449: Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 452: Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 453: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 472: Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 509: Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H.R. 546: Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 556: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 563: Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 571: Mr. CULBERSON.  
H.R. 577: Ms. GRAHAM and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 578: Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 588: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.  
H.R. 592: Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 605: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 606: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 619: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 625: Mr. RIBBLE.  
H.R. 649: Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 662: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 692: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BUCK, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 721: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 775: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 793: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. MARINO.  
H.R. 797: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 812: Mr. LABRADOR.  
H.R. 817: Mr. NUGENT.  
H.R. 820: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TONKO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. TURNER.

- H.R. 825: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 865: Mr. HECK of Nevada.  
H.R. 868: Mr. KILMER, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 872: Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 879: Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 880: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 911: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 921: Mr. MCKINLEY.  
H.R. 923: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. SALMON.  
H.R. 928: Mr. BUCK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 935: Mr. VEASEY.  
H.R. 957: Mr. TROTT.  
H.R. 971: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 973: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 980: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 985: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 987: Mr. SANFORD.  
H.R. 1019: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
H.R. 1037: Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 1062: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1078: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1086: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1087: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. FORTENBERRY.  
H.R. 1111: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1131: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.  
H.R. 1170: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 1218: Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 1234: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 1269: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SIREs.  
H.R. 1274: Mr. PETERS and Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 1301: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 1309: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARR, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1312: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. BASS, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. DENT, Mr. LANCE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. FARR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 1324: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1336: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 1358: Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.R. 1365: Mr. HANNA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 1375: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1378: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 1384: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
H.R. 1399: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 1415: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 1421: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 1435: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1445: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 1453: Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 1464: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 1475: Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 1476: Mr. MERCHANT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.  
H.R. 1478: Ms. BORDALLO.  
H.R. 1496: Ms. BORDALLO.  
H.R. 1498: Mr. SHUSTER.  
H.R. 1503: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California and Mrs. TORRES.  
H.R. 1531: Mr. SIMPSON.  
H.R. 1538: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1546: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.  
H.R. 1547: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1559: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Ms. ESTY.  
H.R. 1568: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. DENHAM.  
H.R. 1586: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1605: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 1608: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 1625: Ms. ESTY.  
H.R. 1635: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. DELANEY.  
H.R. 1650: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. MULVANEY.  
H.R. 1651: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 1668: Mr. ROHRBACHER.  
H.R. 1674: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 1684: Ms. GRAHAM.  
H.R. 1688: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. BLUM, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 1694: Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
H.R. 1695: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 1713: Mr. HASTINGS and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1714: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1728: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 1734: Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 1737: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BARR, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 1759: Mr. BUCK.  
H.R. 1772: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1774: Ms. LEE.  
H. J. Res. 43: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FLEMING, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. PITTS, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H. Con. Res. 14: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.  
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. ALLEN.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. REICHERT.  
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. HURT of Virginia.  
H. Res. 28: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Miss RICE of New York.  
H. Res. 54: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. KILDEE.  
H. Res. 118: Mr. MEEKS.  
H. Res. 130: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. POLIS, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. WOMACK.  
H. Res. 154: Mr. SIREs.  
H. Res. 159: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
H. Res. 161: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Res. 174: Ms. ESHOO.



## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE FRANCIS  
HOWELL GOLDEN GIRLS DANCE  
TEAM

## HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Francis Howell Golden Girls Dance Team, on their Class 6A State Championship win at the Missouri Dance Team Association competition.

These students and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing the Francis Howell Golden Girls Dance Team for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING MR. CHUCK  
KLAUSING ON HIS INDUCTION TO  
THE FOOTBALL COACHES HALL  
OF FAME

## HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chuck Klausing of Indiana, Pennsylvania for his induction into the Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Mr. Klausing began his 46-year coaching career in 1948 as head coach at Pitcairn High School before moving to Braddock High in 1954. Throughout the six years that followed, his teams at Braddock remained undefeated for 55 straight games, establishing a national record. They outscored their opposition 1471–302, won six consecutive Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League championships, and were featured in Sports Illustrated.

Following his years at Braddock, Mr. Klausing went on to continued success as the head football coach at Indiana University of Pennsylvania from 1964 to 1969 and at Carnegie Mellon University from 1976 to 1985. While at Carnegie Mellon, he led the school to six conference championships and the NCAA Division III playoffs four times. He won television's National Coach of the Year awards in 1979 and 1983, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 1998.

In addition to Mr. Klausing's coaching achievements, he is a veteran of World War II and holds a degree in education from Slippery Rock University. Mr. Klausing's induction in the Football Coaches Hall of Fame brings

great distinction upon himself, his community, and the 9th District of Pennsylvania. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations for his many outstanding achievements over his career.

ANNIVERSARY OF BOKO HARAM  
KIDNAPPINGS

## HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to recognize the one-year anniversary of the kidnapping of nearly 300 Nigerian girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

A year after this horrific act was perpetrated, 219 of the girls remain missing. Few know of their struggles and of the events in Nigeria, and the world's focus has largely shifted from rescue to remembrance.

But we have an opportunity, and a moral responsibility, to act. To ensure the safe return of these young girls and eliminate Boko Haram, so that no one else's child suffers at their hands.

The missing girls risked their lives in pursuit of education. Among them we see lawyers, doctors, teachers—future leaders of their country. We see our own daughters.

Today, I call on my colleagues not just to remember these girls, but to recommit to their rescue by passing legislation to combat Boko Haram.

## STOPPING BOKO HARAM

## HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has now been one year since the kidnapping of 270 Nigerian girls from their school dormitory.

In the time since then, thousands of Nigerian men and women have been captured, slaughtered, and raped simply for practicing their Christian faith or pursuing an education.

These horrific atrocities cry out for a response.

We need to continue to speak up and speak out until Boko Haram is defeated, and we bring back these girls.

Imagine, for a moment, facing the possibility of death every day because violent, militant extremists were wreaking havoc just outside your door.

Imagine, for a moment, having to leave behind everything you owned, all your possessions, your entire life, just to keep yourself and your family safe.

Imagine, for a moment, that your own loved ones were murdered simply for practicing their faith or going to school.

Yet, these are the realities of life for more than a million Nigerians today.

I applaud my colleague, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, for her strong leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to continue speaking out until Boko Haram is defeated and these girls are returned home.

FISHING ECONOMY IMPROVEMENT  
ACTHON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fishing Economy Improvement Act. The bill reauthorizes the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and makes a number of refinements, which I believe can help Magnuson-Stevens Act work even more effectively at ensuring that the United States of America has viable fish stocks and a thriving fishing economy today and into the future.

In developing the policy proposals in this bill I have worked closely with Mr. HUFFMAN, the Ranking Member on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans. Together, we have sat through hours of hearings on a reauthorization of the Magnuson Act and heard problems identified and remedies suggested from a variety of groups with an interest in America's fisheries.

That experience has made clear that there are a number of areas where there could be bipartisan agreement on improvements that can be made to Magnuson. In this time of "gridlock" in Congress, I think it is important that we do not miss opportunities in areas where there is consensus.

So, for instance, the Fishing Economy Improvement Act proposes that we improve fisheries data collection through the use of electronic monitoring and that we overhaul the way that the federal government manages this data so that we get the most value from it. The Fishing Economy Improvement Act increases opportunities for public participation in the fishery management process by requiring widely accepted, modern-day practices such as live, online broadcasting of fishery council meetings. And the bill allows for data collected by states from recreational fishing to be incorporated into federal assessments of the health of fish stocks. These are all ideas that find wide agreement on both sides of the aisle and could further improve the effectiveness of the Magnuson-Stevens conservation and management practices we already have in place.

Of course, I also have a responsibility to the people I represent to look for improvements to our national fishing policies that could specifically yield improvements for the Northern Mariana Islands. One proposal in the Fishing

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Economy Improvement Act is to assure the interests of subsistence fishers, or what the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations refers to as artisanal fishers, are represented on the regional fishery management councils. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands are generally not involved in industrial scale fishing, but we have a tradition of livelihood from the sea that goes back for millennia and continues to this day. These island fishermen and women should have a seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, right beside the industrial users—as should Native Alaska and Native American subsistence users on the other seven regional councils, where appropriate. This proposal, too, is an area of bipartisan agreement.

Pacific islanders also should have a more official role in the international organization that is responsible for managing and conserving tuna and other highly migratory fish in our region. For that reason, the Fishing Economy Improvement Act requires that one of the five U.S. seats on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission always be held by a resident of American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands. The seat would rotate among our three island jurisdictions.

I also believe that, when the rights to fish around the Northern Mariana Islands are sold, the fees should go directly to the government of the Northern Mariana Islands. Right now, some of those fees go to WestPac, the federal regional council, and WestPac has to use the funds for marine conservation. I am not opposed to conservation. We cannot have a strong fishing economy unless we manage stocks sustainably and maintain the overall health of the oceans. But revenues from Northern Marianas resources belong to the people of the islands. Their own government should decide the best use for those funds—not WestPac, a federal agency. My bill helps ensure that revenues from fishing around the U.S. Pacific islands, such as the Northern Marianas, go to people of those islands.

The people of the Pacific islands have a deep cultural tradition of decision-making by consensus. The tradition on the Northern American continent was often to move farther west when neighbors proved difficult. On tiny islands surrounded by vast oceans there is greater pressure to get along and find agreement.

In that spirit I am introducing the Fishing Economy Improvement Act. I ask that Members on both sides of the aisle consider whether there are areas in fishery management where we can find common ground. I look forward to reaching out to Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, who has also introduced legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. I know there are proposals in Mr. YOUNG's bill with which I can agree; and I believe there are ideas in the bill I have introduced that are in harmony with or could build upon the proposals in his bill.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2015 INDUCTEES TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame and to congratulate the 2015 inductees and scholarship award recipients.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports instills in our youth many values that will serve them well throughout life. These values include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and, maybe most important, the work ethic developed by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal.

I commend the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame (NVFHOF) for providing opportunities for our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being inducted during the 25th Annual NVFHOF Awards Banquet:

\$1,500 Scholarship Award Recipients: Ashleigh Holsworth (West Potomac HS), Ryan L. Bursiek (West Springfield HS), and Jonathan R. McVicker (Lake Braddock SS), and Mason Scoville (Westfield HS)

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2015 Inductees: Michael Claussin (Springfield Youth Club, West Springfield HS, JMU, Jacksonville Jaguars, Buffalo Bills, and Washington Redskins), Vaughn Lewis (Edison HS Head Coach, Thomas Jefferson HS Head Coach, Stafford HS Asst. Coach), and Jeff Davey (Chantilly YA, Club Commissioner, Youth Football Head Coach)

Football Officials of the Year: Andre Jones (Fairfax County FOA), Rick Artigas (Northern Virginia FOA), and Anthony Wallace (D.C. Metropolitan FOA)

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: John Reynolds (FCPS Athletic Training Programs Administrator)

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Dan Sutherland (FCPA, Grounds Management Manager)

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: David Hall (Commissioner, VYI)

High School Players of the Year: James Gibson, III (Westfield HS), Tyler West (Langley HS), Gerald Hulett, Jr. (South County HS), Matt Gallagher (Battlefield HS), Will Mejia (Falls Church HS), Nick Mathews (Patriot HS)

High School Coaches of the Year: Wayne Hogwood (Wakefield HS), Chris Haddock (Centreville HS)

Youth Sports Players of the Year: Malachi Galloway (Alex. Rec.), Aaron Saunders (American Pride YF), Dakwandre Marshall (Annandale Boys & Girls Club), Savion Whiting (Arlington FL), Nathan Smith, (BRYC), Pierre Johnson (CYA), Aidan Doherty (Dulles South YL), Bradley M. Brewington IV (Fairfax Police YL), Benjamin Pavek (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports), Mike Pidgeon (Ft. Hunt), E. Clayborne Prescott Sailor (Gainsville-Haymarket), Justin Gibson (Gum Springs), Stephen Schoenefeld (Herndon Optimist Club), Christina Thompson

(James Lee), William Scott Wolfe (Lee-Franconia), Spencer Irons (Manassas YFL), Mathew Moschella (McLean YF), Cameron Savage (RYA), Ethan Davies (SCAA), Matt Hunter (SYA), Ryan Lipton (Springfield Youth Club), and Chandler O'Rourke (VYI)

Youth Sports Coaches of the Year: Mike Johnson (VYI), Matt Huling (SYA), Chris Goings (CYA), and Ken Simmons (BRYC)

Youth Cheerleaders of the Year: Layla Menard (American Pride Youth Football), Payton Delean (Dulles South Youth League), Daisy Anderson (VYI) and Emma Sahlgren (VYI)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Northern Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2015 Hall of Fame celebration.

## HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BERKLEY

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Berkley in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1865, thirty members of Bank Street Baptist Church began praying in a tent abandoned by Union soldiers after the culmination of the Civil War. These meetings were later moved to the homes of the various members. On April 15, 1868, these individuals received letters of dismissal from Bank Street Baptist and left to begin a new church led by Reverend Samuel S. Jones.

The new church was initially called Cedar Grove Baptist, receiving its name from the cedar trees that lined the road to the church. An empty plantation building served as the first church building and services were held in a large upper room. The congregation soon outgrew the plantation building and moved to a new worship hall on the corner of Pine and Walnut Streets. Reverend Richard Wright was elected the new pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist. Reverend Wright began fund-raising for a new hall of worship, but passed away prior to completion. Reverend Madison Lewis served as pastor for nearly 10 years and was leading the church at the completion of First Baptist Church Montaland. Unfortunately, the Montaland church building was devastated by a fire in 1908 and a new church could not be constructed until 1910. After the fire, the congregation met at the local Masonic Hall.

In 1910, the new church building, named First Baptist Church, Berkley, opened its doors to the Norfolk community. Throughout the church's entire history, First Baptist Church, Berkley has had a rich legacy of outreach. During the Great Depression, under the leadership of Reverend John Carter Diamond, the church helped feed the community by opening soup kitchens and bread lines. The church created a nursery and hired unemployed mothers to supplement their family income. With a focus on education, the nursery was converted into a church kindergarten.

In 1963, Reverend William Tyree, Jr. began his pastorship with a philosophy of educating

the congregation. Under his leadership, several classes were created to benefit all members of the church. Through his strong belief in education, Reverend Tyree formed the Tri-Committee, which focused on the church's outreach into the community through social and civic engagement. Reverend Tyree recognized the need for a new church facility and led the congregation in an effort to build the current location of First Baptist Church, Berkeley at Berkeley Avenue and Culpepper Street, which opened on June 22, 1986. Reverend Tyree served the church for more than 32 years before his passing on December 23, 1994. His son, William D. Tyree, III, began his pastorate in May of 1996 and continues to serve the church today.

Over the last 150 years, 13 pastors have served the church's congregation—Rev. Samuel S. Jones, Rev. Richard Wright, Rev. Madison Lewis, Rev. H.L. Barco, Rev. Sutton Griggs, Rev. J.H. Randolph, Rev. W.R. Slade, Rev. Lafayette Sharpe, Rev. A.O. Bello, Rev. John Carter Diamond, Rev. Noel C. Taylor, Rev. William D. Tyree, Jr., and Rev. William D. Tyree, III.

Mr. Speaker, as First Baptist Church, Berkeley of Norfolk, Virginia celebrates this historic milestone, the congregation can rejoice in 150 years of successful discipleship and public service in the Hampton Roads community. I would like to congratulate the 13th pastor of First Baptist Church, Berkeley, Reverend William D. Tyree, III, and all of the members of the church's congregation on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of fellowship and dedicated service to the community.

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ARCHERY TEAM

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jefferson Middle School Archery Team from Champaign, Illinois for the continued and outstanding success of their program.

At the state competition this past March, the Jefferson Archery Team brought home the state championship title in the middle school division for the third straight year.

The Jefferson Team had five individual medalists at the state competition as Breanna Velez took 3rd place and Maddy Brown took 4th place in the female division, while Luke Miller took 1st place, Spencer Weis took 2nd place, and Ivan Chu took 4th place in the male division.

I would like to congratulate these five outstanding archers on their success and the entire Jefferson Archery Team on their 3rd consecutive state title.

I am truly proud to represent this group of exceptional student-athletes, and I wish them the best of luck as they represent the entire state of Illinois in competition for the national title in May:

Spencer Weis, Breanna Velez, Chikako Barnes, Maddy Brown, Jacob Rosenbaum,

Cayla Risinger, Joel Everett, Lucas Brown, Luke Miller, Clayton Knierim, Isaac Stevens, Olivia Geis, Noga Adar, Ben Hannauer, Nathan Yahne, Tristan Summers, Trevor Bolland, Benjamin Kirkland, Anthony Erlinger, Laurn Henry, Nicole Olivier, Jacob Rice, Gage Miller, Henry Hornbrook, and Ivan Chu.

RECOGNIZING CHILD HOME AND  
COMMUNITY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 35 years of commitment to young mothers of Bucks and Montgomery counties by Child Home and Community.

Working with local schools and hospitals, Child Home and Community provides assistance and educational opportunities for young parents from all backgrounds to be better, healthier parents.

CHC's programs—including free childbirth classes, support groups, career counseling and other advocacy services—help address real needs in our communities and bring about tangible benefits for participants, including becoming “more likely to stay in school and graduate, find employment with good benefits, prepare their children for school and become productive members of the community.”

As a supporter of this worthwhile organization and their more than three decades of dedication, it is an honor to mark their 35th anniversary and celebrate with them and the thousands of young families they have supported.

Congratulations and continued success in Bucks and Montgomery counties to everyone at Child Home and Community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 TOWN OF  
VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS PRESENTED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 37th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 93 individuals in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Three members of the Town of Vienna Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service.

It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award recipients:

Certificate of Valor Recipients:

Police Officer John Digan

Police Officer Marcos Herrera

Master Police Officer Tim Seitz

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2015 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Town of Vienna Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, on the dates of February 24 through March 3 of this year, I was away from the Capitol tending to a family medical situation that required my presence. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures on the floor during this time.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 212, Roll Call Vote #84, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 734, Roll Call Vote #85, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Ordering the Previous Question, Roll Call Vote #86, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 121, Roll Call Vote #87, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1020, Roll Call Vote #88, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 529, Roll Call Vote #89, had I been present I would have voted no.

On Passage of H.R. 529, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans, Roll Call Vote #90, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Consideration of the Resolution H. Res. 125, Roll Call Vote #91, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Ordering the Previous Question, Roll Call Vote #92, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 125, Roll Call Vote #93, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Approving the Journal, Roll Call Vote #94, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On the amendment of Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Amendment No. 67 to H.R. 5, Roll Call Vote #95, had I been present I would have voted no.

On the amendment of Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin, Amendment No. 128 to H.R. 5, Roll Call Vote #96, had I been present I would have voted no.

On the amendment of Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Amendment No. 43 to H.R. 5, Roll Call Vote #97, had I been present I would have voted no.

On the amendment of Mr. QUIGLEY of Illinois, Amendment No. 96 to H.R. 5, Roll Call Vote #98, had I been present I would have voted no.

On the amendment of Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Amendment No. 40 to H.R. 5, Roll Call Vote #99, had I been present I would have voted no.

On Ordering the Previous Question, Roll Call Vote #100, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 129, Roll Call Vote #101, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Request a Conference on H.R. 240, Roll Call Vote #102, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Approving the Journal, Roll Call Vote #103, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Passage of H.J. Res. 35, Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, Roll Call Vote #104, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 240, Roll Call Vote #105, had I been present I would have voted no.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 33, Roll Call Vote #106, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 294, Roll Call Vote #107, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Table the Senate Amendment to H.R. 240, Roll Call Vote #108, had I been present I would have voted no.

On Motion to Recede and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 240, Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, Roll Call Vote #109, had I been present I would have voted no.

On the amendment of Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California, Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 749, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 749, Roll Call Vote #111, had I been present I would have voted no.

On Passage of H.R. 749, To reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, Roll Call Vote #112, had I been present I would have voted no.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,013,569,439.51. We've added \$7,525,136,520,526.43 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could

have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID ROSELEIP ON HIS DECADES OF SERVICE TO AND RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON AGFORESTRY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and countless achievements of Mr. David Roseleip. A giant in Washington State, Dave spent his childhood in St. Ignatius, Montana before matriculating to Montana State University. Raised on a dairy and diversified crop farm with his twin brother, Dave's upbringing inspired him to pursue and attain a degree in Agriculture Science and Economics. After graduation, Dave moved to Spokane, Washington where he began his long and impactful career at Farm Credit Banks. While continuing to serve farmers at his day job, Dave enrolled in the first class of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation's Leadership Program which provides essential training to individuals engaged in farming, forestry, and fishing in Washington State.

Four years after graduating from the program, Dave became president of AgForestry. Under his stewardship, AgForestry continued its mission, providing outstanding services and resources to its students. In fact, during his tenure, Dave has overseen the recruitment and selection of Leadership Classes 7 through 37 and has proudly watched nearly 1,000 graduates of the program go on to successful careers in agriculture and forestry. Working tirelessly with the Washington State Legislature, along with various government departments and national organizations, Dave has ensured that the program's trips to Olympia and Washington, D.C. have been filled with engaging and enlightening classes and experiences. One of his greatest accomplishments as president of AgForestry was the coordination of "International Seminars" to nearly 45 different countries, giving students a greater understanding of global issues and the importance of American agriculture in the world.

Of course, Dave's incredible legacy extends beyond AgForestry. Dave joined forces with leadership from three other organizations in co-founding the "International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership." In addition, Dave has served on the boards of Farming and the Environment, the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, the Washington Biodiversity Council, and the Washington Agriculture Council. After more than 30 years of service to AgForestry, Dave will be retiring in June. His impacts will be long-felt in Washington agricultural and forestry circles, and his work is something that we can all take pride in. I wish both Dave and his loving wife, Jan, a long and happy retirement.

HONORING GWENDOLYN NERO LOPER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gwendolyn Nero Loper, the daughter of the late Malinda and Willis Nero, who graduated from Greenwood High School in 1946. She attended Tougaloo College from 1948 to 1952 graduating cum laude with a degree in sociology. She received a Master of Social Work degree from Howard University in 1955. She became one of the first Black social workers in Mississippi with a graduate social work degree.

This honoree's work experience as a social worker includes seven years with the Department of Human Services (the Welfare Department) and in 1966 she became the first Black social worker, employed with the Veterans Administration. After working thirty years at the V. A. Medical Center, she retired in 1995. She then worked four years as Field Instructor at Jackson State University in the School of Social Work's Master of Social Work Program.

Mrs. Loper's dedication to the field of social work earned several "firsts" to be recognized. These include: the first black woman appointed to the Mississippi Board of Mental Health, to represent the social work profession by Governor William Waller in 1974; she was reappointed by Governors William Winter and Bill Allain. She served in this position until 1994. On February 17, 1995, the Mississippi State Board of Mental Health named the Administration Building at the Hudspeth Regional Center in Whitfield, Mississippi, the Gwendolyn Nero Loper Administration Building. This, too, was the first time a building had been named in honor of a social worker in the State of Mississippi.

Among Mrs. Loper's other community involvements are the following: charter member of the Jackson National Council of Negro Women; past president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and YWCA; life memberships—the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Tougaloo National Alumni Association. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Included are: Delta Woman of the Year (1965); Tougaloo Alumna of the Year (1975); Mississippi Chapter Social Worker of the Year (1976); Black Women's Political Action Community Service Award (1990); Howard University School of Social Work Outstanding Alumna (1998); Tougaloo Hall of Fame (1992); the Tougaloo Meritorious Leadership Award (2003); and the Outstanding Greenwoodian in Community Service Award (1998). She is active in her church, Farish Street Baptist, and the Jackson Chapter of the Links, Inc. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gwendolyn Nero Loper for giving back to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 TOWN OF HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS PRESENTED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 37th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 93 individuals in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Four members of the Town of Herndon Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service.

It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award recipients:

Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients:

Police Officer Eliezer Calo

Special Police Officer Warrie Proffitt

Certificate of Valor Recipients:

Special Police Officer Mark Butler

Corporal Steven Brown

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2015 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN HONOR OF THE CARIBOU FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to congratulate the Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department on earning the 2015 Congressional Fire Services Institute/Masimo Excellence in Fire Service-Based Emergency Medical Services Award. This brave team of volunteer Mainers represents sound practice and dedication to protecting others day in and day out.

This top-tier department is tasked with covering 348 square miles, amounting to nine towns and 14,000 residents. The fire and medical units handle first response services for a vast rural district that houses sporting activities such as boating, hunting, ATV trails,

and winter sledding. Furthermore, the department conducts emergency transfers by land and air from a local hospital to a trauma center 175 miles away.

Under Chief Scott Susi, the Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department boasts three five-person crews, along with 15 full time paramedics—a crowning achievement for a department hoping to expand without a corresponding financial burden on the communities it serves.

Community engagement directly corresponds to the success of this department. Sensitivity to the taxable impact of its operations and attendance at local council meetings are just two of the multitude of ways in which this department actively and uniquely works together with the region in which it serves.

The Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department serves as a model of efficient success for fellow Maine fire and Ambulance departments and for service men and women across our country.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE SHAH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Shah for her outstanding service in the Springfield, Missouri, community and to congratulate her on receiving one of two 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for the state of Missouri and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Nicole is president and co-founder of Every Teen Helps Inspire Change, also known as ETHIC. ETHIC was formed to help sick children and others suffering from serious illness. She and friends founded the non-profit two years ago while planning a service project for her school. She saw the need for teenagers in the community to have a constant opportunity for service. In the two years since ETHIC's founding, the group has raised \$75,000 and has put the funds toward the purchase of a frozen treat machine at Springfield's Mercy Hospital for children undergoing chemotherapy to relieve pain from mouth sores. Other efforts have included organizing a fundraiser to help pay for 10 Nepalese patients' major surgeries as well as a painting project and auction to raise funds for Mercy Children's Hospital, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and its local Ronald McDonald Houses.

The powerful impact ETHIC has had on the community continues to expand as more Springfield teenagers from area high schools join the cause. Nicole is responsible for recruitment, budgeting, group promotions and event planning for the non-profit and hopes to further spread the influence at the college level next year.

It is an honor to represent such fine young people as Nicole Shah. Nicole, at the age of 16, has had a positive impact on lives around the world. I look forward to hearing many more great stories from ETHIC and Nicole as

the group moves forward. I congratulate her on this phenomenal achievement.

RECOGNIZING AUXILIARY BISHOP ROBERT EARL SMITH, SR., FOR HIS 49 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WHITE CLOUD EMPOWERMENT CENTER CHURCH OF GOD

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Bishop Robert Earle Smith, Sr., for his commendable service to The White Cloud Empowerment Center Church of God and for his elevation to the Office of Auxiliary Bishop in the Church of God in Christ. It is fitting that we take a moment to recognize Bishop Smith's accomplishments and contributions to spreading the word of God all over Michigan and the United States.

Throughout his life, Bishop Smith has been deeply committed to serving God and his people. He moved to Michigan at the age of 14 and began attending Saint James Church of God in Christ. After graduating from Flint Northern High School, Bishop Smith served his country in the United States Air Force. Next he took college courses at the University of Maryland, Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan, Flint, where he continued to wholeheartedly pursue his ministry ambitions. He went on to serve as the Dean of the Flint branch of the C.H. Mason Bible College where he integrated faith and education. Bishop Smith recalls sharing his faith with thousands of people in an arena in Memphis, Tennessee, when he served as the vice-president of the Sunday School Convention.

Today, Bishop Smith serves as the pastor and preaches in two different Church of God in Christ locations in Michigan. For nearly fifty years, Bishop Smith has traveled 300 miles round-trip from his home in Flint to White Cloud in order to serve as the pastor of The White Cloud Empowerment Center Church of God in Christ. His devout dedication to the Lord is evident as he reaches out to pray for and assist the homeless, needy, youth, and the lost. His mission is to give love and compassion to anyone in need, which is reflective of the very walk of Jesus Christ.

Throughout his life and ministry, Bishop Robert Earle Smith, Sr., has been a shining example of being a faithful follower of God. He has passionately dedicated his life to serving the Lord through ministry and evangelism. Bishop Smith, thank you for what you have done not only for the Church of God in Christ, but for all of Michigan and our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS PRESENTED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 37th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 93 individuals in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Forty-eight members of the Fairfax County Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Silver Medal of Valor Recipients: Police Officer First Class Roberto Asencios; Police Officer First Class Kevin Gemmell; Police Officer First Class Ryan Quarto; Police Officer First Class Thomas Thompson; Police Officer First Class Nathan Van Husen; Sergeant Michael Gubesch; Police Officer First Class Kenyatta Momon; Police Officer First Class Tyler Timberlake

Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients: Police Officer First Class Gershon Ramirez; Sergeant Lieutenant Richard Buisch; Police Officer First Class Robert Marshall; Police Officer First Class Eric Runkles; Police Officer First Class Shannon Sams; Police Officer First Class Larry St. Clair; Second Lieutenant Jane Burns; Police Officer First Class Shawn Carroll; Police Officer Harrison Gamble; Police Officer First Class Edward George; Police Officer Anthony Capizzi; Police Officer First Class Sarah Hansen; Captain Graham McGowan; Master Police Officer Steven Carroll; Master Police Officer Jey Phillips; Second Lieutenant Jeffrey Reiff

Certificate of Valor Recipients: Police Officer Brian Geschke; Detective Brett Choyce; Detective Richard Early; Detective Stephen Sulzinski; Detective Brian Takagi; Police Officer First Class Richard Cash; Police Officer First Class Paul Stracke; Police Officer First Class Dustin Tewillager; Lieutenant Jason Allegra

Lifesaving Certificate Recipients: Police Officer Michael Crutchman; Police Officer Jesse Katzman; Police Officer Tyler Spencer; Police Officer First Class Scott Abram; Police Officer First Class Daniel Bond; Police Officer First Class David Faulk; Police Officer First Class Sarah Hansen; Police Officer First Class Craig Quattrin; Police Officer First Class Gershon

Ramirez; Police Officer First Class Leslie Schmitt; Police Officer First Class Timothy Schultz; Master Police Officer Mary Hulse; Master Police Officer Scott MacCaskill; Master Police Officer Howard Mergler; Master Police Officer Chris Musser; Master Police Officer Robert Urps; Second Lieutenant Dana Robinson

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2015 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JUNE AS MEN'S CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue of growing concern to this nation: cancer among men, by introducing a resolution recognizing June as Men's Cancer Awareness Month.

Cancer is a deadly disease that does not discriminate. It impacts all demographics and every segment of our population. However, what I find extremely alarming is that cancer is claiming the lives of males of all races and ages at an alarming rate. One in 2 men will be diagnosed with cancer over the course of their lifetimes. Men face a 43.31 percent lifetime risk of being diagnosed with some form of cancer. Statistics show that men have a 22.83 percent chance of dying from cancer versus 19.26 percent of women. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that nearly 300,000 men die annually as a result of cancer. Furthermore, African American men have the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates according to the CDC.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in shining a light on this deadly disease that is plaguing the men of our communities. These men are our fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, grandsons, and nephews. Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just an issue facing men, it also has a profound impact on the lives of wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, and is truly a family issue. No one should ever be put in a position to have to prematurely bury their loved one.

Additionally, there are a number of consistent gender differences in cancer susceptibility. In fact, gender differences in cancer susceptibility are rarely publicized and often inadequately addressed. There are a number of common cancers that have the highest male-to-female (M:F) ratios, including colorectal cancers; cancers of the lung and bronchus; non-Hodgkin lymphoma, urinary and bladder cancers, and most alarming Kaposi sarcoma.

I was inspired to introduce this resolution by a constituent from my district, Mr. Joel Greshman, who founded the Not 1 Forgotten campaign in 2013, after losing two close

friends and family members to cancer. Joel created the organization to encourage men to get regular check-ups in order to stay healthy and live longer. By joining Joel and others across the nation to bring greater awareness of cancer among men, it is my sincere hope that we can work together to better promote expanded advocacy, media campaigns and other events. The Not 1 Forgotten campaign has gained momentum in states and cities across our nation from Fort Lauderdale located in my Congressional district to Atlanta, Augusta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami Dade County, and New York.

The purpose of Men's Cancer Awareness Month is to heighten awareness and encourage early detection and treatment of cancer among men and boys.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important resolution and recognize June as Men's Cancer Awareness Month.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LUTHER RICE

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Captain Luther Rice, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a truly selfless Hoosier.

Luther was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was married to his wife Barbara Anne Nehls Rice for 61 years. Together, they had three children and six grandchildren. Luther was also a proud Marine. He served in the United States Marine Corps for 23 years, eventually retiring with the rank of Captain in 1971. He completed one tour in Korea and two tours of duty in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star with Combat "V" during his second Vietnam tour. Overall, Captain Rice was awarded an impressive 14 different medals during his career in the Marines.

After his distinguished military career, Luther started attending night and summer school at Indiana State University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1977 and a Master's in K-12 education in 1978. Luther found a passion for education and was named principal of Connersville vocational school where he served from 1979 to 1983. He also taught at the Career Center in Versailles, Indiana, and was eventually appointed school principal there as well—a position he served in until his retirement in 1992. In 1991, Luther was appointed Judge of Aurora City Court by Indiana Governor Evan Bayh, a position he held for six years.

In his spare time, Luther enjoyed supporting fellow veterans in his community. Luther was a lifetime member of the Korean War Veterans Association and served as its National Director for six years. He also volunteered at Dearborn County Hospital for 17 years, where he eventually became President of the Dearborn County Hospital Community Foundation.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Captain Luther Rice. My thoughts and prayers go out to Luther's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

HONORING BOLIVAR COMMUNITY  
ACTION AGENCY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Social Service Agency, Bolivar Community Action Agency which is located in Bolivar County, Mississippi.

Bolivar County Community Action Agency is a 501(C3) tax-exempt organization with a fifteen member board of directors composed of equal representation from the public, private and poor sectors. As a leading program in the State of Mississippi, Bolivar County Community Action Agency provides a variety of services ranging from preschool childcare to a senior companion program; from a homeless shelter to transitional housing; from a youth adolescent offenders program to a general education diploma program.

The Agency's principal activities for over forty years consists of carrying out Community Action Programs through grants received from the State of Mississippi Department of Human Services, the Federal Department of Health & Human Services, the Mississippi State Department of Education and other governmental and private funding agencies. Those programs consist of: Head Start, Early Head Start, Delta Workforce Investment Area In-School/Out-School Program, Aging & Senior Companion Division, Community Services Block Grant, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Transitional Housing, Community Action Transitional Shelter, Community Action New Start and Adolescent Opportunity Programs.

In 2012 the Bolivar County Community Action Agency, Inc. Board of Directors appointed the first female and African American as Executive Director, Mrs. Elnora F. Littleton, who was a Head Start pioneer and aware of the agency's varied programs. Her testimony is one of success—who started over forty years ago as a high school graduate employed in the Head Start Program. Her ambition, dedication and passion for the betterment of low-income children and families in Bolivar County, Mississippi has served as stepping stones promoting her from Teacher's Assistant to Teacher; from Center Director to Nutrition Director, and from Education Director to Head Start Director.

Serving faithfully under the leadership of former Executive Director Billy J. McCain, Mrs. Littleton has witnessed transitions and development of Head Start's meager beginnings to a multi-million dollar program.

As Executive Director, Ms Littleton is responsible for programmatic and fiscal components that serve 843 children and families in Bolivar County.

To say the least, her accomplishments and accolades are impeccable. She is respectively known locally and nationally as "a person who gets the job done." Mrs. Littleton, along with the board of directors and staff, anticipates higher dimensions and a new direction for the agency that will not only impact the community and today's generation, but generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing social service organization.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FAIRFAX  
COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS  
PRESENTED BY THE FAIRFAX  
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 37th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 93 individuals in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Six members of the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service.

It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award recipients:

Certificate of Valor Recipients:

Correctional Health Nurse Joan Dempsey;

PFC Sonya Claiborne;

PFC Michael Ittner;

PFC Teena Putman;

2nd Lieutenant Joseph Evans;

1st Lieutenant Charles Oakley

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2015 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GLENN D.  
STEELE, JR., PRESIDENT AND  
CEO OF GEISINGER HEALTH SYSTEM

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Glenn Steele, Jr., who will be retiring in June after a stellar, fourteen-year tenure as President and CEO of Geisinger Health System. Under his leadership, Geisinger grew and gained national recognition for its innovative approach to health care.

Today, the company serves 2.6 million residents across 44 counties in Pennsylvania and employs almost 21,000 people. For his groundbreaking and imaginative leadership, Dr. Steele has been recognized as one of the most influential physician executives our nation has ever seen.

During his remarkable company leadership stint, Dr. Steele also served on the panel of health advisers for the Congressional Budget Office and contributed significantly to a host of prominent medical societies and organizations, including the American Surgical Association, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Roundtable on Value and Science-Driven Healthcare. He is an appointee to the Committee on the Governance and Financing of Graduate Medical Education, and, in February this year, Dr. Steele joined the ranks of the Millennium Health Advisory Board. He has also served as Chairman of the American Board of Surgery and President of the Society of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Steele's work has earned him several national awards, including the CEO IT Achievement Award in 2005, the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Grassroots Champion Award in 2007, the 8th Annual (2010) AHA Health Research & Education Trust Award, and the Healthcare Financial Management Association Board of Directors' Award in 2011. He has been recognized in the Modern Healthcare's "50 Most Powerful Physician Executives" numerous times and has made other health care industry "most influential" lists repeatedly. Dr. Steele has additionally served on the editorial board of many medical journals and has authored or co-authored more than 480 scientific and professional articles—quite a career record!

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Glenn Steele for his many and ongoing accomplishments. I commend him for his innovative leadership in the field of health care and for his indispensable contributions to the high quality of life we enjoy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO  
HELP PREVENT HEROIN AND  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
OVERDOSES

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to introduce legislation to exempt from civil liability emergency administration of opioid overdose-reversing drugs, like naloxone by people who prescribe or are prescribed them. I am pleased to be joined in my efforts by Senator MARKEY who has introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Prescription drug overdoses have reached epidemic levels in this country. In the past ten years, opioid prescription has doubled. Every day 120 people die from drug overdoses fueled by prescription painkillers. Drugs like naloxone provide the means to counteract the effects of opioid overdoses. This is a life-saving treatment, but some are deterred from providing these drugs for fear of litigation.



When an opioid overdose occurs, administration of an opioid reversal drug is necessary to prevent death. But it must occur within a certain window of time before the chance of survival is lost. This is the time for quick action, not deliberations over the possibilities of a lawsuit. First responders and other "Good Samaritans" who have the means to treat an opioid overdose should not be dealt this burden.

The bill I am introducing today would protect treatment with opioid overdose-reversing drugs by volunteers at opioid overdose programs, health care professionals, and individuals who administer the drug to a person who is or reasonably appears to have suffered an overdose. This will give first responders the resources they need to save lives.

This bill only protects those who prescribe opioid reversing drugs, or have been prescribed them. And it only covers circumstances in which someone is suffering or is perceived to be suffering from an opioid overdose. Reckless use of opioid reversing drugs will not be condoned.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House on this important matter and I assure my colleagues that I will continue my efforts in preserving all lives.

CONGRATULATING DR. JACK HOLMES ON 47 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT HOPE COLLEGE

### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jack Holmes and his commendable service to Hope College as a Professor of Political Science.

After graduating cum laude from Knox College with honors in political science, Professor Holmes went on to earn his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Denver. As a Captain in the U.S. Army in the Politico-Military Division at the Pentagon, Dr. Holmes researched major international political decisions affecting the army. After his work in Washington, he moved to Holland, Michigan, to teach at Hope College. After four years, however, he returned to Colorado to work as the District Assistant for Congressman Don Brozman. This position entailed constituent relations as well as advising on foreign policy, minority, education, and environmental matters. Ever a true Flying Dutchman though, Professor Holmes returned to Hope in 1975.

Professor Holmes' experiences in the public sector and his interest in American foreign policy and international relations were instrumental in creating his Mood/Interest Theory of American Foreign Policy. He has recently written a follow up to Mood/Interest Theory called Ambivalent America: Cyclical Interactions with Trends. Not only is Professor Holmes an excellent theorist, he has also co-authored a national government textbook American Government: Essentials & Perspectives as well as many other articles and journals. He has been

heavily involved in the Hope College community, especially as faculty advisor to Model United Nations and to the Hope Republicans. Professor Holmes has also served as a political consultant and has been very involved with the Michigan Republican party.

Professor Holmes grew up in Colorado and returns each summer. As an avid outdoorsman he spends the summer months on his mountain ranch researching, writing, backpacking, fishing, and even teaching a course on wilderness politics.

Today, April 27, 2015, we recognize Professor Holmes for all of his tireless work and commitment to political science and to Hope College. I want to thank Professor Holmes for his service to Hope College, to Michigan, and to this country.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS PRESENTED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 37th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 93 individuals in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Thirty-two members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Gold Medal of Valor Recipients: Technician Ryland Chapman, Technician Gregory Wood

Silver Medal of Valor Recipient: Master Technician George Moore, Cadet Justin Spears

Bronze Medal of Valor Recipients: Technician Davin Bridges; Technician Ian Brill; Technician Mark Deyneka; Technician Michael Eddy; Technician Thomas Feehan; Technician Michael Frames; Technician Timothy Kelly; Technician Michael King; Technician Heather Lefever; Technician Stephanie Leland; Technician Lawrence Mullin; Technician Timothy Pais; Technician Samuel Porter; Technician Robert Ritchie; Technician William Thurston; Master Technician Beverly Studts; Lieutenant Carlos Carrillo; Lieutenant Eric Craven; Lieutenant John McDonnell; Lieutenant Michael Miller; Firefighter Jason Branham; Technician

Louis Botha; Technician William Kight, Jr.; Master Technician Anthony Doran; Captain I Patrick Sheehan

Certificate of Valor Recipients: Technician Adam Armstrong; Firefighter Thomas Johnson  
Lifesaving Certificate Recipient: Inspector George Martin, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2015 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which was signed into law on April 10, 1979. For the past 36 years, the TRA has facilitated a partnership committed to increasing trade and investment as well as regional security. The TRA serves as the cornerstone of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan that has been of mutual economic, cultural, and strategic benefit.

Taiwan has been an important contributor towards economic and political security in Asia for decades, and continues to be a major and invaluable trading partner with the United States. Taiwan's citizens continue to benefit from self-governance and free elections, and the open society and democracy of Taiwan allows for innovation and growth that puts it on competitive footing with the largest and most powerful countries in the world.

In celebrating another milestone in the relationship between the United States and the people of Taiwan, the 36th anniversary of Taiwan Relations Act (TRA); we not only say thank you, but make certain those provisions of the TRA continue to provide the security necessary to maintain the strength and character of one of our closest allies and economic partners. I am honored to recognize Taiwan on the 36th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, and I am grateful for our longstanding friendship and our shared commitment to promoting enduring stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMERCIAL METALS COMPANY

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 100 years of a prosperous business model and the strong work ethic of the

Commercial Metals Company (CMC), a metals company founded in 1915 in Dallas, Texas.

CMC is celebrating its 100th anniversary of business this year. This company started out in Dallas, Texas as a single operation in 1915 by a Russian immigrant named Moses Feldman. What began as a local recycling business grew into one of the top domestic steel manufacturers, fabricators and metals recyclers. CMC today is a Fortune 500 global metals company with operations in more than 20 countries with almost 200 facilities. It is an honor to have such a successful homegrown business in my district.

This impressive company wasn't always so prosperous and fortunate; like many businesses, there were lean times and great difficulties it had come in contact with. The stock market crash of 1929 slowed down CMC's plan for growth as it did the rest of the nation, but by the 1930s it was ready again to thrive. The company clawed out of the economic hard times before exporting scrap iron to international markets. CMC also contributed hard work and necessary services to America's war effort during WWII. As Americans were instructed to take all scrap metal to be recycled for guns, tanks and ships, CMC used this as a means of helping and becoming part of the massive surge in manufacturing and producing on behalf of the war effort.

Structural Metals Inc. (SMI) played a significant part in CMC's success by aiding its domestic presence. SMI was founded in Seguin, Texas and was a building block for CMC's domestic steel manufacturing operations. CMC became the first secondary metals company to be listed on a major stock exchange in 1960. In 1963 CMC obtained a stake in SMI and entered into steel manufacturing. In the 1970s and 1980s CMC added several other aspects of the steel industry to its already impressive resume. With such expansion and growth CMC became a Fortune 500 company and never looked back. Again, I'm thankful to have a company with such history within my district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Commercial Metals Company. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in the company's history.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD POST

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an exemplary scientist, Richard Post. Post was a remarkable physicist and inventor at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California.

Post was a passionate inventor who had his name on over 34 patents. In the 1970s he introduced the possibility of lightweight composites that could possibly store great amounts of renewable energy. In recent years, his research focused primarily on methods of storing renewable energy in a flywheel. Post's research sought to combat global warming by

using flywheels to make renewable energy sources more accessible and affordable.

Post's extraordinary career spanned over 60 years. After World War II, when Post was stationed at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and assigned to Pearl Harbor, he completed his graduate studies at Pomona College and earned a Ph.D. in physics in 1950 from Stanford University.

Post spent a year at what would become Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, working with Nobel Prize winners and noted nuclear physicist Herb York, who would become LLNL's first director. Post followed York to LLNL just months after the lab opened in 1952. In 1978 he received the prestigious James Clerk Maxwell Prize in Plasma Physics.

Post will long be remembered for his contribution to sustainable energy and his work and efforts will be continued by his colleagues at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Richard Post.

CELEBRATING THE 132ND ANNIVERSARY OF EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 132nd anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey, a freed slave, founded Ebenezer Baptist Church. After being separated from his family in Alexandria, Virginia, Lewis Henry Bailey was sold into slavery and spent all of his youth and early adulthood as a slave in the state of Texas. Upon his return to Alexandria, Virginia, after obtaining his freedom, Lewis Henry Bailey was reunited with his mother, not far from where he was sold into slavery. Bailey found employment with a railroad company and later graduated from Wayland College. In 1882, he was ordained as an itinerant minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria. With aspirations of sharing the Gospel with residents of the Town of Occoquan, Reverend Bailey walked to and from the town to hold religious services for the black members of the community. In appreciation of his tireless efforts, white members of the community provided land for a church and a place for Reverend Bailey to live. The Clerk of the Court for Prince William County approved the deed on March 8, 1883, and Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrates its anniversary on the first Sunday of March in recognition of this momentous occasion.

Bailey started the New School in Occoquan, serving as a precursor to the establishment of the New School Baptist Church, which later became Ebenezer Baptist Church. The cornerstone of the church was laid on the first Sunday in May 1883 and the building was dedicated in 1885. Reverend Bailey, who had long been the inspiration and driving force for the establishment of this church, led the congregation from 1885–1891. The church has endured setbacks and faced community challenges during its 132 year history. After the

original church structure burned to the ground in 1923, Ebenezer Baptist Church was rebuilt in 1924 where it remains today in the same historical site. Ebenezer Baptist Church leadership and its members have played key roles in both promoting civic justice and raising awareness throughout Prince William County. The church was instrumental in the integration of the county's public schools in the 1960s. I was honored to include the oral histories of three members of Ebenezer Baptist Church in my recent Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive project.

Throughout its history, Ebenezer Baptist Church has been led by pastors who have served the church and the congregation faithfully. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the governing pastors of Ebenezer Baptist Church since its founding in 1883: Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey, Reverend Wesley Jackson, Reverend J. E. Peterson, Reverend Francis Eager Pree, Reverend Bush, Reverend Roots, Reverend Reuben Hall and Reverend J.E. Morris. Most recently, on June 23, 1990, Reverend Charles A. Lundy was called to the pulpit to lead the church.

Under Reverend Lundy's leadership, Ebenezer Baptist Church has flourished. Due to significant membership growth from 120 to over 800 members in recent years, weekly worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church has been relocated to Telegraph Road to accommodate a growing church family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 132nd anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist Church and in thanking the church and congregation for their contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMBODIAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as this April marks the 40th anniversary of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime's rise to power in Cambodia, I join Cambodian Americans to commemorate this tragedy in the community's past. As we solemnly recognize this moment for many we can also look at the hopeful future that lies ahead for the Cambodian American community.

The Khmer Rouge regime seized power in Cambodia four decades ago on April 17, 1975 and began a four year long reign of terror and systematic genocide. Upwards of 3.4 million innocent men, women, and children lost their lives at mass grave sites now known as the Killing Fields. Thousands of refugees escaped these atrocities and were given sanctuary in the United States; many came to the state of Illinois.

Thanks to the Cambodian Association of Illinois and our strong Cambodian-American community here in the United States, we are aware of the Cambodian genocide and its devastating effects. Organizations such as the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and

the Killing Field Memorial carry out the vital mission of ensuring that we do not forget the atrocities of this period. The Cambodian community is committed to remembering and paying tribute to those lost in the Killing Fields while enhancing the public's awareness of these atrocities and healing the survivors and their families.

As Illinois and other states recognize April 17th as the Cambodian Day of Remembrance, I rise today to join my Cambodian American friends to commemorate the atrocities of the Killing Fields and to provide comfort and hope to the victims' families. Let us take this moment to recognize that group-targeted violence and bigotry still exist in nations across the world, and we cannot ignore its presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in solidarity with the Cambodian-American community in remembering those who were lost to the Khmer Rouge regime and in recognizing our hope for a more peaceful future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POTTSVILLE ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Pottsville, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this Friday, April 17, 2015. The club was chartered on May 1, 1915 as Club 157 in District 35, a district that included all of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. The founding 64 members were led by President O. L. Underwood, Treasurer J. E. Gregory, and Secretary J. H. Zerbey, Jr. The Reading Rotary Club, which was established the prior year, was the sponsor of Pottsville's club.

In the early days of the club, the meeting places "Rotated" around Pottsville. The venues the club frequented included the Allan Hotel, the Necho Allen, the Penn Hall, and other spots in downtown Pottsville. Meetings also took place in communities outside of Pottsville including Long Run (now Schuylkill Haven), Tamaqua, Pine Grove, Normal Square, Hamburg, Shartlesville, and other towns.

The Rotary Club of Pottsville has supported the Rotary Foundation through the years and is proud to list 68 Paul Harris Fellows, each recognized for contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Since its founding, the Pottsville Rotary Club has supported Rotary International efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. In addition to helping fight Polio globally, the Pottsville Rotary Club has a history of helping locally. It was Pottsville Rotarians who organized the Schuylkill County Crippled Children Association in Pottsville. They promoted and sponsored the Schuylkill Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. They organized and sponsored the Rotary Little League, the Zerbey Rotary little league field, the Pottsville girls softball field in Forest Hills, and improvements at the Gordon Nagle little league and softball fields. The club also helped found the

annual Charity Bowl all-star basketball games, which features boys and girls high school all-star teams.

It is an honor to recognize the Rotary Club of Pottsville on its 100th Anniversary. I am certain that the organization will continue to work for the improvement of our community and will be a big part of Pottsville and Schuylkill County's future.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER, ARMENIAN GENOCIDE DENIERS PERSIST

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, genocide is the most terrible crime a people can undergo, or another people can commit. It must never be forgotten—to forget it would be to dull our consciences and diminish our own humanity. It must never be denied, but fully acknowledged—otherwise any meaningful attempt at reconciliation will be thwarted.

Last weekend I was present as Brookdale College, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education presented two exhibits and launched a book on the Armenian genocide. The exhibit *A Journey to Life: Armenia* teaches the history of the Armenian Genocide through the lives of local Armenian Genocide Survivors who settled in Monmouth County, while *Illuminating Images: A Hundred Year Remembrance* is an art exhibit created by middle school, high school and college students from across the county and beyond. The book released last weekend was *Hundred-Year Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide: Celebrating the Lives of Armenian Genocide Survivors in Our Community*, which features the personal histories of 54 Survivors who lived in Monmouth County. Everyone who contributed to these exhibits and this book has performed a great service to New Jersey—not only to Armenian-Americans, but to everyone, including those who deny the genocide. They opened paths to the truth, and therefore to a better future.

In September 2000 I chaired a hearing on the Armenian Genocide and co-sponsored legislation to finally put the United States on record officially acknowledging it. It was a four-hour hearing, the first hearing the House of Representatives ever held on the Armenian Genocide. The testimony I heard that day, and accounts of the atrocities I have read in the articles and books over the years have shocked me deeply. The resolution H. Res. 398—vigorously opposed by the Clinton Administration—never got a vote.

But just as shocking then is what we still see today: a completely political and callous campaign to deny the Armenian genocide.

In 1915, there were about 2 million Armenians living in what was then the Ottoman Empire. They were living in a region that they inhabited for 2,500 years. By 1923, well over 90 percent of these Armenians had disappeared. Most of them, as many as 1.5 million, were dead. The remainder had been forced into exile.

There is no lack of historical record. In fact, we only have to listen to the words of the US Ambassador to Turkey at the time, Henry Morgenthau, who called it a "campaign of race extermination."

We only have to listen to the British, French, and Russian governments who said the Young Turks committed a "crime against humanity," the first time in history that charge was ever made by one state against another.

And we only have to listen to the government of Turkey itself, which tried and convicted a number of high-ranking Young Turk officials for their role in what the Turkish government's indictment called, "the massacre and destruction of the Armenians."

When the term genocide was invented in 1944 to describe the systematic destruction of an entire people, its author Raphael Lemkin explained the term by saying it was "the sort of thing Hitler did to the Jews and the Turks did to the Armenians."

The campaign to deny this genocide—often driven by the Turkish government—is repulsive. It is a slap in the face to Armenians everywhere. It is this denial that keeps the Armenian genocide a burning issue and prevents much needed healing of old wounds. Armenians are unfortunately not alone in suffering the hurt and pain that stems from the denial of truth. The international community failed the victims of the Holocaust, China, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bosnia, DRC, Darfur, Syria to name a few.

That means that we here in the United States, and that means not only the Congress but also the President, have the responsibility to speak truthfully and to speak boldly about the past in order to secure our future. We must write and speak the truth so that generations to come will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Only 20 nations around the world have recognized the Armenian Genocide. That includes Canada as well as eleven EU countries including France, Germany Italy, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and Cypress. Conspicuously absent from the list of nations that have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide is the United States of America.

When political leaders fail to lead or denounce violence, the void is not only demoralizing to the victims but silence actually enables the wrongdoing. Silence by elected officials in particular conveys approval—or at least acquiescence—and can contribute to a climate of fear and a sense of vulnerability.

History has taught us that silence is not an option. We must do more.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association was founded in 1967 to promote community initiatives.

Today, the organization's purpose is to represent the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Members do this through revitalization and beautification projects, land use advocacy, and volunteer responses to community needs.

The Association hosts an annual awards banquet to honor individuals and organizations that have shown exceptional devotion to the community and public service. It is my honor to submit the names of the recipients of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards:

Business of the Year Award: The Dental Spa, Dr. Marvette Thomas

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Angela H. McConnell

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Cadet of the Year: Austin Prinbanic

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Nikia Griffiths

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year: Christopher Berry

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Christopher Gardner Jr.

Dale City Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Khrista Chun

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award: Mary Louise Mawn

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year: John Thomas Fitzgerald

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Clarice J. Torian

Kathy Feeney Nurse of the Year: Bridget Rasmussen Trotman

Outstanding Youth Mentor and Advocate of Higher Education Award: Miranda "Randi" Manderson

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Technician II Robert Seitz

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Firefighter of the Year: Captain Kim Stewart

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year: Officer Robert White Jr.

Prince William County Public Schools, Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Katie Rivers

Prince William County Public Schools, High School Teacher of the Year: Thomas P. Tutwiler

Prince William County Public Schools, Middle School Teacher of the Year: Dawn Cajigas

Prince William County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Sheila B. Johnson

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards for their dedication to building and maintaining a healthy community. Each recipient has made a tangible imprint on Dale City, and, with these awards, we illustrate that their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

# HONORING JUDGE JOHN WILCHIE

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge John Wilchie from Tallahatchie County, MS.

Judge Wilchie was born in Glendora, Mississippi. Glendora is a small rural town in the Second Congressional District. The town is most notable for the Emmett Till Murder in 1955. Black history month is a month of recognition of African Americans who have made some type of historical contribution, big or small, in this country.

Judge Wilchie made black history in 1979 in Tallahatchie County when he was appointed as judge to finish the term of Judge JB Ray. The following year in 1980, however, he was elected as the first African-American Justice Court Judge in the county. He retired from the bench in 1984. Judge Wilchie received his education from Mississippi Valley State University as well as the University of Mississippi Judicial College in 2004. He helped to start the Sharkey-Hampton Lake Volunteer Fire Department where he served as Fire Captain and Chief. Currently, Judge Wilchie serves as the Co-chairman of the Tallahatchie County Emmett Till Memorial Commission, a member of the West Tallahatchie County P-16 Educational Board and the Chairman of the Tallahatchie County Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the historical contribution of Judge John Wilchie for being elected as the first African-American Justice Court Judge in Tallahatchie County, MS in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT

## HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies aimed at reducing drug production and trafficking in the Western Hemisphere. A similar bill passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously last year and passed the House of Representatives unanimously on December 8, 2009.

I thank my good friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON, the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, for being the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation.

With \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, it is important to take stock of what has worked, what has not worked and what future U.S. drug policy should look like. This independent commission will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Sec-

retary of State and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy 12 months after its first meeting.

The time to examine U.S. drug policy is long overdue. While billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug trade, illegal drug use in the United States remains high. In 2013, there were an estimated 24,573,000 illicit drug users in the United States. In particular, I am concerned by the dramatic increase in heroin use in our country. Attorney General Eric Holder has noted that heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

On the supply side, nearly all cocaine consumed in the United States originates in South America while most of the heroin consumed here is from Colombia and Mexico. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean are key transit regions for drugs entering the United States.

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting drug trafficking for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

# THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF 114TH CONGRESS

## HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, unleashing the full potential of America means fully investing in the American people.

Unfortunately, the Republican plan for our country is to slash investments in education, transportation and manufacturing.

Rather than help the middle class, the Republican budget hurts ordinary Americans by giving a top 1% tax cut to the ultra-rich, which means the typical American family will end up paying more.

In contrast, the Democratic plan for our country invests in the quintessential American propositions of a good education, better infrastructure, and bigger paychecks.

For 100 Days, the majority party has engaged in special interest giveaways and shut-down brinksmanship.

Over the next 100 days, and every day after that, I will continue to stand—along with my fellow Democrats—for something else entirely:

A nation defined—a nation driven—by full investment in the imagination and industry of each and every American family.

I want to see Made in America, again.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE HUNTER  
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Pauline Hunter of Woodbridge, Virginia, on the occasion of her retirement following 28 years of exemplary federal service.

Ms. Hunter served the entirety of her career with the Department of Army as a civilian employee. During her career, Ms. Hunter has served in various positions, including Community Relations Chief, Transition Services Manager, Family Services Coordinator, Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator, Mental Health Counselor and Education Counselor. In every position, she has excelled and used her expertise and professionalism to further the mission of the Department of Defense and our nation.

Assignments as both a military wife and civilian federal employee have taken Ms. Hunter around the world with tours in Heidelberg, Berlin, Fort Drum, Fort Myer, Fort Belvoir, the Pentagon, and most recently, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, where she has served as Event Manager for the past two years. Ms. Hunter has been a great ally to my office during our frequent visits to Fort Belvoir as well as in providing assistance to my constituents who live or work at the garrison, and I thank her for her responsiveness and service.

Ms. Hunter's deep-rooted commitment to the Department of Defense and the assistance provided to service members and their families began in the classroom. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Tuskegee (Institute) University and went on to pursue a Master's of Science in Education from Fort Valley (State College) University.

Her passion for improving the lives of others is not restricted to efforts in the workplace. From serving as a volunteer tutor and board member with the Prince William Literacy Program to her devoted membership at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia, Ms. Hunter's tireless efforts have benefited her community. A native of Greenville, Georgia, she has made Woodbridge her home, and both Prince William County and the 11th District of Virginia have benefited greatly from her many contributions.

Although Ms. Hunter has expressed interest in spending more time with her family, I encourage her to remain civically involved in Prince William County as her resolve and dedication are inspirational to all who have had the privilege of knowing her.

While her professional successes cannot be denied, the most important roles in Ms. Hunter's life have been as mother to Jennifer Hunter-Marshall and as Army wife of 42 years to Colonel (Retired) Cardell S. Hunter. I thank them for their support and sacrifices that have allowed Ms. Hunter to serve her country and her community.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Pauline Hunter and in express-

ing our appreciation for her years of dedication as a federal civil servant and community volunteer. I wish her continued success and a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE AVIATION MU-  
SEUM OF KENTUCKY

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky.

In 1978, a group of dedicated aviation enthusiasts founded the Kentucky Aviation Roundtable in Lexington, Kentucky, with the mission of preserving the legacy of the aviation and aerospace industries in the Commonwealth.

Through dedication, persistence, and the support of several generous benefactors, the Roundtable achieved its goal with the opening of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky, on the grounds of Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, on April 15, 1995. Today, the Museum is an educational resource for central Kentucky: hosting exhibits, lectures, and events related to aviation and aerospace history, design, and engineering.

The Museum's grand opening ceremony doubled as a reunion for survivors of the Doolittle Raid, honoring the airmen's sacrifices on April 18, 1942 as the first mission to strike the Japanese homeland following the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

Since that inaugural event, the Museum has continued to recognize men and women in the Commonwealth for their outstanding achievements in the fields of aviation and aerospace, establishing the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in 1996.

The Museum looks not only to the past, but also to the future, inculcating a love of flying and engineering in Kentucky's youth by hosting Aviation Summer Camps throughout the Bluegrass. These programs have benefited 5,360 young Kentuckians, encouraging them to pursue careers in aerospace industries.

Today, Kentucky's top export category is aerospace and the Commonwealth's universities are becoming leaders in the fields of manned and unmanned flight systems. The Aviation Museum of Kentucky helped foster this flourishing industry in our state and will continue to inspire future generations of aerospace workers in the Bluegrass.

As the Representative for the Sixth District of the Kentucky, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky. Furthermore, I encourage my fellow Kentuckians to visit and take pride in this institution and its preservation of the aviation and aerospace heritage of the Commonwealth.

HONORING GAIL WRIGHT LOWERY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gail Wright Lowery, who was born in Hinds County, Jackson, Mississippi at Jackson State College's Clinic. She is the third child, and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie (Annie) Wright. Mrs. Lowery was reared on Nashville Street.

As valedictorian of her kindergarten class learning seemed always within easy reach. Early piano lessons taught by Mrs. Fannie Smith who lived on Randolph Street, caused Mrs. Lowery to have a love for music. She attended school at Morrison, and G. N. Smith Elementary. At Chastain, and Powell Jr. High she played the clarinet, and participated in the marching band.

High school years at Murrah kept her busy participating in many school activities such as the Blue Jackets, the pep squad at Murrah, where she served as captain. She entered her senior year ranked in the top 1% of her 1975 class and received the distinct honor of Who's Who at Murrah High.

Upon entering Jackson State University she served on the Mayor's Youth Council and was elected Miss Pre Law Club. With a full scholarship, she graduated in three years Magna Cum Laude, and pressed on to her goal of becoming an attorney.

In August of 1978, at the age of 20, Mrs. Lowery entered law school at Northwestern School of Law in Chicago, Illinois. While there she was active in and was elected as Chairman of Recruitment for the Black Law Student's Association. She was awarded the Doctorate of Jurisprudence in May of 1981, and successfully passed the Bar Examination that same year. Her legal career began at Central Mississippi Legal Services. After Legal Services, she worked for the Attorney General's Office, becoming the first black person to become Head of the Civil Litigation Division. In 1993 Mrs. Lowery started her own business as a practicing attorney with Lowery Law Firm.

Mrs. Lowery joined the Cade Chapel M. B. Church when she was eight years old and has maintained her membership there to the present. She has participated on the Usher Board, the Choir, the Trustee Board, Sunday school, and the Missionary Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gail Wright Lowery for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS  
MUNDY FOR HER OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Pennsylvania State

Representative Phyllis Mundy. First elected in 1990, Phyllis served 12 consecutive terms as the representative for Pennsylvania's 120th District. Throughout her 24-year service in the General Assembly, Phyllis built a reputation as a champion of environmental protection and early childhood education.

While in Harrisburg, Phyllis was a legislative leader with signature policies that expanded care for senior citizens, improved the rights of foster children, provided stronger home visitation services for low-income expectant mothers, boosted pre-K education, cut property taxes, and expanded prescription drug coverage for seniors. As a Representative, Phyllis was beloved in northeastern Pennsylvania because of her highly responsive constituent services and her frequent attendance at public events important to local residents.

Before her career in the state house, Phyllis worked as a French teacher and a manager for Injection Molding Corp., a multi-million dollar manufacturing company. She served as president of the Wilkes-Barre chapter of the League of Women Voters, a Luzerne County Property Tax Reform Commissioner, and was active in the Junior League during the late 1980s. A 1970 graduate of Bloomsburg University, Phyllis earned two degrees—in secondary education and French.

Although Phyllis has retired from elected office, she remains active in promoting the welfare of her community. She currently serves on the boards of Maternal and Family Health Services, Luzerne County Head Start, the Area Agency on Aging, and the United Way's Success by Six, and she was also elected to the Vestry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

It is an honor to recognize Phyllis Mundy and her exceptional work on behalf of Pennsylvania. The inspirational legacy she has left is a model for all who are interested in public service. I thank her for inspiring me, and I wish her the best in retirement.

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RECOGNIZING THE 2015  
VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX HONOREES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 23rd Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established more than 40 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of needed services is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the nation.

In 2013 alone, more than 26,000 individuals volunteered directly through Volunteer Fairfax; an additional 2,700 employees from 12 corporations supported 29 local agencies. More than 1,000 non-profit and charitable organizations were served by Volunteer Fairfax, and

the value of volunteer services provided exceeded \$1.3 million.

Each year from this group of extraordinary "Doers Who Do," Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to be honored. It is my great pleasure to submit the following names of the 2015 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

Community Champions:

Braddock District: Joanne Elder  
Dranesville District: Steven Bloom  
Hunter Mill District: Sahana Arkalgud  
Lee District: Dixie Wright  
Mason District: Winnie Lebo  
Mount Vernon District: Shirley Short  
Providence District: Ken Quincy  
Springfield District: Stephen Beck  
Sully District: Reverend Doctor Eugene Johnson

At-Large: Philip Church

Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Michelle Bond

Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Mike Harrison

Adult Volunteer Group: Library Friends  
Groups of Fairfax County Public Library

Corporate Volunteer Program: CACI Cares

Fairfax County Volunteer: David Kline

Fairfax County Volunteer Program: Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Family Volunteer: Colonel Edward and Mrs. Kimberly Bellem

Lifetime Achievement: Peggy Ferguson

Rising Star: Roberta Bucher

Senior Volunteer: Lawrence Kelly

Volunteer Program: Marketplace Volunteer Program

Youth Volunteer: Carolina Sosa

Youth Volunteer Group: Boy Scouts of America Troop 55

Integrate Individual: Pedro Velasco de Paz

RSVP Northern Virginia: Elizabeth Pokorny

In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service, as well as in congratulating the 2015 Service Award honorees and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one reason that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

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HONORING THE MARINE RAIDERS  
OF MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand and recognize the Marine Raiders of Marine Special Operations Team (MSOT) 8231, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine

Special Operations Command who lost their lives during a training exercise on March 10, 2015. These young men represent the finest our nation has to offer, and we are forever indebted to them for their service.

On the morning of March 10, an Army National Guard-operated UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter embarked on a training exercise off the coast of the Florida Panhandle carrying seven members of MSOT 8231 and four members of the Louisiana National Guard, who were operating the helicopter. As part of a rigorous pre-deployment exercise, the Raiders were practicing special operations insertion techniques with two UH-60 aircraft. Sadly, it was on their training mission that the Marines and Guardsmen in one helicopter lost their lives.

As a unit with great distinction throughout the War in Afghanistan, MSOT 8231 first deployed in 2010 under Special Operations Task Force-West, operating from the City of Herat. While in Herat, MSOT 8231 primarily conducted Counter-Insurgency (COIN), Foreign Internal Defense (FID) and Direct Action (DA) activities within the Murghab District of the Badghis Province. After redeployment and reconstitution, MSOT 8231 deployed again in 2012 to Bala Murghab, in the Murghab District, where it built upon tactical and operational gains it and other MSOT's achieved on previous rotations.

MSOT 8231 continued building their Afghan partner's capacity, promoting good governance, and countering the insurgent initiatives in this highly remote and austere geographic slice of Afghanistan. During the 2012 deployment, MSOT 8231 was tasked with permanently closing their base and retrograding years' worth of hardware for consolidation at a larger base hundreds of miles south in Herat. Without a single paved road in the entire Badghis Province, this proved a difficult task. Nevertheless, MSOT 8231 completed the job and left Bala Murghab in the hands of the Afghan National Army, Police, and government.

After returning home, rebuilding and adding new personnel to MSOT 8231, the team again deployed in 2013 to western Afghanistan. Their most recent return to Afghanistan saw a change in tasks from previous deployments as they partnered with the highly regarded Afghan Commandos to conduct offensive activities against the Taliban. While the mission changed, their resolve did not, as consistent enemy combat persisted until the very end of their deployment. Even still, MSOT 8231 continued efforts to enhance their partners' capacity to operate effectively on their own. MSOT 8231 departed Afghanistan in June 2014; however, their focus never left the region.

Prior to any deployment, teams work together to hone and develop their skills, and when combat operations commence, the months of training leading up to deployment are finally put to test. For MSOT 8231, this meant building on the strong relationship established during previous deployments with the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion, based in Hammond, Louisiana. On March 10, two Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks participated in a routine training mission; however, the mission turned out to be anything but routine, as only one Black Hawk returned.

On that day, our nation lost seven Marine Raiders. Not only did they accept the challenge of becoming the best that the Marine

Corps has to offer, these Marine Raiders did so during a time of war. Along the way, the Marine Raiders of MSOT 8231 received such awards as the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry and Bronze Star Medals for valor, and all had Valor awards from their time fighting on combat deployments.

To the families, friends, and loved ones of Captain Stanford Shaw III, Master Sergeant Thomas Saunders, Staff Sergeant Marcus Bawol, Staff Sergeant Trevor Blaylock, Staff Sergeant Liam Flynn, Staff Sergeant Kerry Kemp, Staff Sergeant Andrew Seif, Chief Warrant Officer George Wayne Griffin, Chief Warrant Officer George David Strother, Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron, and Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich, please know that we are a grateful nation. On countless training exercises, your brave warriors risked their lives to ensure the tip of the spear always remained sharp and ready for battle. And while the Marine Raider community lost these warriors, their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Never above you, never below you, always beside you. Semper Fi.

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#### HONORING THE YAZOO FAIR & CIVIC LEAGUE

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#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of innovators who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the Yazoo Fair & Civic League. The Yazoo Fair & Civic League has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo Fair & Civic League's history date back to 1932; when R.J. Pierce and T.J. Huddleston decided to establish a county fair for black residents to enjoy. D.W. Lindsey assisted in sponsoring the first fair in October 1932. Three years later, Gov. Martin Conner signed the charter for the Yazoo Negro Fair Association. The group purchased land on Calhoun Avenue where an exhibit building was constructed.

During the early 60s, H.A. Scott was elected president, and H.C. Fouche was chosen as vice president. As president Scott faced several challenges. The biggest challenge was finances. The association was \$67,500 in debt. In order to resolve the debt the property facing Calhoun Avenue and a plot west of Lamar Avenue was sold along with the exhibit building.

After these challenges were met the association had the vision for a community center. Also during this time the Yazoo Negro Fair Association became the Yazoo Fair and Civic League. Federal funding was used to construct the L.T. Miller Community Center which was completed in 1971. The large tract of unused space around the center was used to construct 48 apartments for elderly and disabled residents with a grant for over \$1.5 million from HUD. The Lintonia Apartments opened in May of 1986. During the 1990s the

association built H.A. Scott Apartments with about 80 units creating a very healthy tax base to the Yazoo area. Currently, the association has a 60 unit apartment complex in Jackson, MS, 40 in Meridian and 30 in Clarksdale.

The Yazoo Fair and Civic League began as an effort to provide black Yazooans with a public place to hold community events during a time when they had nowhere else to go. Today, the Yazoo Fair & Civic League continues to provide a public facility for all of the community to enjoy, and the organization has expanded its mission to provide affordable housing to many residents. The association also manages the historic Oakes African American Cultural Center, which was home to the legendary Oakes Family in Yazoo City for over a century. A.J. Oakes, III deeded the home to the Yazoo Fair & Civic League in 1990, and the home has become a museum highlighting and celebrating local black history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Yazoo Fair & Civic League for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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#### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote due to a funeral on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Had I been present for roll call vote number 149, H. Res. 189, the combined rule providing for consideration of H.R. 650—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act and H.R. 685—Mortgage Choice Act, I would have voted "yea."

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#### CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE PADRE DAM ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION DEMONSTRATION PILOT PLANT

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#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event that took place in my district this past week on April 10, 2015, by the Padre Dam Municipal Water District. The Grand Opening of the Padre Dam Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Pilot Plant in Santee, California is an important and critical step in the overall effort by San Diego County to become more water independent as a region and maintain the very best in our water management practices.

We all know that California is currently in the midst of a severe multi-year drought, but ensuring our communities can rely on being provided with clean and healthy water has been the mission of Padre Dam for many decades.

In fact, on this same day in 1962, founding General Manager of Padre Dam Ray Stoyer wrote to President Kennedy complimenting him on his commitment to the science of water management innovation and requesting his assistance in a groundbreaking water reclamation study and project at Padre Dam. President Kennedy supported the District's reclamation efforts and today the appropriately named Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility treats and recycles more than two million gallons of water per day. Over the years, these efforts have been recognized by the California Water Environment Association, which awarded this facility its "California Plant of the Year" designation in 2005, as well as naming it "San Diego Plant of the Year" multiple times in 1977, 1978, 1981, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2010.

I am pleased to see that this proud tradition is being carried on with Padre Dam's most recent effort in its Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Pilot Plant. Funded through a \$3 million state grant, this innovative project will test the feasibility of creating a new source of approximately 2,000 to 3,000 acre feet of purified water for East San Diego County. If successful, this project has the potential to provide up to 20% of our current drinking water demand via a locally-controlled, independent, drought-proof and environmentally sound water supply, thereby reducing our dependency on outside sources of imported water.

California's current drought conditions, coupled with San Diego's historical reliance on imported water, mandate that we pursue every alternative that will lead to the San Diego region expanding its resource portfolio and utilize an "all the above" approach to water management. This includes traditional efforts such as conservation and reservoir and aquifer storage, as well as taking advantage of new technologies and science in the areas of desalination and reclamation projects like the one developed by Padre Dam which we are today recognizing.

My colleagues, I ask that you join me in congratulating Padre Dam Municipal Water District for its forward-thinking vision and willingness to pursue new ideas on an old, but important, problem. Everyone at the District, from leadership to all members of staff, is making a direct positive impact in our community and I am confident that your investment will prove to be valuable in helping us reach both our short and long-term water management goals.

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#### INTRODUCING THE CRUDE-BY-RAIL SAFETY ACT

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#### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to increase the safety of transporting crude oil by rail. Explosive growth in crude-by-rail transport in recent months has led to increased rail traffic and an unprecedented rise in rail accidents—sometimes with fatal results. This issue has affected



communities across the nation and cemented the need to increase safety standards and accountability. Four derailments in the US and Canada in under a month earlier this year underscored the urgency of action to curb the risks of transporting volatile crude oil.

The Crude-By-Rail Safety Act addresses a number of shortcomings in our approach to transporting volatile crude oil near and through many American towns and cities. It includes provisions to lower oil volatility, prohibits use of unsafe DOT-111 tank cars, strengthens tank car standards, improves oil spill response readiness, and increases fines for violating volatility standards and hazmat transport standards. It also requires disclosure of train movements through communities as well as the implementation of a confidential close-call reporting system to further increase the safety of transporting crude oil by rail.

Last summer, a derailment in my district in Seattle exposed the vulnerabilities in our current standards, and how easily we risk exposing our communities to danger from oily spills or fiery explosions. We risk too much—our urban centers, our clean waterways, our natural environment, our robust transportation network, our pocketbooks—in sitting back and waiting for an accident to wreak havoc on our communities. We must continue to fight for stronger standards and accountability, and this bill offers a comprehensive approach toward tackling this urgent threat. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

# HONORING THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

## HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, following the December 7, 1941, attack of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, President Roosevelt sought and received from Congress authorization to declare war on Japan. In January 1942, Lieutenant Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle was selected to lead a top-secret retaliation attack on Japan. With just three weeks of special "short field takeoff" training, Doolittle's men set sail toward Japan aboard the USS *Hornet*.

On April 18, 1942, the *Hornet* was sighted by a Japanese ship and the Doolittle Raiders, as they would come to be known, set off on their mission—twelve hours early and some 150 miles from their planned launch position. Within one hour, these 80 volunteers, aboard 16 B-25 bombers, took off in the first U.S. air raid on Japan in World War II. The air raid resulted in the bombing of multiple military and industrial targets in Tokyo and other Japanese cities. Their mission a success, the crews headed for their rendezvous point in China.

Flying on fumes and facing poor weather, one plane diverted to Russia, and the fifteen others were forced to crash land. With the aid of Chinese civilians, most of these brave men reached safety, but not all of our famous flyers made it home. Three of the raiders were killed in action; and, of the eight that were captured,

three were executed and one died in captivity. Their sacrifice and the success of this mission served as an essential boost to American morale, and the exploits of the Doolittle Raiders marked a critical turning point in the war in the Pacific.

Following their daring drama over Japan, the Doolittle Raiders spread out across the nation and globe. Some continued in the military, enjoying long careers into retirement. Others gave their lives in later service to their country, while still others rejoined civilian life as doctors, teachers, businessmen—serving their communities in every capacity.

Earlier this year, we lost two of the surviving Raiders, LTC Edward Saylor, and LTC Robert Hite. LTC Hite was one of the brave souls who escaped Japanese captivity, and he also was a resident of my home state of Arkansas. Now, from the band of 80 young flyers 73 Aprils ago, only two living Raiders remain: Staff Sergeant David Thatcher and LTC Richard Cole. Retired LTC Cole served as copilot to LTC Doolittle aboard aircraft number one, and he, along with the other Raiders, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Retired Staff Sergeant David J. Thatcher served as the engineer-gunner to crew number seven, whose plane the "Ruptured Duck," crashed just off the shores of the Chinese mainland. Sergeant Thatcher was awarded the Silver Star in 1942 for his bravery in caring for his injured crew members.

Earlier today, Congress conferred the Congressional Gold Medal on the Doolittle Raiders for their undeniable valor and sacrifice. These airmen and their extraordinary "30 Seconds over Tokyo" will never be forgotten. I am humbled to rise today to recognize these ordinary Americans that stepped up to attempt an exceptional mission. Col. Doolittle and his Raiders will fly forever in our hearts and minds as the best of American values of Duty, Honor, and Country. May God bless their memory and example to us all.

# HONORING REVEREND HENRY HOLLEY'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

## HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of a good friend, a committed patriot, and a great man of faith, Reverend Henry Holley. His remarkable lifetime of service is testament that putting your values to work can lead to real and demonstrable achievements in improving the lives of your fellow man. His tireless efforts to spread the word of God through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is worthy of our praise and deserving of our thanks.

Following his tour in the Pacific during World War II, Reverend Holley continued his service in the United States Marine Corps until 1966. Thereafter, he joined in common purpose with Reverend Graham. In due course, he was ordained into the Gospel ministry at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, located in Marietta.

His ministry with Reverend Graham has sent him around the world, from Taipei to Hong Kong, from Manila to Tokyo. Notably, Reverend Holley organized the Korean 1973 Crusade in Seoul. On the last day of the Crusade, there were over 3.2 million people present to hear Reverend Graham in person.

Reverend Holley and his devoted wife Bettie have made their home in Marietta, Georgia for the past 44 years. They are blessed to have three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, I had the real honor of introducing Reverend Holley before his opening prayer on the floor of this House. Now, I have the privilege of offering thanks, on behalf of all Americans, for his life's efforts. For today, in North Carolina, Reverend Holley is celebrating his well-deserved retirement. Reverend Holley has truly earned a reputation as living out the Gospel, not only in Georgia, but around the world.

# IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID A. WELLS

## HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Chief Master Sergeant David A. Wells of Springfield, Massachusetts on the occasion his retirement from the United States Air Force Reserve. For the past 31 years, Chief Wells has proudly served his country with distinction and I am privileged to thank him on behalf of a grateful nation.

Chief Wells was raised and still resides in my hometown of Springfield. He graduated from the High School of Commerce in 1984 and entered the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA shortly thereafter. During his time with the 187th Infantry Brigade out of Fort Devens, Massachusetts, he was deployed to various locations abroad including Iceland and Canada. By 1987, he had quickly moved through the ranks to become a Staff Sergeant.

In 1994, Chief Wells was transferred to the Air Force Reserve after the 187th Infantry Brigade was disbanded. He was first assigned to the 439th Engineering Squadron at Westover Air Reserve Base, only a few miles from his home in Springfield. Throughout his 11 years at Westover, he served in many roles as part of the Fire and Emergency Services Flight. In 2005, Chief Wells was assigned to the 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia to become the Fire Emergency Deputy Fire Chief. In this position, he was charged with maintaining combat readiness for all Numbered Air Force Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Fire Emergency units.

Chief Wells has also been deployed overseas to with U.S. operations in the Middle East. In 2002, he was deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Southern Watch and then again in 2008 to Kirkuk, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chief Wells has been awarded numerous times for exemplary service over his career, including the Air Force

Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

While he may be retiring from the Air Force, Chief Wells will continue to serve his community as a captain in the Springfield Fire Department, as he has done for the past 26 years. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chief Master Sergeant Wells for his dedication to this country and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### APRIL 20

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the 2020 Census, focusing on challenges facing the bureau for a modern, cost-effective survey.

SD-342

##### APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges for agriculture trade with Cuba.

SR-328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the success of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) to deliver safe, efficient and effective public transportation services and projects.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet

To hold hearings to examine advancing telehealth through connectivity.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine improving accountability and oversight of juvenile justice grants.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense policy and programs to counter threats to the United States from terrorism and irregular warfare.

SR-222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on certification and U.S. aviation manufacturing competitiveness.

SR-253

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine fulfilling the promise to women veterans.

SR-418

##### APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine how to better communicate weather to enhance commerce and safety.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding threats and strategies for the northern border.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for defense innovation and research.

SD-192

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing on tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to safer roads in Indian country.

SD-628

##### APRIL 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on airport issues and infrastructure financing.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients.

SD-215

##### APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD-366

##### APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State

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energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of

performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 16, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We thank You that You give us a share in Your creative work, having endowed each with unique and important talents.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the care of this great Nation's people. Because of the great blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, may we embrace this opportunity to build a better world beyond our borders as well.

As they return to their home districts, may they bring discerning ears to hear not only what they are inclined to hear, but those words that might be unwelcome but important to hear. May all citizens help to make their Representatives better as legislators and as people as well.

May all that they do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### REMEMBERING JIM McNEAL

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, with great sadness, I rise to mourn the passing of Jim McNeal, a California business and civic leader, who for decades guided one of the largest and oldest independent ambulance companies in California, Schaefer Ambulance.

His work ethic was legendary. At the age of 83, he was still running the family business. For all those years, he struggled with the challenges of competing against his own tax dollars in a highly regulated environment, facing and fighting government double standards at every turn. I know all about that. I would get an earful from him every month or so.

Jim McNeal was a patriot who served in the Korean war and believed in freedom as a gospel that he would preach to everyone that he met.

During his marriage of 53 years, he and his wife, Louella, raised three children and had six grandchildren. Their family's grief today is shared by all who knew him. Our country has lost an exemplary citizen and, his family, a devoted patriarch.

### WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Warrior Beach Retreat, a north Florida charity dedicated to supporting our combat wounded warriors, their families, and caregivers.

The organization was established by Linda Cope after her son, Sergeant Joshua Cope, was severely injured by an IED blast in Baghdad, Iraq, on November 12, 2006.

The Cope family turned tragedy into triumph, and twice a year, Warrior Beach Retreat welcomes 50 wounded warriors and their caregivers to Panama City with a parade and a weeklong retreat dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice.

I wish I could be with them today in Panama City to welcome these brave wounded warriors, but unable to do that, I would like to officially recognize Warrior Beach Retreat in the RECORD and thank them on behalf of our north Florida community for all the hard work they do for our veterans.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH ACT

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I am introducing the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. This bill is a bipartisan effort to make communities safer by improving access to mental health services for people in the criminal justice system.

U.S. jails have effectively replaced in-patient mental health facilities as the largest institutional treatment providers for adults with mental illnesses. Each year, more than 2 million people with serious mental illnesses are booked into jails, as well as millions more coping with less serious mental illnesses that jails are nonetheless required to address.

This is not right. Our jails are not mental health facilities. We can do better with the way we treat the mentally ill in the justice system, and we can do it while reducing costs and increasing public safety.

At a recent TED Talks, comedian and mental health activist Ruby White asked: How come every other organ in your body can get sick and you get sympathy, except the brain?

My bill will by no means solve the problem, but it is a step we can take to show some compassion, improve lives, and reduce recidivism by more appropriately responding to the mental health needs of those in the criminal justice system.

I encourage each of my colleagues to cosponsor and join me in this effort.

### ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to highlight the contributions of the Oncology Nursing Society to cancer care in our Nation. Oncology nurses care for cancer patients during some of the most critical and challenging times of their lives.

As cancer treatments have become more complex, oncology nurses have been called upon to acquire new knowledge and skills while continuing to provide compassionate care and emotional support to their patients.

This is where the Oncology Nursing Society comes in. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has worked tirelessly to lead the transformation of

cancer care and ensure that our Nation's oncology nurses are well equipped to tackle the healthcare challenges of the future. Next week, the Oncology Nursing Society will hold its 40th Annual Congress.

I want to commend the Oncology Nursing Society for its commitment to the highest quality care possible for cancer patients, and I want to offer my congratulations on its 40th anniversary.

#### DEATH TAX AND FARMERS

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, before my time in Congress, I owned and operated a small independent insurance agency for about 20 years. I was also fortunate to spend a number of years working with my grandfather on a small cattle farm that we owned and operated.

Through both of these experiences, I have experienced firsthand how the Tax Code can make or break a small business or family farm and how the death tax, in particular, is very harmful to farms and businesses and the families who own them.

Often, the death tax would force families to pay their tax bill by selling vital equipment, laying off loyal employees, or selling the farm or business entirely.

These are hard-working Americans who work from generation to generation to build these farms and businesses that are the backbone of our communities and our country.

Instead of incentivizing pursuit of the American Dream, this tax shuts down our local tractor dealers, peanut farms, and grocery stores, which is why I applaud my colleagues for joining me in repealing the death tax for family businesses, farmers, and American citizens not just in Georgia, but across this great country.

#### SUPPORTING THE DREAMERS AND L.B. 623

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for the plight and uncertainty that DREAMers face in Nebraska and across the Nation.

Let me start by stating that I unequivocally support the DREAM Act. In Nebraska, the notion of immigration is as bipartisan as the legislative body itself.

As evidence, Republicans and Democrats in the State capitol are backing L.B. 623, introduced by State Senator

Jeremy Nordquist. It allows driver's licenses for thousands of Nebraska DREAMers. I wholeheartedly support and endorse this bill. My good friend from across the aisle, State Senator John S. McCollister, is making these licenses his top priority.

By the way, if the name McCollister sounds familiar, it should be. In the early 1970s, John's father, Congressman John Y. McCollister, served the people of Nebraska's Second Congressional District with distinction. His son continues that tradition as he reaches across the aisle in Lincoln, Nebraska, to give our DREAMers a better life than their parents have had.

Again, I pledge today, as I have in the Nebraska legislature, to support the DREAMers. I ask my colleagues in this body and in the Senate to work towards a comprehensive reform package which includes a permanent and certain path for our DREAMer youth.

#### TRIBUTE TO ED WAY

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend—in fact, a friend to all of northeast Arkansas—Ed Way.

In February, Ed passed away after a short battle with brain cancer. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Dianna; his son-in-law, Phillip; daughters, Lindsey and Mary Catherine; and two granddaughters, Bailey and Weslea. Ed is also survived by his legacy, an incredible footprint of good works that won't soon wear away.

Ed was a banker by education and practice, but he was also an ambassador for northeast Arkansas. Whether it was the annual D.C. fly-in by the Chamber of Commerce in Jonesboro or road games supporting the Arkansas State Red Wolves, Ed was a willing and eager promoter of all that northeast Arkansas has to offer.

Ed's influence extends far beyond my own experiences. Countless others working with Ed recognized his leadership and good humor, but even beyond his job, his service with various Jonesboro civic clubs reflected Ed's desire to give back. He also served as a deacon at his church and was active with the Arkansas State Red Wolves athletic foundation.

We often search for the best way to remember and celebrate the lives of our most inspiring leaders and our truest friends. Because Ed's life was a long road of community service, the best way for us to honor his memory is through the continuation of that work.

His joyful devotion to our region set the gold standard for others to follow. By consistently striving towards that standard, we not only preserve Ed's

legacy, but we honor the community he loved so much.

#### EARTH DAY 2015 RAPIDLY APPROACHING

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day 2015 is rapidly approaching.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and the American citizens to the reality of climate change. Global warming is real.

Take a look at California. We are in the midst of the fourth year of a very severe drought. You can debate whether the drought is or is not the result of climate change; but you cannot debate the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere is approaching 400 parts per million, the highest it has ever been in over 800,000 years.

You cannot debate the fact that it is a heck of a lot warmer in California in the last decade than it has ever been in recorded time, and you cannot debate the fact that the snow level in California is rapidly rising up the Sierra Nevada and the Siskiyou Mountains, leaving us with an ever smaller snow reservoir.

This is a real problem. We need to address it with very strong, powerful legislation here in Congress, most of which has not been done. We have a challenge out ahead of us. I hope and pray that we meet that challenge.

#### HONORING FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Florida Southern College is a liberal arts college nestled in my hometown of Lakeland, Florida. It is known not only as a great academic institution, but also contains the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in the world and was recently selected by the Princeton Review as the most beautiful campus in the country.

However, today, I rise to recognize another important distinction for Florida Southern College. The Moccasins Men's Basketball Team recently captured the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship.

On Saturday, March 28, 2015, the Mocs defeated Indiana University of Pennsylvania, capping off a remarkable season with a 36-1 record. Led by senior guard and two-time Sunshine State Conference Player of the Year Kevin Capers of Winter Haven, Florida, the Mocs closed out the year by winning a school record 25 consecutive games.

Growing up in Lakeland, I have watched Florida Southern College flourish before my eyes. President Anne Kerr has done a wonderful job with this college. It is a tremendous educational institution, and this win is a terrific achievement not only for the school, but also the community.

Go Mocs.

□ 0915

# PUT INLAND EMPIRE RESIDENTS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we marked 100 days in the 114th Congress. Since taking office in January, I have traveled across my home district in southern California, in San Bernardino County, on a jobs tour to meet with small businesses, community leaders, labor representatives, and job seekers about what we can do in Congress to put the Inland Empire back to work.

After having many conversations with residents and businessowners, today, I am releasing a jobs plan—a strategy—for how we can get the Inland Empire economy back on the road to recovery.

My plan calls for giving small businesses the tools they need to grow and thrive to create 21st century jobs in emerging sectors like renewable energy and biotechnology, connecting employers with job seekers and supporting job training programs and investing in our infrastructure to spur economic development.

We have a lot of work to do, but if we focus on these areas, we can strengthen the Inland Empire and the California economy and put our residents back to work.

# PERMISSION TO POSTPONE ADOPTION OF MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 1105, DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 1105 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

# DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 200, I call up the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping

transfer taxes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 114-74, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1105

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015”.

## SEC. 2. REPEAL OF ESTATE AND GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAXES.

(a) ESTATE TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter C of chapter 11 of subtitle B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

### “SEC. 2210. TERMINATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this chapter shall not apply to the estates of decedents dying on or after the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015.

“(b) CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS FROM QUALIFIED DOMESTIC TRUSTS.—In applying section 2056A with respect to the surviving spouse of a decedent dying before the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015—

“(1) section 2056A(b)(1)(A) shall not apply to distributions made after the 10-year period beginning on such date, and

“(2) section 2056A(b)(1)(B) shall not apply on or after such date.”.

(b) GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter G of chapter 13 of subtitle B of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

### “SEC. 2664. TERMINATION.

“This chapter shall not apply to generation-skipping transfers on or after the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015.”.

### (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for subchapter C of chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 2210. Termination.”.

(2) The table of sections for subchapter G of chapter 13 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 2664. Termination.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to the estates of decedents dying, and generation-skipping transfers, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS OF GIFT TAX.

(a) COMPUTATION OF GIFT TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 2502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) COMPUTATION OF TAX.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by section 2501 for each calendar year shall be an amount equal to the excess of—

“(A) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for such calendar year and for each of the preceding calendar periods, over

“(B) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for each of the preceding calendar periods.

“(2) RATE SCHEDULE.—

“If the amount with respect to which the tentative tax to be computed is:”	The tentative tax is:
Not over \$10,000 .....	18% of such amount.
Over \$10,000 but not over \$20,000 .....	\$1,800, plus 20% of the excess over \$10,000.
Over \$20,000 but not over \$40,000 .....	\$3,800, plus 22% of the excess over \$20,000.
Over \$40,000 but not over \$60,000 .....	\$8,200, plus 24% of the excess over \$40,000.
Over \$60,000 but not over \$80,000 .....	\$13,000, plus 26% of the excess over \$60,000.
Over \$80,000 but not over \$100,000 .....	\$18,200, plus 28% of the excess over \$80,000.
Over \$100,000 but not over \$150,000 .....	\$23,800, plus 30% of the excess over \$100,000.
Over \$150,000 but not over \$250,000 .....	\$38,800, plus 32% of the excess of \$150,000.
Over \$250,000 but not over \$500,000 .....	\$70,800, plus 34% of the excess over \$250,000.
Over \$500,000 .....	\$155,800, plus 35% of the excess of \$500,000.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Section 2511 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section and except as provided in regulations, a transfer in trust shall be treated as a taxable gift under section 2503, unless the trust is treated as wholly owned by the donor or the donor’s spouse under subpart E of part I of subchapter J of chapter 1.”.

(c) LIFETIME GIFT EXEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2505(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(1) the amount of the tentative tax which would be determined under the rate schedule set forth in section 2502(a)(2) if the amount with respect to which such tentative tax is to be computed were \$5,000,000, reduced by”.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 2505 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year after 2011, the dollar amount in subsection (a)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2010’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading for section 2505 of such Code is amended by striking “UNIFIED”.

(2) The item in the table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 12 of such Code relating to section 2505 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2505. Credit against gift tax.”.

(3) Section 2801(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “section 2001(c) as in effect on the date of such receipt” and inserting “section 2502(a)(2)”.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to gifts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **TRANSITION RULE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of applying sections 1015(d), 2502, and 2505 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as 2 separate calendar years one of which ends on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act and the other of which begins on such date of enactment.

(2) **APPLICATION OF SECTION 2504(b).**—For purposes of applying section 2504(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as one preceding calendar period.

#### SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of repealing the estate tax. Repealing this death tax is a top priority for Nebraska's farmers, ranchers, and small businessowners—in fact, not just for Nebraska's farmers, ranchers, and small businessowners but for these folks all around the country.

Agriculture, particularly raising cattle and crops such as corn, is a land- and capital-intensive process. These Nebraskans aren't sitting on piles of cash. In fact, their assets are the land and the equipment they use to help feed our Nation and to help feed the world. They pay income taxes on what they earn, and they pay high property taxes on the land on an annual basis. They take great pride in this work and want their children and grandchildren to continue in their livelihoods. They shouldn't have to jump through hoops to ensure their descendants can continue their work when they have passed on.

The death tax doesn't penalize the wealthiest Americans. In fact, they probably don't even feel that penalty. They can plan their estates and give away their wealth as they see fit. It pen-

nalizes those who have worked all of their lives and who have reinvested in their family businesses to ensure their families and neighbors have every opportunity to be hard-working taxpayers.

I certainly urge a “yea” vote to grow opportunity in the U.S. and to support that growing opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It appears that the bipartisan, good feelings of the last few weeks are gone. After reaching across the aisle to pass important legislation like the doc fix, my Republican colleagues are back to their old tricks of handing out tax breaks to the few at the expense of the many.

Today's vote to repeal the estate tax is just the Republicans' last attempt to tilt the U.S. Tax Code in favor of their ultrawealthy campaign donors. This week's target is the estate tax—a tax, I would mention, that was dreamed up by and championed by Teddy Roosevelt, who is the same guy the Republicans like to hold up as one of the greatest the party ever produced.

Their crusade to help the rich has gone too far. This proposed repeal of the estate tax is nothing more than a massive, unfunded tax break for a small sliver of America's wealthiest families, and, as is usually the case with Republican tax policies, this repeal would do nothing to help hard-working, middle class families.

In Nebraska, 52 households would benefit while there are 202,000 people living in poverty. The fact of the matter is that the estate tax is only paid by about 5,400 families, or the top 0.2 percent of estates in the country. Estates worth less than \$5.4 million pay nothing. What is the cost of providing a tax break to the top 5,000 families? It is a quarter of a trillion dollars—\$269 billion.

Now, these are the deficit hawks who were talking last week about “we have got to worry about the deficit, the deficit, the deficit.” Yet they are standing here with a straight face, putting \$269 billion more on the deficit. Instead, we should be using the money to extend the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit, which are tax credits that would actually help Main Street America—the real drivers of the American economy. Or we could fund universal pre-K or build new bridges and roads or provide free community college to 9 million people.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will try and tell you that the estate tax hurts family farmers. My colleague who began this debate was talking about that, Mr. Speaker. They will tell you the estate tax forces farmers to liquidate in order to pay the estate tax. When pressed to provide ex-

amples, as we did, of family farms being forced to liquidate, my Republican colleagues pointed to a 15,000-acre farm they say had to be broken up for the estate tax.

Let me put that into context, as most people who live in the cities don't know how big that is: 15,000 acres is the equivalent of 23.5 square miles. That is a 5-by-5 square mile farm. That is more than the island of Manhattan. Manhattan isn't that big, and it is home to a million people. I think most people who work hard would be hard pressed to believe that 23 square miles is a family farm.

As families at the very top of the income scale experience unprecedented wealth and prosperity—some may call it the second Gilded Age—Republicans are helping the rich get richer. They want to talk about “We are going to help the middle class,” but what are they doing? They are shoveling a quarter of a trillion dollars out the door to the richest. Repealing the estate tax will surely sow the seeds of a permanent aristocracy in this country. We learned from Britain what a permanent aristocracy gets you.

As we prepare to take this vote, I would ask my colleagues: Whose side are you on? Are you on the side of working families and communities across this country who are struggling to pay the bills, or are you on the side of the ultrawealthy heirs who don't feel they need to pay taxes on the millions and billions that they were handed by their ancestors?

Wealth has never been taxed. That land and the accumulation of the wealth in it has never been taxed. I vote for the working middle class, and I hope that you will all vote “no.”

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to allow the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) to manage the time for the Ways and Means Committee.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on ending this terrible tax.

Can you imagine working your whole life to build up a family-owned business or a farm, and then, upon your death, Uncle Sam swoops in and takes nearly half of what you have spent a lifetime building up for your children and grandchildren?

Can you imagine this case, as my friend from Washington talked about? This was a farm that had been in his family since the 1880s—five generations. It didn't start that size—it started small—and they built up over years and years and generations and generations. When the young woman went



back to Texas—she actually worked up here and went back to Texas to settle her aunt's estate—she and her brother were forced to sell off two-thirds of the farm that they had had for five generations. They had to sell off two-thirds of it just to pay Uncle Sam, just to try to keep some small portion of what their family had worked so hard to build.

These are real life examples of how the death tax is the wrong tax at the wrong time, and it hurts the wrong people. It is the number one reason family-owned businesses and farms aren't passed down to the next generations. It is at its heart an immoral tax, and it is an attack on the American Dream, especially more so for our newest startups in America—women- and minority-owned businesses that are building wealth for the first time, hoping that they can create a nest egg, that they can create a business for their children and grandchildren so that they have greater opportunities in this great country.

I really want to thank my Democrat lead sponsor, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia, for his leadership to repeal the death tax and for his belief that you shouldn't punish success.

I want to thank my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Representative KRISTI NOEM; longtime champion, Congressman MAC THORBERRY; and a former colleague of mine on the Ways and Means Committee, former Representative Kenny Hulshof, who carried this legislation for so long.

The superrich don't pay this tax. They have a legion of lawyers and tax planners, and they have charitable trusts and foundations. They never pay this tax. These are family-owned, hard-working, risk-taking, determined Americans who are building their businesses, their farms, their ranches. These are not, as we will hear today, the Paris Hiltons and robber barons of the Teddy Roosevelt days. These are Americans who are often forced back to the bank for a loan or who are cruelly forced to sell their land and businesses just to satisfy the IRS.

Death tax supporters will tell you this is all about income inequality, but it turns out, according to a former Federal Reserve Vice Chairman, with regard to income inequality only 2 percent is related to what people inherit. In America, it turns out we do build our prosperity. We pull ourselves up to prosperity. Some people say, Look, this thing generates \$200-plus billion.

Let me put this in perspective. For all of the damage it does to our family-owned businesses and farms, the damage it will do to our women-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses that are building wealth, it will generate less than 2 days of Federal spending a year, and it is declining.

At the end of the day, there is a basic question: Is this your money and your hard work, or is this the government's

money? Who has the claim over all of the years you have spent working? Why, at the end of the day, are we punishing success?

Let's give children and let's give our families their shot at the American Dream and a better nation than the one, frankly, we inherited. That is why, today, we rise to bury the death tax once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman from Texas that 292 households in Texas will do nothing for the 4.4 million people who are living in poverty in Texas.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of estate tax reform and in strong opposition to this wrongfully and inaccurately titled Death Tax Repeal Act.

Whenever you hear people say "death tax," know right away that they are not talking about public policy and that they are not talking about tax reform—they are talking about politics. There is no such thing as a death tax. You won't find those words anywhere at all in the Tax Code. It is partisan jargon. After you die, you don't have to pay taxes. You don't have to take out the garbage. You don't get called for jury duty anymore. When you are dead, you are dead. So there is no such thing as a death tax.

Today, my Republican colleagues are pursuing a full repeal of the estate tax under the guise of helping family farms and small businesses. I wish this were the case, but the rhetoric is simply disingenuous when you look at the policy.

I agree that the estate tax is a real issue for family farmers and for ranchers. The first bill I introduced when I came to Congress was a bill to reform the estate tax. Folks in my district, where farmland values have reached as high as \$300,000 an acre, are often land rich and cash poor.

□ 0930

There are middle class people who work their land every day and pay taxes on the income they earn from that work. They are not people who the majority's bill is designed to help. Their full repeal is not the answer. It costs too much money. It is not paid for—\$269 billion not paid for—and it helps people who don't need the government's help.

A more commonsense and targeted approach would be to pass the bill that I referenced earlier. My bill exempts farmlands and related assets from estate tax as long as the family that inherits the farm continues to farm the land. If they stop farming the land, then the tax kicks back in. This is a fair and equitable response to the issues many farmers are facing today:

a shortage of young farmers because the barriers to entry are too high and the high volume of farmland we are losing. More than an acre of farmland is lost every minute of every day.

It is important that we help farmers preserve farmland for future generations, which will benefit our food supply and our environment, but it needs to be done the right way. So once this political exercise is over, I hope we can get down to business and work together on a proposal that is actually aimed at protecting our family farms and our family-owned small businesses.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I know the gentleman from California is sincere, but his approach was tried before. It failed so miserably to protect farms, it was repealed, I think, 3 years later. No more gimmicks. Let's actually help these family-owned farm businesses.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), a gentleman who understands the importance of family-owned farms and businesses and rewarding success.

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come from America's dairy land, the central and northwestern part of Wisconsin, and we have a lot of small dairy farms—300, 500, maybe a thousand acres of small family farms. This death tax, when Dad dies, isn't paid by Dad because he is gone, but the kids who inherit the farm are the ones who pay that tax, and they end up not being able to pay it. So what do they do? They sell to the corporate farm. Repealing the death tax is the ability to keep the American family farm and not transfer these farms to the big corporate conglomerates. If you want to stand with the little guy, let's repeal this thing.

But it is not just farms. I have a family in my community in Wisconsin that employs hundreds of families. They are a manufacturer. A family-owned business. They asked me not to use their name, but they understand that this tax, if two or more of them die at the same time, they can't pay it, and so what they would be forced to do is sell the business, which would more than likely mean that they are going to lose these jobs to some other part of the country or some other part of the world. So now this family, because they love their community, they love the people that work in their company, many for 20 and 30 years, what they won't do is they won't travel together, they won't fly together, they won't drive together, because God forbid, if there were an accident and two of them die, they have to sell a major employer in our community. They don't travel together, family members, because of this tax.

I hear my friends across the aisle talk about this helping the big,

wealthy guy. I agree with the gentleman from Texas who has done such great work on this bill. They don't pay this tax. They don't pay. They have great lawyers, great estate planners. It is the guys in the middle that are employing folks in their community that pay this tax; and when they have to pay it, that means jobs for middle class Americans.

I think we should all stand up in this House, and we should stand with the middle class Americans, the middle-income Americans, and let's work to repeal this bill to make sure that we have a vibrant, prosperous, middle class in America.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the gentleman from Wisconsin that 63 households will benefit in his State. There are 618,000 people living under the poverty level. That is \$18,000 for a family of four.

Now, one of the things about these kinds of debates is the political rhetoric gets a little overheated. If you die and you have this great big business, you have 5 years to pay that tax. You don't have to pay it the day that they bury the body of your grandfather or your mother, your father, whoever. You have 5 years to pay it or to decide on it, and 10 years deferred. So you have got 15 years before that tax has to be paid. It isn't like somebody shows up at the house when you are having the reception after the funeral and says, "Here, give us the money, or we are taking your property." That is not what happens in this country. We have laid it out to give people time to figure out how to do it financially. Anybody who has that much money probably has enough money to actually hire a financial consultant, it would seem to me, Mr. Speaker.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have heard better stories in the Bada Bing Club in New Jersey. I am listening to the accounts of all of these poor people. Let me tell you what we are talking about here.

Do you see this big chart? That is 99.85 percent that get nothing out of this legislation in the United States of America. Here is 0.15 percent that get a \$270 billion tax cut. Here, let me use the magnifying glass and get a better picture of how much we are talking about. You can all see that orange slash right there.

You are telling me that this helps the common good? My friends on the other side of the aisle—and when I use the word "friends," I mean it—recently have taken to talking about the lack of wage growth in this country, yet here we are today considering legislation that will add, Mr. Speaker, \$294.8 billion to the deficit for people who don't work at all.

This whole idea that the estate tax hurts middle class Americans in in-

come that has already been taxed is simply not true. Much of this income has never been taxed. Repealing the estate tax in full would result in a massive tax cut for the wealthiest of the wealthy. It hits 5,500 households in this whole country—never mind Texas, the whole country—with estates worth more than \$5 million. I mean, that is the law. I am not making this stuff up as I go along.

This bill only further exacerbates our already upside-down Tax Code. Our Tax Code is already stacked against hard-working labor income, and this bill would make it even worse.

I sit on the House Committee on the Budget as well as the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. After sitting through 13 hours of our budget markup, I could tell you that this \$294.8 billion goes a long way in making up for the devastating cuts that the other side of the aisle has inflicted on the middle class.

It is also important to note that the budget does not assume, Mr. Ranking Member, the repeal of the estate tax. Where the heck are they going to get the \$294.8 billion? It assumes a revenue-neutral—I like it when they say it—a revenue-neutral reform. It assumes that revenues will be exactly what CBO projects under current law for the next 10 years.

We really have only two conclusions: either this bill is directly contrary to the budget, or it is not paid for today. Congress will, at some point, have to sit down and go down the road, pass a tax hike to pay for this massive deficit-financed tax cut. You have no choice. You can't have it both ways.

I would like to hear from my good friend, the chairman, what his path will be to make up for this \$294.8 billion. That is a lot of money, Mr. Speaker. Where the heck is it coming from?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

I would point out studies show we would generate more money by repealing this tax than keeping it because people wouldn't put their money into tax shelters and other things and instead would put it back in their business into job creation.

I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a leading member of the Committee on Ways and Means and a gentleman whose father started their business by the sweat of his brow.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to sit and listen to the rhetoric. I think sometimes if you drink the purple

Kool-Aid long enough, you start to believe it.

That chart is a great chart that was just up there because what we are doing again is we are starting to separate America. We are saying that because it only applies to this very little sliver that we have to go after these people.

I want you to think about something. The entire produce of a woman's or man's life after they have paid their local taxes, their State taxes, their Federal taxes, all the sales taxes over their life and the way they have contributed to build their communities, at the time of their death—now, I know we don't want to call it a death tax, but it is triggered at the time of their death. God forbid these hard-working American taxpayers are allowed to pass on to the next generation that which they were able to accumulate.

Now, the chairman made a reference to my parents, and it is not just about my parents. My dad was a parts picker in a Chevrolet warehouse. He married the girl who ran the switchboard at that warehouse. That was my mother. He went off to World War II. He came back home, started with a little car dealership in Verona, Pennsylvania, one-car showroom, four service bays. He built it into something he was very proud of and was able to pass on to my brothers and me.

Now we want to go after these folks not because they were successful, but because they died and because the government cannot live within its means. So when we go to the viewing, we go to the funeral home and we go to pay our respects, we are also telling them: Thanks for all your hard work. You did a great job. You contributed so much, and now the government wants to take some of that produce of your entire life because they can't live within their means. You lived within your means. You tightened your belt when you had to. You made more with less.

But no, that is not good enough because we can't rein in spending, so we can't stop taxing. That is egregious in the United States of America to sit back and look at all those who have done so much and paid so many taxes in their lifetime, and yet to say upon their death they are not allowed to pass this on to the next generation.

I love the chart because you really specify exactly what has been going on here for too long. You are separating the country. You are dividing the country, rich versus poor. This is America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I hope you would remind the gentleman that the country is already divided into rich and poor. There is no question

about that. In Pennsylvania, 144 households will get the benefit, and 1.57 million people in Pennsylvania live in poverty. So there is already a bit of a division here.

It might be more acceptable if this bill recouped all the money that we spent in farm subsidies over time. Maybe when people die, they ought to give their farm subsidy back to the government. When my grandfather died, the State of Illinois came back to get the public assistance money that had been given to him during his life, his last years.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation, and perhaps for no better reason than it is a \$270 billion cost that the Congressional Budget Office showed with no pay-fors, no offsets in the Federal budget. If my Republican colleagues want to move forward on this policy proposal, at least they should show courage to the American people and tell them how they are going to pay for this \$270 billion bill or to admit that it is just going to be added to the annual structural budget deficits, a completely fiscally irresponsible approach to trying to reform our Tax Code. Lord knows we need to get to work on that.

But there is a larger point—and to speak to the last speaker's point that he just made on the floor—what is somewhat problematic and troublesome for me, it seems many of our Republican colleagues seem very comfortable with the idea of income inequality in this Nation, which is only growing worse. But here is the main point: this income inequality in our society, absent opportunity, absent hope, absent mobility, is just a caste system. It is just a caste system where birth determines outcome.

That is why one of the richest people in the world, Warren Buffett, who opposes repealing the estate tax, says that our fate in life should not depend on whether we win the birth lottery or not. It is no longer good enough for the other side to continue to deliver tax relief to the wealthiest 1 percent; now it has got to be the wealthiest two-tenths of 1 percent, because that is what this legislation affects is two-tenths of 1 percent of the wealthiest households in America.

But they keep saying: Don't worry. We will address the deficit later. They say we have a spending problem in Washington. But what we have seen from their budgets, where they go for offsets in spending: it is in Pell grants; it is in workstudy; it is in GEAR UP and TRIO programs; it is the broadband expansion that we need in this Nation; it is the basic research funding that has to take place; it is the infrastructure modernization that we need.

□ 0945

It is those things that we need to be investing in to keep America competitive, and those are the type of programs that help with mobility, that help with opportunity for many Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend.

That is what is so onerous behind this legislation. They have become very clever at piling up debt, convincing the American people we have a spending problem; yet the very programs they decide to target in their budget resolutions are those programs that provide upward income mobility for all Americans.

I am a product of that. I am a kid who went on to school with Pell grants, with student loans, with the workstudy program. There is no way I want to be a Member of Congress that is going to pull up the ladder behind me and say "tough luck" to the lower income classes of this country.

That is what this bill leads to, and I encourage my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I would say let's have the courage to stop hiding behind Warren Buffett, George Soros, the superrich. They don't pay this tax. They have lawyers and tax accountants and tax finders. They have charitable trusts. This is family-owned farms and businesses.

I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), a second-generation small-businessowner.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, in 1939, a man started a car dealership to realize the American Dream. When he died, the ownership of the business was passed along to his son and so was a death tax liability equal to a significant value of the business' worth.

The IRS was there 3 days later after the father's death, wanting the money, 50 percent of the value of the business. His son nearly declared bankruptcy. Fortunately, he was able to pull resources together to keep his family's profitable dealership afloat and save jobs. He still runs the dealership to this day and has more than 100 employees. That son is me.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote to repeal the death tax, the most unfair double taxation on job creators we have ever seen. The death tax is a tax on savings that have already been taxed on before, but the tax provides less than 1 percent of Federal revenue.

According to the Tax Foundation, repeal of the death tax would boost GDP, create 139,000 jobs, and eventually increase Federal revenue. That is right. Ironically, by killing the death tax, the U.S. Government would earn more money and more opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, many second-generation businessowners do not have the means to hire teams of accountants and lawyers to navigate the costly obstacles to save the family farm and save the family business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. WILLIAMS. As a small-businessowner of 44 years, I have seen friends and colleagues lose gains earned from a lifetime of hard work because of Washington's greed and failed policies, like the death tax.

We must repeal this unfair policy that does no good to the Federal Government and does life-changing harm to American job creators and families. We must make sure this law goes away.

In God we trust.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this Brady "Borrow to Benefit Billionaires Act."

I don't believe that it is in the interest of our country to borrow another \$269 billion from the Chinese, the Saudis, or whomever we can get it from in order to benefit about 5,000 or so of the wealthiest families in this country, and that is precisely what this legislation does.

"If ever our people become so sordid as to feel that all that counts is moneyed prosperity, ignoble well-being, effortless ease and comfort, then this Nation shall perish."

"No advantage comes either to the country as a whole or to the individuals inheriting the money by permitting the transmission in their entirety of the enormous fortunes which would be affected by such a tax."

Those are bold words of a different kind of Republican than we have today. They are the bold words in 1907 of President Teddy Roosevelt when he originally proposed the tax that has been mislabeled today as the "death tax."

President Roosevelt thought that it would be the death of our country if we had a permanent leisure class elite of the type that dominated so many European countries. He thought that a reasonable tax on inheritance of the wealthiest, most prosperous members of our country would be in the national interest—indeed essential to the future of the country.

I think his approach was right at the beginning of the 19th century, and it remains true in this century because this is really a billionaire protection act.

When he introduced this legislation, Mr. BRADY said: What kind of government swoops in upon your death and takes nearly half of the nest egg that you've spent your life building?

Well, the answer is not the American Government. Our government does not do that and does not touch the estates

of any but the smallest, smallest fraction of the wealthiest—about 5,000-plus households in the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. I am concerned about the anticompetitive effects of this bill because, while this money could be used to address the size of our national debt—and that might be an appropriate place for it. Think about the size of \$269 billion and what it could do. We know that our infrastructure is crumbling. That would be more than enough to cover, over the next 10 years, the shortfall that has been estimated in dealing with our transportation infrastructure.

Think what dollars of that size would do for strengthening of the competitiveness of our workforce from pre-K to postgrad.

It is a bad investment to help those who have already got what they have got.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), a fifth-generation proud resident of his State.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring awareness to a pervasive tax that threatens the very livelihood of the future of generations of Montanans, the death tax.

April 15 was tax day; and, while some Americans look forward to a refund, many families in my home State and across the Nation are reminded of the looming debt their children and grandchildren will face.

The death tax jeopardizes the future of 28,000 Montana farms and thousands more small, family-run businesses. This is not a leisure class. These are hard-working Americans that spent their whole life—generations—building their future, only to see it threatened.

This tax punishes Americans that have worked hard, played by the rules, and want to pass that legacy on to their children. The death tax is a tax on the American Dream.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure in order to preserve the American Dream for farmers and small ranchers.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will remind the gentleman from Montana that he is talking about 19 families in Montana, when you have got 145,000 people who are living below the poverty line.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it could be very confusing trying to understand what is going on. I see in today's gallery a lot

of young Americans—our future leaders—and they are probably wondering: Is this something that might affect me in the future?

Because I think everyone in America has this dream, this hope that our country makes available of making it in America, we all aspire to do well.

I know my parents—my father didn't get more than a sixth grade education—aspired to see their kids do more. I know they are very proud of what their children have been able to accomplish.

Make no doubt, we all want to make sure that we make it in America. We all want to make sure that we have what we need to buy that first home, to send our kids to college, to save up enough for retirement.

Most Americans would say: I have made it. That is the American Dream. If I can guarantee those things and know my kids are going to have an opportunity to be better than me, that is great. Can I do more? I would love to do more.

I don't think that most Americans say that we have to give a tax break not to the wealthy, not to the megawealthy, not to the ultra-megawealthy, but to the uber-mega-ultra-superwealthy, a tax break that would cost all us taxpayers \$270 billion because this bill is not paid for when, at the same time, that \$270 billion would pay for the same amount of coverage for the entire National Institutes of Health to do all the research that we expect it to do to help us cure Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, lung cancer, and heart disease.

All that research that the National Institutes of Health is doing with all those great scientists and all those universities today in America costs for 10 years the same amount that this bill would cost to give not 1 percent of the wealthiest—one-tenth of 1 percent of the wealthiest Americans—a tax break that costs \$270 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BECERRA. Every time a proponent of this measure gets up and says, We want to protect the family farmer, they have to say, Well, we mean the one-tenth of 1 percent of the wealthiest Americans who may be a family farmer.

I guarantee you that guy is not going to have callouses on his hands if he is a family farmer, and he is one-tenth of 1 percent of the richest Americans.

Let's be real. We have priorities. We want to make it in America. We want to buy that house; we want to send our kids to college, and we want to be able to retire securely.

You don't have to be the one-tenth of 1 percent richest Americans, at the cost of \$270 billion to all the other Americans, especially every one of

those folks sitting in this gallery today, to say we have got to give a tax break to the uberwealthy.

Let's not vote for this bill.

I see in the gallery of this Chamber tomorrow's leaders. They have dreams and they have priorities for their future.

The American people are pretty straightforward about what their priorities are.

Having the opportunity to buy our own homes, send our kids to college, and having a secure retirement are parts of the American dream that we all aspire to.

Thanks to the decisive actions taken by Congressional Democrats and President Obama during the Great Recession, our economy is on the rebound: Over the last 61 straight months our economy has created over 12 million jobs, the longest consecutive period of job growth on record. Wages have grown by over 5% over the last year. The high school graduation rate is at an all time high.

Despite these gains, for too many families the American dream is still out of reach.

Congress's number one priority should be to build on this foundation to boost wages and economic growth. It should be to strengthen investments in the middle class. It should be to ensure our tax code and economic policy rewards hard work, not just wealth.

The legislation we are considering today does none of these things.

It won't benefit any middle class Americans. It won't make investments in our education or our infrastructure, it won't create ladders of opportunity into the middle class, and it won't put the American dream within reach for working class families.

Instead, this legislation is a special giveaway to the wealthiest estates.

At a time when the wealthiest 1% of Americans hold more than 40% of the nation's wealth, it would widen the wealth gap even further.

And we're not even talking about "the 1%" today—the group that benefits from this legislation is even more exclusive.

This bill would only benefit uber-mega-ultra-super wealthy estates.

This bill would give a mere fraction of the richest 1% estates a special tax break of over \$3 million each, and leave working class families to pick up the tab.

This bill only benefits fewer than 2 of every 1000 estates and costs \$270 billion. What other investments could be made with this money?

100% of school nutrition programs, which provide nutritious meals to 31 million children every day; 100% of Social Security survivor benefits, 3/4 the cost of providing Pell grants to more than 9 million students a year over the next 10 years; 31 times the funding for Head Start for FY 2015; 39 times the funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for FY 2015; 104 times the funding for the Food and Drug Administration for FY 2015.

Health Care: You could fund NIH's budget for 2015 9 times over. FY 2015 estimates: 461 times NIH Alzheimer's funding, 394 times NIH breast cancer funding, 50 times NIH general cancer funding, 894 times NIH stroke funding, 265 times NIH diabetes funding, 1929 times NIH Parkinson's funding, 221 times NIH heart disease funding.

The bottom line is that this bill fails to help the middle class get back on their feet.

It doesn't make it easier for the hardworking small business owner and it doesn't make it more affordable for a hardworking family to send their kids to college.

It's time for Congress to get to work and ensure that we put the American Dream within reach for every American, not just the wealthiest few.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to avoid references to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

For those listening today, young people included, ask yourself a question: Do you want a government that guarantees you food stamps and welfare checks or an opportunity to build your American Dream?

At the end of your life, all the years of hard work, all the sweat, all the sacrifice, do you want to pass that down to your kids and grandchildren? Or should Uncle Sam swoop in and take nearly half of everything you have worked a lifetime to earn?

I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, we all love hearing about American success stories. It might be that startup that begins with an idea, a couple of dollars, and a lot of hard work that grows into a business that can support a family, that serves a community, and provides for the future.

Many family-businessowners, ranchers, and farmers do hope to keep that success going by passing it on to the next generation.

However, for too many, the dream of taking over the family business can quickly turn into a nightmare. While having to cope with the loss of a loved one, relatives are often forced to make tough decisions in order just to meet the estate tax obligations under law.

It can mean taking on large amounts of debt. It can mean selling off critical assets. It can mean even closing down the business and being forced to sell the entire family farm or business just to pay the taxes alone.

The truth is that average Americans can be negatively affected by this tax. Not only are businesses not being passed down to the next generation, but they are also being forced to lay off other employees that are currently employed. When a small business shuts its doors and then lets those employees go, it can have a very profound affect on the community.

Farmers can be impacted by the Federal estate tax simply based on the value of the farmland alone. That doesn't even take into account, Mr. Speaker, the buildings, the equipment, the livestock, and other nonliquid assets that are present.

I spoke to a Minnesota family business who was forced to be spending 20

percent of their net income on an expensive life insurance just to fund their future death tax obligations. That is money that is not being used to expand and grow the current business.

We have to ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, for a country that prides itself on the American Dream that we all agree on and the idea that our children will be better off than we were: Does it make sense to penalize success?

I ask for support for this legislation, and I commend the gentleman, Mr. BRADY, for his leadership.

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Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, may I know the time that is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 9¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 15¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill that would add hundreds of billions of dollars to our deficit to deliver a windfall to the heirs of the wealthiest estates in the country.

Although the Republican budget holds that we must make draconian cuts to domestic programs in the name of fiscal prudence, cuts that harm the elderly, the working poor, the infirm, the middle class, the Republican leadership lauds a bill that would provide inequality in our Nation and give an average tax break of \$3 million to the most secure.

In my congressional district, the median income is \$48,841. The unemployment rate for African Americans is 24.5 percent. The poverty level for children is 38.3 percent, the poverty rate for the elderly is 21.4 percent, and over 63,000 households receive food stamps.

In the State of Illinois, over 13,000 children are homeless. At the end of last year, Chicago had the fifth-highest foreclosure rate in the Nation.

This bill is fiscally irresponsible and reflects misplaced priorities for our Nation. We can make improvements to the bill to address the concerns of small businesses and family farms if current law is inadequate, but wholesale repeal reflects poor leadership.

The fiscal recklessness of the Republican approach that balloons our deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars via dozens of tax cuts reminds me of the adage that says "death by a thousand cuts," only this time it is debt by a thousand tax cuts. Debt by a thousand tax cuts is bad for our economy, it is bad for our citizens, and it is bad for our Nation. I will vote "no."

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. NOEM. On March 10 of 1994, my dad was killed in an accident on our family farm. I was taking college classes at the time. I was 21 years old, and I ended up coming home with my family and trying to figure out how we were going to get by without him after this tragedy hit our family.

All I could hear during that point in time were the words that my dad had said to me for many years. It wasn't very long after he was killed that we got a bill in the mail from the IRS that said we owed them money because we had a tragedy happen to our family.

One of the things my dad had always said to me is, "Kristi, don't ever sell land, because God isn't making any more land."

But that was really our only option. We could either sell land that had been in our family for generations, or we could take out a loan. So I chose to take out a loan, but it took us 10 years to pay off that loan to pay the Federal Government those death taxes.

That is one of the main reasons why I got involved in government and politics, because I didn't understand how bureaucrats and politicians in Washington, D.C., could make a law that says that when a tragedy hits a family they somehow are owed something from that family business. And it doesn't work for normal, everyday people.

That is why this death tax is so unfair because, at one of the most vulnerable times of people's lives, the Federal Government says, We need to take what you have and what your family has worked for.

A lot of the conversation today has been about that the rich need to pay more. Well, the rich will avoid this tax. They have the resources to do that. But it hits families like mine harder than ever. The rich certainly are not going to pay the burden of this tax.

I will also say that some of the discussion has been about the deficit. The government does not earn money. The government takes other people's money, is what it does. It certainly is not going to earn more money by this policy.

This previous administration and the members of the other party here on the House floor today talk about the people who have struggled. We have more people living in poverty today under your policies than we had before you were in charge of this country.

One in 15 children are on food stamps because of the policies of this administration. Fifty percent of our college students can't find work or are underemployed because of the policies of this administration. We talk about income inequality, and we are seeing it because of those previous policies.

This tax is a very unfair tax. It is double taxation. Please don't put any more families in the situation where they lose their family operation or are

threatened by it because of a tragedy that happens to their family.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), another new member of the Ways and Means Committee who understands just how fragile these family-owned farms and businesses are.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, growing up and working on my great-grandfather's farm, I learned many values. One that I was taught is a comparison and, basically, when you are out there working with the hogs, you learn that there is little value in hogwash.

I would compare a lot of the facts that we have been hearing today, that are opposing this legislation, as equivalent to hogwash. And I say that under the stipulation that I have heard numerous facts stated of farms the size of 15,000 acres.

Well, the average family farm in this country is less than 500 acres. If you look at the Bootheel of Missouri, which I represent, every farm in that area, if you would just consider a 500-acre farm and the price of a 500-acre farm, times that by how many acres they have—say, 500 acres times \$10,000. That's \$5 million—\$5 million.

Then you have to put the price of a combine and a tractor to harvest the rice and the cotton. Guess what? They are part of that top 2 percent that the other side says is the wealthiest of the wealthy. Well, guess what?

Less than 2 percent of Americans are farmers. Less than 2 percent of Americans are farmers. This legislation, this tax is directly after farmers.

Our Tax Code, what is wrong with it, it is disadvantaging rural America, and the death tax is part of that disadvantage. You are seeing people leave rural America because of the Tax Code, and this is a way to fix the Tax Code.

When you look at family farmers, 85 percent of their investment is in the land and in the equipment. It is not in liquid assets. And when they get a tax bill, like the Congresswoman from South Dakota who spoke mentioned, they have to either sell their land or they have to take out a loan so they can keep their family business. This is a tax on the American Dream, and this is awful.

The folks on the other side of the aisle have never found a tax that they disliked. Folks, we have to stop this.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), the leader of the Select Revenue Subcommittee on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman

from Texas for bringing this bill to the floor and for his hard work on this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of this bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

The story is the same across this country in all of our districts, whether you have heard that today from every Member or not.

Businessowners and farmers work hard for their entire lives with the goal of passing on the first fruits of their labor but face the sometimes insurmountable hurdle of the death tax. And, in addition to the actual tax liability the death tax imposes, merely planning for it, regardless of whether these businesspeople and farmers end up owing it, it is yet another challenge.

Last month, when I chaired the hearing in the Select Revenue Subcommittee on this bill, we heard from three witnesses: a rancher, a farmer, and a product distributor. Their stories were the same. This is an onerous tax, creating hours and hours and months of work by attorneys and by their own employees trying to figure out how they are going to keep their business in their family.

One businessowner said, for the first 26 years working in his family business—26 years he spent trying to figure out how to meet the death tax. When one relative was about to pass away, they had another death tax issue they had to address. Another relative was about to pass away and did pass away, and again they had to address the death tax.

This is an issue that the other side wants to make between the rich and the poor. This is about average American men and women, businessowners across this country trying to keep their family-owned business and protect their hard work.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the lead sponsor of the Repeal the Death Tax Act, an Eagle Scout, Army veteran, key member.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative BRADY on this important bipartisan legislation to repeal the death tax once and for all. I have always believed that the death tax is politically misguided, morally unjustified, and downright un-American. It is really a tax on success.

The assets that people want to pass on to their progeny have already been taxed. If it is a business or if it is a farm, the individuals who earned it, who started the business, they paid income taxes. If it was a corporation, the corporation paid taxes also.

Why should it be taxed a third time just to be passed on and just to keep the business together?

It undermines the life work and life savings of farmers, small- to medium-sized businesses in Georgia and all across the Nation.

We have all heard the statistics. The United States has the fourth-highest estate tax in the industrialized world at 40 percent. Only Japan, South Korea, and France have higher death taxes. Thirteen countries have repealed their taxes since 2000.

It has a disproportionate impact on African Americans. A study by the Boston College professors John Havens and Paul Schervish several years ago estimated that between 2001 and 2055, the death tax will erase between 11 percent and 13 percent of all African American wealth. This one tax alone will cost African American households between \$192 billion and \$257 billion.

Some people have argued that the estate tax is no longer a serious problem since we have permanently raised the exemption to \$5 million for individuals and \$10 million for couples to index it to inflation. Nothing can be further from the truth.

According to the Georgia Farm Bureau, the exemption is barely keeping pace with increasing farmland values. In fact, the number of farms in Georgia with building and land values of over \$5 million rose from 664 to 677 between 2007 and 2012.

I just can't stand by and allow this estate tax to continue to punish family-owned businesses in Georgia and throughout the country. It is not just farmers.

We have heard a lot about farms, but look at funeral homes, funeral directors who have multiple locations with rolling stock, caskets, limousines, hearses. That amounts to a pretty good amount of money.

I have got constituents who own radio stations; finally, worked hard enough to have a family-owned business that would be able to be in communications. They started out with one radio station. Now they have got five stations in three different States.

It is a family business. The husband, the wife, and now the three kids went to college, law school, and they are running the business. It is a shame that they would have to sell that business and, ultimately, have to lay off employees to pay the 40 percent estate tax.

It is clear that the estate tax really hurts the economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Foxx). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. A study by the Tax Foundation found that repealing the death tax would increase U.S. capital stock by 2.2 percent, it would boost GDP, and it would create 139,000 jobs, which eventually increases Federal revenue.

This is a tax on success. It is not a big contributor to the revenue of this country. It is a very, very—a drop in the ocean really, and so, it is time to repeal it.

I urge my colleagues to really think realistically, not ideologically, and just do the right thing. I urge you to join my colleagues and repeal the death tax once and for all.

□ 1015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

Madam Speaker, having served on the Ways and Means Committee for decades, it is a little bit embarrassing to see us debating a bill that goes nowhere. This is a political action that is taken by the majority to select provisions that are in the Tax Code and to have those of us that advocate tax reform to just select those parts that appear to be very popular with some parts of our constituencies.

There is nobody in this House that truly believes that this legislation, if passed, ever would become law, but it is something to be used in political campaigns as to what you voted for and why you voted against it.

The truth of the matter is that, to listen to the other side talk, we have some very, very rich farmers; and just because they are in a family doesn't mean that they are not wealthy.

First of all, let's go to the video, let's go to the facts, and let's find out how many people are going to be affected. And the statistics show that 99.8 percent of the population, those people who die, don't pay any taxes. So what the heck are we talking about? We are talking about a few rich people that are 0.2 percent of those people that will be eligible for a tax, and that is only after we estimate that the value of their estate is \$5 million for one person and \$10 million for two.

So I am not saying that for these people it is not going to be inconvenient. But when you think about the number of people that pay taxes, that are working hard every day, that are trying to save money for their kids' education, then this really means that hundreds of billions of dollars are being set aside for those people that already have.

If we really want equity, if we really want fair play, why don't we take a look at the entire Tax Code? Why are we just looking at the estate tax or the local and State tax? Because equity is how much money are you raising and how much money do you need.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, to clarify, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material

on H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), a fourth-generation farmer.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act.

I want to thank Chairman BRADY and Chairman RYAN for their leadership in addressing this issue that is so important for my district in Indiana and for many folks all across the Hoosier State.

In Indiana, under the leadership of Governor Mike Pence, we officially repealed our State's death tax in 2013, and with this bill we can do the same thing on the Federal level.

As a fourth-generation farmer, I can see how family-owned businesses already struggle each year with a destructive mess that is our Federal Tax Code. The death tax, which is a double tax on Americans' hard work, only adds to the problem. It stifles prosperity, and it prevents individuals and families from making the personal decisions they want to make with their savings and their property for generations to follow them.

Madam Speaker, it is time to repeal the death tax. Only accounting for a fraction of a percent worth of annual revenue for the Federal Government, let's call it what it really is: it is a distorted attempt to redistribute the earnings of Americans' hard work.

With that, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, would you tell us the time left on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 5¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 5¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this.

Madam Speaker, it is ironic. This week, we have had hundreds and hundreds of businesspeople, folks from organized labor, contractors coming to town, pleading with Congress to get its act together and enact a 6-year comprehensive transportation bill. We have been frozen in place for years, with 23 short-term extensions because this Congress can't figure out how to provide the resources necessary to deal with a critical situation.

America is falling apart and falling behind, yet we are caught here in an inability to provide resources to help

rebuild and revitalize America. That is part of the issue.

Today my Republican friends have discovered that there is \$270 billion of revenue that somehow the Federal Government no longer needs. They have decided to give an additional tax cut to people who need the help the least. And, ironically, for all the talk about this being a death tax and double taxation, the vast majority of the wealth that will be untaxed has never been taxed in the first place. You don't get to be a billionaire on W-2 income. It is appreciated capital. But we are going to, in their judgment, give a windfall.

We have had this tax for over a century from Republican administrations, but we are going to turn our back on it because we no longer need \$270 billion while we continue to shortchange America. We are having construction projects stopped this summer because the short-term fix for the transportation bill is going to expire.

This is lunacy. It is not fair.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from east Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, several years ago, there was an author who wrote a book about millionaires in America; and it was amazing, most of the millionaires built a business, built a farm, and the number one most commonly driven vehicle by millionaires in America was a Ford F-150 truck. They were workers.

There was a time in America when we looked around and we saw somebody work 16 hours a day, like my aunt and uncle did, and build together a farm and we were proud of them. Well, my Aunt Lilly died, and the FDIC dumped land out by her place before the land could be sold. So the IRS came in and eventually sold every acre of her land.

The family was called in. Let's try to at least buy some of her assets from her home, her little modest home. I bought this music box from Aunt Lilly. It plays "Amazing Grace." But she didn't get amazing grace. Her heirs didn't get amazing grace. They ran into the amazing greed of the United States Congress.

Let's take the green-eyed monster and put it where it belongs and begin to feel good for people that have worked for what they own.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, may I inquire if the gentleman from Texas is ready to close.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have one further request for time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. I thank my colleague for yielding.



Madam Speaker, I want to share a story of Bobby McKnight, a seventh-generation cattleman from my district in Fort Davis, Texas.

Bobby says many farm and ranch farmers like his may be asset rich but they are cash poor. Most of the value of their estate is attributed to the value of the land they use to raise cattle and grow food for consumers around the world. In fact, a lot of that food, my colleagues are going to enjoy today.

Bobby shares that when times have been lean, he has had to make sacrifices to keep his family business above water. But as any small-businessowner can tell you, sometimes you run out of places to cut. That is what happened to his family during hard times brought on by the death tax. He had to let go of seasoned employees that had families of their own, losing the skilled labor he needed to run their operation. And now, as land values continue to increase, many farm and ranch families are concerned that this may trigger the estate tax.

As Bobby and others can attest to, the death tax is devastating to the family farms, ranches, and small businesses in my district and throughout the Nation.

Come on, y'all. Let's stop punishing families for achieving the American Dream. I support this bill to repeal the death tax and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

For the past hour, my Republican colleagues have stood up and tried to scare you. They have tried to turn the estate tax into a boogeyman that kills family farms and hurts family business. They have called the estate tax all kinds of bad names, like "immoral," and they have tried to claim it is a calculated attack on the American Dream. They have also claimed that the estate tax disproportionately affects poor small businesses and startups. These wild and inaccurate claims could not be farther from the truth.

Here are the facts that Republicans have forgotten to mention:

The estate tax would only affect 5,400 estates out of an estimated 2.6 million this year. That means repealing the estate tax would amount to a tax break for the top 0.2 percent—the Hiltons, the Adelsons, the Kochs, those folks.

According to the Tax Policy Center, only 20—I emphasize 20—small businesses and small farm estates nationwide owed an estate tax in 2013—20. Furthermore, those estates owed just 4 percent of their value in tax.

Now, the real question here is this: America is a wonderful country. We all have a chance to make it. Some make it better than others. That is because luck and whatever hard work—and it isn't that everybody who doesn't have money isn't working hard. We are all

working hard, but some have a little more luck than others. The fact is that, if you have had a little luck, don't you owe a little something back to the country?

Here you have got people who have gotten \$10 million that we have given them as an estate exemption, and then they owe 4 percent of the value on money that has never been taxed before. It is all on capital appreciation.

Now, my Republican friends conveniently forget to mention how much this handout to the rich would cost—\$280 billion. That is as though every American today was giving a \$1 billion tax cut to the wealthy in this country. There are about 300-and-some-odd million of us. And if we all gave, there we would be. And we are doing this to a group that has no problems whatsoever. Their problem is how to keep their money. That is their only problem.

So I want people to understand: this is a quarter of \$1 trillion. And as the gentleman from Oregon pointed out, we have a tremendous problem in infrastructure in this country, but there is no money for that.

We have a tremendous problem in investment in the National Institutes of Health. It used to be the National Institutes of Health funded 20 percent of the grant applications that were given to them. Today they are only funding 6 percent of the grant applications that are given to them.

We are not investing either in the physical infrastructure or the human infrastructure of this country. What has made us strong, all of us immigrants who came here—about 99.99 percent of them, as immigrants, came here with nothing, and this country gave us an opportunity to be rich or to be successful. The only way it will work is if we pay something back into the process, not sitting there using money that you never have been taxed on.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this and to think about the 99.8 percent of Americans who will get no benefit whatsoever.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1030

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, feel free to dismiss the woman in my district, a widow, who now has been forced back to the bank for the third time to take out a loan just to be able to keep the family farm they worked generations—worked generations—to keep and hand down. Dismiss her as the Paris Hiltons of the world, as the superrich.

Dismiss the 114 organizations who back the repeal. Most of them are Main Street businesses who support this Death Tax Repeal Act. They are storeowners; they are loggers—loggers

in the field—and they are plumbers. There is a glamorous life. That is the superrich.

That is who, after these people worked years and years and weekends and nights to build up their business, these are the ones who, when they pass away, Uncle Sam swoops in and confiscates—takes—nearly half of what they have built a lifetime earning. Dismiss them if you will, but this is the American Dream.

The American Dream is not a government that promises you welfare checks and food stamps. The American Dream is the thought that you can build yourself up and pull yourself up through hard work, skills, and dedication and that you can build a better life for your family and then give it to your children and grandchildren so maybe, just maybe, they have a better chance at the American Dream, that they have opportunities maybe you didn't have that they can pass on to their children.

You will hear today, Oh, this only affects a few. Those are the people who pay the tax. One out of three businesses, more than that, are farmers. They are already paying money into tax planning. They are putting money aside; they are spending hours that they would rather put into their farm and their business. They would rather hire young people and new people looking for jobs, but instead, they are trying to avoid this horrible tax.

All for what? For a measly 2 days of Federal spending—actually less than that—this government wastes so much money. It just pours it out of here. Instead of tightening our belt, we attack the American Dream of hard-working families and businesses.

Many of them, by the way, are women and minority-owned businesses building wealth for the first time, believing the American Dream is right for them. They are not Paris Hilton. They are not robber barons. They are not the people who are dismissed on the floor today.

At the end of the day, this is the simple question: Whose money is it? Whose hard work and years is it? Is it government's? Is it the Washington politicians' who will take your money in time, force you to sell your business or family-owned farm and waste it on who knows what? Or is it your money, your hard work, and your American Dream? Are you allowed to keep that dream and help your family going forward? Or is it the government's dream, whatever that could be?

At the end of the day, what I love the most about America is we don't resent success. We strive for it. Whatever success is for each of us, we strive for it. We are absolutely convinced that we can achieve it for us and that we can maybe give our kids a chance going forward.

This is a simple question. If you stand with those who believe it is the

government's money and hard work, vote "no," but if you stand with our family-owned farms, businesses, young people, and those chasing the American dream, vote "yes" to end the death tax once and for all.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a CPA, I understand that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. Unfortunately, Washington has decided that a third certainty can be created when we combine those two separate terms.

The death tax is an issue that, as long as it exists, will be seen as a provision by which politicians can pocket more of families' hard-earned legacies.

I recently heard from one Kansan whose father-in-law, a farmer, passed away in 2005. Because these folks wanted to keep the farm in the family, they had to set up an installment plan with the IRS to pay the death tax. Even then, they have been forced to dip into retirement funds and sell other assets in order to make the payments and keep the land.

Stories like this are the reason why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1105, which would permanently repeal the death tax. We need to stop treating death as a taxable event. The only solution to this problem, which faces family farmers and business owners in Kansas, is to eliminate the death tax, once and for all.

Mr. BLUM. Madam Speaker, to paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, there are only two sure things in life: death and taxes. Unfortunately for Americans, the federal government has managed to combine the two into greater tragedy with the federal estate tax, more commonly known as the "death" tax.

The death tax is a tax levied against property transferred at death to a person's heirs. This property is neither new income or newly acquired real estate or assets, but rather a simple transfer of ownership. Confusingly to most commonsense folks, this the federal government has already taxed this income. While there is an exemption of up to \$5.43M, the death tax remains a growing issue with farmers and small businesses in the First District of Iowa as the values of farmland real estate and industrial equipment continue to rise.

While supporters of the death tax say only a small percentage of businesses and farms actually end up paying the tax, I believe this is a question of fairness. I oppose any means that grants the federal government the ability to tax you twice on your income.

This, along with the compliance costs for estate planning, is why I advocate for abolishing the death tax altogether.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015, I commend my colleagues in the House of Representatives in joining me in passing this legislation by a bipartisan vote of 240 to 179.

Americans, already taxed to death, should not also be taxed in death. Let the heirs, no matter the value of the estate, determine what is best for the family fortunes, large or small. It would be far better for our children and grandchildren to invest, spend, or utilize our estates rather than the federal government any more.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to continue to advance this im-

portant legislation that will finally permit farms and small businesses to pass from generation to generation without the specter of the death tax looming.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this reckless and regressive bill.

My colleagues in the Majority often claim to be opposed to government spending they describe as "wasteful." But this bill is the epitome of wasteful spending. By permanently repealing the estate tax, without any additional revenue whatsoever to cover the losses, it increases our nation's deficit by almost \$270 billion.

Make no mistake—tax breaks are spending. Moreover, this bill spends money on those who need it least. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, only the wealthiest 0.2 percent of estates will benefit at all, and almost three quarters of the benefits will go to estates worth more than \$20 million.

For every rich estate that reaps the benefits of this bill, there are ten thousand of our fellow citizens living in poverty. Yet the same House Majority that now supports this bill also passed a budget last month that would cut \$125 billion from food stamps and kick up to 20 million Americans off Medicaid—all at a time when working families are struggling to make ends meet. Talk about misplaced priorities.

Madam Speaker, instead of spending hundreds of billions on a tax break for a wealthy elite, we should be directing more assistance to those who are in genuine need. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NOLAN. I am in its current form. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Nolan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1105 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

#### SEC. 4. BENEFITS DISALLOWED IN CASES OF GIFT AND ESTATE TAX EVASION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any disqualified individual—

(1) the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if the amendments made by this Act had never been enacted,

(2) no credit shall be allowed under section 2505 of such Code (relating to unified credit against gift tax) with respect to any gifts made after such conviction, and

(3) the applicable exclusion amount with respect to such individual under section 2010 of such Code (relating to unified credit against estate tax) shall be zero.

(b) DISQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term "disqualified individual" means any individual who—

(1) is convicted of attempting to evade or defeat the tax imposed under chapter 12 of such Code (relating to gift tax), or

(2) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, engaged in a transaction (or series of transactions) with the intent to evade or defeat the tax imposed under chapter 11 of such Code (relating to estate tax).

Mr. BRADY of Texas (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill which would not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Madam Speaker, years ago, when I first went into public life, my father,—as fathers could be expected—gave me a little fatherly advice.

He said: Son, I will always be proud of you if you just do a couple of things.

I said: What is it, Dad?

He said: Number one, be honest. I don't want my kids getting in trouble. Tell the truth.

Secondly, he said: If you're going to go in public life, commit yourself to working for the common good. Don't worry too much about the rich. They have got a way of taking care of themselves.

Well, my father never had any money to speak of, but, boy, he sure understood that. If you look at this chart here, this is what this bill is really all about. This bill is about giving \$270 billion in tax benefits to the richest of the rich. That's right.

This is America, and here is that less than 1 percent of the 1 percent, \$270 billion tax break, 5,500 individuals over the next 10 years. That means the rest of the country is going to have to pay for it.

Have these people benefited from the greatness of America where people can work hard, prosper, and become successful? Yes, of course, they have. They are the richest of the rich.

Here, we want to give them another tax break? Talk about greed. Talk about carrying the water for the richest of the rich. What are we talking about here? Do you know what, it gets even more egregious, and that is what my amendment is about here today.

Under my amendment, this little percent, this little 1 percent of the 1 percent, if they have engaged and been found guilty of tax fraud as it relates to inheritance and gift taxes, they are going to benefit from this. They amass fortunes through illegal activities as it relates just to this very specific tax; and we want to give them a tax break on the fortunes that they amassed illegally?

The least we can do—and that is what my amendment does—my amendment says that, if you have been found guilty of tax fraud trying to get more than you already have illegally and criminally, then you are not going to get the benefit of this tax exemption.

I am confident that if my good friends and good colleagues here on the floor of the House on both the Republican and Democratic sides look at this thing honestly, they will say: I have got to support that amendment. I can't go back home and tell my folks how people who are found criminally guilty of trying to cheat the taxpayers of this country out of taxes that were due should be entitled to benefit from that. We can't do that.

I want to remind everybody that here we are looking at this country at a time when the disparity and inequality of income in this country is the worst of any developed nation in the world.

People like Pope Francis are concerned about it. Leading economists like Al Greenspan are talking about it. By God, when Hillary Clinton and TED CRUZ announce their candidacies for the Presidency because they are concerned about the growing disparity and inequality in income, we have a problem in this country.

Mind you, this gift tax, we are here talking about farmers and businessmen. Well, I am a businessman. I spent 32 years of my life in business. Let's tell the truth. Let's tell the truth. Ninety-nine percent of the people in this country are not required to pay any estate or gift tax because the value of their farm, their business, their accumulation in life does not exceed the limits that are allowable under the law—which, by the way, are \$5.5 million per individual, \$10 million, \$11 million for a family.

That is a pretty nice gift at the end of the day for something that, quite frankly, you were not the hard-working, creative, innovative person who made all that money. You are just the beneficiary by wealth the old-fashioned way: you inherited it.

Do we all aspire to wealth and success? Yeah. That is something we want to applaud. It is something we want to celebrate. This is about celebrating the gift of inheritance, and there is plenty of it here in this legislation.

At the end of the day, this bill is really about the other 99 percent because they are the ones who are going to have to make up the \$270 billion in gifts that we gave already to the richest of the rich. That is not how you fix this problem of growing disparity that is threatening our economy and threatening our well-being.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I withdraw the reservation of the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, all this is a red herring. The desperation you hear is for a government in Washington that desperately wants to keep spending your money on \$800 toilets and on research projects that make no sense and who feel free to waste your money at will because they are not the ones who worked a lifetime to earn it.

Madam Speaker, today, we heard Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM talk about the tragedy of her dad and how, 3 days after his death, they were notified by Uncle Sam that they owed or they would have to sell their ranch.

We heard from a gentleman from Texas whose dad built up from one car and four stalls a family-owned car dealership with 400 workers. It was a profitable company that nearly went bankrupt because they had to pay Uncle Sam or sell the business. They worked 20 years to pay off that loan.

My constituent, a woman who is widowed, was forced back to the bank for the third time, paying death tax for her grandfather, her father, and now her and her husband, just to keep the family farm they have worked generations on. These are the people who are punished by this tax.

It is not the government's money and work. It is yours. This is all about that issue. At the end of the day, unless we want to keep attacking the American Dream and insisting that Uncle Sam swoop in and take your nest egg, it is time to restore the American Dream and to end the death tax once and for all.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this motion to recommend.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 200, I

call up the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 114-74 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 622

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL SALES TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 164(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (I).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

#### SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scoreboard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1045

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleagues, JIM McDERMOTT and MARSHA BLACKBURN, for joining me in leading the fight to make this middle class tax provision permanent.

This provision is about tax fairness and equal treatment. If taxpayers in income tax States can deduct their State and local income taxes, so should residents of sales tax States. That, in America, is just fair.

This provision helps hard-working taxpayers keep a little more of what

they earn, which is even more important to families, given their stagnant paychecks over the past number of years. More than 10 million American taxpayers in nine States depend on this commonsense deduction, and the dollars that stay in the local community help grow their community rather than grow Washington's economy.

A permanent State and local sales tax deduction provides certainty to American families, makes Federal budget scorekeeping more honest, and removes the asterisk from this temporary provision so the progrowth tax reform can advance.

It is certainly important to Texas. Since it has been restored, my neighbors have saved more than \$10 billion, which buys a lot of school clothes, gas for your car, and helps with rising college costs.

To be sure, this provision isn't reserved just for sales tax States. It allows all American taxpayers to choose whether they deduct their State and local income taxes or their State and local sales taxes, whichever is greater. That is fair. That is equal treatment.

Let's be honest. Extending this provision temporarily year after year, which is exactly what has been done since 2004, that won't cost any more than making it permanent today and creating that certainty and fairness for taxpayers.

I want to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting middle class families by making this provision permanent.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The State and local sales tax deduction is an important tax provision for Americans living in States without a State income tax who cannot take advantage of the State and local income tax deduction.

Although I support this deduction as an important alternative for taxpayers in States without income taxes, H.R. 622 is fiscally irresponsible, given that it permanently extends this deduction without any offsets.

Frankly, I am quite surprised that the Republican leadership is advancing this bill that would add \$42 billion to the deficit. Just last year, then-Chairman Dave Camp proposed eliminating the State and local sales tax deduction in the Republican tax reform draft. At that time, current Chairman RYAN said he approved of eliminating the sales tax provision before us.

Further, just last month, the Republican leadership presented a budget that requires offsetting the cost of any tax extenders that are made permanent with other revenue measures. Indeed, the GOP budget principle is in line with the Republican tax reform draft last year, which adopted a fiscally responsible approach.

I am at a loss to understand why the Republican leadership is adding \$42 billion to our deficit to permanently extend a provision it thinks should be repealed. This bill coupled with the next bill under consideration would add over \$300 billion to our deficit, almost half of the amount the Republican budget said we must cut from domestic discretionary spending.

The Republican budget said that we had to cut \$759 billion over the next 10 years in domestic discretionary spending in the name of fiscal prudence but can throw \$300 billion to the wind for a provision that they have proposed eliminating in tax reform.

We need to provide certainty to taxpayers in affected States that the sales tax deduction will be available to them this year, and then we need to focus on comprehensive reform. This bill moves us farther away from tax reform, not closer.

In addition to being fiscally irresponsible, this bill coupled with the next one under consideration reflect misplaced priorities for this House; rather than pushing a piecemeal, deficit-inflating agenda, we should be helping hard-working American families by raising the minimum wage, ensuring equal pay for equal work, making college more affordable by increasing the Pell grants and improving student loans, helping low-income families afford quality child care, encouraging work via effective tax programs, improving investment in low-income communities, and strengthening the research innovation and competitiveness of our Nation, just to name a few critical efforts on which we should focus.

I am ready to work with the majority on tax reform. However, I cannot support this piecemeal, fiscally irresponsible approach, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), the leader of our tax reform subcommittee and a champion in restoring the State and local sales tax deduction.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for allowing me time to speak, recognizing that Texas is also affected—one of the States affected by this bill, as well as Washington State, which is the State where I come from, and several other States.

I rise to support H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, this bill is really about two things. It is about fairness, and it is about certainty. Fairness because Washington is one of, as I said, several States without an income tax—

and by allowing this deduction of State and local taxes, this legislation will put Washingtonians on the same level as those people who live in States that have an income tax. That is all. It is plain and simple. It is fairness. That is all we are asking for in this bill.

Certainty because people work hard, they pay their sales taxes, and at the end of the year, they want to know for sure that they can deduct their sales taxes.

That is all it is, fairness and certainty. Fairness puts us on parity with the rest of the States across the country and certainty in allowing those people in the State of Washington, Texas, and others to know that, when they spend and pay their sales taxes, they can deduct those from their Federal income taxes at the end of the year. That is it.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), one of the key leaders of the Ways and Means Committee who has been in this fight to successfully restore and extend the sales tax deduction for many years.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and Texan, Mr. BRADY, for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, today, we are voting on a bill that is long overdue, a bill that would permanently allow taxpayers, including most especially my constituents, to permanently deduct the State and local sales taxes that they pay.

Back in 2004, I was part of the effort that brought back this important tax deduction. Unfortunately, as many of my constituents know too well, this deduction is not permanent. Because it is not permanent, Congress has had to renew it almost every year. This creates uncertainty for taxpayers.

That is why this bill is so important. By making this deduction permanent, we can provide taxpayers with the certainty that they deserve, but this bill isn't just about providing certainty; it is about providing fairness.

Right now, taxpayers in States with income taxes can permanently deduct their State and local income taxes; but, in States without an income tax, like Texas, taxpayers can't permanently deduct their State and local sales taxes. That is wrong, and that is unfair.

It shouldn't matter what type of State and local taxes we are talking about. If the IRS allows folks to permanently deduct their income taxes, it ought to also allow so for sales taxes. The IRS shouldn't discriminate against hard-working taxpayers in other States like Texas.

With many hard-working Americans, taxpayers are trying to make ends

meet. Every dollar in the pocketbook makes a difference.

In closing, I would like to thank my good friend, Mr. BRADY, for his work on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I emphasize my surprise at Republican priorities before us. This week, the Joint Economic Committee issued a report on the economic challenges facing the African American community. The findings are stark and detail the significant racial inequities in employment, earnings, wealth, and poverty.

The report shows that the median income of African American households is \$34,600, nearly \$24,000 less than the median income of White households. Black Americans are nearly three times more likely to live in poverty than White Americans.

At 10.1 percent, the current unemployment rate for Black Americans is more than double that for White Americans. In my congressional district, the rate of Black unemployment is 24.5 percent compared to only 5.1 percent for White unemployment.

These facts exemplify the extraordinary growth of inequality in recent years. Massive inequality and the injustices which flow from the great imbalance grips so many of our neighborhoods, so many of our towns and villages, so many of our people who need and deserve the opportunity to share in all of our Nation's potential and all that it has to offer.

These are the topics on which policymakers should focus, not hundreds of billions of dollars in piecemeal tax cuts for the wealthiest corporations and heirs to estates over \$10 million. The Republican budget proposes to raise taxes on 26 million working families and students by discontinuing important improvements to the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and education tax credits.

The Republican budget proposes making college more costly by freezing the maximum Pell grant award, eliminating mandatory Pell funding, reducing eligibility for Pell grants, eliminating the in-school interest subsidy, and cutting the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

The Republican budget would end Medicare as we know it and proposes undermining the retirement and employee benefits of Federal workers and postal workers. It cuts funding for the Internal Revenue Service, which results in less revenue for our government, undermines taxpayer assistance, and encourages fraud.

We should focus on repairing our Tax Code and enacting policies to help hard-working Americans share in the economic opportunity enjoyed by the wealthiest Americans and most profitable companies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), a distinguished Member of the House who has been fighting for the State and local sales tax deduction and, as a new mom, understands just how expensive it is to raise families these days.

□ 1100

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, Mr. Speaker, which is so important to the residents in my State, the people whom I serve. I encourage folks to support permanently extending the State and local sales tax deduction.

I was listening to the previous speaker, and I don't think he was really focused on this bill. This bill is about ensuring that residents of Washington and of seven other States are treated equally, that their income taxes are treated equally by the Federal Tax Code. It is a fairness issue. It is also about eliminating the uncertainty that comes at the eleventh hour every year when Congress reauthorizes this as a 1-year deal.

Residents from 40 other States get to deduct their State income taxes from their Federal taxes, but residents of Washington State don't have that option. We pay one of the highest sales taxes in the country, and without the option to deduct our State sales tax, we are forced to carry a higher amount of the Federal burden. Mr. Speaker, that is not right.

Since it is my job to fight for the residents of Washington State, let me also mention that folks in the Evergreen State have been the highest beneficiaries of the State and local sales tax deduction. More Washingtonians use it than any other State. My predecessor, who was a Democrat, was a big proponent of this bill as well.

At a time when several counties in southwest Washington are still in economic recovery, we need to make sure that families who have already dutifully paid their fair share of taxes get to keep a little bit more of their money. \$602 is the average claim from a State sales tax deduction. A mom in Chehalis, Washington, can make \$602 go a long way. When she spends it on groceries, on gas, or on new soccer cleats for the kids, that money is going back into the local economy, and it is generating more economic activity.

We often hear about "fairness" when it comes to the Tax Code, and I believe in fairness for hard-working taxpayers and for job-creating businesses. What better way to provide fairness than to seize this opportunity before us today to permanently etch this provision into our Tax Code. This bill helps families, and it helps local economies. I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), one of our key members of the Ways and Means Committee who has been fighting for this as a Representative from Tennessee, and as a small business owner, she knows how expensive it is for families who work and live along Main Street.

Mrs. BLACK. I want to thank my good friend and colleague for leading this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act.

My home State of Tennessee is proud to be one of the eight States without a State income tax. In fact, such a tax is, actually, explicitly banned in our constitution. We do, however, have a State and local sales tax, which could be as high as 9.75 percent in parts of my district.

Taxpayers in other States are able to deduct their State income taxes on their Federal returns, and it only makes sense that Tennesseans should be able to do the same when it comes to their State and local sales tax. In 2012, more than 18 percent of Tennesseans did exactly that, getting an average deduction of \$404; but too often, my constituents haven't been able to count on this tax credit being available to them from one year to the next. So, today, let's do something different.

Let's ensure that this tax provision for families, which they rely upon, is not subject to a political tug of war here in Washington. Let's help our small businesses plan for tomorrow by giving them peace of mind that this credit will be there for them now and in the future, and let's make the State and local sales tax deduction permanent by passing this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is, after all, a matter of fairness. I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 622.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. PAUL RYAN, for bringing this measure to the floor and for offering hope to taxpayers in States across the country that they will be treated fairly.

Mr. RYAN is making tax reform—fixing this broken Tax Code and reining in the IRS—a top priority. This measure actually helps take us a step toward that by creating certainty for taxpayers in sales tax States by creating more honest scorekeeping in budgeting. Because we are going to extend this temporarily, it makes no difference in our doing it permanently,

but it helps create that honest scorekeeping, and it removes the asterisk from this provision so we can do tax reform, which creates a much healthier economy.

If you support fairness for taxpayers in sales tax States as well as those that have income taxes, if you believe we ought not to discriminate depending on where you live, and that we ought not force States into income taxes that believe a sales tax is the right way to go, this measure is for you.

I acknowledge the President has threatened a veto on this bill. I guess my question is: Why turn your back on hard-working taxpayers? Middle class economics means helping families keep more of what they earn, especially those who are living paycheck to paycheck.

Today, we will stand for families and fairness in making sure they can keep a little bit more of what they earn. I urge support for a permanent extension of the important State and local sales tax deduction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NEAL. I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 622 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 2. NO INCREASE IN DEFICIT OR DELAY OF COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM.

Nothing in this Act shall result in—

(1) an increase in the deficit, or  
(2) a delay or weakening of efforts to adopt a permanent extension of the election to deduct State and local sales taxes, so long as such extension is accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner.

#### SEC. 3. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL SALES TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 164(b)(5)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “January 1, 2015” and inserting “January 1, 2016”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

Mr. NEAL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, my friend Mr. BRADY spoke eloquently, as always, about the notion of fundamental tax reform. I mean, a reasonable mind in this Chamber might ask: When? The chairman is not even here this morning. He sends out as the starting pitcher his ace reliever, Mr. BRADY, to defend what we all know in the end is going to be a 1-year extension of this tax provision.

Friends, this is a messaging amendment. By the way, after they get done today with repealing the estate tax, perhaps we could move in this Chamber to call this now the “House of Lords,” where it might be peerage and peer review that brings us here.

Mr. Speaker, it is April. The birds are chirping; the flowers are blooming; the days are getting longer; and the nights are getting warmer. Spring has sprung. The onset of spring brings with it a new baseball season—that time of year when hope springs eternal and every fan thinks his team has a fair shot of claiming baseball glory and immortality.

However, for the fans of bipartisan tax reform, the Republicans are saying here in April: wait until next year.

Yesterday was the 100th day of the 114th Congress. It is 100 days up, 100 days down, and we are no closer to making tax reform a reality. Our Republican friends have wasted 4 months of valuable time and have nothing to show for it. They have whiffed on the 10 permanent tax extender bills that they have passed this year. Not one of these bills has become law nor will any become law. The President has made that clear, and he has issued a veto threat on every one of these bills.

Contrast this with the Senate Finance Committee. Rather than pursuing a minor league strategy of passing one partisan, unpaid-for, permanent tax extender bill after another on party-line votes, adding to the deficits, they are working together to move forward on bipartisan tax reform.

Democrats have no quarrel with the bill that is before us today but for one exception: State and local sales tax deduction promotes tax fairness for the States that do not impose a State income tax. It only makes sense that, if taxpayers in income tax States can deduct their State and local taxes, so should the residents of sales tax States. We support making State and local sales tax deductions eventually permanent but not at the cost of \$42

billion a year being added to the deficit. This is how they have done all of these tax extenders—the party, by the way, that frequently will have us believe that they are champions of fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to step up to the plate as Democrats and pass a bipartisan tax reform bill that really hits it out of the park for middle class people, that creates jobs, that gives special interests a little chin music—or, as we call it, the “brushback”—and that ushers in lasting economic growth, much the same as we experienced during the Clinton years here in America: surpluses for years, growth unprecedented. There were 23 million new jobs created during those years. That is the experience that we should be talking about today.

The chairman of our committee, my friend, Mr. RYAN, is always saying that this committee can walk and chew gum at the same time. Guess what? I believe him.

So, Mr. Chairman, do we prefer Wrigley’s, Hubba Bubba, or, maybe, the classic Big League Chew?

Let’s get on to the third inning and get tax reform done, and let’s stop procrastinating in front of the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman’s motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this motion is what people sort of hate about Washington.

We say we stand for fairness for taxpayers in sales tax States but only for a few more months. We say we don’t want to discriminate between you and people who are in income tax States but only for a few more months. Up here, Washington says, Look, we think you ought to keep more of what you have earned because it is expensive to raise a family but only for a few more months because we in Washington, they say, have the power to yank this any time we want.

The truth of the matter is it is so expensive to raise families these days, and our Tax Code picks winners and losers all the time. What this provision does is make permanent the fairness to ensure taxpayers across America are treated equally, that this Tax Code doesn’t discriminate, that you can keep a little more of the money it takes to raise your family, to buy that gas, to buy the school clothes, to pay the utilities. That is all that this law does.

□ 1115

It is a step toward tax reform and reining in the IRS because it removes the asterisks from this temporary provision we extend year after year at the same cost. It is really about honest budgeting, because those who claim there is a huge cost of this, they are going to vote and have voted to extend this. So there is no difference there. It is just a talking point. At the end of the day, this creates a certainty for our taxpayers, removes that asterisk from a temporary provision, and moves us forward to progrowth tax reform that creates a much healthier economy and creates a Tax Code that is fair, flatter, and simpler.

I urge support for permanently helping families with their costs and lowering the cost of their taxes. I urge support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 622, if ordered; the motion to recommit on H.R. 1105; and passage of H.R. 1105, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 179, nays 243, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 158]

YEAS—179

Adams	Cleaver	Foster
Aguilar	Clyburn	Frankel (FL)
Ashford	Connolly	Fudge
Bass	Conyers	Gabbard
Beatty	Cooper	Galleo
Becerra	Costa	Garamendi
Bera	Courtney	Graham
Beyer	Crowley	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Cummings	Green, Gene
Bonamici	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan	Davis, Danny	Gutiérrez
F.	DeFazio	Hahn
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Hastings
Brown (FL)	Delaney	Heck (WA)
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Higgins
Bustos	DelBene	Himes
Butterfield	DeSaulnier	Hinojosa
Capps	Deutch	Honda
Capuano	Dingell	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Doggett	Huffman
Carney	Doyle, Michael	Israel
Carson (IN)	F.	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Duckworth	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Chu, Judy	Engel	Jones
Ciçilline	Eshoo	Kaptur
Clark (MA)	Esty	Keating
Clarke (NY)	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Clay	Fattah	Kennedy

Kildee	Meeks	Sarbanes
Kilmer	Meng	Schakowsky
Kind	Moore	Schiff
Kirkpatrick	Moulton	Scott (VA)
Kuster	Nader	Scott, David
Langevin	Napolitano	Serrano
Larsen (WA)	Neal	Sewell (AL)
Larson (CT)	Nolan	Sherman
Lawrence	Norcross	Sires
Lee	Pallone	Slaughter
Levin	Pascrell	Speier
Lewis	Payne	Swalwell (CA)
Lieu, Ted	Pelosi	Takai
Lipinski	Perlmutter	Takano
Loebsock	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Lofgren	Peterson	Tonko
Lowenthal	Pingree	Torres
Lowe	Pocan	Tsongas
Lujan Grisham	Polis	Van Hollen
(NM)	Price (NC)	Vargas
Luján, Ben Ray	Quigley	Veasey
(NM)	Rangel	Vela
Lynch	Rice (NY)	Velázquez
Maloney,	Richmond	Visclosky
Carolyn	Roybal-Allard	Walz
Maloney, Sean	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Matsui	Rush	Schultz
McCollum	Ryan (OH)	Waters, Maxine
McDermott	Sánchez, Linda	Watson Coleman
McGovern	T.	Wilson (FL)
McNerney	Sanchez, Loretta	Yarmuth

NAYS—243

Abraham	Flores	Lucas
Aderholt	Forbes	Luetkemeyer
Allen	Fortenberry	Lummis
Amash	Fox	MacArthur
Amodel	Franks (AZ)	Marchant
Babin	Frelinghuysen	Marino
Barletta	Garrett	Massie
Barr	Gibbs	McCarthy
Barton	Gibson	McCauley
Benish	Gohmert	McClintock
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	McHenry
Bishop (MI)	Gowdy	McKinley
Black	Granger	McMorris
Blum	Graves (GA)	Rodgers
Bost	Graves (LA)	McSally
Boustany	Graves (MO)	Meadows
Brady (TX)	Griffith	Meehan
Brat	Grothman	Messer
Bridenstine	Guinta	Mica
Brooks (AL)	Guthrie	Miller (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Hanna	Miller (MI)
Buchanan	Hardy	Moolenaar
Buck	Harper	Mooney (WV)
Bucshon	Harris	Mullin
Burgess	Hartzer	Mulvaney
Byrne	Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)
Calvert	Hensarling	Murphy (PA)
Carter (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer
Carter (TX)	Hice, Jody B.	Newhouse
Chabot	Hill	Noem
Chaffetz	Holding	Nugent
Clawson (FL)	Hudson	Nunes
Coffman	Huelskamp	O'Rourke
Cohen	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Cole	Hultgren	Palazzo
Collins (GA)	Hunter	Palmer
Collins (NY)	Hurd (TX)	Paulsen
Comstock	Hurt (VA)	Pearce
Conaway	Issa	Pittenger
Cook	Jenkins (KS)	Pitts
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (WV)	Poe (TX)
Cramer	Johnson (OH)	Poliquin
Crawford	Johnson, Sam	Pompeo
Crenshaw	Jolly	Posey
Culberson	Jordan	Price, Tom
Curbelo (FL)	Joyce	Ratcliffe
Davis, Rodney	Katko	Reed
Denham	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
Dent	King (IA)	Renacci
DeSantis	King (NY)	Ribble
DesJarlais	Kinzing (IL)	Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Kline	Rigell
Dold	Knight	Roby
Duffy	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
Ellmers (NC)	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Emmer (MN)	Lance	Rohrabacher
Farenthold	Latta	Rokita
Fincher	LoBiondo	Rooney (FL)
Fitzpatrick	Lurg	Ros-Lehtinen
Fleischmann	Loudermillk	Roskam
Fleming	Love	Ross

Rothfus	Stefanik	Weber (TX)
Rouzer	Stewart	Webster (FL)
Royce	Stivers	Wenstrup
Russell	Stutzman	Westerman
Ryan (WI)	Thompson (CA)	Westmoreland
Salmon	Thompson (PA)	Whitfield
Sanford	Thornberry	Williams
Scalise	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Schweikert	Tipton	Wittman
Scott, Austin	Titus	Womack
Sensenbrenner	Trott	Woodall
Sessions	Turner	Yoder
Shimkus	Upton	Yoho
Shuster	Valadao	Young (AK)
Simpson	Wagner	Young (IA)
Sinema	Walberg	Young (IN)
Smith (MO)	Walden	Zeldin
Smith (NE)	Walker	Zinke
Smith (NJ)	Walorski	
Smith (TX)	Walters, Mimi	

NOT VOTING—9

Bishop (UT)	Gosar	Schrader
Blackburn	Perry	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Ruiz	Welch

□ 1145

Messrs. PALMER, WALKER, Mrs. LOVE, Messrs. STUTZMAN, BRIDENSTINE and THOMPSON of California changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. ASHFORD, DESAULNIER, FATTAH, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 272, nays 152, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—272

Abraham	Calvert	Dold
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Duffy
Allen	Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)
Amash	Castor (FL)	Ellmers (NC)
Amodel	Castro (TX)	Emmer (MN)
Ashford	Chabot	Farenthold
Babin	Chaffetz	Fincher
Barletta	Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Barr	Coffman	Fleischmann
Barton	Cohen	Fleming
Benish	Cole	Flores
Bilirakis	Collins (GA)	Forbes
Bishop (GA)	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Bishop (MI)	Comstock	Fox
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Black	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Blum	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Bost	Cramer	Gibbs
Boustany	Crawford	Gibson
Brady (TX)	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Brat	Cuellar	Goodlatte
Bridenstine	Culberson	Gowdy
Brooks (AL)	Curbelo (FL)	Graham
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Brown (FL)	DelBene	Graves (GA)
Buchanan	Denham	Graves (LA)
Buck	Dent	Graves (MO)
Bucshon	DeSantis	Grayson
Burgess	DesJarlais	Green, Al
Bustos	Deutch	Green, Gene
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Griffith



Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Hinojosa  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (PA)  
Kilmer  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
Labrador  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Larsen (WA)  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie

McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perlmutter  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Ruppersberger

## NAYS—152

Adams  
Aguilar  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brownley (CA)  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney

Crowley  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DeSaulnier  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Higgins  
Himes

Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Veasey  
Vela  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peters

Blackburn  
Duncan (SC)  
Gosar

Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano

## NOT VOTING—7

Perry  
Ruiz  
Smith (WA)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1154

Mr. CUMMINGS and Mrs. LAWRENCE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 159 on H.R. 622, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “no” when I should have voted “yes.”

## DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 186, nays 232, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

## YEAS—186

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.

Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)

Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney

Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Velazquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Loftgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napoli  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson

## NAYS—232

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)

Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan (TN)  
Eilms (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy

Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer

Lummis	Pompeo	Smith (TX)	Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Posey	Engel	Lee	Rangel
MacArthur	Posey	Stefanik	Brady (TX)	Hice, Jody B.	Price, Tom	Esty	Levin	Rice (NY)
Marchant	Price, Tom	Stewart	Brat	Hill	Ratcliffe	Farr	Lewis	Richmond
Marino	Ratcliffe	Stivers	Bridenstine	Holding	Reed	Fattah	Lieu, Ted	Rigell
Massie	Reed	Stutzman	Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Reichert	Foster	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
McCarthy	Reichert	Thompson (PA)	Brooks (IN)	Huelskamp	Renacci	Fudge	Loeb sack	Rush
McCaull	Renacci	Thornberry	Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble	Gabbard	Lofgren	Ryan (OH)
McClintock	Ribble	Tiberi	Buck	Hultgren	Rice (SC)	Gallego	Lowenthal	Sánchez, Linda T.
McHenry	Rice (SC)	Tipton	Bucshon	Hunter	Roe (TN)	Garamendi	Lowe y	Sanchez, Loretta
McKinley	Rigell	Trott	Burgess	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (AL)	Graham	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Sarbanes
McMorris	Roby	Turner	Byrne	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (KY)	Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Schakowsky
Rodgers	Roe (TN)	Upton	Calvert	Issa	Rohrabacher	Green, Al	Lynch	Schiff
McSally	Rogers (AL)	Valadao	Carter (GA)	Jenkins (KS)	Rokita	Green, Gene	Maloney, Carolyn	Schrader
Meadows	Rohrabacher	Wagner	Carter (TX)	Jenkins (WV)	Rooney (FL)	Grijalva	Maloney, Sean	Scott (VA)
Messer	Rokita	Walberg	Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen	Gutiérrez	Matsui	Scott, David
Mica	Rooney (FL)	Walden	Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Roskam	Hahn	McCollum	Serrano
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Walker	Clawson (FL)	Jordan	Ross	Hastings	McDermott	Sewell (AL)
Miller (MI)	Roskam	Walorski	Coffman	Joyce	Rothfus	Heck (WA)	McGovern	Sherman
Moolenaar	Ross	Walters, Mimi	Cole	Katko	Rouzer	Higgins	Honda	Sires
Mooney (WV)	Rothfus	Weber (TX)	Collins (GA)	Kelly (PA)	Royce	Hinojosa	McNerney	Slaughter
Mullin	Rouzer	Webster (FL)	Collins (NY)	King (IA)	Ruppersberger	Hoyer	Meeks	Speier
Mulvaney	Royce	Wenstrup	Comstock	King (NY)	Russell	Huffman	Meng	Swalwell (CA)
Murphy (PA)	Russell	Westerman	Conaway	Kinzinger (IL)	Ryan (WI)	Israel	Moore	Takai
Neugebauer	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland	Cook	Kline	Salmon	Jackson Lee	Moulton	Takano
Newhouse	Salmon	Williams	Costa	Knight	Sanford	Jeffries	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (CA)
Noem	Sanford	Wilson (SC)	Costello (PA)	Labrador	Scalise	Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Thompson (MS)
Nugent	Scalise	Wittman	Cramer	LaMalfa	Schweikert	Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano	Titus
Nunes	Schweikert	Womack	Crawford	Lamborn	Scott, Austin	Jolly	Neal	Tonko
Olson	Scott, Austin	Woodall	Crenshaw	Lance	Sensenbrenner	Jones	Nolan	Torres
Palazzo	Sensenbrenner	Yoder	Cuellar	Latta	Sessions	Kaptur	Norcross	Tsongas
Palmer	Sessions	Yoho	Culberson	LoBiondo	Shimkus	Keating	O'Rourke	Van Hollen
Paulsen	Shimkus	Young (AK)	Curbelo (FL)	Long	Shuster	Kelly (IL)	Pallone	Vargas
Pearce	Shuster	Young (IA)	Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Lucas	Kennedy	Pascrell	Veasey
Pittenger	Simpson	Young (IN)	Denham	Love	Simpson	Kildee	Payne	Vela
Pitts	Smith (MO)	Zeldin	Dent	Lucas	Sinema	Kilmer	Pelosi	Velázquez
Poe (TX)	Smith (NE)	Zinke	DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)	Kind	Perlmutter	Visclosky
Poliquin	Smith (NJ)		DesJarlais	Lummis	Smith (NE)	Kirkpatrick	Peters	Walz
			Diaz-Balart	MacArthur	Smith (NJ)	Kuster	Pingree	Wasserman
			Dold	Marchant	Smith (TX)	Langevin	Pocan	Schultz
			Duffy	Marino	Stefanik	Larsen (WA)	Polis	Waters, Maxine
			Duncan (TN)	Massie	Stewart	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)	Watson Coleman
			Ellmers (NC)	McCarthy	Stutzman	Lawrence	Quigley	Wilson (FL)
			Emmer (MN)	McCaull	Thompson (PA)			Yarmuth
			Farenthold	McHenry	Thornberry			
			Fincher	McKinley	Tiberi			
			Fitzpatrick	McMorris	Trott			
			Fleischmann	Rodgers	Turner			
			Fleming	McSally	Upton			
			Flores	Meadows	Valadao			
			Forbes	Meehan	Wagner			
			Fortenberry	Messer	Walberg			
			Fox	Mica	Walden			
			Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Walker			
			Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Walorski			
			Garrett	Moolenaar	Walters, Mimi			
			Gibbs	Mooney (WV)	Weber (FL)			
			Gibson	Mullin	Webster (TX)			
			Gohmert	Mulvaney	Wenstrup			
			Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Westerman			
			Neugebauer	Neugebauer	Westmoreland			
			Gowdy	Newhouse	Williams			
			Granger	Noem	Wilson (SC)			
			Graves (GA)	Nugent	Wittman			
			Graves (LA)	Nunes	Womack			
			Graves (MO)	Olson	Woodall			
			Griffith	Palazzo	Yoder			
			Grothman	Palmer	Yoho			
			Guinta	Paulsen	Young (AK)			
			Guthrie	Pearce	Young (IA)			
			Hanna	Peterson	Young (IN)			
			Hardy	Pittenger	Zeldin			
			Harper	Pitts	Zinke			
			Harris	Poe (TX)				
			Hartzler	Poliquin				
			Heck (NV)	Pompeo				
			Hensarling					

## NOT VOTING—13

Blackburn	Kinzinger (IL)	Smith (WA)
Dold	Meehan	Welch
Duncan (SC)	Perry	Whitfield
Fincher	Rogers (KY)	
Gosar	Ruiz	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

## □ 1201

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ASHFORD changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 160 I was unavoidably detained with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

## RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 240, noes 179, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

## AYES—240

Abraham	Babin	Bishop (GA)
Aderholt	Barletta	Bishop (MI)
Allen	Barr	Bishop (UT)
Amash	Barton	Black
Amodei	Benishek	Blum
Ashford	Bilirakis	Bost

Adams	Cárdenas	Crowley
Aguilar	Carney	Cummings
Bass	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Beatty	Cartwright	Davis, Danny
Becerra	Castor (FL)	DeFazio
Bera	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Beyer	Chu, Judy	Delaney
Blumenauer	Cicilline	DeLauro
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	DelBene
Boyle, Brendan F.	Clarke (NY)	DeSaulnier
Brady (PA)	Clay	Deutch
Brown (FL)	Cleaver	Dingell
Brownley (CA)	Clyburn	Doggett
Bustos	Cohen	Doyle, Michael F.
Butterfield	Connolly	Duckworth
Capps	Conyers	Edwards
Capuano	Cooper	Ellison
	Courtney	

## NOES—179

Cárdenas	Crowley
Carney	Cummings
Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Cartwright	Davis, Danny
Castor (FL)	DeFazio
Castro (TX)	DeGette
Chu, Judy	Delaney
Cicilline	DeLauro
Clark (MA)	DelBene
Clarke (NY)	DeSaulnier
Clay	Deutch
Cleaver	Dingell
Clyburn	Doggett
Cohen	Doyle, Michael F.
Connolly	Duckworth
Conyers	Edwards
Cooper	Ellison
Courtney	

## NOT VOTING—12

Blackburn	Gosar	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Tipton
Eshoo	Perry	Welch
Frankel (FL)	Ruiz	Whitfield

## □ 1210

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 161, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on the following votes because I was absent due to a family emergency. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 158 on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 622, “nay”, rollcall No. 159 on Passage of H.R. 622, “aye”, rollcall No. 160 on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1105, “nay”, rollcall No. 161 on Passage of H.R. 1105, “aye”.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the resolution of the Senate (S. Con. Res. 11) “Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025,” agrees to a conference

asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions: Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. KING.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby reappoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Dr. Sharon Leon, Fairfax, Virginia.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1215

#### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE JOHN DINGELL

Mr. HOYER. Before I yield to my friend, the majority leader, for the purpose of informing us of the schedule, I would like to note the presence of the longest-serving Member of this House in history, one of the best legislators in the history of this House, and one of the most decent human beings I know. We are so proud to have him on the floor with us once again. His successor, whom he knows very well, DEBBIE DINGELL, is here with him as well.

John Dingell, Mr. Chairman, we welcome you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, back to the House of Representatives. We are so glad to see you.

Mr. Chairman, the beautiful DEBORAH is doing a wonderful job representing your district.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, for the purpose of informing us of the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, no votes are expected in the House. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and

noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act, authored by Representative ROBERT PITTENGER. This bipartisan bill, which enjoys significant support from the Financial Services Committee, including the ranking member, will ensure that there is appropriate input given on actions being taken by the CFPB.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider two critical cybersecurity measures: H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, authored by Chairman DEVIN NUNES, and H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, authored by Chairman MIKE MCCAUL. These bipartisan bills will improve cyber threat information sharing between the private sector and the government and ensure that America can meet cyber challenges now and into the future.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information. Initially, I would like to just bring up a question with reference to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. The gentleman talked about bipartisan legislation. This, as the gentleman may know, was a very bipartisan bill, with one of your Members and one of my Members, Mr. HECK, on my side, joining together in committee overwhelmingly in favor of setting up an advisory board so that there would be input from small business. Unfortunately, as the gentleman knows, there has subsequently been added a funding source which undermines, from our perspective, at the same time that we are trying to add an advisory board, the operations of the Consumer Financial Protection advisory board.

Mr. Leader, it is somewhat ironic that we just passed \$300 billion in reduced revenues without paying for them and are now worried about \$9 million. The Bible has something to say about the mote in one's eye being the object of attention. But it seems somewhat ironic, and I would hope that we could return this bill, which is a very admirable bill, to a bipartisan condition and not undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at the same time that we are trying to give it some additional advice and counsel.

I would be glad to yield to my friend with, hopefully, perhaps a suggestion where we might return this bill to its bipartisan and overwhelmingly supported-on-both-sides-of-the-aisle condition.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, the only change in this bill is to make sure that the taxpayers are protected and not increase the debt. It is just a simple pay-for as we move forward. It has got bipartisan support coming out of the committee, and we hope that we could be able to move forward on the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information.

I think the gentleman knows that I am one of the biggest proponents of paying for things, which is why I voted against your two tax bills on the floor today. They are not paid for, and \$300 billion of revenue will be reduced. That will exacerbate the deficit. That is why we have PAYGO. So I am supportive of PAYGO, but I would like to see if we can reach a bipartisan agreement on a pay-for which does not undermine the operations of the consumer financial protection board. I know your side, with all due respect, Mr. Leader, does not like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and would like to repeal it and reduce its funding greatly. We disagree with that. We have a great disagreement on that proposition.

So all I am saying is we have a bill on which there is bipartisan support. I see my friend, Mr. LUCAS, on the floor on the ag bill. We had that on his bill, and he gave one of the most eloquent statements on the floor that I have heard about. Look, we have a bipartisan agreement; don't look bipartisanship in the eye and say "no."

So we are turning a bipartisan bill into a partisan bill not because we are against paying for it—we are for paying for it. But we are against undermining the ability of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers, as it was designed to, and we need to adequately fund it without adding responsibilities and reducing its resources to protect the public.

If the gentleman wants to say anything further, I will yield to him. If not, I will go on to another subject.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate his comments. But as the gentleman knows, most every American has had to, in the last few years, cut back based upon the economy. I do not believe it is too difficult to find \$9 million out of a \$600-million-per-year budget, and I would think the consumers would expect that of the organization as well. We can all tighten our belts to make sure that the taxpayer is protected, and I look forward to continuing to work with you. I do believe, knowing you think things should be paid for as well, that there is an opportunity here that we can find 9 out of 600.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I think what I hear is we are not going to reach bipartisan agreement on that, and that is unfortunate.

The cybersecurity bill, as the gentleman mentioned, will we consider the two cybersecurity-related bills together or separately? We have heard some information over here about whether they may be joined together or whether we are to consider them discretely, each one of them. I think they are relatively noncontroversial in some respects. But would the gentleman tell us how they might be considered?

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, I usually don't like to get ahead of the Rules Committee, but we will consider these bills separate but then joined together and sent to the Senate.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

The gentleman also has brought up the issue of—well, I don't think you brought it up, but let me talk about it. As we know, April 15 occurred yesterday. The budget was supposed to be adopted as of yesterday. As the gentleman and I both know, when my party was in charge, as when your party is in charge, we haven't met that April 15 deadline. But I know the gentleman has talked about reconciliation instructions.

The Senate bill, of course, does have reconciliation instructions to the Finance Committee and to the HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, but none others. The House apparently has left itself room to have instructions to every committee.

Can the gentleman tell us, A, when he expects the budget conference to report back and when we might consider that conference on the floor? Then, secondly, whether or not he believes that there will be reconciliation instructions beyond the Affordable Care Act. We understand that that is contemplated. But beyond the Affordable Care Act, does the gentleman expect reconciliation instructions on other matters?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, since my side of the aisle has taken the majority, we have done a budget every single year. We have passed the budget on this floor. We have voted this week to go to conference, we have appointed conferees, and we were actually excited about the change in the Senate and their moving a budget, so we are very hopeful that we will get this done very quickly. I do not want to get ahead of the conferees working, but I am hopeful that they will get back soon. Seeing how far they go, I am hopeful that they will be able to give as much flexibility as possible when it comes to reconciliation.

Mr. HOYER. So the gentleman contemplates going beyond reconciliation

instructions on the Affordable Care Act to other matters? For instance, in the House budget, we replace seniors' Medicare guarantee with a premium support voucher. Would the majority leader expect a reconciliation instruction on replacing seniors' Medicare guarantee with such a premium support voucher?

Mr. MCCARTHY. As the gentleman knows, I do not like to get ahead of the conferees. I will let them work forward and see what comes back. As soon as their work is done, we will notify everyone and have it back on to the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I know that you don't want to anticipate, but, obviously, our Members are concerned about what they ought to be considering and planning for and making themselves aware of the facts about. Does the gentleman expect a reconciliation instruction on the part of the budget that was passed by the House that turns Medicare into a capped block grant reducing the funding by approximately one-third?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I appreciate the gentleman's going line by line, but if I can be very clear, I do not want to get in front of the conference. As soon as they get their work done, there will be plenty of time to notify all Members of what comes before the House, and we will notify them at that time.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. I hope that is the case. And I would hope that we did not have that. We talked about—I have talked about and you have talked about—just now, bipartisanship. I would hope that we would pass a budget that then the Appropriations Committee and other committees would be able to work on so that we could have a bipartisan product, as opposed to another confrontation that would go way past October 1 of this year, and we would be back in the position of having to have a continuing resolution on which there would be a confrontation and the threat of shutting down government.

□ 1230

Obviously, to the extent that we can, as I suggested with respect to the Consumer Financial Protection Board, to the extent that we can have bipartisan agreement—the gentleman that was just with me was Senator MCCONNELL.

Noting the passage of the sustainable growth rate bill which dealt with community health centers and dealt with the children's health insurance program, Senator MCCONNELL said: The American people expect us to do work.

He used the SGR example as a way that we did work in a constructive, bipartisan fashion, making compromises on both sides of the aisle, with Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI representing the two parties, came together and worked, and my staff and I think your staff participated as well, and we came to an agreement.

I would hope that we would be able to do that with respect to the budget and appropriation process. Obviously, the budget was not that way. All Democrats voted against the budget. We don't like the sequester. We think the sequester undermines the national security and undermines the investments that America needs to make in its infrastructure and its education, its health care, its environment, its basic research, and other items that are of critical importance if we are going to grow the economy and create jobs.

I would hope that we could on these issues—while I understand the gentleman is saying that we will be noticed of it, but I would hope we could have some discussions about it so that we could come to, frankly, as we did with SGR, an agreement.

That agreement, as you know, passed with 392 votes. You worked hard on it; I worked hard on it; the Speaker worked hard on it; Leader PELOSI worked hard on it—392 votes in this House. That was one of the best days we had this year. As a matter of fact, it might have been the best day we had this year.

The items that I raised are of, obviously, great concern. Hopefully, we could have discussions about that before being simply informed that those would be in reconciliation instructions.

Let me go, if I can now, the gentleman made a very eloquent statement yesterday. That statement was on the 150th anniversary of the assassination of one of the greatest Americans in history; that, of course, was Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln helped cure one of the blackest blots on America's reputation and America's moral commitment by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. However, Mr. Leader, as you know, subsequent to the adoption of the 13th Amendment, which the gentleman also referenced, we had vicious segregation. We had policies put in place that prevented African Americans from registering, much less voting.

The gentlemen and I have had the opportunity to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge together where Alabama State troopers were sent by Governor Wallace to stop people from simply going to register to vote.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. CONYERS and our friend JOHN LEWIS, one of the great heroes of the American civil rights movement, have cosponsored a bill—JIM SENSENBRENNER being the former Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JOHN CONYERS being the ranking Democrat—have sponsored a bipartisan bill which would return the protections that were undermined by the Supreme Court decision in the *Shelby County v. Holder* case.

I believe it is important—and I think the gentlemen share this view—that we absolutely protect the rights of every

American to register and to vote and to ensure that the policies adopted by any State or any county or any municipality are not such that it undermines the ability of citizens to register and to vote. This is bipartisan legislation.

I would ask the majority leader respectfully, and one of the great attributes to Abraham Lincoln who talked about a nation divided against itself, talked about a nation who did not give equality to all of its citizens, talked about a nation that needed to respect the inclusion of all people irrespective of their race, I would ask respectfully that the legislation cosponsored by Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. CONYERS and JOHN LEWIS be brought to this floor so that we can, in fact, ensure that every American—every American—has the right to register, to vote, and is protected by their Federal Government from the discrimination and exclusion that we know historically has happened too often.

I urge my friend, the majority leader, to bring that bill, that bipartisan bill, to the floor for debate, open to amendment and discussion and a vote.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I thank him for his comments regarding Abraham Lincoln as well.

Yesterday was the 150th anniversary of his passing. It was also a significant day yesterday, as well, of the Jackie Robinson anniversary of breaking the color barrier in baseball.

As the gentleman knows, as we have walked across that bridge many times with our good friend JOHN LEWIS, the difference that it has made in those last years from when he first was beaten across that bridge and how far this country has come, and this country can go much further.

The bill is before the committee. It is not scheduled for the floor next week. We will watch as the committee continues to work. The gentleman and I can continue to work on the issue to make sure we get this done.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### WELCOMING DR. JULIO FRENK AS THE SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Julio Frenk on being named as the sixth president of the University of Miami and the first Hispanic to be selected for this job. Dr. Frenk joins my hometown Hurricanes after a 6-year tenure as dean of Harvard's School of Public Health.

The son of German and Spanish immigrants who settled in Mexico, Dr. Frenk's remarkable career as an academic and a public servant also includes his service as the Mexican Minister of Health under President Vicente Fox.

I would like to welcome Dr. Frenk and his wife, Dr. Felicia Knaul, to south Florida and to the Miami Hurricanes family. I look forward to working with him as he leads the university's continued transformation into a global research hub in a world class international city.

Go Canes.

#### TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Trade Adjustment Assistance was designed as a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of America's workers, their last line of defense when they lose their jobs through no fault of their own thanks to NAFTA and other bad trade deals that outsourced their jobs to foreign countries. Many workers never qualified even when they were eligible.

The American people need much more than just adjustment assistance for thousands more workers whose jobs will be outsourced by the Trans-Pacific Partnership. America needs trade deals, themselves, to be adjusted, so they, again, create jobs in America rather than suck them away to foreign shores.

This hasn't happened for nearly four decades. Since 1976, our Nation has lost 47.5 million jobs due to lopsided trade agreements. Last year, our economy lost 16 percent of its growth due to the overhang of the growing trade deficit.

Thousands of steel workers in Lorain, Ohio, have just been pink-slipped and laid off due to imported steel. With every lost U.S. job, our Nation's economy gets weakened. Our working families become less financially secure. Rising into the middle class becomes impossible.

What we need and must learn is the history of bad trade deals. Congress can't repeat the mistakes of the past. Our Nation needs a new trade model that creates more jobs in America, instead of outsourcing our jobs to foreign shores.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN LEAHR

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on March 27, another outstanding member of America's Greatest Generation departed from this world.

Lieutenant John Leahr—Johnny, as he was known—a lifelong Cincinnati,

is an example of an American we should all strive to emulate. Lieutenant John Leahr was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African American fighter pilots that flew missions protecting Allied bombers over the skies of Europe during World War II.

On March 27, 2009, 6 years before Mr. Leahr's death, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Lieutenant Leahr had hoped that the successes of the Red Tails, as they were known, would shift the racial prejudices that African Americans faced before the war; but, after fighting fascism overseas, he had to continue fighting discrimination back home.

Over the years, times changed, and the people of Cincinnati and our entire Nation began to recognize the heroism of Lieutenant John Leahr. I had the honor to get to meet John in recent years, and his story is remarkable, a story that needs to be told for unending generations.

Today, I, with all of you, honor his courage and thank him for his unparalleled service.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Day of Silence.

Tomorrow is the 18th year we have recognized the National Day of Silence, a day when young people come together to raise awareness for the discrimination that LGBT students face.

I am proud of students who stand up against bullying, students like Karen Jimenez of Aptos, California, who said: "Identity extends further than our physical selves, so when expression of identity becomes restricted, it's similar to having chains placed on your home."

I am a proud sponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act and will continue to fight for acceptance and tolerance for LGBT youth. California is a leader in promoting and protecting the rights of our LGBT community.

This year, we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Safety and Violence Prevention Act and recent passage of a bill to ensure that trans students are afforded necessary gender neutral facilities in their schools.

We, in Congress, have a responsibility not to be silent. It is our job to speak for those who cannot. We must work harder towards becoming a wholly gender-inclusive society that welcomes and protects all our Members.

#### HONORING MANO A MANO

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mano a Mano on its 15-year anniversary in Round Lake Park and to recognize the staff and volunteers who support this incredible organization.

In 2000, community leaders saw a rise in the Latino immigrant population, as well as the struggles they face due to language barriers and a lack of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, these leaders took it upon themselves to help the growing community through support and education. They opened the doors of Mano a Mano and began providing services such as community school for parents, kindergarten readiness, citizenship preparation, employment connection, and health education.

It is because of organizations like Mano a Mano that families can break down the barriers they face and succeed. Through these services, Mr. Speaker, Mano a Mano has empowered immigrants and underserved families to become proud contributing members of our community.

I congratulate them on their 15-year anniversary.

□ 1245

#### PAYDAY LENDING REGULATIONS

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to talk about the critical need for the stronger oversight of payday lenders.

In March, I welcomed President Obama to the city of Birmingham, in my district, where he highlighted our Nation's economic recovery and put a spotlight on the areas that needed the most improvement. The President highlighted the urgent need for better regulations of the payday lending industry—the very same day that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unveiled proposals to rein in this loosely regulated industry.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the CFPB's efforts to ensure that these products help—not harm—consumers. The payday lending and title loan industry must take steps to ensure that borrowers understand the loan terms and have the resources to pay them back.

In my district, the proliferation of payday lending is, really, unacceptable. On every corner, you will find a payday lender. In fact, the President quoted that there were more payday lending institutions in my district than there were McDonald's. These borrowers are disproportionately African American and Latino—two communities that were severely impacted by the predatory lending practices, and far too many of these borrowers find themselves trapped in a cycle of debt.

In the coming weeks, I plan to introduce a bill and to spearhead efforts, led by consumer industry groups, to protect consumers from predatory lending. I ask my colleagues to join me. These good people are my constituents and are not this industry's prey.

#### IN MEMORY OF MARY LARAE RICHTER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in memory of Mary LaRae Richter.

Everybody knew her as “Rae” in the Chico, California, and northern California area. She was a truly inspiring woman who left a deep, lasting impact on her family, on the community of Chico, and on all who knew her. I knew her very well for quite a few years. She was a very, very sweet lady, indeed.

Born in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, Rae was an exceptional student and a joyful daughter who was no stranger to hard work. Her first job was behind a soda fountain in a drug store in order to help support her family.

She married her husband, Bernie, in 1953 after they met in high school. Their marriage lasted for 46 years until Bernie passed away. Of course, with Bernie's having been a political figure, including in the State legislature, she played a very supportive role in that endeavor, which was sometimes an arduous one, but she always had the right thing to say, including, “Oh, Bernard,” when, maybe, things were getting a little out of control.

Bernie and Rae moved with their three children up to Chico in the 1960s. Rae poured her heart into her town and into her community and into her family-owned businesses while always making time to volunteer for the students just across the street at the Rosedale Elementary School. Rae fought valiantly with Parkinson's disease since 1998, and she displayed courage and joy even in that battle.

Being that supportive wife, a loving mom and grandmother, a joyful business manager, and a good friend to many, she will be greatly missed by all who knew her in northern California.

#### THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELDIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, when I was a boy, my father used to point out to me that there were certain moments, certain events, that not only defined, perhaps, a community or a generation

but that left an indelible mark on a person. He referenced me to go speak to my grandparents about where they were when the news came that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I can remember my Grandfather Lucas describing the exact field, the exact row that he was picking cotton in in December of 1941 when one of the neighbors stopped and asked, “Have you heard?”

My father could tell you exactly the moment, while walking down the street in Elk City, Oklahoma, when he walked up on a crowd that was staring in the window of a store that was selling televisions. Everyone's mouth was down. Everyone was aghast at the news from Dallas.

In many ways, the experience of 2 minutes after 9 a.m. on April 19, 1995, has had the same mark and the same effect on not only me and on my colleagues in this delegation but on our communities in the country. Like my grandfather in his remembering the moment that he found out about Pearl Harbor and like my father in the moment he understood that President Kennedy had been assassinated, I will never forget sitting with the Oklahoma delegation, waiting to give testimony in a BRAC hearing in Dallas, when a reporter tapped me on the shoulder, a reporter I had known for some time.

He said: “We have a report that there has been an explosion at the Federal building in Oklahoma City. They say the building is gone. Your district office is in one of those Federal buildings in downtown Oklahoma City. Which building are your people in?”

It is a moment that I will never forget.

The delegation got up, and, en masse, we rushed out into the lobby. There on the television monitors was the building that we recognized as the shell of the Murrah building. It, literally, was gone.

My folks were spared, but, on that day, 168 of our good fellow citizens in Oklahoma City were not. This Sunday morning, we will gather to remember that event of 20 years ago, an event that has changed us all forever.

I am proud of my fellow Oklahoma delegation here today because we still work just now as we did 20 years ago to address those issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to one of my colleagues from Oklahoma, who was at that time the secretary of state for the State of Oklahoma, one of the folks in the inner circle in Governor Keating's administration as State government responded to something that no one could have expected.

Mr. COLE. I thank my friend for yielding, and I thank my friend for leading us in this genuinely somber and extraordinarily important moment not only for our State and, certainly, for what was then his district but, I think, for Americans everywhere.

Twenty years ago on April 19 of 1995, we saw a domestic tragedy of historic

proportions. It is still the largest single act of domestic terrorism in American history. It was totally unexpected, totally unanticipated, and extraordinarily devastating to the people involved and, I think, to the country as a whole. But sometimes out of a tragedy of that proportion a triumph emerges, and that is certainly what occurred in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, and on the days that followed.

Our first thoughts on the 20th anniversary is always of the victims—of the 168 lives who were lost, 19 of them children, unknowing that disaster was about to overtake them—and of the many dozens who were wounded severely and who still, to this day, carry those injuries with them.

Next, we think always of the first responders, particularly of the Oklahoma City fire and police officers who immediately rushed to the scene; of the surrounding fire and police departments that were rapidly mobilized to assist them; of the Oklahoma National Guard, which was there within a matter of hours; and, frankly, of the rescue teams from all across the United States of America that immediately moved in our direction to help our people.

I think of the people of Oklahoma next, who, stunned, rallied with enormous speed and with great courage to try and support, in each and every way that they could, the folks whose lives had been lost and the people who were still in danger.

I still remember that day at the Governor's office—at the end of the day, at 2 o'clock in the morning—and driving from the capitol toward my home in Moore, Oklahoma, and seeing a line of people outside the blood center. At 2 in the morning, they were still there, wanting to help and be supportive in whatever way that they could. We were really blessed at that particular moment in the history of our State and in the history of our country with extraordinary leadership. I think, first, always—because I worked for Governor Keating as his secretary of state—in the manner in which he responded.

Like my friend Mr. LUCAS, I heard about this totally unexpectedly. I was, literally, walking into the capitol at 9:02, in the tunnel, and I felt a little shudder. When I walked into my office, my secretary immediately walked in and said, “Your wife is on the phone.” She was working two blocks away from the site of the bombing, and she was on the 18th floor of a building.

She said, “I don't know what has happened, but I am looking down, and I can see enormous smoke—an explosion occurred—rolling out, and there are hundreds of people on the street, fleeing from this disaster.”

My office was below the Governor's office on the first floor of the capitol, and I went up. This was maybe 8 minutes into the event. I walked in be-

cause I knew the Governor would be focused on this, obviously. He was standing in the press room immediately to the right as you walked in, and at that time, there were already helicopters in the air, and, on the scene, we were seeing the horrific sights.

The speculation immediately was that it was some sort of natural gas explosion. Well, Frank Keating, who was our Governor, was also a former FBI agent who had been trained in investigating terrorism in the 1960s. He was a former Tulsa prosecutor, a former U.S. attorney, a former Associate Attorney General of the United States, and he knew what he was looking at. He immediately looked at that television set, and I will never forget what he said.

He said: “That is not a natural gas explosion. That is a car bomb of some sort.” He knew instantly what he was dealing with.

On that day and on the subsequent days, he led with extraordinary distinction in mobilizing resources, leading from the front, being on the front line. It was an exceptional act of public leadership from an official who was less than 100 days into his first term as Governor of the State.

Equally impressive was the leadership of his wife, our first lady, Cathy Keating. Most of America knows of the memorial service that took place on the Sunday after the disaster. I remember the night after the disaster my being at the Governor's Mansion. We still didn't know how many people had been lost, and we didn't know if there were survivors still in the building. There were search teams. We were dealing with a disaster of national and of, really, international proportions.

Cathy Keating came to the meeting and said: “We need to have some sort of service to memorialize the people who have been lost. People are grieving, and they want to participate.”

I remember thinking at the time, my goodness, how in the world can we ever pull this off? We are dealing with more than we can deal with, let alone organizing something like that, and I made that point. She said, “Don't worry. I will take over,” and she did.

America, not just Oklahoma City and Oklahoma, was given a moment to mourn, a moment that attracted the President of the United States, Billy Graham, a national audience, and thousands of Oklahomans who simply wanted to get together and pay tribute to those who had lost their lives. It was an exceptional act of public leadership on her part. The two of them set up a foundation to take care of the educational needs of anyone who had lost a parent, let alone two parents, in the course of that, and that institution still functions to this day. Again, exceptional leadership.

We have had other moments of tragedy in our country, like 9/11, and just

as Rudy Giuliani was quoted as being “America's mayor” on that day, Ron Norick in Oklahoma City was “America's mayor” that day. It was an amazing performance as he got together his police and his fire firefighters and was immediately on the scene. He is one of the greatest public servants who I have ever seen.

I would be remiss not to mention my friend behind me, Mr. LUCAS. As he alluded to in his remarks, that was his district office one building over. That was a place where he was in and out of a lot in the Federal building. My task as secretary of state, assigned by the Governor, was to work in Washington to try and coordinate with the Federal Government long-term rebuilding efforts.

□ 1300

Nobody did more to rebuild Oklahoma City than FRANK LUCAS. Nobody did more to help secure the funds, get the national support, work with us to get out of the requirements. We had to match this with 25 percent because this was not a natural disaster. This was literally an attack on a Federal facility in Oklahoma City with a unique Federal responsibility. Those were all things that FRANK LUCAS got done for not just the people of his district, but the people of our State; and, frankly, in that, he set some precedents that served the people of New York on 9/11 awfully well in addition.

The last person I want to mention is the President of the United States at the time. I am a pretty good Republican, and I can't say I ever voted for Bill Clinton, but I was very glad he was President of the United States at that moment. Nobody helped us more.

I will never forget 1 p.m. the day of the disaster. We had moved the Governor to a civil defense facility below ground at the Capitol—he was directing affairs there—and we got a call from the President of the United States. I did not know it at the time, but they—Frank Keating and Bill Clinton—had actually gone to school together. They were both at Georgetown together. Frank Keating was president of the student body when Bill Clinton was president of the sophomore class, so they knew one another.

The first thing that the President asked was: Governor, do you have any idea who is responsible for this?

There were, of course, all sorts of wild reports on television, wild speculation.

The Governor, being a law enforcement professional, immediately responded: Mr. President, we have no idea. We do not know who would do this. I know you are hearing foreign terrorists or all sorts of things. We just don't know yet. It is too chaotic for us to know.

President Clinton at that point said something that really struck me, and



struck me more later. He said: Well, I hope it wasn't a foreign national.

And I remember being almost shocked that you would hope that, you know, an American had done something this awful, but then he added, prophetically, as it turned out several years later: Because if it was, we will be at war someplace in the world within 6 months.

He was absolutely right. He, too, understood the dimensions of the tragedy. And in the days ahead, everything we asked for and all the resources and compassion that a great people like the United States of America and its citizens can muster was immediately at our disposal.

I remember President Clinton, when we announced we were doing the ceremony, we were discreetly approached by a member in his administration, who said: You know, the President would like to be here, but we certainly don't want to be here if it is inappropriate.

I said: Look, I have to go clear that with the Governor, but I can tell you, I know what Frank Keating's response is going to be. Of course, we would welcome the President of the United States.

He did, indeed, come. He not only helped us through it, he helped us emotionally through it, as did the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, at the time also made that journey and was there to help and comfort people.

So we may have our political differences from time to time as Americans, but in times of tragedy, we stick together. We come together; we pull together; and we work to help one another, and certainly President Clinton did that.

Finally, let me just make this observation and this expression of gratitude. I want to use this occasion to thank the millions and millions of Americans who responded with their prayers, with their help, the rescue workers that came, the donations that flowed in from all across the country to help the victims and the families of the victims, that came, frankly, from around the world, because we had international help as well.

I want to remind people that whenever they lose faith in the United States of America or just the sheer decency of people, think of the Oklahoma City bombing; think of the magnificent performance of this country, not just of the people on the scene, but of the support this country directed toward its fellow citizens in a time of difficulty, and of the many prayers and expressions of goodwill and condolence from around the world as people rallied in the face of what was an unspeakable act of terror.

So we had our moment of tragedy, but we have had 20 years of triumph since then; and that triumph is not just the triumph of the people of Oklahoma

City or the people of Oklahoma, it is an American triumph, and it is a human triumph of enormous dimensions and of great consequence.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Congressman COLE.

I certainly want to acknowledge Congressman MULLIN and Congressman BRIDENSTINE. We work as a family delegation, so to speak, in the Oklahoma delegation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to Congressman RUSSELL, who has the responsibility of representing that site in the Fifth District of Oklahoma, to conclude with a few comments.

Congressman RUSSELL.

Mr. RUSSELL. I thank Congressman LUCAS and my friends and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, on April 19, 1995, I was defending my country as an officer in the United States Army. We were preparing warriors to defend our country, never imagining that an attack would occur in our hometown.

Among the 168 people that were killed and the 680 nonfatal injuries, the 324 buildings that were destroyed or damaged in a 16-block radius, and the \$652 million worth of damage that was caused in my hometown, there were a number of brother warriors and sister warriors that were defending their country at their duty stations at the recruiting depots that were contained in the Federal building—Victoria Sohn, a master sergeant in the United States Army; Benjamin Davis, a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps; Lakesha Levy, an airman first class in the United States Air Force; Randolph Guzman, a captain in the United States Marine Corps; Cartney McRaven, an airman first class in the United States Air Force; and Lola Bolden, a sergeant first class in the United States Army—never imagining that in their recruiting duties in Oklahoma City that they would give their lives in defense of their country.

To my colleagues and to Congressman LUCAS, I would ask that we could observe a moment of silence in memory to all the 168 Americans, Oklahomans, friends that were killed in this despicable act of terror on our domestic shores, and to all of those that carry the scars and injuries to this day, if we could observe a brief moment of silence.

I thank my colleague and friend, Congressman LUCAS, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, there is no way that the Oklahoma delegation can express our thanks to the country for the help over the last 20 years, but with this moment of silence just now, we ask that everyone, 2 minutes after 9, central time, this Sunday morning think about those 168 souls, those killed and those who survived, and those who were changed forever.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

## HONORING ALEX MILLS WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, after the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Americans from across the Nation were driven by a sudden sense of patriotism, and they sought ways that they could serve their country. One such patriotic American was young Alex Mills of Concord, North Carolina. Although Alex desperately wanted to serve his nation, at only 13 years old, he was too young to join the ranks of thousands of young men and women who were shipping off overseas.

Determined to not allow his youth to stand between him and doing something significant, young Alex searched for a way that he could help his country. Now, learning of a newly organized outfit created to patrol the coastline and borders of our homeland, Alex quickly enlisted in the Civil Air Patrol.

Throughout World War II, the Civil Air Patrol pilots flew hundreds of patrol missions searching for enemy submarines operating along our coastline. Throughout the war, the Civil Air Patrol spotted numerous German U-boats, and after the planes were fitted with bombs, the Civil Air Patrol crews were credited with sinking at least two enemy submarines. Recognizing the value of this volunteer force of civilians, Congress acted to make the Civil Air Patrol the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

Forty-one years after first joining the Civil Air Patrol, Alex Mills was appointed as the chaplain of Civil Air Patrol's Rome Composite Squadron at the Richard B. Russell Airfield in Rome, Georgia.

Since taking on the role of chaplain, Alex Mills has continued his exemplary service and has risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He also has been recognized as the Georgia Wing Chaplain of the Year and the Southeast Region Chaplain of the Year.

Having had the honor to serve side by side with Lieutenant Colonel Alex Mills during my tenure at the Rome Squadron, I can attest firsthand to his dedication to duty, God, and country. I have witnessed the positive impact he has had on many young Americans who, as he did 74 years ago, joined the Civil Air Patrol as a way to serve their nation.

On Sunday, April 26, I will have the honor of presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Lieutenant Colonel Alex Mills for his lifetime of service and as one of the few remaining charter members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Of all those that I have served with during my time in the military and

serving in Civil Air Patrol, there are only a few that have had such a positive influence on my life and the life of my family. Without any reservation, I can attest that Lieutenant Colonel Alex Mills is one of those individuals.

On behalf of the State of Georgia and Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I recognize and commend Lieutenant Colonel Alex Mills for his 74 years of service to God, community, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HOOR OF MEETING ON FRIDAY AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015, TO MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next and that the order of the House of January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

#### THE WAR ON COAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you making time to be down here with me today.

Mr. Speaker, I am down here to talk about the war on coal. And when I say "the war on coal," people think of that as if we can actually go and attack a natural resource. I am not worried about attacking natural resources. I am worried about the impact it has on American families. In particular, I am worried about the impact it has on families in my district in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, you can't see this chart, but it is a chart that represents section 111(d). It is the language that the President used to create his new carbon emission targets. I am not saying that Congress passed a law to do this, because Congress didn't pass a law. The President just decided he was going to do it. I am not saying that the House and the Senate got together and debated it, because we didn't get together and debate it. The President just decided this was the way it was going to be.

It is 292 words that were already in statute. The President has turned it into a 130-page regulation that he is implementing on the country—hundreds more pages of technical support

documents going behind that. This is what President Obama's constitutional law professor had to say.

Again, this is a regulation that the President, Mr. Speaker, is implementing without any action of Congress whatsoever.

□ 1315

Laurence Tribe, the Harvard law professor who was President Obama's constitutional law professor, said this in December of last year: "To justify the Clean Power Plan"—the President's energy plan—"the EPA has brazenly rewritten the history of on obscure section of the 1970 Clean Air Act"—that is these 292 words I talked about—"passed by Congress in 1970."

Professor Tribe goes on to say: "Frustration with congressional inaction cannot justify throwing the Constitution overboard to rescue this lawless EPA proposal."

Mr. Speaker, a Clean Air Act passed in 1970—and I will get into some charts that show the successes we have had of previous Clean Air Acts in 1970, 1990. The President wants to do things differently than the law of the land allows, and he is frustrated, as described by Professor Tribe, that Congress refuses to do what the President wants us to do.

I am going to talk about why it is we don't want to do what the President wants us to do. We don't want to do it because it is destructive to the American economy and it is destructive to American families. We don't want to do what the President wants to do. The President hasn't come up here to lobby Congress to try to get Congress to do what the President wants us to do.

The President, to quote Professor Tribe, is "throwing the Constitution overboard to rescue this lawless EPA proposal."

We will come back to Professor Tribe. I want to talk about it in terms of my constituency, Mr. Speaker. I am right there in kind of the northeastern Atlanta suburbs there. It is only two counties, Mr. Speaker, but they are two of the fastest growing counties in the State of Georgia. They have also just been named two of the healthiest counties in the State of Georgia.

This is what we are talking about in Georgia. This is our Georgia Public Service Commission, that group of elected officials in charge of keeping energy prices affordable for Georgia families, that group that is tasked with keeping energy supplies reliable in Georgia, that group that is tasked with regulating energy in the State of Georgia.

It is not the EPA; it is not President Obama. It is the Georgia Public Service Commission. They say this about the President's rule:

This rule will be unduly burdensome on Georgians, placing upward pressure on electricity rates, an outcome that is not accept-

able to our organization or the citizens that we serve.

These are not Republicans and Democrats, Mr. Speaker. These are folks who are concerned, literally, about how families are able to keep the lights on. How do you keep the lights on? We talk about getting the mortgage paid. We talk about getting the car note paid. How do you keep the lights on? The Georgia Public Service Commission is concerned about the burden of this new rule.

The Clean Power Plan—that is what the President calls his plan—has nothing to do with clean power. It has to do with a war on America's energy security.

He says this:

The Clean Power Plan is illegal, unfair, and unwise.

That is Georgia's attorney general. That is the one elected official in Georgia that is tasked with enforcing the laws of the land as they exist in Georgia, a statewide elected office. He calls this plan illegal, unfair, and unwise.

It is not just President Obama's constitutional law professor, Laurence Tribe, calling it unconstitutional. We hear it from our Georgia State attorney general as well.

This is from one of our power suppliers in Georgia. You may think of power suppliers, Well, of course, they want to pollute. That is what those big energy companies do—nonsense.

Oglethorpe Power is the group that supplies power to all of the electric co-ops in the State. Mr. Speaker, I know you have electric co-ops in your State, as I do in mine. These are citizen-owned utilities. These are citizen-owned companies that make sure the lights stay on.

Oglethorpe Power provides the power to those citizen-owned groups. This is not some big investor-owned utility. This isn't some dirty power producer. This is the group of citizens that represents every single one of us in the State of Georgia who receive our power in this way.

This is what Oglethorpe Power says:

Consequently, there is substantial probability bordering on certainty that Oglethorpe Power will suffer economic injury if the EPA finalizes the proposal in its current form or in any substantially similar form.

Mr. Speaker, it is a bad idea to do it because Congress wasn't involved in it. It is a bad idea, as Professor Tribe suggests, to do it because the Constitution doesn't allow. It is a bad idea, as Georgia's attorney general says, because it is unfair and it is unwise and it is unlawful.

It is a bad idea to do it, as Oglethorpe Power says, because it is going to burden every single American family, particularly these Georgia families that Oglethorpe Power serves, if that goes into effect.

Mr. Speaker, who is going to get hit the hardest? I will just use my State of

Georgia because I get so tired on this House floor of pitting one group of folks against another.

There is that part of me, Mr. Speaker, that remembers when President Obama was first running for office, and he promised to be the President that had the most transparent administration in American history, and he promised to be a uniter, bringing America together, as we have not heretofore been together in recent times.

That is not what I see, Mr. Speaker. What I see is division. What I see are politics of division each and every day, so often along economic lines.

I would argue what is the right metric is not how much money you make in a day. It is how much money you are able to make tomorrow. The opportunity is the metric on which we ought to measure. Do you have opportunity for tomorrow? Do you have choices that you can make to make your life better?

Quoting an energy economist who testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee just this week, Mr. Speaker, he said this:

Lower-income groups will bear the burden of higher energy costs imposed by the EPA's plan but will be among the least likely to invest in or benefit from the energy efficiency programs that the proposed rule envisions.

I want you to think about that. The President has big plans in this unlawful rule, this unconstitutional rule, this undebated rule; but he has big plans.

It is twofold. Number one, he is going to get American families to invest in energy-efficient products in their home which, in theory, Mr. Speaker, if I am using less electricity in my home, I am going to be spending less money on that electricity.

The President's plan is if I can get families to have more efficient products in their home, I can drive up the cost of electricity to the home, but families are still going to be out about the same amount of money. That is not the way the economists see it, Mr. Speaker.

Look at families with their aftertax income of less than \$10,000 a year. Now, that is not altogether uncommon in the great State of Georgia, and certainly, those are the folks who already have a tough time keeping the lights on.

Thirty percent or more of their income, on average, is dedicated to energy costs. Thirty percent or more of everything that family has is dedicated to paying their energy costs. This rule proposes to run those costs up dramatically.

Now, you move up to folks who are making aftertax incomes higher than \$50,000, Mr. Speaker, and you are down below 5 percent of their income that they are spending on energy costs.

The folks who can handle an increased rise in energy prices are also

going to be those folks who invest in the more energy-efficient system. It is those folks who are trapped at the bottom of the income ladder, who don't have those opportunities to invest in more energy-efficient products, who are going to be hit the hardest by rising energy prices.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a man or woman in my District—700,000 strong—who doesn't want to see clean air, but the President's rule isn't about clean air. It is about picking winners and losers in energy production. The President doesn't like coal. He doesn't like coal miners. He doesn't like coal processors. He doesn't like coal power plant operators.

This isn't about clean air. It is about coal. Is going to have an economic impact on constituents in my District.

Mr. Speaker, let me go back to the words that folks use. This is the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. They obviously have an obligation to grow the economy in Georgia.

Let me just tell you that you can't pay taxes if you don't have a job, right? It is an essential point of basic government economics. You need people to work. You need people to be successful because, if they are not successful, they cannot pay their taxes.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to success in our part of the world. They say:

EPA's regulations will impose billions of dollars in costs on the United States—and Georgia's—economy but fail to meaningfully reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on a global scale.

If EPA adopts policies that substantially increase the cost of energy, thereby decreasing the competitiveness of the United States, investments and emissions will be sent to other, less efficient countries with higher CO<sub>2</sub> emission intensities.

As a result, overly restrictive and costly United States policies to reduce emissions will not only be offset around the globe, but could actually result in a net increase.

I want you to think about that, Mr. Speaker. I want you to think about that. We just had this conversation in respect to the Keystone pipeline. The President vetoed bipartisan language passed in this House, passed in the Senate, to build the Keystone pipeline.

This pipeline has been in the approval process for longer than it took to build the entire Hoover Dam. The entire Hoover Dam, start to finish, was built faster than we can even get an approval. This law wasn't to mandate the building of the pipeline. This law was to mandate that the approval process come to conclusion.

The process still hasn't come to a conclusion—the President won't do it—as if, if America decides not to build the Keystone pipeline, oil will not be harvested in the independent nation of Canada—nonsense.

Canada didn't ask us whether or not they should bring the oil out of the ground. They asked us to help them get the oil to market. They are America's largest trading partner.

They said: America, will you help us with this pipeline?

The answer should have been: Absolutely, yes.

If not yes, perhaps the answer could be no; but, instead of a yes or no, we had 7 years of delay.

Well, that oil is going to come out of the ground. It is going to be shipped to a port in Canada. It is going to be shipped overseas to China. I promise you it is not going to reduce emissions. It is going to increase emissions because they are not going to process it in China as responsibly as we process it here.

What is the President asking of us? We are talking about how this is going to raise the cost of producing goods.

Again, just in Georgia, between 2005 and 2012—the last 7 years, Mr. Speaker—we have reduced carbon emissions in Georgia by 33 percent. The President's targets have Georgia needing another 44 percent in reductions by 2030—44 percent.

According to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division—again, these aren't the folks who are in charge of polluting the air; these are the folks who are in charge of protecting the air, our Georgia EPD, which is our equivalent of the EPA. They are tough on polluters; they are tough on folks who don't want to be good corporate citizens.

They say, "The CPP"—this is the President's proposal—"does not provide flexibility to Georgia. In fact, the CPP is inflexible and punitive to States that have taken early action."

I want you to think about that. If you were sitting around doing nothing; if you didn't come from two of the healthiest counties in the country, as I do, Mr. Speaker; if you weren't worried about protecting the planet, about our stewardship responsibilities to the Earth; if you weren't worried about any of those things, the President is going to set some targets for you.

Again, these are the unlawful, unwise, constitutional targets, but he is going to set some targets for you that you need to achieve. If you have been working, as we have in Georgia, to do the right thing ahead of time, he is still setting those targets for you, giving you no credit for the good things you have done in the past, asking you to do even more in the future.

It is not going to be economically feasible. Georgia, number six in the Nation, is being asked to do the most by the White House in this unwise, unlawful, unconstitutional rulemaking.

Let's talk about the dollars and cents that are required here. For the Nation, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about between \$360 billion and \$480 billion to implement the President's proposal—again, the unlawful, unwise, unconstitutional proposal—but the President's proposal, \$360 billion to \$480 billion.

According to the economic projections, Mr. Speaker, that is going to be

about a 12 or 13 percent increase in electricity prices across the country—a 12 or 13 percent increase in utility prices, electricity prices, across the country.

Now, in Georgia, that translates into about \$400 a year. We have a pretty mild climate in the great State of Georgia, but it is about \$400 a year per family. In my District, Mr. Speaker, it is about \$94 million a year.

You put all of my constituents together, all those folks who are the boss of the Seventh District of Georgia together, we are talking about almost \$100 million lost to implement the President's plan, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1330

Now, my question is, for what?

My folks are responsible folks, Mr. Speaker. They are dedicated to their stewardship responsibilities. They are dedicated to doing the right thing for the right reasons.

We are not a district where we try to figure out who is to blame. We are a district where we try to figure out how to fix it. How do you fix it?

But the current worldwide carbon emissions—again, this isn't about clean air. This is about carbon dioxide in the air. Carbon dioxide is in the air. It is a natural part of the air. It is a required part of the air.

Carbon dioxide emissions across the country, Mr. Speaker, across the world, rather, if we talk about developed nations, we generally talk about the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the OECD.

Carbon emissions of those developed nations, Mr. Speaker, are projected to be relatively flat for the two-generational future. Two generations from now, still flat. You are not seeing those increase.

You look at non-OECD nations, Mr. Speaker, those emissions are projected to double, and then triple.

From 1990, when we passed the Clean Air Act, you see level emissions coming from both OECD and non-OECD nations. About 2000, Mr. Speaker, you begin to see those lines diverge, and there is no expectation that non-OECD nations are going to change their carbon dioxide emissions.

There is a funny thing about the Earth, Mr. Speaker: we are all in this together. I don't know if you have reflected on that. There is no escaping this big ball of rock that we are all floating through space on. We are in this together. We will succeed or we will fail together.

For the price tag of \$400 per American family, for the price tag of \$100 million a year, just in my one congressional district, Mr. Speaker, for the price tag of more than \$400 billion a year—that is about 10 percent of everything we spend in this country, about 10 percent of the Federal budget—is the cost of implementing the President's unwise and unlawful regulation.

And what we get for that, Mr. Speaker, what we get for that investment of American treasure, what we get for disadvantaging American businesses relative to foreign businesses, what we get for raising the costs of American products so that other products around the globe can be cheaper, what we get for that—golly, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you can even see it—is this little bitty red line in terms of carbon reductions.

What I have charted here, Mr. Speaker, are metric tons of carbon being produced, carbon dioxide being produced around the globe. This is the entire globe here.

I have 1990, I have 2010, I have 2020, I have 2030.

The benefit of disadvantaging American workers, the benefit of disadvantaging American manufacturers, the benefit of raising prices for every single American family is that the amount of carbon produced on the entire planet will drop the distance of this little bitty red line.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think you can see it. Now that is 2020. 2030, perhaps the line gets visible enough to see. It is virtually nothing. Virtually nothing.

The President talks about this unwise, unlawful, unconstitutional proposal as if it is designed to save the world. It is not. It is not designed to save the world. It is not designed to reduce carbon emissions around the globe. It is designed to put coal out of business in America.

We are the Saudi Arabia of coal, Mr. Speaker. We have coal. We have clean coal. We have coal.

Now, if we pulled up the charts of the Energy Information Administration, they are not going to tell you that coal production in America is going to go to zero. It is not. It is falling off dramatically. We are putting coal mining families out of business in record numbers.

If you go into coal mining country, Mr. Speaker, it used to be all Democrats, all the time. You know, there is not one Member of this Chamber from the Democratic Party that represents coal country today because coal miners threw every one of them out, not because they, as individuals, were bad Members, Mr. Speaker, but because the President was driving those individual families out of business.

Those families said, We are doing honorable work. We are doing lawful work. We work hard for a living, and we are providing a national service.

They are absolutely right.

\$500 billion annually in American treasure for virtually no reduction in carbon around the globe.

Now, if we were actually going to talk about clean air, Mr. Speaker, and I wish we would. I wish we would get out of the business of picking winners and losers and talk about clean air. I wish we would get out of the business of having an ax to grind about energy

producers and get to talking about clean air.

If we were going to talk about clean air we would talk about things like NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>. That is nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, Mr. Speaker, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>.

We passed the Clean Air Act of 1990—and I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, that was a Republican President and a Democratic Congress—that bipartisan legislation where the President just didn't decide what he wanted to do; he came to Congress and worked with Congress to craft the law. It went after what at that time was so frequently referred to as acid rain, Mr. Speaker.

You would get this nitrogen oxide, this sulfur oxide in the air. It would come out of the air when it rained. It had an impact around the country. NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> we went after in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

The dark green line represents the sulfur, the yellow line represents the nitrogen. 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

We came together as a nation, Mr. Speaker. We targeted these pollutants in the air, and we changed the way we produced power in this country. We didn't abolish coal; we made it cleaner coal. We didn't abolish electric power coming from these big power plants; we changed the way the scrubbers and the smokestacks worked, and we positively impacted air quality in this country.

We didn't pass the Clean Air Act of 1990 because we had an ax to grind; we passed the Clean Air Act of 1990 because we had a problem to solve. And as you can see by this chart, we solved it. We didn't just spend money to feel better about it; we solved it. We weren't just trying to pick winners and losers; we were trying to solve a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote the Associated Press. They are talking about coal in this country, talking about the President's rule, talking about carbon production. They say this—they say it is leaving this Nation's shores, but not the planet. The fossil fuel trade which has soared under President Obama soared because we have had record exploration going on on private land.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the President has completely eliminated exploration on public lands. Those permits are not going out the door. Private exploration has soared under President Obama's administration.

They said this fossil fuel trade threatens to undermine his strategy, the President's strategy to reduce the gases blamed for global warming.

It also reveals a little-discussed side effect of countries acting alone on a global issues. As the U.S. tries to set a global example by reducing demand for fossil fuels at home, American energy companies are sending more dirty fuel than ever to other parts of the world, exports worth billions of dollars each year.

Let me go back, Mr. Speaker. When we were working together, when we were working together in Congress, working together with the administration, we changed the way we produced energy. We changed the way we burned this coal to drastically reduce the pollutants coming from that coal.

In a classic example of Federal overreach, Mr. Speaker, again, acting alone, unlawful, unwise, and unconstitutional, the President has said, I want to do more. And in doing more, according to the AP, which is no conservative defender, in doing more, what the President is doing is telling these energy companies, Don't try to do better; don't try to be cleaner. We are going to put you out of business in America, so bring these products out of the ground and ship them overseas.

Mr. Speaker, where do you think our overseas competitors rank in terms of reducing these pollutants? Where do you think? Where do you think India ranks? Where do you think China ranks? Where do you think these nations competing with American workers rank?

Do you think they are producing it as cleanly as we were in 2012? Maybe you think they are a little worse like they were in 2000. Maybe you think they are as bad as when we started way back in 1990.

Nonsense. They are way back here off the chart altogether.

If you believe in a stewardship responsibility to the planet, if you believe we have a multigenerational obligation to care for our environment, then you know that only nations with a robust economy have a robust environmental protection program.

You think about that, Mr. Speaker. You will not find a single nation living in poverty that has advanced environmental protections. You can't afford to care about the environment if you can't keep the lights on. You can't afford to care about the environment if you can't feed your families.

We do both in this country, Mr. Speaker. In the name of protecting the environment, the President is forcing these natural resources overseas, which has the combined negative effect of polluting the planet to a greater degree and making American workers competitive to a lesser degree.

You are shipping cheap energy overseas, which makes that manufacturing more productive. You are raising energy prices in America, which makes our manufacturing less productive.

Mr. Speaker, I am all about making a difference. I am all about solving a problem.

The President wants to spend half a trillion dollars, more than 10 percent of what we spend in this country every year, focused solely, solely, solely, on reducing carbon emissions by the size of this line that you can't even see.

And the people who are going to pay the price for that, literally, the price,

are going to be American citizens with higher energy bills and American workers with fewer job opportunities.

We have two models that we can choose from, Mr. Speaker. We can choose from the model that we used in the Clean Air Act of 1990, where we came together in a bipartisan way, and we solved a problem together. We identified the problem, we solved the problem, and we have measurable results.

Or we can go it alone—and by alone, I don't mean America going it alone. I mean the administration and the EPA going it alone—unlawful, unwise, unconstitutional, spend a half a trillion dollars more than the size of our budget deficit this year, making us less competitive, trapping more American families in poverty, to achieve absolutely no result at all.

Mr. Speaker, I will end where I began, an obscure section, section 11(d), 292 words that were never intended to allow the President to do what the President is doing; where the President's own constitutional law professor, Laurence Tribe, says the President's desires cannot justify throwing the Constitution overboard to rescue this 130-page proposal; this 130-page proposal which promises to do virtually nothing to change global emissions but promises to disadvantage the American economy in a global economy.

Mr. Speaker, we can solve our energy challenges. We can find energy independence in this country, energy security in this country. We can solve our environmental stewardship responsibilities. We are doing things cleaner and better today than we ever have, and we will continue to do so.

□ 1345

Mr. Speaker, the value of divided government, as it is today; the value of folks who hold different ideas, as we do today. Two ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, Mr. Speaker: the President and the Democratic Party on one end, and Republicans and Congress on the other. The value of that divided government is that it allows us to do the big things, the big and necessary things. If it is all Republicans or all Democrats, folks just tend to try to jam their own ideas through, whether America likes it or not. That is not the way to build a stronger nation. Divided government requires—not just allows, but requires—that we come together to solve problems. Every time the President goes it alone, every time Congress goes it alone, we miss an opportunity to come together and solve a problem.

To justify the clean power plan, the President's power plan, the EPA has brazenly rewritten the history of an obscure section of the 1970 Clean Air Act. Frustration with congressional inaction cannot justify throwing the Constitution overboard to rescue this lawless EPA proposal.

We have an opportunity to do better, Mr. Speaker; and more importantly, we have the ability, with the men and women in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker—the men and women who serve this entire institution, this entire Nation, good men and women on both sides of the aisle who care about American workers and who care about the American economy and who care about not just America's environment, but the global environment—we can come together, and we can do better. But this proposal by the President is not it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will help me to encourage all of our colleagues to reject this proposal, to rein in this overreach, and then to work together to do those things that matter to our constituents—our bosses back home.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE CANADA-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HUIZENG, Michigan, Chairman

#### COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE TONY CÁRDENAS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gabriela Marquez, District Director, the Honorable TONY CÁRDENAS, Member of Congress:

TONY CÁRDENAS,  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a grand jury subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel regarding the subpoena, I will make the determinations required under Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GABRIELA MARQUEZ,  
District Director for the  
Hon. Tony Cárdenas.

#### GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Georgia, ROB WOODALL, so much. What clarity.

We lost a good man when John Lin-der didn't run again, and we gained a good man when ROB WOODALL ran for that seat. So it is a good day.

Well, there is a matter of concern. Let me just say this:

We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, there are some people these days that say it is not appropriate to mention God, that that has no place in government. Yet the very God that I speak of and those very words that I spoke are not from me; they are from 152 years ago.

Abraham Lincoln didn't just say those words. He made that his Presidential proclamation. On March 30, 1863, he called for the Nation to have a national day—and these are his words—of “humiliation, fasting, and prayer.” So he made that official proclamation.

Sometimes my office starts getting calls if I mention the three-letter word that some find to be such a heinous word to use on the House floor, even though it was one of the most used and most called-upon names, certainly, in our Congress for the first 150, 175 years or so. The Bible was the most quoted book for most of our history.

So the problem is those people that will call and email irate about a Member of the United States Congress saying we have forgotten God.

We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

That was Abraham Lincoln who said those words. And he didn't just say them; it was an official proclamation of the United States of America. So at this day and time it is more popular to issue executive orders, as if one person in our government were God, but Abraham Lincoln knew better.

Two years later, he was assassinated. He could have done so much to bring this country together after the worst war the country had ever faced, yet his life was cut short 150 years ago.

He was an extraordinary man. It was an extraordinary time. But he tells us with his written word that we have forgotten God.

He said: We are too proud to pray to the God that made us. Some find that offensive. Some think the government should be god; that the government

should tell people: You can see this doctor, but you can't see this doctor. This doctor may be able to heal you, but you can't see this doctor. Why? Because we are the government, and we are the new god. Seniors, look, we know you had plans for health care to last longer, but, sorry, you don't get as good health care as you did 5 years ago.

In my own family, my dad is not going to get the same health care that my mother did, which kept her alive 15 more years after her tumor was discovered. As Dad told me last week: I am not going to be able to have the health care your mother got because of Medicare and all these cuts. I can't even have the option to do what we did for your mother.

Well, that is what happens when the government becomes god. Unfortunately, if we were going to have the government become the god of the United States, it would be nice if the government were a little more truthful, a little more honest, a little more just.

One of the major problems that has been revealed recently is the fact that the Department of Homeland Security has lied to a United States district judge in Texas. He was told that because he was going to issue an injunction, and was issuing an injunction, that there would be no 3-year amnesty provided that the President spoke into being, and after he spoke into being the new law overriding with his very oral words, the laws that were passed by the House and Senate, signed into law by other Presidents, disregard those.

Then the Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson wrote memos—memos—overriding laws that were worked on in subcommittee, committee, brought to the floor of the House, debated, fussed over, eventually voted on, and approved in the House; debated, fussed over, eventually passed in the Senate, signed into law by another President. We disregard that, because the government is god now. We don't need to pray to anybody except Washington these days.

Well, some of us believe the government is not god. Nobody wants a dishonest god. And we have had too much of that from Washington.

So with recent revelations about the Department of Homeland Security and its failures, many Americans have become gravely concerned that their actions and performance are causing additional misrepresentations, and that is why it was critically important that we have a thorough investigation of the Department of Homeland Security.

I know there were misrepresentations by the prior Director of Homeland Security before our committee. I talked about those previously.

But the American people deserve to be protected by their government—not spied on, not lied to, not pay to have the Department of Homeland Security

ignore the law. So there were 22 of us that just signed a letter going to the Comptroller General of the United States.

Some pronounce it “comptroller” because that is how it is spelled. As my late English teacher mother told me many years ago, that may be the way it is spelled. If you look in the dictionary, which I was forced to do, then you will see that the number one pronunciation is “controller,” but because of usage—I don't know. I haven't looked recently. Maybe number one now is “comptroller,” but it didn't used to be.

To the Comptroller General Dodaro, here is the letter that 22 of us sent yesterday: “As you know, on November 20, 2014, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, issued a series of memoranda affecting federal immigration law. Included in the new DHS policy directives was an order to extend and expand the existing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, as well as an order to establish a new program that provides work authorization permits to an estimated five million undocumented immigrants residing in the United States. This new program was termed, ‘Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents,’ or DAPA.

“U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is the federal agency that adjudicates applications for immigration benefits. This agency's website claims a workforce of 19,000 people operating throughout 223 offices worldwide with an annual operating budget of \$4 billion. This agency is very unique from many other agencies. According to its own FY16 USCIS Budget Request, 96.8% of the agency's annual operating budget comes from fees collected from applicants for most types of immigration benefits, from petitions to sponsor relatives or employees, to replacement green cards, to naturalization applications. These fee-based revenues appear to be considered ‘permanently appropriated’ mandatory funds compared to annual discretionary appropriations which apply to federal agencies. As a result, this permanently appropriated mandatory spending allotment for USCIS falls outside the annual appropriations process.

□ 1400

“While Congress determines the categories of aliens that are to be admitted into the United States, it does not always set the fees USCIS charges or constructively control how USCIS allocates its resources. This fee-generated portion of its annual budget, translating to \$3.874 billion in FY16, appears to be completely fungible. That is, this money, raised for one purpose can perhaps be used for other purposes. This arrangement creates the potential for USCIS to, in effect, create slush funds and skim off congressionally authorized fees imposed on legal immigrants



and their sponsors in order to fund programs that may not be specifically authorized by Congress. Mr. Joseph Moore, the Chief Financial Officer of USCIS, testified in a Senate hearing on March 3, 2015, that the agency determines the fees it charges based on a practice known as activity-based costing. Thus, transaction fees are proportional to the amount of time and resources to fulfill that transaction. However, records indicate that USCIS has a carry-over balance from excess revenues at the end of FY14 of approximately \$1.27 billion. Mr. Moore claimed that he seeks to maintain a rolling reserve balance of about \$600 million to cover unexpected costs and surge activity. He further stated that funds from this account helped USCIS handle early spending in response to the executive actions. Eventually, new fees paid by illegal immigrant applicants are intended to replenish that account, plus cover all the new costs. What is not clear is why or how this agency has built up reserves of more than twice the amount it says it aims to keep for contingency requirements. This draws scrutiny as to how long this practice has occurred, for what reasons, what can or cannot be done with that money and, ultimately, how Congress can effectively conduct oversight.

"Experts refer to this arrangement where an agency can skim off, or 'tax,' certain types of applications in order to fund others as 'cross-subsidization.' Currently, fees from legal immigrants and their sponsors subsidize refugee and asylum applications, military naturalizations, the anti-fraud division, and other activities—with 'other activities' being very broadly defined."

So we go on and ask for the Comptroller General to audit the Department of Homeland Security because we haven't gotten truthful answers, and we haven't gotten complete answers.

It appears we have a shadow government in existence that can go across the river and lease or purchase, spend tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, millions of dollars—we don't know—without any accountability to anybody.

It moves toward being like a Kafka novel of just a completely unaccountable mammoth government that no individual can ever take on. That was never the intention of the Founders, nor those who have given their lives throughout the history of this, the greatest country in the history of the world.

We are calling for an audit. We are asking the GAO to audit USCIS and find out critically needed answers. Homeland security agencies continue to be hindered by leadership that breaks the law and ignores the Constitution while using highly suspect spending practices. It has got to stop, and we have to know exactly what they are doing so that we can get them back

with acting within the constitutional requisites.

The Department of Homeland Security has been so obsessed, as directed by the President, with having open borders and bringing in illegal immigrants. As one border patrolman told me: We, in homeland security, are called logistics by the drug cartels, the gangs, all those people that bring in illegal aliens into the United States.

Like the commercial that is widely seen on television, the logistics they are referring to are the fact that they can bring people into the United States illegally, the drug cartels and the gangs, for a huge, whopping fee.

Once they get them in to the United States, they can count on Homeland Security to spend this money that many trying to do things the right way, the legal way, are paying to have their immigration, their visa application, expedited.

We don't know where those expedited fees are going, but their visas, their applications are not really being expedited, so it would appear probably the Homeland Security Department is taking fees that are being paid for one thing by people wanting to do things the right way, the legal way, the constitutional way, and Homeland Security is subverting the law and the Constitution and spending it on people who keep coming in, pouring in naturally, illegally, because they are taken care of.

Homeland Security will ship them around the country. All you have to do is come in, we will give you a hearing date some years in the future, ship you off, and don't worry about showing up for your hearings.

How long can a country last doing these kinds of absurd governmental actions? It is insane. The book that will be written about the rise and fall of the United States will be very easy to write. These things are not new.

They are very predictable that, when a country starts ignoring the law, then it becomes lawless, and it is not long before the people take up that position and the country becomes a terrible place to live.

This country became the greatest country in the history of the world—more freedoms, more personal assets. Now, we see that being frittered away by a government that is being allowed to do so, and at the same time, the head of the government still may have around 50 percent approval rating.

It is, once again, making very clear the old adage is true: democracy ensures a people are governed no better than they deserve.

America, as at least 50 percent sits on their hands, they are okay with total disregard of the Constitution. One survey found there were more, I believe, college students that could name the Three Stooges but could not name the three branches of government, and they are eligible to vote.

Well, if that is the way you educate the generations coming up to vote, then you will, once again, get the government you deserve.

Well, because the Department of Homeland Security has been taking funds paid by people trying to do things legally, do them the right way, and subverting them for uses for those who are wanting to act illegally or have acted illegally. They haven't been able to pay enough attention to securing our homeland, which was originally their charter.

I didn't think we needed a Department of Homeland Security. I thought it was another huge bureaucracy that was created before I got to Congress in the name of, Gee, let's help all these agencies work together. Well, it hasn't done that. It has just added another level of bureaucracy.

We get this report. This is from The Washington Times, dated Tuesday, April 14, that:

"The Islamic State terror group is operating a camp in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, just eight miles from the U.S. border, Judicial Watch reported Tuesday.

"Citing sources that include a 'Mexican Army field grade officer and a Mexican Federal Police Inspector,' the conservative watchdog group reported that the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, is organizing only a few miles from El Paso, Texas, in the Anapra neighborhood of Juarez and in Puerto Palomas.

"Judicial Watch sources said 'coyotes' working for the notorious Juarez Cartel are smuggling Islamic State terrorists across the U.S. border between the New Mexico cities of Santa Teresa and Sunland Park, as well as 'through the porous border between Acala and Fort Hancock, Texas.'

"These specific areas were targeted for exploitation by ISIS because of their understaffed municipal and county police forces, and the relative safe-havens the areas provide for the unchecked large-scale drug smuggling that was already ongoing,' Judicial Watch reported.

"Mexican intelligence sources say the Islamic State intends to exploit the railways and airport facilities in the vicinity of Santa Teresa, New Mexico.

"The sources also say that ISIS has 'spotters' located in the East Potrillo Mountains of New Mexico (largely managed by the Bureau of Land Management)'—I would submit mismanaged—"to assist with terrorist border crossing operations,' Judicial Watch reported. 'ISIS is conducting reconnaissance of regional universities; the White Sands Missile Range; government facilities in Alamogordo, NM; Ft. Bliss; and the electrical power facilities near Anapra and Chaparral, NM.'"

There were some reports then that: Oh, Judicial Watch had it wrong. There is really nobody from ISIS in Mexico.



There is no threat. Then this report came out today from our friends at Judicial Watch, April 16, 2015:

“Responding to Judicial Watch’s report earlier this week of ISIS activity along the Mexican border, Federal Bureau of Investigation supervisors called a ‘special’ meeting at the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez.

“A high-level intelligence source, who must remain anonymous for safety reasons”—let me insert parenthetically, what that means is, if you don’t get that—and I sure do because I have people tell me about problems in the executive branch and Homeland Security, Justice, and Intelligence.

What we find is this administration has prosecuted more people they called whistleblowers than every administration put together in the history of the country. What I know is if you have information that exposes corruption or illegal or improper action by leaders in this administration, they are coming after you and calling you a whistleblower, and they will convene a grand jury, as they have done, and one is right now in Atlanta going on. They are coming after you if you can expose impropriety in this government, so that is why this says what it does in the article.

“The meeting was convened specifically to address a press strategy to deny Judicial Watch’s accurate reporting and identify who is providing information to JW. FBI supervisory personnel met with Mexican Army officers and Mexican Federal Police officials, according to JW’s intelligence source. The FBI liaison officers regularly assigned to Mexico were not present at the meeting and conspicuously absent were representatives from the Department of Homeland Security. It is not clear why DHS did not participate.”

Again, parenthetically to the article, since I have known of the sector of Homeland Security not being truthful in testifying before our Judiciary Committee, then if I were the FBI and I were trying to get to the bottom of something, the last people I would tell are people at Homeland Security at the top, I trust the ones I know at the bottom, but not the ones at the top.

So perhaps the head of the FBI is realizing we have such big problems in Homeland Security.

□ 1415

For example, when I complained to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, You have given a secret security clearance to a person who was a featured speaker about the Ayatollah Khomeini being the man of vision for the 20th century, a man that thinks the Holy Land Foundation, convicted of over 100 counts of supporting terrorism, was improperly prosecuted, who ended up tweeting last August that the caliphate was going to happen, so you might as well get used to it.

Well, I wouldn’t trust them either. The FBI apparently doesn’t. Publicly, U.S. and Mexico have denied that Islamic terrorists are operating in the southern border region, but the rapid deployment of FBI brass in the aftermath of Judicial Watch’s report seems to indicate otherwise.

A Mexican Army field grade officer and a Mexican Federal police inspector were among the sources that confirmed to Judicial Watch that ISIS is operating a camp just a few miles from El Paso, Texas. The base is around 8 miles from the United States border in an area known as Anapra, situated just west of Ciudad Juarez, in the Mexican State of Chihuahua.

Another ISIS cell to the west of Ciudad Juarez, in Puerto Palomas, targets the New Mexico towns of Columbus and Deming for easy access to the United States, the same knowledgeable sources confirm.

During the course of a joint operation last week, Mexican Army and Federal law enforcement officials discovered documents in Arabic and Urdu, as well as plans of Fort Bliss, the sprawling military installation that houses the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division. Muslim prayer rugs were recovered with the documents during the operation.

The administration can deny and they can say, Oh, this is these crazy people in Congress or Judicial Watch, when the truth is that the more time that goes on, the more we are proved right on everything Judicial Watch has been claiming, the things that we have been asserting, the things that we have been saying we have to wake up about because this is a time of danger.

Mr. Speaker, going back to the original point, this is the danger that arises when government begins to think of itself as God and infallible, and it is time for those who think that to fall, it is time for the people to wake up and demand better because, the minute a majority of American people demand better government, they will get it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PERRY (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a death in the family.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 17, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2012 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities — Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs, pursuant to Sec. 680(c) of the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981, Pub. L. 97-35, as amended by the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1157. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the first report to Congress on the National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy, as mandated in the Food and Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011, Pub. L. 111-353; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1158. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Pakistan, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, Pub. L. 94-329, as amended, Transmittal No.: 15-05; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1159. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of proposed lease of communications equipment to the Government of Honduras, pursuant to Sec. 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, Pub. L. 94-329, Transmittal No.: 01-15; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1160. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of proposed lease of communications equipment to the Government of Colombia, pursuant to Sec. 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, Pub. L. 94-329, Transmittal No.: 02-15; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1161. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1162. A letter from the Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency’s FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1163. A letter from the Associate Commissioner/Equal Employment Opportunity Director, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission’s FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR

Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1164. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1165. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Tripoli (HLLL) Flight Information Region (FIR); Extension of Expiration Date [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0246; Amdt. No.: 91-321B] (RIN: 2120-AK70) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1166. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coaldale, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0871; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AWP-8] received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1167. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31004; Amdt. No.: 3631] received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1168. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31005; Amdt. No.: 3632] received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1169. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31006; Amdt. No.: 3633] received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1170. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31007; Amdt. No.: 3634] received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1171. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0229; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-186-AD; Amendment 39-18123; AD 2015-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1172. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0619; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-029-AD; Amendment 39-18124; AD 2015-06-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1173. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1032; Directorate Identifier 2012- NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-18122; AD 2015-06-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1174. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reimbursement for Caskets and Urns for Burial of Unclaimed Remains in a National Cemetery (RIN: 2900-AO99) received April 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1175. A letter from the Chairman, National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting a letter describing the status of the National Health Care Workforce Commission; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. REED, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1830. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 1831. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 1832. A bill to provide for the permanent funding of the United States Patent and

Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 1833. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include guidance on how dependent students with parents without SSNs may obtain Federal student assistance; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 1834. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit certain E-2 nonimmigrant investors to adjust status to lawful permanent resident status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 1835. A bill to establish an employee stock ownership plan for air traffic control personnel; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1836. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with State and local governments to provide for the continued operation of public land, open air monuments and memorials, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 1837. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to enhance the security and efficiency of nationwide mail and parcel delivery; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 1838. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 1839. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 1840. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 as soon as practicable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1841. A bill to amend section 13 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, known as the Volcker Rule, to exclude certain debt securities of collateralized loan obligations from the prohibition against acquiring or retaining an ownership interest in a hedge fund or private equity fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FARR, Mr. HARDY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KNIGHT, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1843. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to improve access to supportive services and community coordination for families of disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ROUZER, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 1844. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate high priority corridors on the National Highway System in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VELA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1845. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to grant family of members of the uniformed services temporary annual leave during the deployment of such members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SIREN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of

Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 1846. A bill to provide for sustainable highway funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 1847. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act to repeal the indemnification requirements for regulatory authorities to obtain access to swap data required to be provided by swaps entities under such Acts; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1848. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 1849. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 1850. A bill to protect Federal employees and visitors, improve the security of Federal facilities, authorize and modernize the Federal Protective Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 1851. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to apply certain annuity benefits to Federal Protective Service law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 1852. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the credit for increasing research activities, to increase such credit for amounts paid or incurred for qualified research occurring in the United States, and to increase the domestic production activities deduction for the manufacture of property substantially all of the research and development of which occurred in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1853. A bill to direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status

for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. UPTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. ASHFORD):

H.R. 1854. A bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HANNA, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 1855. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1856. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the National Labor Relations Act to protect the health benefits of retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1857. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Major Dominic S. Gentile of the United States Army Air Forces for acts of valor during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1858. A bill to promote the tracing of firearms used in crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 1859. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1860. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information on the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 1861. A bill to stop motorcycle checkpoint funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

H.R. 1862. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct outreach to veterans regarding the effect of delayed payments of claims for emergency medical care furnished by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers by the Chief Business Office and to direct the Secretary to submit to Congress an annual report regarding such delayed payments; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1863. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to expand the Veterans Choice Program to veterans who would otherwise receive medical care from a deficient medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 1864. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a single senior official of the Department of Defense to procure wideband satellite communications necessary to meet the requirements of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. FARR, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 1865. A bill to designate certain Federal lands in California as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1866. A bill to establish a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to fund the establishment of centers of excellence to support research, development and planning, implementation, and evaluation of effective programs in financial literacy education for young people and families ages 8 through 24 years old, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 1867. A bill to encourage benchmarking and disclosure of energy information for commercial buildings; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1868. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to follow certain procedures in placing a child who has been removed from the custody of his or her parents; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JONES, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. BLUM):

H.R. 1869. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1870. A bill to authorize Energy Innovation Hubs; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1871. A bill to authorize a nuclear physics program; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1872. A bill to authorize Energy Frontier Research Centers; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. WOODALL (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 1873. A bill to eliminate the use of the frank for mail transmitted by Members of Congress and Congressional officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1874. A bill to amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 1875. A bill to extend the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept certain documents as proof of service in determining the eligibility of a person to receive amounts from such Fund; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 1876. A bill to recognize a primary measure of national unemployment for purposes of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 1877. A bill to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1878. A bill to require servicers to establish a deed-for-lease program under which eligible mortgagors may remain in their homes as renters; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1879. A bill to allow homeowners facing foreclosure to avoid deficiency judgments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico):

H.R. 1880. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1881. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to secure the rights of visual artists to copyright, to provide for resale royalties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOLD, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HARDY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WALZ, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 1882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1883. A bill to improve the process by which the Librarian of Congress considers requests for exemptions to section 1201(a)(1)(A) of title 17, United States Code, and to ease restrictions on the use of certain statutory exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1884. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 1885. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to cap rural post office closures at no more than 5 percent of total closures in any given year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 1886. A bill to amend section 1341 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal the funding mechanism for the transitional reinsurance program in the individual market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1887. A bill to amend certain appropriation Acts to repeal the requirement directing the Administrator of General Services to sell Federal property and assets that support the operations of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Plum Island, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1888. A bill to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LEE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SIRE, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. NEAL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FARR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H. Con. Res. 38. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) National Day of Silence in bringing attention to anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender name-calling, bullying, and harassment faced by individuals in schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DOLD, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DENT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. FATTAH):

H. Res. 207. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding establishing a National Strategic Agen-

da; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H. Res. 208. A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals should be protected from discrimination under the law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself and Mr. VEASEY):

H. Res. 209. A resolution deploring the actions of the Palestinian Authority to join the International Criminal Court and undertake legal action through the Court against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. HUNTER introduced A bill (H.R. 1889) for the relief of Roberto Luis Dunoyer Mejia, Consuelo Cardona Molina, Camilo Dunoyer Cardona, and Pablo Dunoyer Cardona; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. TIPTON:  
H.R. 1830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:  
H.R. 1831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CONYERS:  
H.R. 1832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. VEASEY:  
H.R. 1833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. JOLLY:  
H.R. 1834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MICA:  
H.R. 1835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 1836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 1837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 1838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Section 8 U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 1839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 1840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 1842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14—To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 1844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 1846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect

Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence, and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: To establish Post Offices and post Roads

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 1847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, which include the power to "regulate commerce . . . among the several States . . ."

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 1850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 1851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.R. 1852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is authorized to enact this legislation under the Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes." Additionally, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the Preamble of the Constitution, "to promote the general welfare."

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 1853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 1854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass tax legislation. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, pro-

vides that "Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes . . ." (Section 8, Clause 1). This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Const. Art. II, Sec. 3, Cl. 3 ("[The President] shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed[.]"); US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 18 ("Congress shall have the power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution . . . all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.") (This bill would instruct the Attorney General to give preferential treatment to police forces that meet certain criteria when distributing grant money, therefore this bill is a valid exercise of Congressional authority per the Necessary and Proper Clause provided the Attorney General's duties, as an agent of the President, to enforce federal law and punish criminal wrongdoing).

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 1859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:

H.R. 1864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 enumerates to Congress the power to "raise and support Armies"; "to provide and maintain a Navy"; and "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces".

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 and Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 1866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3. (Commerce Clause) The Commerce Clause give Congress the power to "regulate commerce . . . among the several States." If the matter in question is not purely a local matter or if it has an impact on inter-state commerce, then it falls within Congress' powers. *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*. (2012).

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WOODALL:

H.R. 1873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and Clause 7, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§ 1 and 8.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 1875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or officer thereof.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 1876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 1 and 18

"The Congress shall have the power to . . . provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

"To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . ."

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 1877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises,

to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, sec. 8, cl. 3 (commerce clause), cl. 8 (copyright clause), and cl. 18 (necessary and proper clause).

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 1882.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 1885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to establish Post Offices and post Roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 1886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 1889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which provides Congress the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.J. Res. 45.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution . . ."

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills as follows:

H.R. 12: Ms. GRAHAM and Mr. FARR.  
H.R. 24: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 91: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. PITTS.  
H.R. 126: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 131: Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 200: Mr. VEASEY.  
H.R. 213: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.  
H.R. 224: Mr. YARMUTH.  
H.R. 232: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 251: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 282: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 292: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. PERRY.  
H.R. 306: Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 343: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. ABRAHAM.  
H.R. 348: Mr. RATCLIFFE.  
H.R. 353: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.  
H.R. 366: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 372: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 379: Mr. DENT and Ms. BROWN of Florida.  
H.R. 413: Mr. COFFMAN.  
H.R. 463: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. LATTA.  
H.R. 501: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 539: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. VARGAS.  
H.R. 540: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 564: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 586: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 592: Mr. DENT, Mr. STIVERS, and Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 595: Mr. NUNES, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 605: Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 612: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 665: Mr. DENT.  
H.R. 703: Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 704: Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 707: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.  
H.R. 767: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. LoBIONDO.  
H.R. 789: Mr. DENT.  
H.R. 793: Mr. HARRIS.  
H.R. 815: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 831: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 832: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 836: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 837: Mr. MARINO.  
H.R. 865: Mr. BUCSHON.  
H.R. 868: Mr. MILLER of Florida.



- H.R. 879: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 927: Ms. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 928: Mr. CULBERSON.  
H.R. 970: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. THORNBERRY.  
H.R. 986: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. CHAFFETZ.  
H.R. 1002: Mr. KLINE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 1042: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 1062: Mr. KLINE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 1073: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 1142: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 1145: Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1170: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 1171: Mr. HANNA.  
H.R. 1178: Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 1187: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. GIBSON.  
H.R. 1193: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 1202: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1211: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1212: Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. SESSIONS.  
H.R. 1218: Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H.R. 1220: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. HARPER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. SPEIER.  
H.R. 1256: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 1267: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 1286: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1287: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 1288: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 1300: Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 1306: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 1308: Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 1378: Mr. SIRES.  
H.R. 1389: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. POCAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 1434: Mr. WELCH, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 1436: Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 1437: Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 1438: Mr. WALDEN.  
H.R. 1441: Mr. HIGGINS and Mrs. TORRES.  
H.R. 1454: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 1462: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. TURNER.  
H.R. 1464: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 1474: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1476: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. PALMER.  
H.R. 1478: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.  
H.R. 1516: Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HANNA, and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 1519: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 1534: Mr. LEWIS.  
H.R. 1541: Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 1552: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1559: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 1568: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H.R. 1574: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 1578: Mr. KLINE.  
H.R. 1590: Mr. CARTER of Texas.  
H.R. 1598: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1605: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 1608: Mr. BENISHEK.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. DELANEY.  
H.R. 1612: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1618: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LONG, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.  
H.R. 1635: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1642: Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 1653: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 1660: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BARR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 1661: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1664: Mr. HUELSKAMP.  
H.R. 1667: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1669: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 1671: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. AMASH.  
H.R. 1674: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 1676: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 1680: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 1684: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.  
H.R. 1690: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 1714: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 1717: Mr. DOLD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.  
H.R. 1732: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
H.R. 1737: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. GIBSON.  
H.R. 1752: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 1762: Mr. SCHRADER.  
H.R. 1782: Mr. ROHRABACHER.  
H.R. 1784: Mr. TURNER and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1806: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.  
H.R. 1807: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.J. Res. 42: Mr. YOHO.  
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MULLIN.  
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H. Res. 54: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H. Res. 123: Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H. Res. 140: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.  
H. Res. 182: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H. Res. 194: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

## SENATE—Thursday, April 16, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal God, You rule the Earth with goodness. Great and marvelous are Your works. Help us so to live that we can be Your instruments for good in our world. Lord, fill our hearts with Your peace and undergird us with the unfolding of Your loving providence.

Bless our Senators. Enlighten and illumine them that they may know You and Your precepts. Touch their lips so that they may speak no words that grieve You. Give them faith for every challenge, strength for every temptation, and wisdom for every perplexity.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, human trafficking affects every State in this Nation—every single one of them. In Kentucky we have heard reports of victims as young as 2 months old—2-month-old victims of human trafficking. We heard about a Kentuckian who said she was sold for sex from the age of 5 until she was able to physically break free as an adult. Stories such as these may shock the conscience, but they are hardly unique in our country.

The Judiciary Committee recently heard the story of Aviva, who was barely a teenager when she was kidnapped and forced into modern slavery. Listen to this. Aviva was sold to as many as 10 different men a night. Freedom was stolen from her, innocence ripped away. Aviva's trafficker tried to stamp out everything that made Aviva Aviva.

Aviva even forgot what it felt like to be human anymore.

Democrats have said they were in favor of helping victims such as Aviva. Democrats demanded that I bring the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act to the floor. But now that the very legislation is here on the floor, our Democratic friends seem to have changed their tune completely—a totally different tune. Now that they have a chance to actually help the victims, they decided they are more concerned about a few sentences in the bill—a provision they seemed perfectly fine with until just recently. They are more concerned about those few sentences than actually solving the problem the bill would address.

Now, this provision has been included in countless bills they have voted for and cosponsored. It is language they were perfectly happy to endorse again in another bill this very week—2 days ago. But that bill was designed to help doctors, not children enslaved by sex traffickers. So it is OK to vote for that kind of language if you are trying to help doctors, but not OK to vote for that kind of language if you are trying to help these poor young children. Obviously our Democratic friends think that doctors are worthy of their help. What about the victims of modern slavery?

Now, the rationale for this filibuster seems to shift by the day, and it is almost incomprehensible. Their foremost concern seems to be about treating this specific kind of money this way, versus treating that specific kind of money that way. It is hard to follow; isn't it? Focusing all their attention not on the victims of these crimes but on financial assessments levied on the people who perpetrate them—the traffickers.

Honestly, I am not sure why anyone would think money collected from criminals ought to get more consideration than money collected from law-abiding taxpayers. What a strange argument. But this is where they have planted their flag. That ridiculous argument is where they have planted their flag.

Their contention is essentially that the victims of trafficking should get no help at all because Democrats say the money they would receive might be considered "private" and that this bill should not pass, therefore, because the bipartisan Hyde principles it contains might apply to those private funds. If that argument sounds contrived and illogical to you, you are not alone.

Now we find out it is not even true. Let me repeat that. The very heart of the Democrats' argument isn't even

true. That is what the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service told us just yesterday.

So I would ask my Democratic friends to listen to this closely. CRS, the Congressional Research Service, answered some very straightforward questions posed by the senior Senator from Texas, my friend and colleague Senator CORNYN. Here is what they said to Senator CORNYN: Money deposited in the General Treasury from traffickers, as the Federal law requires, is Federal money, according to CRS.

So let me repeat. The Democrats have been blocking an antislavery bill over money they call private, and they are not even correct about this. Our Democratic colleagues have also blocked this bill because they say Hyde has only applied to annual spending or appropriations—not mandatory spending. It is another argument that the Congressional Research Service tells us is simply not true—not true.

The experts at CRS say Hyde has applied to mandatory spending of Federal funds out of the General Treasury, as the Cornyn amendment provides. And CRS concludes that Hyde just applied to mandatory spending in the very doc fix bill that 100 percent of our Democratic friends voted for 2 days ago.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the CRS memorandum be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

I ask my Democratic friends to stop this. Stop this. Take a breath and think about what is being done. Children are being sold into sexual slavery, having their freedom and self-respect ripped away. Will they finally allow the Senate to help them or will they continue some debunked crusade?

We have offered several compromises to address the concerns they have raised. We will soon vote on another one that Senator CORNYN has been offering. He has been reaching out to our Democrat friends for weeks now to try to find a solution to this nonproblem. The findings of CRS make it clear that we are doing nothing extraordinary or unusual here. We are simply applying long-accepted principles that Americans overwhelmingly support. Most people would think that sounds pretty reasonable. It is time to get serious and pass this important legislation.

A large, bipartisan majority of the Senate has already voted repeatedly to approve this bill. With the support of a couple more courageous Democrats, we can bring an end to this debunked filibuster today.

The victims who survive brutal abuse don't need more of our friends' illogical

contortions and justifications. They just need help, and they need it now. They need the help the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would provide.

Why don't we finally get around to fixing this problem? The time to do that is now.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### MEMORANDUM

APRIL 15, 2015.

To: Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

From: Edward C. Liu, Legislative Attorney;  
Jon O. Shimabukuro, Legislative Attorney.

Subject: Analysis of S.Amdt. 1120 to S. 178.

This memorandum responds on an expedited basis to your request for an analysis of specific questions you have posed regarding a draft amendment denoted "ALB15639" which appears to be identical to S.Amdt. 1120 to S. 178. Your questions have been reproduced below verbatim followed by our responses.

"1. DOES THE TEXT OF ALB15639 REQUIRE ALL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL TREASURY FUND?"

Yes. Section 3302(b) of Title 31 of the United States Code, also known as the miscellaneous receipts statute, requires that all money received for the federal government must be deposited in the General Fund of the Treasury unless disposition of the receipts is otherwise specified by law. S. 178, as amended by S.Amdt. 1120 does not appear to specify a different treatment for the assessments received.

The new §3014(d) created by S.Amdt. 1120 would specify that "consistent with [the miscellaneous receipts statute], there shall be transferred to the [Domestic Trafficking Victims'] Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended." The transfer of funds from the General Fund does not affect the disposition of the assessments in a way that would supersede the miscellaneous receipts statute, though the end result for the respective balances of the General Fund and the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund appears to be mathematically equal to directly depositing the assessments into the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund. The conclusion that the assessments are deposited into the General Fund is reinforced by the clause requiring that the transfer occur "consistent with" the miscellaneous receipts statute.

"2. ONCE THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN ALB15639 ARE DEPOSITED INTO THE GENERAL TREASURY FUND, WOULD THEY BE CLASSIFIED AS FEDERAL FUNDS?"

Yes, amounts in the General Fund are considered "federal funds" by the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"). In the Analytical Perspectives volume of the Budget for FY2016, OMB provides background information on budget accounts. This information would seem to be instructive for determining how funds, i.e., amounts, in the Treasury account will be classified. OMB observes:

When money is received by the federal government, it is credited to a budget account, . . . . All budget accounts belong to one of two groups of funds: federal funds and trust funds. . . . The federal funds group includes the "general fund," the largest fund in the government used for the general purposes of

government and special funds and revolving funds, both of which receive dedicated collections for spending on specific purposes. Where the law requires that federal fund collections be dedicated to a particular program, the collections and associated disbursements are recorded in special fund receipt and expenditure accounts. . . . Money in a special fund must be appropriated before it can be obligated and spent. The majority of special fund collections are derived from the government's power to impose taxes or fines, or otherwise compel payment.

"3. DO PRECEDENTS EXIST FOR APPLYING THE HYDE AMENDMENT TO MANDATORY SPENDING FROM THE GENERAL TREASURY FUND?"

Yes. Mandatory spending can be generally defined as federal spending which is controlled by laws other than appropriations acts. In recent years the Hyde Amendment has included a clause extending its scope to trust funds to which money was appropriated in that same annual appropriations act. For example, the consolidated appropriations act for FY2015 includes a Hyde Amendment with this clause, and also appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund. The Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is used to pay for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries under Part A of the program. Because these payments from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund are controlled by the Social Security Act and are considered to be mandatory spending, this would appear to constitute an example of mandatory spending that was subject to the versions of the Hyde Amendment.

"4. IS NOT THE LANGUAGE IN SECTION 221(C) OF H.R. 2 (HYDE LANGUAGE IN HOUSE-PASSED SGR LEGISLATION) ATTACHED TO MANDATORY SPENDING FROM THE GENERAL TREASURY FUND?"

Yes. Section 221(a) of H.R. 2 amends §10503 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) which appropriates funds to the Community Health Center Fund (CHC Fund) for certain fiscal years, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Section 221 extends the funding provided in §10503 for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Pursuant to §10503, amounts in the CHC Fund are available until expended, and are to be used by the Secretary to increase funding of community health centers and the National Health Service Corps. Subsection 221(c) of H.R. 2 further provides that:

Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 are subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 113-235 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act.

On its face, this restriction would appear to apply to the amounts appropriated to the CHC Fund for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The spending of funds appropriated for those fiscal years would appear to be controlled by §10503 of ACA, and would not appear to be controlled by an appropriations act. Therefore, spending from the CHC Fund would appear to be classified as mandatory spending subject to the restriction in subsection 221(c) of H.R. 2.

"5. IS THE LANGUAGE ON PAGE 4, LINES 8-14 OF ALB15639 (HYDE LANGUAGE) ALSO ATTACHED TO MANDATORY SPENDING FROM THE GENERAL TREASURY FUND?"

Yes. The new 18 U.S.C. §3014(e)(3), as added by S.Amdt. 1120, states that:

Amounts transferred from the [Domestic Trafficking Victims'] Fund pursuant to this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through

2019 are subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 113-235 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act.

S.Amdt. 1120 further provides that amounts in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund shall be used by the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants or enhance victims' programming, "without further appropriation." This provision is found in an authorizing measure which amends Title 18 of the United States Code, and not an appropriations act.

Therefore, using the same definition of mandatory spending as provided above, the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund would appear to be mandatory spending that is subject to the restrictions in the new 18 U.S.C. §3014(e)(3) that would be added by S.Amdt. 1120.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am not an expert in the field of etymology, which is the study of the origin of words, but I do find the origin of English words to be enlightening. For example, the word "govern" is one we hear often in the Capitol. "Govern" is derived from the Greek word meaning "to steer or pilot a ship." The most important question for a party in power is simply this: Can you govern? I say this to my Republican friends. In other words, can you steer the ship? Can you pilot this great Nation of ours in the right direction?

We are just over 100 days in this Republican-controlled Congress, and it is already clear that the Republican leader and his side have not been up to the task. One need look no further than the Republicans' botched handling of the human trafficking bill before the Senate.

I would just say in partial response to my friend the Republican leader that I have never been a big fan of polling—political polling or any kind of polling—because you can get any answer you want by asking the right question. Of course, the Republican leader, in the questions submitted to the Congressional Research Service, asked the wrong questions.

The majority leader and the assistant majority leader took a piece of legislation and steered it right into the rocks. The ship has sprung many leaks. All Democrats and Republicans support the provisions of this bill to help the victims of sexual trafficking and hold the offenders accountable, but instead of legislating on common ground, the Republicans are legislating to obstruct. When they were in the minority, all they did was obstruct. So they know how to do that. I vouch for that. One of the things I said was that we are not

going to treat them the way they treated us. And we haven't done that.

The Republicans, now in the majority, can't filibuster themselves so they are resorting to tanking good legislation—bills they themselves wrote and support—in order to score some type of political point. Does that seem like reasonable governance to anyone? I don't think so.

Yesterday, I sat listening to the majority leader—and I did today—claiming that they are seeking a compromise, even saying that Republicans have offered three compromises. Well, if we are just going on the number of offers made, we have done 10. We have made 10 good-faith offers to get this human trafficking bill on the right path. We have tried and tried and tried to reach an agreement. We have done 10. I will mention just a few.

We proposed that they strip the Hyde language from the bill. Then we proposed the Leahy substitute, which would strip the Hyde language and also include LEAHY's Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Senator KLOBUCHAR's Stop Exploitation through Trafficking Act, which would strengthen the legislation. Then we proposed to use the entire trafficking bill passed by the House instead of the Cornyn bill. That is the bill the House passed. Let's bring it to the floor here and pass it. We even proposed to keep the Cornyn fund but use it only for law enforcement efforts to help catch sex traffickers and use the House bill's authorization for victims services, including health care.

But Republicans would not agree to any of those changes. They simply are not interested in getting to "yes." This morning, I heard some talk that maybe we can work something out. I hope that, in fact, is true. I hope they are not using this urgently needed trafficking bill to continue to push through the party's backward agenda relating to women's health.

The Hyde language—I served in the House of Representatives more than 30 years ago. I served with Congressman Hyde, a fine man. If there ever were anyone who looked like a public servant, it was Henry Hyde—big man, beautiful white hair, great speaking voice. He, this good Congressman, is responsible for the Hyde language. It has been in bills since then, but it applied and has always applied to government money, taxpayer money—taxpayer money.

What we have said over the last couple of weeks time and time again is that Hyde should not be expanded to cover nontaxpayer dollars. That is what this is all about. We are not going to bend on that issue. It is not right. We do not need to expand Hyde. We think the Republicans believe this is a way to pacify the right-to-life community, some of these—not all but some of these ideologues out there who want

to expand Hyde. We are not going to allow that to happen. Hyde should apply to taxpayer-funded money and nothing else.

What has taken place on the direction of human trafficking is an effort to obfuscate—to hide the real purpose of the legislation. We all agree that human trafficking should stop. This legislation we have before us is a step in the right direction. We want to support that legislation.

My friend the Republican leader said: Well, all they are complaining about is a sentence or so. Well, that is why people spend all these years going to law school, taking contracts courses. That is why my friend the assistant Republican leader, who served as a trial court judge, a supreme court justice—during his entire career, he dealt with lawyers coming to him talking about sentences in a contract or sentences in a piece of legislation. That is what this is all about.

We should eliminate those sentences that allow Hyde to be expanded to nontaxpayer money. We cannot allow that to happen.

So, over 100 days into this Congress, we should move forward and get this bill done. It is time that, on this legislation, Republicans right the ship. If human trafficking legislation is any indication, Republicans have not had a desire to govern dependably. I think that is unfair.

I hope this cloture vote will be defeated. I hope at that time people will finally come to the realization that we are willing to do whatever needs to be done to change this language so that the Hyde language is not applied to taxpayer dollars. If that is the case, we can move forward expeditiously.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the man-

datory quorum call with respect to the cloture vote at 11 a.m. this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

100TH DAY OF THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am an optimistic person. As a matter of fact, I think everybody from Texas is an optimist. Can you imagine the challenges the people who founded our State had—Indians, wide-open hostile territory, tough weather. But they persevered because they were optimists. They thought the fight was worth the struggle. They thought the goal and the accomplishment—the hope for accomplishment—was worth the struggle.

I still remain optimistic—despite the last few weeks that have challenged that optimism—that we will actually break through here and get to consider and vote on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and get help to the people whom the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, described, the children who cannot help themselves. I mean, for heaven's sake, if we cannot help the most vulnerable people in our country—children who cannot help themselves, who are the victims of modern-day slavery—what in the world can we do?

So we have marked 100 days here in the Senate with the new Republican majority. As I look back, I do not think anybody can deny that under the majority leader's stewardship we have had some significant accomplishments in a relatively short period of time. Sure, it has been bumpy along the way. The Keystone XL Pipeline was a significant bump in the road. But we had a strong bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, the President decided to veto that legislation.

After years of this Chamber being used solely for the purpose of messaging and conducting political show votes, we are actually starting to get some things done. It is pretty exciting. As somebody who has been here since 2002, it is hard to believe, when I say that, that I have actually been here during different phases and cycles of the Senate operating. I have to tell you that the last 4 years or so has been a dark period, a stain on the reputation of the Senate in terms of actually getting things done in the interests of the American people.

I understand the he said-she said and the blame game. The blame game is a world-class sport here in Washington, DC. But most of our constituents couldn't care less about the blame game; they actually want to see government function in their interest. Consistent with our principles, we are going to have some disagreements, there is no doubt about it. But they hate the dysfunction. They hate the political posturing. You know what. I do, too. I dare say that the vast majority of Senators hate the dysfunction the Senate has experienced.

So there is a new spirit of optimism and, yes, hope, not that the Age of Aquarius has suddenly broken out—peace, love and understanding and we are all going to hold hands and sing “Kumbaya.” That is not going to happen. But can we work together as Americans, as people who love our country, who have taken an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States, who owe a fiduciary duty to the people we represent? I represent 26.9 million people. That just staggers my imagination when I think about it, when I think about the responsibility associated with it. But I am encouraged when we have the chance to help people, especially those who cannot help themselves.

Well, one reason for my optimism about the new Congress is that we have held a lot of votes. We had 15 votes last year, 15 rollcall votes in the Congress last year. We have had about 100 in the 100 days we have been here. As a matter of fact, I have heard some of our colleagues say: I am a little tired of voting quite as much as we have, particularly on the budget vote-arama which lasted until 4 in the morning. I understand that. But, you know, we have passed a balanced budget in the Senate without raising taxes. The Congress has not passed a budget since 2009. What more fundamental, basic function of government is there than to pass a budget?

The distinguished Presiding Officer was Governor of his great State. I am absolutely confident he viewed that as one of the fundamental responsibilities of his State government and of his office in particular—to get the fiscal house in order. The way you do that is by passing a budget and determining what your priorities are—things you absolutely have to do, things you perhaps want to do but maybe have to delay, and things you simply cannot afford.

Every State, every local government, and, yes, the Federal Government should pass a budget. We will in short order. The Senate has, and now we need to reconcile our differences with the House, which we will shortly. But it is not just government; every family and every business has to work on a budget. So that is progress. I am happy about that.

On Tuesday night, we actually fixed a problem that had been nagging the Congress since 1997. Back in 1997, we, the Congress—we were not here; the Presiding Officer and I were not here. The Congress had this bright idea: We are going to save money on health care by whacking the payments we make to providers and hospitals. Well, after a while we found out that if we do not pay doctors and hospitals for treating Medicare patients, they will not see them.

So our seniors, to whom we had made a sacred promise—we will continue to

make sure Medicare provides quality service and is accessible—all of a sudden, it was not quite so accessible because people could not find a doctor who would take a new Medicare patient.

That is still a problem, so we came back over the intervening years and 17 times out of the 18 times those cuts would have been imposed, Congress reversed them. We had an expression around here that unfortunately we had to use a lot; we called it the doc fix. That is an inelegant way, perhaps, of describing what we were doing, but basically what we were trying to do was preserve Medicare and access to doctors and hospitals for our seniors who are the beneficiaries of the Medicare system. That, to me, represents some progress, that we have fixed that once and for all.

Then, imagine my surprise that, after the contentious issue of congressional approval of the anticipated Iranian-U.S.—along with our allies—nuclear negotiations, this deal that could be forthcoming this summer, imagine my surprise, after the President said he would veto it, when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed a bill out of the committee. All Democrats voted for it. All Republicans voted for it. Oh, by the way, when the President began to count the numbers and the support in the Senate on a bipartisan basis, he said: You know what. I think I will sign that piece of legislation when it comes to my desk. I think that represents progress.

One other item that has made me somewhat optimistic on this 100th day of the new Congress is that we are very close to working out a trade deal that the President supports and I would say Republicans by and large support. Honestly, there is probably more controversy on the Democratic side than there is on the Republican side. But in a world where 80 percent of the purchasing power and 95 percent of the population exists beyond our shores, why in the world would we not want to open new markets to the stuff we grow—our farmers, our ranchers—the livestock we raise, and the things we make? I think it makes good sense.

So you can see why I, perhaps, am optimistic about this new Congress and what we have been able to do together on a bipartisan basis to make progress in the interests of the American people.

The one thing that has me completely bamboozled and befuddled is the objections over this antitrafficking legislation that had 30 cosponsors—roughly an equal number of Democrats and Republicans—and passed—sailed out of the Judiciary Committee.

My friend the Senator from Illinois, the Democratic whip, knows that the Judiciary Committee is no place for the faint of heart. We have a lot of dis-

agreements. Maybe that is because we have a lot of lawyers on the Judiciary Committee. We fight a lot about things we believe in strongly. But this antitrafficking legislation sailed out of the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous basis.

I hope we can work out these differences, and I have made multiple suggestions and compromises in an effort to try to get everybody to yes.

I agree with the majority leader's description of the sordid, unspeakable, evil of human trafficking and the compelling reason we ought to do something to address it.

I know that is where the hearts of all of our colleagues are, but somehow we have just gotten stuck. We need to get unstuck, and I hope today will be that day. Of course, human trafficking is a plague in all 50 States, and my State, unfortunately, has way too much of its share.

I, like all of our colleagues, have had the chance to meet many of the brave victims of human trafficking. One victim I met last week in Austin is Brooke Axtell.

Our friends at Google convened a meeting in Austin. The technology community understands that a lot of the solicitation of underage girls and victims of human trafficking occurs online. So they have come together to try to work with law enforcement, work with victims' rights groups to try to come up with a comprehensive way to combat it.

At Google last week in Austin, I met Brooke Axtell, who was introduced to America when she gave a moving speech at this year's GRAMMY Awards. In Texas, she is better known for her work with a number of nonprofits that are focused on ending domestic violence and human trafficking. I can't begin to tell you how inspiring she is and her words were, particularly when you comprehend the horror, the absolute horror of what she had been through as a victim of human trafficking herself.

Starting at the age of 7—7 years old—Brooke was sexually abused. She was literally put in chains and a cage—treated like an animal—in a basement. She was repeatedly sold to men who raped and abused her.

Out of this horror that she experienced as a young child, Brooke has brought life to her pain, and I think her leadership in the antitrafficking effort has actually helped her heal. She is one brave, courageous, young woman. She founded a group called Survivor Healing and Empowerment, which is a healing community for the survivors of rape, abuse, and sex trafficking.

That is why, today, at 11 o'clock, I hope all of our colleagues listen not only to Brooke's voice and her experience, but each one of us on the floor could tell a similar story about somebody in their State, somebody they

know, they have met, who would be helped by this legislation.

I hope we don't tell them no. I hope we don't shut another door in their faces.

I see some of our colleagues on the floor. I want to briefly give them a chance to speak before we vote at 11 o'clock, just to say that the underlying legislation is not partisan. It would strengthen law enforcement tools and authorities to rescue victims, while taking down the human traffickers and the criminal networks that support them. The goal is to provide at least \$30 million through fines and penalties paid into the public Treasury that would then go to help heal and rescue the victims of human trafficking.

Now, this is not tax money, so it is deficit neutral. We are not raising taxes to do it. We are making the people who purchased these services, who were convicted and have to pay fines and penalties, pay to help rescue and heal the victims.

Shortly, we will vote on another compromise I have offered. I have tried to listen to the objections of our friends across the aisle—and I don't want to relitigate those because, frankly, that is not particularly productive. They seem to be locked in. I am sure they would say we are locked in, and so we are trying to find a way forward.

First, and most important, this amendment would completely replace a provision that Members on the other side have objected to regarding the application of the Hyde amendment. The amendment would replace the language or the provision negotiated by Leader PELOSI from the doc fix bill I mentioned earlier that passed the House with 392 votes; 180 House Democrats voted for this bill, including Leader PELOSI. So we have substituted that language for the original language.

Of course, in the Senate we had 92 Senators vote for that same language, and our colleagues across the aisle have repeatedly voted for similar language.

So the Pelosi language from this bill that my amendment includes would simply say any funds used to provide services for victims of human trafficking would be subject to the same requirements as funds of the Public Health and Services Act.

The majority leader has said it well: If this language is good enough to help the doctors and the hospitals, surely it is good enough to help young 7-year-old victims of human trafficking, such as Brooke Axtell.

To further clarify, to address the stated concerns of our friends across the aisle, this amendment would also clarify that all money—all the money in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund—must be derived from the General Treasury. This is an objection I don't personally understand, but we want to make it clear—just perhaps to

help our colleagues get to yes—that all of the money would be derived from the General Treasury, which, of course, is where all Federal funding comes from, and we would make clear that all of the money would be public dollars.

I don't get this because tax dollars are private dollars until you give them to the government, and then they are no longer public-private, they are public. Private penalties are private until you pay it to the government, and then it is public.

But we want to make clear, to eliminate any rationale for any objection, and say that explicitly these would be public dollars. The requirements placed on funds under the bill would not be placed on the fees and penalties. That seemed to be a matter of concern, and we tried to address that.

As I explained, the pending amendment would do what I have tried my dead-level best to do, to try to address the concerns our Democratic colleagues, who have blocked the bill so far, have continually expressed.

So the language is just the same as the doc fix, and we have made clear that none of the fines and penalties themselves—but rather funds derived from the General Treasury—would be used to pay for these services in an equivalent amount to the fines and penalties.

I would add, parenthetically, when I was talking to one of our colleagues about it, they said: Well, that is money laundering. You are taking fines and penalties and you are transferring it, you are substituting it into a general fund.

I mean, give me a break. What we are trying to do is find a solution. I think we have given our colleagues every opportunity to get to yes.

I know, because I have talked to a lot of them—including the Senator from Illinois—people want to get to yes. I hope we have found a way to do that. So I hope we will not let the political gamesmanship continue to get in the way of a bill that would bring relief and healing to victims of human trafficking.

I hope we will have that vote at 11 o'clock, and there will be broad, bipartisan support to proceed to the bill and to pass the legislation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, how much time remains on the Democratic side?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will be very brief because I see my colleague from Connecticut on the floor.

Let me say at the outset, in the most positive way, I thank Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota for their bipartisan effort to bring this issue to the floor and to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We had a hearing in a subcommittee on this subject, and it was heart-breaking to hear about the exploitation of these young women at such a tender age. Unspeakable things were happening to them.

Sadly, in many States, when they finally came into the custody of law enforcement, some of them—some of the children—these young girls, were being charged as criminals until it was clear they had been enslaved and they had been exploited for so many years. So thinking on this subject is moving in the right direction. The suggestions of Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR are also in the right direction.

So why don't we pass this bill? We have all of this bipartisan support. One provision in this bill turns out to be fraught with controversy.

Thirty-nine years ago, a Congressman from Illinois named Henry Hyde offered compromise language on the issue of abortion. It was just a few years after *Roe v. Wade*. It was still very controversial. He said: We will prohibit the expenditure of taxpayer funds for abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother.

For 39 years, that has been the standard. There has been an uneasy truce between those who see this issue in many different ways. They have come to the conclusion this will be the standard that would be applied to the expenditure of taxpayer funds, and it is renewed year after year.

Senator CORNYN, perhaps by accident or perhaps by design, crossed the line and started talking about not taxpayer funds but funds collected in fines from those guilty of human trafficking to create a victims' fund.

That has brought all of the debate and controversy—in fairness to Senator CORNYN and to Senator MURRAY, who has joined with others in this battle, there has been an active exchange of compromise language. We have counted, I think, 12 different versions we have sent over to Senator CORNYN. He sent probably as many our way.

So it isn't as if both sides have hunkered down and are just staring one another down. There is an honest effort to find a solution. The solution would not be embodied in the vote that had been scheduled for 11 o'clock; it is the old language. But they are still working on new language, and I hope we reach a point soon where we achieve that. We all agree human trafficking should stop and victims should be compensated.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Connecticut.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise with regret because, unfortunately, we remain divided. There is so much common ground, so many good ideas in this bill, and so much that unites us. We have so much more in common than in conflict on this bill.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act has involved so much work by great colleagues—Senator CORNYN, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator MURRAY, Senator FEINSTEIN, and my colleague who has just finished speaking.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. We are divided on one paragraph that is simply unacceptable, and it is fundamental to the goals of this bill, which is to restore human dignity and freedom to victims and survivors of human trafficking. Restoring freedom involves giving those survivors choices over whether they will bear children as a result of that trafficking. Trafficking is, fundamentally, modern-day slavery. It is sex slavery and sex exploitation, which results, all too often, in pregnancy. At its core, the human trafficking bill before us today is about restoring human dignity to those victims and survivors and enabling them to avoid the long-lasting and enduring consequences of that slavery.

This legislation is an acknowledgment of our common commitment to these survivors and to providing them the services and support they need so much. One of them is abortion. Where we are divided is on guaranteeing that reproductive right—the essence of freedom, dignity, and choice. So it is well beyond a technicality here. It is about the fundamental goals of this bill, which are contradicted by this provision in the law.

Senator CORNYN's proposed amendment changes the words of this paragraph that we find objectionable, but it doesn't change the basic substance or its practical effect. We are told the provision in question doesn't matter because it includes a rape exception, but it requires the survivor to request, to ask, to entreaty and supplicate to the State whether the rape was really rape, whether it is a pretense or they must bear a rapist's child.

We are told the provision in question is essentially the same as the Hyde amendment, but that is flatly untrue because the Hyde amendment applies to taxpayer funds. I would say to my colleague from Texas, a good friend, who is determined to address this problem of human trafficking, there are no taxpayer funds in that \$30 million that is taken from criminal fines and penalties. It is an entirely different source of funds.

As a former prosecutor, I view those moneys as restitution. They come from criminals and they are used to try to support and serve the victims of that criminal activity. There is nothing more fundamental than using funds taken from criminals for the benefit of their victims. Congress has never before privileged the concerns of criminals over the rights of women, and we should not start now.

I respect my colleague from Texas and other colleagues who may differ with me on this issue. He has stated, in

heartbreaking and eloquent terms, the practical human impact of trafficking, sex slavery. I ask my colleagues now to give these women the real freedom from that sex slavery. Liberate them, truly, from this heinous and horrific violation of basic human rights by guaranteeing them one of the basic human rights, which is the right to make choices about their own bodies, about their futures, about their hopes and dreams as they are liberated from this slavery. Let this Chamber and my colleagues recognize the rights they have to truly be free from those who enslave them. I urge this body to strike the Hyde language from S. 178 and to make good on its promise.

As cochair of the bipartisan Senate caucus to end human trafficking, I agree completely this cause ought to be bipartisan. It ought not to divide us along any partisan or party lines. I am proud to have worked with Members on both sides of the aisle, and I hope we can come to agreement now with my good friend and my excellent colleague Senator CORNYN and others who have worked so hard and who are so genuinely determined to solve this problem and to take a step—it is only a first step—in the direction of combating human trafficking.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, my friend and colleague Senator CORNYN has been involved in discussions with the minority about a path forward on the trafficking bill, and I would like to ask him if he is optimistic that we may be able to reach an agreement at some point in the near future about a way to go forward.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would say to the distinguished majority leader that I am more optimistic than I have been at any time in the last few weeks. I just talked to the Democratic leader who told me there are active discussions taking place by all of the key people who can help us break this deadlock, and so I am more optimistic. We are not there yet, but we are in a much better place than I think we have been certainly in the last 3 weeks. So I am hopeful and somewhat more optimistic.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we would like to be able to process this important bill and move on to a vote on the President's nominee for Attorney General. Based upon the progress that is being made by my friend and colleague from Texas, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion on the Cornyn amendment No. 1120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, as I have done for the last several weeks, I am back again for this week's "Waste of the Week," a series of weekly speeches which points out how we can save taxpayer dollars by looking at waste, inefficiency, duplication, and other factors that are simply a waste of taxpayer money.

Because this is April and because it is just a day after that fateful day in April, April 15—and we all know what that means—our waste of the week.

Clearly, there is a growing consensus that our Tax Code is hopelessly complex, hopelessly burdensome, hopelessly anticompetitive, and needs comprehensive reform. That is not what we are here to talk about today, but I am a strong proponent of moving forward on that issue. It has been almost 30 years now—1986 was the last time a comprehensive reform was enacted by Congress. It turned out to be a tremendous stimulus to our economy. It created a boost in growth and boosted the economy in a way that provided us with the necessary funding without having to raise taxes, and, in fact, it lowered taxes because of its dynamic effect. That is an issue for another day. We will continue to try to pursue that. As a member of the Finance Committee, I know that is one of our major goals this year, as it is in the House of Representatives. Whether or not we are able to achieve our goal, we need to keep working on that.

Today, I want to talk about the waste of the week by looking at the Tax Code and doing something I think would be a relatively easy and simple way to save the taxpayer some money. It involves a refundable child tax credit. The tax laws allow a refund which is not an offset of taxes owed but an actual direct payment that occurs if you have children. The refundable child tax credit is pretty straightforward. It qualifies a taxpayer for a credit of up to \$1,000 per child depending on their income level.

I am not here today to talk about the merits of that tax credit. I have supported it in the past, and I think it is something that ought to be given serious consideration in any kind of tax reform. Rather, I am here to discuss the cost to the American taxpayer due to the improper use of payments that are



made to recipients who don't legally qualify for this refundable payment.

According to the inspector general at the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service sent out at least \$5.9 billion in improper payments in 2013—payments that went to people who did not legally qualify for the benefit.

Listen to what Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, said:

The IRS has continually rated the risk of improper Additional Child Tax Credit payments as low. However, [our] assessment of the potential for improper payments in this program indicates that its improper payment rate is similar to that of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

What is that rate? Nearly \$6 billion and even more than that over a period of time.

He goes on to say:

It is imperative that the IRS take action to identify and address all of its programs that are at high risk for improper payments.

Today, we are talking about one of those programs that Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General, defined and suggested we look at, and we will be looking at some others later.

We are proposing a pretty easy fix, and I am supporting legislation that will require the submission of a valid Social Security number in order to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit. Requiring the submission of a valid Social Security number does not take the credit away from anyone who legally qualifies for this credit, but it does help ensure that only those who are truly legally qualified will benefit from the credit and will receive the payment.

According to the most recent estimate by the Joint Committee on Taxation, this simple fix—simply requiring a valid Social Security number before a payment is given so we can weed out those improper payments—could save taxpayers \$20 billion over a 10-year period. Compared to our multitrillion-dollar budget, \$20 billion is a fairly small percentage, but compared to the way the taxpayer looks at this, \$20 billion is a lot of change. It is a lot of money, and the savings from that can be used in any number of ways. Hopefully, it will be used to lower rates people have to pay in terms of the tax revenues they send to Washington, but if it is needed for essential programs, such as national defense or homeland security, and we can prove a need for that—we are constantly looking for ways to pay for things that are essential and need to be done—this is a perfect pay-for. So one way or another, it is a benefit to the American taxpayer.

As we mark tax day this week, I wish we could say we are getting close to major tax reform, but since we are not, it is important that we continue to look at the Tax Code as well as other functions of government to determine how we can continue to save taxpayers

money and how we can continue to identify unfair and complicated areas of our Tax Code.

So with that we add to the gauge, which is growing every week that we identify a program. We started off at zero. Now we are approaching \$50 billion worth of savings for the taxpayer. Our goal is \$100 billion. We are going to keep doing this week after week, and we are going to keep adding money that is identified by our politically neutral accounting efforts. We are going to keep adding to this gauge until we reach our goal and hopefully go well beyond it.

Mr. President, \$20 billion is no small amount of change. It is being used improperly, and we can save that money.

Stay tuned for next week's "Waste of the Week."

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. FLAKE assumed the Chair.)

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEYO NOMINATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I come to the floor today to recommend to the Senate the confirmation of a very qualified individual, Mr. Russell C. Deyo, to become Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

We are very fortunate to have an individual of Mr. Deyo's qualifications and integrity willing to serve our government working with Secretary Jeh Johnson and trying to help him succeed in his mission of keeping this Nation safe.

Mr. Deyo has a long and successful career and background. After law school, he clerked for Judge John Hannum of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and then spent 2 years at a private law firm.

In 1978, Mr. Deyo joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey as an assistant U.S. attorney.

In 1983, he was promoted to chief of the special prosecutions unit for public corruption.

In 1985, he came to Johnson & Johnson as a litigation attorney and became associate general counsel in 1999. He ultimately became vice president and general counsel later in 2009 and was responsible for human resources.

After retiring from Johnson & Johnson in 2012, Mr. Deyo served as both a standing member of a panel for potential product liability arbitration for Eli Lilly and as chairman of the Corporate Board of Advisers of the National Counsel of LaRaza.

He obtained his education at both Dartmouth College, with an associate

bachelor's degree, and at Georgetown University with a J.D. in June of 1975.

Again, I wish to thank Mr. Deyo for being willing to serve his Nation in this crucial capacity.

I would also like to thank the members of our conference for clearing his name. I have worked very closely with our ranking member, the Senator from Delaware, in trying to develop not only a mission statement but also a commitment to enhance the economic and national security of our Nation. We listed a bunch of priorities. The Presiding Officer is on our committee, and she is also committed to those exact same goals. One of the priorities we listed was our commitment to do everything we can to help the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Jeh Johnson, succeed in his mission of keeping this Nation safe. Our committee worked hard over a number of obstacles to make sure Mr. Deyo has his vote now for confirmation.

I certainly thank my ranking member, the Senator from Delaware. I thank my Republican colleagues for clearing the way for this vote.

I urge all of our colleagues here in the Senate—I would love to see a unanimous vote to approve Mr. Russell Deyo as the Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, today I wish to express my gratitude to the chairman for his work with his conference to clear the path to this discussion today of the nomination of Russ Deyo and to bring his name forward for hopefully confirmation this afternoon.

When I first met Russ Deyo, I asked him: How do you pronounce your name?

He said: "Dio" as in Rio.

I said: I think you mispronounce your own name.

He said: No, no. It is "Dio" as in Rio.

So I try to do that, but he has been called a lot of things. Some of the things he ought to be called are talented and dedicated, and we should call ourselves lucky that a guy or gal with his credentials from the private sector is willing to come and go to work for the people of America and to serve all of us.

The Department of Homeland Security is a Department that, as we know, does enormously important work to protect us. People all over this Nation—in the air, on the ground, on the borders, in our cities, and all over our countryside—have my gratitude and I know the gratitude of all of us.

Every organization of any consequence needs good management, and the idea of bringing in Russ Deyo is—this is a fellow who will offer real

strength to the management team at the Department of Homeland Security. We need him. We are glad he is ready to go into the lineup, and I hope we will put him in there later this afternoon.

The position for which he has been nominated, the Under Secretary of Management, is the third highest position in the Department of Homeland Security.

While this vote is long overdue, he has been approved by our committee now not once, I think, but twice. Unfortunately, we failed in the Senate to act on his nomination before the end of the last Congress, so we had to start over again. I am just glad he is willing to serve in this role.

As of this week, more than a year will have passed since the last Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for Management—a fellow named Rafael Borrás, a very good leader—stepped down from this post. I again thank Chairman JOHNSON for his efforts and our joint efforts to move this nomination forward.

Everything I have learned about Russ Deyo over the past several months has led me to conclude that he is an exceptional candidate to be the next Under Secretary for Management at DHS. Chairman JOHNSON has already walked through his impressive career.

Russ Deyo is also no stranger to public service. We tend to emphasize his very significant responsibilities at Johnson & Johnson and as a partner in a major law firm, but he has also worked with law enforcement organizations. He was an assistant U.S. attorney in New Jersey for 8 years—something we don't always note—including a period as chief of the public corruption unit. His perspective from the private and public sectors is going to be a great asset to Secretary Jeh Johnson and to Alejandro Mayorkas, the Deputy Secretary at the Department, as they work together to get the Department operating in a more unified and cohesive manner, in creating one DHS.

If confirmed, Mr. Deyo is going to face plenty of challenges. For example, the Government Accountability Office continues to remind us that the overall management of the Department remains on GAO's high-risk list of government operations that need urgent attention. Of course, if confirmed, Mr. Deyo will inherit the challenge of improving morale across the Department. I believe Mr. Deyo has the leadership, the experience, and the skills necessary to tackle these and other challenges at the Department and that he really will make a difference.

I would just say in closing that all of the organizations I have ever been a part of or observed, whether they happen to be a school or a university, a sports team, a military unit, a business, a church, the House or the Senate—here or at the local level—the

most important element in the success of those organizations is almost always leadership. What we have endeavored to do over the last year, or actually a little more than a year, is to take the Department of Homeland Security—which was largely bereft at the senior levels of Senate-confirmed leadership—and with the addition of Russ Deyo in this No. 3 position to be in charge of the management shop at DHS, they will have a full slate. They will have a full slate for not the C team or the D team or the B team but I think in many respects the A team. We expect them to rise to the challenge—there are plenty of challenges they face today—and Russ will help make that possible.

I wish to say to Russ Deyo, if he is listening: Thanks for your willingness to hang in there with us until we could get to confirmation.

To the Deyo family: We appreciate very much your willingness to share your spouse and in this case your dad with the people of this Nation. We need him. We will put him to good work, and after a while we will send him back to you safe and sound.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF RUSSELL C. DEYO TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

#### NOMINATION OF JONODEV OSCEOLA CHAUDHURI TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security; and Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

#### VOTE ON DEYO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Sec-

retary for Management, Department of Homeland Security?

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the Deyo nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Ex.]

#### YEAS—95

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Brown	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hirono	Rounds
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sanders
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carper	Johnson	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Cassidy	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	

#### NAYS—2

Lee Vitter

#### NOT VOTING—3

Boxer Cruz Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON CHAUDHURI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. SCHATZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAF- FICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am going to have, later on—I was hoping we would be able to do this today—a couple of amendments that I can't imagine will be any problem on the floor. But it has been a problem that has been with us for a long period of time, and we are in a position to do something about it.

Due to a couple of Supreme Court cases, ICE cannot detain convicted criminal aliens awaiting deportation beyond 6 months. So what they have to do is—they have no choice—they have to put them back into the community, and they are back where they can continue to commit the same crimes that they committed before.

In 2013, over 36,000 criminal immigrants with over 88,000 convictions were released back into our communities, including convictions of over 100 commercialized sexual offences, over 700 sexual offences, and many others. But that is 36,000, all in 1 year. Now, since that time, 176,000 of nondetained convicted criminals have gone back into our society. This is something I can't imagine anyone would want to continue.

My amendment would allow for the government to renew detention of these criminal aliens every 6 months to determine, should they be returned to society, what the risk is. Then we can let justice take place. But it does away with that prohibition of anything over 6 months. So we have people out there right now—167,000 alien criminals—who very likely could repeat their crimes. That is my amendment No. 275.

Amendment No. 276. Last summer, we saw tens of thousands of kids come across our southern border. Some were housed in my State of Oklahoma at Fort Sill. This summer, experts are predicting another wave of children from Central America. This is the problem. If these were kids who came over from either Canada or Mexico, we could do something about it. We could actually send them back and have some authority.

But as it is right now, if one of them comes from Central America, even though they come through Mexico, they are citizens of a Central American country, and so we cannot do that.

I have an amendment that would—well, in fact, our situation in Okla-

homa is that we had several hundred who were just put there, and what do you do with a bunch of kids? So they put them in Fort Sill, and they had a place where they could temporarily put them down. Then they kind of disappeared.

I had occasion to go into Los Fresnos in southern Texas. That is one of the largest centers where they will put these kids.

I went in there. They didn't really want me to go in there, take pictures, and see what was going on. But in that particular center—I am going from memory now. I think they had a total of 80 beds—only 80 kids at the time.

I asked the question: How many kids have come through here in the last 6 months?

And they said: Over thousands and thousands.

I said: Wait a minute. If you had thousands, where are they now?

They couldn't answer that.

So what happens is the kids come in, they temporarily identify them, and then they disappear into society.

Now, with this change, all we are doing is treating these kids who would be coming into this country by giving our enforcement officers the latitude and the opportunity to send them back or to let them go back voluntarily. Right now, they can't even go back voluntarily once they cross the line coming into this country.

That is amendment No. 276. It is one that we will be considering and hopefully getting a vote on when we return early next week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. FRANKEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 993 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. FRANKEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMEMORATING VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTING

Mr. KAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a horrible trag-

edy, to honor a community, and to challenge this Congress. Eight years ago today I was the Governor of Virginia. I had just landed in Japan to begin a 2-week trade mission in Japan and India, and there was a knock on my hotel room door. State Police informed me there had been a horrible shooting on the campus of one of my State universities, Virginia Tech. We turned on CNN—that far away around the world—and saw the news unfold, the horrific events of that day. We went back to the airport, and we flew back home and spent weeks, months, and then years dealing with the aftermath of this horrible tragedy.

Thirty-two wonderful Americans, Virginians, and folks from around the world—students, professors, and graduate students of Virginia Tech—lost their lives that day. If you will allow me, I want to read their names into the RECORD:

Ross Alameddine, Jamie Bishop, Brian Bluhm, Ryan Clark, Austin Michelle Cloyd, Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva, Kevin Granata, Matthew Gwaltney, Caitlin Hammaren, Jeremy Herbstritt, Rachael Elizabeth Hill, Emily Hilsch, Jarrett Lane, Matthew La Porte, Henry Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Mamora Halomoan Lumbantoruan, Lauren McCain, Daniel O'Neil, Juan Ramon Ortiz, Minal Panchal, Erin Peterson, Michael Pohle, Julia Pryde, Mary Karen Read, Reema Samaha, Waleed Mohammed Shaalan, Leslie Sherman, Maxine Turner, and Nicole White.

Thirty-two precious, precious people of amazing accomplishment and even more amazing promise. Seventeen others were shot that day and wounded. Six others were not shot but were injured leaping from windows in a classroom building to escape the carnage. And so many others were affected: first responders, pastors, counselors, and the entire Hokie Nation. That is what we call the Virginia Tech community.

I know there has been a presentation on the floor about mental health issues and first responders. Some of the most painful discussions I had were in the aftermath of the shooting. I had many with family members and students who were injured, but some of the most painful were from the first responders. The EMTs on the scene included students who were volunteering at the campus EMT operation. Their description of this carnage they walked into, as horrible as the carnage was—the physical carnage—the thing that many of them told me was the most difficult for them to get over was walking into classrooms where there were dead bodies and hearing in pockets and backpacks next to these prone forms the vibrating and ringing of cell phones from parents and friends who had seen the news on TV and were reaching out to try to find out whether their friend

or their child was safe. Those unanswered phones were deeply, deeply difficult to those who were the responders.

I have friends who were pastors and counselors in the Blacksburg community. And their own experiences years later have profoundly transformed their lives. Even in tragedy, though, you can see examples of resilience and remarkable spirit. The Virginia Tech community, the Hokie Nation, on that day demonstrated resilience and in the years since. I do stand to honor that spirit and resilience of the entire community, even as we acknowledge the horrible tragedy.

Two years ago on this day we were in the midst of a grim debate on this floor inspired by another horrific shooting—the murder of schoolchildren in Newtown, CT. I stood on the floor and talked about the shooting at Virginia Tech and the lessons we had learned. I told the story of just one of the victims. It is sort of unfair to single out a person because all were so special, but one of the victims who was killed that day was a professor of engineering, Liviu Librescu, Romanian-born, who survived the Holocaust and who survived the Soviet takeover of his native country, only to be killed by gun violence in America as he barred the door to his classroom to stop the shooter from entering so that his students could safely escape. He survived the Holocaust, survived the depredation imposed on his country by Soviet communism and was killed by gun violence at Virginia Tech University in Virginia in this country.

I want to tell you today about two students who were shot that day but survived. They offer a powerful lesson about the resilient human spirit and also offer a challenge to this body.

Colin Goddard was a senior just weeks away from graduation. He was badly wounded. He was shot four times that day. My wife Anne and I visited him in the hospital 2 days after the shooting. We see him and his parents often. They live in Richmond, where we live.

In the years since his graduation, Colin has become a passionate advocate for gun safety, especially focusing on the need for a national system of background record checks. He helped produce and was part of an award-winning documentary about his friends. The documentary is called “Living for 32,” and it is very powerful.

Elilita “Lily” Habtu was also a senior, and she was majoring in psychology. She was shot and badly injured that day. She is with us today in the Senate Gallery. Lily was already focused on helping people, but the shooting put her on a new path. Along with other survivors, she founded Students for Gun Free Schools, a grassroots movement to keep campuses safe. She received a master’s degree in con-

flict analysis and resolution from George Mason University, and she has used that training to work on a number of gun safety issues. She also served as an intern at the White House.

I could tell wonderful stories about many of the others who were killed or injured, and all of them are precious. I hope to do that in the years to come because I have a feeling I will stand on this floor often on April 16. I focused on Colin and Lily today because of their passionate work for gun safety.

In the aftermath of the shooting at Virginia Tech, I commissioned a panel to review what went wrong that day. Lawyers said: Don’t do that. People could use it to bring lawsuits against the State.

I said: No. We have to know what went wrong. We have to know what we can do to reduce the chance this will ever happen again. We will not be able to eliminate violence. We will not be able to eliminate shootings. But at least we can reduce the chance if we learn what went wrong.

My panel dug into it and made recommendations about mental health, campus safety protocol, first responders, the training of campus personnel, and about gun safety. These detailed recommendations led to numerous changes in State and Federal best practices and laws, and I saw legislators from both parties work together, with strong public support, to make changes so our campuses would be safer.

Mr. President, I would not be honest if I didn’t say there was one recommendation by my panel that was opposed both at the State and Federal levels—the institution of a comprehensive background record check system to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals. I wish to talk today about that continuing failure.

The Virginia Tech student who killed and wounded so many, Seung-Hui Cho, should never have been able to purchase weapons at all. He had been adjudicated in a court in the Commonwealth of Virginia as mentally ill and dangerous and was thus barred by Federal law from purchasing or owning weapons. That is a longstanding Federal law, but the Federal law is only as good as the background record check system that is able to determine when someone purchases a weapon if they have, in fact, been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous. Because the record of his adjudication had not been entered into the national NICS database, he slipped through the cracks, and this troubled individual illegally bought the weapons that destroyed so many lives and removed so much promise from this Earth.

We fixed the narrow issue that led to Seung-Hui Cho’s adjudication being left out of the database. I did it by executive order. My legislature confirmed it at the Federal level. Laws were passed and signed into law by

President Bush to encourage States to enter mental health adjudications into the Federal database—a database that in the last 20 years has succeeded at stopping more than 2 million people from making illegal gun purchases.

But just months later, as Governor, when I tried to make sure we performed background record checks on everybody, especially those who purchased guns at gun shows, which account for a huge portion of the gun purchases in the United States—there is no law requiring background record checks at gun shows. When I made that effort, my general assembly basically caved in to pressure from a Virginia organization—the National Rifle Association—and other groups, and they voted against background record checks.

Two years ago, as a Senator, during the very week we were commemorating the anniversary of the most horrific shooting to ever happen on a college campus in the history of the United States and in the shadow of the horrific shootings in Newtown, CT, we tried to create a uniform background record check system at the Federal level, but the same groups that fought against us in Virginia fought against background checks here.

Even in the shadow of the horrific shootings of the little kids in Newtown—and since the Newtown shootings, more than 70,000 Americans have been killed by gun violence in this country—we still lack a comprehensive background record check system. It is estimated that 40 percent of all of the guns that are sold in the United States occur with no background record check.

The Presiding Officer knows the law. Convicted felons are not lawfully allowed to purchase their own weapons, but without a comprehensive background record check system, they can and they do. People who have been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous are not lawfully allowed to purchase their own weapons, but without a comprehensive background record check system, they can and they do. Domestic violence perpetrators who have been placed under protective orders are not lawfully allowed to purchase their own weapons, but without a comprehensive background record check system, they can and they do.

So why not fix our laws to create a record check system so we can keep weapons out of the hands of those who are not legally allowed to have them? Why are groups such as the NRA so passionately opposed to keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people?

I am particularly interested in the NRA’s position on this issue because I know the organization very well. The NRA is headquartered in Virginia. I know many NRA members. When I was the mayor of Richmond and I helped implement an antigun program—Project Exile—that would send gun

criminals to Federal prison, the NRA supported our effort. So why is the NRA opposed to background record checks?

The NRA opposes background record checks even though American gun owners and even NRA members have frequently indicated strong support for background record checks in polling.

The NRA opposes background record checks even though their avowed principles would suggest that they would support such laws. For example, the NRA has been fond of saying: We don't need new gun laws; we just need to enforce existing gun laws. That is exactly what a background record check does. It makes no change in the law as to who can and cannot have a weapon; it just enables us to enforce existing laws to stop dangerous people, such as Seung-Hui Cho, from purchasing weapons.

The NRA has also famously said that we should not take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens; we should instead focus on getting guns away from criminals. Again, that is exactly what a background record check system does. It only stops people from purchasing weapons if they are legally prohibited from purchasing weapons.

If gun owners and NRA members support background checks in polls, and if the NRA's own principles suggest that background checks are in tune with their philosophy, why have they fought so hard and so long to keep our Nation from having a comprehensive background check system? I have pondered that question since 2007 because that day was one of the worst days of my life. I spent a lot of time thinking about it and thinking about what I ought to do as a citizen and elected official to reduce the chance that anybody will ever have to go through that experience again.

After pondering the question of why any legitimate organization would fight against background record checks, the only purpose of which is to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people who are not legally allowed to have them, I have come to the conclusion that there is only one answer, and the answer is this: The NRA does not really speak for or represent American gun owners. Instead, they speak for and represent and, most importantly, receive funding from gun manufacturers. If you make guns, it is in your financial interest to sell as many guns as you can to whomever you can, whenever you can, and wherever you can. And I believe that is the reason so many States and even Congress are not able to pass background record check laws to keep us safer.

Mr. President, let me be self-critical. I would not call out the NRA if I were not about to do what I am about to do. I will bring it home and talk about Congress. If the NRA is now beholden to gun manufacturers, I have to be

honest enough to admit that Congress can hardly be self-righteous about this. I would argue that Congress is equally beholden to gun manufacturers as well.

As the Presiding Officer knows, Congress generally leaves the question of tort law as a matter for States to resolve. We generally don't have big tort reform at the Federal level. Republicans often advance notions of States' rights and oppose Federal laws that trump State laws. Democrats are generally against efforts that block plaintiffs' access to State courts to seek redress for injuries. So, in some ways, both Republican and Democratic principles have tended to be opposed to tort reform at the national level.

But here is an unusual example. In 2005, 10 years ago, both Democrats and Republicans joined together to support a major Federal tort reform act, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and that act restricts the ability of people to bring lawsuits against firearm manufacturers in State or Federal court for negligent use of firearms. This 2005 act, which was a bipartisan one in this body—13 Democrats joined with Republicans to pass it—is highly unusual because if you look through the entire United States Code, you are not going to find many national, Federal-level tort laws that shield entire industries from State court claims based on negligence. There may be another one, but I don't know what it is. This is a highly unusual shielding of an entire industry—the gun manufacturing industry—from State and Federal claims based on negligence. This industry uniquely receives this very special protection from the Congress of the United States.

When the law was passed in this body and signed into law by President Bush, plaintiffs in State courts whose cases were being tried had to immediately close down their cases. Plaintiffs who had won cases and had cases on appeal immediately had their cases dismissed. This does not happen often, but for gun manufacturers, in this Congress, it has happened.

I will conclude by saying this: We have to make a decision about what is important. We have to make decisions every day about what is important. Should we keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people, people who are prohibited by law from having them—if you think the answer is yes, then you should support background check laws—or should we embrace a policy that is based on the notion that we should sell as many guns as we can to whomever we can, whenever we can, and wherever we can? Because that is the current state of the law with an inadequate background check system. It serves no one's interest other than gun manufacturers', but the human cost is incalculably high.

As we commemorate the shooting at Virginia Tech, honoring those we lost

and those brave survivors, such as Colin and Lily, who are using their painful experience to help others, and honoring the resilience of the entire Hokie Nation, it is my hope that my colleagues will get serious about gun safety.

I am a gun owner and a proud supporter of the Second Amendment, but the time is long overdue for a comprehensive background check system that keeps weapons out of the hands of dangerous people like Seung-Hui Cho. I look forward to the day when we will accomplish this and have a safer nation as a result.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise again to speak about and honor our Nation's and North Dakota's Vietnam veterans, and, through my continuing series of floor speeches, specifically those brave servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

As you know, we are in the midst of a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war. This special period of honoring our Vietnam veterans runs through 2025. I have partnered with students from Bismarck High School in researching these soldiers, and once again I thank their instructors Laura Forde, Sara Rinas, and Allison Wendel for coordinating this project and sharing their students' research with my office.

Last month, I visited these students and was so impressed with their commitment to this project. I want to say thank you again to the Bismarck High 11th graders and their teachers for helping us gather important information about the lives of these servicemembers.

This week, I am especially happy to be able to include information they helped to find about the lives of Tom Alderson and John Tingley. I am also grateful to my friend Jim Nelson, a Vietnam veteran, who is dedicated to making sure each of these soldiers' immediate relatives receives a Gold Star Family member pin and certificate.

I was happy to be part of Jim's ceremony in Bismarck last year in honoring these soldiers and their families. Through this effort, I hope to make sure our Nation never forgets the needs of our Vietnam veterans and the sacrifices of those who fell in service to our country.

There were 198 sons of North Dakota who did not make it home from the

Vietnam war. One hundred ninety-eight sons of North Dakota gave their lives for their country and their State. Today, I am honored to tell you about a few of them.

CLIFTON "CLIFF" CUSHMAN

First is Clifton "Cliff" Cushman. Cliff was from Grand Forks and was born on June 2, 1938. He served in the Air Force—the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron. Cliff was 28 years old when he went missing on September 25, 1966.

Cliff left behind his widow Carolyn and their son Colin, born just days before Cliff learned that he would be deployed to Vietnam. Colin was 9 months old when Cliff left for Vietnam.

Everyone in Grand Forks knows the name of Cushman because Cliff was a standout athlete and a Silver Medalist in the 1960 Olympics in the 400 meter hurdles. Grand Forks named their high school football stadium Cushman Field after Cliff.

Grand Forks kids are still inspired annually by the reading of the 1964 letter Cliff wrote to students about effort, after he fell while attempting to qualify for the 1964 Olympics. This is a quote from Cliff's letter: "I would much rather fail knowing I had put forth an honest effort than never to have tried at all." Later in the same letter, Cliff wrote: "Unless your reach exceeds your grasp, how can you be sure what you can attain?"

THOMAS "TOM" ALDERSON

I want to talk about Thomas Alderson. Tom was from Grand Forks. He was born on September 9, 1941. He served as a captain in the Army's 56th medical company. He died October 3, 1968, at the age of 27. He was survived by his wife, mother, brother, and two sisters.

Tom was an Army dental officer in the Vietnam Dental Corps. His father-in-law was his commanding officer.

In high school, he was an honor student and lettered in basketball, track, and tennis. He attended the University of North Dakota and the University of Minnesota, where he earned his dental degree in 1966.

In Vietnam, Tom was in charge of several dental offices, which required travel throughout the country. Tom's driver in Vietnam wrote the family a letter explaining that even as a dentist, Tom was ducking mortars all day long during his service.

RAYMOND "RAY" KRAMER

Next, Ray Kramer. Ray was from New Salem and he was born December 31, 1946. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

Ray died on February 2, 1968. He was 21 years old. Ray was the sixth of nine children. His brother, Cecil, also served in the Army. Ray's nephew, Cody, is very proud of his Uncle Ray's service.

Ray grew up on the farm where his family raised grain and dairy cows. He was an honor student at New Salem

High School and later worked as a dedicated carpenter. Ray's sister, Beverly, remembers that Ray's dog loved him so much that he slept under Ray's car while Ray was in Vietnam. After Ray was killed in action, his parents left the farm and moved to town. His sister took Ray's dog to her farm 10 miles away, but the dog ran all the way back home to wait for Ray under his car.

RONALD "CHRISTY" GOODIRON

Ronald Christy Goodiron was from Shields and was born December 23, 1947. He served in the Marine Corps' 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

Christy was 20 years old when he died on February 28, 1968. His father Paul Goodiron served in World War I and was a code talker. Christy's close cousin, Paul Goodiron, also served in Vietnam. Unfortunately, Paul unexpectedly died last month. Paul's son, CPL Nathan Goodiron, was also killed in action in 2006 serving his country in the U.S. Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

Christy's family remembers him as smiling all the time. Today, they honor him at powwows by raising the American flag they received when he died and singing the Vietnam "Warrior's Song" to honor Christy.

Christy's family appreciates reading what his fellow marines serving with him wrote about their memories of him and the account of what happened the day he died.

RONALD "RON" BOND

Maj. Ronald Bond was from Fargo and was born on July 30, 1930. He served in the Air Force's 604th Air Commando Squadron. He was 37 years old when he went missing May 11, 1968.

Ron was the oldest of six kids and the first in his family to attend college. Ron's family remembers him as an adventuresome spirit. He loved hunting, fishing, water skiing, and even competitive sailing with his wife.

Ron's military career began as a Naval ROTC Cadet in his first year at North Dakota State University. Ron then served in the Naval Reserve, enlisted in the Navy, and upon discharge immediately enlisted in the Air Force.

Despite an aircraft accident that injured his spine, Ron became a flight instructor and flew in more missions until he was killed in action in Vietnam. His body has never been recovered.

GARY LOKKEN

Gary Lokken was from Bowman and was born on July 2, 1941. He served in the Army Reserve's Engineering CMD. He was 26 years old when he died on April 10, 1968. Gary left behind his widow Paige and infant twins, a boy and a girl. The twins were 10 days old when Gary left for basic training.

Gary was a medical doctor, who studied in North Dakota and Texas. He completed his medical internship in

Hawaii and planned to return there with his family to live after his service. Six months after arriving in Vietnam, Gary was killed while transporting patients when his vehicle hit a landmine.

His twins both entered the medical field. His son is a histology technician and his daughter a medical doctor.

WILLIAM "BILL" ECKES

William "Bill" Eckes was from Beach. He was born on September 20, 1940. He served in the Navy as a Petty Officer First Class journalist. Bill died March 10, 1967. He was 26 years old.

Bill was the oldest of seven children. His father was an Army sergeant in World War II. Bill was a well-known football player for Beach High School. He was on his second tour of duty in the Navy as a journalist when his aircraft crashed in South Vietnam.

He previously wrote for Stars and Stripes while he was stationed in Sicily and Iceland. Margot, Bill's sister closest in age, remembers him as an intelligent, determined person whose plan was to come home after attending the University of North Dakota and have a career in the Foreign Service.

JEROME ELLENSON

Jerome Ellenson was from Walcott and was born on April 3, 1946. He served in the Army's 196th Infantry Brigade. Jerome died on January 10, 1968. He was 20 years old.

Jerome was the fifth of seven children. Jerome's oldest sister, Margie, remembers him as having a unique love of life, being a great storyteller, and everyone's friend.

Margie tells about how Jerome would often give his family side aches because he had made them laugh so much on long car trips. Jerome didn't say goodbye to anyone when he left for Vietnam.

His family was told he was the last survivor of his unit; that he manned the radio until his death.

CHESTER "SKIP" COONS

Chester "Skip" Coons was from Bismark. He was born March 29, 1936. He served in the Navy's Observation Squadron 67. He was 31 years old on February 17, 1968, when he went missing.

Skip and his two brothers, Larry and Ronald, all served in the Navy. Their mother Elsie still lives in Bismark and is 95 years old. Skip left behind two young daughters who were thankful to meet fellow sky sailors of their dad's old unit.

Skip had planned to make a career out of the military. In high school, he joined the North Dakota National Guard, then he joined the Air Force for 3 years, and later joined the Navy as a pilot. He was on his third tour of duty in Vietnam when his plane was shot down on a reconnaissance mission over Laos. In 1993, his remains were finally recovered.

RICHARD BURINGRUD

Richard Buringrud was from Argusville and was born on November

24, 1946. He served in the Army 12th Infantry Regiment. Richard died on June 9, 1969. He was 22 years old.

Richard loved softball and playing basketball in high school. Richard's father still lives in Fargo and his family remembers the letters he sent home describing having been in a swamp, which was the first kind of bath he had in a week.

Richard was an expert rifleman and was killed when he went ahead of his armored unit to help clear the way.

BRENT SVEEN

Brent Sveen was from Harwood and went to high school in West Fargo. He was born October 25, 1951. He was 18 years old when he died on September 7, 1970.

Brent's father also served in the Army in World War II. Brent's older brother Bruce, a marine, served two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Brent's sisters, Jean and Ava, remember Brent as befriending everyone, being the life of the party, and having a great sense of humor and wit.

Brent's sisters cherish one family picture in particular. Their older brother Bruce was wearing his marine uniform. Before taking the picture, Brent disappeared. He returned wearing his dad's old World War II Army uniform and the family took the picture with both boys in uniform.

Having an older brother serve in Vietnam, Brent could have waived out of his own service, but he was eager to serve his country and enlisted while in high school. Shortly before he died, Brent wrote this poem he mailed to his parents.

I think of my buddy I was talking to yesterday;

Now he's lying on the ground not far away;  
They say he's dead, but I hope it's not true;  
And if it is, to ease my tears I'll think of you.

I looked down at his body and began to cry;  
I turned to the clouds and asked, God, why?  
I waited awhile, but no answer came;  
Only the unceasing falling rain.

I want to thank Brent's sister Jean Kraft for participating in this project. Jean joined me recently in a visit to the Bismarck High School sharing her own family's stories and encouraging these students to reach out to families and to learn about the lives of these young men whom we lost in Vietnam. She is among my very favorite people and a hero herself.

PETER BINSTOCK, JR.

Peter Binstock, Jr., was from New England. He was born May 5, 1947. He served in the Army as an Armor Recon Specialist. He died on January 3, 1969. He was 21 years old.

Peter was the oldest of 11 children. His family had eight girls and three boys. Peter planned on taking over the family farm when he returned from Vietnam. His sister Rose remembers Peter as always being in good spirits. While he was in Vietnam, he was fond-

ly called "Big Pete" because he was 6 feet 3 inches and very strong. He was promoted to corporal after his death.

RONALD KENT

Ronald Kent. Ronald was from Page and was born April 21, 1943. He served in the Army 25th Infantry Division. He was 23 years old when he died on January 20, 1967.

Ronald was one of eight children. His family remembers him as a fearless man. He was small in stature but big in spirit. His sister Candice remembers that Ronald loved the outdoors, and he had the ability to talk his nieces and nephews into anything, including cleaning his car.

A few years ago, Ronald's brother Steven spoke to the young men who carried Ronald's body back to the base after he was killed. After hearing the description of that day, Steven knows that in those final moments, all that Ronald was thinking about was saving his brothers-in-arms.

WARD EVANS

Ward Evans. Ward was from Harwood, and he was born February 22, 1940. He served in the Army 5th Infantry Division. He died on February 8, 1969. He was 28 years old. Ward was the youngest of five children. His family remembers him as someone who was always ready to help others. His sister Maryann remembers that when he came home from Vietnam on a break, he seemed sad and that the war had gotten to him, but he went back to complete his duty.

On February 8, 1969, almost all the men near Ward were killed. When the chopper came back to pick up the survivors, Ward demanded to stay behind in order to rescue three men who were still alive but also wounded. While tending to the injured soldiers, Ward stepped on a land mine.

Ward's nephew Mark is so proud of him and will always remember Ward as a man who did what was right no matter what the personal cost.

JOHN TINGLEY

John Tingley was from Kathryn. He was born on August 19, 1946. He served in the Army 128th Aviation Company. He was 21 years old at the time of his death, January 10, 1968.

John was one of six children born in 8 years. John's sister Mary remembers John as someone who did it all. He played the trombone in band, sang in the choir, was a member of the 4H Club, and played sports. He had a photographic memory and his sister knew he would have had an enormously bright future.

In Vietnam, John was a helicopter gunner crew chief. The day he was killed, John's helicopter was responding to a helicopter that had just gone down. While they were going to assist soldiers involved in the crash, he was shot and killed.

All of these young men serving their country and serving each other remind

us of the sacrifices we have experienced in war. They remind us that there are so many among us who will run to the sound of the guns and protect our freedom. We cannot let their sacrifice ever be forgotten.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we are continuing to make progress on the bipartisan antitrafficking bill. Senator CORNYN is working with Chairman GRASSLEY and Senators on both sides of the aisle to resolve the remaining issues.

It is my hope we will be able to go through an orderly amendment process and pass the trafficking bill early next week. The Senate will then consider the Lynch nomination through the regular order, as I have already committed to doing, followed by consideration of the Iran bill as reported unanimously by the Foreign Relations Committee earlier this week.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1191

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 30, H.R. 1191, and that if the motion to proceed is agreed to, Senator CORKER or his designee be recognized to offer a substitute amendment, which is the text of S. 615 as reported by the Foreign Relations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve my right to object, and would say that with the work done by Senators MURRAY and all the Judiciary Committee, led by Senator LEAHY and, of course, Senator KLOBUCHAR, working with Senator CORNYN, significant progress has been made. There is no question in that regard. But we are not there yet. Remember, we had a problem with this initially because of the language in the bill. So every word is going to have to be read with this new language that is drawn up, and then we will see if we can make it to the finish line. I think we can, but we are certainly not there yet. But progress has been made.

Mr. President, in my reservation to object I would say that I note that the request the majority leader propounded is seeking to move to a House revenue bill, which of course would provide a vehicle for the Foreign Relations Committee-reported Iran legislation. I support the Committee-reported Iran legislation. I commend Senators CARDIN



and CORKER for their historic work on this package. I do hope the Senate can pass it with no changes.

But I note that the majority leader is once again choosing not to move to the nomination of Loretta Lynch as Attorney General. It has been more than 5 months—it will be 6 months in a week or 10 days—since President Obama nominated her. Her nomination has been on the Senate calendar for 49 days, longer than the last 7 Attorney General nominations combined.

So I ask whether the majority leader would modify his consent request to add this: That there be 2 hours for debate, divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. Part of the consent request is that on Monday, April 20, at 3:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 21.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as I have indicated, gosh, at least for 6 weeks now, we are going to deal with the Lynch nomination right after we finish trafficking.

I am optimistic that we will be able to do trafficking in 1 day. There is not a huge demand for amendments. As I have assured my friend the Democratic leader and our colleagues, then we will move forward on the nominee for Attorney General.

Therefore, I object to the modification.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection to the modification is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, continuing my reservation, as the majority leader is well aware, procedurally, the Senate provides many opportunities for delay. We are not going to treat the current majority the way the Republican minority treated us when we were in the majority. I am not going to object to the majority leader's consent today. However, I want everyone to know—I am going to serve notice right now—that Ms. Lynch's nomination will not remain in purgatory forever.

So I withdraw my objection.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks to the American Council on Education.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION

I am here today to read you a letter and ask for your help. I'm going to be very specific. First, I want to thank Chancellors Kirwan and Zeppos for the work they've done with others at the request of four United States senators: two Democrats and two Republicans, Senator Mikulski and Senator Bennett on the Democratic side and Senator Burr and myself on the Republican side.

We asked them to not give us a sermon but to give us specific recommendations for exactly what to do about the problem of over-regulation of higher education, and they've done that. The English professors on your campuses would be very pleased with it because it's actually recommended in plain English with mostly declarative sentences. It's an unusual report. It's very well done. And the way things work in Washington, it reminds me a lot of the report called "Rise Above Gathering Storm" that the National Academy of Sciences sponsored about ten years ago, and Norm Augustine headed it. We basically said, "Just give us ten specific things to do, and if you do, we'll probably do most of them." They gave us 20 recommendations, and we've done most of them.

So this is really a blueprint or an agenda for the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of Education to act on the problem. I want to thank Molly Broad for her work at ACE on this and for organizing it and Terry Hartle and Anne Hickey, who are staff members there. There's Christina West at Vanderbilt University, who worked hard on the report. At the University System of Maryland, there's PJ Hogan, and Andrew LaCasse on our staff in the Senate. They did a terrific job.

Now, what I'm supposed to do here is take 10 or 12 minutes and then sit down and see what questions or suggestions you have with the chancellors. So, I thought the best way to do that was to read you a letter and come close to telling you a story. One of my friends was the late Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*. After I made a speech one time, he came up after and said, "May I make a suggestion?" I said, "Well of course." He said, "If before you make a speech, you say, 'Instead of making a speech let me tell you story,' people may actually listen to what you have to say." So, let me begin with a short story.

I got this over the weekend from someone I don't know. It's from a president from a University in Missouri, handwritten, and says, among other things, "I've been in higher education administration for over 40 years, the last 20 as a university president, and I've never experienced the amount of regulatory pressure that our institution currently faces."

I hear that in lots of different ways, and this report is an expression of what to do about that. For example, this isn't just a sermon, as I mentioned. There are 59 specific suggestions about what to do. In testimony before our committee, almost everyone who testified said that requiring students to fill out the FAFSA form in their senior year and

providing tax information before they file their taxes makes no sense. It would make a lot more sense to do it the year before. Almost everybody said that we should do that.

So, in this report are 59 recommendations, and what I want to ask you to do is organize yourselves in your own state and make an appointment with your member of the United States Congress. And get six or seven members of the university and sit down and talk about this report, and say, "Now we worked two years on this. This is serious business. It costs a lot of money. It discourages a lot of students from coming to our colleges, and we'd like for you to support the legislation Senator Alexander and Senator Mikulski and Senator Burr and Senator Bennett are introducing in order to implement the report." You might add Senator Murray of Washington who is the ranking Democrat on the committee as she will be deeply involved in this as well.

Sometimes university presidents come to Washington to meet with members of Congress. That's the biggest waste of time I can think of. We're all running around here with 15-minute schedules trying to keep up with things and have many more requests for appointments than we have time to see or pay attention to. But almost every single senator who is on the committee that is going to deal with this is home every weekend, and the senator from Tennessee, with all due respect, doesn't really want to see the president of the University of Maryland. He would like to see the president of the University of Tennessee or of Vanderbilt or of Milligan College or Maryville College or Rhodes College. If five or six or eight of those presidents say, "Senator Alexander, may we have a 30-minute appointment with you while you're home next month?", I'll do it in a minute. So will every other senator. And you have the credibility to go to that member of Congress and say, "Will you please vote for this? Will you cosponsor the legislation? Will you support it? Will you encourage the president to sign it?" Odds are, if you do that they will. It's about that simple.

There are a lot of things we work on up here about which we have big partisan differences. There is no reason to have any big partisan differences over this. There are a few things in it that get haggles up on the left and the right, but most things aren't like that at all. There is just the accumulation of eight reauthorizations of the Higher Education Act beginning in 1965, and you know exactly what happens. A well-meaning group of senators, congressmen, education secretaries, regulators come up with an idea and said, "Let's do this, or here's a good idea let's make everybody do that." And they just keep doing that until pretty soon you get a stack of regulations that's twice as tall as I am. You're looking at the Higher Education Act, and that's how tall it actually is. Nobody's weeded the garden. Well, this is an effort to weed the garden. So, I read a letter. I've asked for your help, and your help is very specific.

Will you please make an appointment in your home state, starting with the 22 members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and say to us, "We hope you'll vote for and support that."

Now, you'll all recognize this. This is what 20 million parents fill out every single year. And lots of colleges have said, "Well we like this information." You have to think about how much you like it. Does it really work? Asking 20 million families to fill out 108 questions like this every year just to get a grant or loan to go to college? A testimony

before our committee said we could get it down to two questions: what's your family income, and what's the size of your family? Maybe it's two, maybe it's four, maybe it's 10, maybe it's 12. President Obama in his budget advocated for removing about thirty of those questions, so that takes it down from 108 to about 78.

What's the importance of that? The importance of it is pretty obvious. The importance of it is that it saves money, it saves time, and the president of the community college in Memphis, Southwest Tennessee Community College, told me he thinks he loses 1,500 students every semester because of the complexity of the form that impair students that would like to go to college.

The second story you'd like to know is Chancellor Zeppos's story about how much it costs at Vanderbilt every year to comply with federal regulations on higher education: \$150 million for one institution, \$11,000 or \$12,000 for everyone to add onto their tuition. That's just ridiculous. That's absolutely absurd.

Now, another fact is that the National Academy of Sciences says, and they've done two reports to verify this, that investigators of federally-sponsored research at colleges and universities spend 42 percent of their time on administrative matters. Now we spend \$30 billion, we taxpayers at colleges and universities on research. How much of that money is spent on administrative? Well, Chancellor Zeppos said that at Vanderbilt—and I think I've got my figures right—that about \$136 million of the \$146 was allocated for research. So, the way I figured it, about 25 percent of all the research money he gets at Vanderbilt, which is probably \$500 million, goes to administrative tasks. Forty-two percent of the time we're researching. If we can move from 42 to 35 to 33 to 30, we could save \$1 billion or \$2 billion and take the dollars to fund hundreds, maybe thousands, of multi-year research grants, which we hear so much about declining.

And then the fact that we've been trying to reduce these for a long time. One of my first acts as a senator was to pass legislation requiring the U.S. Department of Education to make a calendar of all of the things that you are supposed to comply with if you are in one of the 6000-plus colleges and universities in America. They have had seven years, and they haven't been able to do it. Well, if they can't do that, how can a small Catholic college in Wisconsin hire somebody to figure it out? And according to this report, there is a new guidance or regulation coming out on average every workday in the U.S. Department of Education. So, you just have that combination of 108-question FAFSA; \$150 million at one university to comply; the National Academy saying 42 percent of time is spent by investigators is spent on administration; and the department itself unable to make a list of all of the rules that it expects you to comply with—that's a pretty good case to make for the people you talk to.

And then I would suggest that a delegation—and again I have discussed this with the chancellors—go see Arne Duncan at the U.S. Department of Education. I meant this isn't all his fault; it's all of our faults among all of us who have been Secretary of Education, all of us who have been in the Congress since 1965. We haven't done our job, and of the 59 recommendations, probably a dozen are recommendations that the U.S. Secretary of Education could do himself. They could be done by an administrator. So, go to Secretary Duncan and say, "Look, we'd like to make a hero out of you. We're here to say,

we've identified the 12 areas that you can change that would make a big difference in increasing innovation and reducing cost of colleges all across America." And I've talked with him about that, and I think he'd be willing to hear about that.

We'll be reauthorizing the Higher Education Act later this year after we get through fixing "No Child Left Behind," which is the first order of business. And the first thing we want to do is make it easier for students to go to college. That's the "FAST Act," aimed at simplifying the student aid form. That includes saying that you can apply your junior year of high school, so you can know what your award will be before you are admitted to college. And, you will know what your tax information is before you have to turn in your form.

We want to simplify the number of grants and loans. We want to make it possible for there to be year-round Pell for your students to be able to follow their own rate and use their Pell grants and student aid progressively at their own rate in college. We'd like to discourage over-borrowing by changing some rules that exist, permit you to do more counseling of students, change the rule that allows a part-time student to borrow a full-time amount of money. We'd like to simplify the repayment plans. Now, all those things don't have much to do with being a Republican or a Democrat. They have a lot to do with an important system.

We'd like to take as many of these fifty-nine recommendations and put them in a bill and pass them as we can. A lot of that will depend upon your business at home to the men and women who run the universities in your state. We want to take a look at the accreditation and make sure it's focused on the right thing. As a former university president, I didn't like a lot about accreditation. The only thing I would like less would be having the U.S. Department of Education take the place of the accreditor. So, let's work together and fix the accreditation system and have focus on academic quality instead of all that random other stuff that accreditors often get themselves involved in.

We want to make it harder to over-borrow. I mentioned a couple of ideas about this. There are a few more in this report. Finally, we want to do our best to make sure that the consumer information that you're asked for really is needed and is presented in a useful way to students. Typically, it's just a big pile of stuff that has the disadvantage of by the time you go all the way through you haven't learned anything. It's like a mortgage application or a car loan. You just sign at the bottom and have no clue about what you just signed. We need simpler, plain English, clear sentences—pieces of information that are valuable to students and that are valuable to parents, and that we can weed our way through the system more confidently.

So, that's what we're trying to do, and we need your help. One thing that I would say to you is that this is a train that is likely to move down track in out of the station by the end of year. Why do I say that? Well, because it has bipartisan support in a town that's not noted for that. This report has been active interest of four senators who will a lot more. The FAST Act, as we call it, which will simplify student aid has the support of six: Senator Booker and Senator King and Senator Burr and Senator Isakson and me, equally divided by party. Senator Murray and I, she's from Washington state, will work together to reauthorize it. I've talked to the president about it. He did a very good job of

working with us on some forms on student loans two years ago. There's no reason he can't work with us in that way and this year finish the job.

So, I hope you'll keep in mind the letter that I read. I suspect that you have made the same feelings, and I am here to thank you for the tremendous work that ACE and the chancellors and their team and staff did on the report. It's been one of the most consequential reports made to the Congress during this year. Will you please make an appointment in the next thirty days in your home state, first with the members of the Senate education committee? Bring along a few colleagues and say, "We spent a lot of time on this. This is wasting a lot of money. This is discouraging a lot of students. This is taking a lot of time. Will you please support this bipartisan effort to bring some common sense to the jungle of red tape that is the current federal regulation of higher education?" Thank you.

#### NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize that today, April 16, 2015, is National Healthcare Decisions Day.

National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. Started by a Richmond attorney as a local, grassroots initiative in Virginia, NHDD became an annual event in 2008 and today is recognized across all 50 States. Faith-based groups, doctors and nurses, hospitals, patients, and caregivers alike are engaged in these efforts.

It is critical that Virginians and all Americans—both patients and providers—engage in advance care planning, and that they have access to clear, consistent, and concise information on how to make these critical health care decisions. Today, on National Healthcare Decisions Day, it is important to discuss preferences and goals with family and friends—and this starts with filling out an advance directive. But advanced care planning is about much more than that, and in the last several years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to transform advanced care, both among providers and families.

First, broader transformations in health care, especially the movement towards paying for quality, not volume, of services offer opportunities to speed the adoption of effective advanced care programs. Our health care system does a great job paying for procedures: surgery, chemotherapy, hip replacements. It does a not so good job paying for health care providers to spend face-to-face time with patients, helping them to choose among many options with uncertain outcomes. Improvements to care planning would give individuals and their families the ability to make smarter decisions. It would provide additional information

and support so they can make informed choices based upon those values and goals.

Meanwhile, across the country, people are innovating and creating new models of care to provide patients with the tools and support to make their own advanced care decisions. For example, in my own State of Virginia, a Richmond Academy of Medicine initiative called Honoring Choices Virginia promises to fill a critical hole. This innovative partnership involves the academy and three independent health care systems working to adopt nationally-recognized best practices, and adapting them to the needs of patients, families, doctors, and hospitals of the local community in Central Virginia. This commitment to patients and families in our region sets an example for the rest of the Commonwealth and the country.

It is similarly essential that we consider how Federal policies impact patients and their families during times of serious illness. For example, the vast majority of these patients receive care funded by Medicaid and Medicare, and many of them are elderly or disabled. Medicare, however, does not adequately reimburse physicians or other important members of the care planning team, such as nurses or social workers, for systems to support patients and their families. Likewise, faced with an uneven patchwork of advance directive laws across States, providers too often base their actions on the technicalities of forms or on fear of being sued. Such hurdles make it difficult for health care providers to focus on what the patient really wants.

In the 111th and 112th Congress, I introduced the Senior Navigation and Planning Act, to help people grapple with the challenges of caring for those with advanced illness. And in the 113th Congress, Senator ISAKSON and I introduced the Care Planning Act. The purpose of the Care Planning Act is to align the care people want with the level of care they get. It does not limit choices—it works to make sure people are made fully aware of the broad range of choices they have. I hope to reintroduce the Care Planning Act in the coming weeks.

I believe this effort is critical, not just from my time serving as a Governor and as a Senator, but also through the eyes of a loved one who struggled with these issues. My mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years, and for 9 of those years, she couldn't speak. My father, sister and I found grappling with the challenges of caring for her difficult. The difficulty was greater because, when she was first diagnosed, my family didn't take the opportunity to talk in an honest and fully informed way with her and her health care providers about the full array of health care options available, or about what her priorities would be during the final years of her life.

It is not easy, and this is a subject that most people do their best to avoid. But it is critical. National Healthcare Decisions Day reminds us of the importance of discussing ways to improve advanced care planning at all levels—Federal, State, local—and above all, amongst Americans and their loved ones.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM SCOTT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the retirement of Jim Scott after nearly 50 years as Cincinnati's familiar voice of morning radio.

Jim Scott began his Cincinnati radio career in 1968 as morning show host for the iconic pop radio station 1360 WSAI-AM in Price Hill. He joined 700 WLW in 1984 and for 45 years, Jim has been the familiar voice of morning radio.

During his morning time slot from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., Jim interviewed countless dignitaries and celebrity newsmakers from Presidents and civic leaders to top movie stars and sports figures. He routinely talked with news correspondents from around the globe, including those reporting at the White House and from posts in London to Baghdad.

Jim is a true public servant and an inspiration to us all. He has been a long-time volunteer leader of the Greater Cincinnati United Way and has served on many boards, including the Wellness Community, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the March of Dimes, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

A stalwart volunteer, Jim is Cincinnati's voice of volunteerism; whether he's hosting Marty & Joe night at the Great American Ballpark, serving as emcee for your favorite animal shelter or welcoming Presidents and foreign dignitaries to the Queen City.

Jim has been recognized with many awards, including the Silver Medal of the Cincinnati Ad Club, and the Neil H. McElroy Award from the United Way. In 1996 and 2000, the U.S. Olympic Committee named Jim "A Community Hero" and he was thrilled to be a torchbearer in the Olympic Torch Relay.

Jim Scott has dominated morning show ratings in every decade since the 1970s and was the winner of the 2002 Marconi Award for Large Market Radio Personality of the Year. In 2013, the Cincinnati Enquirer named Jim the No. 1 radio personality of the past 40 years.

Jim Scott will remain on air until his "favorite day of the year," Cincinnati Reds Opening Day on April 6, 2015, when he'll walk in the Findlay Market Opening Day Parade to say thank you to his fans who have supported him throughout his career.

Thank you, Jim Scott. Your daily "good morning and thanks for listening" greeting will be missed.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING ORA ESTUARIES

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, due to their unique perspective, American entrepreneurs are often at the forefront of innovative solutions to local problems. This is especially true with environmental initiatives, and down in Louisiana where the ecosystems are diverse and delicate, the locals are best equipped to protect them. That is why ORA Estuaries of New Orleans, LA is the Small Business of the Week.

Civil engineer and New Orleans native Tyler Ortego was a student at Louisiana State University when he and a friend discovered a way to fight coastal erosion using oysters. In 2005, Ortego patented the OysterBreak system, which essentially allows oysters to fuse together on a man-made rock-like material in order to create a living coastal reef. Now holding two patents, Ortego and ORA Estuaries are focused on rebuilding and revitalizing coastal regions. ORA Estuaries recently claimed the top prize of the New Orleans Entrepreneurial Week's "Big Idea Pitch," and with the prize money hopes to move into food production and new versions of the OysterBreak system.

Our coast and wetlands provide some of Louisiana's most important resources and beautiful habitats, and because our geography makes us vulnerable to natural disasters, it is absolutely vital that we protect them. Innovative technologies like ORA's OysterBreak system play a significant role in restoring our coasts and wetlands, which protect Louisianians and gulf coast residents from storms and flooding. Currently, ORA's natural reefs systems are deployed in four different areas along the Louisiana coast, including an oyster habitat restoration project run by the Nature Conservatory of Louisiana. ORA is looking toward expanding to all five of the Gulf States, as well as the Chesapeake Bay area and even North Carolina. Not only is ORA's breakthrough system protecting vulnerable shorelines, but the growth and retention of oyster colonies that naturally process and filter water interests scientists and environmentalists, as well.

Congratulations to ORA Estuaries for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to restoring and protecting our precious ecosystems and coastlines in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare

sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 12:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 709. An act to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes.

H.R. 1026. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights.

H.R. 1104. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations.

H.R. 1152. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under 501(c)(4) of such Code.

H.R. 1314. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

H.R. 1562. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 529. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 709. An act to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1026. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1104. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction

from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1152. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1562. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

H.R. 1314. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

S. 984. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-8. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to reinstate funding for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has been a significant source for the nation's electricity production. There are 104 operating nuclear power reactors in the United States, providing about one-fifth of the nation's electricity generation. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Michigan's three nuclear power plants provided 28 percent of the electricity generated in Michigan in 2013; and

Whereas, Nuclear power can provide large amounts of reliable, emission-free electricity at stable prices. Many electricity markets across the nation are, or will soon be, in need of new baseload generating capacity. However, the construction of new nuclear power plants is being hampered by the unresolved issue of spent nuclear fuel; and

Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma is how to deal with

used nuclear fuel. Currently, more than 70,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel are stored in pools or casks at temporary, and potentially vulnerable, sites around the country, including in Michigan. More nuclear waste is generated every day. This high-level radioactive waste demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including transportation; and

Whereas, The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 requires the federal government, through the Department of Energy (DOE), to build a repository for the permanent storage of high-level radioactive waste from nuclear power plants. This act includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste repository; and

Whereas, The establishment of a federal nuclear waste repository is more than fifteen years overdue. Under the Act, the DOE was supposed to begin accepting and storing the nation's nuclear waste by January 31, 1998. In 2002, Congress and President Bush approved Yucca Mountain in Nevada as the site of the repository, and in 2008, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) accepted an application by the DOE to construct and operate the repository. However, in 2010, at the urging of President Obama, the DOE chose to unilaterally and irrevocably terminate the Yucca Mountain repository process; and

Whereas, The NRC released a report in October 2014 that found Yucca Mountain would be a safe and acceptable repository for the permanent storage of used nuclear fuel. The repository would meet all NRC standards for protecting people and the environment from radioactivity. Clearly, it is time to re-open the Yucca Mountain process, as it will provide the best long-term solution to our nation's used nuclear fuel problem; and

Whereas, The Yucca Mountain process cannot move forward without the U.S. Congress appropriating additional funds. Electric ratepayers in Michigan and across the country have paid billions into the federal Nuclear Waste Fund specifically to support development of a long-term repository. Since 1983, in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, customers of Michigan electric utilities have paid \$812 million into the federal fund. While fee collection has been suspended as of May 16, 2014, the fund still contains a total balance of over \$31 billion: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to reinstate funding for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.*

POM-9. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine memorializing the President of the United States and Congress of the United States to support the reform of the Social Security offsets of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision; to the Committee on Finance.

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Whereas, under current federal law, individuals who receive a Social Security benefit and a public retirement benefit derived from employment not covered under Social Security are subject to a reduction in the Social Security benefits; and

Whereas, these laws, contained in the federal Social Security Act, 42 United States

Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits, and known as the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, greatly affect public employees, particularly women; and

Whereas, the Windfall Elimination Provision reduces by a formula the Social Security benefit of a person who is also receiving a pension from a public employer that does not participate in Social Security; and

Whereas, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision are particularly burdensome on the finances of low-income and moderate-income public service workers, such as school teachers, clerical workers and school cafeteria employees, whose wages are low to start; and

Whereas, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision both unfairly reduce benefits for those public employees and their spouses whose careers cross the line between the private and public sectors; and

Whereas, since many lower-paying public service jobs are held by women, both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision have a disproportionately adverse effect on women; and

Whereas, in some cases, additional support in the form of income, housing, heating and prescription drug and other safety net assistance from state and local governments is needed to make up for the reductions imposed at the federal level; and

Whereas, other participants in Social Security do not have their benefits reduced in this manner; and

Whereas, to participate or not to participate in Social Security in public sector employment is a decision of employers even though both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision directly punish employees and their spouses; and

Whereas, although the Government Pension Offset was enacted in 1977 and the Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983, many of the benefits in dispute were paid into Social Security prior to that time: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That We, your Memorialists, request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress work together to support reform proposals that include the following protections for low-income and moderate-income government retirees:

1. Protections permitting retention of a combined public pension and Social Security benefit with no applied reductions;

2. Protections permanently ensuring that level of benefit by indexing it to inflation; and

3. Protections ensuring that no current recipient's benefit is reduced by the reform legislation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-10. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts condemning all forms of anti-Semitism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, there is clear evidence of increasing incidents and expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world; and

Whereas, in April 2014, the United States Department of State released the International Religious Freedom report recognizing that anti-Semitism continues to be prevalent internationally; and

Whereas, anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in 2014 include murders, violent attacks and death threats against Jews, arson, graffiti and property desecration and murders at Jewish cemeteries, places of worship, schools and community events; and

Whereas, such anti-Semitic acts also extend to soccer stadiums, the Internet, editorial cartoons and the use of Nazi salutes, leading many Jewish individuals to conceal their religious identity; and

Whereas, the recent terror attack at a kosher supermarket in Paris, France, and a mounting sense of insecurity among France's Jews reminds us of the urgent need for a commitment to address and confront anti-Semitism; and

Whereas, the Governments in France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, the 4 countries where the majority of anti-Semitic incidents have occurred in Western Europe, have strongly condemned anti-Semitism as unacceptable in European society and have all made clear statements that such attacks on their Jewish communities are intolerable; and

Whereas, anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been on display at demonstrations against Israel's actions in Gaza, throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a rich history of tolerance to all faiths and religions; and

Whereas, the United States Government has played an essential role in counteracting the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide and has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitism through its bilateral relationships and participation in international organizations such as the United Nations, the organization for security and cooperation in Europe, and the organization of American states; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts General Court joins with people everywhere in unequivocally condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts General Court applauds the United States and those foreign leaders who have condemned anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action against anti-Semitism in their countries to do so; and

Whereas, the very recent killings of a Danish film director and a Jewish guard in Copenhagen, along with the vandalism of a Jewish cemetery in Eastern France, have given rise to concerns about a rise of terrorism and anti-Semitism across the continent: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts General Court supports expanded anti-bias and Holocaust education programs to increase awareness, counter prejudice and enhance efforts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Massachusetts Senate to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Governor of the Commonwealth and to each member of Congress elected from this State.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

\*Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

\*Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 968. A bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 969. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 970. A bill to allow more small insured depository institutions to qualify for the 18-month on-site examination cycle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BURR):

S. 971. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 972. A bill to clarify the effect of designating a National Monument on certain land in Chafee County, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 973. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for equity investments by angel investors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 974. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 975. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 976. A bill to promote the development of a United States commercial space resource exploration and utilization industry and to increase the exploration and utilization of resources in outer space; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 977. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to secure the rights of visual artists to copyright, to provide for resale royalties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 978. A bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 979. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. LEE):

S. 980. A bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 981. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a repatriation holiday, to increase funding to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 982. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 983. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate high priority corridors on the National Highway System in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 984. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; read the first time.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 985. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 986. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 987. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 988. A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 989. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to exempt from duty residue of bulk cargo contained in instruments of international traffic previously exported from the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 990. A bill to improve the process by which the Librarian of Congress considers requests for exemptions to section 1201(a)(1)(A) of title 17, United States Code, and to ease restrictions on the use of certain statutory exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 991. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. 992. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 993. A bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 994. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 995. A bill to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotia-

tions, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 996. A bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 997. A bill to extend the authorization for the major medical facility project to replace the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage the construction of such project, to transfer the authority to carry out future major medical facility projects of the Department from the Secretary to the Army Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 998. A bill to establish a process for the consideration of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 999. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1000. A bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GARDNER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1001. A bill to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1003. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1004. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1005. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for health insurance costs of certain eligible individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1006. A bill to incentivize early adoption of positive train control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.



## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 136. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2015, as "Silver Star Service Banner Day"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 137. A resolution congratulating the administration, staff, students, and alumni of Roosevelt University on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the University; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 138. A resolution congratulating the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team for winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 139. A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Con. Res. 12. A concurrent resolution recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 230

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 230, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 606, a bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to extend the positive train control system implementation deadline, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research.

S. 753

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 753, a bill to amend the method by which the Social Security Administration determines the validity of marriages under title II of the Social Security Act.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 854

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 854, a bill to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of



wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 884

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 884, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 950, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 974. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the important issue of child labor in tobacco fields. I want to tell you about Calvin, a 17-year-old boy just over five feet tall, who migrated to the United States by himself at age 13, leaving his family behind in Mexico. Calvin never enrolled in school.

Instead, he joined a migrant crew that travels between several states to work in different crops. He migrates to Kentucky in August to work in the tobacco fields. Calvin has worked in tobacco farms since he was 16, and he experiences headaches and nausea from nicotine poisoning.

Calvin said he got sick while working in a curing barn. "I got a headache and nausea. I was vomiting," he said. "It

happened when I was hanging the tobacco in the barn."

I wish that Calvin's experience was unusual. But in May of last year, the Human Rights Watch published a report based on interviews with over 140 children who worked on U.S. tobacco farms in 2012 or 2013. The majority of those children were working for hire, and not on a family farm. Some of the findings are staggering and show that Calvin is not alone.

Human Rights Watch found that child tobacco workers began working on tobacco farms at age 11 or 12. During peak harvest periods, children can work as many as 50–60 hours a week. The majority of these children experience symptoms like nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, dizziness, lightheadedness, headaches, and sleeplessness while working on tobacco farms. These symptoms are consistent with acute nicotine poisoning, which happens when you absorb nicotine through their skin.

Furthermore, in these conditions, children work in high heat and humidity and in some instances, they use dangerous tools that include sharp spikes to spear tobacco plants and climb to dangerous heights to hang tobacco in curing barns. These children are exposed to pesticides that are known toxins. Long-term effects of this exposure include cancer, neurological deficits, and reproductive health problems.

In his first summer in the field, 12-year-old Miguel was topping tobacco plants on a farm in North Carolina wearing shorts and a short-sleeved shirt, his torso draped with a black plastic garbage bag to cover himself from the summer's heavy rainstorms. Miguel wore only socks—because he did not have shoes that could withstand the thick mud from the heavy rain.

Miguel lives with his mother, 13-year-old brother, and 5-year-old sister in a rural town in North Carolina. He attends a public school full-time, and works in the fields during his summer break to help cover the costs of food, clothes, and school supplies for the family.

Miguel was hired by a farm labor contractor to work on different farms planting sweet potatoes one day, topping tobacco the next. When asked which crop was harder work, Miguel said, "tobacco, because you have to walk, and you have to use your hands all the time. It's really tiring."

It is tiring. By the time Miguel got home, he would have trouble walking because his legs and feet were so sore from working all day. Not only was 12-year Miguel physically overworked, he, like Calvin, also had to deal with frequent headaches, caused by nicotine poisoning, from working in the tobacco fields. He said, "It was horrible. It felt like there was something in my head trying to eat it."

I am introducing legislation today, with Senator REED of Rhode Island, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BROWN to take children like Calvin and Miguel out of the tobacco fields. Our bill would make it illegal to allow children under the age of 18 to handle tobacco plants or dried tobacco leaves.

Currently, U.S. law prohibits children under the age of 18 from buying cigarettes . . . but allows children as young as 12 to work in tobacco fields. In most other jobs in the U.S., children are not allowed to work before the age of 15.

Today, there are no specific restrictions protecting children from nicotine poisoning or other risks associated with tobacco farming in this country. The United States is the 4th leading tobacco producer in the world, behind China, Brazil, and India. Even Brazil and India prohibit children under 18 from working in tobacco production.

It's time for the United States to adopt similar restrictions. Our children shouldn't be working long hours with a plant that makes them sick. I encourage my colleagues to work with me to pass S. 974, the Children Don't Belong on Tobacco Farms Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 974

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. TOBACCO-RELATED AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

Section 3(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(1)) is amended—

(1) in this first sentence—

(A) by striking "in any occupation, or (2)" and inserting "in any occupation, (2)"; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", or (3) any employee under the age of eighteen years has direct contact with tobacco plants or dried tobacco leaves"; and (2) in the second sentence, by striking "other than manufacturing and mining" and inserting ", other than manufacturing, mining, and tobacco-related agriculture as described in paragraph (3) of the first sentence of this subsection,".

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 975. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 975

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “American Business for American Companies Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING CONTRACTS TO INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.****(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 4713. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations****“(a) PROHIBITION.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

“(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

“(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is held by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

**“(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—**

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of \$10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

“(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

“(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontractor.

“(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

“(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

“(ii) the matter may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment of the prime contractor.

**“(b) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

“(A) the entity completes before, on, or after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

“(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

“(B) after the acquisition, either—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former

partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

“(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

**“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—**

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall establish regulations for determining whether an affiliated group has substantial business activities for purposes of subparagraph (A), except that such regulations may not treat any group as having substantial business activities if such group would not be considered to have substantial business activities under the regulations prescribed under section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on May 8, 2014.

**“(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—**

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(i) the employees of the group are based in the United States;

“(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States;

“(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States; or

“(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States.

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (2) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

**“(c) WAIVER.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is—

“(A) required in the interest of national security; or

“(B) necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or Federally-funded—

“(i) programs that provide health benefits to individuals; or

“(ii) public health programs.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of an executive agency issuing a waiver under

paragraph (1) shall, not later than 14 days after issuing such waiver, submit a written notification of the waiver to the relevant authorizing committees of Congress and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**“(d) APPLICABILITY.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

“(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to any task or delivery order issued after the date of the enactment of this section pursuant to a contract entered into before, on, or after such date of enactment.

“(3) SCOPE.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

**“(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—**

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘expanded affiliated group’, ‘foreign incorporated entity’, ‘person’, ‘domestic’, and ‘foreign’ have the meaning given those terms in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the rules described under 835(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)(1)) shall apply.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4712 the following new item:

“4713. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.”

**(b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 2338. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations****“(a) PROHIBITION.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

“(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

“(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is owned by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

**“(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—**

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of \$10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

“(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

“(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontractor.

“(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

“(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

“(ii) the matter may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment of the prime contractor.

“(b) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

“(A) the entity completes before, on, or after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

“(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

“(B) after the acquisition, either—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

“(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall establish regulations for determining whether an affiliated group has substantial business activities for purposes of subparagraph (A), except that such regulations may not treat any group as having substantial business activities if such group would not be considered to have substantial business activities under the regulations prescribed under section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on May 8, 2014.

“(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(i) the employees of the group are based in the United States;

“(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States;

“(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States; or

“(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States.

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (2) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(c) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is required in the interest of national security or is necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or Federally-funded programs that provide health benefits to individuals.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of an agency issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 14 days after issuing such waiver, submit a written notification of the waiver to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

“(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to any task or delivery order issued after the date of the enactment of this section pursuant to a contract entered into before, on, or after such date of enactment.

“(3) SCOPE.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘expanded affiliated group’, ‘foreign incorporated entity’, ‘person’, ‘domestic’, and ‘foreign’ have the meaning given those terms in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the rules described under 835(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)(1)) shall apply.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2337 the following new item:

“2338. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.”

(c) REGULATIONS REGARDING MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall, for purposes of section 4713(b)(1)(B)(ii) of title 41, United States Code, and section 2338(b)(1)(B)(ii) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsections (a) and (b), respectively, prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

(2) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 983. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate high priority corridors on the National Highway System in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am introducing the Military Corridor Transportation Improvement Act of 2015, which would amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, ISTEA, of 1991 to begin the process toward eventually making the US-70 Corridor in North Carolina part of the Interstate system, and to help fully upgrade the corridor to interstate standards. My colleague, Senator RICHARD BURR has agreed to cosponsor the bill. In addition, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD will be introducing a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

The Military Corridor Transportation Improvement Act of 2015 would designate the following as high priority: U.S. Route 117/Interstate Route 795 from U.S. Route 70 in Goldsboro, NC, to Interstate Route 40 west of Faison, North Carolina; U.S. Route 70 from its intersection with Interstate Route 40 in Garner, NC, to the Port at Morehead City, NC.

If the U.S. 70 corridor becomes part of the Interstate system, it would improve access to military bases in eastern North Carolina and the Port at Morehead City, as well as ease traffic congestion between Raleigh and eastern North Carolina.

This bill helps advance the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Strategic Transportation Corridors Vision, which aims to provide North Carolina with a network of high priority corridors to promote economic development and enhance interstate commerce. Federal High Priority Corridors are eligible for federal funds to assist states in the coordination, planning, design and construction of nationally significant transportation corridors for the purposes of economic growth and international and inter-regional growth.

In midst of a sluggish national economy, North Carolina has been a bright

spot for growth and innovation, and one of the keys to sustaining that economic success is through continued investment in transportation, infrastructure, and our military. The Military Corridor Transportation Improvement Act is a true bipartisan effort to support North Carolina's military installations and complement the State's 25 year transportation improvement plan, which in turn will generate economic development, provide a boost for local communities and create good-paying jobs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 987. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am here today standing up for the people of Oregon and recognizing their decision to legalize and regulate marijuana for recreational use in the State.

Together with Senators MERKLEY and BENNET, I am introducing the Small Business Tax Equity Act, which will provide more equitable Federal tax treatment for small marijuana businesses who comply with State law. This comes after more than 56 percent of Oregonians voted for marijuana legalization. Congressman BLUMENAUER is introducing a companion bill in the House.

Unlike its treatment of all other legal businesses, the tax code currently denies these marijuana businesses, legitimate businesses, the ability to deduct ordinary expenses. Expenses, such as employee pay and rent, that are essential to operating any successful small business.

This is one piece of the equation as Federal tax inequalities for marijuana businesses extend beyond deductions. For example, other businesses are also eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit for hiring veterans. Therefore the inability to make deductions, combined with other lost credits, often leads to these businesses paying an effective tax rate ranging from 65–75 percent; compared with other businesses who pay between 15–30 percent.

This issue is not unique to Oregon. Oregon is one of four States, along with the District of Columbia, where voters have passed measures that permit the legal adult use and retail sale of marijuana. Oregon is one of 23 States, along with the District of Columbia, have passed laws allowing for the legal use of medical marijuana.

Unfortunately, Federal law has not caught up with changing State laws, creating contradictions, and leaving these legal businesses in a tough position.

Today, I am introducing a bill to fix this problem. Marijuana businesses op-

erating legally under state law should be able to deduct ordinary business expenses just like any other businesses. Voters have legalized their product, now let's help create a more level playing field that recognizes their business operations.

It is the right thing to do. It is only fair that Federal tax law respect the decision Oregonians, and citizens from other States and the District of Columbia, made at the polls.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 987

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Tax Equity Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTIONS AND CREDITS RELATING TO EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH MARIJUANA SALES CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: " , unless such trade or business consists of marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 988. A bill to promote minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions caused by participation in school sports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in Illinois and all over the country thousands of high school students are participating in spring sports, including the national pastime: baseball and softball.

As with any sports team, these students are training their growing bodies to compete in a worthy endeavor, but with that comes some risk. They put on helmets, they put on pads, but unfortunately some of them will still get hurt.

Injuries are a part of all sports, but as we learn more about the long term effects of concussions and how frequently they are ignored, it is clear we have to step up our game to confront this health risk.

The National Federation of State High School Associations estimates about 140,000 students who play high school sports have concussions every year. Sports are second only to motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of traumatic brain injury among people aged 15 to 24 years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the number of children age 19

and younger being treated in ERs for traumatic brain injuries went from 153,373 in 2001 to 248,418 in 2009—a 60 percent increase.

Some students stay in the game not recognizing the risks of playing hurt—especially when they have had a concussion. Many athletes do not know the signs and symptoms of concussion, which may cause many concussions to go undetected.

A 2010 Government Accountability Office study found many sports-related concussions go unreported. Athletes who continue to play while concussed are at risk for catastrophic injury if they sustain another concussion before recovering from the first one. This second injury can cause symptoms that can last for months and can even be fatal. Youth athletes are at the greatest risk from sports-related concussions because their brains are still developing and are more susceptible to injury.

According to the American Academy of Neurology, athletes of high school age and younger with a concussion should be managed more conservatively when it comes to returning to play because they take longer to recover than college athletes.

Since 2009, states have started implementing legislation guiding return to play procedures for student athletes who have sustained a concussion.

With a push from the National Football League, NFL, all 50 States and the District of Columbia have successfully passed some form of legislation with varying concussion safety measures.

Illinois has been a leader on this issue and passed legislation in 2011, recognizing the dangers associated with concussion. In Illinois, a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game is immediately removed from the game until he or she is cleared by a health care professional.

This is a great step forward for Illinois, and I commend the Illinois High School Association and its support of this legislation for its work protecting student athletes.

I would like to introduce the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act, which would support the progress made by states like Illinois. The bill would, for the first time, set minimum State requirements for the prevention and treatment of concussions.

The legislation requires schools to post information about concussions on school grounds and on school websites and adopt a "when in doubt, sit it out" policy.

This policy requires that a student suspected of sustaining a concussion be removed from participation in the activity and prohibited from returning to play that day. They can return to play in future events after being evaluated and cleared by a qualified health care professional.

The “when in doubt, sit it out” policy is recommended by the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Academy of Neurology, which recommends that an athlete suspected of a concussion should not return to play the day of their injury—under any circumstance.

According to the Center for Injury Research and Policy in Columbus, Ohio, more than 40 percent of young athletes return to play before they are fully recovered.

Concussions are not always easily diagnosed, and symptoms that might indicate concussion don’t always manifest themselves immediately. Athletes don’t want to let down the team or the coach and are often eager to return to the game.

So helping athletes, school officials, coaches and parents recognize the signs and symptoms of concussion can make all the difference in putting a player’s safety above winning.

This legislation will ensure that school districts have concussion management plans that educate students, parents, and school personnel about how to recognize and respond to concussions.

It asks schools to adopt the “when in doubt, sit it out” policy to be sure athletes are not put back in the game before they have recovered from an initial concussion.

I am pleased that a variety of organizations are supporting this bill, including the NFL, NCAA, NHL, NBA, American College of Sports Medicine, American Academy of Neurology, among others.

I look forward to working with the schools, athletic programs and others to build on the progress already made in protecting student athletes from concussions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 988

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—Each State that receives funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and does not meet the requirements described in this section, as of the date of enactment of this Act, shall, not later than the last day of the fifth full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act (referred to in this Act as the “compliance deadline”), enact legislation or issue regulations establishing the following minimum requirements:

(1) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY CONCUSSION SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Each local educational agency in the State, in consulta-

tion with members of the community in which such agency is located, shall develop and implement a standard plan for concussion safety and management that—

(A) educates students, parents, and school personnel about concussions, through activities such as—

(i) training school personnel, including coaches, teachers, athletic trainers, related services personnel, and school nurses, on concussion safety and management, including training on the prevention, recognition, and academic consequences of concussions and response to concussions; and

(ii) using, maintaining, and disseminating to students and parents—

(I) release forms and other appropriate forms for reporting and record keeping;

(II) treatment plans; and

(III) prevention and post-injury observation and monitoring fact sheets about concussion;

(B) encourages supports, where feasible, for a student recovering from a concussion (regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity), such as—

(i) guiding the student in resuming participation in athletic activity and academic activities with the help of a multi-disciplinary concussion management team, which may include—

(I) a health care professional, the parents of such student, a school nurse, relevant related services personnel, and other relevant school personnel; and

(II) an individual who is assigned by a public school to oversee and manage the recovery of such student; and

(ii) providing appropriate academic accommodations aimed at progressively reintroducing cognitive demands on the student; and

(C) encourages the use of best practices designed to ensure, with respect to concussions, the uniformity of safety standards, treatment, and management, such as—

(i) disseminating information on concussion safety and management to the public; and

(ii) applying uniform best practice standards for concussion safety and management to all students enrolled in public schools.

(2) **POSTING OF INFORMATION ON CONCUSSIONS.**—Each public elementary school and each public secondary school shall post on school grounds, in a manner that is visible to students and school personnel, and make publicly available on the school website, information on concussions that—

(A) is based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence (such as information made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

(B) shall include information on—

(i) the risks posed by sustaining a concussion;

(ii) the actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of school personnel; and

(iii) the signs and symptoms of a concussion; and

(C) may include information on—

(i) the definition of a concussion;

(ii) the means available to the student to reduce the incidence or recurrence of a concussion; and

(iii) the effects of a concussion on academic learning and performance.

(3) **RESPONSE TO CONCUSSION.**—If an individual designated from among school personnel for purposes of this Act suspects that a student has sustained a concussion (regard-

less of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity)—

(A) the student shall be—

(i) immediately removed from participation in a school-sponsored athletic activity; and

(ii) prohibited from returning to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity—

(I) on the day such student is removed from such participation; and

(II) until such student submits a written release from a health care professional stating that the student is capable of resuming participation in school-sponsored athletic activities; and

(B) the designated individual shall report to the parent or guardian of such student—

(i) any information that the designated school employee is aware of regarding the date, time, and type of the injury suffered by such student (regardless of where, when, or how a concussion may have occurred); and

(ii) any actions taken to treat such student.

(4) **RETURN TO ATHLETICS.**—If a student has sustained a concussion (regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred during school-sponsored activities, during school hours, on school property, or during an athletic activity), before such student resumes participation in school-sponsored athletic activities, the school shall receive a written release from a health care professional, that—

(A) states that the student is capable of resuming participation in such activities; and

(B) may require the student to follow a plan designed to aid the student in recovering and resuming participation in such activities in a manner that—

(i) is coordinated, as appropriate, with periods of cognitive and physical rest while symptoms of a concussion persist; and

(ii) reintroduces cognitive and physical demands on such student on a progressive basis only as such increases in exertion do not cause the reemergence or worsening of symptoms of a concussion.

(b) **NONCOMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **FIRST YEAR.**—If a State described in subsection (a) fails to comply with subsection (a) by the compliance deadline, the Secretary of Education shall reduce by 5 percent the amount of funds the State receives under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) for the first fiscal year following the compliance deadline.

(2) **SUCCEEDING YEARS.**—If the State fails to so comply by the last day of any fiscal year following the compliance deadline, the Secretary of Education shall reduce by 10 percent the amount of funds the State receives under that Act for the following fiscal year.

(3) **NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE.**—Prior to reducing any funds that a State receives under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary of Education shall provide a written notification of the intended reduction of funds to the State and to the appropriate committees of Congress.

#### SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect civil or criminal liability under Federal or State law.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONCUSSION.**—The term “concussion” means a type of mild traumatic brain injury that—

(A) is caused by a blow, jolt, or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly in the skull;

(B) disrupts normal brain functioning and alters the mental state of the individual, causing the individual to experience—

(i) any period of observed or self-reported—

(I) transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;

(II) dysfunction of memory around the time of injury; or

(III) loss of consciousness lasting less than 30 minutes; or

(ii) any 1 of 4 types of symptoms, including—

(I) physical symptoms, such as headache, fatigue, or dizziness;

(II) cognitive symptoms, such as memory disturbance or slowed thinking;

(III) emotional symptoms, such as irritability or sadness; or

(IV) difficulty sleeping; and

(C) can occur—

(i) with or without the loss of consciousness; and

(ii) during participation in any organized sport or recreational activity.

(2) **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.**—The term “health care professional” —

(A) means an individual who has been trained in diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury in a pediatric population; and

(B) includes a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or certified athletic trainer who is registered, licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily recognized by the State to provide such diagnosis and management.

(3) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE.**—The terms “local educational agency” and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(4) **RELATED SERVICES PERSONNEL.**—The term “related services personnel” means individuals who provide related services, as defined under section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

(5) **SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.**—The term “school-sponsored athletic activity” means—

(A) any physical education class or program of a school;

(B) any athletic activity authorized during the school day on school grounds that is not an instructional activity;

(C) any extra-curricular sports team, club, or league organized by a school on or off school grounds; and

(D) any recess activity.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 993. A bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, a bill I am introducing today with a number of my Senate colleagues on both sides of the

aisle and with Representative DOUG COLLINS, who is introducing this legislation in the House. This bipartisan, bicameral bill will improve outcomes for people with mental illness when they interact with the criminal justice system. The Judiciary Committee unanimously approved this bill by voice vote in the last Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to move this legislation forward to consideration by the full Senate.

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act is meant to address a very serious problem: The United States has 5 percent of the world’s population but has 25 percent of the world’s prison population—in large part because we have effectively criminalized mental illness. People with mental health conditions disproportionately are arrested and incarcerated, but instead of providing people with adequate access to mental health treatment, we let them fall through the cracks and languish in prison. As my home county—Hennepin County—Sheriff Rich Stanek put it, “Local jails are the largest mental health facilities in the state of Minnesota,” and this holds true across our Nation.

Let’s be clear. Using our criminal justice system as a substitute for a fully functioning mental health system doesn’t make sense. It doesn’t make sense for law enforcement officers who often put their lives at risk when they are called upon to intervene in a mental health crisis. It doesn’t make sense for courts which are inundated with cases involving people with mental illness. It doesn’t make sense for people who have mental health conditions who often would benefit from treatment and intensive supervision than from traditional incarceration. It certainly doesn’t make sense for taxpayers who foot the bill for high incarceration costs and overcrowded correction facilities and who must pay again when these untreated mentally ill prisoners are released back into society often in much worse shape than when they were locked up.

We can improve access to mental health services for people who come into contact with the criminal justice system, and we can give law enforcement officers the tools they need to identify and respond to mental health issues in the communities and the situations they confront.

In 2004, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act—or MIOTCRA—which supports innovative programs that bring together mental health and criminal justice agencies to address the unique needs of people with mental health conditions. Former Ohio Republican Senator Mike DeWine, who now serves as that State’s Attorney General, was the original sponsor of MIOTCRA.

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act reauthorizes and improves MIOTCRA. Let me talk a little bit about how the programs supported by this legislation protect law enforcement officers and save lives. I will give one example.

In 2013, I visited the police station in Columbia Heights, MN, a suburb of the Twin Cities. I talked with some of the officers who had been given crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers to recognize when they are confronted or are entering a situation that involves someone who has a mental illness. The sheriff wasn’t there that day, but the county attorney who was there on behalf of the sheriff said that the day after the sheriff had his training, he did not kill a guy he would otherwise have killed because he recognized what was going on. That was pretty dramatic.

So I turned to the other officers there who had also had this crisis intervention training and said to a policewoman: Can you give me a more garden-variety example?

She said: OK. About 3 months ago, I was on the street and I heard a woman screaming. I thought it was some domestic violence thing or something. I went to see what was going on, and she went over to a railing that if she had let go, she would have dropped to a playground below. She might not have killed herself, but she would have gotten very badly hurt. From my training, I realized I was in a situation with someone who was mentally ill, and I used my training to talk her back up. I spoke to the woman. She said she had been sexually abused as a child; that the perpetrator had left town and had left her life, but recently that man had come back.

She said: I think I know where I can get help for you. And she got her access to some treatment.

She said: A couple months later, I was working a street fair when this same woman came up to me, very calm, and said: You saved my life.

I said: OK. This is your garden-variety story?

She said: Yes, I use this training all the time. I will holster my gun maybe once in my career, but I use this all the time.

Now, the grants currently available that would be reauthorized through the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act—which fund programs such as local crisis intervention training—are the only ones offered by the Justice Department that address mental health issues in the criminal justice system. So passing this legislation is critically important, and the bill would improve and expand upon the law.

Here are some of the important things the bill does: It continues support for mental health courts and crisis intervention teams, both of which save lives and money. It includes new grant



accountability measures and emphasizes the use of evidence-based practices that have been proven effective through empirical evidence. Our Presiding Officer is a physician, therefore a scientist, and therefore relies on empirical evidence. It authorizes investments in veterans treatment courts, which serve arrested veterans who have been arrested because they suffer from PTSD, substance addiction, which may be used to medicate their mental health or behavioral and other mental health conditions, other sometimes invisible wounds. It supports the development of programs, such as crisis intervention training, to train local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers how to recognize and respond appropriately to mental health crises. One of the new things the bill does is to support State and local efforts to identify people with mental health conditions at each point in the criminal justice system in order to appropriately direct them to mental health services.

Our bill also increases the focus on corrections-based programs.

I went to a prison in St. Cloud, MN, where they do intake in our State system. They said this crisis intervention training is incredibly important to them. They said: Do you watch TV on the weekends where they show prisoners, show the prison system, where you put on all the gear because some prisoner has gotten out of control and you have to go into the cell and tackle them? That could be avoided very often by understanding what is going on here. There is a lot of wear and tear when they have to go in like that. It is better to recognize what is going on and know how to deal with it.

The bill also increases the focus on things such as transitional services that reduce recidivism rates and screening practices that identify inmates with mental health conditions.

Finally, the bill gives local officials greater control over program participation eligibility. This again is for a program that already exists.

The current system is broken. It doesn't serve the interests of people with mental illness, and it doesn't protect the safety of law enforcement personnel. As one Minnesota judge wrote:

While [inmates with mental illness] are sitting in jail, they often recede further into the depths of their illness. They present a danger to themselves; they present a danger to fellow inmates; and they present a danger to the . . . men and women who run the jails.

We have an obligation to ensure that people with mental illness receive the treatment and supervision they need and that the officers who put their lives on the line when they are called on to intervene in mental health crises are trained to respond in a way that protects their safety and that of their fellow officers and of the person with mental illness. This bill helps us better meet that obligation.

I am very pleased to introduce this bill with a bipartisan group of lawmakers who are committed to improving the ways in which people with mental health conditions interact with the criminal justice system—in particular, my fellow lead sponsor, Senator JOHN CORNYN, and Representative DOUG COLLINS, who is leading this effort in the House.

This legislation has always enjoyed bipartisan support. In 2004, it was introduced by Michael DeWine, Republican from Ohio, in the Senate. In the last Congress, the predecessor of this bill had 39 Senate cosponsors, including 25 Democrats and 14 Republicans. The House companion bill had 55 cosponsors, including 24 Democrats and 31 Republicans.

As you can see, this has always been a bipartisan effort, and I am pleased to continue that tradition in this Congress. I would like to thank Senators CORNYN, AYOTTE, BLUNT, and PORTMAN, as well as Senators LEAHY, DURBIN, WHITEHOUSE, KLOBUCHAR, COONS, BLUMENTHAL, BOXER, BROWN, WARREN, and BOOKER, for serving as original cosponsors of the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. I look forward to adding more cosponsors in the days to come.

I would also like to recognize the many law enforcement, civil rights veterans, and mental health advocacy organizations—most notably the Council of State Governments—for standing in strong support of this legislation or its predecessor bill and advocating tirelessly for its enactment. More than 250 organizations endorsed this legislation in the previous Congress, including the American Legion, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Association of Counties, and the Wounded Warrior Project, just to name a few.

I look forward to working together with advocates and with my colleagues to get this bill enacted into law so that we can ease the burden of mental health problems on our criminal justice system and help a lot of people.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself,  
Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL,  
Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLI-  
BRAND):

S. 1006. A bill to incentivize early adoption of positive train control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Positive Train Control, a crash-avoidance rail safety system that can automatically stop trains in order to prevent impending collisions.

The Senate Commerce Committee recently voted to advance a bill that

would give railroads a 5-to-7 year extension of the deadline to implement this life-saving technology.

In my view, a blanket extension is disastrous policy.

Fortunately, the members of the Commerce Committee have signaled their willingness to consider improvements to this bill, and today I rise to offer such an improvement.

This legislation, the Positive Train Control Safety Act, would provide a reasonable extension for the implementation of positive train control until 2018, on a case-by-case, year-by-year basis, for any railroad whose implementation plans were delayed by factors outside of their control.

This provision mirrors language that already passed the Senate in 2012 as part of the transportation reauthorization bill with overwhelming support. It is a measured, realistic response to the delayed implementation we have witnessed. Overall, this bill strives to hold the railroads to their safety commitments.

To understand the importance of PTC, we must revisit a terrible tragedy in my State of California, near Chatsworth.

In 2008, a Los Angeles Metrolink commuter train collided head-on with a Union Pacific freight train, killing 25 people and injuring 135 more.

Testimony from the victims who survived the crash paint a gruesome picture of the aftermath. "Severed limbs were strewn all about and blood was pooled everywhere." Victims' bodies, many torn to pieces, had to be extracted from heaps of steel and wreckage.

One passenger described coming across a man who had been crushed by an air vent: "His mangled legs were all I could see, but his cries for help were very loud. Eventually he must have died, as he was calling out for his mother and then no more sounds. [ . . . ] I was trying to decide if I would die by fire or suffocation of smoke."

Many victims suffered traumatic brain injuries and those sitting at tables suffered "horrible abdominal injuries that cannot be medically resolved." As the National Transportation Safety Board found in its investigation, this terrible tragedy could have been prevented if the Positive Train Control technology had been in place.

Positive Train Control is a system for automatic train safety, which was originally recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board in 1970.

Using GPS and wireless technology, Positive Train Control can automatically put the brakes on trains about to collide or derail. Positive Train Control can monitor trains and stop them if they enter the wrong track or are about to run red lights.

In the Metrolink crash, it was later determined that the engineer was



texting, causing him to miss a red signal and cause the deadly collision.

PTC could have prevented this, as it could have forced the train to stop before running onto the same track as the oncoming freight train.

This horrific accident became a rallying cry for Congress, which responded by passing the Rail Safety Improvement Act in 2008.

This legislation mandated the widespread installation of PTC by the end of 2015.

The railroad industry has fought PTC from start. Now, as the deadline rapidly approaches, railroads are again lobbying hard to delay installation. Many have not even begun installing PTC in any form—something that is particularly disturbing to me.

After its terrible accident, Metrolink in California has shown great leadership and plans to be the first railroad to be fully certified. Metrolink is on track to do so by the federally-mandated deadline of December 31, 2015.

Several other railroad companies in California are also on track to begin using PTC this year, in demonstration mode, on the path to final certification. These include the North County Transit District in San Diego and Caltrain in the Bay Area.

In addition, new passenger rail services in California plan to operate with PTC from the first moment that they come on-line, including the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit line in 2016 and the first High Speed Rail segment in 2022.

California is committed to safe and efficient rail. I believe my State demonstrates that railroads around the country can and should be expected to implement Positive Train Control as soon as is feasible, without unnecessary delay.

The bill that the Senate Commerce Committee recently voted to advance is a no-strings-attached bill that would extend by 5 years the deadline by which PTC must be implemented.

On top of that, it offers railroads an optional extension of an additional 2 years on a case-by-case basis. Extending the deadline through until the outset of 2023.

Effectively, this is just kicking the can down road once more.

I am deeply concerned about this blanket extension. First, it rewards those that have chosen delay over action. More troubling, it could have deadly consequences for Americans across the country.

It has been 7 years since the collision at Chatsworth claimed 25 lives, and 45 years since the National Transportation Safety Board first recommended a system like Positive Train Control.

Unnecessary delay is simply not acceptable.

This is why I am introducing this bill today. I believe it will incentivize railroads to install PTC as quickly as possible.

My bill allows case-by-case, single-year extensions through 2018 for railroads that have demonstrated good faith efforts to implement PTC. It also instructs the Department of Transportation to only grant extensions if the Secretary determines that a railroad's efforts to implement PTC were delayed due to circumstances beyond their control.

In addition, the bill offers a number of other common-sense provisions relating to Positive Train Control requirements and railroad safety. These provisions reflect the lessons we have learned since the Rail Safety Improvement Act first required the implementation of PTC 6½ years ago.

These provisions include bolstering the transparency of railroads' implementation efforts, by requiring regular status reports; and ensuring trains carrying crude oil or ethanol run on tracks with PTC.

The provision requires better coordination between the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure adequate wireless communications availability.

Requiring the Department of Transportation to evaluate the effectiveness of PTC at grade crossings.

Improving opportunities for railroad employees to report safety deficiencies.

Protecting employees in rail work zones.

Improving inspection practices on commuter railroads.

Riding our rails should not be a dangerous activity. It doesn't have to be. If we have the technology to prevent collisions, we must use it.

I urge my colleagues to carefully consider this proposal.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 136—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2015, AS "SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY"**

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 136

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the people of the United States remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of

the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1, 2015, is an appropriate date to designate as "Silver Star Service Banner Day": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports the designation of May 1, 2015, as "Silver Star Service Banner Day" and calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 137—CONGRATULATING THE ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 137

Whereas on April 17, 2015, Roosevelt University, located in Chicago, Illinois, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the University on April 17, 1945;

Whereas Roosevelt University has graduated more than 95,000 students who have become leaders in their professions and careers, including the first African-American mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington;

Whereas Roosevelt University was founded at a time when most institutions of higher education in the United States did not enroll large numbers of minority or immigrant students;

Whereas Roosevelt University became 1 of the first colleges in the United States to admit all qualified students, regardless of race, religion, or national origin;

Whereas throughout its history, Roosevelt University has always remained true to the values of inclusiveness, opportunity, and social justice; and

Whereas today, Roosevelt remains 1 of the most diverse universities in the Midwest: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the administration, staff, students, and alumni of Roosevelt University on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the University; and

(2) wishes the entire Roosevelt community many years of continued success in the future.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 138—CONGRATULATING THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 138

Whereas on Saturday, April 11, 2015, the Providence College Friars won the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey National

Championship by defeating the Boston University Terriers by a score of 4 to 3 at TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas numbers 16, 10, and 6 scored the first three goals for the Friars to keep the game close;

Whereas the extraordinary goal by number 22 in the third period put Providence College in the lead for good;

Whereas the superb goaltending of number 32 held back Boston University's scoring attacks and sealed the victory for the Friars, earning him Most Outstanding Player honors of the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Tournament;

Whereas the season-long contributions and dedication of all players and coaches of the Friars' hockey team contributed to this National Championship season;

Whereas this is the first NCAA Championship for the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team;

Whereas the Providence College Friars finished the season with 26 wins and outscored its opponents 19 to 10 in the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Tournament; and

Whereas the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team became the latest Rhode Island college team to win a National Championship and earn the pride of the State: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team for winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship;

(2) commends the players, coaches, and staff of the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team for their hard work and dedication in making this the most successful season in team history; and

(3) recognizes the Providence College students, alumni, and fans who supported the Men's Ice Hockey team in its pursuit of a National Championship.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 139—COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON THE ALFRED P. MURRAH FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 139

Whereas on April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m. central daylight time, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the United States was attacked in 1 of the worst terrorist attacks on United States soil, which killed 168 people and injured more than 850 others;

Whereas this dishonorable act of domestic terrorism affected thousands of families and horrified millions of people across the State of Oklahoma and the United States;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States responded to this tragedy through the remarkable efforts of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency services, search and rescue teams from across the United States, public and private medical personnel, and thousands of volunteers from the community who saved lives, assisted the injured and wounded, comforted the bereaved, and provided meals and support to those who came to Oklahoma City to help the those endangered and affected by that terrorist act;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States pledged themselves to build and maintain a permanent national memo-

rial to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever;

Whereas that pledge was fulfilled by creating the Oklahoma City National Memorial, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world every year to the site of that tragic event in United States history;

Whereas the Oklahoma City National Memorial brings comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity to the many visitors who come to the memorial and the museum of the memorial each year to remember and to learn; and

Whereas the 20th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is on April 19, 2015: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) joins with the people of the United States in sending best wishes and prayers to the families, friends, and neighbors of the 168 people killed in the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;

(2) sends the best wishes and thoughts of Congress to those injured in the bombing;

(3) expresses the gratitude of Congress for the recovery of those injured;

(4) thanks the thousands of first responders, rescue workers, medical personnel, and volunteers from the Oklahoma City community and across the United States who answered the call for help that April morning and in the days and weeks that followed;

(5) resolves to work with the people of the United States to promote the goals and mission established by the Oklahoma City National Memorial on the 20th anniversary of that fateful day;

(6) supports the resolve for the future, written on the wall of the memorial, "We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity.";

(7) congratulates the people of Oklahoma City for making tremendous progress over the past 2 decades and demonstrating their steadfast commitment to the ability of hope to triumph over violence;

(8) applauds the people of Oklahoma City as they continue to persevere and to stand as a beacon to the rest of the United States and the world attesting to the strength of goodness in overcoming evil wherever it arises in our midst; and

(9) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Memorial Foundation, as an expression of appreciation.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS TO MANY FEDERALLY FUNDED FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas, in 2012, nearly 20 percent of the civilian population in the United States reported having a disability;

Whereas, in 2012, 16 percent of veterans, amounting to more than 3,500,000 people, received service-related disability benefits;

Whereas, in 2011, the percentage of working-age people in the United States who reported having a work limitation due to a disability was 7 percent, which is a 20-year high;

Whereas the Act entitled "An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped", approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the "Architectural Barriers Act of 1968"), was enacted to ensure that certain federally funded facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities and requires that physically handicapped people have ready access to, and use of, post offices and other Federal facilities;

Whereas automatic doors, though not mandated by either the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), provide a greater degree of self-sufficiency and dignity for people with disabilities and the elderly, who may have limited strength to open a manually operated door;

Whereas a report commissioned by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (referred to in this preamble as the "Access Board"), an independent Federal agency created to ensure access to federally funded facilities for people with disabilities, recommends that all new buildings for use by the public should have at least one automated door at an accessible entrance, except for small buildings where adding such doors may be a financial hardship for the owners of the buildings;

Whereas States and municipalities have begun to recognize the importance of automatic doors in improving accessibility;

Whereas the laws of the State of Connecticut require automatic doors in certain shopping malls and retail businesses, the laws of the State of Delaware require automatic doors or calling devices for newly constructed places of accommodation, and the laws of the District of Columbia have a similar requirement;

Whereas the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service, published by the General Services Administration, requires automation of at least one exterior door for all newly constructed or renovated facilities managed by the General Services Administration, including post offices;

Whereas from 2006 to 2011, 71 percent of the complaints received by the Access Board regarding the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 concerned a post office or other facility of the United States Postal Service;

Whereas the United States Postal Service employs approximately 522,000 people, making it the second-largest civilian employer in the United States;

Whereas approximately 3,200,000 people visit 1 of the 31,857 post offices in the United States each day; and

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of equality and freedom, and these principles require that all people, including people with disabilities, are able to engage as equal members of society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the immense hardships that people with disabilities in the United States must overcome every day;

(2) reaffirms its support of the Act entitled "An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped", approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.), commonly known as the "Architectural Barriers Act of 1968", and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and encourages full compliance with such Acts;

(3) recommends that the United States Postal Service and Federal agencies install power-assisted doors at post offices and other federally funded facilities, respectively, to ensure equal access for all people of the United States; and

(4) pledges to continue to work to identify and remove the barriers that prevent all people of the United States from having equal access to the services provided by the Federal Government.

# AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Regulatory Burdens to Obtaining Mortgage Credit."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Congress and U.S. Tariff Policy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

April 16, 2015, at 12:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 16, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 20, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 24; that there be 30 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination, and that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONGRATULATING THE ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

## CONGRATULATING THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 137, Roosevelt University; and S. Res. 138, Providence College.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 137) congratulating the administration, staff, students, and alumni of Roosevelt University on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the University.

A resolution (S. Res. 138) congratulating the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team for winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 137) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 138) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME EN BLOC—H.R. 636, H.R. 644, H.R. 1295, H.R. 1314, AND S. 984

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are five bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

A bill (H.R. 1295) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

A bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

A bill (S. 984) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The measures will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20,  
2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, April 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of S. 178.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators SULLIVAN and LEE for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words on the nuclear agreement that is being negotiated with Iran. I will start by commending the members of the Foreign Relations Committee, particularly Senator CORKER, the chairman of that committee. They moved the Corker-Menendez bill through the committee a few days ago with a unanimous vote. It was very important work. It is a good start to a critically important topic for the American people. I know it was a struggle. We read about what happened in the press. But it is important to recognize that it was a struggle that should not have been.

The Obama administration put tremendous pressure on Members of this body—Democratic Members of this body—not to allow the U.S. Senate to have any say on this issue, one of the most important foreign policy issues facing the country right now. They did not want the American people to have a voice. In fact, last month when the bill was released, the President vowed to veto it. He backed off only when it was clear that members of the committee, Republicans and Democrats, stood firm against the President and with the American people. Then the

President knew he would fail and his veto threat would likely be overridden.

So the President, under pressure, dispatched Secretary of State John Kerry, a former Member of this body, to give me and my colleagues here in the Senate a closed-door preview of these negotiations in this framework agreement. I sat through the meeting and had some discussions with the Secretary. It was useful, but think about it—it was a closed-door briefing. Why not involve the American people?

This is not an issue which is about the Senate or the Congress per se, as we often read in the paper. This is an issue about the American people, who have a voice through us, their representatives in Congress, and should have a say on one of the most critical foreign policy issues facing the United States right now. And, remember, we know this. We were sent here. The people are wise. The citizens of this country are wise. They understand national security. Many of them are in the military. Many of them have sons and daughters in the military. Many of them are veterans. They know what sacrifice is. They know what national security is. They sent us here so their voices could be heard, particularly on issues of national security and on issues of the security of the country they love.

Make no mistake, Americans are overwhelmingly interested in making sure that they, through their representatives in Congress, have a say in this important deal. A recent USA TODAY-Suffolk University poll showed that a whopping 72 percent of Americans think Congress should have a role in approving the nuclear negotiations with Iran.

What is very interesting about this is that once upon a time, even President Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and former Senator Clinton all believed this body should have a role in such important agreements. They said Congress should approve any sweeping deals. In 2007 and 2008, they cosponsored a bill that required congressional approval of any long-term security commitment President Bush made to Iraq.

Vice President BIDEN—then-Senator BIDEN—put it then:

The president cannot make such a sweeping commitment on his own authority. Congress must grant approval.

Those were wise words then, and I believe they are wise words today. Why is that? One reason is that when the executive branch and the Congress work together, we are stronger on issues of foreign policy and national security. Think about all of the different times in which this body, through treaties and other agreements, worked with Presidents of both parties—bipartisan—to make sure we were speaking strongly together on critical issues of national security. I served under

Condoleezza Rice as an Assistant Secretary of State and worked on these kinds of issues—sanctions on Iran and terrorist finance issues—and I saw that when the executive branch worked with the Congress, we were stronger.

As I mentioned, when then-Senator BIDEN mentioned these words about congressional approval, they were wise words. Yet, now the Vice President, Secretary Kerry, and President Obama—all former Members of this body—are ignoring their own previous advice and previous wisdom, and they are ignoring the American people in the process through their representatives in Congress.

Where does that leave us today? My own view is that the President should have reached out to the Congress from the very beginning and said that he wanted to work with us and have our approval on this important agreement so we could be stronger as a country, the executive branch and the Congress working together, unified, to enhance America's national security.

The President should have looked to the Congress and the Constitution when considering this potential agreement—whether the biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world should get a nuclear weapon and when—and realized this was an important enough national security issue and said: I am going to submit this as a treaty. He should have been willing to make the case to the American people and convince two-thirds of the Senate to vote for this agreement, as required by the Constitution. But he chose another path. He chose the “go it alone” path where even just a few weeks ago the administration signaled that it was not going to show the agreement—the key annexes of this agreement—to the Congress and that any attempts to force him to do so would be vetoed. That was a mistake. That is a mistake, and we are starting to change that.

In these kinds of matters, the U.S. State Department urges any administration—Republican or Democratic—to use the utmost caution when deciding how to deal with international treaties on key foreign policy issues and the Congress.

I have a quote from the State Department guidelines:

In determining whether any international agreement should be brought into force as a treaty or as an international agreement other than a treaty, the utmost care is to be exercised to avoid any invasion or compromise of the constitutional powers of the President, the Senate, and the Congress as a whole.

That is the State Department—“the utmost care.” But the Obama administration did not take the utmost care in this matter. In fact, their goal has been to shut out the American people on this deal.

So what are we doing? The Congress is having to force the President to let the American people be heard. That is

what we are doing, and I believe in many ways that is sad. The President is clearly not abiding by the advice he gave when he was a Senator on these kinds of issues, and neither is the Vice President, so the Congress acted.

The Corker-Menendez bill that passed the Foreign Relations Committee, which will be debated soon on this floor, at least gives us an up-or-down vote, and it will enable us to actually see some of the classified annexes that are part of this agreement. Again, it is not us, it is the American people. It is the people we represent.

I urge my colleagues to practice what the State Department has said is the utmost care on these kinds of issues. We need to look hard at whatever agreement is finalized and brought to this body, and we need to work hard to cut through the clutter and opaque language, unclear language, and conflicting views of this agreement—the way in which this administration is describing this deal right now.

I will give one example. Let's take the phrase "snapped back." Right now, the American people are being told that if Iran violates the terms of this agreement, the sanctions, which have been key to this entire agreement and imposed on Iran by this body four different times, can quickly and automatically be snapped back. That is a fantasy. President Obama knows that sanctions—particularly international sanctions—cannot just be snapped back. But it is a great phrase. It sounds good, but it is a fantasy.

As I mentioned, as a former Assistant Secretary of State, I worked with the Congress and other members of the executive branch to go around to different countries in the world and strongly encourage them to divest out of Iran, out of the Iranian oil and gas sector. In many ways, we said: If you don't take action and divest out of Iran, it is very likely that the Congress will sanction you. We worked with the Congress. This was executive branch and congressional branch cooperation, making us stronger as a nation because it worked.

Many of these companies started to divest. It weakened Iran, but this took years. There was no snap involved. This was a slog, but it was successful. It was successful because this body was very intimately involved. The President knows this. Secretary Kerry knows this. But the fact that they are willing to say "Don't worry, sanctions will be snapped back in an instant" should otherwise make us all nervous.

The administration needs to explain to the American people how this snap-back will work. Think about it. If sanctions are lifted, millions, probably billions of dollars are going to flow from European companies, countries; Asian companies, countries; Russian; Chinese. They are going to flow into Iran. They are going to invest in businesses.

They are going to invest in the oil and gas sector. They are going to invest in banks. And then we are going to snap that back if there is a violation, automatically, in a couple of days? It is not going to happen. It is a catchy phrase with no substance.

The administration needs to explain it. The American people need to know what is at stake. The Secretary and the President need to be clear with the American people on exactly what is in this agreement. They need to level with the American people. As we move forward, as we think about how we are going to analyze, look at, vote on this agreement, they must tell the American people the truth.

We must start to think about some of these issues. Let's start with a couple of things that are very important for the American people to know, and the American people do know them.

Let's start by recognizing that Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Let's recognize that Iran has consistently lied and cheated with regard to its nuclear weapons program, including even recently, during these negotiations.

Let's recognize that Iran will not—will not—stand down from its stated goal that many of its leaders still state today, which is that they want to wipe Israel off the map.

Let's recognize that Iran is responsible—and this is very important to recognize and understand—for the maiming and killing of likely thousands of U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in Iraq by supplying Shia militias there with the most sophisticated, the most lethal IED on the battlefield, called an EFP, an explosively formed projectile. If a person was in Iraq as a U.S. military member and that person was in a vehicle that hit one of these IEDs, that person was either going to be killed or seriously maimed. This is something I witnessed during my time as a staff officer to the commanding general of the U.S. Central Command when I was in Iraq as a marine.

Let's recognize that from what we know right now in terms of this deal, Iran doesn't appear to have given up much at all. They will keep thousands of nuclear centrifuges. They will keep their missile development programs. They will keep their nuclear infrastructure. They will continue to support and sponsor terrorism around the world—the largest state sponsor of terrorism.

The American people need to know that if we do lift sanctions—and it is not clear when we are going to lift them; the Iranians are saying we are going to lift them right away—if we do lift sanctions, Iran will very likely use the millions of dollars that will flood into their economy to pump up their terror machine around the world and

likely target our citizens. The American people need to understand all of this as we go forward.

Maybe the administration disagrees on some of these points. Maybe they don't think these points are the aspects of the deal. And if none of this is true, then let Secretary Kerry and his team come forward to the Congress and make the case in public to the American people that this isn't the case, that this is a deal which will keep us safe, that this is a deal with a regime that is trustworthy. Let them make that case.

The Congress needs to be very involved, and we are involved because of the respect for the people we represent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Utah.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON THE ALFRED P. MURRAH FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 139, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 139) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 139) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### REMEMBERING NORM BANGERTER

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Gov. Norm Bangerter, who served as Utah's 13th Governor from 1985 to 1993. He was truly an extraordinary man and an exceptional leader. He passed away this past Tuesday, April 14, at the age of 82.

He loved Utah, and he loved this great Nation. As a veteran, a business owner, an elected official, a father, and a man of faith, he led a life of service to his community, to his church, and to his country.

Norm Bangerter once described himself as "just an old farmer and carpenter." And he was those things. While the qualities of a farmer and a

carpenter may seem far removed from business and political leadership, his farmer's grit and determination saw him through many tough political battles, and his eye as a master craftsman ensured every step along the way he could not only start a project, but he knew how to put a fine finish on that project and see it through all the way to completion. His willingness to get his hands a "little dirty" enabled him to tackle difficult issues, the kinds of issues that required hard work and heavy lifting far from the spotlight and limelight of public praise. And he was, indeed, a builder. He was a builder of business, a builder of the great State of Utah, and, as I personally experienced, a builder of people.

I, like so many others throughout my great State and elsewhere, have been blessed by Governor Bangerter's vision for building other leaders. He stood with me as a young candidate and as a new Senator and provided priceless insight, wisdom, and perspective. He taught me that it was never about me but always about the State, about the Nation, and about future generations. He proved his commitment to this principle when he described his deci-

sion not to seek a third term as Governor. When he made that announcement, he said:

We have not concentrated on image or on protecting our popularity in the polls. We have taken the problems as they came, head on, and we have proposed the best solution we knew regardless of political consequences. . . . I want to go down in history as the Governor who didn't spend eight years worrying about how he would go down in history.

All of us in Congress could benefit from this kind of approach. All of us in Congress could learn a great deal from this man's extraordinary example.

Governor Bangerter was one of the most unassuming, kind, honest, genuinely decent people I have ever met. He was the kind of man and was the kind of great Governor who, like a great farmer and a great carpenter, left the world much better than he found it.

Like the farmer planting oak trees for the next generation or the carpenter finishing a finely crafted masterpiece that becomes a treasured heirloom for generations to enjoy, Governor Bangerter spent his life planting the seeds for the extraordinary State of Utah and crafted a legacy of leadership that will be remembered and will be

followed for many decades to come. Governor Norm Bangerter's leadership will be missed, and his friendship will be cherished forever.

Thank you, Mr. President.  
I yield the floor.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015, AT 2 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, April 20.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:48 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 20, 2015, at 2 p.m.

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#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 16, 2015:

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

RUSSELL C. DEYO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

##### NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

JONODEV OSCEOLA CHAUDHURI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## BRINGING ATTENTION TO ILLEGAL POACHING AND TRAFFICKING OF AFRICAN RHINO HORNS AND ELEPHANT IVORY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the issue of poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horn and elephant ivory. The barbaric slaughter of tens of thousands of these animals appears to be growing worse, currently occurring at its highest level in 25 years. More than \$19 billion move through illicit wildlife crime syndicates, and ivory's value on the street is sometimes greater than gold or cocaine.

Around the world, rhino horns can cost as much as \$60,000 per pound. To meet this demand, roughly three rhinos are killed on a daily basis. At the same time, more than 20,000 elephants were killed in 2013. If this killing trend continues, the extinction of the African Elephant will occur in our lifetimes. In addition to its profitability, many criminals choose to engage in poaching because it is viewed as a low-risk endeavor compared to other illegal activities, despite the attempts of African nations to crack down on animal trafficking.

Park rangers face tremendous challenges in their efforts to protect these animals, including injury, torture and death as they confront poachers and illegal traders. It is reported that at least two rangers die worldwide each week while fighting to protect wildlife from poachers. Although park rangers have a heavy burden of responsibility, they are too often given little to no support or pay. In contrast, poachers are armed with weaponry such as heat-seeking telescopes, automatic weapons, GPS satellite receivers, and even helicopters. The lack of adequate funding and equipment for park rangers is evident in the brutal massacres of both humans and animals left in the wake of night-time raids, silent ambushes, and communities in poaching areas that are often paid-off or threatened with destruction by poachers.

The illegal trade of animal parts is fueling conflict throughout Africa, providing cash and support for international criminal organizations and terrorist groups. Following the drug and weapons trade, animal poaching is the 3rd most prominent and lucrative source of funding for conflict around the world. With the presence and spread of terrorist groups like Boko Haram in many African nations, the urgency to prevent any contributions to these violent organizations is clear. Ending poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horns and elephant ivory is in the interest of our national security, peace in poaching regions and preservation of these majestic animals.

## IN HONOR OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Legal Services for Seniors on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1985, Legal Services for Seniors provides comprehensive legal services to all Monterey County senior citizens at no cost, regardless of their ability to pay.

It opened its first office that year on the Monterey Peninsula with a staff of just three. Since then Legal Services for Seniors has continuously expanded its ability to provide legal services, especially to the underserved low-income seniors of Salinas and its neighboring rural areas. It now employs a full time staff of eight and serves seniors in their Salinas and Monterey Peninsula offices as well as ten weekly outreach sites throughout Monterey County.

Legal Services for Seniors has served an astounding 80,000 clients in the past thirty years and continues to make the lives of those they serve the most important part of their practice. It is particularly noted for its financial elder abuse prevention program which serves as a model for other such efforts throughout California. Indeed, Legal Services for Seniors has been called upon to help train other non-profit legal aid organizations throughout the State of California on financial elder abuse prevention so that not only Monterey County seniors, but seniors throughout the State are benefitting from their expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Legal Services for Seniors will continue to meet the needs of Monterey County seniors with quality care, integrity, professionalism, mutual respect, innovation and accountability for many years to come. I am proud to know an organization with such integrity and compassion exists for Monterey County seniors. I know that I speak for the whole House in congratulating Legal Services for Seniors for 30 years of exemplary service and in wishing it many more years of success.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRYTANIA THEATER

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Prytania Theater, the crown jewel of the New

Orleans' art scene and the only single-screen motion picture theater in the state of Louisiana.

The Prytania Theater first opened its doors on December 20, 1914 and has witnessed the evolution of cinema from silent pictures, to talkies, to the current digital landscape. The owners of the land and building, John and Gayle Gish, placed the Prytania in a protected trust so that future generations could benefit from its historical value. It is currently operated by the Brunet family, who has continuously operated theaters in the New Orleans area for over 100 years.

For the Brunet family, the Prytania is arguably the most important venture they have pursued to date. Rene Brunet Sr. operated several neighborhood theaters beginning in 1907. And after his death in 1946, his son, Rene Brunet Jr., took over the family business and operated as many as six neighborhood theaters at one time. Although the movie industry has changed enormously over the last century, Rene Jr. and his son Robert continue to carry the torch. Currently, Robert oversees the daily operations of the theater alongside his daughter Paige, while Rene Jr. remains an important part of the Prytania operation. On several days of the week, one may find all three generations of the Brunet family at work inside the Prytania, and the Brunets intend to run the theater for as long as possible.

Like all movie theaters, the Prytania brings communities together for the unparalleled and magical experience of collectively viewing a movie on the silver screen. The Prytania is also an anchor for the surrounding community. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Prytania was the first theater to reopen after the Hurricane in October 2005; and upon re-opening, Rene Brunet Jr. extended his hand in generosity and offered free admission to the first responders.

The Prytania is a centerpiece of New Orleans' vibrant arts scene. It has hosted movie stars like Sandra Bullock, Brad Pitt, Nicholas Cage and Quentin Tarantino; New Orleans Saints players; the New Orleans Film Festival; the French Film Festival; the Irish Film Festival and numerous premieres and film community events.

The Prytania's history of hosting world-famous movie industry figures and smaller, independent filmmakers shows that the Prytania is a unique institution that continues the tradition of old Hollywood glitz and glamour while also serving as a bastion of the independent film community. I would like to congratulate the Brunet family on this historic milestone, and I wish them many more years of providing New Orleans residents and visitors a positive movie experience.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
DEPUTY U.S. FIRE ADMINIS-  
TRATOR GLENN GAINES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to inform my colleagues of the passing of Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines, a consummate fire professional and friend whose legacy can be seen today in firehouses across our nation.

I first came to know Glenn Gaines during his tenure as fire chief in Fairfax County, Va., where I served on the local Board of Supervisors. He was a strong leader, who led with character and a gentle touch. He instilled a sense of pride and camaraderie in his firefighters and paramedics that reflected his own love and admiration for the fire service and those who bravely answer the call day in and day out.

Chief Gaines began his illustrious career as a volunteer firefighter with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. His passion for the fire service was evident in his work, and he quickly rose through the ranks of leadership, serving as Fire Marshal, Chief Training Officer, and Chief of Operations. He played a key role in the formation of Fairfax County's elite Urban Search and Rescue Team, which, in partnership with FEMA and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, has provided lifesaving support to communities here at home and across the globe following natural disasters. He capped his 35-years in Fairfax by serving seven years as Fire Chief, mentoring a generation of Fairfax firefighters and paramedics, who helped mold the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department into one of the best in the nation.

He went on to work for FEMA, where he helped initiate the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Department of Homeland Security. He was instrumental in the creation of the Agency's primary firefighter grant programs, particularly the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (or SAFER) Grant Program, which is utilized by career and volunteer fire departments across the country to increase staffing to meet community needs.

It was more than a commitment to the job for Chief Gaines. He was committed to the people who served alongside him and those that would follow in their footsteps. He held a degree in Fire Administration and authored a fire service text book and contributed to several other publications that are still considered mandatory reading for recruits. He was an educator who shared his knowledge and expertise widely. He served on the faculty of the National Fire Academy and oversaw training programs at the National Emergency Training Center.

As one publication put it, he was a firefighter's firefighter. Whether it was in Fairfax or on the national stage, Chief Gaines garnered respect and promoted positive change. He was recognized by his peers with the International Association of Fire Chiefs Metropolitan Fire Chiefs President's Award of Distinc-

tion, and he later was honored with the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received the International Association of Fire Chiefs President's Award for Meritorious Service to the Fire Service.

His colleagues will also recall his outgoing, gregarious nature, particularly his competitive streak when it came to participating in the World Police and Fire Games. He was a gold medal winner in the games, competing in power lifting, running, and other sports. In fact, he was actively preparing to be the Sports Coordinator for Softball at this summer's Games, which will be held in Fairfax County.

Chief Gaines was not the retiring type, and, at the age of 72, his commitment to the fire service community was unparalleled. He died unexpectedly at his home in Leesburg, Va., last Sunday, April 12. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda, their daughter Christy Stuart, her husband, Sean, and their twin children, Heather and Evan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Chief Gaines. His life's work will always be remembered in his native Fairfax and across the nation's fire service, and his legacy of character and service will endure through the generations of firefighters he helped prepare to answer the call.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX EQUITY  
ACT OF 2015

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since California first passed a medical marijuana initiative in 1996, 23 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have approved medical marijuana programs. An additional 13 states have passed laws allowing for the use of low-THC forms of marijuana to treat certain medical conditions. In addition, voters in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska have voted to allow the retail sale and adult use of marijuana.

Any business associated with these expanding industries, however, face a legal gray area between federal and state law. While states have expanded legal economic opportunities, federal drug, tax, and banking laws continue to limit these emerging small businesses.

It has long been recognized that marijuana has therapeutic values. People use it to deal with chronic and paralyzing pain, the nausea associated with chemotherapy, and the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis. More of our veterans now use it to help with PTSD. At least one million people now receive legal medical marijuana treatment.

What remains illegal, however, is for the thousands of legitimate businesses providing a legal product to treat their business expenses like every other business and deduct them from their operating income.

The federal tax code prohibits anyone who sells Schedule I or Schedule II substances from deducting their business expenses from their taxes. Congress added this prohibition in 1982 after a drug dealer claimed his yacht and

weapon purchases as legitimate business expenses. As marijuana is listed as a Schedule I substance, even businesses operating in compliance with state law are not allowed to deduct the common expenses of running a small business, like rent, utilities and payroll.

This is why I am introducing the Small Business Tax Equity Act, bipartisan legislation to allow marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law to deduct their legitimate expenses. It will only have effect in states which have legalized aspects of marijuana use.

Legal businesses in America are taxed on their income, not on their gross revenues, except for the otherwise legal operation of marijuana businesses. Our failure to update federal tax law forces these businesses to discontinue important services or to drive them underground, which encourages evasion. This bill adapts federal tax law to state law and ensures the fair treatment of a legal industry.

It is time for the federal government to catch up with the states. We must level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs and boost local economies. The Small Business Tax Equity Act would do just that.

RICHARD SPONZILLI

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Sponzilli who, after 30 years of support and service to his local community will be honored as the recipient of the prestigious Dean McNulty Award this Sunday, April 19, 2015 at the 15th Annual Dean McNulty Dinner in Paterson, NJ.

Born and raised in the Stony Road neighborhood of Paterson, Mr. Sponzilli attended St. Bonaventure High School. At the young age of eighteen, he was drafted to Vietnam. During his military service he demonstrated remarkable courage and dedication to serving his country.

Upon his return, he enrolled at Pace University for two years, and then transferred to William Paterson to complete his degree in elementary education. While attending college, Mr. Sponzilli worked part-time cutting grass and during his senior year decided to start a landscaping business of his own. Not expecting his small business to grow, Mr. Sponzilli decided to enroll in a Master's Degree program at William Paterson University to pursue a career as a school guidance counselor.

After completing his Master's Degree, Mr. Sponzilli was unsure about leaving his business to pursue a career as a guidance counselor. After compliments from clients and advice from a friend, he decided to focus on his landscaping business. At the age of 28, Mr. Sponzilli had finally saved enough money to purchase his first office building in Totowa, NJ and since then he has expanded his business to what is now one of the industry's premier landscape design firms.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Sponzilli has coached and been involved with many sports programs, beginning

with the Hillcrest Boys Club, serving as Head Coach of the Manchester Regional High School boys' basketball team, and football programs at the Totowa Police Athletic League.

Mr. Sponzilli continues to dedicate his efforts towards bettering his community and exhibits the qualities of an individual we all strive to be. He currently works with many organizations including Landscape Initiative, Morris Catholic High School, Sisters of the Poor Charity, and also finds time to operate basketball camps for children.

Mr. Sponzilli has been recognized for his philanthropic efforts both within his community and outside. Because of these efforts, he was named the Italian American Man of the Year, National Kid Construction Club Man of the Year, was inducted into the Totowa Police Athletic League Wall of Fame, and was most recently awarded the William Paterson University Legacy Award. The Dean McNulty Award is yet another prestigious recognition of the outstanding work of Mr. Sponzilli.

I have known Richard for many years now as well as have attended the Dean McNulty Dinner for many years and know that this is a well-deserved honor. His story has not only inspired me but has inspired many of those around him. I value Rich's friendship and, as his friend, am happy to see him acknowledged in so many ways.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Sponzilli's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EMELIA ROSE  
YANKAH

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I am pleased and honored to join the chorus of family, friends, loved ones and many well-wishers who join in praise and give thanks to Mrs. Emelia Rose Yankah.

As you reflect on the numerous memories and triumphs you have been blessed to experience over the last eight plus decades your professional, community leadership, and membership with numerous civic organizations have given you the opportunity to make an indelible impact in the lives of many.

We are forever grateful to our Heavenly Father for having put Mrs. E.R. Yankah in our midst on April 16, 1930, and for filling her with grace, compassion and love. Today as your family, friends, community and congregation stand to celebrate your 85th Birthday, know that I am exceedingly honored to join this celebration and extend our humble gratitude. Countless lives have been made all the better and richer because of this kind spirit.

We ask:

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine upon you.

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

As you look forward to the years ahead, know that I am praying for your continued health and happiness.

COL. HENRY CYR

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Henry L. Cyr III, United States Air Force, for his exceptional service to the United States of America. After twenty-six years of service, Colonel Cyr will soon retire from his position as the Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Born in Hopedale, Massachusetts, Colonel Cyr was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Boston University in 1989, receiving his Second Lieutenant rank in historic Faneuil Hall. Throughout his career, Colonel Cyr has served with great distinction in prominent command and staff positions and operational flying units in the United States and around the world.

His staff tours include two assignments to the Pentagon; first, in 2002, as Air Force staff responsible for overseeing two U.S. and NATO Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft acquisition programs, and again in 2009 as United States Strategic Command staff leading the Global Force Management Division, responsible for supporting the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance requirements of our Combatant Commanders around the globe. In 2011 Col. Cyr returned to Robins Air Force Base to serve as the Vice Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing.

Colonel Cyr has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Air Medal, and multiple campaign medals. His aviation career includes more than 4,700 flying hours, including more than 900 in combat and combat support missions. He has flown operations in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Haiti, Kosovo and Iraq, as well as worldwide Sensitive Reconnaissance Operations missions. Currently, he is the commander of the Air Combat Command's 461st Air Control Wing responsible for leading nearly fifteen hundred Airmen in achieving the worldwide E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System and Deployable Air Traffic Control and Landing System missions.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Colonel Henry Cyr's successful and decorated career. I commend Colonel Cyr for his service, leadership, and example. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Colonel Cyr's family including wife retired Lt. Col. Linda Bethke-Cyr, their children Alexandria and Marcus, and his parents Mrs. Geraldine Francis Cyr and retired Colonel Henry Leonard Cyr, Jr.

We are a nation grateful for the military service of the men, women, and families

whose sacrifices secure our freedom. I wish Colonel Cyr and his family the best in his retirement and next steps.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Las Positas College in Livermore, California.

Las Positas has been serving residents of the Tri-Valley with quality educational and vocational training for the past forty years.

Las Positas serves 8,500 students from all walks of life. Their dedication to training and educating all those that seek to better themselves, from recent high school graduates to veterans to mid-career professionals, is second to none.

In the heart of one of America's fastest growing business and residential regions, Las Positas College has been a staple for higher education and skill development for decades. The college provides the local rapidly growing technological, science, and business industries with the trained personnel they need to be successful.

Las Positas' slogan is "Students First," an ideal mantra that all institutions of higher education should follow. It exemplifies the goals of providing an excellent, equitable, and complete education.

On this day we recognize Las Positas College as being one of the premier educational institutions in the California Community College System for the past forty years and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success in the future.

THE LIFE OF ALEX MICHEL ODEH

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Alex Michel Odeh.

Alex was born on April 4, 1944 in Jifna, Palestine and immigrated to the United States in 1972.

He was married to Norma Odeh and settled in Orange County, CA where they had three daughters, Helena, Samya and Susan Odeh.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Odeh dedicated his professional life to teaching and served as a lecturer of Arabic Language and Middle East History at Coastline Community College in Santa Ana, California.

He dedicated his life to the pursuit of combatting discrimination both at home and abroad as a civil and human rights activist.

He was tireless in working with community and religious organizations to build bridges and foster peace and understanding between diverse groups.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short and Alex was assassinated on October 11, 1985, when a bomb exploded as he entered the office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) at 1905 East 17th Street in Santa Ana, California during his service as the Western Regional Director of ADC.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of his murder and the community and his family has yet to gain closure and justice for his death.

In June of 2013, I sent the Department of Justice a letter asking for closure in the case of Alex Odeh and we have yet to get a concrete answer from them, even though the FBI has characterized Mr. Odeh's death as a domestic "terrorist attack."

I will continue to fight for answers to Alex's death and bring those that killed him to justice, but let us mark his death by remembering what he stood for and what he dedicated his life to: the pursuit to civil and human rights, as well as peace and mutual understanding between our diverse communities.

#### RECOGNIZING MARCH 5 AS NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DAY

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize March 5, 2015, as the First Annual National Industrial Design Day. I also want to congratulate the Industrial Designers Society of America on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This day is being used to recognize those in the profession of industrial design, which has enhanced people's lives, not only in the 11th District of Virginia, but also across the United States and the world.

The term "industrial design" was first recognized by the U.S. Patent Office in 1913, but the importance of this field was not fully recognized at that time. Originally comprised primarily of architects, package designers, and stage designers, the field expanded to include many diverse professionals including those in manufacturing, furniture design, graphic design, and automobile design, among others. The focus evolved to using design as a tool to make products more efficient, more cost effective, and more relevant.

Today, the contributions of industrial designers include advanced technology such as GPS, digital interfaces, environmental graphics, communication systems, surgical equipment, MP3 players, and countless others. The economic impact of this industry helps fuel our national economy. In the United States, product design and related services generate billions in sales and the number of U.S. awarded design patents has reached an all-time high.

Promotion of innovation and creativity has created a growing interest in industrial design. What was first hailed as a "modern movement" at the 1927 Exposition of Art in Trade in New York City is now taught at universities around the world.

The Industrial Designers Society of America, headquartered in Herndon, Virginia in the 11th Congressional District, which I am pleased to

represent, should be commended for being an instrumental force in the growth and expansion of this profession. Its membership now includes thousands of industrial designers in 29 countries. In addition, it has hosted education symposiums and conferences to ensure the continued growth of this field.

I ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming March 5 as National Industrial Design Day and in expressing our appreciation for the innovation and creativity of its members. Their designs and creations improve our lives in every way and are worthy of our recognition.

#### THE CONTINUING THREAT OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of 17 parasitic and bacterial diseases which blind, disable, disfigure, and sometimes kill sufferers among more than one billion of the world's poorest people, trapping the most marginalized communities in a cycle of poverty. The list ranges from chagas to rabies to leprosy to dengue fever. However, there are others not on this list of 17 diseases that also receive too little attention. These include such diseases as polio and smallpox, which have largely been eliminated from the planet, and often fatal, fortunately rare NTDs, such as kuru. Prior to last year, that list of rare diseases included Ebola.

Even though not immediately fatal, these diseases can keep children from attending school and their parents from working, as well as resulting in excessive loss of blood by mothers during birth and low birth weight babies. These conditions constitute a significant hurdle to achieving economic growth and dilute the impact of foreign assistance programs.

Last year, the world witnessed an Ebola disease pandemic that hit six African countries and spread to Spain, Scotland, and the United States. Furthermore, in recent years diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya have spread into the United States. These and other tropical diseases most often victimize the poor who live in tropical climates—whether in Africa, Latin America or parts of the United States.

Even in the face of the worldwide challenge these tropical diseases pose, the administration has proposed cutting the budget in this area by 17%. Yesterday's hearing examined the problem of neglected tropical diseases and U.S. current and potential efforts to address this problem.

Eight NTDs account for almost all worldwide cases. Seven of them can be treated with low-cost medication that can be dispensed by non-health workers irrespective of disease status. Nearly 80% of all NTD cases are comprised of people carrying intestinal worms.

In our June 27, 2013, hearing on NTDs, we learned the catastrophic nature of these preventable intestinal worm infections. So many

of the problems we struggle with, such as difficult births and malnourishment, cannot be remedied without dealing with the infections themselves. These intestinal worms not only steal nutrients from their hosts; they steal their very futures by denying them a healthy life.

We can no longer look at photos of happy young children standing in muddy water without shoes and not think of the possibility that they are losing their future even as we see them enjoy a break from the poverty in which they live. Yet we must understand that these are not merely diseases affecting people in faraway lands.

Current U.S. law favors research on those diseases threatening the American homeland, but in today's world, diseases can cross borders as easily as those affected by them or the products imported into the United States. For example, chagas is most prevalent in Latin America, but it has been identified in patients in Texas, and cases of dengue fever have recently been reported in Florida. We cannot afford to assume that what may seem to be exotic diseases only happen to people in other countries. (And of course, even if that were true, we have a moral obligation to aid and assist those who contract these diseases and mitigate transmittal to the greatest extent possible). Ten years ago, West Nile Virus, another rare disease, was not seen in the United States or anywhere else outside the east African nation of Uganda, but in less than a decade, it has spread across this country and much of the rest of the world.

More than 10,000 people have died of Ebola worldwide thus far. Although only one person died in this country due to that disease, we saw clearly how unprepared our medical services and the rest of the world were initially to deal with a rare disease that had previously been confined to isolated areas in Central Africa. There are other rare diseases—not to mention the recognized NTDs—that can cause havoc if they find their way to populated international transit areas as Ebola did last year.

Meanwhile, far too many people live lives of quiet suffering from diseases we must fight more effectively. This is why I have introduced H.R. 1797, the End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act. Among other provisions, H.R. 1797 calls on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to modify its NTD programming with respect to rapid impact package treatments, school-based NTD programs and new approaches to reach the goals of eliminating NTDs. This bill also sets forth measures to expand the USAID program, including by establishment of a research and development program.

In our effort to achieve reachable goals to prevent and eliminate NTDs, the projected 17% cut in funding for such projects in the FY 2016 budget would pose a serious setback. I have appealed to the appropriators to maintain NTD spending at the most recent regular budget levels in FY 2014, and our hearing yesterday examined how our current NTD programs will be affected either by the planned budget cut or by maintaining the level of funding we saw before the Ebola response skewed the level of such funding.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL (RETIRED)  
JOSE GERARDO GARCIA, M.D.

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. of Laredo, Texas.

Jose Gerardo Garcia was born on the 21st of November, 1935 to Gerardo and Anita Garcia in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He received a Bachelors in Biological Sciences at la Escuela Preparatoria Federal and his Medical Doctor degree from la Universidad de Nuevo Leon Medical School in Monterrey in 1957. Following graduation, he completed psychiatry internships at Warren State Hospital in Warren, Pennsylvania and Austin State Hospital in Austin, Texas.

In 1965, Dr. Garcia became a naturalized citizen of the United States. His love of country compelled him to enlist in the United States Army in 1969. Dr. Garcia's 20 years of service allowed him to use his medical training, serve his country, and help others. Beginning as a major at Fort Dix in New Jersey and then as a surgeon in the Army National Guard, 36th Airborne division, he developed an expertise in aerospace medicine. With this knowledge, Dr. Garcia became a charter member of the U.S. Army Aviation branch upon its creation in 1983. Additionally, he was the first native Mexican physician assigned to the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General at the Pentagon, a position that allowed him to work directly with the White House physician. Following his promotion to the rank of colonel, Medical Corps, Dr. Garcia served as dean of the U.S. Army School of Aviation at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Dr. Garcia has been the first and only Hispanic to occupy this post. Additionally, Dr. Garcia served as chief training supervisor for the VA hospital in Houston, Texas, certified NASA flight surgeon supporting Space Shuttle landings at two primary landing sites, and as a medical consultant to the Texas Department of Corrections for inmates on death row. Dr. Garcia was also integral to the U.S. Army's adoption of research and clinical hyperbaric medicine.

After 20 years of distinguished service, Dr. Garcia transferred to Reserve duty in 1989. In 1990 he married Yolanda Davila and settled in Laredo where he continued to practice medicine and be an active member of the community until his passing. Dr. Garcia served as medical director of Charter Hospital of Laredo, CEO and medical director of St. Joseph's Psychiatric Day Treatment Center and Laredo Drug Detection Services, medical director of Casa Amistad/San Antonio State Hospital, senior psychiatrist of Border Region MHMR, and clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This beloved family man and talented doctor will be dearly missed and forever remembered for his faith, altruism, optimism, patriotism, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the legacy of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. His exemplary service to this country and the people of Laredo will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO  
MADE THE APPOMATTOX SES-  
QUICENTENNIAL A SUCCESS

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to recognize and thank those who worked tirelessly to make the week-long Appomattox Sesquicentennial commemoration such a major success.

After years of preparation, the National Park Service, with the support of Appomattox County leaders and hundreds of Central Virginia volunteers, did an outstanding job hosting the thousands of Americans who came to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial this past week at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. It was estimated that approximately 3,600 re-enactors took part and 25,000 individuals came to Appomattox Court House National Park throughout the week to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the meeting of Generals Lee and Grant which put an end to the Civil War and the nearly ninety events that preceded it. The hard work, effort, and organization executed by Appomattox County local businesses, vendors, and volunteers was observed by all and made for an especially memorable event of this momentous turning point in our nation's history.

I was pleased to be able to attend the moving and dignified opening ceremony and was impressed at the manner in which the National Park Service went above and beyond to ensure that the American people had the opportunity to pay tribute to those who re-united our country 150 years ago. Please join me in thanking all those who worked tirelessly to make this remembrance possible.

RECOGNIZING AIR ZOO

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nationally renowned Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, Michigan, which is hosting the 2015 Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards on April 18, 2015.

It is only fitting that the Air Zoo is the setting for this gala event to recognize the transformative work of top Southwest Michigan students and teachers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as well as residents who have advanced the area of aviation. The Air Zoo was founded in 1977 as the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum by Suzanne and Pete Parish, who wanted to share their enthusiasm for World War II airplanes and artifacts. Scientific affiliations grew to include the Smithsonian Institution and the Michigan Space Science Center, which allows visitors to experience some of the challenges astronauts face during their training. Full-motion flight simulators, 3-D and 4-D the-

aters, and interactive exhibits—including one about women in aviation and space—provided adventure little seen in regular museums.

Education is tucked inside a fun setting as evidenced by the Air Zoo being named as the "Best Place to Spend a Day with Your Family" and "Best Place to Take out-of-Towners" for the past three years by the more than 130,000 visitors it has touching down at its doors each year.

Mr. Speaker, many have wondered how the facility got its name. As the collection of air-planes grew, so did the number of animal names: Wildcat, Hellcat, Bearcat and Flying Tiger. Obviously, these flying critters can only be contained in an Air Zoo.

Recently the Air Zoo was recognized as one of the jewels in the crown of the state by receiving a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to keep this state-of-the-art air and space museum on its mission of preserving the legacy of flight. I am proud to recognize the many accomplishments of the Air Zoo by the people who work there and wish them much success in the future.

HONORING ROBERT HILL YOUTH  
FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc., Charleston, MS inside of Tallahatchie County, MS.

The Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc. began in the early 1980's by Mr. Robert Hill. It was initially conceived with the idea of simply being a sports organization for youth focusing on baseball. The organization eventually ceased being active after the death of Mr. Hill in 1991.

In the year 2000, Mr. Cedric Terry revived the organization because the youth in the community didn't have many options for constructive activities and adult mentoring. He took on the task of recruiting children and parent's involvement. Mr. Terry was successful by getting 9 boys excited about playing baseball for the summer and competing. Their team would travel and they would be role models for other youth. Everyone had to pledge to abide by the rules, get good grades in school, and participate in an award ceremony at the end of the season.

Mr. Terry's vision was just what the youth in the community needed to take the Robert Hill Youth Foundation to the next level. It was just what Mr. Hill always wanted the organization to be. The organization grew and became a huge success serving over 10,000 boys and girls. The effort was so well received that it attracted youth not just inside Charleston, but they came from miles outside the area. It now has extended its activities to include education, recreation and arts for youth in the area.

Through their education program they offer: Abstinence Education, After School Tutoring, and Fatherhood Preparation. Their recreation program offers: basketball, football, baseball

and track. The arts program includes: praise dancing, dancing and acting classes. Since 2000 through 2015 the organization has been responsible for helping over 500 boys and girls in the area attend and receive a college education.

Their accolades are just as impressive. In fact, there are too many to name them all. A few of them include constructing the first park in Charleston in order to be home based for the youth. All they had to do was walk to the park and "Play ball!" Thanks to the Robert Hill Youth Foundation their work has reached all corners of youth life. In 2011 the Charleston High School Tigers Football Team won its 1st State Football Championship. Almost ninety percent of the players came from the Robert Hill Youth Foundation. In 2012 the Charleston High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team was the runner up in the Girls Basketball State Tournament. And over ninety-five percent of the girls played for the Robert Hill Youth Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, in recognizing the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, an asset to Tallahatchie County in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING PETER AND MAUREEN JANELLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, for the last 35 years both Peter & Maureen Janelle have been staunch advocates and compassionate caregivers to the citizens of the Granite State living with mental illness. Working as counselors with The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, they have provided care to many individuals struggling with a variety of afflictions. After 20 years with the center Peter Janelle took the helm as President and CEO, helping to launch a number of programs focused on not only treatment, but vocational services, supportive living techniques, and illness management. These programs aim to promote wellness and independence for the center's patients, to empower them to manage their mental illness and be productive, contributing members of the community.

Peter has also worked tirelessly with other providers and organizations from across New Hampshire to offer care to those most in need and support the community of mental health professionals in the state. Whether working with patients and staff at NH Hospital, local law enforcement or with local schools he has helped to expand and develop the reach of the services offered by the center to give care to people of all ages from children to seniors, and addressing the need for treatment and care for small behavioral problems and mild depression, to treatment for Alzheimer's, psychosis and schizophrenia. The result of these efforts has enabled the center to provide care to almost 11,000 patients a year.

The work that both Peter and Maureen have done in the field of mental illness is not an easy job, and the success and accomplishments they have been able to achieve in their service to The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester is truly remarkable. I applaud and thank them for devoting their life's work to this worthy and much needed field, and for all they have contributed to New Hampshire and especially the City of Manchester.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Israelis—whether sitting at their desks, playing on the beach, or driving on a busy highway—came to a complete standstill as sirens rang out across the small country to commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust and the six million Jews systematically murdered by the Nazi regime.

I join the global Jewish community in remembering those we lost and honoring those who survived to carry on the proud traditions of the Jewish people. On this Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us all recommit ourselves to preserving the memory of the past while working to build a better future. As the number of Holocaust survivors continues to diminish it becomes increasingly incumbent upon future generations to never forget.

#### THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: REVIEWING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I held a hearing to continue and increase attention on international parental child abduction, whose victims include primarily children denied the love and attention of one of their parents, and parents cut off from the children they love.

Every year, approximately 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

Most of the left-behind parents in the audience at last month's hearing have not seen their children in years and know all too well the financial, legal, cultural, and linguistic obstacles to bringing their children home from a foreign country. Many of them had already been through U.S. judicial proceedings prior to the abduction, and the courts had settled custody and visitation, only to have a kidnapping spouse defy a court order. Other parents were caught completely by surprise when a spouse's vacation turned into an abduction, a

phone call in the middle of the night telling them that would never again see their child.

Their suffering is exponentially compounded by knowledge of the pain caused to their child by the separation. Child abduction is child abuse. Parentally-abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems, and may experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt, and fearfulness.

These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government when normal legal processes are unavailable or have failed.

In 1983, the United States ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to try to address abduction and access. This convention creates a civil framework for the quick return of abducted children and for rights of access for left-behind parents. Absent extenuating circumstances, the child, or children, are to be returned within 6 weeks to his or her country of habitual residence for the courts there to decide on custody, or to enforce any previous custody determinations.

The Convention has helped return some children but implementation has been unpredictable and spotty at best. Susceptible to abuse by taking parents or judges who either don't understand their obligations under the Convention or are unwilling to abide by them, the Convention has too often been stretched to provide cover for the abduction, rather than recovery of the child.

Some Hague Convention parties are simply not enforcing legitimate return orders. The State Department's 2014 Hague Convention Compliance Report highlights four countries—Brazil, Mexico, Romania, and Ukraine—that habitually fail to enforce return orders. Other countries—Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Bahamas—are non-compliant with the Convention.

In other words, abducted American children are not coming home from these countries and so many other countries where the Convention operates weakly, or with which the U.S. has no bilateral agreement of any kind.

To give one more example, Jeffery Morehouse, a left behind parent, testified that "there have been 400 cases of U.S. children kidnapped to Japan since 1994." We do not know of a single case, however, in which the Government of Japan has issued and enforced an order for the return of an abducted child to the United States.

And, I must emphasize, that since they have signed the Hague, Japan's efforts have been breathtakingly unresponsive especially for abductions that occurred prior to their ratification of the Hague Convention.

Mr. Morehouse testified that, "one year ago next week, at the very moment Japan acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, parents joined us to hand-deliver 30 Article 21 Access applications (I joined those parents at the Japanese Embassy) . . . none of the BAC Home parents have received access to their kidnapped children. Japan's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention is an abysmal failure. Sanctions under the Goldman Act will provide some of the necessary public pressures on Japan to create change to this ongoing human and family rights crisis."

The status quo is simply unacceptable.

Over the last 5 years, many of those at the hearing helped me write and pass through the Congress the Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act. Last month's hearing occurs more than seven months after the Goldman Act became law and gave us an opportunity to hear from the State Department and parents whether the bill's key provisions are being implemented according to the law.

A brief refresher on Sean and David: David Goldman spent over 5 agonizing years trying to legally rescue his son, Sean, from an abduction to Brazil, which is a signatory nation, like the United States, to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Despite Mr. Goldman's airtight case that demonstrated an egregious example of both child abduction and wrongful retention, the Hague treaty was unavailing, and the outcomes in the Brazilian courts largely proved infuriating, infirm, and ineffective.

David Goldman waged his case by the book and won judgments in the New Jersey courts. Yet both Sean and David were made to suffer emotional pain for over half a decade as one delaying ploy after another was employed by the abducting party. In the end, because of the father's abiding love for his son and an indomitable will, the Goldmans today are united and happy.

To underscore: the Goldman Act was not intended to simply reform the system, but to bring about a fundamental sea change in U.S. diplomacy so that State Department officials would see themselves as advocates for the return of abducted American children.

Now under the Goldman Act, when a country fails to appropriately address an abduction case pending more than 12 months, the law requires the Secretary of State to take action. When a country has more than 30% of its U.S. cases pending for more than a year, the law requires the Secretary of State to designate the country as "Non-Compliant" in an annual report, and take action.

The Goldman Act specifically lists the increasingly escalating actions that Congress has in mind, from a demarche—or a protest through diplomatic channels—to a public condemnation to a delay or cancellation of one or more bilateral visits and even the withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of foreign assistance including non-humanitarian aid and including security assistance to the central government of a country. These are serious sanctions that must be seriously applied by a country that takes parental child abduction seriously.

We may also request extradition where appropriate.

If these measures sound pointed, it is because they are intended to focus the destination country on quick and accurate resolution of abduction and access cases.

The Goldman Act was written to cover countries that have signed the Hague Convention, such as Brazil; countries that have not signed the Convention, such as India; and countries that have a mix of open abduction cases from before and after signing the Hague Convention, such as Japan.

In 2013, India was the number three destination in the world for parents who abducted from the United States. Currently, there are 64

known open abduction and denial of access cases involving India. And yet the United States does not have any sort of resolution mechanism with India. Moms and dads left behind in the United States are forced to enter a labyrinthine foreign court system known for its incessant appeals and multi-year delays.

But now the Goldman Act applies. India will now face real penalties for any case that has been pending for more than one year, and will be "named and shamed" in the State Department's report. As with the State Department's annual trafficking report, there is morally suasive value in simply reporting what a country does, and some countries will I am sure respond to such moral pressure.

Thus we expect the State Department to apply these penalties zealously, and to work with India on establishing a bilateral agreement for the efficient and fair resolution of abduction and access cases. If the State Department faithfully applies the law as written, it will be in India's interest to come to the negotiating table.

The same holds true for Japan, even though Japan recently signed the Hague Convention. Among such cases is that of Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as "my country will protect me."

Her country will protect her, but what is our country doing to protect Michael and his children?

While the State Department has touted Japan's accession to the Hague Convention as an accomplishment, Japan has said the Convention would only apply in post-ratification cases. As Ambassador Jacobs knows, I and several others predicted that unless a MOU or other bilateral agreement was concluded with Japan, American children and their left behind parents will be left behind in perpetuity. I ask to my friends at the State Department, what then is to happen for parents already suffering from abductions prior to ratification? Would they be left behind again—this time by their own government?

I know Ambassador Jacobs, who testified at last month's hearing, as recently as February 2014 in her testimony before the Senate, stated that she would continue to make "progress with the Japanese government on resolving existing cases in the spirit of the Convention."

The Goldman Act requires accountability for the Japanese government on the abduction cases open at the time Japan signed the Convention. Unless Japan resolves scores of American cases before the end of next month, nearly 100% of abduction cases in Japan will still be unresolved and Goldman Act penalties will apply.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equality for All Resolution—which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, I watched as Indiana—my home state—enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, I've heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned Americans.

It's clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination.

Yet, in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 states to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or rent a home, or to turn someone away from your business—just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to show that America is better than this. I would like to thank the 126 colleagues who join me today as original cosponsors of this resolution.

I encourage every Member of the House to join me in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

## CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark an important milestone in the history of my home state of Maryland. On April 15, 2015, the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Bowie State University will celebrate the school's 150th anniversary at its annual Founders Day.

In the final months of the Civil War, the Baltimore Normal School began serving emancipated African-Americans by offering training for teachers. In 1910, it outgrew its facilities and moved to a 187-acre lot in Bowie, Maryland, and in 1914 it became the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie. Over the course of the twentieth century, the institution evolved into a four-year degree-granting college and eventually became a liberal arts college whose mission extended well beyond training educators. Renamed Bowie State College in 1963, it provided access to higher education for African American students, many of whom were barred from other institutions as a result of segregation.

In 1988, in recognition of the school's important role in higher education for Marylanders and its expansion into graduate studies, it was elevated to University status and welcomed into the University System of Maryland. Since

then, Bowie State University has been one of Maryland's top institutions of higher education and has continued to rank as one of our nation's leading historically black colleges and universities, preparing not only some of the brightest young minds in Maryland but also training a new generation of leaders for our nation's African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to represent Bowie State University in Congress and to help secure federal grants that help the school expand its cutting-edge programs, including in the high-demand areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or “STEM” education. In recent years, Bowie State University has become a national leader in what many are calling “STEAM” education, which brings traditional “STEM” fields together with art and design in order to prepare students for careers in digital technologies. At the same time, Bowie State University has become a national center for training in cybersecurity, drawing on its proximity to Ft. Meade and defense institutions in the Greater Washington area. It continues to build on a groundbreaking \$27 million award from NASA and the National Science Foundation in 1995 that recognized Bowie State University as a National Model Institution for Excellence in STEM education.

Last year, I joined President Obama in Prince George's County, Maryland, to highlight a \$7 million Youth Career Connect grant that was made possible through an innovative partnership between the County's public schools, Lockheed Martin, and Bowie State University's Maryland Center to grow the pipeline of students pursuing college degrees and STEM-related careers. The University is playing a major role in growing Maryland's high-skill workforce for the twenty-first century, and I am excited for what the future holds.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Bowie State University's proud history as it marks its sesquicentennial. I look forward to continuing to work closely with President Mickey Burnim and the Administration to ensure that Bowie State University can continue to carry out its mission of providing high-quality higher education and research that supports learning and careers in Maryland and across the United States.

TRIBUTE TO LEE P. EVANS, SR.

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I am pleased and honored to join the chorus of family, friends, loved ones and many well-wishers who join in praise and give thanks to Lee P. Evans, Sr., for his endearing legacy of love, kindness and generosity. Our lives have been made all the better and richer because of this kind spirit. We are forever grateful to our Heavenly Father for having put him in our midst on April 15, 1925, and for filling him with grace, compassion and love.

These 90 years are marked by many milestones in his life, none more representative of

the breadth and depth of his character than that of his humanity. We celebrate the richness of his life. We honor his strength of faith and his unwavering belief in the goodness of all. We come now to honor the man, for in him, and through him, the love of God flows, and warms us in his rich embrace. On this day, we say Happy Birthday Lee P. Evans, Sr., we love you, and may God continue to shower his blessings upon you and all that you love.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has expanded and grown stronger since the TRA was signed into law in 1979. I recently returned from Taiwan where I experienced firsthand our shared values and close economic ties. Last year, Taiwan was the United States' 10th largest trading partner. My home state of Indiana has also benefited from these commercial partnerships and was the first state to establish a trade office in Taiwan. On April 9th, President Ma Ying-jeou shared his insight on our bilateral relations in his remarks at the AmCham's annual Hsieh Nien Fan gala which I have included below. Like President Ma, I look forward to continuing to promote policies that reaffirm our mutual commitment to democratic and economic development.

“I am very pleased to be here today for AmCham's annual Hsieh Nien Fan. This is a special occasion for me, because it marks the 13th time that I have been invited to attend. But there's also another reason why today is a very special day. It's because tomorrow is April the 10th, and that marks the 36th anniversary of the date the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) took effect.

“At the moment, U.S.-Taiwan relations are indeed the best they have been in the 36 years since the TRA became effective. Everyone in Taiwan, military and civilians, was shocked back on December 16, 1978 when President Carter announced on TV that the U.S. was breaking diplomatic relations with the Republic of China. But three months later, the U.S. Congress made significant amendments to the Carter administration's Taiwan Enabling Act. Congress not only changed the content of the Act, but also changed its name to the Taiwan Relations Act.

“As you all know, based on existing international law, an unrecognized country loses its status as a legal entity in the United States. It therefore cannot engage in any legal proceedings due to the lack of a judicial personality. But the TRA not only sees Taiwan as a foreign government for purposes of U.S. law, but also allows Taiwan to initiate and respond to judicial litigation. The TRA also allows the U.S. government to provide Taiwan with defensive weaponry. And the property rights attached to our embassy and Twin Oaks estate in Washington, DC also remained unaffected by the break in diplomatic relations or de-recognition.

“Since I took office nearly seven years ago, mutual trust between Taiwan and the United States at the highest levels of government has been restored. Taiwan military procurement from the U.S. has also exceeded U.S.\$ 18.3 billion, the highest it has been in any period over the past 20 years, and twice what it was during my predecessor's term of office. And in March of 2013, our countries resumed negotiations under the 1994 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) as we prepare to take a step-by-step “building block” approach in promoting further trade liberalization.

“Last year, Taiwan and the U.S. forged even closer cooperation in several areas. U.S. Secretary of Commerce statistics show that last year, Taiwan-U.S. trade in goods reached U.S.\$ 67.4 billion. That allowed Taiwan to surpass India and Saudi Arabia to become the United States' 10th largest trading partner. At the same time, the U.S. once again surpassed Japan to become Taiwan's second largest trading partner. Last month, Taiwan companies also flocked to the U.S. government's SelectUSA 2015 Investment Summit, and overall, the Taiwan contingent was the second largest group in attendance.

“In addition to our interaction in the economic and trade arenas, official contacts between Taiwan and the U.S. have also continued. In December of last year, President Obama signed the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014, agreeing to sell the ROC four Perry-class frigates. High-level U.S. officials also visited here, most notably U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, who came to Taiwan in April last year. She was the first U.S. Cabinet-level official to visit us in 14 years.

“This year, in February, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel stated that over the past few years, developments in Taiwan-U.S. relations have been productive. He also said that those developments were closely related to the improvement in cross-strait relations. He also expressed that the U.S. hopes to see the continued positive development of cross-strait relations.

“So ever since the Cold War began, this was the first time that the United States did not have to choose sides when handling cross-strait relations. Nor did mainland China or Taiwan have to face that kind of predicament. This highlights our efforts in the realm of cross-strait relations over the past few years, as both ROC-U.S. and cross-strait relations have become more harmonious. As this kind of interaction has transformed Taiwan's cross-strait and international relations, the vicious cycle of the past is gone, and we're moving ahead under the virtuous cycle of today.

“In truth, the Republic of China and the U.S. have a long and storied relationship. Now, I would like to tell you two stories to illustrate our friendship.

“The first story I want to tell occurred at the very beginning of the 20th century. In 1901, one year after the so-called Boxer Rebellion, the Qing Empire and the United States signed the Boxer Protocol, which paid U.S.\$ 24.4 million to the U.S.—known as the Boxer Indemnity. In his State of the Union Address in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt stated that part of the Boxer Indemnity should be returned to China. In 1924, an executive order by U.S. President Coolidge returned the other portions of the Boxer Indemnity. So by that time, the U.S. had returned about 95% of the Indemnity to the Republic of China, making a tremendous contribution to cultivating human talent.



The Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program provided funds that helped many people who became the pillars of the Republic of China. And what the U.S. did also had an effect in Europe, where Holland used Boxer Indemnity funds to set up a China Research Program at Leiden University. That made Leiden University a strategic center for research on China, and fostered several generations of talented individuals. That soon became the norm, and the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and Japan all followed suit.

"The second story took place 75 years ago. This year is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and the Republic of China's victory in the War of Resistance against Japan. During the course of World War II, the U.S. government and citizens not only gave the Republic of China substantive assistance, but also proved to be staunch friends. That hard-fought War of Resistance between the Republic of China and Japanese forces lasted for eight long years. For the first four years, our soldiers fought virtually alone, without any assistance from outside sources. During that period, however, the U.S. provided indirect assistance. And the most inspiring example of that assistance came from the American Volunteer Group—the AVG—which was later absorbed by the Fourteenth Army Air Force in China. That unit became known far and wide by their nickname: The Flying Tigers. They came to represent Chinese-American cooperation. When the Flying Tigers had been in China for less than a year, they had already downed at least 200 Japanese war planes. That allowed the Chinese Air Force, which was on its last legs, to slowly recover its fighting capabilities. So in November of 1943, at the Battle of Changde in Hunan Province, the U.S. Fourteenth Army Air Force in China joined forces with our own air force to form the Chinese-American Composite Wing. Working together, they brought down 25 Japanese planes, with another 14 planes listed as possibly shot down, and 19 additional Japanese planes damaged. The Japanese Air Force didn't dare return to challenge them again. And just when the forces defending Changde were in dire straits, the composite air forces air-dropped ammunition, rice, and pork for those ground troops. They also dispatched operatives to the battlefields who filed hourly intelligence reports to General Claire Lee Chennault. That allowed the General to direct the Flying Tigers to attack Japanese forces that mounted offensives, and also leverage victories by bombing defeated Japanese troops even as they retreated.

"So this year, we will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan with various activities. We have decided to invite General Chennault's granddaughter, and descendants of General James Doolittle, who was famous for his bombing raid on Tokyo. We want to invite those descendants to participate in some activities, and also take advantage of this face-to-face meeting to thank their forerunners for their contributions to the Republic of China.

"For the Republic of China, from the beginning of the last century and up into the 1930s, 1940s, and even all the historical periods I didn't mention here today, there has been one constant: Our history, the history of the Republic of China, has been intimately linked with that of the United States. So my fondest hope is that we can build on the foundation of friendship that we've forged over more than a century, continue our cooperation, and strengthen our relationship. And that we can continue to make

progress—in politics and economics, and in terms of our social, educational, and cultural interaction. As partners in progress, we can create a more beautiful future, and continue to write the history of tomorrow."

#### HONORING MELVIN LEE LOPER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mr. Melvin Lee Loper, who was born on March 16, 1920 in Finkbine, Mississippi, which is no longer on the map. It was a logging camp for the loggers which was his father's occupation. His parents, the late Marshall and Mamie Loper, later moved to Raymond, Mississippi where they worked as sharecroppers. His only sibling was a younger brother, Otis Loper, who is now deceased.

In those days, rural schools did not go further than 8th grade. He lived with a cousin in Jackson, Mississippi to attend high school, and graduated from Lanier High School in 1939. He entered Tougaloo College but was drafted in the United States Army in World War II. He served for four years with a tour of duty in Europe. He returned to Tougaloo College and completed his studies in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

In 1973, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from Jackson College, after many years of attending summer school and taking classes on Saturdays. That was the way of life to further your education back in the day.

He began his teaching career in Smith county; later Sumner Hill High School and Jackson Public Schools. After thirty-three years of teaching he retired in 1985. He continued teaching several years after retirement because Mathematics teachers were always in demand.

He has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church for 55 years. He served as: Sunday School teacher, a Member of the Boy Scout Committee, and attended Wednesday night Bible Study faithfully until his recent illness. He has been in the choir for fifty years, and served as Church Treasurer for thirty-three years.

He was an original member of the Jackson Tougaloo Alumni Club, organized by the late Mrs. Thelma Sanders forty-four years ago. He was serving as President when the club sponsored the Broadway play, "Ain't Misbehavin'" which was a great success. He worked for years with the committee sponsoring the Ebony Fashion Show. He is a loyal supporter of Tougaloo College with his funds and presence, when able.

He is married to Gwendolyn Nero Loper and they have three children: Rodney, Larry and Gerrilyn; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

His secret to longevity is hard work, attending to your business, being an avid sports fan, and marrying a good cook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Lee Loper.

#### AFTER PARIS AND COPENHAGEN: RESPONDING TO THE RISING TIDE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I chaired a Congressional hearing where we welcomed as witnesses Ambassador Ronald Lauder, the President of the World Jewish Congress; Mr. Roger Cukierman, President of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France; and Mr. Dan Asmusssen, Chairperson of the Danish Jewish Community.

In 1982, during my first term in Congress, I traveled with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) to Moscow and Leningrad to meet Jewish refuseniks in their homes and to engage Soviet leaders.

Mark Levin invited me to be on that trip and has been a friend and mentor ever since.

For hours on end, Mark and I, and a delegation that included Sam Gejdenson, heard stories of Soviet physical and mental abuse, systemic harassment, gulags and psychiatric prisons and an array of seemingly wanton brutal acts of anti-Semitism.

To apply for an exit visa—a universally recognized human right, which on paper at least, the Soviet Union had acceded to—was to invite the cruelty and wrath of the KGB and other small minded, morally-stunted communist thugs.

To courageously seek freedom rendered you ineligible for employment in Lenin's farcical "workers paradise."

The Soviet system, militantly atheistic and morally incoherent, wouldn't let you leave, but didn't want you to stay either—a bizarre paradox.

To a new 27 year old Congressman, it was bewildering and deeply troubling—why do they hate Jews? Why the anti-Semitic obsession?

I have now chaired nine hearings on combatting anti-Semitism. Never in modern times however, has the need to defend Jews everywhere been greater. My next hearings will be on the explosion of anti-Semitic hate on the college campus and Jewish community security.

For the first time since the Holocaust, the physical security of Jewish communities in Europe has become a top-level concern. The hearing I held last month examined the horrifying state of affairs facing Jewish communities in Europe at this time.

At a Congressional hearing I chaired in 2002, Dr. Shimon Samuels of the Wiesenthal Center in Paris testified that, "The Holocaust for 30 years after the war acted as a protective teflon against blatant anti-Semitic expression (especially in Europe). That teflon has eroded, and what was considered distasteful and politically incorrect is becoming simply an opinion. But cocktail chatter at fine English dinners can end as Molotov cocktails against synagogues."

That's exactly where we are now, thirteen years later—what was anti-Semitic "cocktail chatter" then has led us now to two people shot and killed at a synagogue and a Jewish

cultural center in Copenhagen, and four killed in a terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris.

These are only the most recent outrages in a terrifying increase in extreme anti-Semitic violence—let's not forget the May 2014 murder of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, and the March 2012 murder of three Jewish children and a rabbi at a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse.

Each of these four attacks was perpetrated by a killer with links to the jihadist movement. For too long, far too government officials, many of them mired in what Natan Sharansky summarized as the application of double standards and demonization of Israel, have reacted weakly to this danger.

Meanwhile, the threat has grown exponentially. Today, at least 3,000 and perhaps more than 5,000 EU citizens, have left to join ISIS in Syria, Iraq and other conflict zones. This is the recent estimate of Europol, the EU's joint criminal intelligence body. It would be criminally irresponsible not to take this number as a warning of much worse to come, and to make every effort to prepare accordingly.

In 2002, in response to what appeared to be a sudden, frightening spike in anti-Semitism in several countries, including here in the United States, I first proposed the idea for a conference on combating anti-Semitism under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Convinced we had escalating crisis on our hands, I teamed with several OSCE partners to push for action and reform. Many of the people and NGOs present in this room played leading roles. Those efforts directly led to the creation of the OSCE's Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism, which has been filled by Rabbi Andy Baker since 2009. Rabbi Baker has done outstanding work. Dogged and energetic, he has been the driver behind everything the OSCE has accomplished in fighting anti-Semitism in recent years.

My efforts with partners to put anti-Semitism on the OSCE agenda also led to important OSCE conferences on combating anti-Semitism in Vienna, Berlin, Cordoba, Bucharest—and last fall in Berlin. In each of these, participating states have made solemn, tangible commitments to put our words into action. In some countries, progress has indeed been made—institutions to fight anti-Semitism have been created, and they have done excellent work.

But it has not been enough to reverse the new anti-Semitism in Europe, and failed miserably to anticipate and prevent the arrival of jihadist anti-Semitism in Europe.

That is why I convened the hearing, to review, re-commit, and re-energize efforts to stop the evil anti-Semitic violence that is threatening the Jewish communities of Europe.

We need to learn more about what must be done to ensure community security—how the communities see the threats they face, what they are doing about them, what the European governments are doing about them—and how everyone can and must do more.

We also need to learn how the U.S. Government can be more effective especially in light of World Jewish Congress President Lauder's all important question: "where is the

United States?" Ambassador Lauder testified: "once again, like the 1930s, European Jews live in fear . . . In my travels to all of these communities, I am asked the same question around Europe and the world: 'where is the United States? Why isn't the United States leading the world in this crisis?'"

#### RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JUDY BENTON

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Judy Benton upon being awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Mrs. Grace Glenwood Higginson Lifetime Achievement Award. Mrs. Benton has dedicated her life to serving others, and I am proud to honor her service and commitment to the Northwest Florida community and to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Mrs. Benton found her lifelong calling and demonstrated her dedication to others when she first joined the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in 1968, serving as a caseworker and Layette Items Contributor at Barstow and then Quantico. In 2003, Mrs. Benton joined the Pensacola office. Throughout her distinguished career, Mrs. Benton has proven to be an indispensable member of the team with an unwavering support for our Nation's Sailors, Marines, and their families.

Since Mrs. Benton has been with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, she has left an indelible mark on both the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the individuals she has served. From handling over 2,000 cases as a Certified Society Caseworker to completing 18,000 service hours completed, Mrs. Benton has never wavered in her compassion and commitment to others. However, Mrs. Benton always goes above and beyond to serve those who protect and defend our Nation. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast in 2004, Mrs. Benton volunteered for three straight weeks, including weekends, to help impacted families recover, and she also helped facilitate emergency travel for a former service member to quickly reach his sister and provide a kidney transplant needed to save her life.

Mrs. Benton's immense dedication and selflessness has not gone unnoticed, and prior to receiving the Mrs. Grace Glenwood Higginson Lifetime Achievement Award, she received the Presidential Points of Light Lifetime Volunteer Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Mrs. Judy Benton and thank her for her service to the people of Northwest Florida and to the countless Sailors and Marines that she has assisted during her long tenure at the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. My wife Vicki and I wish her and her husband, Rod; children, Deborah, Angie, Perian, and Robert; grandchildren, Matthew, Jessie, and Ben, and the entire Benton family all the best.

HONORING PAUL TORGENSEN

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Paul Torgersen of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on March 29, 2015, and to pay tribute to his tremendous legacy at Virginia Tech.

Paul was born on October 13, 1931 in Staten Island, New York. In 1953, he graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with a B.S. in industrial engineering, and went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1956 and 1959, respectively. Paul joined the faculty of Oklahoma State University in 1959, and served until 1966 first as an assistant professor and later as an associate professor.

In 1967, Paul began his long and distinguished career at Virginia Tech. He served as professor and head of the Department of Engineering from 1967 through 1970, Dean of Engineering from 1970 through 1990, President of the research park from 1990 through 1994, and President of the University from 1994 through 2000.

While serving as President, Paul helped grow Virginia Tech's influence in the nation in both academics and athletics. Under his leadership, U.S. News & World Report ranked its engineering and business colleges among nation's top 50. Furthermore, the university's endowment nearly doubled.

Importantly, even while serving in senior leadership posts, Paul never forgot his roots, teaching at least one course each year for 58 years (which began before he arrived at Virginia Tech). Accordingly, Paul referred to himself as "a professor who is also serving as President."

Paul's numerous professional accomplishments include his appointment to the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council. He also authored several books, and served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Engineering Education, the Journal of Industrial Engineering, and AIIE Transactions. Additionally, Paul served on the Virginia Governor's Task Force on Science and Technology, received the 1992 Virginia Engineering Educator of the Year Award, and was a Fellow in the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Outside of his professional success, Paul was an avid tennis player. At 55, he was ranked 8th in the nation in doubles for his age group by the United States Tennis Association. He was even able to spend a week at Wimbledon at Centre Court, courtesy of Tech engineering alumni.

Paul is predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Dorothea Torgersen. He is survived by two daughters Karen Torgersen (Mike Boyd), of Blacksburg, VA, Janis Torgersen, of Oxford, NC; and a son James Torgersen (Lynda), of Claytor Lake, VA; six grandchildren, Lindsay Nalevanko, Bryan Reisch, Erin Reisch, Michael Reisch, Paul Torgersen, Samantha McElwee; and two great-grandchildren, Isabelle and Collin Nalevanko.

Paul's impact on Virginia Tech is immeasurable. I have no doubt his legacy will continue on in the work of the many people he taught, mentored, and influenced throughout his lifetime. My thoughts and prayers go out to Paul's family and loved ones.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG AMERICANS FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to re-introduce the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. Financial literacy is critical to ensuring future financial responsibility. A recent report entitled "Money Matters on Campus", conducted by Higher One and EVERFI, highlights that the state of financial literacy among young adults is not improving. Only seventeen states require some form of high school financial training, even though studies show students who receive financial literacy are considerably more fiscally responsible. Such students are more accountable with credit, more financially cautious and more averse to incurring debt. When students participated in a purely financial knowledge-based survey, only 12% answered correctly about what things to consider if one has too many credit cards.

Young adults are consistently exhibiting deficient understanding of financial literacy and how to plan for future economic goals. Just over half of the students in the survey knew the formula for calculating net worth; while only 12% knew the general rule for how many months financial planners recommend to have set aside in case of an emergency.

Young adults consistently exhibit deficient understanding of financial literacy and how to plan for future economic goals. Last year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released a global report of financial literacy which ranked the United States in the middle of eighteen countries surveyed.

I believe America should be leading the world with the best-educated students who will drive our economic innovation and success, so please join me in cosponsoring the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. This act:

Establishes a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop and implement financial literacy programs for young people ages eight to twenty-four;

Incentivizes the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education, local educational agencies, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to develop programs aimed at young Americans in different phases of their life;

Ensures the development of evidence-based instructional material that is geared towards targeted groups and addresses unique life situations, including bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loans, credit card misuse; and

Conducts ongoing assessment and accountability of the program over the short- and long-term to ensure that grant money achieves the greatest impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for providing exceptional service to visitors of my home town. It recently received top honors from the Marriott brand, and earned a ranking as the top full-service Marriott hotel in Texas, third in the United States, and fifth among Marriott's 358 hotels all around the world for overall guest satisfaction. What an accomplishment.

In addition to these awards, the hotel also won a 2014 Excellence in Quality Award from Remington Hotels. These accolades are thanks in part to seven of the hotel's associates, who were honored for their exceptional service by receiving the 2014 Marriott Spirit to Serve Awards. Thousands of Marriott guests have expressed their satisfaction upon receiving the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square's exemplary customer service and hospitality.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for being selected as an outstanding hotel.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to add my voice in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah. The Holocaust claimed the lives of 11 million people, including six million Jews, and with each passing year it becomes increasingly important to keep alive the memory of those who perished. We must ensure that "never again" is a reality. It is also important that we remember those who fought back for humanity, such as the brave men and women who rose up against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943.

Seven decades later, the scourge of anti-Semitism still exists throughout the world. This is evidenced by the recent attacks against Jewish establishments and religious sites in Paris and Copenhagen, as well as anti-Semitic attacks inside the United States. A recent Anti-Defamation League survey found 24% of Western Europeans harbor anti-Semitic views. The survey also reported that anti-Semitic incidents in the United States rose 21 percent in 2014. Many of us have spoken out about this unacceptable situation for years, but we must reinforce our words with actions. There is no room for such bigotry and violent intolerance in today's society.

Let this day of remembrance, Yom HaShoah, strengthen our resolve to fight anti-

Semitism worldwide. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent, and we must continue to raise our voice against anti-Semitism, wherever it might arise. Sadly, every year there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors among us. We must take up their mantle, educate our youth, and tell their stories. Otherwise, there is a far greater risk of history repeating itself. Today, I remember the victims of the Holocaust, and I say "never again."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT PITTENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes # 145, 146 and 147, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call # 145. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 146. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 147. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING WILLIE HARRIS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Willie Harris.

A Holmes County native, Willie Harris, who stands 6-foot-8 and spent a year playing basketball at Alcorn State University, was one of the first black stuntmen in Hollywood.

Harris landed in California while serving in the military. He and two others entered into the stunt business through acquaintances. Harris' story is perhaps the most bizarre; a friend introduced Harris to Calvin Brown. This was the first time Harris had heard of a stunt man. Not long after that, he was driving a friend to north Hollywood, got lost and stopped to ask for directions. Harris had no idea he had walked onto the set where the 1969 blockbuster "Bob & Carol, Ted & Alice" was being filmed. The person volunteering directions was actor Elliott Gould, who was poised for stardom.

Gould noticed Harris' tall stature and asked if he'd ever considered stunt work. Harris was open to the idea. Gould met with him the next day and gave him a letter of recommendation by producer Robert Altman to help him gain membership into the Screen Actors Guild.

He had the chance to personally thank Gould last October when they were brought together to film a documentary segment about the Black Stuntmen's Association.

Harris is now the president of the Black Stuntman's Association in Jackson, Mississippi. Harris is accompanied in the organization by two other Mississippians: Henry Graddy and Dewitt Fondren. The group has been honored by former California governor

Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Nevada legislature. The Smithsonian Institution is also planning to acknowledge the group through an exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing stuntman that has been instrumental in magnifying the strides of African Americans in film.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 154, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to an oversight, I voted incorrectly on H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015, on April 14, 2015. I had intended to vote yea on Roll Call vote 152, on passage of the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE

### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the United States Capitol Police. Congress is a very unique place that presents special challenges for a law enforcement agency, yet every day, the men and women of the Capitol Police work tirelessly to protect this institution. Their coordination, guidance, and support ensures that Members and staff can fulfill the legislative responsibilities of Congress, all while securing the Capitol Hill campus so our constituents can visit and see first-hand how the legislative branch functions.

Specifically, I also want to note the excellent job done by the Capitol Police during the New Member Orientation program held last November for the incoming Members of Congress. The Orientation program is a significant effort that requires extensive coordination and communication, but the Capitol Police's work in providing security at the hotel and for all of the events was critical to the success and productivity of the week. I am very grateful for all they did to help with the program.

The officers and civilians within the force continually display professionalism and excellence in carrying out their duties, and I thank them for all their hard work.

#### HONORING MASTER SERGEANT NORMA GARCIA FULLER

### HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller, an American patriot, who will be receiving the Living Hero Award. I have the immense privilege of representing so many courageous former service members and their families in Florida's 26th Congressional District, and Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller exemplifies the greatness of our military. Born and raised in Homestead, Florida, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller enlisted in the United States Army in 1989 and attended Fort Jackson, South Carolina for the majority of her training. Serving in several different roles in the United States Military, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller was placed on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at United States Southern Command in March of 2010. During this assignment she held numerous positions such as Assistant to the Inspector General, Human Resources Sergeant for the Resources and Assessments Directorate, and Executive Assistant to the Senior Enlisted Leader, where she was promoted to Sergeant First Class. In April 2013, she was mobilized to Guantanamo Bay where she served as the Joint Personnel Center Noncommissioned Officer and the Manpower and Personnel Noncommissioned Officer, where she was promoted to her current rank of Master Sergeant for her service to our country. Brave men and women like Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller protect and preserve the integrity of our nation and the freedom that we enjoy. I offer my sincerest recognition of her service to our community and our nation, and highest accolades for receiving the Living Hero Award.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2015

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to reform the Federal Protective Service. On the twentieth anniversary of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Murrah Building) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, I believe it is long overdue to improve the Federal Protective Service (FPS). In the aftermath of the 1995 Murrah Building bombing, the Department of Justice (DOJ) assessed the vulnerability of Federal office buildings in the United States, particularly to acts of terrorism and other forms of violence. The DOJ report made several recommendations, including upgrading the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and bringing each Federal facility up to minimum standards suggested for its security level. When the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was attacked, it was after care-

ful planning that focused on gaps in the federal building security at the site to allow the massive destruction and the loss of life that touched all Americans.

The DOJ report noted that the FPS has the experience and historical character to provide security services in Federal buildings for much of the Federal workforce. But, the report also noted that FPS has limited resources to determine building security requirements to address terrorist threats. FPS, according to the report, needs to re-establish its role and take the lead in emphasizing the need for security.

Unfortunately years later, many of the reforms that DOJ found necessary have not taken place. Since the bombing of the Murrah Building, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General have both issued numerous reports indicating where FPS needs to improve in order to prevent another tragedy and improve security in Federal buildings. The GAO has made very clear that FPS must increase its oversight of its contract guard force, improve screening practices, and be more nimble in responding to threats to Federal buildings.

The Federal Protective Service is a part of the frontline defense for thousands of Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS has approximately 1,300 employees, including approximately 1,000 Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or "inspectors" and 15,000 contract guards, also known as Protective Security Officers (PSOs). After the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995, FPS' authorized staffing level was 1,450. FPS maintained about the same level of staffing until it dropped to 1,100 in 2007. After concerns about the decrease and its effect on security, Congress, through the appropriations process, began mandating a minimum staffing level. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires 1,371 full-time-equivalent staff, including 1,007 law enforcement officers. Ultimately, this means that the FPS has fewer employees than it had in 1996, in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, while GSA has expanded its real estate holdings since 1996 by nearly 33%.

FPS spends about \$1.3 billion in executing its mission while delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases. FPS services include providing a visible uniformed presence in major Federal buildings; responding to criminal incidents and other emergencies; installing and monitoring security devices and systems; investigating criminal incidents; conducting physical security assessments; coordinating a comprehensive program for occupants' emergency plans; presenting formal crime prevention and security awareness programs; and providing police emergency and special security services during natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and major civil disturbances, including man-made disasters, such as bomb explosions and riots.

As the Federal inventory of buildings has steadily increased over the last 30 years, the quality and implementation of security standards have varied greatly. The Subcommittee

on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has unfortunately found that security in Federal buildings is not uniform and is often set by non-security personnel employed by tenant agencies through a Building Security Committee for each individual public building. This approach to security makes it difficult to gauge properly the actual risk at Federal facilities and then allocate FPS resources appropriately.

My bill, the FPS Reform Act of 2015, addresses some of the long standing issues identified by the original DOJ report in the aftermath of the bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Building and subsequent reports by the GAO. It creates a minimum level of training for Protective Service Officers (PSOs) while increasing the authority of PSOs to carry firearms and detain suspects accused of a felony. The bill also improves the training and procedures for federal agencies participating in the Building Security Committees to ensure that there are uniform and appropriate security standards for individual buildings occupied by federal agencies. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to study and report back to Congress on several areas of concern with respect to securing federal buildings including the level of personnel needed to secure federal buildings, the best model for funding FPS, the feasibility of federalizing FPS contract officers, and best practices in preventing explosives from entering Federal buildings.

Nearly 20 years after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building it is readily apparent that although FPS has made some strides in improving the protection of Federal buildings there is more progress that needs to be made. In my role as Ranking Member of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee and a former law enforcement official, I believe it is imperative that I do everything possible to protect the millions of federal workers and daily visitors, and to keep federal buildings safe. With increased oversight and additional legislative authority I believe the Federal Protective Service can thrive in its mission of protecting Federal Facilities, their occupants, and visitors by providing superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

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#### HONORING W.C. GORDEN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, W.C. Gorden, has brought tremendous honor to one of Mississippi's premier education institutions, Jackson State University (JSU). Coach Gorden's legacy at Jackson State remains unmatched, and he has truly cemented his place in college football history.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee and a graduate of Tennessee State University, Gorden came to Jackson State first as its head baseball coach in 1971, he then became

interim head football coach in 1976 and then head football coach in 1977. From then on, he led the Tigers to eight conference championship titles in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in the fifteen years he coached. In 1982, Gorden had 21 players drafted to the NFL, ranking JSU among the top 5 colleges in the nation for NFL draft picks. Also, during his tenure, JSU was the only school in the SWAC to defeat Coach Eddie Robinson's formidable Grambling University's teams. Under Coach Gorden, JSU won 28 straight SWAC football games, and his teams led the nation in attendance among 1-AA schools 11 of the 15 years he coached. By the end of his career, Gorden's teams won more than 70% of their games. But one of the most amazing victories for Gorden was having the highest SWAC graduation rate among football players in the entire state of Mississippi from 1980 to 1981.

Coach Gorden's feats have been honored and recognized by many; he was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994; the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1997; the College Hall of Fame in 2008; and the Black College Hall of Fame in 2015. Coach Gorden's legacy falls in line with Mississippi's tradition of athletic exceptionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing W.C. Gorden for his exceptional strides in college football and his passion for producing excellence in the state of Mississippi.

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#### HONORING COLONEL BILL BADGER

#### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Bill Badger, who passed away on March 11, 2015 at the age of seventy-eight.

Originally from South Dakota, Colonel Badger joined the National Guard as a high school junior and went on to enjoy a long, distinguished career as a United States Army pilot for thirty-seven years. A true patriot who served his country with honor and dignity, he served as Chief of the National Guard Bureau's Aviation Division at the Pentagon. Among his many professional accomplishments, he established the only two United States-based attack helicopter training sites: the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site in Pennsylvania and the Western Army Aviation Training Site in Marana, Arizona. Colonel Badger and his wife, Sallie, moved to Arizona in 1985 when Colonel Badger established the Marana site.

On the morning of January 8, 2011, Colonel Badger attended a Congress on your Corner event at a shopping center north of Tucson to meet then-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. That fateful morning a gunman opened fire on the innocent attendees, brutally murdering six and seriously wounding thirteen, including Colonel Badger and Congresswoman Giffords. As the gunman was reloading his weapon, Colonel Badger, who was injured and bleeding from the head, ran toward the gunman and put him into a chokehold until the authorities

arrived, thus stopping the deadly rampage. But for the valiant actions of Colonel Badger, the toll of those killed and wounded would have been much higher. "I don't consider myself a hero," he would later say, "I did what anybody would do." Colonel Badger was a beloved friend to the January 8, 2011 survivors. After this devastating event, this humble hero focused his efforts on keeping guns out of the hands of people like the January 8, 2011 gunman so as to prevent future similar tragedies. Colonel Badger and his wife embarked on a three-year journey across the country to promote his mission.

Colonel Badger was a hero to many long before he became one in the eyes of our nation on January 8, 2011. He was a caring and devoted husband to his wife, Sallie, a nurturing and loving father to his son, Christian, the beloved Scout master of Troop 007, a guide and counselor to numerous young people, many of whom attribute their current success to Colonel Badger's mentoring, and a friend to countless others, including the members of the Southern Arizona Jaguar Car Club, which he served as President for a time.

On March 11, 2015, the citizens of Arizona lost a friend who placed the safety and well-being of others above his own and who truly represented the best traits of humanity, heroism and sacrifice and the spirit of service to others. The citizens of Arizona owe Colonel Badger an extraordinary debt of gratitude for his tremendous service to our country and state.

Dedicated to his family, Colonel Badger will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, Sallie Badger, and his son, Christian Badger.

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#### HONORING DAVID ARMSTRONG WEST

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of David Armstrong West of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 81.

David was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he spent much of his childhood. His father and grandfather both taught at the American University of Beirut, and his grandmother (who was born and raised in Damascus, Syria) also worked in Beirut.

In New York City in 1958, David married Lindsay Lattimore Butte, with whom I later worked while I was in the Virginia House of Delegates and she was with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. David attended Cornell University and studied ornithology, graduating in 1959 with a PhD.

David spent two years doing postdoctoral genetics research at Liverpool University in England before he began teaching in 1962 at Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) in Blacksburg. At Tech, David taught biology and genetics until he retired in 1998. He, Lindsay, and their family restored and lived in an 1840 brick house in town, and placed an historic and open space

easement on their entire three-acre property in an effort to ensure it is preserved.

After he retired, David pursued interests in music, reading, travel, and the local mountains. Additionally, although we never went birding together, he and I shared an avid love for bird watching. David has written two books on 19th Century German naturalist Fritz Müller. The first is a biography entitled "A Naturalist in Brazil," and the second (recently completed) traces the development of Müller's ideas as well as his connections with other scientists such as Charles Darwin.

David is survived by his wife, Lindsay; sister, Elisabeth FitzHugh; brother, Allen; his son, Peter and wife, Katherine Hood, of Brooklyn, New York; his son, Roger and wife, Deborah, of Silver Spring, Maryland; and his daughter, Susan West Marmagas and husband, William, of Blacksburg, Virginia. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Nicholas, Daniel and Tyler West and Anastasia and Elektra Marmagas.

David's contributions and his love for his family, neighbors, and community will long be remembered and cherished. My thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and loved ones. May God give them comfort during this time.

#### HONORING CAMBER CORPORATION

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Camber Corporation for twenty-five years of business, and for their service to the community of Huntsville, Alabama and to many other areas both in our great state and across the United States. I am pleased to recognize this company for its many accomplishments.

Camber Corporation, which is headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, was established on April 2, 1990 with just three employees, including the company founder, Walter Batson. Today it has grown to over thirty offices, with personnel in many other locations across America and around the world. Over the years, the company has done widely varied work for a number of organizations, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Courts, the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Center for Civil and Military Affairs.

I know that no matter the company, this level of success is possible only with the efforts of many skilled professionals working together to achieve the organization's goals, and Camber Corporation is the first to recognize that its staff of over 2,000 employees is its greatest asset. These staff members can claim expertise in many vital areas including Engineering, Software Development, Information Technology, Training, Modeling and Simulation, Acquisition Management and Decision Support, and Operations. Due in great part to

the service of these dedicated workers, Camber Corporation's products and projects now support both government and commercial customers throughout the world.

Camber Corporation has been selected for numerous professional organization and Chamber of Commerce awards, including Best Places to Work in both Huntsville and Northern Virginia. I am honored to add my commendations to those already received. As an Alabamian and as an American, I am pleased to congratulate this company on the service it has rendered to the United States over the past 25 years, and on the contributions it has made to its home state of Alabama. I wish them many, many more years of success in the future.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "INNOVATION PROTECTION ACT"

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the "Innovation Protection Act" responds to the single most important problem facing our patent system today—the diversion of patent fees. One of the most effective steps we can take in responding to abusive patent litigation is making sure poor quality patents are not issued to begin with. To do that we need to give our examiners the resources they need to review and analyze the hundreds of thousands of complex and interrelated patent applications they receive every year.

The current finding mechanism has failed the patent system. It did not prevent the diversion of nearly \$150 million in collected user fees in fiscal year 2013 due to the sequester. And this loss is on top of the estimated \$1 billion in fees diverted over the last two decades. In essence, there is a tax on innovation in this country, and this legislation would repeal it.

That is why I along with Representatives COLLINS, NADLER, FRANKS, LOFGREN, SENSENBRENNER, DEUTCH, ROHRBACHER, and JEFFRIES introduced today the "Innovation Protection Act." This critical bill will ensure that the USPTO retains all of the user fees it collects.

Significant patent stakeholders, including the American Intellectual Property Law Association, BSA—The Software Alliance, the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, the Intellectual Property Owners Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—USA, among others, support the legislation.

This bill would create a permanent, reliable mechanism to protect the USPTO from the unpredictability of the annual appropriations cycle, which severely hinders USPTO's ability to engage in the kind of multi-year, business-like planning that is needed to manage our patent system. It would eliminate the tax on innovation.

Therefore, a permanent funding mechanism is essential to encourage innovation and to ensure that our patent system remains the envy of the world.

#### THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE FOR SERVICE DURING NEW MEM- BER ORIENTATION

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives came to Washington, D.C. for New Member Orientation. This weeklong event, organized by the Committee on House Administration, is designed to orient our new colleagues and their staffs to the various responsibilities they assume in the upcoming congress, as well as to educate the members and their staffs on the resources they have here to help them in their new roles. It is a comprehensive undertaking, but fortunately safety was never a concern during the event due to the hard work and professionalism of the Capitol Police.

The Capitol Police did excellent work protecting our visitors, allowing them safe travel between destinations and providing a sense of security as they visited their new offices on Capitol Hill for the first time. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Capitol Police for their fine work in keeping our grounds secure and for their essential guidance, information and support.

#### HONORING DUKE MEN'S BASKETBALL

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to rise today to congratulate the Duke men's basketball team on winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship! I say this as a Member who, depending on the vagaries of redistricting, has represented the campus, but also as a proud on-leave faculty member and the father of two Duke alumni.

This Duke team's combined talent, tenacity, and teamwork helped them to overcome a tough conference schedule and make one of the most memorable runs in recent NCAA tournament history. Both Duke and the University of Wisconsin Badgers deserve recognition for their excellent play in the tournament and throughout the year. But Duke's thrilling victory over Wisconsin to clinch the national title was a fitting finish to an historic season that also saw its legendary head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, "Coach K", notch his record 1,000th win.

The Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success in men's basketball, and I am proud that this year's team was able to add a fifth national men's basketball title to its collection. Congratulations to the players, staff, and coaches, who will be remembered as one of the greatest Duke teams of all time. Blue Devil fans everywhere are proud of your remarkable season, the latest chapter in our storied basketball tradition!

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE PARITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to offer law enforcement retirement to Federal Protective Service (FPS) law enforcement officers. This bill provides retirement parity to FPS law enforcement officers with all other law enforcement officers within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The lack of law enforcement retirement for FPS law enforcement officers has hurt morale and has contributed to a high rate of attrition of FPS law enforcement officers when compared to attrition rates of other law enforcement agencies within DHS. By providing these enhanced retirement provisions to new hires within the Federal Protective Service, and crediting the service of current FPS law enforcement officers after enactment of the bill with the new provisions, we can begin to strengthen the morale and resolve of the Federal Protective Service.

FPS is responsible for delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases across the country. The Federal Protective Service is part of the frontline defense for these Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS law enforcement officers are authorized to carry firearms and empowered to make arrests related to the protection of buildings, grounds, and property owned by the Federal government and persons on the property. Like other law enforcement officers within DHS, FPS officers receive the same training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and often risk their lives in protection of the nearly 1 million Federal employees and visitors to Federal buildings.

As a former law enforcement officer I have a deep appreciation for their service and the sacrifices that FPS law enforcement officers make on a regular basis. By providing this retirement provision I believe it will help the Federal Protective Service thrive in its mission of protecting Federal facilities, their occupants, and visitors with superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING ERNIE PYLE

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest Hoosiers history has seen, who gave his life 70 years ago.

Ernie Pyle, a Hoosier journalist, became a household name as he told of the everyday

lives—the trials and tribulations, the honor and dignity—of our soldiers in WWII.

Through his Pulitzer Prize winning column, Ernie Pyle brought the hard realities of war into the homes of families worldwide.

And he was an advocate for the common soldier—the guys he rightfully argued wars can't be won without.

Generations of young journalists—especially those who've studied in his shadow at the Indiana University School of Journalism—have greatly benefited from his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be grateful for the sacrifice and service of great men like Ernest Taylor Pyle.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP  
VICTOR L. POWELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God, Bishop Victor L. Powell, who will celebrate his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Rhema Word Cathedral. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Rhema Word Cathedral in Albany, Georgia.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Powell was born to be a leader. He served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps for nine years. He completed Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School and Defense Mapping School, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bishop Powell also is a certified trainer with the Georgia Department of Corrections and has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers for the State of Georgia.

Since 1990, Bishop Powell has led Rhema Word Cathedral, formerly known as Williams Spring Baptist Church. His God-given vision has taken the church to greater heights than ever before. Bishop Powell pastors one church in two locations—one in downtown Albany and one in Dawson, Georgia. He also founded Stand Up Again, Inc., a subsidiary of Rhema Word Cathedral and outreach ministry that serves local, regional, and even international communities, including Ghana, Guatemala, and Haiti. The Stand Up Again television broadcast reaches people throughout the region on a weekly basis.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Bishop Powell serves as pastor to other pastors all over the world through Covenant Network Ministries. He is also the President and CEO of VLP, Inc., which provides training and motivational speaking to corporations and agencies.

In October 2002, Bishop Powell was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Archbishop Earl Paulk of the International Charismatic Communion of Churches in Decatur, Georgia. Bishop Powell has served on the College of Bishops for the International Charismatic Communion of Churches; the Foundation Board for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital; and Stop the Violence Project. He has also served on the Executive Board of Directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce; Capitol City Bank; Albany-Dougherty Governmental Study Commission; and Lily Pad of Albany.

Using Bishop Powell as a vessel, God has reached into the hearts of many so that Rhema Word Cathedral has welcomed thousands of souls to this prolific ministry. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, his ministry has stretched across the globe. As one of the premier preachers of our generation, Bishop Powell is well-known and sought after for his anointed, sound and understandable proclamation of God's Word. He is motivated by his love for people, his love for preaching, and his belief that no one is beyond God's reach. On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Bishop Powell's sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Bishop Victor L. Powell for twenty-five wonderful years of changing Southwest Georgia for the better, over thirty remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

IN HONOR OF SAN BERNARDINO  
POLICE OFFICER GABRIEL GARCIA

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Bernardino Police Officer Gabriel Garcia for his outstanding service to the community and for his dedication to the San Bernardino Police Department.

Officer Garcia joined the police force in March 2008 and has since served as a Patrol Officer. His work throughout the years has been described as exemplary by colleagues on account of his extreme professionalism and compassionate nature. Among Officer Garcia's many accomplishments include his highly commended involvement in the San Bernardino Graffiti Task Force. Throughout his tenure, he has received widespread commendation for his assistance with various crimes such as armed robberies and car theft.

At about 2 a.m. on August 22, 2014, Officer Garcia was shot in the head and critically injured while showing his young officer trainee how to conduct a pedestrian check in San Bernardino. Officer Garcia's injuries were so severe that he spent several months hospitalized in critical condition. Due to his life-threatening brain injuries, Officer Garcia was put in a medically induced coma, which he later emerged from in September.

Now, after a triumphant recovery, Officer Garcia is back at the side of his loving family. His recovery is currently being aided by his father, retired San Bernardino Police Captain Ron Garcia, and his mother, Lydia Garcia. They provide full care and support for their son as he takes part in a day therapy program.

Officer Garcia is a testament to the sacrifices that our public safety officials make in order to protect and serve our communities. He is a reminder to all of us that every day, men and women in law enforcement put themselves in harm's way to maintain order throughout the United States. His perseverance through this traumatic event is inspirational, and I wish him a continued recovery.



For his heroic contributions to the community, and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Officer Garcia and his family.

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HONORING CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

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**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Callaway High School that is located at 601 Beasley Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Callaway is one of seven high schools in the Jackson Public School District, the largest school district in the state of Mississippi.

Built in 1966, Callaway was named after the late Robert M. Callaway, a Lafayette County native. He began his career teaching Choctaw Indians in the mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Before assuming duties as principal of Liberty Grove School, later H. V. Watkins Elementary in Jackson, he taught at Darling in Quitman County and Pocahontas in Hinds County. He was principal at Watkins from 1936–1956.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Callaway High School.

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CONGRATULATING HONDA MANUFACTURING OF INDIANA

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**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, located in my district in Greensburg, Indiana, reached a significant milestone by celebrating the production of its 1 millionth vehicle on April 8, 2015.

Honda began manufacturing Civic Sedans at the plant in October of 2008 and is the sole U.S. plant producing these vehicles. While most of the production is slated for the U.S. market, the Indiana facility exports to a number of locations around the world. The facility's annual production capacity is currently 250,000 vehicles.

Honda, a Japanese company, exemplifies how strong trade ties can benefit Indiana's economy. Honda purchases parts and materials from 49 suppliers from around the state of Indiana and has spent more than \$16 billion with suppliers in North America since 2008. Additionally, since Honda opened its doors, it has had a strong presence in Greensburg and the surrounding communities, providing thousands of jobs to Hoosiers.

Please join me in congratulating Honda and the more than 2,000 associates at the facility for this major manufacturing achievement.

INSTRUMENTAL LEADERSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of Alvin Community College's (ACC) outstanding faculty members, Dr. Lynda Vern and Ms. Karen Downey, who were recently named recipients of the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award during the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in Boston. This award recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff.

Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are among more than 60 recipients to be recognized from the great State of Texas. The award recognizes exemplary faculty and staff for their contributions and leadership. Dr. Vern has worked at ACC for almost 40 years and teaches developmental education students while directing ACC's Learning Lab. Ms. Downey has worked with the college for 30 years and teaches in the Court Reporting program. Community colleges play a critical role in shaping and developing the workforce needed to keep our economy strong. The leadership of Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are instrumental in maintaining excellence in education for our community.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey for receiving the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMIR SALIBA

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**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in order to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Samir Saliba on his remarkable 51 years as a full-time faculty member at the College. He has had many titles and jobs in his 51 years at Emory, but from my time as a student I fondly remember him as 'Dean Saliba.'

More importantly, I recall the positive influence Dean Saliba had on me. I am confident he has similarly impacted countless people he came across over the years, whether in Virginia or wherever he has been.

Dean Saliba's influence at Emory and Henry, of course, is immeasurable, as he established the Political Science Department and implemented additional, remarkable visions as chair of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Faculty, advisor for the pre-law program, and director of the Center for International Studies. I commend him on these accomplishments, and on his numerous awards and accolades, including the 2014 William and Martha DeFriece Award.

Dean Saliba will soon be taking a well-deserved sabbatical, following his decades of hard work instructing young people and improving the Emory brand not just across the Commonwealth, but across the country. It is

my hope that he enjoys this time, and returns refreshed to work on a memoir of his years at Emory and Henry.

I am honored to officially congratulate Dr. Saliba, pay tribute to his legacy, and thank him for all he has done for the Emory and Henry family.

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TRIBUTE TO THE ATHLETES OF SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extremely talented Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have achieved the consensus recognition as the Number 1-ranked and National Champion girls' basketball team in the United States of America, and won the Pennsylvania State Championship (PIAA Class AA), Philadelphia City Championship (PIAA District 12), and the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship.

The Lady Saints put on a dominant performance in their state championship game against the Seton-LaSalle Rebels of Pittsburgh, with a commanding victory of 79–34 to become Pennsylvania State Champions. Not only did they finish their unprecedented season a perfect 30–0, but they've also been recognized as the "Team of the Year" by the Philadelphia Inquirer for the Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

These talented young women were mentored throughout the season by former head coach Letty Santarelli, who was a star-player at Immaculata University, and were led by Head Coach Andrea Peterson. Following this remarkable season, Coach Peterson has been named the Top High School Girls' Basketball Coach in the United States, winning the Naismith National Coach of the Year Award.

I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating this team on an outstanding season.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE REVEREND JAMES R. EDWARDS

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**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the people of Southwest Georgia, the Reverend James R. Edwards. Rev. Edwards is retiring after pastoring the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia for almost twenty years. His friends, family, and church community will honor him at a

celebration event on Saturday, April 18, 2015 in Camilla, Georgia.

An Arkansas native, Rev. Edwards began his ministry at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, where he earned degrees in Business Administration and Christian Education.

From there, Rev. Edwards was drafted into the United States Marine Corps and began his active duty career on November 17, 1969 in Parris Island, South Carolina. He served our nation honorably for over thirty years both within the United States and overseas. He was promoted from private to warrant officer, and retired on May 31, 2000 with the rank of Major. He is decorated with the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Following his calling, Rev. Edwards dedicated a significant portion of his time to ministry while in the Marines and afterward. He was ordained a deacon at Christian Valley Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago, Illinois in 1978. From November 1980 to June 1982, he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher at Marshall Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Midway Park, North Carolina. He then served as deacon and president of brotherhood for Second Missionary Baptist Church in Oceanside, California. While at the

City of Refuge Christian Church in Waipahu, Hawaii, he accepted his calling into the ministry, preaching his initial sermon on Thanksgiving Day in 1985. He was ordained at the Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Hawkinsville, Georgia in April 1989.

Rev. Edwards served as associate pastor at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Dale, South Carolina and Grace Christian Church in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He served as pastor at Camp Smith Chapel in Honolulu, Hawaii, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas, and Summerhill Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, Georgia.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and able leader when Rev. Edwards arrived in Albany, Georgia in September 1995. Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Edwards has served on numerous community boards, and as chairman of Faith Community Outreach and the Putney District Union; vice president of the Second District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; president of the Mitchell County Ministerial Alliance and Baconton Community Group of Churches; chaplain at the Jimmy Autry State Prison; and CEO of the Southwest Georgia Community House of Hope. And even

still, while being the lead member in all of these ministries and organizations, he was also a member of the NAACP, National Naval Officers Association, Montford Point Marine Association, American Red Cross, Southern Leadership Conference, Blacks in Government, and Leadership Albany.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Edwards is a man of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, his spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious. Under his leadership, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of light in our community, serving as a voice for the voiceless and guide for the lost by spreading the ministry and the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Along with his extensive church community, Rev. Edwards is surrounded by the love and support of his family—his wife, Ethel Louise Sheffield, and their five children, sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Reverend James R. Edwards for more than thirty years of dedicated service to our nation, twenty wonderful years of changing South Georgia for the better, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, April 17, 2015*

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 17, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. BOUSTANY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit of peace, honesty, and fairness during this long weekend of constituent visits. May the ears and hearts of all the Members of Congress be open to listen to the hopes and needs of those whom they represent.

Bless the people of this great Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday next.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 20, 2015, at 2 p.m.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1176. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting FY 2016 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Justice, State, and Transportation, as well as the General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Small Business Administration, the Social Security Administration, and also the Legislative Branch; (H. Doc. No. 114-27); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

1177. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense, transmitting the "Report to Congress on the Activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools for Fiscal Year 2014", pursuant to Sec. 901(f) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006, Pub. L. 109-469, as amended, 32 U.S.C. 112 note; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1178. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 report describing activities under the Equal Opportunity Act, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1691f; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1179. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lead-based Paint Programs; Extension of Renovator Certifications [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0304; FRL-9925-71] (RIN: 2070-AK04) received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1180. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Carbofuran; Reinstatement of Specific Tolerances and Removal of Expired Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0162; FRL-9925-70] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1181. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0581; FRL-9926-52-Region 10] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1182. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Non-interference Demonstration for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement for the Birmingham Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0867; FRL-9926-41-Region 4] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1183. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Implementation Plan; Florida; Attainment Plan for the Hillsborough Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0220; FRL-9926-34-Region 4] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1184. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CO Monitoring [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0294; FRL-9926-29-Region 5] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1185. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; SO<sub>2</sub> Rules [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0188; FRL-9926-31-Region 5] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1186. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0868; FRL-9926-43-Region 3] received April 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1187. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed items to four different end users in the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to Sec. 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-261), as amended by Sec. 146 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for FY 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277), and the President's September 29, 2009, delegation of authority (74 Fed. Reg. 50,913 (Oct. 2, 2009)); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1188. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1189. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1190. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1191. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1192. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1193. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1194. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1195. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1196. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1197. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1198. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1199. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's "Office of Justice Programs Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2013", pursuant to Secs. 102(b) and 810 of Pub. L. 90-351, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3712(b) and 3789e; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1200. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0489; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-013-AD; Amendment 39-18112; AD 2015-05-02] (RIN:

2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1201. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0752; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-079-AD; Amendment 39-18110; AD 2015-04-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1202. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0579; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-020-AD; Amendment 39-18115; AD 2015-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1203. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers & Harland Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1001; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-034-AD; Amendment 39-18103; AD 2015-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1204. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Stemme AG Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0633; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-005-AD; Amendment 39-18121; AD 2015-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1205. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1093; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-035-AD; Amendment 39-18119; AD 2015-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1206. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0749; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-051-AD; Amendment 39-18118; AD 2015-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1207. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1002; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-033-AD; Amendment 39-18127; AD 2015-06-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1208. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Direc-

tives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0284; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-011-AD; Amendment 39-18125; AD 2015-06-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1731. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multidirectional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-83). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1890. A bill to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. BASS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 1891. A bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 1892. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 1893. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority

of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H. Res. 210. A resolution affirming and recognizing the Khmer, Laotian, Hmong, and Montagnard Freedom Fighters and the people of Cambodia and Laos for their support and defense of the United States Armed Forces and freedom in Southeast Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that veterans deserve the health and living standards they fought to protect; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 1890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 1891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 1892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 427: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 449: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 600: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 610: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 624: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. MENG, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 628: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 789: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 823: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 869: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 915: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 918: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 999: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1142: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1174: Mrs. TORRES, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1269: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1293: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1394: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1479: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1599: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1608: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1613: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1886: Mr. HANNA, Mr. TURNER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. PETERS.

H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SERRANO.

H. Res. 130: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. MEADOWS.

H. Res. 207: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN CELEBRATION OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN HOTEL OWNERS AS- SOCIATION'S 26TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. AMI BERA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the success of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, known as AAHOA. Founded in 1989, AAHOA is the world's largest hotel owners association and the leading voice of hotel owners in the United States. I am proud to count myself and my family as members.

This year, AAHOA celebrates its 26th anniversary in Long Beach, California at its annual convention. AAHOA's growth and success over the years serves as a testament to the American dream. As first and second generation Indian Americans, AAHOA members and their families immigrated to the United States seeking opportunity. These entrepreneurs found this opportunity in the hotel business, and over a quarter century later, AAHOA members have a profound influence on the hospitality industry.

AAHOA is comprised of more than 14,000 small business owners who own nearly 50 percent of all hotels in America, employ more than 600,000 workers, and have an annual payroll of almost \$12 billion. AAHOA members are critical to growing the economy, creating jobs, and providing safe, reliable, and affordable lodging for millions of travelers. And, we in Congress owe it to these small business owners to create an environment where they can grow.

I'm also honored to recognize AAHOA chairman Pratik Patel for his exceptional leadership this past year. A second generation hotelier, Pratik lives in San Antonio, Texas with his wife, Akta, his daughters, Jayna and Misha, and his parents, Ravindra and Lilawatiowns. As the co-founder and principal partner at REM Hospitality, he manages more than a dozen hotel and other real estate properties where he applies the lessons of hard work and perseverance he learned growing up in the hotel industry.

Since becoming AAHOA chairman, Pratik has lead the association to record levels of membership, a unified public policy advocacy program, and unparalleled industry leadership. I am proud to commend Pratik on his accomplishments and his dynamic leadership in his community and industry.

I would also like to recognize AAHOA's officers, Vice Chairman Jay "Jimmy" Patel, Treasurer Bharat "Bruce" Patel, Secretary Bhavesh B. Patel and President Chip Rogers, along with AAHOA's 25 past chairmen whose dedication to the organization and the hospitality industry have helped to create jobs, promote investment in their local communities, and grow America's economy.

I am proud of AAHOA's growth and look forward to working with them in the future.

### CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE TAIWAN RELA- TIONS ACT

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on April 10, 1979. The TRA provides a basis for relations between the United States and Taiwan. 36 years later, the TRA remains the foundation of the continuous bilateral relationship between our two countries and represents the United States' commitment to the people on Taiwan.

Since the enactment of the TRA, Washington and Taipei have enjoyed a robust partnership based on the shared values of democracy, economic freedom, and rule of law. Since passage of the TRA, Taiwan has flourished into a democracy and is well positioned to play an important role economically in the Asia-Pacific, and globally. In 2014, Taiwan became our 10th largest trading partner, surpassing India and Saudi Arabia. The TRA provides the confidence that has allowed Taiwan to govern itself, expand trade with the global marketplace, and engage in productive relations.

The United States and Taiwan share a common commitment to freedom, democracy, and a government elected by the people, for the people. As we commemorate the 36th anniversary of the TRA, I look forward to Taiwan's continued growth as a trade and security partner and celebrate its relationship with the United States.

### IN HONOR OF THE ROWAN- KANNAPOLIS ABC BOARD AND ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC and Rowan-Salisbury Schools on educating more than 100,000 students on the dangers of underage drinking in middle schools and high schools across Rowan County.

The Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board and Rowan-Salisbury Schools have worked together for more than a decade encouraging students not to drink underage through a se-

ries of assemblies at schools in the region. Since the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC started the program in 2003, their initiative has served as a model for similar programs across the state.

Over the years, they have partnered with former Washington Redskins coach and current NASCAR team owner Joe Gibbs to bring famous athletes and other notable guest speakers to talk with the students and share real-life testimonies of struggles they have faced.

This year's assembly series, called "Game Plan for Life," will emphasize that "decisions equal our destiny." The assembly series will impact about 4,650 students in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

I am proud to commend this program for bringing together our community to make a difference in student decision-making regarding alcohol. I would also like to commend Mr. Terry Osborne of the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board, Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten, and Salisbury Police Chief Rory Collins for their continued support of this program.

### HONORING "ARE YOU KIDDING" SOCK COMPANY

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly innovative set of brothers. Just last month, I met with Brandon and Sebastian Martinez, business-savvy 7- and 9-year-old brothers and students who I have the honor to represent in Congress. They are an example of how one is never too young to follow their dreams. Ever since Sebastian and Brandon were toddlers they had a fascination with socks. They had collected a variety of colorful, eccentric, and patterned pairs. Their mother, Rachel Martinez, decided to have them design their own. They began in May of 2014 with their small business "Are You Kidding?" and rapidly skyrocketed onto the national stage when they presented their idea to Daymond John, an investor on the hit television show 'Shark Tank', and George Stephanopoulos from 'Good Morning America'. They have sold their socks to many different stores and have donated thousands of dollars of their earnings to the American Cancer Society. Small businesses like that of the Martinez brothers make up the fabric of our economy. They have demonstrated their commitment to charitable causes and today I would like to recognize them for their leadership and commitment to our community.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## YUCCA MOUNTAIN

**HON. JOHN KLINE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out an absurdity that my constituents have long realized—and communities in Minnesota have had to deal with—but one that remains lost on the Administration.

Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant sits on an island in the middle of the Mississippi River in Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District of which I proudly represent.

This plant provides 30 percent of electricity for Xcel Energy customers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan making it an important part of the region's energy infrastructure.

However, without Yucca or a comparable solution, all fuel generated in its 42 years of operation has been stored on-site. That equates to 2,550 used fuel assemblies and close to 1,000 metric tons of nuclear waste sitting on an island in the middle of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd.

In 2009, the Administration ended the Yucca program without any alternative strategy and after taxpayers already spent 15 billion dollars to ensure the safety and security of the Yucca Mountain site.

The dereliction by the Administration leaves us open to both environmental and national security risks. Minnesotans know too well the threat of home-grown terrorism with recent threats made to the Mall of America. We need a safe and secure site to store our nuclear waste out of the reach of potential terrorists. We need to move forward with Yucca Mountain.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and all Minnesotans deserve better and I join my colleagues today in urging support for the Yucca Mountain site.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VETERANS DESERVE THE HEALTH AND LIVING STANDARDS THEY FOUGHT TO PROTECT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that veterans deserve the health and living standards they fought to protect. This resolution pays tribute to the vast numbers of men and women who have served our nation in uniform, yet return home from service homeless, some of whom survive war to die on the streets of this country.

Today, we are completing the two longest wars in U.S. history at great sacrifice to many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their families. When these men and women return home they utilize their skills and leadership as wonderful assets in their communities. But for some, there are no homes.

In the words of one homeless veteran, "When we go into the military, we learn self-discipline, and we learn not to ask for anything, we learn to get it for ourselves, or just do without it. And we are a proud people, us military veterans. We don't ask for anything. But it should never be a society that allows their veterans to go across the water to protect this country and come back and have to live on the streets. It shouldn't be that way."

These courageous Americans have stood up in defense of our freedom, and we owe them more than our gratitude—we owe them our firm commitment to ensure that they receive the care and benefits they earned through their service.

On any given night, nearly 50,000 military veterans sleep in homeless shelters or on the streets. Furthermore, approximately 260,000 veterans use homeless shelters or other services during the course of a year.

Homeless veterans have become a focal point in the broader fight to prevent and end homelessness in America. We may all take pride and comfort in the recent finding that homelessness among veterans has begun to decrease. One of the biggest contributors to the decreased number of homeless veterans has been the increased federal investment in efficient and effective programs. In addition, there has been significant progress, but more must be done. It is time that we recognize these unsung heroes who have returned from service to face hard times and homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we recognize our nation's homeless veterans. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critically important resolution.

TO HONOR THE CAREER OF  
CAPTAIN DARRELL BURGESS**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanly County Sheriff Captain Darrell Burgess for his faithful service over the last 40 years to North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

Captain Burgess has served professionally with the Stanly County Sheriff's Office where he moved up in the ranks from an employee of the Communications Division, to a sworn Deputy Sheriff after his completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training, and finally to Captain of Patrol. He has been chosen twice by his peers as the Stanly County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

During his time with the Sheriff's Office, Captain Burgess served as one of the first K-9 officers in Stanly County, where he worked

with a bloodhound named Lucky. He holds a certification as a state instructor from the North Carolina Police Work Dog Association, as well as with the North American Police Work Dog Association. Additionally, Captain Burgess volunteers with the North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team.

Captain Burgess has dedicated his time to Stanly County, both as a volunteer and public servant, since 1970 when he first started working for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Captain Burgess was one of the first Emergency Medical Technicians in the state, served with the Oakboro Rural Fire Department, and volunteered for more than 30 years with the Stanly County Rescue Squad, where he even served as chief. Despite a kidney transplant in 2008, Captain Burgess has never slowed down and returned to work and volunteering after only three months.

Because of his lifetime of service through his volunteer work and vocation, Captain Burgess was bestowed the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award in April 2015, which is the highest civilian honor awarded in North Carolina. Our state and local community have greatly benefitted from his servant leadership.

It is an honor to extend these remarks today to congratulate Captain Burgess on his retirement and receiving the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award.

## CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 17, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that on April 10—while Congress was out of session—we celebrated the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). As a Taiwan-born American immigrant, I take pride in this landmark piece of legislation, which has provided Taiwan with a great deal of stability and support as it transformed itself into a vibrant democracy, advanced economy and civil society.

The TRA was intended by Congress to endure, continuing the important relationship between close friends and allies. I am heartened by the strengthening of ties that have taken place in recent years, from Taiwan's admission to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, the first visit of a Cabinet-level official since the Clinton Administration in 2014, and Taiwan's shift from our 12th-largest trading partner in 2013 to our 10th-largest in 2014.

As Los Angeles County's fourth largest trading partner, Taiwan has a unique relationship with my district. With the largest Taiwanese population in the country, it is no coincidence that Los Angeles County is often seen as the international gateway between the United States and Taiwan.

Taiwan has much to offer the international community. It has proven a responsible global citizen by assisting international organizations during humanitarian crises and disasters, from



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its efforts following the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami to its contribution of 100,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment to West Africa last year for use in the

fight against Ebola. These acts are emblematic of a people with whom we share many values.

On this occasion of the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our greetings and best wishes to the people and leaders of Taiwan.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 20, 2015

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 20, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts, we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from a staff member of the Office of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

MARCH 31, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

SHEA LEDFORD.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 14, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY,  
*Chief Administrative Officer.*

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1209. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-108; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-134; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1211. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-136; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1212. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-009; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1213. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-002; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-126; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 152. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (Rept. 114-84). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 471. A bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-85, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 21. A resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Rept. 114-86). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Resolution 25. A resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rept. 114-87). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 471 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1894. A bill to authorize the extension of preferential tariff treatment for certain textile goods imported from Morocco; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1895. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil and gas preleasing, leasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 1896. A bill to amend chapter 26 of title 35, United States Code, to require the

disclosure of information related to patent ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 & 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 592: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 625: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 663: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 702: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 831: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 835: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 985: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1178: Mr. DOLD and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1222: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1282: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1427: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1433: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1478: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1603: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1624: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1625: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1674: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1685: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1742: Mr. BUCSHON and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1760: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1810: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1882: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Ms. LEE.

H.J. Res. 42: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H. Res. 210: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. COOK.

## SENATE—Monday, April 20, 2015

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise Your greatness, might, and majesty. You own all that is in Heaven and Earth. Both riches and honor come from You. Your compassion never fails. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of Your purposes. Lord, give them the wisdom and courage for the living of these challenging days. May they find encouragement in the knowledge that the full harvest of their labors is yet to come. Unite them in the common endeavor of making America a beacon of freedom for our world. May their thoughts, words, and actions honor You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been 164 days—164 very long, long days, espe-

cially for a woman by the name of Loretta Lynch. Her nomination is languishing here in the Republican limbo that they have created. For 6 months Senate Republicans have looked for any and every reason to push back confirmation of this good woman to be Attorney General.

Does anyone know why? Can a single Republican Senator tell us why? The answer is no. Her qualifications are impeccable. She has some bipartisan support. But again, for unknown reasons, Republican support seems to be disappearing. Is there a single Republican Senator who can come here to the Senate floor and give an explanation that does not absolutely smack of political foolishness?

Republicans do not know why Loretta Lynch has not yet been confirmed—just listen to what Congressman PETER KING said. By the way, PETER KING is a Republican from New York.

All you've heard from our party for a very long time is how much contempt they have for Holder. Now they're presented with Loretta Lynch, who is by far the best attorney general they could ever have expected this President to appoint, and they still hold the thing up. . . . And for what? Because they think it scores them a few political points? With whom?

That is the irony of it all. Republicans have held Ms. Lynch's nomination hostage for nothing more than political purposes. Here is something I will read to the people within the sound of my voice, which is a direct quote from the New York Daily News editorial.

The Republicans in the Senate, the meanest and most narrow-minded among them occasionally acting as if they want the Democrats to have the White House into the next century, need to free Loretta Lynch this week.

They need to stop using abortion language in an anti-trafficking bill for cover, they need to stop using Lynch's support for President Obama on immigration as cover, they need to stop insulting Lynch the way they have for months as they have delayed a vote on confirming her as our next attorney general for the simple reason that they can.

The issue here was never Loretta Lynch's policies, always about President Obama's. They have used her to get at him, because to the end they remain obsessed with getting at him. No wonder Jeb Bush stood up for Lynch in New Hampshire. Bush didn't just show grace in doing that, he also showed more common sense than his brother showed in eight years as President.

Jeb Bush has to know that Sen. Mitch McConnell hijacking this process does him absolutely no good, the way it does him no good to have McConnell as an important voice and face of the Republican Party. As long as McConnell is, too many voters completely wide-open about the upcoming Presidential campaign will continue to think the

party is still owned and operated by scrubs who think they can push around Loretta Lynch for sport.

"Pushing around Loretta Lynch for sport" is certainly how it seems. How else can you explain the Republicans changing the subject every time her name comes up? Every time Ms. Lynch's confirmation is discussed, they change the subject. Every time when asked, Republicans deflect: "next Congress" or "after Keystone" or "after we try and shut down Homeland Security," and, of course, the newest, "after trafficking."

President Obama put it best last Friday when he said:

Nobody can describe a reason for it beyond political gamesmanship in the Senate. I have to say that there are times where the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far. This is an example of it.

He said: "This is embarrassing."

It is embarrassing. It is embarrassing for the Senate and for our Nation. Even Republicans—I should say some Republicans—are embarrassed. They know there is no rationale for delaying a vote for America's chief law enforcement officer. There is no reason that we cannot confirm Loretta Lynch today—right now, even. There is nothing preventing the majority leader from coming to the Senate floor immediately and moving the Senate into executive session for consideration of Ms. Lynch's nomination.

Why then is the majority leader determined to make her wait until after the trafficking legislation is approved? Why? We are now spending the first 2 weeks of this current work period finishing two matters—human trafficking and her nomination. These two matters could have been completed months ago. Everyone is aware of what has transpired with the human trafficking bill.

It is sufficient to say that Republicans tried to pull a fast one on the American people. Republicans attempted to broaden a precedent that traditionally prevents Federal funds for paying for abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, and when the life of the mother is at risk. This is commonly known as the Hyde language. The Hyde language has applied to taxpayer dollars. Republicans want to change that to apply to nontaxpayer dollars.

It was a failed political ploy, and it is no surprise, then, that the Republicans are scrambling to save their necks after trying to dupe American women. My Republican colleagues appear to be close to seeing the light on human trafficking, and there seems to be a path forward. But there is no guarantee that we can do it. As of right now, we do not

have an agreement in place to put the finishing touches on our work on the bill. But we are working on that goal. The progress we have made is due almost entirely to the good-faith efforts of Senators MURRAY, LEAHY, and AMY KLOBUCHAR.

When are Republicans going to see the light on Loretta Lynch? When will the majority leader realize he continues to obstruct a qualified nominee for absolutely no reason? The Senate should turn to a vote on Ms. Lynch's nomination immediately. Every day that passes without a newly confirmed Attorney General proves once and again that Republicans cannot lead and they certainly cannot govern.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as we all know, a vote of confirmation for Loretta Lynch to be our next Attorney General has now been delayed 164 days, or 5 months. We have seen this qualified woman waiting for a confirmation vote, and we have had at least 51 Members—a majority—indicating they will support her confirmation.

I remember coming to the floor listening to colleagues during the Bush administration state over and over again that elections have consequences, that Presidents have a right to have their nominees voted on, and that it is our responsibility to make sure, if something comes out of committee, that we vote on a final confirmation.

When we look at the fact that we have seen Loretta Lynch wait for a vote on the floor for a combined length of time that equals more than the last seven Attorneys General, I really do believe, as the President has said, enough is enough.

I remember a time when we had a controversial nominee—John Ashcroft—and many of us did not support that nomination. I did not support that nomination. But we brought it to the floor for a vote. He waited 42 days. At the time, people said that was a long time. He was not blocked. We did not filibuster. We did not require a supermajority. In fact, there were 42 of us who voted no, so we could have stopped it on a procedural vote. But we allowed the nomination of John Ashcroft to come to the floor for a vote.

So we fast-forward. And we have seen this, of course, over and over again, as we look at the President's nominees in the last 6½ years. Now we see this eminently qualified woman, who has been held up as of today 164 days, waiting and waiting to have the opportunity to have a vote up or down on confirmation. If people want to vote no, they have that right, but she deserves a vote.

Today, we are going to vote on the confirmation of a district court judge in Texas. I think it is good that the Southern District of Texas will have a Federal court judge, but the entire country needs a permanent Attorney General. In fact, the Attorney General's office is the one that actually brings the cases to Federal courts and tries them on behalf of all the American people. So it is really ridiculous that we stand at this point where we are having to ask, after more than 5 months, that there be a vote for Loretta Lynch.

After she was reported out, we saw a very distinguished nominee for Secretary of Defense come out of committee and immediately come to the floor and be confirmed, but Loretta Lynch has waited and waited. We continue to vote on district judges, and Loretta Lynch is waiting and waiting.

We hear all kinds of excuses, all kinds of reasons. We are hearing that Loretta Lynch's nomination to be Attorney General cannot be voted on until we complete another very important bill—the human trafficking bill—that we all want to get done. It has, unfortunately, had a curve ball added because of the politics around choice and abortion that has been interjected into this, and we are having to work our way through that. I have been involved in a lot of discussions, as my colleagues have. I am confident we can address those if people want to get this done on behalf of girls and women in our country. But that has nothing to do with the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General, other

than one thing, which is that as U.S. attorney of the Eastern District of New York, she presided over a very effective antitrafficking program, investigating and prosecuting scores of defendants.

In that sense, again, we need Loretta Lynch—her talent, her expertise, and her experience—to be able to tackle what is a horrible situation that way too many of our girls and women find themselves in. We somehow for too long have thought this was something that was happening someplace else. Yet we saw it in Lansing, MI—where I live, the capital of Michigan—where there was a case in the trafficking situation that the FBI and local officials addressed. What we are finding right now is that as we proceed with confirming other people for other positions—Monday nights we are voting on other positions, we are voting on district judges, and we voted on other people for other positions not held up by human trafficking, not held up by trying to get that bill resolved, but for some reason the Attorney General position has somehow been held up.

I don't buy it. It makes no sense that we would pick one person—one person—not others but one person and decide that this person and this nomination, this confirmation vote will be held hostage to another issue. It is time to stop it. Now, 164 days is long enough; 164 days is long enough. It is time to give Loretta Lynch the respect and the vote she has been waiting for and she deserves.

I yield back the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this body—the Senate—continues to rush through one of the most consequential changes to U.S. economic policy this decade with little media attention, little scrutiny by committees, and little discussion from leadership of this Senate. Last week, we were called into a rushed legislative hearing on fast-track and a trade package with little notice and no bill to see. We had less than 13 hours' notice for a committee meeting—the standard here is 1 week, and I believe that is the Senate rule—on one of the most secretive documents we have seen in front of us. Senators and their staffs, Congress men and women and their staffs, have limited access to this document—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—and no access to legislation

upon which we had a hearing on Thursday. It was only after the hearing that they finally decided to introduce the bill. Yet, this affects more than 50 percent of the world's GDP. Fifty percent of the world's GDP could be affected by this package. Millions of American jobs are on the line. Yet, Congress is rushing this bill through.

We cannot fast-track fast-track legislation. We know what so-called free trade has done to this country. It may not affect too many people who dress like this in this town, people who wear expensive suits, but for those in the heartland and in places such as Des Moines and Iowa City and Columbus and Cleveland, we know bad trade deals have devastated towns.

I grew up in Mansfield, OH. When I was a kid, we had thousands of jobs at Westinghouse, Ohio Brass, Mansfield Tire, Fisher Body, Goremann-Rupp, and so many other companies. Almost all of those companies have shut down—not just because of globalization and bad trade deals, but certainly that contributed to it. Every one of those companies that hasn't shut down has laid off, in most cases, thousands of its workers.

On Friday, I was in Dayton, where I spoke with Jimmy Allen. Jimmy worked at Appleton Paper for 45 years. He was a union officer for 43 of those years. He was one of 400 workers laid off due to unfair trade in 2012 when China cheated on currency, undermining the U.S. paper industry.

I hear all the time from workers like Jimmy. George Rossi of Warren, OH—at the other end of the State—wrote to me to share his story. He wrote:

My wife lost her job of 15 years at GE in Ravenna, OH because of foreign trade. The plant that once employed 600 is now closed. My brother-in-law lost his [job] at Ohio Lamp in Warren, which is now closed. My plant, WCI Steel, is now closed. At one time the plant employed 1,800 people.

George wrote: I could go on and on. There have been many friends and family, so many who have worked in numerous plants that are now closed—in large part because of bad foreign trade deals.

Jamie Vaughan wrote to me saying that Jamie's father and Jamie's grandfather worked at Ford in Canton, OH, until it shut down. Jamie's father was able to transfer to Indianapolis, where Jamie and Jamie's brother also worked, until that Ford plant shut down too. Jamie wrote:

They built a plant exactly like Indy's in Brazil. My brother and I transferred to California. A few years later, that plant shut down.

I got a letter from Gary Ordway of Continental, OH, about how factory closures have ripple effects across entire communities. He wrote:

In 1995 I was employed with General Motors Powertrain Foundry in Defiance, OH, where we were working 12 hours a day, 6 to 7 days a week, and then along came the

North American Free Trade Agreement. There were over 5,000 employees working at that time, and after NAFTA there was a constant loss of jobs, so today, there are about 1,000 employees left. We are looking at a weekly loss of \$4.8 million in wages to the local economy and around \$1.2 million in weekly taxes lost due to the 4,000 jobs exported because of NAFTA. Within the next couple of years the foundry will be losing all of its iron castings and another 350 jobs will be eliminated, and Plant One is scheduled to be torn down. So NAFTA wasn't good for our community and foundry because our iron casting business went to Mexico.

That was Gary Ordway of northwest Ohio. We have seen it in the northwest and we have seen it in the southwest.

Joseph Hicks from Elyria, OH, wrote:

I am a member of Local 1104 in Lorain. I work at U.S. Steel tubular division. As of the 22nd of March, me and 600 of my brothers and sisters have been placed on indefinite layoff, some departments idled, due to lack of work. This is mainly [because of] the illegal dumping of cheaply-made steel.

I would add, subsidized steel.

Foreign countries cut corners on safety, pay workers next to nothing, and don't care about quality. With these ingredients, they are able to sell their steel products for a lot less than we at U.S. steel can.

There used to be a time when "Made in America" meant something. I long to see that be the attitude again.

Joseph goes on:

I am suffering greatly now because of the trickle-down effect. I am laid off, I have lost my job, my career, my way of life to support my growing and deserving family. I have a wife, Megan, [who] cannot work because she has to care for our 2-year-old disabled daughter.

I ask, beg, our public officials . . . do what needs to be done to get American workers back to work.

That is Joseph from U.S. Steel in Lorain.

We owe these workers more than rushed hearings. We owe them more than to rubberstamp a deal we have barely been able to read. Keep in mind that we didn't see this bill until Thursday night. We have still not had one hearing on this bill to discuss the bill. The chairman of the committee wants to do the markup the day after tomorrow, and this bill will govern potentially 60 percent of the world's GDP. So they want to fast-track this fast-track legislation so they can pass more trade agreements that outsource jobs.

Trade done right can create jobs, but our current trade deals amount to corporate handouts and worker sellouts.

The Economic Policy Institute found that the wage loss to workers on the wrong end of expanded trade is almost certainly larger than the estimated net national gains from the TPP. They write that there is no such thing as an all-gain, no-pain treaty. We know that is true because workers such as Joseph and Jamie and George and Gary and Jimmy feel that pain.

I urge my colleagues over the next couple of days to ask the tough questions and demand answers from the

U.S. Trade Representative, who has told us little and who has given us even less access to these trade agreements, and to say no to a trade deal that will end up fast-tracking more jobs overseas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—H.R. 636, H.R. 644, H.R. 1295, H.R. 1314, AND S. 984

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I understand there are five bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 636) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 644) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

A bill (H.R. 1295) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

A bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

A bill (S. 984) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from Louisiana.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise today to solemnly observe the 5-year anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oilspill, also known as the BP disaster. It was a major and deeply tragic incident that resulted in the loss of 11 lives in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond that really devastated the gulf region.

I wish to start where we should always start—by remembering in a solemn and prayerful way the 11 men who lost their lives in the incident. They were Donald “Duck” Clark, 49, of Newellton, LA; Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, LA; Gordon Jones, 28, of Baton Rouge, LA; Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, of Jonesville, LA; Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzalez, LA; Jason Anderson, 35, of Midfield, TX; Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, TX; Aaron Dale Burkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, MS; Karl Kleppinger, Jr., 38, of Natchez, MS; Dewey Revette, 48, of State Line, MS; and Shane Roshto, 22, of Liberty, MS. We lift up those men and their families in our prayers, and we will continue to keep those men whose lives were lost and continue to keep their families in our fervent thoughts and prayers.

While 5 years have passed, the effects of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy are still felt today in communities all along the gulf coast. The terrible and unnecessary loss of life, the harming of our precious coastal ecosystems, and the persisting economic burdens serve as a constant reminder of the failures that led to the spill, as well as the lessons learned in the 5 years since.

Poor industry and government oversight and the failure by many involved to enforce safety regulations were largely responsible for multiple mistakes leading up to the tragedy. As a result, we have learned many lessons on how to prevent future accidents such as this. The first is that the lives and safety of the men and women who work in this field are absolutely paramount and need to be kept so, and the Federal and State safety standards overseeing them should reflect that as a priority.

Changes are needed, and the Federal agencies that oversee and regulate the offshore energy industry must communicate clearly with State and local governments and impacted industries. They must also do a better job of enforcing strong, necessary safety and environmental standards.

It is also important that we prevent the administration or any future administration from having knee-jerk reactions to incidents such as this. Each gulf coast community remembers the devastating effects of the offshore drilling moratorium that followed the disaster—something that was completely unnecessary, including in the opinion of so many experts. Once the Obama administration imposed this unnecessary drilling moratorium, that decision had crippling results for Louisiana and Gulf State economies. When accidents such as this spill happen, there needs to be a calculated, logical, and immediate response in order to replace ineffective regulations with rules that focus on preserving lives and protecting the environment. It is imperative that we prevent shortsighted Federal mandates and thoughtless regula-

tions that hinder regional recovery and destroy local economies instead.

We also learned that there needs to be a clear and specific judicial penalty process in place in order to ensure that claims can be efficiently filed and finalized in order to let those who are affected by such disasters return to some sense of normalcy, day-to-day normalcy, and economic normalcy as quickly as possible. This should include insuring responsible parties such as BP are timely in paying their judicially and statutorily mandated fines and penalties. There is absolutely no excuse that 5 years later gulf residents, in many cases, are still waiting for the responsible parties to fulfill their legal obligations, including under the RESTORE Act.

As we remember the Deepwater Horizon tragedy today, let us renew our commitment to work on all of these matters and to finish the work that is left to do as our gulf coastlines and economies continue to recover.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, 5 years ago today, 11 Americans were lost when the Deepwater Horizon exploded off the gulf coast. I would like to name them. This is hard. These were the people we grew up with. I apologize for being emotional, but these are our neighbors, and so to remember them—Jason Anderson 35, Midfield, TX. Jason had two kids, and his wife Shelley said that Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday.

Aaron Dale “Bubba” Burkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, MS. He passed on his wedding anniversary and 4 days before his birthday. He was married with two children.

Donald Clark, 49, of Newellton, LA. Husband to Sheila with four kids. He was a fisherman. To honor him on the anniversary of his death, his family says a prayer and releases balloons over a lake in his favorite color, which is sky blue.

Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, LA. Stephen was married and the father of two teenagers.

Gordon Jones of Baton Rouge, LA. Gordon was 28. His wife was Michelle. His son Max was born 3 weeks after Gordon passed. An oak tree was planted on the LSU campus on the path where he ran.

Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, of Jonesville, LA. He was married to Courtney and father of one child.

Karl Kleppinger, Jr., 38, of Natchez, MS. He was a veteran of the first gulf war and the father of one.

Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzales, LA. Keith had three daughters, was a big fan of LSU sports, and had football and basketball season tickets.

Dewey A. Revette, 48, of State Line, MS. His wife was Sherri. They had been married for 26 years.

Shane M. Roshto, 22, of Liberty, MS. He was the youngest of the men who died. His wife was Natalie, and his son is Blaine.

Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, TX. Adam drove 10 hours to Louisiana every 3 weeks to work on the rig. He was a high school football star and spent his off time hunting and fishing.

We pray that the families find peace in the memories of their sons, husbands, and fathers.

The spill was the worst in our Nation's history, and while the consequences of this spill are still seen, it is our task to live forward and, in so doing, honor the memory of these men and provide a better future for their families.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a moment of silence to honor their memory.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Moment of silence.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, it is 5 in the afternoon. Exactly 5 years ago, at 5 p.m., the crew of the Deepwater Horizon mobile oil drilling unit began what is called a negative pressure test of the Macondo prospect oil formation. A cascade of menacing events followed the first failed test.

At around 9:40 that evening, drilling mud began gushing out onto the rig. The well had kicked. The crew activated the rig's blowout preventer 1 mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, down at the bottom of the gulf. Tragically, the blowout preventer failed. At 9:49 p.m., there was an explosion on the rig floor. The Deepwater Horizon rig quickly became an inferno. Eleven men died. Eleven families were changed forever.

As morning came the next day, an oil sheen 2 miles long and a half mile wide shone on the surface of the waters of the gulf as the blaze on the rig continued. Those images are seared into our collective mind's eyes. So the owner of the well, BP, and the owner and operator of the rig, Transocean, tried and failed again to close the blowout preventer that evening. Then days later, on Earth Day, April 22, at 10:22 a.m., the rig on the surface of the gulf sank.

If we can remember, we were first told the sheen that was 2 miles long



and a half mile wide came from the drums of diesel onboard the rig. Then later, a revision was made that 1,000 barrels of oil a day were leaking from the well a mile below the surface of the gulf. Then that was changed to 5,000 barrels of oil per day and then to 25,000 barrels of oil a day. But none of those estimates were true. Scientists looking at the sheen from aerial observations started to grow very skeptical about what BP engineers were telling them.

On the environment committee, Chairman BOXER and I started to turn up the public pressure to get BP to turn over live footage of 1 mile below the surface of the gulf, where the oil was escaping. We wanted to see how much oil the cameras were showing was escaping from the well. The spill was not out of mind; it was out of sight. As it turned out, unbelievably, 62,000 barrels of oil a day were gushing into the gulf into what is one of our most productive ecosystems on the planet. But we would never have gotten that had scientists not been able to make their estimates by virtue of the live-streaming video that Senator BOXER and I put up on our Web sites so people—unencumbered, around the globe—could make their estimates. This is a prime example of why we must independently verify what oil companies tell us about a spill.

As we got into the summer, the prime of the summer beach season, especially at our beaches in Florida, that was devastating. Nearly 37 percent of gulf waters were closed to fishing. BP and its contractors had no control of the runaway well. On July 15, in the middle of the summer—87 days after the explosion—BP finally stopped the oil flow.

Today is the anniversary. Our hearts collectively go out to the families that lost the 11 men.

If we don't learn from this experience, shame on us. It will come back to haunt us, and in many ways it already has.

If we start at the bottom of the food chain, there are impacts to the gulf environment. Bull minnows, or killifish—little fish about that size—root around in the sediment of the bays of Louisiana. In those oiled Louisiana marshes, these little killifish are showing grotesquely deformed gill tissue. And when the killifish embryos were exposed to oil sediment, they showed heart defects, and many failed to hatch.

Two LSU professors told me shortly after they had done the research about a year after the spill that they found that the killifish in their reproductive cycle were mutated. They compared them to the killifish in the bays that did not have the oil come in, and there was a distinct difference between the two.

As we go up the food chain, the top predators face threats from the oil.

Scientists have found unusual lung damage, hormone abnormalities, and low blood cell counts up the food chain in dolphins that were exposed to the oil. And we are not going to know the full extent of the impact for years, even decades.

As a matter of fact, somebody said a few months after the BP spill had been contained that there was no more oil in the gulf. There is a lot of oil in the gulf. We just can't see it. It is down there a mile below the surface. And what are the effects on the health, the future health of the gulf? We don't know, but we are going to have to re-search it.

But even with all we learned back in 2010, to this very day, oil infrastructure in the gulf—this is just unbelievable—operated by the Taylor Energy Company continues to leak crude oil since one of the hurricanes years ago. In 2004, a hurricane caused an underwater mudslide that damaged a cluster of oil wells off of Louisiana. Need I remind the Senate, June 1 is the beginning of hurricane season. So if we are visited by another hurricane, and if it does as it did in 2004, 11 years ago, having a cluster of Taylor wells that got buried in an undersea mudslide from the hurricane—but the wells are still leaking 11 years later—what is going to happen to other oil structures in the gulf if the big one comes?

According to the Associated Press investigation, the actual flow rate of those Taylor wells may be 20 times higher than originally reported. We have seen this episode before. I don't think we want to repeat this.

It is so frightening. I asked the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of the Interior to provide any and all images of the Taylor spill. The Congress, in our oversight responsibility, has the right to that information. We have to know how much oil is escaping, and then we have to figure out how to stop it from underneath the undersea mudslide that covered up that cluster of wells.

In the coming weeks in the Senate commerce committee we are going to examine what we have learned in 5 years since the Deepwater Horizon explosion. In 2012, our bipartisan RESTORE Act got overwhelming votes in both the House and the Senate. The RESTORE Act is a formula with which to send the money that ultimately Judge Barbier of the Federal district court in New Orleans will decide as a result of the number of barrels spilled and the culpability of the company. As a result of that, money will flow. It will flow back to the local governments, it will flow back to help the economies of the gulf, and it will flow back in order to try to protect our environment. There is more to be done. I intend to introduce legislation to make sure we prevent, prepare for, and effectively respond to the next oil spill.

As we reflect on the tragic events of April 20, 2010, I hope the Senate will be mindful of this tragedy in the gulf, which riveted the attention of the Nation, that seemed out of control for 3 months, and of which we will have the very infernal consequences for years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. NELSON. Of course.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 16 minutes of debate remaining on the nomination.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, do I have 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, tonight, the Senate will vote on the nomination of George Hanks to be a district judge for the Southern District of Texas. If confirmed, Judge Hanks will be the President's 309th judicial nominee confirmed since this President took office. By comparison, at the same point in his Presidency, President Bush had only 273 judicial nominees confirmed.

Despite some of the complaints that we are hearing from my colleagues on the other side, we are moving judicial nominees at about the same pace as we did at this point in President Bush's Presidency. One difference, of course, is how the Senate handled the judicial nominees that were reported out of the committee during the lameduck session.

Historically, the Senate doesn't confirm judges at the end of a Congress if those judges are reported out of committee during a lameduck. The reason for this, of course, is so the newly elected Members have an opportunity for their voices to be heard. For instance, that is what happened in 2006 when the Senate returned 13 judicial nominees to the President. Those nominees were then renominated in

2007 and eventually confirmed in the new Congress, but the Senate Democrats did not follow tradition last year. Instead of following standard practice, Senate Democrats confirmed 11 judicial nominees who were reported out of committee during the lameduck session. Had they followed standard practice, we would have voted on those nominees at the beginning of this year, just as the committee did with the nominees that were resubmitted in 2007.

At the end of the day, when we include the 11 district court nominees who were confirmed at the end of last year, we are at about the same pace that the Democratically led Senate was in 2007 during the Bush administration. This is further confirmed when you compare the committee's work this year to 2007. In 2007, at this point in the Congress, the committee had held three nominee hearings for a total of 10 judges.

As of right now, the Judiciary Committee has already held 4 nomination hearings for a total of 10 nominees. These nominees include six judges and four executive nominees, including both the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General nominees.

The bottom line is the Senate Judiciary Committee is treating the President's nominees extremely fairly. He has had dozens more nominees confirmed than President Bush did at this point in his Presidency. I expect another one will be confirmed tonight, and I congratulate Judge Hanks on his pending nomination and urge my colleagues to vote accordingly.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will be voting to confirm Judge George Hanks, who has been nominated to be a Federal district judge in the Southern District of Texas. Judge Hanks is just the second judicial nominee that we have voted to confirm more than 3 months into the 114th Congress. The slow trickle of confirmations that the new majority has allowed is undermining the functioning of our Federal courts and is hurting the American people. This past month, the Wall Street Journal wrote an alarming article about the backlog of civil cases in our Federal courts. One man interviewed for the article filed a Federal law suit in 2007 and is still waiting for his case to be heard. It is unconscionable that an American would have to wait 8 years and still not have his day in court. Unfortunately, it is not surprising given that at last count, there were more than 330,000 civil cases pending in our Federal courts. This is a record high and an increase of nearly 20 percent since 2004.

There are steps the Republican majority should take to help our Federal courts better serve the American people. First, the Senate should confirm every single one of the nine judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar

without further delay. Besides Judge Hanks, there are two other Federal district court nominees pending on the Executive Calendar, both from States with two Republican home State Senators. Both of those nominees were reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote. One of the nominees will fill a judicial emergency vacancy in Texas that has remained unfilled for more than 2 years. This type of neglect is unacceptable. In addition, there are five other nominees to the Court of Federal Claims and a nominee for the Court of International Trade. None of these nominees are controversial and they could easily be confirmed by a simple voice vote if Republicans would allow.

After today's confirmation vote, there will be 53 vacancies on our Federal courts. But even if we filled every one of these vacancies, we still would have to address the growing needs of our co-equal branch of government that is struggling with heavy case-loads. Last month, the Judicial Conference of the United States, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, identified the need for adding 73 permanent judgeships, as well as converting 9 temporary district court judgeships to permanent status. The Senate should be working in a bipartisan manner to provide the Federal Judiciary with the resources it needs, including the addition of woefully-needed additional judgeships.

The fact that today we are only voting on the second judicial nominee of this Congress shows that the delay and obstruction that we saw from Republicans in the first 6 years of the Obama administration has continued now that they control the Senate's agenda. One simply needs to look at the nomination of Loretta Lynch to understand how Republicans approach our constitutional role of advice and consent. Ms. Lynch is an eminently qualified nominee and enjoys broad support, yet her nomination has now been pending before the full Senate for 53 days. That is more than twice as long as all of the past seven Attorneys General combined: Richard Thornburgh, 1 day; William Barr, 5 days; Janet Reno, 1 day; John Ashcroft, 2 days; Alberto Gonzales, 8 days; Michael Mukasey, 2 days; and Eric Holder, 5 days. This delay is an embarrassment for the United States Senate. I agree with President Obama, who said last week that "there are times where the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far." The obstruction of this historic nominee has gone on far too long. It is long past time for the Senate Republican leader to allow Ms. Lynch a vote and allow the American people to be served by this outstanding public servant.

The judicial nominee we are voting on today, Judge George Hanks, will fill a Federal district court vacancy in the

Southern District of Texas. Since 2010, Judge Hanks has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Prior to joining the Federal bench, Judge Hanks was a Court of Appeals Justice for the First District of Texas from 2002 to 2010, and a judge on the 157th Civil District Court of Texas from 2001 to 2002. Before becoming a judge, he was in private practice for nearly a decade. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him "Well Qualified," its highest rating. Judge Hanks is supported by his two Republican home State Senators and his nomination was unanimously approved by voice vote by the Judiciary Committee on February 26. He has strong qualifications and should be confirmed without further delay.

I urge the Republican Leader to schedule votes to confirm the remaining judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar. None of the nominees are controversial. We should do our jobs and vote on their nominations so that they can start doing their jobs working for the American people.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Ex.]

## YEAS—91

Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Corker	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Udall
Donnelly	McConnell	Vitter
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden
Flake	Murray	

## NOT VOTING—9

Alexander	Cruz	Rubio
Blunt	Graham	Sullivan
Coats	Murkowski	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Wyoming.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

## CONGRATULATING THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2015 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I stand with great pleasure and pride, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, to congratulate the Providence College men's hockey team in winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship, and I am pleased to have worked with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE in adopting a resolution last week to honor this great accomplishment.

This is the first national championship in the history of PC's men's hock-

ey club, and I am sure this season will be long remembered by Providence College players, coaches, staff, and fans.

The championship game featured phenomenal plays and contributions from many Friars players, including a career-high 49 saves by goaltender Jon Gillies, and one goal each from Anthony Florentino, Mark Jankowski, Tom Parisi, and Brandon Tanev.

I would like to congratulate all of the Friars players whose season-long hard work and dedication made this successful season possible. The 2015 PC men's hockey team consisted of: Rhode Island's own Noel Acciari, Mark Adams, Brooks Behling, Alex Cromwell, Logan Day, Stefan Demopoulos, Nick Ellis, Anthony Florentino, Jon Gillies, John Gilmour, Robbie Hennessey, Mark Jankowski, Brendan Leahy, Shane Luke, Conor MacPhee, Ross Mauermann, Kyle McKenzie, Steven McParland, Trevor Mingoia, Josh Monk, Tom Perisi, Brian Pinho, Truman Reed, Kevin Rooney, Niko Rufo, Nick Saracino, Brandon Tanev, and Jake Walman. I will apologize for my Rhode Island accent.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to PC player Drew Brown, who missed this season while battling a rare form of bone cancer and is thankfully now reported to be cancer-free. But he contributed in many ways to the success of the team.

Additionally, I want to recognize the coaches and staff whose commitment and preparation was essential to winning this national championship, especially head coach Nate Leaman, who won the championship in only his fourth season at PC. The other coaches and staff of the 2015 PC men's hockey team were: associate head coach Steve Miller, assistant coach Kris Mayotte, coordinator of Men's Hockey operations Kyle Murphy, and goaltending coach Jim McNiff.

I also commend Providence College President Father Brian Shanley and athletic director Robert Driscoll on their accomplishments and extraordinary dedication to the school and to the community of Rhode Island.

Again, I join many in the State of Rhode Island and around the hockey world in congratulating the Providence College men's ice hockey team on their incredible national championship season and wish them continued success in the future.

I am proud to yield the floor to my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am very pleased and also very proud to follow the senior Senator and my colleague and to join Senator REED in congratulating our Providence College men's ice hockey team on winning its first-ever national championship. The Friars edged out Boston University 4 to 3 a week ago Saturday night in PC's

first trip to the Frozen Four in 30 years. The BU-PC event was a southern New England showdown that brought more than 18,000 hockey fans to Boston's TD Garden. Playing so close to home, PC had plenty of support from the stands. They also had a little bit of good luck, but it was more than luck that put Providence College over the top.

Those kids played their hearts out, and forward Brandon Tanev's go-ahead score in the third period to seal the win was no fluke. The Friars earned that victory, and Rhode Islanders couldn't be more proud of them.

Head coach Nate Leaman said that when it gets to be that late in the season and when there is that kind of championship pressure, "You win," he said, "with guys that are gritty. . . ."

Well, Senator REED and I are excited to join Providence College president Father Brian Shanley and the entire PC community in celebrating this historic win. Congratulations to Coach Leaman and his staff, to goalie Jon Gillies, who was named Frozen Four Most Outstanding Player, and to all the PC players who fought so hard all season to this wonderful result.

As junior forward Noel Acciari, a native of Johnston, RI, put it, "We might be a small State, but we're hard workers."

Well done, Friars. You are, indeed, hard workers and your hard work paid off.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## INSPECTORS GENERAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the ability of Congress to be a check on the actions of the executive branch is being endangered. One of the tools that we in Congress have created to help the government identify and correct its mistakes is being obstructed. That tool is the vital work of inspectors general.

Inspectors general work in nearly 80 Federal agencies. They perform audits, conduct investigations, and issue public reports of their findings and recommendations. They combat waste, fraud, and abuse. Their work is being frustrated, and that is why I am here. To keep an eye on what is happening inside a government agency, the inspector general must be able to access the agency's records. This is exactly what the law calls for.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 directs that all inspectors general have a

right to access all records, documents, and other materials. "All" is not the same as "some." If the inspector general deems a document necessary to do his job, then the agency should turn it over immediately—immediately. But the clear command of that law is being ignored far too often.

Agencies partially comply or refuse to turn over materials after a lengthy review and screening process by lawyers for the agency. That is a step not included in the IG law. The examples range from the Environmental Protection Agency to the FBI, and can you believe it, even to the Peace Corps.

The excuses vary, but the pattern is very clear. For example, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General is reviewing the Department's use of the material witness statute. That statute authorizes detaining certain witnesses for testimony before a grand jury.

The inspector general was looking into allegations that the civil rights and the civil liberties of certain material witnesses may have been abused. This is just the kind of issue that Congress relies on inspectors general to investigate. If the problems are found, the inspector general helps our government identify the problem and helps Department leadership fix these problems.

Naturally, the inspector general needed to review the grand jury testimony to decide if the value of that testimony was reasonable, given the burden imposed on the witnesses. Three U.S. attorneys offices and the Department's National Security Division provided the inspector general with the grand jury information concerning material witnesses, but the FBI refused to cooperate. The FBI claimed the grand jury testimony could not be shared with the inspector general.

This FBI decision to withhold information was a brandnew practice, beginning sometime in 2010. The law was not changed in 2010 so the FBI could do it. The FBI claimed it had the right to refuse to provide the inspector general information in over a dozen other categories as well.

Remember, the law says the inspector general shall have access to all—not some—records, documents, and other materials that they deem necessary to conduct their investigations. Yet the FBI says its attorneys will review material first and then decide what it would and would not release to the inspector general.

It even gets worse. The FBI claimed it needed the approval of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General to provide the information to the inspector general. This is exactly upside down. Under the law, an inspector general must be independent. Agencies cannot be trusted to investigate themselves. If an inspector general had to ask for permission from senior leader-

ship, he would not be truly independent.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 does allow the Attorney General, not the FBI, to prohibit the inspector general from carrying out or completing an investigation but only in certain limited circumstances.

When that extraordinary step is taken, it must be done in writing to the inspector general, and the inspector general must forward that written notice to the Congress. The FBI would have us believe that instead of written notice being required to block an IG investigation, it needs written permission to comply with an investigation. This is simply not how the law is designed to work.

After this controversy took place, Congress took action. We essentially bolded and underlined the provision in the Inspector General Act that ensures access to documents. We didn't literally do that, but this year's Justice Department appropriation declares that no funds shall be used to deny the inspector general timely access to all records.

The new law also directed the inspector general to report to Congress within 5 days whenever there was a failure to comply with this requirement. Since February of this year, we have already received four of those reports that the FBI is still refusing to comply, regardless of the actions Congress took on the appropriations bill last year.

One notice said the FBI was withholding evidence in two whistleblower cases. I have written to the FBI twice about these notices and just received a reply from the FBI Wednesday. Unfortunately, the FBI ignores most of the questions I asked and simply reasserts their original position.

That tells me the FBI thinks they are above the law. It has an obligation to comply not only with the Inspector General Act but also with restrictions Congress placed on its appropriations. That means FBI employees cannot legally be spending their time withholding and reviewing documents before providing those same documents to the inspector general. We must stay vigilant and we must insist all government agencies, including the FBI, work with the inspectors general, not against them.

I applaud my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for standing up for inspectors general. I also urge them to follow through and help make sure the funding restrictions they put in place are obeyed.

As I noted earlier, the problem is not confined to the FBI or to the Department of Justice, similar attempts to limit the work of an inspector general have occurred at the EPA and the Peace Corps. Just last year, 47 inspectors general signed a letter to the Congress warning of these problems across government. We all lose when inspec-

tors general are delayed or prevented in doing their work. In every agency where IG's work, they help agency management become aware of problems and opportunities to improve government service. We must support the work of inspectors general and remind government agencies that blocking their investigations is not acceptable.

#### COMPREHENSIVE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of legislation offered by Senators CORNYN and FRANKEN, the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. This critical piece of bipartisan legislation would promote alternatives to incarceration by helping identify and treat Americans suffering from mental illness. For far too long our criminal justice system has been a substitute for a mental health system. That practice is costly, wastes limited resources, and is contrary to evidence-based practices proven to make our communities safer. I thank Senators CORNYN and FRANKEN for their hard work on this important criminal justice reform bill.

Today, law enforcement is ill-equipped and not properly trained to deal with individuals suffering from severe mental disorders whose conditions can cause them to commit crimes. The mentally ill are too often treated as common criminals and are not given access to the critical treatment they need.

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act would save taxpayers' money and effectively use limited resources by ensuring our prisons contain violent offenders as opposed to those who suffer from mental illnesses. When more than four of five inmates with a mental illness are not treated in jail, we waste resources by incarcerating them. This bill would make the public safer and save taxpayers' money by ensuring that we continue to support vital programs, such as mental health courts, veterans' courts, and crisis intervention teams.

The bill would also improve public safety. Persons with complicated psychiatric problems that are thrown in jail can have their mental state deteriorate even further. If incarcerated without treatment, some mental illnesses can lead people to be a danger to the public once released. But with proper treatment, they can lead ordinary, law-abiding lives even absent incarceration.

The bill would help to reduce jail overcrowding caused by warehousing people for low-level crimes, which often includes the mentally ill. For example, from 2009 to 2013 in New York City, about 400 people were sent to jail on at least 18 occasions each. That amounts to more than 10,000 jail admissions and 300,000 days in jail. In Chicago, from 2007 to 2011, 21 percent of

the people sent to jails accounted for 50 percent of jail admissions. Because a significant number of people in jail are mentally ill, reducing recidivism for this population is critical. By supporting state and local efforts to identify and direct them to the appropriate mental health services, this bill would reduce recidivism and, in turn, help reduce jail over-crowding.

The bill would also encourage the development of curricula on mental health conditions for police academies and orientations. Finally, the legislation would include new grant accountability measures and emphasize the implantation of evidence-based practices.

It is time we address mental illness in our country through treatment, not incarceration. Passing this common-sense bill would reduce recidivism, save taxpayer money, and make our communities safer. That is why I support this bill and I urge its speedy passage.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT GRIFFIN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a towering figure from Michigan's political past: former Senator Robert Griffin, who died Friday at the age of 91.

Senator Griffin was born in Detroit and was educated in the Wayne County Public Schools. By the time he graduated high school, the United States was embroiled in World War II. And in 1943—a year when so many American families came to fully comprehend the horrors of modern warfare—young Bob Griffin enlisted in the U.S. Army, joining the 71st Infantry Division.

For 3 years, Bob Griffin served our country in a time of war unmatched in its intensity, including 14 months fighting Nazis in Europe. After returning from war, like so many of our surviving soldiers, he turned his attention to his education, attending Central Michigan University, then getting his law degree at the University of Michigan.

Bob Griffin decided to begin his legal career in Traverse City.

After practicing law for several years, Bob Griffin felt compelled to practice public service, so in 1956 he ran and won office to the U.S. House of Representatives. He distinguished himself in Congress over the next decade, and following the death of Michigan Senator Patrick McNamara, then-Governor George Romney appointed Bob Griffin to finish the 7 months remaining in McNamara's term.

It did not take Senator Griffin long to earn the support of Michigan voters: They elected him to a full 6-year term that fall of 1966. Senator Griffin served the people of Michigan loyally for the next 12 years.

He authored major pieces of legislation during his career in this Chamber,

and he was a member of the Republican leadership from 1969 to 1977. But he is being remembered most for the role he played in helping our Nation overcome the shock of the Watergate scandal.

In August 1974, as that scandal worsened, it became clear that President Nixon was in danger of being impeached. The impeachment process would be an embarrassing spectacle, not just for President Nixon, but for the institution of the President and for our Nation's political system.

Senator Griffin was a close friend of President Nixon, but it was the Senator's devotion to the country that led him to write a letter strongly suggesting that the President resign and spare the Nation from having to endure impeachment. That letter is said to have played a major role in Nixon's decision to finally step aside.

At a time when our Nation's political system was teetering, it was Senator Griffin who helped it to recover its balance by doing what was best for the country.

That is the mark of true leadership. Even those who disagreed with Senator Griffin's policies never found fault with his integrity or his character.

Although Senator Griffin left office in 1979, he still had a desire to serve the people of Michigan, and for 8 years he applied his wisdom and judgment on Michigan's Supreme Court, retiring in 1994. Today the Grand Traverse County courthouse bears his name.

Senator Griffin's devotion to our State was rivaled only by the devotion he had for his wife, Marjorie, with whom he spent nearly 68 years, and their four children: Paul, Richard, James, and Jill. The couple has 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Senator Griffin's loss will be felt not only by his loving family, but in his home of Traverse City and in every corner of the State he served during his career. Senator Griffin will be remembered for his leadership, his fierce integrity, and his unwavering allegiance to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL G. VICKERS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the tremendous contributions of Dr. Michael G. Vickers, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. Secretary Vickers is retiring this month from the Federal Government having served with distinction in two critical leadership positions in the Department of Defense: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, ASD SO/LIC&IC, from 2007 to 2011, and Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, USD(I), since 2011. His dedicated service has spanned the administrations of

both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. Moreover, he has helped shape national security for three decades.

Secretary Vickers is the Department's longest serving USD(I). During his tenure he has led a comprehensive, mission-focused transformation of defense intelligence, and has provided policy and operational oversight for numerous sensitive intelligence and counterterrorism operations. He played a critical policy and planning role in the operation that brought justice to Osama bin Ladin. Of note, we are only days away from the fourth anniversary of that successful operation, which occurred on May 2, 2011.

As ASD SO/LIC&IC, Secretary Vickers served as the "Service" Secretary for all Special Operations Forces, and as the senior civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all counterterrorism, irregular warfare, and special activities. He played a central role in shaping U.S. strategy for the war with Al Qaeda and the war in Afghanistan, and conceived of and led the largest expansion of SOF capabilities and capacity in history.

From 1973 to 1986, Secretary Vickers served as an Army Special Forces non-commissioned officer, Special Forces officer, and Central Intelligence Agency operations officer. He had operational and combat experience in Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia. His operational experience spans covert action and espionage, unconventional warfare, counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and foreign internal defense. During the mid-1980s, Secretary Vickers was the principal strategist for the largest covert action program in the CIA's history: the paramilitary operation that drove the Soviet Army out of Afghanistan.

Because of Dr. Vickers' selfless service, hard work and tireless dedication, our Nation is a safer place. I want to thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best as he begins his next adventure.

#### REMEMBERING BETH THOMASSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and achievements of Beth Thomasson following her passing last month. Beth was a dear friend and a tireless advocate of housing and homeownership in her position as executive officer at the Home Builders Association of West Virginia. Beth's commitment to her work, her community, and her family embodied the values that we as West Virginians hold dear.

A graduate of Texas A&M, Beth was a "Kelly Girl" when she started at the Home Builders Association in 1978. In just ten years, Beth became executive officer and during this time the organization experienced a period of exceptional growth. A prodigious advocate

for her cause, Beth also advanced initiatives of the Home Builder's Association at the statehouse on issues relating to business development, homeownership, and consumer education. Her strong work ethic was recognized numerous times when she received the HBA Eastern Panhandle's Appreciation Award, the HBAWV Meritorious Service Award, and the HBAWV Presidential Award.

In addition to her role at the Homebuilders Association, Beth also served in various capacities at the West Virginia Business & Industry Council, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Housing Policy Framework, and the West Virginia Housing Trust. Above all, Beth was a devoted wife and mother of 4 daughters, as well as a grandmother of 10.

Beth was relentless in her dedication to serving her community and her State. Those who were lucky enough to have called her their friend can attest to this fact. Her ethos is best described in her favorite saying:

You can be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. By doing nothing, you are choosing to be a part of the problem.

I am proud to honor my friend Beth, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating her memory.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING MICHAEL JOHNSON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Officer Michael Johnson, a 14-year veteran of the San Jose Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a call for help on March 24, 2015.

Michael Johnson was born in Herlong, CA, where his father served as a military police officer before becoming a deputy for the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department. After moving to San Jose as a teenager, Officer Johnson graduated from Gunderson High School in 1995 and joined the San Jose Police Department in 2001, continuing his family's commitment to law enforcement.

Those who knew Officer Johnson fondly remember him as a caring and trustworthy colleague who was passionate about his work and loved the community he served. An experienced patrol officer, he was recently promoted to serve as a field training officer and advise new members of the police force. Outside of work, Officer Johnson found joy in hobbies ranging from jujitsu and baking to scuba diving and world travel. He was also an outstanding marksman, winning several awards from the Police and Fire Games.

Above all else, Officer Johnson is remembered as a loving husband and devoted family man. In 2013, he married

the love of his life, Nicole, and they planned to celebrate their marriage this summer with a large formal ceremony in Santa Cruz before starting a family. My heart goes out to Nicole and Officer Johnson's parents Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker, his step-parents Dann Decker and Penny Johnson, his sister Jamie Radack, his brother-in-law Steve, and his niece Ami and nephew Eli.

Officer Johnson's dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California and San Jose, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

#### CONGRATULATING GALENA HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Galena High School on its team of students selected as a national winner in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. The high school competition was judged based upon how well teams applied science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, in helping the local community. Seventeen students competed on the core team; however, 85 students from Galena High School contributed to 21 projects that continue to develop as a result of the contest. The team competed with 3,100 other applicants, winning a total of \$138,000 for its achievement in being selected as a national winner. This money will be used to purchase new technology for the high school, a contribution that will help future students for years to come.

Galena High School students chose to address difficulties faced by fellow peers with disabilities. Specifically, they worked alongside two students with disabilities to bring firsthand experience and realistic application to the project. The students utilized their STEM knowledge to create innovative equipment capable of adapting to difficult scenarios relating to those with disabilities and motor skill restrictions. The students spent hours researching current technology and worked tirelessly, brainstorming and creating solutions to different scenarios and ultimately chose two successful projects. The first, a tool to help special-needs students with typing, and the second, a portable table space making it easier for students with disabilities to carry lunch. These are only 2 of 21 projects that continue to develop and will be distributed to the local community. The students are shining examples of how compassion and hard work can make a difference in the lives of others and stand as role models for future Galena Grizzlies.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Galena High School for their advancement in a national competition.

These students should be proud to call themselves top contenders in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Galena High School for its success and honorable representation of Nevada.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIE CARL MARTIN

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Coach Willie Carl Martin of the University of Alabama. After 42 years of coaching football in the Alabama public school system and at the University of Alabama, Coach Willie Carl Martin is retiring. During his high school playing days, he was such an outstanding athlete that the late Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant offered him a full scholarship to Alabama. He was the first African-American to be offered an athletic scholarship to the university. He declined the offer and went to college at Northeastern State University, where he was a second team All-American. He then played professional football in Canada for 6 years. He returned to his hometown, Alexander City, AL; where he began his coaching career as an assistant coach, and then as head football coach at Benjamin Russell High School. In 2001, he led Benjamin Russell High School to their first and only State Championship. After 25 years of a truly outstanding and impressive career in high school coaching, Coach Martin was hired as an assistant coach and for player development by Alabama's new coach, Nick Saban, in 2007. During his 8 years at Alabama, he had an instrumental part in Alabama winning three SEC championships and three national championships.

Willie Carl has demonstrated exceptional academic and professional careers both in teaching and coaching young students. He is a loyal, dedicated individual who has always had time for his students and players. He is generous with his time with others, regardless of their station in life. He is fortunate enough to have a wife, Leslie, as well as two lovely daughters and grandchildren, who have stood by him in all of his endeavors. I know they, along with his other numerous friends and family, will join me in proclaiming May 12, 2015, as Willie Carl Martin Day in Alexander City, AL.●

#### RECOGNIZING HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Huntsville Utilities, a public utility located in Huntsville, AL. Huntsville Utilities is owned by the city of Huntsville and provides water, gas, and electricity to Madison County and parts of Marshall County.

Huntsville Utilities serves a total of 49,786 gas customers, 90,665 water customers, and 174,959 electric customers.

In total, Huntsville Utilities meets the utility needs of more than 300,000 customers in North Alabama. Moreover, Huntsville Utilities has more than 600 employees throughout the service area.

Water, gas, and electricity are of vital importance to families and businesses in our communities. I am honored to commemorate Huntsville Utilities for 75 years of providing this important service to the Huntsville area.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 622. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Dr. Sharon Leon of Fairfax, VA.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 984. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

H.R. 1314. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1285. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy (NAFDS)"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1286. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Judith A. Fedder, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1287. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Janet C. Wolfenbarger, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1288. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1289. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1291. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Syrian Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 542) received in

the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1292. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1293. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64)) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1294. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD823) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1295. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD799) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1296. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions" (FRL No. 9925-86-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Truckee Meadows project on the Truckee River in Washoe County, Nevada, for the purposes of flood risk management and recreation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expatriate Health Plans Under the ACA Section 9010" (Notice 2015-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1299. A communication from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" ((RIN0938-AS52)) (CMS-9946-F2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.



EC-1300. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1301. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1302. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1303. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2014 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1304. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Criminal Judicial Procedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1305. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-11. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to facilitate the payment of contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, In 1999, Northern Nevada experienced one of the worst wildfire years on record, with more than 1.6 million acres burned and significant economic and environmental impacts; and

Whereas, In the spring of 1999, a resolution was approved at Nevada's first comprehensive fire conference, known as the "Living With Fire Forum," which urged the establishment of a statewide council to provide support to make homes, neighborhoods and communities in Nevada safe from fire; and

Whereas, The Nevada Fire Safe Council was formed as a domestic nonprofit corporation on December 10, 1999, and received appropriations from the Nevada Legislature in 2005 and 2007 to administer a community-based wildfire threat reduction program; and

Whereas, By March 2007, the Council had grown to include 60 affiliated chapters and 3,515 members; and

Whereas, The Angora Fire in the summer of 2007 burned more than 250 structures on private property and more than 3,000 acres in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and further amplified the existing need for mitigation work to reduce the threat of wildfire in communities; and

Whereas, Between 2008 and 2012, the Council was awarded over \$21 million in federal reimbursement grants to be used to pay public and private entities for the completion of hazardous fuels treatment projects; and

Whereas, In July 2011, the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture initiated an audit of the Council's records after receiving a complaint on its hotline alleging that the Council was awarding certain contracts in a noncompetitive manner; and

Whereas, The audit report issued by the Inspector General in January 2012 indicated various accounting irregularities in the Council's administration of the federal reimbursement grant money and resulted in the freezing of reimbursement payments of that grant money for completed projects until the accounting deficiencies were corrected; and

Whereas, In November 2012, the Council filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations; and

Whereas, As a result of the freezing of reimbursement payments and the Council's bankruptcy, various public and private entities that had completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to agreements with the Council have not been paid for their services, which has caused significant economic hardship to those entities; and

Whereas, On March 20, 2014, California Assemblyman Brian Dahle and his staff were joined by staff from the offices of United States Representatives Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock to share their concerns about the outstanding debts of the Council and to explore solutions with Nevada's Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly,* That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to facilitate the payment of contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the United States, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

*Resolved,* That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-12. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to provide full long-term funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act funding; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1010

Whereas, The State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of land, of which 17%

is managed by the Bureau of Land Management 15% is managed by the United States Forest Service, 2% is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 4% is managed by the National Park Service, 4% is military land and 28% is tribal land. Thus, much of the land in Arizona is unavailable for economic development and is not part of the property tax base; and

Whereas, counties are required to provide law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency services, road building and maintenance, and other community services on, or associated with, tax-exempt federally managed public lands; and

Whereas, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program was established in 1976 to offset costs incurred by counties for services provided to the federal government and to the users of federally managed lands located within a county; and

Whereas, the national average PILT payment in fiscal year 2014 was \$0.72 per acre, which is far below the amount that federally managed lands would return through both value-based taxation and economic development; and

Whereas, Congress has been unable to pass a long-term funding solution for the PILT program since 2008 and has instead passed last-minute one-year extensions, causing great uncertainty about county finances and services as well as rural school funding; and

Whereas, funding for fiscal year 2015 PILT was included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act and the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act, totaling \$442 million, but the fate of fiscal year 2016 and future years is still unknown; and

Whereas, a lack of certainty for PILT funding places the large, unsustainable burden of providing services on federally managed lands squarely on the backs of local county taxpayers, while the presence of that federally managed land creates barriers to economic opportunities; and

Whereas, rural communities and schools in and around national forests have historically relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to support education services and roads; and

Whereas, in the 1980s, federal restrictions substantially diminished the revenue-generating timber harvests permitted in these forests; and

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was passed in 2000 to stabilize and transition payments to counties and schools away from the declining and unreliable share of timber sales; and

Whereas, the failure of Congress to honor the more than 100-year-old contract between the federal government and heavily forested communities by not reauthorizing SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 will create budgetary shortfalls for rural counties and school districts; and

Whereas, failure to immediately secure SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and PILT funding for fiscal year 2016 and into the future for Arizona counties will critically impact the local budget process and structural solvency of counties and the public school systems and will substantially compromise their ability to provide essential services, such as health, safety and welfare; and

Whereas, the federal government has the duty to reimburse local jurisdictions for the presence of federally managed public lands in a reliable and consistent manner.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress provide full long-term funding for the PILT program to help create financial stability within Arizona's counties.

2. That the United States Congress immediately reauthorize SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and work toward a long-term solution.

3. That the United States Congress work with the State of Arizona and county governments to identify and implement policies to promote economic development on, or associated with, federally managed lands.

4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-13. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation exempting United States military bases from the regulations and restrictions of the Endangered Species Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the mission of the United States Department of Defense is "to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country"; and

Whereas, according to the Department of Defense and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a fundamental principle of military readiness is that the military must train as it intends to fight; and

Whereas, the Department of Defense has established military training facilities in Arizona, including Fort Huachuca, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Luke Air Force Base and the Barry M. Goldwater range, among others, to accomplish this goal; and

Whereas, Department of Defense officials indicate that heightened focus on the application of environmental statutes has affected the use of its training areas; and

Whereas, compliance with environmental regulations, especially the Endangered Species Act (ESA), has caused some training activities to be canceled, postponed or modified; and

Whereas, compliance with environmental regulations, particularly the ESA, has forced military officials to make adjustments to training regimens, including requiring units in training to avoid areas with ESA restrictions; and

Whereas, since 2003, the Department of Defense has obtained exemptions from three environmental laws and sought exemptions from three others; and

Whereas, these exemptions allow the military to maintain its high state of readiness and help to ensure its ability to meet unexpected threats; and

Whereas, these exemptions are under increased scrutiny by environmental groups and federal officials who would rather protect wildlife than allow the military to maintain its readiness; and

Whereas, a GAO report found no instances in which the Department of Defense's use of exemptions from the ESA or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has adversely affected the environment; and

Whereas, the United States military has proven itself to be a responsible and effective steward of the land and environment.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation exempting United States military

bases and training facilities from the regulations and restrictions of the Endangered Species Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-14. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1012

Whereas, when the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was originally enacted in 1973, the framers and supporters of the ESA envisioned a law that would protect species believed to be on the brink of extinction; and

Whereas, at that time, 109 species were listed for protection; and

Whereas, today, over 1,500 species in the United States are designated as threatened or endangered under the ESA; and

Whereas, as a result of a 2011 mega-settlement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental litigants, hundreds more species could be added within the next two years; and

Whereas, the ESA is failing to achieve its primary purpose of species recovery as it has only a 2% recovery rate; and

Whereas, the ESA was last amended in 1988, which means 27 years have passed since any improvements have been made; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require that data used by federal agencies for ESA listing decisions be made publicly available and accessible through the Internet, while respecting state data privacy laws and private property; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require the federal government to disclose to affected states data used prior to an ESA listing decision and require the "best available scientific and commercial data" used by the federal government to incorporate data provided by states, tribes and local county governments; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would require the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to track, report to Congress and make available online the federal taxpayer funds used to respond to ESA lawsuits, the number of employees dedicated to ESA litigation and the amount of attorney fees awarded in the course of ESA litigation and settlement agreements; and

Whereas, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act would prioritize species protection and protect taxpayer dollars by placing reasonable caps on attorney fees to make the ESA consistent with existing federal law; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, a cost-benefit analysis should be required on any ESA action; and

Whereas, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and many others support the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-15. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain technology and emissions reduction rules for new and existing electric generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1013

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the costs of new regulations to the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on June 2, 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules in the Federal Register that will require Arizona to reduce carbon emissions at existing generating facilities by 51.7% by 2030; and

Whereas, the carbon reduction targets for Arizona are the second highest in the nation; and

Whereas, the interim goal proposed for Arizona would require nearly 90% of the final goal to be achieved by the year 2020; and

Whereas, concentrations of greenhouse gases are the result of global emissions and do not pose an immediate risk to public health and safety as do other criteria pollutants; and

Whereas, the EPA's proposed rules exceed its legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties such as regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes away resources from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while protecting the public health and welfare; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant, domestic and affordable energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA ignores the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage; and

Whereas, the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan will cause significant disruptions in Arizona's electricity supply and transmission

system, causing reliability in the system to decrease.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111 of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for new or existing electric generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111 of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of States in establishing and implementing rules under Section 111 of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend the state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM-16. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to increase the United States Customs field office personnel at the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas, and San Luis, Arizona; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2003

Whereas, the United States and Mexico are important trading partners, and commerce between the two countries is a critical source of jobs, income and exchange; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Commerce, more than \$500 billion in bilateral trade and over \$100 billion occurs in cross-border investment annually; and

Whereas, in Arizona, \$28 billion in two-way trade is processed annually through Arizona's ports of entry; and

Whereas, according to the United States Census Bureau, Arizona exports to Mexico totaled \$7.1 billion in 2013; and

Whereas, the prime conduits for cross-border trade are through the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas and San Luis, Arizona; and

Whereas, the Customs Field Office personnel within the United States Custom and Border Protection service of the United States Department of Homeland Security serve a vital function in promoting security and economic stability; and

Whereas, the lack of capacity and staffing for customs inspections at these primary entry points create congestion for incoming and outgoing goods, hampers commercial activity and potentially compromises border security; and

Whereas, these impediments ultimately translate into perished agricultural produce and lost business opportunities and income; and

Whereas, the rapid delivery of goods and commerce enhances business activity and strengthens economic integration; and

Whereas, greater inspection capacity at the United States border at the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas and San Luis, Arizona will enhance the safety and swiftness of goods moving across the border, benefiting the economies of both nations; and

Whereas, increasing the number of Customs Field Office personnel at these ports will facilitate commercial traffic and will result in increased economic growth and stability for Arizona; and

Whereas, the letter signed by every member of the Arizona Congressional delegation and sent to the United States Department of Homeland Security dated October 14, 2014 expressed the need for greater staffing and allocation of personnel to Arizona's ports of entry.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress act expeditiously to increase and maintain staffing for Customs Field Office personnel at the ports of entry in Nogales, Douglas and San Luis, Arizona in order to prudently speed the flow of goods and commerce.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs During the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-33).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1007. A bill to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename a site of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1008. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1009. A bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1010. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1011. A bill to establish a State Trade and Export Promotion Grant Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1013. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1015. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1016. A bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 140. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 141. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. Con. Res. 13. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a breach of security.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require humane treatment of animals by Federal Government facilities.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

RISCH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 676

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 676, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent tax-related identity theft and tax fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in

Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to expand eligibility for health care under the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to include certain veterans seeking mental health care, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis

and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to establish a process for the consideration of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the use of personal care products is virtually universal in this country. These products include everything from shampoo and hair dye to deodorant and lotion.

Troubling examples of negative health effects call into question the safety of some of the chemicals used in these products.

For example, methylene glycol, which turns into formaldehyde when heated, is a chemical in the popular hair smoothing treatment known as the "Brazilian Blowout". Short term exposure has been reported to cause hair loss, rashes, blistered scalps, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, shortness of breath and vomiting. Over the long term, exposure is associated with an increased risk of cancer.

Some ingredients in cosmetics may only be safe for use in certain concentrations. Propyl paraben, a widely

used preservative, is found in many products and mimics the hormone estrogen. This has the potential to disrupt the endocrine system, which can lead to a variety of health concerns such as reproductive system disorders.

In light of this and other examples, consumers deserve to know that the products they use every day are safe. To do this, Federal oversight of the personal care products industry needs to be strengthened.

Europe has a robust system of oversight for personal care products, including consumer protections like product registration and ingredient reviews, but in the United States, the industry is regulated largely on a voluntary basis, with a sparse patchwork of state regulations. The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has little authority, operating under a Federal law from the 1930s that has seen little change since. Consumers rightly expect that basic protective measures to ensure the safety of personal care product ingredients are in place, but the reality is that FDA doesn't even have mandatory recall authority for products that pose significant harm to human health.

I have been working with consumer groups, companies and FDA to put together a bipartisan, middle of the road bill to update the regulatory structure for personal care products, provide a streamlined national system of oversight and accountability, and review the safety of specific chemicals in these products. I am grateful to my colleague, Senator COLLINS, for working with me in this effort.

Today we are introducing the Personal Care Products Safety Act, a comprehensive step forward. The bill, which is the result of feedback we received from a wide range of stakeholders, addresses consumer safety concerns and provides a modernized, predictable and straightforward system of compliance for companies.

The Personal Care Products Safety Act will, for the first time, enable the public to know which companies, whether they are American or foreign, are producing and distributing personal care products through a registration system operated by FDA. Companies will provide information about the ingredients in their products and attest to their safety. This updated system will be supported by user fees paid by the industry.

Under this legislation, FDA will review at least five chemical ingredients per year for their safety and appropriate use in personal care products. In determining which ingredients to evaluate and their safety, many factors must be considered, including how prevalent the ingredient is, the likely exposure, adverse event reports, and scientific studies from a wide range of sources.

The first set of chemicals for review includes: diazolidinyl urea, which is

used as a preservative in a wide range of products including deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, bubble bath and lotion; lead acetate, which is used as a color additive in hair dyes; methylene glycol/formaldehyde, which is used in hair treatments; propyl paraben, which is used as a preservative in a wide range of products including shampoo, conditioner and lotion; quaternium-15, which is used as a preservative in a wide range of products including shampoo, shaving cream, skin creams and cleansers.

FDA may deem an ingredient safe, unsafe, or safe under certain uses or conditions. FDA will also be empowered to require warning labels on products with certain ingredients, as appropriate, and limit the amount of an ingredient that may be used in certain products. For example, some ingredients may only be safe when used by professionals in a salon or spa setting.

The structure of the legislation encourages, and relies on, public input. There are many opportunities built in for consumer groups, companies, medical professionals, scientists and the public to weigh in with feedback on the ingredients that should be prioritized for review and scientific information that FDA should consider regarding the safety of those ingredients. FDA is required to provide a yearly update to Congress and the public on its progress in reviewing these ingredients and the new oversight system.

Many companies follow strict voluntary standards for manufacturing under proper conditions, but the current lack of a Federal standard leaves this to chance. Under this legislation, FDA sets Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines to ensure companies meet a minimum standard. Companies will also need to report adverse health events related to their products to FDA.

As more consumers choose to shop online, it is of growing importance that they have access to the same product information they would see in a store. This bill requires all personal care products sold online to include information that is on the label. Consumers will be able to see all ingredients listed, along with any product warnings and other important information on use.

We also take steps to reduce animal testing in personal care products, and direct FDA to encourage the use of alternatives and provide specific guidance to companies on non-animal testing methods that are seen as acceptable.

This legislation is the product of many different groups working together. I am pleased to have the support of the Personal Care Products Council, which represents over 600 companies, Environmental Working Group, Society for Women's Health Research, HealthyWomen, and National Alliance

for Hispanic Health. These individual companies have also stepped forward to independently support the bill: Johnson & Johnson, brands include Neutrogena, Aveeno, Clean & Clear, Lubriderm, Johnson's baby products; Procter & Gamble, brands include Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Clairol, Herbal Essences, Secret, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Ivory, CoverGirl, Olay, Sebastian Professional, Vidal Sassoon; Revlon, brands include Revlon, Almay, Mitchum; Estée Lauder, brands include Estée Lauder, Clinique, Origins, Tommy Hilfiger, MAC, La Mer, Bobbi Brown, Donna Karan, Aveda, Michael Kors; Unilever, brands include Dove, Tresemme, Lever, St. Ives, Noxzema, Nexxus, Pond's, Suave, Sunsilk, Vaseline, Degree; L'Oréal, brands include L'Oréal Paris, Lancôme, Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint Laurent, Kiehl's, Essie, Garnier, Maybelline-New York, Vichy, La Roche-Posay, The Body Shop, Redken.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this effort to modernize our outdated regulatory system for personal care products, and to cosponsor the bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 140—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 140

Whereas the Armenian Genocide was conceived and carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed and 500,000 survivors were expelled from their homes, and the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of Armenians in their historic homeland;

Whereas, on May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia jointly issued a statement explicitly charging for the first time ever another government of committing crimes "against humanity and civilization";

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide", and whose draft resolution for a genocide convention treaty became the framework for the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, recognized the Armenian Genocide as the type of crime the United Nations should prevent and punish through the setting of international standards;

Whereas Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, 64th Congress, agreed to February 9, 1916, resolved that "the President of the United States be respectfully asked to designate a day on which the citizens of this country may give expression to their sympathy by contributing funds now being raised for the

relief of the Armenians", who at the time were enduring "starvation, disease, and untold suffering";

Whereas Senate Resolution 359, 66th Congress, agreed to May 11, 1920, stated that "the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered";

Whereas House Joint Resolution 148, 94th Congress, agreed to April 8, 1975, resolved, "That April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry. . . .";

Whereas House Joint Resolution 247, 98th Congress, agreed to September 10, 1984, resolved, "That April 24, 1985, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially the one and one-half million people of Armenian ancestry. . . .";

Whereas, on April 11, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate reported favorably Senate Resolution 410, 113th Congress, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and calling on the President to "ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide";

Whereas, on April 12, 2015, Pope Francis described the atrocities perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians as the first genocide of the 20th century;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum would document the Armenian Genocide in the Museum, and has done so through a public examination of the historic record, including lectures and the maintenance of books, records, and photographs about the Genocide;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Turkey has continued its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained a blockade of Armenia, and continues to pressure the small but growing Turkish civil society movement for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide;

Whereas, in April 2011, the month of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, the Government of the Republic of Turkey demolished a 100-foot-high statue in the city of Kars which was erected to promote reconciliation with Armenia;

Whereas the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Government of the Republic of Turkey has prevented the meaningful advancement of a constructive political, economic, and security relationship between Armenia and Turkey; and

Whereas the teaching, recognition, and commemoration of acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity is essential to preventing the re-occurrence of similar atrocities: Now, therefore, be it



*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to remember and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2015;

(2) that the President should work toward an equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relationship that includes the full acknowledgment by the Government of the Republic of Turkey of the facts about the Armenian Genocide; and

(3) that the President should ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 141—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the Take Our Daughters To Work program was created in New York City as a response to research that showed that, by the 8th grade, many girls were dropping out of school, had low self-esteem, and lacked confidence;

Whereas in 2003, the name of the program was changed to “Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work” so that boys who face many of the same challenges as girls could also be involved in the program;

Whereas in 2015, the mission of the program, to develop “innovative strategies that empower girls and boys to overcome societal barriers to reach their full potential”, fully reflects the addition of boys;

Whereas the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has grown to be one of the largest public awareness campaigns, with more than 39,000,000 participants annually in more than 3,000,000 organizations and workplaces representing each State;

Whereas in 2007, the Take Our Daughters To Work program transitioned to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, became known as the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, and received national recognition for its dedication to future generations;

Whereas every year, mayors, governors, and other private and public officials sign proclamations and lend support to Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day;

Whereas the fame of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program has spread overseas, with requests and inquiries being made from around the world on how to operate the program;

Whereas 2015 marks the 22nd anniversary of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program;

Whereas Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day will be observed on Thursday, April 23, 2015; and

Whereas by offering opportunities for children to experience activities and events, Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day is intended to continue helping millions of girls and boys on an annual basis to examine their opportunities and strive to reach their fullest potential: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of introducing our daughters and sons to the workplace; and

(2) commends all participants of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role the participants play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES

Mr. MANCHIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 13

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO AMERICAN FIGHTER ACES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on May 20, 2015 for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1121. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1122. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1121. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### TITLE \_\_\_\_—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

##### “SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

“The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

“(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

“(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

“(2) required to register under this title.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

“Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.”.

SA 1122. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

#### TITLE IV—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

##### SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term “human trafficking” means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

##### SEC. 402. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;



(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) **TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

#### **SEC. 403. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

(a) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

#### **SEC. 404. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

#### **SEC. 405. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.**

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).”.

### **AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

#### **COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 20, 2015, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “2020 Census: Challenges Facing the Bureau for a Modern, Cost-Effective Survey.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### **AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 34, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) was agreed to.

### **SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 141, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

### **ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up

to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, and that the majority control the first half and the Democrats control the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 178; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### **ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m.

### **NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

ADAM J. SZUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES, VICE DAVID S. COHEN, RESIGNED.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

#### **IN THE AIR FORCE**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8034 AND 601:

#### *To be general*

LT. GEN. DAVID L. GOLDFEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY M. RAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### *To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT N. POLUMBO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. DARRYL L. ROBERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

#### **IN THE ARMY**

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### *To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. ERIC C. BUSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ALAN R. LYNN

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JILL K. FARIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. GARY H. CHEEK

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. CHRISTIAN A. ROFRANO

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

VICE ADM. NORA W. TYSON

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MARK A. BRILAKIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT S. WALSH

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

BAMIDELE A. ADETUNJI  
TERESE L. ALLISON  
LIAM M. APONTE  
JULEE L. AVRAM  
BRETT J. BALLARD  
SHARON A. BALLINGER  
NICHOLAS S. BANCROFT  
PAMELA D. BANKS  
KATHLEEN V. BELL  
NATASHA I. BEST  
JUDY L. BLANCHARD  
BRIAN T. BOOTH  
CASSIDY JO BOYER  
TINA S. BRADFORD  
MICHAEL J. BRAKEL  
LAURIE A. BREZINA  
REBECCA A. BRIONES  
KELLY ANN CARTER  
MARIA C. CASTRO  
JENNIE L. CAVAL  
MARGARET G. CENTENO  
LEWIS G. CHRISTENSEN  
DAWN M. CLAUSON  
MARION A. COLLINS  
JENNIFER L. CONAWAY  
JONATHAN C. CRISS  
KAREN J. DARGAN  
CARMANITA L. DAVIS  
MONICA I. DENNING  
GUILENE C. DERISMA  
RACHELLE R. DIXON  
TIFFANI M. DORCH  
DEAN P. DORE  
DEBBIE J. DORSEY  
KATHLEEN M. DRUM  
APRIL J. DUNLEVY  
CHRISTOPHER D. DUVALL  
ABIGAIL J. EASTMAN  
LORI E. FLORI  
JOAQUINA FONTES LOPES  
MOAYAD FOWLER, SR.  
JENNIFER L. FRANKS  
DENISE M. FREDERIKSEN  
ERIC M. FROST  
MCKISA P. FRYER  
MARY E. GAMBLE  
STEPHANIE P. GARCIA  
ANGELA C. GOOKIN  
KATHERINE R. GRIFFITHS  
TWANA A. HADDEN

WENDY H. HEIBEL  
KATHERINE M. HITZ  
ANGELICA M. HOLLIDAY  
JK SHANE HOUSE  
HEATHER S. HUBBARD  
LAURA A. HUMES  
CHENNEL CHRISTIAN JOHNSON  
BENJAMIN D. JORGENSEN  
SUSAN E. JOSEPH  
DIANE J. JUROSKA  
KATHERINE S. KASCH  
TUESDAY M. KAYONGO  
SHARA R. KOCH  
VALERIE P. KOSOBUCKI  
TAMMY R. KRITZER  
MICHELLE A. LEMPKE  
JOSEPH C. LEONDIKE  
MARCIE A. LEWIS  
BETHANY L. LIEBERMAN  
BESSA JANE E. LIVICA  
LOU A. LYSNGEN  
ERIC W. MAGNUSON  
ANASTASIA T. MCKOY  
SHERRY L. MITCHELL  
CYNTHIA G. MONTESI  
ROMEATRIUS NICOLE MOSS  
RICHARD J. ODOSSO  
JAMES C. ONEILL  
LIBERTY C. ORADA  
HEATHER L. ORTIZ  
TINA MARIE OUELLETTE  
ANNETTE R. PATTON  
DOUGLAS S. POGUE  
STEPHANIE M. POWERS  
JESSICA L. PRICE  
STEPHEN G. RAY  
RICHARD P. ROGERS  
ESMERALDA SALAZAR  
DARRELL C. SANDERS  
JEANETTE K. SANDERS  
SUZANNE E. W. SEE  
SHAWNICE LEE SHANKLE  
ANTHONY P. SIBILIA  
JOHANA SIERRANUNEZ  
MICHELLE B. SMITH CLEGGETT  
STEFFANIE L. SOLBERG  
BRIAN L. SPURLOCK  
ANTHONY R. STEPHENS  
THEODORE J. SZERSZENSKI III  
GRETCHEN E. SZYMANSKI  
SCOTT G. THALLEMER  
STACY L. TUTTLE  
VERONICA B. VALERIO  
ELIZABETH L. VATH  
JOEL M. VILLAVERTE  
TOBIE J. WATKINS  
BRENDA D. WHITE  
ROSEMARIE WIBISONO  
BRIAN K. WIENHOFF  
TIFFANY D. WILLIAMS  
MICHELLE T. WISE  
RHYS I. WOODALL  
ZOE T. WOOLSTON  
JONATHAN R. WURZELBACHER  
KERI L. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

TRAVIS M. ALLEN  
THOMAS R. BAIZE  
KARL N. BLANCAFLOR  
ROBERT DALE BOHNSACK  
DANIEL S. CALL  
STEVEN R. CUNEIO  
GARY J. DAVIDSON  
CRAIG MILTON FORSYTHE  
DAVID M. HORTON  
KEVIN M. HUDSON  
PAUL B. JOYNER, JR.  
JASON P. KIM  
JASON T. KLODNICKI  
DAVID R. LEONARD  
CHRISTOPHER L. REEDER  
DAVID D. REEDY  
JONATHAN T. RUNNELS  
DAVID Y. SUH  
CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II  
JEREMY JAMES WELLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

RICHARD S. BEYEA III  
CHRISTIAN L. BISCOTTI  
MATTHEW A. BOARTS  
KRISTOFFER K. COX  
LARRY J. FOWLER  
JULIAN C. GAITHER  
KENNETH E. JOHNSON, JR.  
EUGENE F. LAHUE  
CHRISTOPHER M. LAPACK  
CHARLES R. MONTTOYA, JR.  
SCOTT P. NUPSON  
RANDY L. SELLERS  
MICHAEL D. SHANNON  
MARK F. THOMAS  
SAMMY C. TUCKER, JR.  
TRAVIS C. YELTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

KEITH L. CLARK  
MICHAEL E. CRABTREE  
WILLIAM K. LIN  
PAUL A. LONGO  
VICTOR B. MAGGIO  
JAMES R. MOORE  
KYLE E. PELKEY  
ENRIQUE E. ROSADO  
JENNIE LEIGH L. STODDART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

TALIB Y. ALI  
JAY R. ALLEN  
JASON G. ARNOLD  
ANTHONY S. BANKES  
VIKHYAT S. BEBART  
JAMES E. BERMUDEZ  
JOHN N. BERRY  
ANTHONY I. BEUTLER  
CHRISTOPHER T. BIRD  
JEREMY W. CANNON  
JERRY M. CLINE  
ROBERT W. CRAIGGRAY  
PAUL F. CRAWFORD, JR.  
SCOTT M. CUMMIS  
RONALD S. DAY  
ANTONIO J. DELGADO  
BRIAN L. DELMONACO  
KELLY L. DORENKOTT  
DAVID J. DUVAL  
KENNETH S. EGERSTROM  
MARY T. GUEST  
GREGORY J. HAACK  
CHAD A. HAMILTON  
JASON T. HAYES  
RACHEL A. HIGHT  
MICHAEL GLENN HODGES  
ERIC F. HOLT  
BRANDON R. HORNE  
CHRISTOPHER M. HUDSON  
SEAN L. JERSEY  
KEVIN J. KAPS  
TONY S. KIM  
PAULETTE D. LASSITER  
MAXIMILIAN S. LEE  
MARK D. LYMAN  
ROBERT M. MONBERG  
THOMAS O. MOORE  
BRENDAN M. NOONE  
SAMIA A. OCHIA  
SAMUEL T. OLATUNBOSUN  
STEVEN D. PEINE  
MICHAEL C. PETRO  
JENNIFER L. RAVENSCROFT  
JOSEPH R. RICHARDS  
JAMES B. SAMPSON  
ZAIGA KAREN SEARS  
PATRICK A. SHEA  
DAVID L. STEINHISER II  
GALE T. TUPER, JR.  
CEASAR A. VALLE  
JAMES F. WALROTH  
STEVEN R. WARD  
DERRICK B. WILLSEY  
GABRIEL ZIMMERER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JOHN W. HECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be major*

ANNA HAMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JERMAL M. SCARBROUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

CYNTHIA A. RUTHERFORD

*To be major*

ANGELA SCEVOLA-DATTOLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be colonel*

SUSAN I. PANGELINAN

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

RITA A. KOSTECKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

SCHAWN B. BRANCH  
FRANK A. SMITH

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

JOHN P. O'BRIEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

IAN D. BRANUM  
BRYAN P. HYDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

JOSUE M. BELLINGER  
BRYCE E. BURK  
RALPH A. CACCI  
ERIK M. DULLEA  
DANIEL S. GOLDENBERG  
THEODORE L. GRABARZ  
THOMAS M. HOFFMANN  
TIMOTHY J. KERR  
DOUGLAS H. KLIMAN  
DONALD E. MESERVE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

GEORGE J. EBERLY III  
DAVID GARLINGHOUSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

GREGORY K. EMERY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

DANIEL B. COPELAND  
STEPHEN D. DONALD  
JOHN E. HUDSON  
GEORGE W. LASKEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be commander*

CAROLYN A. WINNINGHAM

*To be lieutenant commander*

SARA M. BUSTAMANTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

SCOTT W. ARNOLD  
JAMES H. BLACK  
CHRISTIAN D. BOLL  
JOHN E. BRAUN  
LOUIS O. CARL  
MARK G. CARTER  
LLOYD A. CHEE  
KENNETH J. CHRISTY  
DUNCAN M. CLENDENIN  
GERALD P. DEARIE  
BRIAN E. DONALDSON  
JUSTIN E. DUGGER  
KEITH D. EITNER  
NATHAN J. ELDER  
ALEXANDER W. ELLERMANN  
CRAIG A. EUBANK  
PHILLIP L. FAUCHEUX  
BRIAN M. FERGUSON  
JOHN E. FRITZ  
ANTHONY J. GAREFFA  
KENWOOD A. GERMANN  
BRIAN J. GRANGER  
ANDREW A. GREY  
CHRISTOPHER K. GRILLONE  
CHRISTOPHER E. GRONBECH  
BRIAN D. GRUBBS  
REGINALD H. HENDRIX  
KEVIN G. HODER  
ANTHONY J. LANZILLOTTI  
MICHAEL J. LEONARD  
RICHARD S. LOFGREN  
THOMAS D. MALONEY  
JEFFREY L. MARTY  
ROBERT A. MCCORMICK, JR.  
JEFFREY D. MCGEE  
NICHOLAS J. MELFI III  
CHARLES S. MERRILL IV  
RICHARD W. MEYER  
CHRISTOPHER S. MILES  
ROBERT S. MITCHELL  
JOSEPH W. MOORHOUSE  
CHRISTOPHER C. NEWMAN  
BLANDON N. PICL  
JOHN F. PLUMB  
JAMES T. POLICKOSKI  
DOUGLAS W. SASSE III  
MICHAEL S. SEEBERGER  
MATTHEW R. SKONE  
GRANT S. STAATS  
DAVID J. STAVISH  
AMOS STIBOLT  
BRADLEY W. STORY  
THOMAS J. TEUSCHL  
RICHARD K. THORP  
GEORGE N. TSANGARIS  
GLEN A. VIADO  
MICHAEL VILLEGAS  
DOUGLAS R. VOLKMAN  
GEORGE A. WALBORN II  
SCOTT P. WALL  
THOMAS F. WALSH  
SCOTT A. YATES  
KURT J. ZAHNEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

CHRISTOPHER P. BROWN  
CASEY J. CASAD  
ROBERT COOGAN  
THOMAS E. DIXON  
BRANDON D. FLOYD  
JONATHAN R. HURST  
MICHAEL D. JOHNS  
JONAS C. JONES  
WILLIAM E. MASKE  
JOHN J. MOLINARI  
SHAUN P. MURPHY  
NATHANIEL J. STRANDQUIST  
JONATHAN R. TOWNSEND  
VAN T. WENNEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

SABRINA J. BOBKOWSKI  
JENNIFER A. GORNOWICH  
DIANE C. LEBLANC

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

KEVIN R. BOARDMAN  
GWENDOLYN M. GRAVES  
ANDREW T. HART  
SEAN P. MCDONALD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

CARL O. PISTOLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

JON E. RUGG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

VICTOR S. CHEN  
GARRETT D. KASPER  
ELIZABETH A. ZIMMERMANNYOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

DONALD W. BABCOCK, JR.  
ROBERT W. BOSSA  
MARIO C. CAPUTO  
LYNETTE M. CHURCH  
CURT V. KURZENHAUSER  
JOSEPH E. MORRISSEY  
MICHAEL J. RODRIGUEZ  
PHILIP J. SALTZMAN  
ALEXANDER N. SOUKHANOV  
STEVEN W. URWILLER  
WARREN O. WAGUESPACK  
BRADFORD L. WHEELER  
JOHN J. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be captain*

GLEN A. DIELEUTERIO  
ROBERT J. DODSON  
MICHAEL P. MACLELLAN  
STEVEN E. OWEN  
LOUKAS PAPADOPOULOS  
WILLIAM Y. PIKE

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 20, 2015:

## THE JUDICIARY

GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ALL LIVES MATTER

## HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, April 4, 1968 in an unforgettable day because on that day the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man of peace who devoted his life to non-violence, was struck down by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sadly, April 4, 2015, will also take its place as a day of infamy because on that day in North Charleston, South Carolina, a man less celebrated but no less innocent, Walter Scott, was slain in an act of lethal violence that shocks the conscience.

I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones of Walter Scott, who was laid to rest this past Saturday, and call upon this Congress to enact legislation that will provide the resources and guidance needed for law enforcement personnel to maintain the trust and confidence and support of the communities they serve and the safeguards needed to protect our people from becoming victims of excessive or lethal force.

Mr. Speaker, the problems revealed by several of the more notorious incidents involving the use of lethal force against unarmed citizens that have captured the attention of the nation over the past several months require a national response because the problems identified are not isolated or limited to one region of the country.

For example, the death of 43 year-old Eric Garner resulting from the application of a NYPD police chokehold occurred in the Northeast and the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown and the resulting events in Ferguson occurred in the border state of Missouri.

The killing of 12 year-old Tamir Rice by a Cleveland police officer occurred in the Midwest and death of unarmed 26 year-old Jordan Baker by an off-duty Houston police officer occurred in Texas.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Romain Brisbon, an unarmed black father of four, was shot to death when a police officer allegedly mistook his bottle of pills for a gun.

In Pasadena, California, 19-year-old Kendrec McDade was chased and shot seven times by two police officers after a 911 caller falsely reported he had been robbed at gunpoint by two black men, neither of whom in fact was armed.

And, of course, on April 4, the conscience of the nation was shocked by the horrifying killing of 50-year-old Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer in the southern state of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, while the problem is national in scope, it appears to affect disproportionately and adversely a particular demographic group: African American males.

Because all lives matter in our great nation, it is imperative that we in Congress act swiftly and decisively to focus much needed attention and resources on legislative proposals intended to address the problem of misuse of lethal force by law enforcement and to rebuild the public trust and confidence needed to ensure that law enforcement receive and maintain the support of the communities they serve and protect.

As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I note that are several promising legislative criminal justice reform initiatives that have been introduced and are worthy of consideration.

Among them are H.R. 59, the "Build TRUST in Municipal Law Enforcement Act of 2015" (Rep. JACKSON LEE); H.R. 1459, the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015 (Rep. CONYERS); H.R. 1810, the "Collection and Analysis of Data to Educate and Train Law Enforcement Officers" ("CADET Act"); H.R. 920, the "Smarter Sentencing Act of 2015" (Rep. LABRADOR); and S. 675, the "Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment Act of 2015" (REDEEM Act) (Sens. PAUL and BOOKER).

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year FBI Director James Comey delivered a remarkable speech at Georgetown University in which he laid out several hard truths about the administration of the criminal justice system and state of community policing in our country.

One of the hardest truths discussed by Director Comey is the fact we have limited information and inadequate data regarding the scope and extent of the problems endemic in the criminal justice system.

This lack of information hampers the ability of policymakers and administrators at the federal, state, and local level to identify and implement laws, policies, and practices to remedy identified problems.

The Judiciary Committee should immediately conduct hearings to educate the Congress and the public on the nature and extent of deficiencies in the nation's criminal justice systems and the efficacy of proposed solutions.

Specifically, hearings should be held to investigate practices and policies governing:

1. the use of lethal force by state and local police departments;
2. educational requirements, mental health and psychological evaluations, and training in non-violent conflict resolution received by veteran law enforcement officers and new recruits; and
3. the feasibility and efficacy of making greater use of technological devices such as body cameras.

A fourth area to be explored is the state of the social science research in the academic study of criminal justice reform because there is much the Committee can learn by engaging leading experts in the field regarding the state of knowledge in their respective disciplines.

Mr. Speaker, reforming the criminal justice system so that it dispenses justice impartially and equally to all persons is one of the most important challenges facing this Congress.

And it is a goal that can be achieved if we work together in a spirit of goodwill and bipartisan cooperation.

There are few things we can do that will provide a greater service to our nation.

## HONORING BRONXVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB 90TH ANNIVERSARY

## HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Congressman for New York's 16th District, I am always honored to have community groups working to better both their neighborhoods and the lives of those who live in them. For 90 years, the Bronxville Women's Club (BWC) has done just that, serving the greater good in Bronxville and its surrounding area.

The BWC was founded in 1925, just as women's clubs were popularized and forming all throughout Westchester County and the country. Born out of the suffrage movement, the club's original mission has expanded over the years to include philanthropic work geared toward education and the arts, in addition to overall communal improvement. The organization's stated mission of serving as a source and center for enrichment, and contributing to the community through philanthropic work and cultural projects, has made the BWC one of the preeminent community organizations in the entire county.

As the BWC celebrates its 90th Anniversary, it is also celebrating two incredible honorees; Lorraine Lange, recipient of the Woman of the Year Award, and Helen Marie Ringeisen, this year's Distinguished Cultural Leadership Award winner. Both of these women embody the spirit of the BWC, and are most deserving of this wonderful honor.

Although many of the post-suffrage movement women's clubs closed, the BWC has thrived, and is often referred to around Bronxville as "the best kept secret in town." Their success is a testament to their leadership, their members, and all of the incredible work they've done. I am proud to represent such a remarkable club and I wish them another 90 years of amazing success and achievement.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine State Department reauthorization, focusing on ensuring effective United States diplomacy within a reasonable budget.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding threats and strategies for the northern border.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine how to better communicate weather to enhance commerce and safety.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

SD-366

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for defense innovation and research.

SD-192

10:45 a.m.

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider S. 995, to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, an original bill re-

lating to extension of the trade adjustment assistance program, and amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for health insurance costs of certain eligible individuals, an original bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and an original bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing on tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to safer roads in Indian country; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider S. 710, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine the United States without nuclear power.

SD-192

#### APRIL 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) to deliver safe, efficient, and effective public transportation services and projects.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on airport issues and infrastructure financing.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems, and the nominations of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Kara Fernandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Roseann A. Ketchmark, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 552, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, S. 957, to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs, S. 958, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for team and joint venture offers for certain contracts, S. 966, to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, S. 967, to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, S. 999, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, S. 1001, to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and an original bill entitled, "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2015".

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Department of Defense military construction and military family housing programs.

SD-138

2 p.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, and

Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the Armenian genocide and the ongoing quest for justice.

RHOB-2175

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Central American minors refugee/parole program.

SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States security policy in Europe.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of medical innovation for patients.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine the proper role of judicial review in the federal regulatory process.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-226

APRIL 29

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian

tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

SD-628

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

## SENATE—Tuesday, April 21, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, Your grace continues to sustain us in times of misfortune or prosperity. We are grateful for Your loving purposes that continually crown our years with goodness. Today, enable our lawmakers to see with faith's eyes each blessing that comes disguised as adversity and each temptation that hides beneath the mask of prosperity. Make them grateful for disasters averted and advancements made. Lord, let Your love touch our world because of their labors as You make them ambassadors of Your purposes. Protect our Senators and teach them Your paths. Prosper the work of their hands as You keep them from stumbling or slipping.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama recently proclaimed this to be National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a stark reminder of the countless victims of modern slavery who continue to suffer horrifying exploitation at the hands of human traffickers, a stark reminder of the need to pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

It is a bill that victims groups and advocates call "the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation currently pending." It provides unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking who are all too often invisible and underserved. This group further said: "As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, child welfare, civil rights, runaway and homeless youth, and human rights movements, we urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation."

There have been good-faith negotiations to resolve the impasse that has prevented the Senate from moving forward on this bill. I am glad that we can now say there is a bipartisan proposal that would allow us to complete action on this important legislation so we can provide help to the victims who desperately need it.

As soon as we finish the trafficking bill, as I have indicated for some time now, we will move to the President's nominee for Attorney General—hopefully, in the next day or so.

I particularly want to thank the senior Senator from Texas for leading these negotiations and for his continued diligence on this important issue. There is really no stronger advocate for victims of human trafficking than Senator CORNYN.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, after weeks of stalling a bipartisan human trafficking bill, our Republican colleagues have now agreed not to expand the scope of the Hyde language. Democrats and Republicans have come to an agreement on a path forward out of this pointless contrived fight.

It also rejects an expansion of the Hyde language to any taxpayer dollars

where it did not apply before. This is really good news. I thank the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, for the work she put into brokering this compromise. But I have to say and throw a bouquet to AMY KLOBUCHAR, who has worked so hard on this for weeks and weeks. She has been very relentless in working toward an agreement on this.

She has worked consistently to arrive at the conclusion that we have arrived at. I express my appreciation to Senator LEAHY on the Judiciary Committee, who has been available for us at any given time to help us work through these issues.

It was not easy, but their efforts—the Senators I have mentioned—have been extremely important to fight human trafficking, which is really very, very important for us to do. But we also rejected efforts to further obstruct a woman's access to services they deserve and need and which we believe are within the law.

I also want to say something about Senator CORNYN. JOHN CORNYN—I talked to him Thursday. We thought we had something worked out. He has been very reasonable in helping us arrive at a conclusion to this. I express my appreciation to him publicly for that. This compromise is evidence that when Democrats and Republicans sit down together and work toward a solution, good things can happen. The Senate needs more of this.

But let's hope that post-agreement amendments do not ruin the agreement that we have reached. Each side is going to have to be cautious in what they offer, because any one of those amendments, as we know, can cause a minifilibuster or a maxifilibuster, according to how you look at it.

We do not need to get involved in that. We need to move forward on this legislation. We are going to have opportunities on other matters to offer amendments. I think we better be very, very careful on amendments that are offered. I say to my Republican colleagues: Be very careful that you do not destroy this human trafficking legislation that is so important. You can do it with—I have looked at some of the amendments that are being talked about being offered.

My Senators are not going to sit back like shrinking violets and let this stuff go forward without responding by action that will also cause some difficult votes for my Republican colleagues. So let's get rid of this quickly. Let's get Loretta Lynch confirmed quickly and move on to other matters.



## EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on another subject, it is extremely difficult to compare one Congress to another. Each Congress is unique—changing times, shifting issues, and new administrations with which to work. But one manner of gauging the success of a Congress is simply to tally the number of Presidential nominees who have been confirmed. After all, offering its advice and consent on nominees is the Senate's constitutional duty.

If we were to use confirmations as a measuring stick, by all accounts the majority leader and Senate Republicans are failing in a spectacular fashion. So far this year, the Senate has confirmed 21 nominees—4 months, 21 nominees. It is unheard of to have such a small, small number. If that trend continues, the Republican-led Congress will confirm 63 nominees this year, 2015.

By contrast, in 2007, my first year as majority leader under the Bush administration, the Senate confirmed 276 executive and judicial nominees. It did not matter that Democrats were working with a Republican administration. My disagreements with President George W. Bush have been well documented. That is an understatement.

But I worked with him on nominations because Democrats knew—and I knew—that it was only fair to give the President the team he needed to lead the country. Doesn't President Obama deserve the same? Of course he does. In 2007, each Democratic committee chair worked to move President Bush's nominees through committees and the Senate floor in a reasonable amount of time.

Yet we are seeing the opposite from Republican chairmen this year. They are refusing even to do hearings. Of course, if there are no hearings, there will be no nominations. In fact, Republicans have committed to holding up as many of the President's nominees as possible.

Here is what one senior Republican Senator said in the last few days: "I told them: You jam [nominees] through, it's going to be a long time before I approve of them."

What I say to that is that if this is a tantrum that the Republicans are having for changing the Senate rules, as we were forced to do, then revenge is not an effective way to govern. If it really is the case that Republicans loathe the changes to the Senate rules, why do they not do something about it? We are 4 months into this Congress, and the majority leader had ample opportunity—which he has had—to undo the changes we made. So change them if you do not like them.

It is clear the Republican plan for payback centers on allowing consideration of Presidential nominations to a trickle. Throwing a tantrum is not what the American people expect from

their leaders. It is not fair to the President or the American people who elected him or the dedicated public servants who want to serve our country.

Ten years ago a young Senator from Texas said: "I would hope no one in this body would feel it necessary to bring all the leftover angst of the campaign season to bear against a bright and honorable nominee." Yet this is what the senior Senator from Texas and his party are doing today—doing exactly what he said should not be done.

America continues to look on in disbelief as Republicans delay Loretta Lynch's confirmation because they can. This is outrageous. One only needs to look at the CNN poll today to find out that the work done by the Republican Senate has been an absolute flop. So I certainly hope this is not what we are to expect during the duration of President Obama's term. I hope my Republican colleagues will demonstrate leadership and move the President's nominees.

Again, look at the CNN poll, I say to my Republican colleagues. It is a disaster for you. It is not only fair to move forward on President Obama's nominations, but it is a sworn duty Republicans have as Members of the Senate.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be given 1 minute in morning business prior to the Republican time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
LEGISLATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, from the very beginning of this discussion on the trafficking bill and the underlying issue, Members on both sides of

the aisle agreed that we need to get this bill back on track as the bipartisan effort it should be, because, without question, survivors of trafficking deserve our support.

Senator KLOBUCHAR has done an amazing job in getting us to this point to get this bill done. I am pleased that we were able to reach a deal that now gets this done in a way that does not expand restrictions on women's health to nontaxpayer dollars or to new programs and provides survivors with real, dedicated funds for the support and services they need.

No compromise is perfect. I am sure that Senator CORNYN would say the same thing. I believe there is more we can and must do when it comes to strengthening women's access to quality health care. But I am very pleased that Senator CORNYN and I, along with a number of other Senators on our side, including Senator KLOBUCHAR, were able to work together in a bipartisan way to get this done.

I want to thank him and all his colleagues for their work to get us to this point. I hope we can now get this legislation passed very quickly for survivors and move on to continue working together on the many challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am very happy today that we have reached an agreement. I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership, and Senator REID, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator CORNYN. The two of us have worked on this issue for years. Finally, we are going to be able to move these really important bills forward.

What this compromise does is really set up two funds. The first uses Senator CORNYN's fund, which is fees on perpetrators, and it uses that for things such as shelters and law enforcement, things that we had envisioned would be used for people to combat sex trafficking. The second fund is a medical fund. It is really based on the same principle that we used with the SGR fund that we just voted on.

That bill passed 92 to 8. The fund will receive a minimum of \$5 million and would be matched up to \$30 million, as funding in the Cornyn fund goes up. It really is a parallel fund but serving the exact same purpose.

This is the way we were able to eliminate extraneous provisions but still keep the spirit of this really important bill and allow us to move on to my bill, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which really is about not prosecuting kids under 18. There was huge bipartisan support over in the House. It passed unanimously through the Judiciary Committee and will be one of the amendments to this bill.

Again, I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership. We have been a

team on this. We have been able to work with Senator CORNYN and our friends across the aisle to get this done. It is also time—I will end by saying—to confirm the next Attorney General of the United States, Loretta Lynch.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased as well to hear that we have an agreement on the human trafficking legislation. It is something that should be above politics. Unfortunately, anything around here, it seems, gets sucked into politics from time to time, but it is important that we get an agreement that will allow us to advance this legislation.

#### THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to hear of yet another accomplishment that has happened in the Senate since we have gotten things opened up and functioning again.

I wish to say that last year when Republicans were running for office, we promised that if we were reelected, we would get Washington working again for American families. That wasn't a campaign slogan; that was a commitment.

I am proud to report that after 100 days in office, Republicans are making significant progress. To start, Republicans have the Senate functioning again on a basic level.

From an operations standpoint day to day, over the past few years when the Democrats controlled the law-making process in the Senate, it largely ground to a halt. Instead of bills being drafted in committee and then brought to the floor for open debate and amendment, bills were crafted behind closed doors. Members in the minority party were shut out of the process, and so were many rank-and-file Democrats. Last year, Democratic leadership allowed a total of 15 amendment votes—slightly over 1 amendment vote per month in the world's greatest deliberative body, known for unlimited amendment and unlimited debate. Contrast that with the first 100 days under Republican control. In the first 3½ months of the 114th Congress, the Republican-led Senate has held more than 100 amendment rollcall votes. More than half of those votes have been on Democratic amendments.

When you shut one party out of the legislative process in the Senate, you shut out the voices of millions of Americans. Republicans experienced that under Democratic control, and we were determined to make sure things were different this year.

Since Republicans took control of the Senate, Members of both parties have had the opportunity to make

their voices heard, and we are seeing a lot more bipartisan legislation as a result. In the past 3½ months, the Republican-led Senate has approved 12 bipartisan bills. We have passed bipartisan legislation to approve the Keystone Pipeline. We have passed a bipartisan bill to prevent suicides among veterans. We have passed a bipartisan reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and a bipartisan bill to provide restitution for victims of child pornography. Last week, we passed the first significant bipartisan reform of Medicare in years.

Mr. President, last week also brought the announcement of a new bipartisan agreement, a bill to reauthorize trade promotion authority.

With 96 percent of the world's population and consumers outside the borders of the United States, trade is essential to economic growth.

Since 2009, increasing exports have accounted for more than 1.6 million new jobs in the United States. Manufacturing jobs that depend on exports pay on average 13 percent to 18 percent more.

U.S. farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers rely on access to foreign markets. In my home State of South Dakota alone, exports support more than 15,000 jobs in industries ranging from farming and ranching to machinery and electronics. Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, where agriculture is the No. 1 industry, depend on exports for a substantial part of their income. Exports of major South Dakota crops, such as soybeans and corn, have soared over the past few years. In fact, in 2013, total agricultural exports from South Dakota totaled \$3.8 billion.

Previous free- and fair-trade agreements have been a boon to America's farmers, ranchers, and workers. In 2013, countries with which our Nation has free-trade agreements purchased 12 times more goods per capita from the United States than non-free-trade agreement countries.

Since 1934, almost all of the U.S. free-trade agreements have been negotiated using trade promotion authority or a similar streamlined process. Trade promotion authority is designed to put the United States in the strongest possible position when negotiating trade agreements.

Under TPA, Congress sets guidelines for trade negotiations and outlines the priorities the administration must follow. In return, Congress promises a simple up-or-down vote on the resulting trade agreement instead of a long amendment process that could leave the final deal looking nothing like the original one. That simple up-or-down vote is the key: It lets our negotiating partners know that Congress and trade negotiators are on the same page when it comes to the content of trade agreements, which gives other countries the confidence they need to put their best

offers on the table. That, in turn, allows for a successful and timely conclusion of negotiations.

Currently, the administration is negotiating two major trade agreements that have the potential to vastly expand the market for American goods and services in the EU and in the Pacific.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is being negotiated with a number of Asia-Pacific nations, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and currently Vietnam. Currently, American goods face heavy tariffs in many of these countries. Tariffs on consumer goods in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries reach as high as 85 percent, while tariffs on agricultural products range even higher. Poultry tariffs in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries, for example, go up to 240 percent. That is a tremendous burden on American producers.

American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and consumers would all benefit from the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and the United States-European Union trade agreement. These trade deals remove many of the barriers currently facing U.S. products in these regions, which would allow American goods to compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts. Reauthorizing trade promotion authority is essential to bringing these two agreements to a successful and timely conclusion.

The bipartisan trade promotion authority bill that was introduced last week by the senior Senators from Utah and Oregon reauthorizes this key tool and includes a number of important updates, such as provisions to strengthen transparency of the negotiating process and ensure that the American people stay informed. It also contains provisions I pushed for to require negotiators to ensure that trade agreements protect digital trade as well as trade in physical goods and services. With the importance of digital trade in the 21st-century economy, it is essential that any new trade promotion reauthorization include new guidelines specifically targeted at digital trade. I previously introduced legislation to help ensure that the free flow of digital goods and services is protected, and I am pleased that the bipartisan deal that was reached includes many of the measures I have advocated.

The best way to solve the challenges facing our Nation is for Democrats and Republicans to come together to develop solutions. We have done a lot of that so far in the Republican-led Senate, and I look forward to doing a lot more of it.

I hope those Democrats who have opposed trade promotion authority in the past will join the White House and Senate Republicans to pass this important

bill for American workers and businesses and make the TPA reauthorization our next bipartisan achievement.

Mr. President, I wish to add that we also have a bill that would require Congress to approve any nuclear arms agreement with Iran—also a very big bipartisan bill, as it was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

These are things which can be accomplishments for the American people. It starts with getting the Senate functioning and operating again, where people have the opportunity to come to the floor and debate these issues, to offer amendments, and to get those amendments voted on. That is what our commitment has been in the Senate. I argue—and I think the record bears this out—that it is making a very consequential difference in terms of the things we are able to get done for the American people. I certainly hope we can continue that pattern.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### STEVE GLEASON ACT

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 984, the Steve Gleason Act, to help thousands of victims of ALS and other related diseases all across the United States.

This bipartisan, straightforward bill would give immediate relief to those folks with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, who are facing significant problems accessing necessary medical equipment as a result of three recent changes in Medicare that prohibit access on every level.

It is important to note that this wasn't a problem until the administration governing Medicare made it a problem a few months ago. They affirmatively changed policy, changed rules, and created these significant access problems. We are talking about devices that are critical for patients who have lost their ability to speak, to communicate directly with friends, families, doctors, to call 911 in case of emergency, to write letters to loved ones. These devices allow these patients to speak and communicate in light of their loss of voice and other functions.

This issue was first brought before Congress last year when thousands of patients, patient advocates, and device manufacturers brought to our attention the devastating consequences of this new Medicare policy. Patients were actually having their devices taken away. Many were not allowed to own their devices or were not permitted to unlock their devices in order to use all of the technological functions, all of which continue to be problems and to prevent patients from leading much more independent lives. As a result, Members on both sides of the

aisle wrote a letter with more than 220 Members advocating on behalf of this patient population to reverse the Medicare administration decision.

The Senate has that same opportunity for bipartisanship today, to support this legislation on a strong bipartisan basis. In that spirit, I thank Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator KING of Maine, who have been completely supportive and aggressive in getting this bill to the finish line. They understand the importance of putting patients first and fixing this extremely misguided and harmful Medicare regulation that has had a truly devastating impact on the lives of ALS patients, as well as stroke victims and other folks facing significant paralysis.

On Tuesday evening, before the Senate overwhelmingly passed a permanent doc fix, the Senator from Oregon and I reached an agreement that he would run the hotline on this legislation, the Steve Gleason Act, and pass this bill for our constituents. That is what we are working on today, and that is what I absolutely hope to complete today to get this necessary, important, bipartisan language across the finish line.

Of course, the ALS Association, a national network group, is completely supportive.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated January 27, 2015, on this topic from the ALS Association.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JANUARY 27, 2015.

Hon. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. DAVID VITTER,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McMORRIS RODGERS AND SENATOR VITTER: I am writing on behalf of The ALS Association to express our strong support for your legislation that would help preserve access to speech generating devices (SGDs) and accessories such as eye tracking technology that are needed to access SGDs by people with ALS who have lost mobility. The Association applauds your leadership on these critically important issues and is committed to continuing to work with you to enact this legislation as soon as possible.

As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken a number of different actions that limit the ability of people with ALS to access SGDs and eye tracking technology. This includes: issuing a "coverage reminder" that would have prohibited coverage for SGDs that include non-speech technology such as email, internet access and environmental controls; routine denials of coverage for eye tracking; and implementing a "capped rental" payment system that requires people with ALS to first rent SGDs for a period of 13 months before owning the device. These policies have created significant problems for people with ALS who rely on SGDs for all of their communications needs. For example, under

capped rental if a person is admitted to hospice, a hospital or a nursing facility during the rental period, Medicare payment for the SGD will cease. Moreover, capped rental also prohibits a person with ALS from upgrading their SGD during the rental period, which means they are not able to access email, the internet and environmental controls that are so critical to the day-to-day lives of people with ALS.

The Association strongly supported your efforts and those of nearly 200 of your colleagues who wrote to CMS expressing concern about these issues last year and we have worked with CMS and other stakeholders on these issues as well. We are grateful that CMS did take action to rescind the coverage reminder and initiate the process of revising the National Coverage Determination for SGDs. However, we do not anticipate that process to be completed until late July 2015 and it may not address the problems created by capped rental or denials of coverage for eye tracking. In short, these policies are having a significant negative impact on the lives of people living with ALS today and there is an urgent need to take action now. People with ALS, who have been robbed of the ability to speak and who will lose their life to ALS in an average of just two to five years, simply do not have time to wait.

Your legislation is a responsible approach to address an immediate problem and would help ensure the Medicare program meets the needs of the people it was created to serve. By restoring a person's ability to purchase an SGD and ensuring coverage for eye tracking technologies, your legislation will enable people with ALS to access the SGDs they need when and where they need them and ensure they also have access to the technologies that are so vital to living with this disease. We look forward to continuing to work with you in support of people with ALS.

Thank you again for your efforts to champion these critical issues and help ensure Medicare policies do not take away the voice of people with ALS.

Sincerely,

STEVE GIBSON,  
*Chief Mission Strategy and Public Policy*  
*Officer, The ALS Association.*

Mr. VITTER. The association has reached out to members all across the country and put in very concrete terms what this means to their members.

I wish to give one brief but very moving and significant example. It happens to be a woman from Oregon, the State of the ranking member of the committee. She was diagnosed with ALS in January 2014. Her disease, unfortunately, has progressed rapidly. She is now close to fully paralyzed and has very limited use of her arms and hands, requiring loved ones to be with her at all times. Her respiratory system is also affected. She is struggling with the life-or-death decision of whether to have a tracheotomy procedure and go to mechanical ventilation or to enroll in hospice and essentially prepare to die. Her preference is to continue living, as she still enjoys life.

One important factor in the decision for her is that being able to communicate is a tremendous concern. While she still has some vocal ability to speak and to be understood currently, she knows that going on the vent will

be the end of her spoken voice and her ability to vocalize, and she is very worried that if she decides to go on a vent and prolong her life, she may lose the ability to communicate with the outside world because of the changes in Medicare policy that prevent her from accessing email and Internet via this technology we are talking about. She is also very concerned that Medicare will deny coverage for the eye-tracking technology she will need in order to use the SGD—this significant technology we are talking about.

So, bottom line, she is worried that if she decides to continue living using mechanical ventilation, she will face the prospect of being locked up and having no means to communicate to help direct her care. Because of the limitations of SGD coverage, she may actually choose dying over living, because of that factor. It doesn't get more direct than that. It doesn't get more stark than that as to why we need to give these patients access to important communication technology through the Steve Gleason Act and why we need to act today, why we cannot delay this any longer.

Of course, Steve Gleason, for whom this act is named, is a superb advocate for the ALS community. He is the former New Orleans Saints player who famously blocked a punt in the Saints' first game back in the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina. After that tremendous feat and his NFL career, Steve was diagnosed with ALS. Just as he gave the city of New Orleans hope to rebuild after the devastating storm, through his organization Team Gleason, he gives the ALS community and their families hope with his "No White Flags" message.

Steve was my guest at the State of the Union speech this past January, and during his visit to Washington, we met with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, and started to gain huge momentum for the Steve Gleason Act.

This bill again reinstates long-standing Medicare policy—Medicare policy that was solid and true to these patients until recently—to offer immediate relief for patients experiencing incredible difficulty accessing this important technology and equipment. The act expands access to advancements in technology in a fiscally responsible way.

Michelle Gleason, Steve's wife, summed up the story of ALS patients and their loved ones this way:

What causes me the most pain is the loss of his voice. I love hearing his voice. I want him to talk to me, and to our son Rivers. This disease takes his body; to take his voice just seems unfair.

We can offer a voice. It may not be the same voice but a voice for these struggling patients. This was their lifeline. This was due them until recently, and now it is not because of this Medicare change.

I urge all of my colleagues to come together around this piece of bipartisan legislation. Let's pass this today and give a voice—a real voice, a meaningful voice—to these struggling victims.

Mr. President, this will become law because we have assurances from House leadership that they are eager to bring the bill to the House floor. They are eager to finish this important work to change the lives of patients across the country by giving them back their voice. So I urge us to come together to do this today, to not delay, to not wait longer, and to reinstate the voice for ALS patients struggling in this way all around the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. GILLIBRAND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1027 and S. 1023 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. There is 5½ minutes remaining.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 165 days—5½ months—since the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General was announced. Ms. Lynch has been pending on the Senate Executive Calendar for nearly 2 months. She was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in a bipartisan vote—nine Democrats and three Republicans—on February 26. This is a new record, sadly, in terms of delay in appointing an Attorney General. The last seven nominees to be Attorney General of the United States combined—combined—waited on the Senate floor 24 days—seven nominees, 24 days.

Sadly, Ms. Lynch has now been waiting over 50 days. Why? What is it about this nominee that causes so much of a problem? Nothing came up at the Judi-

ciary Committee hearing to suggest a problem. Yes, she was appointed by Barack Obama. Yes, she has said she will serve this President. But when it came to her personally, there was nothing. In fact, we have this tradition that after the nominee has testified under oath, then experts are brought in. Each party can bring an expert in to testify for or against the Attorney General nominee. Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the ranking Democrat on Judiciary, said to the assembled group—I think there may have been 10 or 12 of these outside witnesses: Which of you, by show of hands, objects to the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General? Not a single one raised his hand—none. So even the witnesses that were brought to speak in negative terms all conceded that she should be Attorney General.

That is rare. It is rare to have a nominee with that kind of affirmation come out of the Senate Judiciary Committee—and for good reason. When you look at her record, you can understand why. This young woman has an extraordinary record of service. She grew up in North Carolina as the daughter of a minister and a school librarian. Her dad was there at her hearing. Her father was smiling as she recalled those instances when she was a very young girl, and he would sit her on his shoulders and take her to see the civil rights events that occurred when she was so young.

She received her undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. She has private sector experience at prestigious law firms. She has twice been confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. She served in that position with distinction.

Her nomination has been endorsed by a wide range of groups, representing law enforcement, prosecutors, bar associations, business leaders, civil rights organizations, and former Justice Department officials from both Democratic and Republican administrations. In what may be one of the most amazing ironies of this whole situation, Loretta Lynch has been recognized as a leader when it comes to prosecuting human traffickers. Why is that significant? Because the Republican leader announced that he was holding up her nomination until we passed a bill on human trafficking.

Here is a woman who, as a prosecutor and professional, has prosecuted the people guilty of that crime, and she is being delayed in her appointment as Attorney General of the United States of America because of a political debate on the floor of the Senate for almost 4 weeks over this bill.

Under Ms. Lynch's leadership, the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of New York has brought many important prosecutions in human trafficking. In *United States v. Lopez*,

three brothers were convicted in 2014 for running a human trafficking ring involving 14- and 15-year-old girls. Ms. Lynch was also involved in the successful prosecution of the Granados-Hernandez sex trafficking ring, in which numerous child trafficking victims were reunited with their mothers. In *United States v. Johnson*, Ms. Loretta Lynch was involved in a prosecution where a Queens man was convicted for trafficking and prostituting a 15-year-old girl out of his home.

Make no mistake, when it comes to the issue of human trafficking, this nominee for Attorney General knows more about the subject than most, and she has a record to prove it. Malika Saada Saar, the executive director of Rights4Girls, is one of the Nation's leading antitrafficking advocates. She said: "It is clear that as the top prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York, Lynch has a strong record of being tough on crime and human trafficking." She has been held up on the floor because of our failure to pass a bill on that same subject.

Here is what the President of the National District Attorneys Association, Michael Moore, said about Ms. Loretta Lynch when he wrote to express his organization's strong support for her: "As prosecutors facing challenges in the field from violent crime, to human trafficking, to gangs and drug traffickers, our membership feels that Ms. Lynch understands the operational nature of these challenges and will be a strong independent voice at the helm of the Department."

Calling a vote on Ms. Lynch and confirming her would be a big step forward in the fight against trafficking. It is time to end this delay and obstruction. This extraordinary woman nominated by the President of the United States to be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General should have been approved by the Senate long ago. While she has been waiting patiently for a long, long time, we have interrupted the business of the Senate to approve the President's appointments for Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commissioners, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Members, Undersecretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, and several Federal judges.

We have had more than adequate opportunity to call Ms. Lynch for approval. Let us not leave Washington this week without voting on Loretta Lynch to be our next Attorney General. I voted for her in committee and will proudly support her nomination in the hopes that it will come to the floor this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I realize the devil is always in the details. I see the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the floor and I hope we are getting somewhere on trafficking.

I appreciate the fact that this body, when we were doing the Violence Against Women Act, voted for the anti-sex trafficking amendment I proposed. And the majority of the Senators at the time voted for the final version of the Violence Against Women Act, which included anti-sex trafficking language, and that bill has been signed into law. We should continue on with this bill, which adds to what we did a couple of years ago. But I am concerned, as I have said many times, that we have held up Loretta Lynch because of this. I cannot see what the corollary is.

My friends on the other side of the aisle told me, when they had to wait for 3 or 4 days for a Republican nominee on the floor to get confirmed, that it was too long. They would warn us of national security concerns. Well, Loretta Lynch has waited on the floor for a vote for 54 days. I want to put this in some context. Attorney General Holder waited 5 days. Attorney General Mukasey waited 2 days. Attorney General Gonzales waited 8 days. Attorney General Ashcroft waited 2 days. Attorney General Reno waited 1 day. Attorney General Barr waited 5 days. Attorney General Thornburgh waited 1 day. If we take those seven most recent Attorneys General and take all the time that they waited on the floor and add it all together, it comes to 24 days. Loretta Lynch has waited 54 days on the floor—more than twice as long as the seven most recent Attorneys General combined.

Then we still have the Deputy Attorney General nominee, whose back-

ground is virtually the same as Loretta Lynch's. Both are highly respected prosecutors. Both have prosecuted matters involving the issues we are trying to stop here on the floor—terrorists, traffickers, and white-collar criminals. Once we are done with Loretta Lynch, we have to get her deputy confirmed. I hope both of these highly qualified women are confirmed soon. It has already taken too long.

These delays create a morale problem in the Department of Justice—one of our first lines against terrorists and organized crime. We have some superb men and women who work at the Department of Justice. Some came during Republican administrations, and some came during Democratic administrations. I have met many of these men and women, from both Republican and Democratic administrations, and I am so impressed by them and their dedication. Most of them could leave, go to a law firm, and make a lot more money, but they are dedicated to this country. It is demoralizing to them when we hold the position of Attorney General in limbo. We should stop. The Department of Justice is something we should, whenever possible, keep politics out of.

Remember, too, it is not the "Secretary of Justice," like we have the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture and so on—a member, as some might suggest, of the President's staff. This is the Attorney General of the United States. They represent you. They represent me. They represent everybody.

I have often told a story about when I was a young law student at Georgetown. The then-Attorney General invited four or five students from different law schools to meet. He reviewed our grades, invited us in to actually spend an hour with him and encouraged us to come work with the Department of Justice.

I remember one of the questions I asked that Attorney General. I said: If you are Attorney General of the United States and you are asked to prosecute somebody who is close to the President, what do you do?

He said: Well, if they should be prosecuted, they would be treated the same as anybody else, and we would prosecute them as such.

I declined the offer to go work at the Department of Justice. I was homesick and wanted to get back to Vermont. Both my wife and I wanted to get back. I wanted to practice law there, which I did, and I actually became a prosecutor. But I often thought of what the Attorney General said to me about his role. Subsequently a man in Illinois who was critical to the election of the next President ran afoul of the law and the same Attorney General signed off on his prosecution. When asked by some of his staff, "Well, are you sure you are OK with this?" he said, "He

committed a crime. He should be prosecuted. Even though I probably won't go to many family reunions for some time after doing this." This was, of course, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and the man he prosecuted was critical to the election of his brother John Kennedy as President. I always admired that he was willing to do that—that he put his duties as a prosecutor first ahead of any political duties. I believe Loretta Lynch will do the same.

Sometimes young law students can be very impressionable, but I have never forgotten that time sitting there with Attorney General Kennedy. I have never forgotten how I had to wrestle with the decision to turn down his offer, but it was a family decision and one I have never regretted. I went back to Vermont, and things turned out all right. I have had the privilege of representing Vermont for over 40 years in this body. But that conversation is something I will always remember. It is one of the reasons I went on to the Judiciary Committee. It is one of the reasons I took, when it was offered to me, the chairmanship of the Committee and it is one of the reasons why I am now ranking member.

Incidentally, the men and women who work there, on both sides of the aisle, are brilliant lawyers, hard-working people. Kristine Lucius is my chief counsel, and I don't know a better lawyer anywhere than she is or anybody who works harder than she does.

We have a lot of issues before the Judiciary Committee. Senator GRASSLEY is my friend. We have been friends for over 30 years. I won't speak for him, but I suspect he would say we have things to get going to. So I hope we are able to get this trafficking matter taken care of and get the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General confirmed.

In the last 2 years of President Bush's second term, Democrats had come back into the majority. I wanted to show that we would try to keep partisanship out, and as chairman, I had moved 15 of President Bush's judges through to confirmation by this time in his second term. We moved them far more rapidly than Republicans had toward the end of President Clinton's term.

I am glad we have been able to confirm two judges this Congress. They were both judges from Texas whom I supported. I complimented the two Senators from Texas because of their work in picking candidates who would be judges first and foremost without reference to whatever political background they may have. I hope we can now start doing what we did with President Bush and confirm more.

Let's stop making judges political. I am afraid that there could be good men and women who will decline the cut in pay and everything else to become a

Federal judge if they think they are going to have to put their life on hold for 6 months or a year to get there—even more so for key positions such as Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and others in the Department of Justice. We can fight over political issues but this should be outside of that.

The distinguished senior Senator from Texas was a judge and has a prosecutorial background. He and I have worked closely together on a number of issues—the Freedom of Information Act being one of them. And I suspect we will work together on a number of issues to come. Let's get past this roadblock and onto other things.

I see him on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the work in the Senate and particularly the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. But I would say to my colleague and friend, with whom I have worked on so many important issues, that I also look forward—once we get past today's business—to working together with him on patent reform, criminal justice reform, and also to continue our very productive partnership on open government and transparency, particularly the Freedom of Information Act legislation.

SAN JACINTO DAY

Mr. President, before I talk about the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, I have to note this: It is my responsibility, my duty, my honor to note that today is a very important day in Texas. This is San Jacinto Day. For those who do not know what that is, this is the official State holiday that honors Texas independence, where 910 soldiers, led by General Sam Houston, won the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution.

So it is not the Battle of the Alamo that gave Texas its independence. That is the one that people perhaps remember the most. Maybe it is because of the movies and books that have been written about that. Actually, the Battle of the Alamo did not turn out too well. Virtually, everybody was killed. But it gave rise to the opportunity for these 910 men, led by General Sam Houston, on San Jacinto Day, to win the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. Now, almost 180 years later, I think it is only appropriate and fitting that we recognize their bravery and their sacrifices in pursuit of our dream of freedom.

Mr. President, on the subject of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, this has been a strange experience, starting as we did on something that passed unanimously in the Judiciary Committee, with 30 cosponsors on a bipartisan basis, and all of a sudden to have this legislation stuck here in the

Senate. I will not relitigate the reasons for that because, frankly, I think we have now found a way forward for this legislation, as the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and the Democratic leader, Senator REID, announced this morning.

It is going to take a little bit more work by the Senate. There are perhaps a handful of amendments that we will have an opportunity to vote on. I know there is a desire by everyone for us to finish this trafficking bill as soon as we can, and then we can address the concerns that the ranking member from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, has about the Attorney General nomination.

Senator MCCONNELL has made very clear that once we get trafficking resolved, which it appears we are on a path to doing, then we can turn to the Lynch nomination. I have actually been somewhat surprised and more optimistic than I have been in a long time about how the Senate is beginning to work again, from passing a budget to dealing with the broken doc fix that had been the law of the land since 1997, which had required us to come back and patch—every 6 months to a year—and the reforms that actually were negotiated by Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI in the House, which we passed by an overwhelming margin here in the Senate.

Then, consider what happened in the Foreign Relations Committee on the Iran sanctions issue with a unanimous vote and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, with Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY announcing an agreement to move forward on the reauthorization of early childhood education.

We have some very good progress that is being made on trade, for example. I just came from the Senate Finance Committee. I think there is a path forward on trade promotion authority and consideration of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The truth is that the United States has roughly 20 percent of the world's purchasing power, which means 80 percent of the purchasing power in the world lies beyond our borders. We have 5 percent of the world's population, meaning 95 percent of the world's population lies beyond our borders.

The opportunities we have to grow our economy and to help small and medium-sized businesses and the people—the middle-class families who work at those businesses—are very exciting. So the point is that after a long period of dysfunction in the Senate, we are starting to see the Senate work again the way it should work, the way it has historically worked—through the committees, to build consensus on legislation that can then come to the floor, and then to have Senators, whether they be in the majority or minority, to offer constructive suggestions about how to solve our Nation's biggest challenges, and then to work together to



send these to the President and get his signature.

So there are a lot of positive things happening in the Senate. I hope for even more positive things to occur in the near future.

I have been focused like a laser for some time now on justice for the victims of human trafficking. When I think for a minute about the fact that the typical victim of human trafficking is a 12- to 13-year-old girl, who has been sold essentially into sex slavery and who has lost control over her life and perhaps, to her mind, to her future. I cannot think of a more compelling need for the Senate than to try to offer a lifeline to these victims of human trafficking. That is what this legislation that hopefully we will act on today—perhaps no later than tomorrow—is designed to do. It creates a fund that could be as high as \$30 million—not from taxes but from fines and penalties paid by people who commit sexual offenses and basically represents the demand side of the human trafficking equation.

We have found a way now, on a bipartisan basis, to move this legislation forward so we can offer a hand to rescue these victims of human trafficking, so we can give them an opportunity to heal and we can provide them some hope for a better future.

I know all of us, by virtue of the privilege of the office that we serve in, have had stories from constituents about human trafficking. I remember quite clearly Brooke Axtell of Austin, TX, who now works with a number of nonprofits, and has basically turned her tragic story into serving others who have likewise become victims of human trafficking. Brooke's story is really almost beyond belief. She says that at age 7 she was sexually abused. She was literally held captive in a basement and sold to men who would pay money to have sex with her, a 7-year old child.

Brooke has brought to light her pain and has begun to heal as a result of having been rescued and been given a helping hand. But she has now turned her tragic story into hope by honorably helping others find a way out of a life that she herself experienced. She founded a group called Survivor Healing and Empowerment, which is a healing community of survivors of rape, abuse, and sex trafficking.

There is another horrific story that I have heard—I am sure just as all the Members of the Senate have heard coming from their States, because this is not something isolated in one State. This is a national—indeed, it is an international—phenomenon. Another woman I have had the privilege of meeting with and who has shared her story with me is Melissa Woodward from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Melissa was 12 years old when she was sold into the sex trade by a family mem-

ber—unbelievable. Eventually, she was pulled out of school to be trafficked full time when she was in the sixth grade. Her life, as she describes it, became a prison. She was literally chained to a bed in a warehouse, she says, and endured regular beatings and obviously, sexual assaults.

There was even once an attempt to set her on fire by one of her abusers. All the while, she says, she was forced to serve between 5 and 30 men every day. She said she wished she was dead.

As heartbreaking as Melissa's story is, just as sad is the way she was treated after she escaped her captors. In one of the big changes in the way we have approached victims of human trafficking—at one point we claimed they were the criminal because they had engaged in prostitution. But the idea of a child prostitute is an oxymoron. A child cannot consent to a life of prostitution.

What we find, in looking at the victims of human trafficking, is that many of them are manipulated, coerced, and forced to engage in this sex activity for the economic benefit of their johns or their pimps or their traffickers. This is all about money. This is about the face of evil that treats human beings as objects or as things, without the basic dignity and respect which all human beings are entitled to. But as I said, one of the problems with the way we used to treat victims of human trafficking is that we treated them like criminals. That was all too common an outcome for trafficking victims who were labeled as prostitutes and left with very few options but to ultimately return to a nightmare that, sadly, exists in our country.

That is beginning to change. It needs to change even more, which is another reason why we need to pass this bill. This is the kind of legislation that I think in many ways is unique, because it is a nonpartisan piece of legislation. All this legislation is designed to do is to help the victims of human trafficking get rescued and then begin to heal and to get on with their lives. It is designed to provide much-needed resources for victims of human trafficking—plain and simple. It may be nothing more than a safe place to sleep, protected from the people who would continue to abuse them.

It is designed to help people such as Brooke, Melissa, and so many others—the tens of thousands of victims of human trafficking. This legislation would not only provide help for those victims, but it would ensure that children such as Melissa are treated as victims and not criminals.

It would also add law enforcement tools to help authorities rescue victims and to take down human traffickers and the organized criminal networks who support them. That is an important point because human trafficking is not a mom-and-pop business. This is

run by organized crime and criminal networks, some of them international or transnational.

I want to thank my colleagues for caring—for caring about people such as Melissa and Brooke and the many examples of human trafficking that we have all been introduced to.

I want to particularly express my gratitude for all of our colleagues for working on this and not giving up until we found a pathway toward success. This body's consideration of this bill has proven that compromise and bipartisanship need not be relics of the past in today's Washington. They are very much alive and well, particularly when the need is so very great, as it is in this area. So now for the sake of these victims, let's get this important legislation passed and provide crucial help for the children trapped in modern day slavery.

I want to just conclude by saying a few thank-you's. I know it is a little premature. But we would not have gotten this far if it were not for the help of organizations such as Rights4Girls, Shared Hope International, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking organization, the National Association to Protect Children, and members of our staff in the Senate who have worked so hard to get us where we are today.

I want to express my gratitude to Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator MURRAY, and Senator REID, on the other side of the aisle, who have worked so closely with us, and of course to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, and particularly I want to single out the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. He said we would not move to the nomination for Attorney General of the United States until we get this done. And, indeed, today, I hope and believe that we will get this done, and then we can turn to that nomination.

But there are others, perhaps too many to name: Senator WARNER, Senator HEITKAMP, and others on the Democratic side. There are those on the Republican side. Senator COLLINS comes to mind, and there are others who have worked so hard and so relentlessly and with such determination to get us where we are today. We need to get this over the finish line so we can move on to other business.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.



Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

# JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAF-FICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I was not going to be talking right now, but I understand some of the people who are going to be reserving time are not yet here.

## PILOT'S BILL OF RIGHTS 2

Mr. President, I want to remind my colleagues on the floor that we have a piece of legislation that is coming up that no one is really plugged into right now, but it is going to be coming before us in a very short period of time.

Back in 2011, I introduced a bill and passed a bill called the Pilot's Bill of Rights. It was something that was very meaningful to a relatively small number of people, but these are single-issue people, and it strove to correct a problem in our justice system that existed for as long as I could remember.

Having been an active commercial pilot for the last over 50 years—and there are not too many in the Senate; and in our delegation in Oklahoma, I was the only one until a couple years ago—it is only natural that I receive comments from a lot of people concerning problems they have with the FAA.

There are a lot of great people in the FAA, and a lot of them I have worked with for many, many years. But there are also some—and this is true with any regulatory body, anyone who has authority over individuals. I remember back many years ago when I was the mayor of Tulsa. We had a great police force. But all it takes is two or three of them who are the bad guys. We are seeing some of that around today, and that gives a bad reputation to a lot of people. The same thing is true with some of the people who are working with the FAA.

I can remember helping others, and I always did come to their aid when they felt they were not getting proper justice. But it really did not register with me until it actually happened to me. Back about 3 years ago, flying an airplane into a Texas airfield that is not a controlled airfield, there was an activity going on on the runway without any NOTAMs that had been advised—and nobody actually had any way of knowing this—and with permission I landed on that runway. This is a runway in far South Texas called the Cameron County Airport. It has a 9,000-foot runway. They were working on just a couple thousand feet of it, so it was very easy to come in.

Now, because of certain individuals who had some other reasons to be critical of me, all kinds of things happened

as a result of that. In fact, just recently they have even had some cartoons talking about how I landed on a runway and was chasing people off the runway. None of that was true.

But this is what happened. They proposed to have a violation against me, and I was totally helpless, knowing—and many hundreds of others have had this experience; I never had—that I could lose my license on the whims of one individual in the field.

Now, it would not have been as critical for me. That is not how I make my living. But look at some people who do make their living that way. They could lose their license just because of one individual who did not like them. Bob Hoover is a good example. Bob Hoover, who I guess is in his nineties now, arguably was the most gifted pilot I can ever remember. He was the one, I say to the Presiding Officer, who would put a glass of water up on his dash and do a barrel roll and not spill the water. I have been with him when that happened. Well, one guy in the field did not like him for some reason, and they staged a violation. He could have and did lose his license.

Now, I had to come to this body—and it took a year and a half—to pass a bill to allow Bob Hoover to get back in. That is an extreme example, but nonetheless, that happened. And that is what was happening to me.

So anyway, we passed the Pilot's Bill of Rights. The main thing there and what we are trying to do is to extend to pilots the same protections under the law that other people have. We have heard the phrase many times: You are guilty until proven innocent. Well, in one area in our society that is true—it has historically been true—and that is for violations or alleged violations against pilots.

So anyway, we passed this. We corrected some things that have not really come to fruition. For example, what is called a NOTAM is short for a notice to airmen. A NOTAM is something that has to be published. It is supposed to be published by the FAA if there is anything going on at an airport such as construction on a runway that would create a hazard.

So the pilots have to look up the NOTAMs. The problem with this is, there are no guidelines as to where they can find a notice to airmen. So we corrected this, we thought, in the Pilot's Bill of Rights. However, it was not as good of a correction as we thought it would be.

So now we are coming back with a Pilot's Bill of Rights 2. By the way, I have to tell you, Mr. President, I had 67 cosponsors out of 100 Senators. So this is something that was very popular and passed with overwhelming majorities.

So what we are doing now with the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 is about four things.

First, the medical certification process is one that is kind of interesting be-

cause there is no uniformity. Someone can have a physical problem, a medical problem, and he might be in Chicago, IL, or he might be in Tampa, FL, and they will have a completely different interpretation by the medical examiner as to what should be the remedy of that person's problem. So this puts uniformity back in there.

Then it does something—and this is going to be something that people who do not understand and are not listening to me right now might state that this would be something that could be a hazard or might be some kind of a danger—and that is, we passed in 2004, a rule creating a medical exemption for pilots of light "sport pilot eligible" aircraft. That is for airplanes that weigh under 1,230 pounds and only have 2 seats. There are about 34,000 of them around. It has been over 10 years since FAA issued this exemption, and since then the medical safety experience of these pilots has been identical to those with medical certificates, which begs the question of the value of this expensive and burdensome requirement for pilots who fly for recreation.

A joint study was done by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the AOPA, and the Experimental Aircraft Association, the EAA, on the 46,976 aviation accidents that occurred from 2008 and 2012. Of those 46,976, only 99 had a medical cause as a factor. That is less than one-quarter of 1 percent of all accidents. And of those 99, none would have been prevented by the current third-class medical screening standards and the medical certification process. So it does not offer any protection. It does not serve any useful purpose.

Now, we are proposing in the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 to extend that medical exemption that is currently in place for light sport aircraft to include planes weighing up to 6,000 pounds with up to 6 total passengers, including the pilot. That would add airmen and aircraft to an existing FAA-approved medical standard without degrading or creating substandard safety.

What I am saying here is that of all these almost 47,000 aviation accidents, only 99 had a medical cause, and of those 99, not one would have been prevented by the current third-class medical screening standards and the medical certification process. So this is just another burden on the public—not individuals, but specifically on pilots, and it does not accomplish anything.

What we will do now is have consistency in the application of the medical certification process, and it is something that is overdue. It should not be a problem getting that bill passed, and yet it does need explanation.

The second thing it does is extend the due process rights preserved in the original Pilot's Bill of Rights bill to all FAA certificate holders—not just those

who are certificate holders who fly airplanes. There are others who are examiners and work in other fields. They should have the same benefits.

What it does is—and this is kind of hard to explain—but if someone is accused of a violation, that individual has a process that has been in law prior to the Pilot's Bill of Rights; and that is, you go through and the FAA makes a judgment. Then you can appeal it to the NTSB. The NTSB historically has been a rubber stamp for the FAA. So it does not really qualify anything.

What we did in the Pilot's Bill of Rights 1 is allow an individual then to go into the court system and get what they call a *de novo*. A *de novo* means they have a whole process that starts from scratch. They do not just take what the FAA says, the NTSB says, but the courts treat it as a new case and look at it. This has not been happening. So we put some teeth in that so that will be something that will be workable.

So I really feel we are going to be able to do this, and it is really getting the things done that we tried to do in the Pilot's Bill of Rights, but there have been some problems getting the courts to understand it. In fact, in two separate cases, the Federal district courts ruled that my original bill did not require a full rehearing of the facts. This legislation explicitly spells out the option to appeal an FAA enforcement action to the Federal district courts for a guaranteed *de novo* trial. But they have not been doing it. So this puts teeth in it so they are going to actually have to do it.

By the way, there are things that are in there that people are not aware of. For example, in my case, I allegedly did something that was not in compliance with FAA rules and regulations, but they did not say what it was. They did not give the evidence. So you did not have access to your evidence. The new bill ensures that is going to happen.

The third thing is on NOTAMs. A NOTAM is a notice to airmen. It is a pilot's responsibility—this has been true for decades—to know if a NOTAM has been filed by the FAA. That is a notice to airmen. But there is not any way of knowing where to find that. In my case, they claimed there was a NOTAM saying that the runway at Cameron County Airport was closed. That was a lie. There wasn't. There was no NOTAM out there. Finally, we proved that was the case.

So now we are going to have it enforced so we know where these notices to airmen are filed, and it is going to be the responsibility of the FAA to put them in a central location where they would have access to them. This is something that was addressed in the Pilot's Bill of Rights, but somehow it was not specific enough. The teeth we put in this bill is that in the event they

do not have it, the NOTAM is published where it can be found in a central location. Then the FAA cannot use that as an enforcement action. That will get the job done.

The fourth thing it does is to extend the liability protection to individuals designated by the FAA as aviation medical examiners, pilot examiners, and this type of thing. What this does also is address what we call and most people would refer to as the Good Samaritan law. I have a lot of pilots—and I have been in the same situation—who want to help. They want to get a patient to a doctor in an emergency situation.

I can remember one time many years ago when a tornado went through and destroyed the island of Dominica, north of Caracas, Venezuela. I got 12 pilots together with 12 of their airplanes, and they volunteered to take all the medical supplies down there. Now, if something had happened in the meantime, they would have had no protection. Yet out of the goodness of their hearts, at their own expense, they were out there trying to save lives. I was there. I know.

So this actually is one that is going to give liability protection to individuals other than just the pilots—other people who own FAA certificates—and at the same time give protection to those people who are trying to help other people.

So I believe this bill should be coming up in the next couple of weeks. It will be going to the commerce committee. I would encourage Members to—and particularly those 67 Members who were the cosponsors of the original Pilot's Bill of Rights should be on this one too. In fact, most of them are right now. I know Senators MANCHIN and BOOZMAN were the first two to get on. They happen to be the chairmen of the General Aviation Caucus in the Senate. By the way, we have equal support over in the other body, in the House of Representatives.

Last summer, at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in convention—that is the largest fly-in convention anywhere in the world—I hosted a public forum to solicit input for the legislation we are having, the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2, and I received over 400 comments from individuals. These are people who were present at the Oshkosh event.

So we have solicited their input, and we have all the organizations behind it. I would say, insofar as the one that might become controversial; that is, the exemption on a third-class medical—doctors have unanimously voted in favor of it—they are called the doctors in aviation—and others.

This is one of these rare opportunities we have on a bipartisan basis to pass something that is going to offer legal protections to one class of people who currently don't have it and have not had it in the past.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise again to speak in support of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It is good legislation, drafted and introduced by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, and also the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR. They originally put this bill together in the last Congress, and I was pleased to be a cosponsor of that bill. I am also very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the legislation they introduced earlier this year, the legislation we have on the floor now.

This bill has many important, strong points. I am going to go through some—not all but a number of them.

For example, it makes sure victims get restitution and witnesses get rewards for cooperating with law enforcement before others and encourages prosecutors to get training on restitution in human trafficking cases. It also gives law enforcement greater authority to seize the assets of convicted human traffickers, and it protects victims and witnesses by requiring human traffickers to be treated as violent criminals for purposes of pretrial release and detention pending judicial proceedings.

It also ensures that Federal crime victims are informed of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement in their case and clarifies that the ordinary standard of appellate review applies in cases concerning Federal crime victims' rights petitions.

It recognizes that child pornography production is a form of human trafficking and ensures that victims have access to direct services at child advocacy centers to help them heal.

It allows State and local human trafficking task forces to get wiretap warrants within their own State courts without Federal approval. That will help them to more effectively investigate crimes of child pornography, child sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

The bill also improves nationwide communications so law enforcement can better track and capture traffickers and child pornographers. It ensures regular reporting on the number of human trafficking crimes for purposes of the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

It also requires law enforcement to upload photos of missing individuals into the National Criminal Information Center database and notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited

Children of any child reported missing from foster care, and it strengthens current law to reduce demand for human trafficking by encouraging police, prosecutors, judges, and juries to target all persons involved in the buying and selling of human trafficking victims. It is just wrong to prosecute victims and fail to prosecute those who prey on them.

This legislation will help for all of those reasons, but this legislation is also very important because it creates a fund from fines and penalties imposed on those who would engage in human trafficking. The fund is important because it not only compensates victims of human trafficking and other crimes of exploitation for their injuries, but it also provides resources to help law enforcement prevent such crimes in the future.

As we work on this important issue, it is also very important that we understand that human trafficking is not just a big-State, big-city problem. Every State in the country is facing this issue, including my home State of North Dakota, but we currently have a challenge addressing this problem.

After consulting with the North Dakota attorney general's office, we learned that North Dakota has been discouraged from applying for antihuman trafficking grants, because in its application, the Department of Justice asks for at least 2 years of local data on human trafficking victims. North Dakota, in recent years, has been the fastest growing State in the country. So here we are, the fastest growing State both in terms of population and in terms of income growth. Consequently, more so than many States, only recently we have seen significant increases in human trafficking issues. So we don't have that 2 years' worth of data that DOJ requires, but we very much need assistance with addressing the problem of human trafficking. It is not unique to North Dakota. There are other States—typically fast-growing States, States that may have the same kind of energy development or other areas where they have seen a significant influx of people and are continuing to see a significant influx of people. This is a national issue. It is not specific just to my State but to any State where we have seen rapid growth, influx of money, influx of people from outside the State and where human trafficking is an issue.

To remedy that, I have offered an amendment to the current legislation we have on the floor now, the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill, that clarifies that an eligibility entity with a worthy trafficking initiative, in an effort to combat trafficking in its jurisdiction, will not be disadvantaged in receiving funds under the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill because they, like North Dakota—be it a State or whatever—have only recently begun collecting data on human traf-

ficking. So in cases where they don't have 2 years of data, as long as they can demonstrate a valid need and a valid solution to try to address this important issue and to reduce human trafficking, that is what will be required for the application, and not having 2 years of data will not be an issue in terms of scoring or an issue that DOJ would hold against that application for receipt of the funds for a worthy project.

This is important to make sure that all across the country, in every State, we are addressing human trafficking. We all need to be united, in every State across this great country, working to combat human trafficking. That is why this amendment is very important.

There are few issues that as a governing body we can be more united on than making sure we protect our children, that we prevent human trafficking in any form, and that we do it on a national basis in every State. That is what my amendment is all about.

For this reason, I offer this amendment. I hope it will be included as part of the Cornyn-Klobuchar legislation, which, as I said earlier, I am only too pleased to cosponsor.

The value and importance of this legislation is reflected in the broad coalition of victims' rights and law enforcement organizations that support it. It has been endorsed by nearly 200 groups, from the Fraternal Order of Police to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

We need to pass this legislation. Crimes such as human trafficking and child pornography target the most vulnerable among us in a most despicable way. I urge all of my colleagues to pass this bill, to put an end to modern-day slavery, and to help victims get the support they need.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my appreciation that this afternoon the Senate is finally getting back to legislating on the important issue of human trafficking. It is critical we pass this legislation to combat one of the world's most heinous crimes and one that threatens thousands of innocent people every year.

I am the cochair and cofounder of the human trafficking caucus. Our opportunity is not only to raise awareness of this issue but also to pass important legislation to address the problem.

We learned that human trafficking is now a \$32 billion worldwide industry, leaving it only second in size to the drug trade for criminal activity. Many view this as an international problem. They think, well, this happens somewhere else or on another continent, such as Africa or Asia. The fact is it happens right here. Of course, every country around the world has a responsibility to fight back against traffickers and stop their acts of violence. But while this industry has a global reach, the reality is that human trafficking is a major problem not only in my home State of Ohio, it is a problem in every State represented in the Senate. The Justice Department has told us that the average age of victims getting involved in trafficking is 12 to 14 years old. Think about that. These are children. These are kids. The number of American children at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking is estimated to be about 300,000. These children represent the most vulnerable among us, and we should make sure we are doing everything we possibly can to protect them. Every American life has value and every child deserves a chance to live a bright future.

Today, however, we can take comfort in knowing we are fighting back against human traffickers and making it harder for their criminal activity to continue in a couple of different ways, both of which are very important.

First, our legislation makes it easier to find some of these vulnerable children. Missing children are particularly vulnerable, and the legislation I am about to talk about enables us to find those children more quickly and helps to get them into a nurturing environment. Second, it will strengthen law enforcement's ability to find and punish those who are committing these crimes.

We accomplished the first goal with the Bringing Missing Children Home Act. It is a bill that I authored with Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. We know there is a strong connection, unfortunately, between sex trafficking victims and children who have been in and out of the child welfare system. We also understand that kids who are missing or who have run away from home are the most vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. The FBI sting in 2014 recovered 168 sex trafficking victims, and nearly all of them had spent time in the child welfare or foster care system. While many of these children had been reported missing, the information obtained by authorities was not sufficient enough to be able to find them, and that is what this legislation gets at.

The Bringing Missing Children Home Act will make it easier to find these children in two different ways. First, it amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act by replacing the term "child prostitution" with "child sex trafficking." This reinforces the fact that

children who are exploited are victims, not criminals. Secondly, the bill requires law enforcement agencies to update their records of missing children within 30 days of an initial report with additional information that could include medical or dental records or even a photograph. Having this new information, particularly a photograph, is incredibly important when searching for a missing child. I know this because this has been a big problem in my home State of Ohio.

We started looking at this legislation and considering this bill on the floor on March 6. Since March 6, 60 children have been reported missing in my home State of Ohio. Yet we only have photographs for 14 of them. It is hard to find these children, and not having that information makes it even more difficult. Our legislation will help to get those photographs and will help ensure that all of us can play a role in helping to find these missing children.

The bill also makes it easier for law enforcement officials on the State and local level to coordinate with child welfare services, and it allows missing persons units and State law enforcement agencies to modify and improve missing children's entries to include important information that was uncovered during an investigation. That is not currently the case. It just makes sense to be able to have better records.

While we are making it easier to find trafficking victims, we will also make it easier to find and punish perpetrators of these crimes with legislation I have authored with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. It is called the Combat Human Trafficking Act and is part of this underlying bill we will also be considering here on the floor. This act focuses on those who commit these crimes. It increases the penalties for those who buy acts from sex trafficking victims. It requires new training by the Justice Department on targeting. It expands reporting on trafficking prosecutions and strengthens victims' rights. A lot of this comes out of what we have learned over the past decade since we have really taken up this issue at the Federal level. It improves Federal law to take into account the information we now know. Through better enforcement of laws against buyers, we will be able to reduce the demand for sexual exploitation and ensure that criminals are prosecuted to the full extent, preventing further trafficking crimes from ever happening.

As the cochair of the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking, it has been a priority of mine to get this legislation passed in an effort to help victims of trafficking and to prevent the number of victims from increasing.

I also hope we can add an amendment I authored entitled "Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking." This amendment contains a

piece of legislation I authored last year with Senator WYDEN of Oregon called the Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act. It will help improve the information law enforcement officials have about the scope of the trafficking problem. This was signed into law last year, but there is additional information we would like to provide in terms of getting the response part of that bill passed.

The bills I have spoken about are important steps to one day ending human trafficking and putting this horrible industry out of business altogether. Trafficking deserves no place in America.

I thank Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and others for their hard work on this legislation I have talked about. I would also like to express how grateful I am that Members of this Chamber were able to put partisanship behind us, politics aside, and reach common ground to move forward on this important issue. Ending human trafficking is clearly a bipartisan goal. It is a nonpartisan goal. It is something on which we should come together. The legislation we have before us today will make a profound impact on so many Americans, including some of the most vulnerable. I am happy to see we are a little closer to having these bills become law. I think they will become law once they pass this Chamber, go through the House, and are signed by the President.

We still have a lot of work to do. This is just a start. After today, the fight to combat human trafficking will be far from over. Somewhere in America, there will still be children looking to be found, wondering if anybody cares, despite our legislation. Today's legislation will make it easier to find them, but it is still up to all of us. All of us have a role in helping to keep these children from going missing in the first place and then finding and providing them with a nurturing setting and a home where they are embraced and where they can be taken away from the stress of human trafficking and sex trafficking.

There will always be traffickers looking to exploit the vulnerable. We know that. But today, if we pass this legislation, we will be sending a warning to those who commit these heinous crimes. As long as you are a perpetrator or an accomplice to human trafficking—folks will know that law enforcement is going to do what it takes to track them down and to punish them.

I am glad we have been able to find common ground again and move a little closer to making these positive changes a reality. I am hopeful that we will be able to vote on this today and tomorrow, move this to the House, get it through to the President, and indeed begin to make a difference to my constituents in Ohio and around the country.

With that, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I am here today to identify yet another installment of the "Waste of the Week." We have been doing this now for several weeks, trying to save taxpayers' dollars out of documented waste of their dollars when they send them to Washington. In recent weeks, I have highlighted examples of waste, some big some small.

To date, we have documented over \$47 billion of taxpayer funds that have gone to duplication of effort, simply gone to things the Federal Government never should have been involved in in the first place, examples of fraud, abuse—\$47 billion and climbing on our tax savings gauge here which is approaching now \$50 billion. Our goal is \$100 billion. We are going to keep going as we discover each week yet another waste of taxpayer dollars.

This week's "Waste of the Week" involves the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, also known as FECA. This law was enacted in 1916—well intended, I think, to provide workers' compensation benefits to civilian Federal employees who sustained injuries while employed by the Federal Government and includes funds for vocational rehabilitation and medical benefits.

As I said, it was well intended at the time, providing a lifeline for people injured on the job to keep these people afloat financially until they are ready to go back to work. "Ready to go back to work" has become somewhat of a major question in terms of how this 1916 law is applied, because you have to wonder, is someone 99 years old looking to go back to work.

Well, in 1916, when this act was enacted, it treated them as if they were and are able to go back to work. Let me explain. Both the FECA compensation and medical benefits are payable for the duration of a person's inability to work, which can extend well into their individual golden years.

You say: How does that all happen? But under current law, there is no maximum duration of benefits and no maximum age at which benefits must be terminated. Thus, when beneficiaries become eligible for Federal retirement or disability annuities, they are given the choice as to whether they want to remain in the FECA program or choose the Federal retirement program.

Well, it is not much of a choice. The choice is obvious because given the

level of benefits monthly, FECA benefits can be a much better deal than what they would be paid under retirement benefit plans. The FECA benefits are as high as 75 percent of the worker's predisability wage. The annual cost-of-living-adjustment is applied each year, the COLA, to the benefits.

Someone came up with a pretty interesting idea here. FECA benefits are not taxed. So, clearly, this ends up being a much better deal for beneficiaries. But is it a better deal for taxpayers? That is the question. Let's take a closer look. This applies to all Federal agencies, but let's take one agency. The Department of Labor reports that approximately 45,000 cases currently receive long-term disability benefits under FECA, and 15,000 or one-third of these cases involve beneficiaries aged 66 or older.

Clearly, it is time—actually it is past time—to reconsider and make reforms to the FECA. At a minimum, we should require workers, when they reach retirement age, to transition into the retirement plan as all their peers have had to do and not continue, throughout their lifetime, the much more generous benefits of FECA.

As I said, the agency with the most FECA claims is the U.S. Postal Service. I want to use this as an example of how this is applied. The Postal Service Office of Inspector General told us that FECA rolls include 9,554 postal workers aged 55 or older eligible for retirement; 3,389 aged 65 and over; 928 aged 80 or older; and, yes, one postal worker at the age of 99.

So in 2013 the U.S. Postal Service paid about \$1.3 billion in workers' compensation claims and \$67 million in administrative fees. In addition, as of June 30, 2014, the estimated workers' compensation liability totaled \$17.8 billion. Now, while many of these benefits go to workers of a traditional working age, the U.S. Postal Service estimates that these higher than retirement benefits are resulting in an extra \$37.8 million being paid out annually.

That comes to nearly \$400 million over the next 10 years, and that is just from one agency, the U.S. Postal Service. Estimates as to the cost to the taxpayer when all of the Federal agencies are included show that more than \$1 billion will be spent over the next 10 years in extra workers' compensation payments for those who would unlikely be working throughout the Federal workforce.

As my colleague, Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine, has been highlighting for years, FECA has become a gold-plated retirement system tainted by unfairness, perverse incentives, and the potential for abuse and fraud.

This program has become increasingly expensive and requires some commonsense reforms—reforms that many States have already implemented in their own workers' compensation pro-

grams. Remember, these payments are designed as a bridge to help injured workers until they are able to return to work. That is the most important phrase here—"return to work." This program was never intended to serve as a higher paying alternative to the Federal retirement system. Yet, under the law, it is used for that, and it has cost the taxpayers a significant amount of their tax dollars for unnecessary payments.

Let's not ignore ways we can improve our fiscal health and return our Federal programs, at a minimum, to their original intent. It is time we look at this policy and restore integrity to the FECA, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Today, I am adding another \$1 billion to the taxpayer savings gauge for this week's waste of the week, and I look forward to discussing ways we can eradicate this waste from our Federal budget so that we can give hard-earned dollars back to the taxpayers—money that simply is not used properly and is labeled, of course, a waste of their money.

So we have increased—we are approaching \$50 billion, and we are shooting up to \$100 billion by the end of this year. I am hoping we can go significantly past that.

The next step, of course, is to take what we have identified and make sure that the law is changed, that it is reformed, and that we can proudly say to the taxpayer that we are doing our part in Washington. While the larger issues of debt and deficit need to be addressed and must be addressed, if we cannot come to consensus on that, at least we can come to consensus on eliminating these egregious abuses of taxpayer dollars.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as Americans celebrate the 45th Earth Day this week, I rise for the 96th time—I seem to be coinciding with the Presiding Officer's schedule so he has been treated to his share of these speeches—to urge this body to wake up to the threat of climate change. It is real, not a hoax. It is caused by carbon pollution, and it is already making changes that we are already seeing in the world around us. We must cut our

carbon pollution to prevent even bigger climate changes—changes in our atmosphere, oceans, and human habitat—potentially unprecedented in the history of our human habitation of this planet.

Yet the polluters who are producing this problem would have us do nothing. They make money when we do nothing. So we do nothing. The polluters run a racket. They all float onto us the costs and damage from their fossil fuel product—the costs of heat waves, of sea level rise, of ocean acidification, of dying forests, and more. The polluters happily dump those costs onto everybody else. And to keep this profitable racket running, the polluters spend huge sums on lobbying and politics, particularly right here in the Congress.

As one author has written, "rivers of money flowing from secret sources have turned our elections into silent auctions." And the polluters get what they pay for. The Republican Party in Congress has become the political arm of the fossil fuel industry. The polluters also spend huge amounts on a big, complex PR machine to churn out doubt about the real science and cook up some paid-for science.

Documents recently discovered by Greenpeace show that one scientist, whose work consistently downplayed the role of carbon pollution and climate change, received—get this—more than \$1.2 million from oil and coal interests over the last decade. Those nice people at the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation gave him at least \$230,000. In recent years, his grants came through Donors Trust, the front group that funnels money from oil, coal, and other special interests.

Well, what do we know? We know that financial incentives affect people's behavior. Does anyone doubt that? That is life. That is why politicians have to disclose their political contributors, the gifts and benefits they receive, and even personal financial information. That is why regulatory agencies and scientific journals require scientific submissions to make plain who funded the work. That is why expert witnesses' funding sources are relevant in court proceedings. And that is why Upton Sinclair once said: "It's difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

So we know that money talks. That is not news. What else do we know? Well, we also know about that industry playbook to keep safety regulation at bay by funding phony science and manufacturing doubt about legitimate science. That is not news, either. That has been around for years.

The tobacco industry campaign to mislead the public about the health effects of cigarettes was so fraudulent it was determined in Federal court to be a racketeering enterprise. Think about that—an industry campaign of deception about the risks of their product

that persisted for years and was ultimately determined in Federal court to have constituted a racketeering enterprise. Does it sound familiar? And tobacco is not alone. The lead paint industry shut down its trade association, the Lead Industry Association, rather than answer questions under oath in a court proceeding.

Entire books have been written documenting this industry's strategy, for example, "Merchants of Doubt," which has recently been made into a documentary, or "Doubt is Their Product," or "Lead Wars," or "Deceit and Denial." So we know the strategy.

Finally, we know something else. We know that a network of front organizations with innocent-sounding names has emerged to propagate the baloney science. This phenomenon has been well documented by Dr. Robert Brulle at Drexell University, among others. His follow-the-money analysis diagrams the complex flow of cash to these front groups that industry persistently tries to obscure. Well, here is what makes sense to me: If it is important enough for them to want to hide it, it is important enough for us to want to know about it.

So Senators BOXER, MARKEY, and I sent a letter to about 100 companies, trade groups, and other organizations affiliated with the fossil fuel industry. We asked whether they spent money to support climate research. It sounds reasonable, based on those three things that we know. Well, oh, my, what a fit of caterwauling that drew from the rightwing PR machine. Today, I will give a recap of the outrage highlights.

It is a "witch hunt," said the far-right Heartland Institute, "what fascists do." We are "ethically challenged . . . mental midgets," said Heartland's president. He later called this little letter "harassment . . . abuse of authority and misrepresentation of the facts." Heartland, by the way, is that classy group that put up a billboard comparing climate scientists to the Unabomber, just to give an idea of their credibility. Finally, "[S]hame on you," read Heartland's response to our letter, which Heartland called a "campaign to stigmatize and demonize."

The rightwing John Locke Foundation said our letter was "trying to McCarthyite" them. Rightwinger Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation said it was "an abuse of power." Investor's Business Daily got so excited they mixed up their metaphors to say we were both "inquisitors" and "stalk[ers]," out to "intimidate" and "threatening peaceful citizens." They scoffed, "as if it were any of [our] business" to know if polluters are funding the science. Keeping that Spanish Inquisition theme going, the Washington Times called us "climate change Torquemadas."

So it looks as if we hit the full faux-outrage quadrifecta—witch hunts, fas-

cism, McCarthyism, and even the Spanish Inquisition. But then they got really serious, and they unlimbered the ultimate rightwing malediction. We were accused by the Cato Institute of—cover your ears, young pages—having "a widespread faith . . . in government's ability to solve problems."

Well, Cato made its position on climate change clear, saying that for us "to believe that man's emissions of carbon dioxide are warming the planet" was a "bias" and that the legitimate science endorsed by everyone from NASA to the Department of Defense to every legitimate scientific society—every major legitimate scientific society in the country—all of that was "propaganda," and that we, of course, were climate alarmists. Cato also sent us a letter in response to our inquiry, telling us we cannot "use the awesome power of the federal government to cow" Cato and others. Cow?

According to the Wall Street Journal editorial page, which sadly has become a front for the fossil fuel industry, we were "trying to silence" the other side. Although, I have to confess, it is not clear how the other side would be silenced by simply having to reveal whose payroll they are on, which is all we asked.

Let's be clear, our letter didn't suggest that industry scientists should be silenced—just that the public should know if those scientists are being paid by the very industries with a big economic stake in the issue.

Let's test how much the rightwing front groups care about the suppression of scientific information. Let's look at their outrage over the reports of public employees in Florida being told—by the government no less—not to talk about climate change.

Interviews by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting with current and former employees, contractors, and volunteers at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection revealed that the administration of Republican Gov. Rick Scott issued an unwritten rule banning official use of the phrases "climate change" or "global warming." Those reports have been corroborated by employees of other State agencies. We have heard stories of retribution against State employees who dare discuss climate change, of climate change-related projects being put on the back burner, and even of the term itself being edited out of official documents, including those produced by a university scientist. It sounds like suppression of science. Where was the outrage from the right? Where were the comparisons to fascism and McCarthyism and the Spanish Inquisition for this actual government-sponsored suppression of scientific information? Guess what. There was none.

It is not just Florida. Recently, the Republican members of Wisconsin's Board of Commissioners of Public

Lands voted to prohibit the professional staff "from engaging in global warming or climate change work." The Wisconsin timber industry, as Senator BALDWIN and I have both pointed out, sees the threat climate change poses to Wisconsin forests, including, among other things, the frozen winter roads that loggers use to move their equipment around that warmer weather melts and turns to impassable muck. But the Republicans in charge of those lands have simply ordered State officials to ignore climate change, suppressing the science—plain and simple.

Where was the outrage from the rightwing groups that had fits about our little request for some transparency about what scientist is on whose payroll? Where was the outrage? There was none, which shows that the real issue has nothing to do with scientific freedom. The real issue here of freedom is the freedom of big, dishonest special interests to hide whose hand is in the puppet.

Here is where it really gets ironic. The enormous multibillion dollar polluting industries whose front groups accuse us of bullying—of being fascists and intimidators and Torquemadas—over our little letter are the very ones pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into elections, much of it secretly, for the plainly avowed purpose of threatening and punishing elected officials who might dare to cross them and acknowledge the dangers of carbon-driven climate change—of all people to be complaining.

Americans for Prosperity, to give one example, a Koch brothers venture, has said that Republicans who support any action on climate change will be put at a "severe disadvantage" in the 2016 elections. That is a serious threat, given the Koch brothers' pledge to spend \$900 million in this election cycle. Yet that same Americans for Prosperity Foundation blasted our little letter as "an attempt to silence those whose views do not meet with your approval."

Please. Really? Against a \$900 million campaign threat and a stable of paid-for scientists, against that massive screen of fossil fuel front organizations spouting industry propaganda, our little effort at getting a little transparency about who is funding the phony-baloney climate denial science—that is a raindrop against a torrent. We do indeed need to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my prepared comments, I do want to thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his passion and his leadership in coming to the floor over and over again, ringing the alarm bells about what is happening not only to our country but our world. We are paying the price in lives and in dollars. We are



seeing our farmers pay the price because we have not effectively addressed what is happening to our world in terms of climate change.

I want to thank the Senator for his continued passion in reminding us over and over again why we need to act right now.

#### SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

Mr. President, today 350 airmen from Michigan, along with 12 A-10 Warthog aircraft, are deploying to the Middle East to take part in Operation Inherent Resolve, our Nation's mission to eliminate the terrorist group known as ISIL. This deployment has special significance for Michigan. Michigan is home to thousands of families and community leaders with loved ones living in the Middle East who have seen firsthand the devastating effect of ISIL as it brutally murders innocent people, drives them from their homes, and destabilizes the region. For so many families in Michigan, the fight against ISIL is deeply personal. Today, that fight is personal to many more families as these airmen from Selfridge Air National Guard Base deploy to the region.

The A-10 Warthogs are the very best close air support aircraft in the U.S. military. Known as a tankbuster, the A-10 is ideal against ISIL, which uses tanks stolen from the Iraqi Army. We in Michigan are proud of our fleet. We are proud of our people, their courage, their passion, and their hard work. We are proud for all they have done to protect our Nation.

In 2011, the 127th Wing at Selfridge deployed 300 airmen and one dozen A-10s to Kandahar Airfield, a NATO base in southern Afghanistan. Over 120 days, the unit logged over 8,000 flight hours in 2,000 flight missions in an extremely hostile environment.

Today, I ask my colleagues in the Senate to keep these 350 airmen in your thoughts and prayers. We wish them Godspeed as they embark on this very important mission, and we remember especially their families and friends who will stay behind and support them with their prayers as well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. DAINES assumed the Chair.)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 178 on Wednesday, April 22, Senator CORNYN or his designee be recognized to withdraw the pending Cornyn amendment and offer amendments Nos. 1124 and 301. I further ask that there then be 1 hour of debate, equally divided in

the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the Leahy amendment No. 301, followed by a vote on amendment No. 1124, both with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption. I further ask that if the Cornyn-Murray-Klobuchar amendment is agreed to, the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, and the Senate then vote on the following amendments in the order listed, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided before each vote: Cornyn No. 1127; Leahy No. 290; Brown No. 311; Burr No. 1121; and Kirk No. 273, as modified.

I further ask that amendments in the preceding list each be subject to a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption, and that following disposition of these amendments, there then be 5 minutes equally divided in the usual form, followed by votes on the following amendments, which have been cleared by the managers and should be adopted by voice vote: Klobuchar No. 296; Hoeven No. 299, as modified; Sullivan No. 279; Wicker No. 1126; Flake No. 294; Cassidy No. 308; Portman No. 1128; Brown No. 310; Brown No. 312; Heller No. 1122; and Shaheen No. 303.

I further ask that there be no second-degrees in order to any of the amendments listed and that following disposition of the Shaheen amendment, the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, would the majority leader consider at this time modifying his request to drop the Kirk amendment No. 273?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request? The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as I understand, the distinguished Senator from Oregon is asking to amend the consent request. I would reserve the right to object to that request and make the simple point that the Kirk amendment targets online child exploitation and sex trafficking, which is rampant. Given the fact that the Internet is now one of the principal tools used, on Web sites such as backpage.com, thousands of American children and human trafficking victims are sold into slavery. It is simply unconscionable for us to stand by and allow this to continue.

What Senator KIRK is asking for, which I support and believe we should do, is a simple up-or-down vote on the Kirk amendment. So I reserve the right to object and ask our colleague to allow this up-or-down vote on the Kirk amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the answer is no, but I think the Senator from Oregon wishes to respond.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, continuing my reservation, I don't take a backseat to anyone when it comes to fighting for the victims of sex trafficking. As the distinguished Senator from Texas knows, I was an original cosponsor of this legislation, and much of it is based on bills I have written and advocated on behalf of for years, including with the distinguished Senator from Texas.

Much of this sex trafficking legislation, colleagues, is based on meetings and discussions I have had for years with young women who have been trafficked, law enforcement officials, and community leaders. I remember like it was yesterday how I was with the Portland police on 82nd Avenue in East Portland, and we encountered young women in their early teens who walked around with knives in their purses just hoping to survive the evening. The underlying legislation before us, in my view, is going to be a very valuable tool in helping women like those whom I saw in Southeast Portland.

Unfortunately, an amendment that Senator KIRK seeks to offer has been attached to this request that undermines the legal foundation of every social media platform and attacks a basic cornerstone of Internet law. The Kirk amendment will undermine the fight to help victims by distracting the focus of prosecutors from the pimps and the Johns who prey on these young women.

The vague language in the Kirk amendment would mean any Web site that hosts user-generated contact—that means any social media platform, any news sites with comments and classified sections and any e-commerce sites—could face felony charges based on a vague concept of knowing and a vague concept of advertising.

Instead of focusing resources on going after pimps and traffickers, the Kirk amendment would enable prosecutors to go after Web sites millions of Americans use for nonnefarious purposes, chilling innovation. Under current law, prosecutors already have the ability to go after any entity that knowingly profits from sex trafficking. Every minute our prosecutors are occupied going after legitimate businesses, in my view, is time not spent locking up the real criminals.

This amendment hurts America's innovative businesses and entrepreneurs and stifles free speech instead of getting tough on the sex traffickers whom Senator CORNYN and I have sought to target all these years.

So I will close by simply saying I am for throwing the book at every sex trafficker and those who enable them. Our country absolutely must do everything we can to prevent the next child from falling victim to these predators.



In my view, the Kirk amendment detracts from that goal. I hope it will not ultimately be added to this important piece of legislation. I hope Senators will vote no on the Kirk amendment.

With that, Mr. President, I withdraw my reservation to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the request of the majority leader?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF LORETTA E. LYNCH TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 21, Loretta Lynch, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, Susan M. Collins, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING NORMAN H. BANGERTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a loving father,

a visionary leader, a committed public servant, and a cherished friend—former Utah Governor Norman “Norm” Howard Bangerter. As Utah’s 13th Governor, Norm established himself as one of the strongest leaders to ever hold public office in our State.

Norm’s roots were deeply entrenched in the west side of the Salt Lake Valley, and he often referred to himself as a “humble farmer and carpenter” who learned the value of hard work from a young age. His parents, William and Isabelle Bangerter, instilled in their 11 children a strong moral compass and a desire to help others—virtues he carried with him throughout his life.

Norm first entered politics in 1974 when he ran for the Utah House of Representatives. He gained a surprise victory, which put him on a path of strong representation and leadership for his constituents. Norm served 10 years as a State representative, including 4 years as the speaker of the house.

During Norm’s first term as Governor, Utah faced formidable challenges. Never one to shrink from duty, Norm confronted these challenges head-on, exhibiting the exceptional judgment and foresight that would distinguish him as our State’s chief executive. In making these difficult decisions, Governor Bangerter always sought to do what was right over what was politically expedient. He laid a strong framework for his governance, which included “the three e’s”—education, economic development, and efficiency in government. Later in his tenure, he added a fourth “e”—the environment.

After Governor Bangerter won reelection in 1988, the difficult decisions of his first term began to bear fruit. Utah had raised its profile as a fiscally well-managed State, and the success of the Governor’s economic development projects encouraged several prominent companies to relocate or expand in Utah. The Bangerter administration cut budgets, created jobs, expanded the economy, and provided a foundation for fiscal responsibility that still exists today.

Although public service was important to Norm, his family was always paramount. In 1953, he married Colleen Monson, who was his loyal friend and constant companion through nearly 58 years of marriage until she passed away in 2011. Together they raised 7 children and were grandparents to 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. In 2012, Norm married Judy Schiffman, who was a dear friend and support to Norm and his family. His daily life was always spent with family by his side. Family time was sacred and essential to Norm, and he firmly believed that family was the most important component of life.

Norm not only served willingly in the public arena, he also served diligently in his church, assuming several impor-

tant leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served for 18 years as a bishop and as a stake president, and later presided with his wife, Colleen, over the Johannesburg, South Africa Mission from 1996 to 1999. After his missionary service, Norm spent many hours each week volunteering in the LDS Church’s Jordan River Temple. His life was an example of compassion and service, modeled after our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout my years of public service, I have had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from Governor Norm Bangerter. We spoke often, and I could always count on him to share with me his no-nonsense wisdom and his passionate advice. Our conversations were always spirited, and they played an indispensable role in my own public service. He fought for what he believed in with great determination and fervor, and he was never afraid to express his opinions. I appreciated our conversations more than he probably knew, and I will miss his sage advice and loyal friendship.

Elaine and I will greatly miss our dear friend, Governor Norm Bangerter. The impact he made on Utah cannot be overstated. He led during difficult times and was a steadfast anchor for our State. He was also a noble servant of our Heavenly Father, and a strong, loving husband, father, and grandfather to his cherished family. He left an indelible impression on me and on all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

#### TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague Senator RON WYDEN in introducing the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, Enhancement Act of 2015. This legislation would reauthorize trade adjustment assistance programs to help American workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition. These programs are an investment in the American worker and are essential to helping those who are negatively affected by international trade to get the skills and training to prepare for jobs in other industries.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 would cover affected workers in the manufacturing, service, and agricultural sectors. In addition to covering workers whose jobs shift to countries with which the United States has a Free Trade Agreement, the bill would also extend to job losses from non-FTA countries, such as China or India. It would make eligible for assistance those who have been laid off due to unfair foreign subsidies or dumping practices, as long as the lay-off occurs within 1 year of an affirmative injury determination by the International Trade Commission.

Our bill would also authorize an investment of up to \$575 million per year to train workers in new, in-demand skills, thereby providing them with the opportunity to find lasting employment that will ensure greater economic stability in years to come. It would also provide extended unemployment insurance for those enrolled in an approved training program. For older workers seeking quick reemployment, our bill would provide wage insurance to cover up to 50 percent of the wage differential between the old job and the new job. It would also provide assistance to those who must commute a greater distance or relocate altogether to find new employment.

Under our bill, farmers, fishermen, and aquaculture producers would also be eligible for targeted training and assistance programs designed to help increase their competitiveness. The bill would further clarify that fishermen and aquaculture producers may receive TAA benefits whether they are competing against farmed or wild-caught fish or seafood imports.

Small, rural communities in my home State of Maine have been hit hard by closures or partial shutdowns of mills, manufacturing plants, or other businesses that, in many cases, represent a large portion of jobs in the surrounding communities. In the past year, the communities of Lincoln, Millinocket, and Bucksport have experienced such devastating job losses. Moreover, the second and third-order economic effects on other businesses is significant. When these jobs are abruptly lost on such a massive scale, entire communities and the surrounding area are devastated. In times of such great upheaval, the laid off employees, who lost their good jobs through no fault of their own, need the time, support, and resources to learn new skills and seek viable employment opportunities.

TAA programs have made a tremendous difference in the lives of those working in trade-affected industries in Maine, such as the pulp and paper manufacturing, lobster, and blueberry industries. In fiscal year 2013, more than 700 Mainers benefitted from these programs, which led to an employment retention rate of more than 90 percent. In the last year alone, the Department of Labor approved TAA benefits for the hundreds of workers who lost their jobs with the closures of the Verso Paper mill in Bucksport, the Lincoln Paper and Tissue mill in Lincoln, the Great Northern Paper mill in East Millinocket, and the UTC Fire and Security plant in Pittsfield. Previously, TAA benefitted former employees of the Great Northern Paper mill in Millinocket when it closed, in addition to lobstermen and wild blueberry producers who needed help increasing the competitiveness of their unique commodities. Recently, I had the oppor-

tunity to visit Eastern Maine Community College and tour its Fine Woodworking and Cabinet Making Shop. I met with a group of students formerly employed at the Bucksport Verso Paper mill, who now have the opportunity to learn a new skill because of the funds available through TAA.

TAA has been vitally important in helping Maine workers, and those across the Nation, who have been harmed by trade get the skills and training they need to prepare for jobs in other industries. Reauthorization of trade adjustment assistance programs must be a part of the national trade policy debate, and I am pleased that the Senate recognized the importance of TAA by approving the bipartisan amendment that I authored to the Budget Resolution related to reauthorizing TAA. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 to continue crucial investments in the American worker and protect them from unfair trade practices and increased imports.

#### VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act. Each year, tax payers across the country utilize accountants, tax software, and lawyers as they prepare their returns. For millions of low-income families, high-cost, high-tech tax assistance is not an option. As a result, the families most in need of tax preparation assistance—low- and moderate-income families, including elderly and disabled taxpayers—will fail to file their taxes or miss out on valuable tax credits.

The IRS created the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA program in 1969 to assist individuals and families in submitting their Federal tax returns. For decades, this program operated predominantly with the resources and facilities of community partners. In 2007, Congress created a demonstration program awarding matching grants to VITA sites to serve additional low-income individuals and families. Since 2008, the VITA grant program has grown to over 200 grant recipients but is still only able to fund about two-thirds of grant applicants.

During the 2014 Federal income tax filing season, VITA programs filed approximately 1.7 million tax returns. Of those 1.7 million returns, more than 551,000 claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of nearly \$2.5 billion in tax refunds that went to VITA tax filers. In addition, VITA programs improve accuracy in the return process and reduce IRS costs by e-filing. In 2014, VITA program tax returns were e-filed 96 percent of the time, compared to 86 percent for the rest of the population.

Funding for the VITA program remains insufficient to meet demand and has not been made permanent. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act would ensure that volunteers and nonprofits across the country can continue to provide essential tax preparation services each spring by creating a permanent matching grant program for VITA sites. The act would also build on the success of the VITA program by creating a National Center to Promote Quality, Excellence, and Evaluation in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Through the center, VITA's many sites would have a mechanism to share best practices and create a more efficient and sustainable program to serve a large number of low- and middle-income families.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting working families by cosponsoring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act.

#### RECOGNIZING SANOFI'S PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions to global public health by the Pennsylvania employees of Sanofi. Yesterday, at the White House, they were presented with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent for Humanity award, in recognition of the development of a patented chemical and industrial process for producing semi-synthetic artemisinin, which is used in the creation of combination therapies, ACTs, treating malaria.

Malaria is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, with 200 million cases in almost 100 countries. In 2013, an estimated 584,000 people died from malaria. This parasitic infection most significantly burdens countries with the highest rates of poverty. In Africa, where 90 percent of all malaria cases occur, one child dies every minute from the condition.

Artemisinin is an important anti-malarial drug derived from the sweet wormwood plant in Asia and Africa, but weather and other factors can yield an uncertain supply of natural artemisinin, threatening patients' access. Thus, developing semi-synthetic artemisinin will enable a stable supply of high-quality medication at affordable prices on a no-profit, no-loss model, lead to a stronger supply chain, and place more ACTs in the hands of the most vulnerable patients. Sanofi hopes to produce annually an average of 50 to 60 tons of artemisinin, which will produce 80 to 150 million ACT treatments.

This project to produce semi-synthetic artemisinin began in 2007, and involves a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of California Berkeley, the global health charity PATH, Sanofi, and Amiry. I would like to commend

in particular Alain Werner, Robert Sebbag, and Philippe Charreau of Sanofi who led the organization's work on this important project. Sanofi's achievement is only one example of a rich history of dedicating its resources to combat the world's most deadly diseases. Their work on malaria dates back to the 1930s. More recently, Sanofi, which has 112,000 employees and retains core strengths in human vaccines, animal health, consumer healthcare, diabetes, and rare diseases, created its Access to Medicines program to improve access to healthcare in the poorest countries.

As the Senate continues to work on legislation to speed the development of therapies, I ask my colleagues keep in mind the important incentives and intellectual property protections that encourage scientists, such as those responsible for this breakthrough, to create lifesaving medicines for patients worldwide.

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

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#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

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#### PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement"). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of

State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with China based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, information, and technology for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any Restricted Data. Transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities may only occur if the Agreement is amended to cover such transfers. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the Agreement.

The proposed Agreement would obligate the United States and China to work together to enhance their efforts to familiarize commercial entities in their respective countries about the requirements of the Agreement as well as national export controls and policies applicable to exports and imports subject to the Agreement. It would have a term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force. Either party may terminate the proposed Agreement on at least 1 year's written notice to the other party.

Since the 1980s, China has become a party to several nonproliferation treaties and conventions and worked to bring its domestic export control authorities in line with international standards. China joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992 as a nuclear weapon state, brought into force an Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement in

2002, and joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004. China is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for use, storage, and transport of nuclear material, and has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention. A more detailed discussion of China's civil nuclear program and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and in two classified annexes to the NPAS submitted to you separately. As noted above, the Director of National Intelligence will provide an addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of China with respect to nuclear-related matters.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the proposed Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 2015.

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#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

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#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1306. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committees on Finance; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1307. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Jacksonville Harbor Project in Duval County, Florida, for the purpose of deep draft navigation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead-based Paint Programs; Extension of Renovator Certifications" (RIN2070-AK04) (FRL No. 9925-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9926-52-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Non-interference Demonstration for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement for the Birmingham Area" (FRL No. 9926-41-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9926-43-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; SO<sub>2</sub> Rules" (FRL No. 9926-31-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1313. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CO Monitoring" (FRL No. 9926-29-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Implementation Plan; Florida; Attainment Plan for the Hillsborough Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9926-34-Region 4) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma" (FRL No. 9926-50-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9926-51-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9926-54-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Charlotte; Base Year Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9926-47-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carbofuran; Reinstatement of Specific Tolerances and Removal of Expired Tolerances" (FRL No. 9925-70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1320. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Right of Appeal for Medicare Secondary Payer Determinations Relating to Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance), No-Fault Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Laws and Plans" (RIN0938-AS03) (CMS-6055-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1321. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1322. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-002); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1323. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1324. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1325. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-126); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1326. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-108); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1327. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities" (FRL No. 9919-44-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1328. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1329. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2014 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1330. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Possession by Conservators and Receivers for Federal and State Savings Associations" (RIN3064-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1331. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1332. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1333. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the St. Louis Airport Storage Site in St. Louis, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1334. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0828) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1335. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1336. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "ANC 5C Did Not Comply Fully with the ANC Act"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1337. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 inventories of commercial and inherently governmental positions in the Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1338. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Policy, Planning, and Liaison, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Small Business Size Decisions" (RIN3245-AG59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-1339. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1340. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections to 38 CFR Part 3" (RIN2900-AP33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1341. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (23); Amdt. No. 3631" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1342. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (278); Amdt. No. 3632" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1343. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (49); Amdt. No. 3633" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1344. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (209); Amdt. No. 3634" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1345. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers and Harlan Ltd. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1346. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1093)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1347. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1123)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1348. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0749)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1349. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0619)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1350. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0284)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1351. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0489)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1352. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0579)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1353. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0752)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1354. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0229)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1355. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1356. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1357. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Tripoli (HLLL) Flight Information Registration (FIR); Extension of Expiration Date" ((RIN2120-AK70) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0246)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1358. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coaldale, NV" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0871) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1359. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patents and Other Intellectual Property Rights" (RIN2700-AE02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1360. A communication from the Senior Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulation and Enforcement, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Use of Electronic Chain of Custody and Control Form in DOT-Regulated Drug Testing Programs" (RIN2105-AE35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1361. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015-2017 Final Specifications for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfly Fisheries" (RIN0648-BE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1017. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the siting of interstate electric transmission facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1018. A bill to increase the penalty for fraudulent 9-1-1 calls that result in an emergency response from law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1019. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to repeal certain provisions relating to criminal penalties and violations of foreign laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1020. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1021. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1022. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1023. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a refundable credit for costs associated with Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1024. A bill to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1025. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify when certain academic assessments shall be administered; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1027. A bill to require notification of information security breaches and to enhance penalties for cyber criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 1028. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1029. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing a final rule amending the efficiency standards for residential non-weatherized gas furnaces or mobile home furnaces until an analysis has been completed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1030. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1031. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1032. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1033. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 1034. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "Charles Clark United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 142. A resolution honoring the life of Rachel Carson; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 143. A resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 122

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.



ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 377, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 619, a bill to include among the principal trade negotiating objectives of the United States regarding commercial partnerships trade negotiating objectives with respect to discouraging activity that discourages, penalizes, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to amend the Asbestos Information Act of 1988 to establish a public database of asbestos-containing products, to require public disclosure of information pertaining to the manufacture, processing, distribution, and use of asbestos-containing products in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to



the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 975

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 975, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to incentivize early adoption of positive train control, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1021. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1021

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act".

### SEC. 2. ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT.

#### (a) GRANTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions—

(A) to establish a master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics; or

(B) to expand upon an existing master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics, including by admitting more students, further training faculty, expanding facilities, or increasing cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under this section to eligible institutions that have entered into a partnership with a medical center or clinic administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a facility administered by the Department of Defense, including by providing clinical rotations at such medical center, clinic, or facility.

(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

#### (b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for grants under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of a grant under this section shall submit an application therefore to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) demonstration of a willingness and ability to participate in a partnership described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) a commitment, and demonstration of an ability, to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics education program after the end of the grant period.

#### (c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall use

grant amounts to carry out any of the following:

(A) Building new or expanding existing orthotics and prosthetics master's degree programs.

(B) Training doctoral candidates in fields related to orthotics and prosthetics to prepare them to instruct in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(C) Training faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education or related fields for the purpose of instruction in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(D) Salary supplementation for faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education.

(E) Financial aid that allows eligible institutions to admit additional students to study orthotics and prosthetics.

(F) Funding faculty research projects or faculty time to undertake research in the areas of orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

(G) Renovation of buildings or minor construction to house orthotics and prosthetics education programs.

(H) Purchasing equipment for orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use not more than 50 percent of the grant amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

(3) ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall give preference in admission to the orthotics and prosthetics master's degree programs to veterans, to the extent practicable.

(4) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use the grant funds for a period of three years after the award of the grant.

#### (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "eligible institution" means an educational institution that offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that—

(A) is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

(B) demonstrates an ability to meet the accreditation requirements for orthotic and prosthetic education from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs if the institution receives a grant under this section.

(2) The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

#### (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$15,000,000 to carry out this section. The amount so authorized to be appropriated shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2018.

(2) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE TREASURY.—Any amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) that are not obligated by the Secretary as of September 30, 2018, shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

### SEC. 3. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC EDUCATION.

(a) GRANT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award a grant to an eligible institution to enable the eligible institution—

(A) to establish the Center of Excellence in Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (in this section referred to as the "Center"); and

(B) to enable the eligible institution to improve orthotic and prosthetic outcomes for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and civilians by conducting evidence-based research on—

(i) the knowledge, skills, and training most needed by clinical professionals in the field of orthotics and prosthetics; and

(ii) how to most effectively prepare clinical professionals to provide effective, high-quality orthotic and prosthetic care.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of a grant under this section to an eligible institution that has in force, or demonstrates the willingness and ability to enter into, a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or other appropriate Government agency, or a cooperative agreement with an appropriate private sector entity, which memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement provides for either, or both, of the following:

(A) The provision of resources, whether in cash or in kind, to the Center.

(B) Assistance to the Center in conducting research and disseminating the results of such research.

(3) **GRANT AMOUNT.**—The grant awarded under this section shall be in the amount of \$5,000,000.

(b) **REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for the grant under this section.

(2) **PROPOSALS.**—An eligible institution that seeks the award of the grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) **GRANT USES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section shall use the grant amount as follows:

(A) To develop an agenda for orthotics and prosthetics education research.

(B) To fund research in the area of orthotics and prosthetics education.

(C) To publish or otherwise disseminate research findings relating to orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) **PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.**—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of five years after the award of the grant.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "eligible institution" means an educational institution that—

(A) has a robust research program;

(B) offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;

(C) is well recognized in the field of orthotics and prosthetics education; and

(D) has an established association with—

(i) a medical center or clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) a local rehabilitation hospital.

(2) The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1022. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1022

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act".

## SEC. 2. ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the grants described in this section is to advance orthotic and prosthetic clinical care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians who have undergone amputation, traumatic brain injury, and other serious physical injury as a result of combat or military experience.

(b) **GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PATIENT OUTCOMES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The actions that can be taken to prevent amputation of limbs.

(2) The point in the course of patient treatment during which orthotic and prosthetic intervention is most effective.

(3) The orthotic interventions that are most effective in treating the physical effects of traumatic brain injury.

(4) The patients that benefit most from particular orthotic and prosthetic technologies.

(5) The orthotic and prosthetic services that best facilitate the return to active duty of members of the Armed Forces.

(6) The effect of the aging process on the use of prosthetics, including—

(A) increased skin breakdown;

(B) loss of balance;

(C) falls; and

(D) other issues that arise during the aging process.

(c) **GRANTS ON MATERIALS RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(d) **GRANTS ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(e) **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.**—A person seeking the award of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor in the form and accompanied

by such information as the Secretary shall require.

(f) **AWARD REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.**—Grants under this section may be awarded only for research that is peer-reviewed.

(2) **COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.**—Grants under this section shall be awarded through competitive procedures.

(g) **GRANT USE.**—A person awarded a grant under subsection (b), (c), or (d) shall use the grant amount to carry out the research described in the applicable subsection.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, veterans, community-based clinicians, and expert researchers in the field of orthotics and prosthetics, submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) An agenda for orthotic and prosthetic research that identifies and prioritizes the most significant unanswered orthotic and prosthetic research questions pertinent to the provision of evidence-based clinical care to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians.

(2) For each report after the initial report under this subsection—

(A) a summary of how the grants awarded under subsection (b) are addressing the most significant orthotic and prosthetic needs; and

(B) the progress made towards resolving orthotic and prosthetic challenges facing members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(i) **VETERAN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program, \$30,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1027. A bill to require notification of information security breaches and to enhance penalties for cyber criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about two bipartisan bills that would help to modernize the way this country approaches cyber security.

Congress needs to get with the times and realize that the Internet is no longer a new concept. Swiping a credit card, conducting online banking, storing prescription records online—these are not new activities. The cloud is no longer new. Hackers are no longer new. So why are we still so taken aback, in shock, every time we suffer another major cyber attack? Why are we still not requiring that consumers be notified when their information has been stolen? Why aren't we unleashing law enforcement to go after cyber criminals?

If we want to defend against 21st-century threats, then we have to bring our laws into the 21st century. We have to get out of the mindset that the only way we can be hurt is from an actual

physical attack. Hackers don't operate on battlefields; they operate in basements and in cubicles.

Our approach to cyber security so far has been certifiably wrong. We have the largest defense budget in the world by far, but that hasn't stopped our hospitals and banks from falling victim to a near constant barrage of attacks. Last year, data breaches in this country hit a record high; they were up more than 27 percent from the year before. In New York State, between 2006 and 2013, we had nearly 5,000 individual data breaches that were reported by businesses, not-for-profits, and government entities. In the same period, 23 million personal records of New Yorkers were exposed to criminals. And that is just my home State. Imagine how big that number actually is nationwide.

We are long overdue for a new national approach to cyber security, and I am introducing two bills that would finally make this happen. The first is the Data Breach Notification and Punishing Cyber Criminals Act. It would set, for the first time, a national standard for how and when victims of cyber attacks will be informed. When an attack takes place on a business, for example, one that has your financial data or medical information, this law would require that you be informed quickly, with information about what was targeted, what was taken, and whether you were personally affected. This bill would seriously increase the penalties on people found guilty of hacking and cyber crime. It would raise the allowable fines and imprisonment sentences for many of the most common cyber crimes, including identity theft and theft of personal information.

The second bill is the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Credit Act—a bill that would incentivize America's businesses to share cyber security information critical to preventing attacks, without having to involve their competitors. Instead, businesses would be encouraged, with significant tax credits, to adopt the preferred, most efficient method for information sharing; that is, membership in private, sector-specific cyber security networks designed to protect an industry, such as health care and hospitals, from attack. At the individual level, companies, hospitals, and banks can only do so much to protect us. Any good cyber defense has to involve information sharing so that patterns can be recognized, industries can bolster their defenses, and the same hacks aren't just repeated over and over again.

To modernize America's approach to cyber security, we as individuals have to take action, companies have to take action, law enforcement has to take action, and local governments must take action. Most importantly and most urgently, Congress has to take action. We desperately need to modernize our

cyber security laws. I urge my colleagues to support these two bills.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1030. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Aaron's Law Act of 2015 to reform the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, a sweeping anti-hacking law that criminalizes many forms of common Internet and computer use. This overly broad law currently allows breathtaking levels of prosecutorial discretion that invites serious overuse and abuse.

Together with Senator RAND PAUL, and my colleagues in the House of Representatives, we introduce legislation to fix the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act which is long overdue for reform. Aaron's Law would curb the abuses of this outdated law while still preserving the tools needed to prosecute malicious attacks.

Our bill, inspired by the late Internet innovator and activist Aaron Swartz, who faced up to 35 years in prison for an act of civil disobedience, would reform the quarter-century-old law to better reflect computer and Internet activities in the digital age. Numerous and recent instances of heavy-handed prosecutions for non-malicious computer crimes have raised serious questions as to how the law treats violations of terms of service, employer agreement or website notices.

Aaron's Law is smart legislation that keeps up with the constant evolution of the Internet, and honors the late Aaron Swartz.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1030

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Aaron's Law Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THAT "ACCESS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION" UNDER SECTION 1030 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, MEANS CIRCUMVENTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS IN ORDER TO GAIN UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1030(e)(6) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) striking "exceeds authorized access" and all that follows; and

(2) inserting the following: "‘access without authorization’ means—

“(A) to obtain information on a protected computer;

“(B) that the accesser lacks authorization to obtain; and

“(C) by knowingly circumventing one or more technological or physical measures

that are designed to exclude or prevent unauthorized individuals from obtaining that information;”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(10), by striking "unauthorized access, or exceeding authorized access, to a" and inserting "access without authorization of a protected"; and

(2) by striking "exceeds authorized access" each place it appears.

#### SEC. 3. ELIMINATING REDUNDANCY.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 1030(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "(a)(6)" each place it appears and inserting "(a)(5)"; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection (a)(4) or (a)(7)" and inserting "subsection (a)(6)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "subsection (a)(4), or (a)(7)" and inserting "subsection (a)(6)"; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "subsection (a)(5)(B)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)(B)";

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking "subsection (a)(5)(A)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)(A)";

(iii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking "subsection (a)(5)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)";

(iv) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking "subsection (a)(5)(C)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)(C)";

(v) in subparagraph (E), by striking "subsection (a)(5)(A)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)(A)";

(vi) in subparagraph (F), by striking "subsection (a)(5)(A)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)(A)"; and

(vii) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking "subsection (a)(5)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)"; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking "subsection (a)(5)" and inserting "subsection (a)(4)".

#### SEC. 4. MAKING PENALTIES PROPORTIONAL TO CRIMES.

(a) Section 1030(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking "conviction for another" and inserting "subsequent"; and

(B) by inserting "such" after "attempt to commit";

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting after "financial gain" the following: "and the fair market value of the information obtained exceeds \$5,000";

(3) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "the offense was committed" and all that follows through the semicolon, and inserting the following: "the offense was committed in furtherance of any criminal act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State punishable by a term of imprisonment greater than one year, unless such criminal acts are prohibited by this section or such State violation would be based solely on accessing information without authorization;";

(4) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by inserting "fair market" before "value"; and

(5) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “conviction for another” and inserting “subsequent”; and

(B) by inserting “such” after “attempt to commit”.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1032. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1986, Congress made it unlawful for employers to knowingly hire or employ individuals who are not eligible to work in the United States. Identity theft and counterfeit documents have made a mockery of this law.

Under current law, if the documents provided by an employee reasonably appear on their face to be genuine, the employer has met its obligation to review the worker's documents. This is why Congress created a pilot program, known as the Basic Pilot program, to help employers verify the work eligibility of its new hires.

This program has allowed employers to check records maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. It was successful, and in 2003, Congress made the program available in all 50 States.

Now known as E-Verify, this nationwide program is free for employers and accessible via the internet. This program has been a valuable tool for those who want to hire a legal workforce. Employers like it. In fact, according to Westat, a private statistical survey research corporation that conducted a survey last year, 97 percent of employers found E-Verify user-friendly, and 92 percent said the program was effective. Employers also reported that “E-Verify takes the guess work out of determining the validity of documents, provides immediate results, offers reassurance that the company is not hiring unauthorized workers, and helps them to show a good faith effort to comply with the law.”

So, today, along with several colleagues, I am introducing legislation to permanently authorize and expand the E-Verify program. My bill, the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act, will ensure that employers can rely on this program while holding them accountable for their hiring practices.

My bill would make E-Verify a staple in every workplace. It would pave the way to modify and simplify the I-9 process required today. It would increase penalties on employers who hire people unauthorized to work in the country. Employers would be required to check the status of current employ-

ees within three years, and would allow employers to run a check prior to offering a job, saving that employer valuable time and resources. Employers will also be required to re-check those workers whose authorization is about to expire, such as those who come to the United States on temporary visas.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of E-Verify this year, I hope my bill will be a starting point for discussion. We need to enhance and expand the program so that our immigration laws are being upheld. I hope my colleagues will consider joining me in making E-Verify a permanent part of our immigration laws.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1035

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.**

(a) **ROVING SURVEILLANCE AND ACCESS TO BUSINESS RECORDS.**—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) **INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS.**—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 142—HONORING THE LIFE OF RACHEL CARSON**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 142

Whereas May 27, 2007, marked the centennial of the birth of Rachel Carson, a longtime Maryland resident, a noted author, and an environmental visionary;

Whereas Rachel Carson was born on May 27, 1907, in Springdale, of western Pennsylvania, where she learned to love nature while exploring the Allegheny River with her family and friends;

Whereas Rachel Carson graduated magna cum laude from Pennsylvania College for Women (now known as “Chatham University”) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1928,

and went on to earn her master's degree in zoology from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1932;

Whereas Rachel Carson abandoned her pursuit of a doctorate degree in 1935 when her father died so that she could provide financial support for her aging mother by taking part-time teaching positions at The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland as well as a position as a writer for the United States Bureau of Fisheries (now known as the “United States Fish and Wildlife Service”);

Whereas Rachel Carson continued her writing career with feature columns in the Baltimore Sun on the marine life of the Chesapeake Bay until she was employed full-time in the Federal Government where she rose to become the editor-in-chief for all Fish and Wildlife Service publications;

Whereas Rachel Carson's first book, “Under the Sea-Wind”, published in 1941, gave readers across the country a chance to enjoy her poetic style and her careful use of scientific information for the first time;

Whereas Rachel Carson's second book, “The Sea Around Us”, earned the 1952 National Book Award and allowed her to fully devote her time to her writing career;

Whereas Rachel Carson's guide to seashore life, “The Edge of the Sea”, was published in 1955 and became another best seller;

Whereas in 1962, while a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, Rachel Carson wrote “Silent Spring”, a book that detailed how synthetic chemicals accumulate in water, soils, fish, and animals, including birds;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy convened an expert panel of scientists that confirmed Rachel Carson's scientific findings, leading to the domestic ban on the sale of the chemical dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (commonly known as “DDT”) in 1972, an action that many individuals credit with saving the bald eagle from extinction;

Whereas in 2015, there are more bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed than there were in the entire lower 48 States in 1972; and

Whereas Rachel Carson passed away on April 14, 1964, at her home in Silver Spring, Maryland, leaving behind a history of tireless advocacy on behalf of the natural world, a legacy of scientific rigor coupled with poetic sensibility, and a book that helped launch the modern environmental movement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life of Rachel Carson, a scientist, writer, and pioneer of the environmental movement.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION**

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the economic competitiveness of the United States in the global economy requires a well-educated workforce;

Whereas current and future young people in the United States should have the same opportunity offered to those who went to college in previous generations, including the ability to attend State colleges and universities without taking on burdensome debt;

Whereas, in 2015, higher education is more important than ever because it is an essential step to entering and remaining in the middle class;

Whereas, because of the importance of higher education, the United States should expand the opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people than had that opportunity in the past;

Whereas public investment in higher education pays off, as evidenced by the fact that workers with college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services; and

Whereas student loan debt saddles the very students who most depend on a college degree to level the economic playing field with a burden that—

(1) constrains the career choices and hurts the credit rating of the students;

(2) prevents people from fully participating in the economy by purchasing goods and services; and

(3) threatens essential milestones of the American dream, including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and saving for retirement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports efforts—

(1) to ensure that, through a combination of efforts, all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean having no debt upon graduation from all public institutions of higher education;

(2) to provide support to States so States can make increased investments in higher education that will result in lower tuition and costs for students;

(3) to increase financial aid to students to help them afford the total cost of college attendance without taking on debt;

(4) to encourage innovation by States and institutions of higher education to cut costs for students and make college more affordable by increasing efficiency and enabling speedy and less-costly degree completion; and

(5) to reduce the burden of existing student loan debt.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1124. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1125. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1126. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1127. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1128. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. —. SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FOR MAJOR MALFEASANCE, CRIMINAL CONDUCT, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT ODDS WITH THE MISSION OF AN AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “Subchapter VI—Major Malfeasance, Criminal Conduct, and Other Misconduct at Odds With the Mission of an Agency

##### “§ 7551. Definitions

“In this subchapter—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 551;

“(2) the term ‘employee’ means an individual employed by an agency; and

“(3) the term ‘suspension’ means the placing of an employee, for disciplinary reasons, in a temporary status without duties and pay.

##### “§ 7552. Suspension and removal

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, or any other provision of law, the head of an agency may suspend without pay an employee of the agency if the head of the agency determines—

“(1) the employee has engaged in major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency; or

“(2) the employee failed to report major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency the employee knows was engaged in by an employee of the agency who is supervised by the employee.

“(b) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—For an employee suspended under subsection (a)—

“(1) the head of an agency shall notify the employee of the reasons for the suspension; and

“(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification, the employee is entitled to submit to the officer designated by the head of the agency statements or affidavits to show why the employee should be restored to duty.

“(c) REMOVAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the head of an agency may remove an employee suspended under subsection (a) if, after such investigation and review as the head of the agency considers necessary, the head of the agency determines that removal is necessary or advisable, in light of the major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at issue. The determination of the head of the agency under this subsection is final.

“(d) PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee described in paragraph (2) is entitled, after suspension and before removal, to—

“(A) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification of the suspension, a written statement of the charges against the employee, which—

“(i) not later than 30 days after providing the written statement, may be amended; and

“(ii) shall be stated as specifically as possible;

“(B) not later than 30 days after the later of the date on which the written statement is provided or the date on which the written statement is amended, an opportunity to answer the charges and submit affidavits;

“(C) a hearing, at the request of the employee, by an agency authority duly constituted for this purpose;

“(D) a review of the matter by the head of the agency or a designee, before a decision adverse to the employee is made final; and

“(E) a written statement of the decision of the head of the agency.

“(2) EMPLOYEES COVERED.—An employee described in this paragraph is an employee who—

“(A) is suspended under subsection (a) of this section;

“(B) has a permanent or indefinite appointment;

“(C) has completed his probationary or trial period; and

“(D) is a citizen of the United States.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—MAJOR MALFEASANCE, CRIMINAL CONDUCT, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT ODDS WITH THE MISSION OF AN AGENCY

“7551. Definitions.

“7552. Suspension and removal.”.

SA 1124. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 3014. Additional special assessment

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund’ (referred to in this section as

the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

"(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

"(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

"(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

"(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

"(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

"(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

"(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

"(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

"(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

"(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

"(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

"(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

"(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

"(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

"(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthoriza-

tion Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1)."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

"3014. Additional special assessment."

**SA 1125.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

#### **TITLE IV—FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

##### **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the "Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015"

##### **SEC. 402. AUDIT REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 714 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, an audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks under subsection (b) of such section 714 shall be completed within 12 months of the date of enactment of this title.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A report on the audit required under subsection (a) shall be submitted by the Comptroller General to the Congress before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such audit is completed and made available to the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee and each subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and any other Member of Congress who requests it.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of the findings and conclusion of the Comptroller General with respect to the audit that is the subject of the report, together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Comptroller General may determine to be appropriate.

(c) REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking all after "in writing."

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

##### **SEC. 403. AUDIT OF LOAN FILE REVIEWS REQUIRED BY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the review of loan files of homeowners in foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, required as part of the enforcement actions taken by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System against supervised financial institutions.

(b) CONTENT OF AUDIT.—The audit carried out pursuant to subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the guidance given by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to independent consultants retained by the supervised financial institutions regarding the procedures to be followed in conducting the file reviews;

(2) the factors considered by independent consultants when evaluating loan files;

(3) the results obtained by the independent consultants pursuant to those reviews;

(4) the determinations made by the independent consultants regarding the nature and extent of financial injury sustained by each homeowner as well as the level and type of remediation offered to each homeowner; and

(5) the specific measures taken by the independent consultants to verify, confirm, or rebut the assertions and representations made by supervised financial institutions regarding the contents of loan files and the extent of financial injury to homeowners.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the audit required under subsection (a).

**SA 1126.** Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

##### **SEC. 118. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.**

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

(1) counseling and hotline resources;

(2) housing resources;

(3) legal assistance; and

(4) other services for trafficking survivors.

##### **SEC. 119. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.**

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose." and inserting "not later than the later of—

"(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or

"(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense."

**SA 1127.** Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

##### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT REAUTHORIZATION.**

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "for fiscal year 2009," and all that follows through the period and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020."; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013." and inserting "\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020."; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking "for fiscal year 2009" and all that follows through the period and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020."

(b) OFFSET; REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.—



(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11) is repealed.

(2) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under such section 4002, the unobligated balances are rescinded.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection takes effect on October 1, 2015.

**SA 1128.** Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE IV—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**

**SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking”.

**SEC. 402. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10))); and

“(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population;”;

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).”.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

“(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of ‘child’ in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting “(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)” after “sexual abuse or exploitation”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking “inhumane;” and inserting “inhumane.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Opportunities and Challenges for Agriculture Trade with Cuba.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Advancing Telehealth through Connectivity.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Build-

ing to conduct a hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Certification and U.S. Aviation Manufacturing Competitiveness.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Congress and U.S. Tariff Policy.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Improving Accountability and Oversight of Juvenile Justice Grants.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Department of State.”



The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Greg Pollock, who is serving as a legislative fellow for national security issues this year for Senator REID, be granted floor privileges for the duration of 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1035

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1035) to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

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ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 178.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 21, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 21, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, ticktock, ticktock. The countdown has begun.

Beginning tomorrow, there are exactly—count them—30 legislative days left before the Export-Import Bank is gone—vanished, disappeared—and each day that we fail to address this vital institution for American jobs, we let the obstructionists win. We let this bipartisan, eight decade champion of American exports go away. The irony of it all is, as my dear friend from Texas, Congressman GREEN, once observed, if we didn't have an Export-Import Bank, we would all be scurrying around, trying to figure out how to invent it in order to compete with every other developed country in the world that has an export credit authority.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

American companies are, unfortunately, already hurting. It is happening now. We don't have to wait for May or June or July 1, which is the day the bank will disappear if we do not reau-

thorize it. I am speaking in the present tense. Export contracts are being lost now—today—as we speak. Production lines are slowing. Labor needs are being reevaluated. Let me be clear: American corporations and companies are already losing deals to our global competitors because of this pointless fight. It is hurting companies now.

American companies are being penalized because, yet again, unfortunately, Congress procrastinates; yet we have a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. We have two bills with substantial, broad, deep, bipartisan support—250 Members out of 435, to put a fine point on it. There are 60 for Congressman FINCHER of Tennessee's bill and 190 for Congresswoman WATERS', Congresswoman MOORE's, and my bill.

Again, every other developed nation on the face of the planet has an export credit authority, and most of them are larger as a percent of their gross domestic products than ours is. To allow it to expire is to engage in nothing short of—and this is not hyperbole—unilateral economic disarmament.

Ticktock. Ticktock.

Small businesses are the ones that will be hurt first. Now, I know a lot of the focus of debate about the Export-Import Bank is Boeing. Yes, Boeing will be hurt. That is for sure. Although, I enjoy reminding people that the Boeing Company assembles airplanes, and what they depend upon is the supply chain of 12,000 businesses and vendors—thousands of whom are, in fact, small businesses.

Nearly 90 percent of all of the Export-Import Bank's transactions are to provide loans or loan guarantees to small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy. Everybody knows it. Nearly one in three jobs created in the last decade was created by small businesses, and they will be hurt first, small businesses like STAC, Inc., in Sumner, Washington. It is a veteran-owned business that provides industrial tapes and adhesives and a host of other fasteners. They predict, as their owner told me personally, that they could hire 40 percent more staff as a consequence of their exports.

The truth of the matter is that there is a STAC in every congressional district in America—in every town, in every city, in every community, in every neighborhood—and they need and use the export credit agency of this Nation, the Export-Import Bank, just like the businesses of every other developed nation in the world.

The rest of the world is growing a middle class. We all know it. If we

want to keep and expand ours, then we are going to have to engage in global trade with one of the tools known as the Export-Import Bank. We have to sell in to their growing middle class.

Counting tomorrow, 30 legislative days to go—ticktock, ticktock.

### GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, mailman Doug Hughes flew a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn to make a point about the influence of money in politics. While I don't condone violating restricted airspace and putting innocent people at risk by flying a gyrocopter onto the Capitol lawn, Mr. Hughes does have a point about the pervasive influence of money in politics. I have seen it get worse and worse during my 20 years in Congress.

The Citizens United decision by the United States Supreme Court in 2010 created super-PACs and multi-millionaires who buy candidates. As of April 8, 2015, there were 1,360 super-PACs in existence that controlled nearly \$700 million in the 2014 election cycle, according to OpenSecrets.org. The American people have lost confidence in the House and in the Senate partially because super-PACs influence candidates and politicians.

Too many times I have seen bills come to the floor of the House that seem influenced by money. Just last week, the House voted on H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015, which does nothing but line the pockets of Warren Buffett by enabling his near-monopoly of the mobile home industry to strap poor people with higher interest rates while his companies are being protected from government regulations against predatory lending.

It is my disgust at this influence of money in politics that has led me to be a cosponsor of H.R. 20, the Government by the People Act, introduced by my colleague Congressman JOHN SARBANES. H.R. 20 would curb the influence of super-PACs so that small donors can have a voice again.

We in Congress owe the American people a vote on this bill so we can inspire confidence in our democratic process. House leadership should bring this bill to the floor, but I know it won't happen. There isn't the stomach

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for reform bills in this Congress, even for bipartisan reform bills. Maybe it does take a statement like Mr. Hughes' to bring this issue into the national debate and to make Congress address our out-of-control fund-raising.

I ask my colleagues in both parties in the House of Representatives to look seriously at the John Sarbanes bill, because the Government by the People Act will help to restore the confidence of the American people. We cannot stop what is already public law, and we cannot change Citizens United unless we go back through the legal process, but we can have an alternative. That is what the John Sarbanes bill does, so I hope Republicans and Democrats will look seriously at becoming cosponsors.

I ask God to bless America.

#### EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING WOMEN AS TO THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was just thinking that one of the reasons I like spring so much and so well is that we get an opportunity to interact a bit more with young people, with our children, and I have seen many around here this morning all over the place, and I simply want to welcome them.

Also, yesterday, I got an opportunity to visit two schools. The first was the Proviso Area School for Exceptional Children in Maywood, Illinois, where we just had a wonderful time. Then, in the afternoon, I did a book fair at the Lovett Elementary School with its principal, Dr. Haney. The young people at Lovett were saying they just love being at Lovett, so it was a refreshing day.

Like many of my colleagues, I also use a lot of interns and fellows who come and learn and work and who are engaged and involved. The statement that I am going to read today was developed by one of my interns, Jakie Martinez. Jakie has been working on health issues, and she came up with this statement. So I come here today to speak of a health concern that many women are likely to develop in their lifetimes.

Known as one of the most common gynecological disorders, uterine fibroids affect nearly 70 percent of Caucasian women and more than 80 percent of African American women by the age of 50. For many of these women the associated symptoms of this diagnosis will significantly impact their quality of life, work, personal relationships, and daily activities. The prevalence of uterine fibroids is one that increases with age. Although we see a commonality in the disorder and its symptoms, the greater public has not

yet received the proper continued education into the causes and treatment options available for women who suffer from these fibroids.

In response, we see that hysterectomies are the most commonly performed major gynecologic surgery in the United States, with over 400,000 hysterectomies performed annually; yet there are also several minimally invasive surgical options for the treatment of uterine fibroids that feature less blood loss, shorter hospital stays, smaller incisions for minimal scarring, and less need for pain medication than with traditional open surgery. It is important to remember that the best surgical option for each woman, whether it is open or minimally invasive, is reserved for a case-by-case evaluation.

In recognizing the health and educational needs of women in the United States, it is important that the greater public be educated in greater detail on the alternatives to more or less invasive surgical treatments so that women can have access to a full spectrum of treatment options. After all, it is my hope that women will become more educated and empowered in regards to their reproductive health and in the understanding of safe options available for the treatment of symptomatic fibroids.

I thank Jakie Martinez for writing this statement. It is very important.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often that Members can take to the House floor to share good news, but, this morning, I have an opportunity to do just that.

Today, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church on East Winchester Street in my hometown of Gallatin.

Founded in 1865 by a former slave named Robert Belote, the First Baptist Church is a congregation steeped in history and poised to continue changing hearts and changing lives for many years to come. Its mission is to be a "church of welcome," and over the years, they have certainly lived up to that goal.

In the beginning, their congregation was known as Union Church because they welcomed ex-slaves from all denominations—Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian. No matter your background or your upbringing, there was a place for all of God's children within their pews.

□ 1215

The church has been destroyed multiple times over the years, first by heavy winds and then by fire, but they

always rebuilt and reemerged stronger than before.

They weathered the Reconstruction era following the Civil War, the economic uncertainty of the Great Depression, and the rise and the fall of the Jim Crow South. They are truly a statement to Christ's promise in the Gospel of Matthew when He proclaimed, "Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Today the church's attendance climbed to approximately 1,000 people. I have had the opportunity to join my friends and neighbors at First Baptist Church for worship on many occasions. I have sat under the powerful teaching of their pastor and my dear friend, Reverend Derrick Jackson, and I can tell you that, 150 years later, God is still doing mighty work in the life of this special community of believers.

I am thankful for how First Baptist Church has personally ministered to me and so many others in our community, and I wish them many years of continued growth and prosperity.

#### TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. President, please help us stop this madness. The same way President Reagan demanded Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, you have an opportunity to stop serial malpractice on the part of Congress refusing to meet its obligation to fully fund our transportation responsibility.

Twenty-three short-term extensions of the transportation program in recent years is as embarrassing as it is destructive. No country became great building its infrastructure 9 months at a time.

You can bring this charade to a halt. With all the major agenda items on the table this spring for Congress, there is no way that we are going to be able to do anything but extend the May 31st transportation deadline, when the funding authorization expires. That is the most recent time when Congress kicked the can down the road, what it approved last fall all the way to this spring. I said at the time, When spring comes, we will be right back in the same situation. And we are.

This does not mean that we need to write off the entire year and beyond. It certainly does not mean that we need to throw this issue into the middle of the next Presidential campaign, which unfortunately has already started. You should give us a reasonable deadline: July 1st, August 1st, or even September 1st. Under no circumstances should you let this bleed into the next Federal fiscal year, starting October 1st.

We lost an opportunity at the end of the last Congress to force responsible

action in the lame duck session after the 2014 election. We were close, but it eluded us. Please don't let that happen again. Make clear you will not sign any transportation extension beyond the end of the Federal fiscal year.

Mr. President, you don't have to dictate a solution. You have already indicated what you want in a robust 6-year bill; you have given an outline of how you would have Congress fund this significant reauthorization. Your Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, has been traveling the country, advancing a vision for transportation for decades to come; and he is clear about the need for bold action to properly fund it.

You and your administration have also made it clear that you are willing to sign any reasonable bipartisan legislation that meets the standards that we need. It needs to be sustainable; it needs to be dedicated; it needs to be big enough to get the job done. Let Congress put up or shut up. Force it to act by not extending the deadline past October 1st.

Recently, the historic solution driven by Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI took a problem that long seemed intractable here on Capitol Hill since 1998 on Medicare payments and the funding under the so-called "doc fix," but yet enacted a permanent solution on a bipartisan basis, overwhelmingly approved in this House and in the Senate. It required leadership and for some people to relax somewhat their partisan talking points—if not their core principles—but we all got the job done under your leadership.

Let's do the same on transportation funding. Let's lay down an absolute deadline. Let's refuse to let it slide past October 1, 2015. Let's all work together, demanding Congress do its job. Several hundred Members of Congress signed a letter recently circulated by Congressman RIBBLE and Congressman LIPINSKI, my colleague from Illinois, saying that that is what should happen. Well, let's actually do it.

Together, Congress can be forced to act. We can rebuild and renew America, putting hundreds of thousands of people to work at family wage jobs, making our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure. It is not going to get easier if we stall. It is not going to be a smaller problem if it is going to be done next year or the year beyond. Let's decide this summer we are going to get the job done. Mr. President, you can help us by demanding that it be done according to a strict timeline, no later than October 1st.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years, House Republicans have worked hard to put this Nation on a better path forward. We have passed numerous pieces of legislation to encourage job growth and strengthen America's standing in the global economy. We have also passed bills that would decrease energy costs and increase transparency in how tax dollars are spent.

Despite the short time we have had, the obstacles we have faced, and the enormity of our task, House Republicans have managed a number of conservative victories. For example, legislation I authored was signed into law last summer to streamline the Federal workforce development system, including the elimination of 15 duplicative programs.

We have worked tirelessly to minimize the damage caused by ObamaCare. The first pieces of legislation to pass in the 114th Congress included the Hire More Heroes Act, which would make it easier to hire veterans by exempting those who already have health insurance from being subject to the employer mandate in the President's health care law, and the Save American Workers Act to change ObamaCare's 30-hour definition of full-time employment and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek, which has long been the standard for full-time work.

Additionally, the House Republican working group has laid out an alternative vision to ObamaCare. It includes allowing affected States to opt out of ObamaCare's costly rules and regulations and to opt into a patient-centered system focused on choice and lower cost.

House Republicans have been vigilant against any attempt that would impugn the Second Amendment rights of all Americans to own and bear firearms. Our Republican committee chairmen are using their gavels to exercise the constitutionally prescribed system of checks and balances to hold oversight hearings exposing the Obama administration for its unconstitutional overreach.

Much of the economic turmoil that has gripped this Nation is the result of the Federal Government spending beyond its means. In North Carolina I often hear from constituents who are worried that our ballooning national debt threatens economic stability and jeopardizes the American Dream for their families.

House Republicans have responded to those concerns by passing laws cutting Federal spending 2 years in a row for the first time since the Korean war. We

banned earmarks and achieved the most significant spending reductions in modern history. We have protected tax cuts for individuals and families.

Unfortunately, President Obama's budget ignores our crushing debt burden. Despite proposing \$2.1 trillion in new tax increases, the President's budget never balances because it spends too much.

In contrast to the President's budget proposal that ignores our crushing debt burden, House Republicans recently approved a budget that balances in less than 10 years without raising taxes while cutting \$5.5 trillion in unnecessary spending. This budget not only places our country on a path to pay off the overwhelming mound of debt we face but will also spur economic growth and increase opportunity.

Balanced Budget for a Stronger America also provides a framework for completely repealing ObamaCare and calls on Congress to pass comprehensive tax reform that lowers rates for individuals, families, and employers.

Following approval of the budget, the House continued its record of tackling tough issues by passing bipartisan legislation to help stabilize Medicare and secure seniors' access to their doctors. By transitioning to a new provider payment system focused on quality, value, and accountability, we have laid the groundwork for future Medicare reforms.

It has been said that no one hears the plane that landed safely. What that very apt adage suggests is that we are often unaware of the good work being done every day, and it isn't until something goes wrong that people take notice.

House Republicans are working hard to continue our good work and advance solutions that will build a healthy economy, empowering all Americans to seek new opportunities and achieve a better life.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE) at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day

in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker, leaders, and Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all, walking in the ways of righteousness and working for the highest good of our beloved land.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO J.F. KRUSE JEWELERS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jim Kruse and Melissa Kelley of J.F. Kruse Jewelers in St. Cloud, Minnesota. They have been named the Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Last year, the St. Cloud Area Chamber honored them as the Small Business of the Year.

Jim Kruse opened J.F. Kruse 15 years ago. From humble beginnings, using secondhand jewelry cases, to a newly built facility and a team of 17 people, the father-daughter duo built a dynamic business that has seen steady growth year after year.

Family-run businesses like J.F. Kruse are the backbone of central Minnesota, and I know I speak for everyone when I say congratulations and good luck in competing for the national title.

### THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the contrast between Democratic and Republican priorities in Congress could not be more clear after the first 100 days here.

Instead of passing legislation that would help American families buy a home or put away money to save for their kids' college or save even for a secure retirement, we have seen again and again tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. That is the priority that supersedes the needs of the American family.

Instead of focusing on growing paychecks and improving our infrastructure, a vital need, one that should be a bipartisan effort, we just continue to vote for more tax giveaways to the wealthiest special interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that this Congress work on the priorities of hard-working, middle class Americans, priorities that are simple: Own a home, help your kids prepare for their future, have something set aside for retirement, take care of our crumbling infrastructure, reinvest in our future.

I know we stand ready to work together on these big questions. It is time Congress set aside the needs of the few and focused on what we were sent here to do, and that is take care of the American family.

### APPLAUDING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1105

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act, last week, and to call for its swift consideration and passage in the Senate.

This devastating tax, which requires families to pay as much as 40 percent of the value of an estate they inherit above a certain threshold, has damaged our economy, hurt small businesses, and forced many families out of a legacy they worked hard to build.

In my district of Georgia, many of those hit hardest by the death tax are our family farms; hard-working Americans who have paid taxes on their property all their lives, only to have it taxed again when they try to pass it on to the next generation. In some cases, children are often forced to sell the land, ending a family business, costing real jobs, and destroying a family legacy. Unfortunately, this is not a rare occurrence.

As a proud cosponsor of this bill, I applaud my colleagues in the House for passage of this legislation to repeal the death tax and urge quick consideration and approval in the Senate.

### NATIONAL LEARN TO SWIM MONTH

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, April is the month when pools, beaches, streams, and lakes across the United States open up for the spring and summer months.

As a former collegiate swimmer, I feel compelled to ensure that everyone is safe in the water during the upcoming months.

I am proud to introduce bipartisan H. Res. 205 with another former college swimmer, Representative JIM BRIDENSTINE, on behalf of USA Masters Swimming Association and their president, Nadine Day, to declare April as National Learn to Swim Month.

Last year, 3,335 Americans unintentionally drowned. The number of American adults and children that are unable to swim can be reduced, and we are in a position to speak out and prevent this.

Swimming proficiency is a problem that we can solve together, and with the help of State governments we can highlight this so that we are able to make water activities safe for everyone.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in declaring April as National Learn to Swim Month.

### FORT HOOD VICTIMS RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS AND FULL BENEFITS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 years since the 2009 shooting in Fort Hood, Texas. The whole country was shocked by this senseless activity. Finally, earlier this month, the 47 soldiers and surviving family members of this tragic event did receive Purple Heart medals for their sacrifice, and they will be provided with every benefit that this commendation obliges.

Following the shooting back in 2009, I went to Fort Hood. I met with the families of loved ones of this attack's victims. I saw firsthand the devastation and the sacrifice. None of them—none of them—should have had to wait this long for the recognition. Although the delay can never be made right, I am relieved that these families and victims have finally received the recognition for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Senator CORNYN from my State of Texas, Representative CARTER, and Representative ROGER WILLIAMS put a lot of effort into this, but I also need to recognize the thousands of constituents—not just in Texas, but across the country—who

phoned, emailed, and sent letters asking that this omission be made right.

I am happy to say and acknowledge that through their efforts, it finally has been.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. In recognition of the Oncology Nursing Society's 40th anniversary, I want to congratulate ONS for their legacy of excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care.

ONS is a professional organization of over 37,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to providing care to patients in one of the most difficult stages of their lives.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has worked tirelessly to lead the transformation of cancer care. ONS is the primary source of education for all nurses providing care to people with cancer, regardless of the setting.

In my State of Illinois alone, there are 10 chapters of ONS, with more than 1,600 members. In addition, the ONS Chicago chapter is the oldest chapter in the country.

Oncology nurses are there for patients through one of the most challenging times in their lives. They help patients and their loved ones by caring, teaching, listening, and simply being present.

As Congress continues to work to increase access to quality care, I praise the commitment of ONS in fostering excellence in oncology nursing and the care of cancer patients.

I would like to congratulate all the members of ONS on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and wish them many more years of dedicated service to the country.

#### IN MEMORY OF JUN CHINO, M.D.

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the recent passing of Dr. Jun Chino has left many in his southern California community with heavy hearts, including my family and myself, who were blessed to have had a close personal relationship with him.

Dr. Chino was the eldest son in a farming family who were moved from an internment camp during World War II, losing their land in the process.

Despite their difficult financial circumstances in the post-war years, Jun managed to obtain a pre-med degree at Stanford and go on to graduate from the university's medical school. Following residency at Los Angeles County USC General Hospital, and having

achieved board certification as an orthopedic surgeon, he practiced for 52 years in Orange County.

He served in leadership positions on countless medical organizations and was esteemed by his peers for his skills and for dedicating himself to staying on the cutting edge of developments in his field. Dr. Chino is survived by his wife, Kazuko, and his daughter, Lisa.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, in less than 40 days, the highway trust fund runs out of money, which means 90 percent of the surface transportation projects in this country will stop.

To help Congress appreciate the magnitude of this looming crisis, I reached out to my constituents and asked them to give me their stories about our infrastructure. We received hundreds of responses. One of them was from Magnus in Hagerstown, Maryland, who talks about a major highway, Route I-81, that runs through Hagerstown, which he describes as "Death Valley" because he feels like he reads a story in the local newspaper about someone dying there almost every other week. He also commented about how it hurts economic growth for the region, and the region has not been able to attract the businesses it needs to grow its economy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a bipartisan solution to fund the highway trust fund, and we should be working on it now.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL R. MARTIN UMBARGER

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot and public servant, Major General R. Martin Umbarger. After serving over four decades in the Indiana National Guard, including the past 10 as our adjutant general, I extend congratulations to him on the occasion of his retirement.

As commander of the fourth largest National Guard contingent in the United States, Major General Umbarger impacted the lives of countless Hoosiers and Americans. When communities in southern Indiana were torn apart by tornadoes, it was General Umbarger and the National Guard who came to their rescue. When the global war on terrorism began, it was General Umbarger and our 21,000 National Guardsmen who supported our most critical military operations.

General Umbarger is truly an extraordinary leader who has displayed a steadfast commitment to protecting Americans' freedoms at home and abroad. He also started the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in Knightsville, which works to give so many kids a brighter future.

Major General Umbarger is a hero in every sense of the word. It is with pride that I recognize his tremendous legacy, and I wish him and his wife, Rowanna, the very best as they celebrate a well-deserved retirement.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 21, 2015 at 10:56 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 34.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 535) to promote energy efficiency.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 535

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Energy efficiency in Federal and other buildings.

Sec. 103. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

Sec. 104. Tenant Star program.

#### TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS

Sec. 201. Grid-enabled water heaters.

#### TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Sec. 301. Energy information for commercial buildings.

#### TITLE I—BETTER BUILDINGS

##### SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Better Buildings Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. 102. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term “cost-effective energy efficiency measure” means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides energy savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(3) COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term “cost-effective water efficiency measure” means any building product, material, equipment, or service, and the installing, implementing, or operating thereof, that provides water savings in an amount that is not less than the cost of such installing, implementing, or operating.

(b) MODEL PROVISIONS, POLICIES, AND BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and after providing the public with an opportunity for notice and comment, shall develop model commercial leasing provisions and best practices in accordance with this subsection.

(2) COMMERCIAL LEASING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection shall, at a minimum, align the interests of building owners and tenants with re-

gard to investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures to encourage building owners and tenants to collaborate to invest in such measures.

(B) USE OF MODEL PROVISIONS.—The Administrator may use the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection in any standard leasing document that designates a Federal agency (or other client of the Administrator) as a landlord or tenant.

(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall periodically publish the model commercial leasing provisions developed under this subsection, along with explanatory materials, to encourage building owners and tenants in the private sector to use such provisions and materials.

(3) REALTY SERVICES.—The Administrator shall develop policies and practices to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures for the realty services provided by the Administrator to Federal agencies (or other clients of the Administrator), including periodic training of appropriate Federal employees and contractors on how to identify and evaluate those measures.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall make available model commercial leasing provisions and best practices developed under this subsection to State, county, and municipal governments for use in managing owned and leased building space in accordance with the goal of encouraging investment in all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and cost-effective water efficiency measures.

##### SEC. 103. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “SEC. 424. SEPARATE SPACES WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ means a technology, product, or practice that will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing energy consumption and utility costs.

“(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term ‘separate spaces’ means areas within a commercial building that are leased or otherwise occupied by a tenant or other occupant for a period of time pursuant to the terms of a written agreement.

“(b) STUDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall complete a study on the feasibility of—

“(A) significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction, by owners and tenants, of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) encouraging owners and tenants to implement high-performance energy efficiency measures in separate spaces.

“(2) SCOPE.—The study shall, at a minimum, include—

“(A) descriptions of—

“(i) high-performance energy efficiency measures that should be considered as part of the initial design and construction of separate spaces;

“(ii) processes that owners, tenants, architects, and engineers may replicate when designing and constructing separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures;

“(iii) policies and best practices to achieve reductions in energy intensities for lighting, plug loads, heating, cooling, cooking, laundry, and other systems to satisfy the needs of the commercial building tenant;

“(iv) return on investment and payback analyses of the incremental cost and projected energy savings of the proposed set of high-performance energy efficiency measures, including consideration of available incentives;

“(v) models and simulation methods that predict the quantity of energy used by separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures and that compare that predicted quantity to the quantity of energy used by separate spaces without high-performance energy efficiency measures but that otherwise comply with applicable building code requirements;

“(vi) measurement and verification platforms demonstrating actual energy use of high-performance energy efficiency measures installed in separate spaces, and whether such measures generate the savings intended in the initial design and construction of the separate spaces;

“(vii) best practices that encourage an integrated approach to designing and constructing separate spaces to perform at optimum energy efficiency in conjunction with the central systems of a commercial building; and

“(viii) any impact on employment resulting from the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures; and

“(B) case studies reporting economic and energy savings returns in the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments regarding effective methods, measures, and practices for the design and construction of separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

“(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the study on the website of the Department of Energy.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 423 the following new item:

“Sec. 424. Separate spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.”

##### SEC. 104. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17081 et seq.) (as amended by section 103) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “SEC. 425. TENANT STAR PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ‘high-performance energy efficiency measure’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(2) SEPARATE SPACES.—The term ‘separate spaces’ has the meaning given the term in section 424.

“(b) TENANT STAR.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,



shall develop a voluntary program within the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a), which may be known as 'Tenant Star', to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants or otherwise occupied within commercial buildings.

“(c) EXPANDING SURVEY DATA.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall—

“(1) collect, through each Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey of the Energy Information Administration that is conducted after the date of enactment of this section, data on—

“(A) categories of building occupancy that are known to consume significant quantities of energy, such as occupancy by data centers, trading floors, and restaurants; and

“(B) other aspects of the property, building operation, or building occupancy determined by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to be relevant in lowering energy consumption;

“(2) with respect to the first Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey conducted after the date of enactment of this section, to the extent full compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) is not feasible, conduct activities to develop the capability to collect such data and begin to collect such data; and

“(3) make data collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) available to the public in aggregated form and provide such data, and any associated results, to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in accordance with subsection (d).

“(d) RECOGNITION OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.—

“(1) OCCUPANCY-BASED RECOGNITION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which sufficient data is received pursuant to subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, following an opportunity for public notice and comment—

“(A) in a manner similar to the Energy Star rating system for commercial buildings, develop policies and procedures to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces;

“(B) establish building occupancy categories eligible for Tenant Star recognition based on the data collected under subsection (c) and any other appropriate data sources; and

“(C) consider other forms of recognition for commercial building tenants or other occupants that lower energy consumption in separate spaces.

“(2) DESIGN- AND CONSTRUCTION-BASED RECOGNITION.—After the study required by section 424(b) is completed, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary and following an opportunity for public notice and comment, may develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 (as added by section 103(b)) the following new item:

“Sec. 425. Tenant Star program.”.

## TITLE II—GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS

### SEC. 201. GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.

Part B of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) in section 325(e) (42 U.S.C. 6295(e)), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATERS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) ACTIVATION LOCK.—The term ‘activation lock’ means a control mechanism (either a physical device directly on the water heater or a control system integrated into the water heater) that is locked by default and contains a physical, software, or digital communication that must be activated with an activation key to enable the product to operate at its designed specifications and capabilities and without which activation the product will provide not greater than 50 percent of the rated first hour delivery of hot water certified by the manufacturer.

“(ii) GRID-ENABLED WATER HEATER.—The term ‘grid-enabled water heater’ means an electric resistance water heater that—

“(I) has a rated storage tank volume of more than 75 gallons;

“(II) is manufactured on or after April 16, 2015;

“(III) has—

“(aa) an energy factor of not less than 1.061 minus the product obtained by multiplying—

“(AA) the rated storage volume of the tank, expressed in gallons; and

“(BB) 0.00168; or

“(bb) an equivalent alternative standard prescribed by the Secretary and developed pursuant to paragraph (5)(E);

“(IV) is equipped at the point of manufacture with an activation lock; and

“(V) bears a permanent label applied by the manufacturer that—

“(aa) is made of material not adversely affected by water;

“(bb) is attached by means of non-water-soluble adhesive; and

“(cc) advises purchasers and end-users of the intended and appropriate use of the product with the following notice printed in 16.5 point Arial Narrow Bold font:

“‘IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This water heater is intended only for use as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program. It will not provide adequate hot water unless enrolled in such a program and activated by your utility company or another program operator. Confirm the availability of a program in your local area before purchasing or installing this product.’”.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The manufacturer or private labeler shall provide the activation key for a grid-enabled water heater only to a utility or other company that operates an electric thermal storage or demand response program that uses such a grid-enabled water heater.

“(C) REPORTS.—

“(i) MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary shall require each manufacturer of grid-enabled water heaters to report to the Secretary annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters that the manufacturer ships each year.

“(ii) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall require utilities and other demand response and thermal storage program operators to report annually the quantity of grid-enabled water heaters activated for their programs using forms of the Energy Information Agency or using such other mechanism that the Secretary determines appropriate after an opportunity for notice and comment.

“(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall treat shipment data reported by manufacturers as confidential business information.

“(D) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In 2017 and 2019, the Secretary shall publish an analysis of the data collected under subparagraph (C) to assess the extent to which shipped products are put into use in demand response and thermal storage programs.

“(ii) PREVENTION OF PRODUCT DIVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually, the Secretary shall, after opportunity for notice and comment, establish procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes.

“(E) COMPLIANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines under this section that—

“(I) grid-enabled water heaters do not require a separate efficiency requirement; or

“(II) sales of grid-enabled water heaters exceed by 15 percent or greater the quantity of such products activated for use in demand response and thermal storage programs annually and procedures to prevent product diversion for non-program purposes would not be adequate to prevent such product diversion.

“(ii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If the Secretary exercises the authority described in clause (i) or amends the efficiency requirement for grid-enabled water heaters, that action will take effect on the date described in subsection (m)(4)(A)(ii).

“(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out this section with respect to electric water heaters, the Secretary shall consider the impact on thermal storage and demand response programs, including any impact on energy savings, electric bills, peak load reduction, electric reliability, integration of renewable resources, and the environment.

“(iv) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall require that grid-enabled water heaters be equipped with communication capability to enable the grid-enabled water heaters to participate in ancillary services programs if the Secretary determines that the technology is available, practical, and cost-effective.”.

(2) in section 332(a) (42 U.S.C. 6302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) for any person—

“(A) to activate an activation lock for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(B) to distribute an activation key for a grid-enabled water heater with knowledge that such activation key will be used to activate a grid-enabled water heater that is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program;

“(C) to otherwise enable a grid-enabled water heater to operate at its designed specification and capabilities with knowledge

that such water heater is not used as part of an electric thermal storage or demand response program; or

“(D) to knowingly remove or render illegible the label of a grid-enabled water heater described in section 325(e)(6)(A)(ii)(V).”;

(3) in section 333(a) (42 U.S.C. 6303(a))—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(B) by striking “paragraph (1), (2), or (5) of section 332(a)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(4) in section 334 (42 U.S.C. 6304)—

(A) by striking “section 332(a)(5)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (7), or (8) of section 332(a)”;

(B) by striking “section 332(a)(6)” and inserting “section 332(a)(7)”.

### TITLE III—ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

#### SEC. 301. ENERGY INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF BENCHMARKING AND DISCLOSURE FOR LEASING BUILDINGS WITHOUT ENERGY STAR LABELS.—Section 435(b)(2) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17091(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”;

(2) by striking “signing the contract,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

“signing the contract, the following requirements are met:

“(A) The space is renovated for all energy efficiency and conservation improvements that would be cost effective over the life of the lease, including improvements in lighting, windows, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the space is benchmarked under a nationally recognized, online, free benchmarking program, with public disclosure, unless the space is a space for which owners cannot access whole building utility consumption data, including spaces—

“(I) that are located in States with privacy laws that provide that utilities shall not provide such aggregated information to multitenant building owners; and

“(II) for which tenants do not provide energy consumption information to the commercial building owner in response to a request from the building owner.

“(ii) A Federal agency that is a tenant of the space shall provide to the building owner, or authorize the owner to obtain from the utility, the energy consumption information of the space for the benchmarking and disclosure required by this subparagraph.”.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall complete a study—

(A) on the impact of—

(i) State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies, and any associated building efficiency policies, for commercial and multifamily buildings; and

(ii) programs and systems in which utilities provide aggregated information regarding whole building energy consumption and usage information to owners of multitenant commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings;

(B) that identifies best practice policy approaches studied under subparagraph (A) that have resulted in the greatest improvements in building energy efficiency; and

(C) that considers—

(i) compliance rates and the benefits and costs of the policies and programs on building owners, utilities, tenants, and other parties;

(ii) utility practices, programs, and systems that provide aggregated energy consumption information to multitenant building owners, and the impact of public utility commissions and State privacy laws on those practices, programs, and systems;

(iii) exceptions to compliance in existing laws where building owners are not able to gather or access whole building energy information from tenants or utilities;

(iv) the treatment of buildings with—

(I) multiple uses;

(II) uses for which baseline information is not available; and

(III) uses that require high levels of energy intensities, such as data centers, trading floors, and television studios;

(v) implementation practices, including disclosure methods and phase-in of compliance;

(vi) the safety and security of benchmarking tools offered by government agencies, and the resiliency of those tools against cyber attacks; and

(vii) international experiences with regard to building benchmarking and disclosure laws and data aggregation for multitenant buildings.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(c) CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act and following opportunity for public notice and comment, the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall maintain, and if necessary create, a database for the purpose of storing and making available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings, including—

(A) data provided under Federal, State, local, and other laws or programs regarding building benchmarking and energy information disclosure;

(B) information on buildings that have disclosed energy ratings and certifications; and

(C) energy-related information on buildings provided voluntarily by the owners of the buildings, only in an anonymous form unless the owner provides otherwise.

(2) COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS.—The database maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall complement and not duplicate the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool.

(d) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary of Energy shall seek input from stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of the actions taken under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress made in complying with this section.

Passed the Senate March 26 (legislative day, March 27), 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are considering S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, a bill to address energy efficiency in Federal buildings, energy conservation through the continued use of grid-enabled water heaters, and energy information for federally leased commercial buildings.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for working with us on this important legislation. Both sides of the aisle came together in this legislation, and I want to thank all of them and their staffs for the work that they have done.

Madam Speaker, the first title in this bill would establish a Tenant Star program—a voluntary certification and recognition program—within ENERGY STAR to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces. This program allows for a voluntary, market-driven approach to aligning the interests of commercial building owners and their tenants to reduce energy consumption. The DOE would also be required to complete a study on feasible approaches to improving the energy efficiency of tenant-occupied spaces in commercial buildings.

The second title in this bill relates to hot water heaters. There are approximately 250 electric cooperatives in 34 States that utilize large electric resistance water heaters in demand response programs to help with reliability and consumer costs during peak periods of energy use.

In March 2010, the Department of Energy issued new energy efficiency standards for large electric resistance water heaters that would, in effect, prohibit the manufacture of these water heaters that are 55 gallons or larger in favor of heat pump technology for water heaters of 55 gallons or larger. These standards took effect last week.

I might say that the American people from whom I frequently hear are totally frustrated by the micromanagement of the government in almost every aspect of their lives, and this regulation about water heaters is just one example.

At the hearing that we held on this regulation, the manufacturers testified

that this regulation would basically double the cost of these water heaters. We have a situation in which many heat pump water heaters are not compatible with certain utility thermal energy storage and demand response programs that allow utilities to reduce or to shift their loads during certain periods of energy use. Title II would allow for the continued manufacture of large electric resistant water heaters above certain gallons specifically for use in these energy savings programs.

This is very common sense, Congress' responding to concerns by the general public that the Department of Energy is trying to micromanage this small part of the energy sector in the United States.

I might mention that the third title of this bill requires that federally leased buildings without ENERGY STAR labels benchmark and disclose their energy usage data where practicable. Federally owned buildings are already subject to benchmarking requirements pursuant to section 432 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Title III simply requires the DOE to complete a study of best practices regarding State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings in addition to the impact of utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multi-tenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. It has passed the House and the Senate. The Senate bill was a little bit different than ours, so we are taking up their bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman for his excellent work.

Today is a very good day in Congress and in our country as we send to the President's desk bipartisan legislation that will: one, lower energy bills for families and businesses; two, create good jobs in manufacturing American-made energy efficiency products; and, three, improve our environment by reducing carbon emissions. I am hopeful that the common ground we have found in this bill sets the stage for further cooperation by both parties and by both Chambers in addressing many of the challenges facing our country.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman WHITFIELD, and I want to thank Ranking Member PALLONE and Ranking Member RUSH for working with us to advance this important legislation.

Thank you, especially, Representative MCKINLEY, for partnering with me this term and last on this issue. Your background as an engineer and as a small business owner has provided much-needed expertise to our committee, and I am grateful to you for

your partnership and leadership on this issue.

The bill before us today, as Mr. WHITFIELD said, advanced by Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN in the Senate, also includes some very good ideas from many Members of this House, those from Representatives CRAMER, DOYLE, LATTA, LOEBSACK, CASTOR, and KINZINGER.

Thank you all for your contributions to this good, bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I have long believed that energy efficiency is an issue that lends itself to looking past partisan differences to find common ground in our Congress. We may disagree on the causes of climate change and of the best fuel mix to meet America's energy needs, but we can all agree that using less of whatever energy source is more. We can all agree that creating demand for American-made, energy-efficient products will create good jobs, and we can all agree that cutting the energy bills of homeowners, businesses, and the Federal Government is a very good thing.

Vermont has been a leader for a long time in energy efficiency. We were the first in the Nation to establish an "energy efficiency utility" to provide assistance to homeowners and businesses that were seeking to lower their energy bills. In 2013 alone, the work of Efficiency Vermont yielded a lifetime customer savings of \$206 million for Vermonters. That is real money.

The bill before us today takes an important step towards making America more energy efficient. It includes the Better Buildings Act, also known as Tenant Star, which will drive private sector innovation in the energy efficiency sector. Homes and buildings consume 40 percent of our energy in the United States. That is 40 percent. In commercial buildings, owners report that tenants consume up to 50 percent or more of the total building energy.

One of the challenges facing commercial buildings has been the issue of "split incentives." Building owners and tenants are not always on the same page when it comes to energy performance. Part of the problem is that only one party is paying the energy bill. The other part of the problem is that, while we recognize energy-efficient buildings through our ENERGY STAR program, we have no similar recognition program for tenant spaces. Our bill creates a voluntary Tenant Star recognition program for separate spaces in commercial buildings.

When we combine ENERGY STAR buildings with Tenant Star rentals, we can optimize energy efficiency and shorten payback periods. A good example of this synergy can be found in the ENERGY STAR-certified Vermont Innovation Center, located in Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation is located in this building as well as my own district office.

The VEIC took aggressive action to optimize the efficiency of its tenant space in the building. It converted the overhead fluorescent lighting to highly efficient LEDs and applied 6 inches of spray foam insulation to the exterior walls. Making these improvements in an ENERGY STAR building optimized an already efficient tenant space. The VEIC expects to save nearly \$11,000 a year in energy savings. However, there is no recognition program for these improvements, and we don't know what else VEIC could be doing to increase energy savings.

Under this bill, we will study the best ways to optimize commercial tenant spaces and to recognize such spaces with a new Tenant Star label. By combining energy-efficient tenant build-outs with ENERGY STAR buildings, we will double down on a successful program and optimize energy savings in commercial buildings, all through voluntary action.

In addition to Tenant Star, this legislation includes two other important efficiency provisions.

First, the bill makes much-needed changes to energy efficiency standards for large water heaters used in demand response programs. These water heaters act as residential energy storage devices and allow utilities to curb energy demand during peak hours.

Mr. WHITFIELD, thank you again for your leadership on this.

Second, the bill will require the disclosure of the amount of energy consumed in federally leased buildings and begin benchmarking their energy use.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass additional bipartisan energy efficiency bills, including a more expansive version of the McKinley-Welch-Shaheen-Portman legislation before us today. We should also pass legislation to encourage performance contracting in Federal buildings and streamline the Federal green schools efforts.

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Madam Speaker, energy efficiency is not a partisan issue. I am encouraged by the steps we are taking today and look forward to working with my colleagues on additional initiatives that cut energy bills, create jobs, and improve the environment. I urge Members to vote for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, and I want to join with my colleague, Mr. WELCH, in congratulating all in the leadership: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PALLONE,

and the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, this is a modest but, most importantly, a bipartisan piece of legislation that combines three separate energy efficiency titles. This bill was passed by unanimous consent out of the Senate just this last month.

The bill before us today is also similar to H.R. 2126, which passed out of this House in the last session of Congress on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 375–36.

The first title of this bill, Madam Speaker, is the Better Buildings Act, which was introduced into the Congress by my friends and colleagues, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

This title simply directs the General Services Administration to develop model leasing provisions and best practices to encourage commercial building owners and their tenants to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. These model leasing provisions may then be used in Federal leases and, along with the best practices, Madam Speaker, shall be made available to all State and local governments.

Additionally, section 103 directs the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the feasibility of significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction of separate tenant spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

Section 104 directs the EPA to develop a “Tenant Star” program within the ENERGY STAR program to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants in commercial buildings. This data can then be used to establish an ENERGY STAR rating system to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces.

Madam Speaker, title II of this bill, the Grid-Enabled Water Heaters bill, was introduced by my colleague and my good friend, Chairman WHITFIELD, along with Mr. WELCH, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DOYLE. This section establishes a separate energy efficiency standard for grid-enabled water heaters, which are used in utility demand and thermal storage programs.

Finally, Madam Speaker, title III of this bill, the Energy Information for Commercial Buildings bill, which was introduced into Congress by my friend and colleague, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, requires Federally leased buildings without ENERGY STAR labels to benchmark and disclose their energy usage data in most cases.

It also requires the Department of Energy to complete a study of best practices for and impacts of, one, State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial

and multifamily buildings; and, two, utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multi-tenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs. In addition, Madam Speaker, the DOE is required to maintain a database to store and make available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings.

Madam Speaker, in recent history, we have not been able to pass bipartisan energy legislation through both Chambers and into law, so it is important that we move this bill to the President's desk so that we can demonstrate once again to the American people that this Congress is still capable of functioning properly and legislating on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I don't believe we have any additional speakers on our side, and I would like the opportunity to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) not just for his remarks on this bill, but for his leadership on this issue and other issues in the committee over the years.

It is a good day when we can come together to do something constructive. This legislation finds that spot, energy efficiency, where we can join in embracing the enormous benefit of creating ways where homeowners and business owners of commercial buildings can figure out how to cut down on their bills. Whatever fuel source they use, if they have got a lower bill, that is a good thing.

To achieve that goal, we have to put Americans to work, a lot of tradespeople who have got real skills and need a place to use them. They are the ones who retrofit these buildings, commercial buildings and homes. There is an incidental benefit: We reduce carbon emissions since we are using less fuel. This is tremendous.

I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for all the good work that they did.

Madam Speaker, seeing no other speakers here, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle once again, specifically Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, Congressmen MCKINLEY and WELCH, Mr. UPTON and Mr. PALLONE, and certainly Mr. RUSH of Illinois. All of them worked very diligently on this, and I know they are committed to efficiency.

I want to just say one more time that I am specifically pleased that this legislation will stop the Department of Energy's regulation that would prohibit the manufacture of heat-resistant

water heaters above 55 gallons. If that regulation had been allowed to continue, it would have cost the American public a lot more money going to the heat pump technology. So this legislation has stopped that. It is going to improve efficiency. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 535, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015. This is bipartisan legislation to promote energy efficiency that recently passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

S. 535—sponsored by Senators PORTMAN and SHAHEEN—is very similar to legislation reported last Congress by the Energy and Commerce Committee which passed the House with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The bill addresses three main areas: energy efficient buildings, the grid-enabled water heaters, and energy benchmarking and information disclosure for federal buildings.

Title one is comprised of the Better Buildings Act, bipartisan legislation sponsored in the House by Reps. MCKINLEY and WELCH. Section 102 of the bill directs the General Services Administration to develop model leasing provisions and best practices to encourage commercial building owners and tenants to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. It also ensures the model leasing provisions are available for use in federal leases and, along with the best practices, are available for state and local governments to also use. Additionally, Section 103 directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to study improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through design and construction of separate tenant spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures. And, Section 104 directs EPA to develop a voluntary “Tenant Star” program within the Energy Star program to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants in commercial buildings and requires the Agency to establish an Energy Star rating system to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces.

Title two establishes a separate energy efficiency standard for grid-enabled water heaters, which are used in utility demand-response and thermal storage programs. This is substantially the same language included in H.R. 906, legislation sponsored by Chairman WHITFIELD, Mr. LOEBSACK and others that was reported without dissent last week by our committee. In addition to establishing a separate standard for these water heaters, the provision requires those units to have a built-in activation lock to ensure their participation in such a program.

Finally, title three is essentially the same as H.R. 1867, legislation sponsored by Reps. CASTOR and KINZINGER regarding energy information for commercial buildings. Section 301 requires federally-leased buildings without Energy Star labels to benchmark and disclose their energy usage data except in certain circumstances. It also requires DOE to complete a study of best practices regarding the impacts of state and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings, as well as

utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multitenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs. In addition, it requires DOE to maintain a database to store and make available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings.

S. 535 is a stripped down version of the Shaheen-Portman efficiency legislation that has taken far too long to pass either chamber. However, I am disappointed that—unlike the original Shaheen-Portman bill—the proposal before us does not contain provisions authored by Rep. ESHOO that would address the efficiency of federal data centers. This is an area where we can easily see a great gain in efficiency relatively quickly and easily and her proposal has good bipartisan support. So, I have to note with concern the fact that something as useful and bipartisan as that federal data center efficiency language could not make it into the final package, despite being something that enjoys support on both sides.

I hope that is an anomaly and not a harbinger of things to come, because we need to look at both sides of the equation—demand and supply, consumers and producers—to construct an energy policy for the future, one that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. And we need the resources of both sides of the aisle, both chambers of Congress and all branches of government to get there.

Today, the Obama Administration released the first installment of its Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) after a year-long, detailed examination of our energy needs. The QER is not exactly glamorous, but it is a serious, thoughtful and necessary look at how best to modernize America's energy infrastructure to create jobs and grow our economy in a manner that ensures our energy security and protects our environment. While I look forward to reviewing the complete report, I know that the progress updates we have received throughout the year have elicited positive and hopeful reactions from both sides of the aisle.

That's why I'm particularly pleased that the Administration is releasing this now while our Committee and our counterparts in the other body are considering the components of a possible bipartisan energy bill. We must meet consumers' need for reliable, affordable and, just as importantly, clean energy—one of the nation's most pressing issues. The QER looks to the future of our economy to take full advantage of American innovation and the new sources of domestic energy supply that are transforming the nation's energy marketplace. Just like efficiency, energy infrastructure—particularly with regard to size, scope, volume and siting—is critical to that endeavor. So, too, is the makeup—not just the volume—of the jobs that are created in modernizing that infrastructure; they must be jobs that are long-term, well-paying, and a gateway to the American dream for a diverse range of women and men.

As Chairman UPTON, Chairman WHITFIELD, Ranking Member RUSH and I continue to explore the potential for developing and moving a bipartisan energy bill during this Congress, I hope we will take advantage of the QER, as well as the best consensus ideas on both sides of the aisle here in Congress. That, to

me, is the only successful path forward and it is the process embodied in the legislation before us today.

I urge my colleagues to support both the legislation before us and continuing the effort to build a broad, bipartisan partnership on energy issues. Only through this kind of cooperation can we enact energy legislation that truly powers our economy and our future.

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I strongly support the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act, which will create a special category for large volume water heaters in the Department of Energy's new energy efficiency standards. Without this bill, manufacturers would no longer be able to make large volume water heaters, which are commonly used in Minnesota homes.

This legislation is necessary because the DOE failed to recognize the many benefits that large-volume water heaters provide, like bringing more renewable energy onto the grid, and allowing power plants to run more efficiently. The Department then made a problematic rule even worse by pulling a waiver for this technology three weeks before the rule went final this month.

This could have been where the story ended, but a diverse coalition of stakeholders had been working together to ensure that this technology can continue to be used.

They know that using electricity in a smarter way not only saves consumers money, but it is also good for the environment and helps to stabilize the grid.

That is why industry, environmental and energy efficiency stakeholders support these hot water heaters when used as part of demand response systems. I hope that with the passage of this bill, the Department can get quickly reverse course, and move forward.

This is good, reasonable legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 535.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS AND EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 471) to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 471

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. REGISTRATION PROCESS UNDER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

##### (a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) FACTORS AS MAY BE RELEVANT TO AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) In this section, the phrase ‘factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety’ means factors that are relevant to and consistent with the findings contained in section 101.”.

(2) IMMINENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY.—Section 304(d) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 824(d)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(d) The Attorney General” and inserting “(d)(1) The Attorney General”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) In this subsection, the phrase ‘imminent danger to the public health or safety’ means that, in the absence of an immediate suspension order, controlled substances will continue to be distributed or dispensed by a registrant who knows or should know through fulfilling the obligations of the registrant under this Act—

“(A) the dispensing is outside the usual course of professional practice;

“(B) the distribution or dispensing poses a present or foreseeable risk of adverse health consequences or death due to the abuse or misuse of the controlled substances; or

“(C) the controlled substances will continue to be diverted outside of legitimate distribution channels.”.

(b) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN PRIOR TO REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION.—Subsection (c) of section 304 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 824) is amended—

(1) by striking the last two sentences;

(2) by striking “(c) Before” and inserting “(c)(1) Before”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) An order to show cause under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) contain a statement of the basis for the denial, revocation, or suspension, including specific citations to any laws or regulations alleged to be violated by the applicant or registrant;

“(B) direct the applicant or registrant to appear before the Attorney General at a time and place stated in the order, but not less than 30 days after the date of receipt of the order; and

“(C) notify the applicant or registrant of the opportunity to submit a corrective action plan on or before the date of appearance.

“(3) Upon review of any corrective action plan submitted by an applicant or registrant pursuant to paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall determine whether denial, revocation or suspension proceedings should be discontinued, or deferred for the purposes of modification, amendment, or clarification to such plan.

“(4) Proceedings to deny, revoke, or suspend shall be conducted pursuant to this section in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code. Such proceedings shall be independent of, and not in lieu of, criminal prosecutions or other proceedings under this title or any other law of the United States.

“(5) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to the issuance of an immediate suspension order under subsection (d).”.

**SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON EFFECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON PATIENT ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in coordination with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate identifying—

(1) obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances;

(2) issues with diversion of controlled substances; and

(3) how collaboration between Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the pharmaceutical industry can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The report under subsection (a) shall incorporate feedback and recommendations from the following:

(1) Patient groups.  
(2) Pharmacies.  
(3) Drug manufacturers.  
(4) Common or contract carriers and warehousemen.

(5) Hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers.

(6) State attorneys general.

(7) Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

(8) Health insurance providers and entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of a health insurance provider.

(9) Wholesale drug distributors.

(10) Veterinarians.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015. This critical legislation combats inappropriate use of prescription drugs by bringing greater clarity and transparency to the requirements for safe and secure distribution of these medicines.

It accomplishes these goals by clarifying some key terminology in the

Controlled Substances Act. This comprehensive approach to the legislation will result in better protections against diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

What it does is it provides the DEA with the clarity to collaborate with the very people responsible for ensuring that these medications get to the patients who need them without hurting and harming that distribution chain and while clamping down on diversions and abuse. These collaborations will lead to improved policies to prevent diversion while allowing legitimate patients to have access to the medications they need.

Now, like so many components and pieces and bills and parts of legislation, the best example of why this is needed is a story that comes from home. In the case of this bill, we had a constituent who called our office after one of the recent ice storms that we saw in middle Tennessee this winter. It seemed as if these storms would never stop. The ice would come, and then it would not melt.

We had a constituent who has a son who has a severe seizure disorder, and he takes three different medicines to control these seizures. Although his medicines are not opioids, two of them are controlled substances. So this mother, taking care of her son, decided she better get herself to the drugstore before the storm hit, and she did just that, to refill his prescriptions. She was anticipating that the prescriptions would run out before the ice melted and she would be able to get to the store.

At the drugstore, she was told that she could not refill them because it was too early. She explained the situation. The pharmacist sympathized, but the pharmacist went on to say if the prescription were to be filled early, there would be problems with the DEA and other agencies.

□ 1600

The pharmacist was worried that his license might be lost.

Our legislation is simply to ensure that patients who have a legitimate need for medications can receive them while we are battling diversion and abuse, which truly is a problem in this country.

So, Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this effort. I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I am writing with respect to H.R. 471, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 471 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge

our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 471 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 471, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 471.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 471, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015". As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo consideration of H.R. 471, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, for which you will have my support.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 471 on the House floor. Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
Chairman.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased that the House is taking up again bipartisan action today to address the serious issue that impacts families in each of our districts: prescription drug abuse.

Vermont, like Tennessee and many States around the country, is grappling with a serious opiate epidemic. In addition to alarming increases in heroin abuse, admissions for treatment of prescription drug abuse increased 361 percent between 2005 and 2013.

As we have experienced in Vermont, we are most effective in dealing with this public health crisis when stakeholders—providers, public health officials, law enforcement, distributors, and pharmacists—come together to tackle the problem head-on.



Today, the distributors of prescription drugs, along with local pharmacies, are experiencing unpredictable enforcement from the DEA. This has led to disruptions in the supply chain which limit patient access to prescription drugs for legitimate uses, as was evidenced by my colleague's story.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act will encourage collaboration between law enforcement, members of the supply chain, and public health providers and officials while ensuring patients have access to the treatment their doctor has prescribed.

It has been a pleasure to work with Representative MARINO, Representative BLACKBURN, and Representative CHU, who has been a major leader on this, and I thank them for their efforts and their leadership. I also thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for making this issue a priority of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 471, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is so important for us to note that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) has been the primary author of this legislation and has brought to the table to work on this bill his experience of 7 years as a U.S. attorney—10 years prior to that as a district attorney—and has seen firsthand and dealt with drug diversion, drug enforcement issues, and the needs of the patient.

At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, in early 2013, a pharmacist told me about a problem he was having accessing necessary prescriptions for his customers, many of whom were older cancer patients suffering with chronic pain.

What started out as a simple conversation with a constituent soon turned into serious concerns about problems in the prescription drug supply chain—problems that we aim to address here today by passing H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act.

Any legitimate business involved in distributing or dispensing prescriptions welcomes appropriate oversight and regulation. Further, we know these businesses value a collaborative working relationship with agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies alike are on the front lines every day in the fight to end the prescription drug abuse epidemic. They are making efforts to educate prescribers and patients about the safe use and disposal of prescriptions and working to implement prescription drug monitoring programs that will reduce the illegal diversion of powerful opioid pain relievers.

Despite a strong commitment to being part of the solution, distributors and pharmacists are finding that the unnecessary adversarial regulatory environment created by the DEA is putting effective enforcement outcomes in jeopardy.

As a former district attorney and United States attorney, I have fond memories of working with DEA agents to put away drug dealers. To say that I have the highest regard for the DEA and the work they do does not begin to convey my respect for the agency and its employees. That is why I am so passionate about this subject and why I think it is necessary to pass H.R. 471 today.

This bill will bring much-needed clarity to critical provisions of the Controlled Substances Act. In doing so, we will ensure that the DEA's authorities are not abused and threatened by future legal challenges; foster greater collaboration, communication, and transparency between the DEA and the supply chain; create more opportunities to identify bad actors at the end of the supply chain; and, most importantly, be certain that prescriptions are accessible to patients in need.

We are all in this together. We cannot enforce our way out of this epidemic. Education, treatment, and enforcement are all critical to addressing the problem, but so is collaboration.

The clarity that H.R. 471 brings will ensure that the current regulatory culture evolves into one that rewards cooperation and brings more successful diversion control efforts in the future.

I want to thank my friend, Congresswoman BLACKBURN, for working closely with my team and me to develop the bill. I want to thank our champions on the other side of the aisle, Dr. JUDY CHU and Representative PETER WELCH, for their leadership and efforts to bring us here today.

We could not have achieved this without the efforts of Chairman PITTS and Chairman UPTON and their staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I must thank House Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE for his forthright suggestions that made this a more effective, efficient measure worthy of consideration by this House.

Again, I want to stress the fact that this is bipartisan. The Democrats and the Republicans saw the importance in this and got together, and we worked it out, and I thank everyone involved.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU), one of the lead sponsors of this legislation.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, prescription drugs improve the quality of life for millions of Americans. They treat illnesses, alleviate pain, and help cure disease. But the ease of abuse has turned a solution into a problem.

Each year, nearly 15,000 overdose deaths are attributed to prescription pain relievers—more than heroin and cocaine combined. Our government and private entities in the prescription drug supply chain must do what they can to prevent drug abuse and diversion.

At the same time, we must ensure that pharmacists, who are our Nation's most accessible healthcare providers, are able to dispense drugs to patients who are in legitimate need and have proper prescriptions without groundless disruptions.

The bipartisan bill we vote on today that I am proud to have introduced with my colleagues would do just that. Our bill encourages collaboration between stakeholders and the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure effective enforcement of abuse while also ensuring that patients will continue to have safe access to the drugs they need. This will lead to fewer disruptions for pharmacists and, in turn, ensure that patients will not be left behind.

I urge an "aye" vote on this very important bill.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), one of our colleagues from the Appropriations Committee handling Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations.

Mr. JOLLY. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this commonsense measure that will help us more effectively fight prescription drug abuse while also ensuring that Americans are able to get their needed pain medications.

Florida has been at the epicenter of the debate concerning combating prescription drug abuse while ensuring legitimate patient access to critical pain medications.

Florida was one of the first States to be affected by the proliferation of "pill mills" and took strong action to shut them down, under the stellar leadership of our State attorney general.

We have seen similar challenges nationally, and DEA has taken action. Unfortunately, Federal agencies have not coordinated their efforts to ensure appropriate access to prescription controlled substances.

In Florida and elsewhere, we are seeing legitimate patients who are getting caught up in the efforts to stop prescription drug abuse.

My own father was one of those patients: an 80-year-old retired minister prescribed a legitimate medication for chronic pain and yet unable to fill that prescription at his local pharmacy. All of the best intentions in the world by all of the actors but, unfortunately, there were very unintended consequences for a patient who needed care.

The issue is largely due to DEA policies and extremely poor coordination between DEA and FDA.



The key to this legislation is collaboration and coordination. This bill requires HHS and DEA to collaboratively assess the obstacles patients like my own father face and more effectively coordinate those efforts to prevent diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, while including the input of private sector stakeholders who are vital to these efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important and commonsense legislation.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Mr. MARINO. We have the practical application of a commonsense approach here, where, on the one hand, you have got this enormous health need that the people whom we represent can have some of their suffering alleviated if they can get access to the appropriate prescription drugs. On the other hand, we do have an abuse. Folks get stuck on them, and we have got law enforcement out there trying to make sure they are enforcing the laws.

The need for law enforcement and the need for proper access to prescription medication have to coexist. This practical presentation that was spearheaded by somebody who knows how law enforcement works and is committed to the principles of good law enforcement, I think, really gave this Congress a boost in coming up with a practical, bipartisan approach to finding the right balance.

So I thank my colleague, Mrs. BLACKBURN, as well as Mr. JOLLY, for what I thought was a very helpful statement, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who has worked through this issue with some veterans.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 471.

We have all seen reports in our local newspapers about the fight against prescription drug abuse by our local law enforcement officials and the damaging effect that prescription drug abuse has on families and communities across this country.

According to the CDC, since 1999, the amount of prescription painkillers prescribed and sold in the United States has quadrupled. There is, indeed, a trend in the abuse of prescription painkillers, which is, in part, attributed to the changes in how providers prescribe painkillers.

The best way to crack down on prescription drug abuse is to have a broad coalition of specialists, including supply chain stakeholders and regulators, to encourage a constructive dialogue to help minimize the impact of this serious public health issue. This legislation does just that.

Our Federal agencies will be required to consult with our local pharmacies and stakeholders on how best to prevent prescription drug abuse, while not taking away the access for individuals who rely on these drugs for medicinal needs.

I commend the efforts of Congressman MARINO and Congresswoman BLACKBURN to create a more constructive environment between manufacturers, wholesalers, retail pharmacies, and enforcement agencies to crack down on this epidemic.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

□ 1615

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as our colleagues have heard today, this is a bipartisan effort, and Mr. MARINO has really worked diligently with his team and with all of us on this legislation to make certain that we got it right the first time and we didn't have to come back and revisit it.

I thank him, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), and the gentleman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) for the efforts that they have put into this, and also Chairman PRTTS and Chairman UPTON for the diligence that they have shown to the issue to make certain that we moved the bill through the process.

As I said earlier, this is about access to the supply chain and making certain that those with legitimate needs for these medicines have the ability to access them in a timely manner, also bringing our pharmacists and the DEA into a collaborative process, with clarity, so that they make certain that this supply chain remains open to those that need it and that the DEA has the ability to continue to fight diversion and drug abuse.

Prescription drugs kill more people than heroin. This is something we need to realize is a problem. At the same time, those that need these medicines, we need to make certain that supply chain is clear.

I thank my colleagues for their diligence and their work, and I encourage an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015.

Millions of Americans rely on prescription drugs to treat and cure illnesses and improve the overall quality of their lives. Unfortunately, we also have a significant problem in this country with abuse of prescription drugs.

H.R. 471 would help drug distributors, pharmacies, and others work with DEA to achieve the difficult balance between keeping controlled substance prescription drugs away from drug abusers, but not from patients who urgently need them.

It would achieve this goal by making several changes to the Controlled Substances Act. It would provide definitions for the phrases "factors as may be relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety" and "imminent danger to the public health or safety." It would require DEA to provide registrants an opportunity to submit an action plan to correct any violations for which DEA is considering revoking or suspending their controlled substance registration. And it would require FDA, in consultation with DEA, to submit a report one year after enactment to Congress on obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances and collaborative efforts to benefit patients and prevent abuse of these substances.

I want to thank Representatives BLACKBURN, MARINO, WELCH and CHU for introducing this bipartisan legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 471, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 21

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the "sponsor") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the "event"), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 20, 2015, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

#### SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

**SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.**

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

**SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.**

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

**SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 21.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 21 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 20.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a longtime supporter of this event and the children involved each year.

This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The soapbox derby encourages children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the national All-American Soap Box Derby held in Ohio.

I support passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative HOYER for, every year, introducing this resolution on behalf of the Washington regional delegation, and I rise as an original cosponsor.

This annual competitive event encourages boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, to construct and operate their own soapbox vehicles. The children that participate in these races come from all over the national capital region to participate in this really fun event.

The derby has become quite a tradition in Washington. The D.C. metro-

politan area has hosted this tradition for over the last 20 years. It provides a terrific opportunity for children to appreciate the workmanship necessary to build the vehicles and for the thrill of competition.

Winners of this event go on to compete in the national competition in Akron, Ohio, where they compete against children from all over the world. On race day, every Greater Washington Soap Box Derby participant starts the race day with a chance to become a world champion.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to ensure the appropriate rules and regulations are in place and that the event remains free to the public.

I support this terrific opportunity for the children of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I may have one additional speaker, but I would like to say that the children who participate in this event do so with a lot of creativity and ingenuity. They spend an entire year designing their vehicles, then they test their vehicles; they experiment with their friends, and then they put them out on race day for the soapbox derby.

Now, I haven't had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of participating in a soapbox derby, but they sure are fun to watch. Each year, Representative HOYER makes sure that all of our delegation in the Metropolitan Washington region gathers to organize to make certain that children, from ages 9 through 16, are able to construct those vehicles, operate them themselves, and compete in the competition.

As I have said before, Mr. Speaker, the great challenge is that, on race day, in the morning, all of the young people participating in the soapbox derby get up; and on that day, first thing in the morning, every single one of them is a champion, right up until the finish line. It is an exciting time for these young people.

Of course, they go on to compete in a competition in Akron, Ohio, where there are kids gathered from all over the world who also do the same thing: build those soapboxes and participate.

The Washington metropolitan region is really grateful to be able to host this soapbox derby and, of course, with the good graces of this Congress, to be able to do that on the Capitol Grounds with the cooperation of the Architect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank her for using some of the time so I could get up to the floor. I appreciate that very much. I also thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which I have sponsored for many Congresses, to permit the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its annual race on the grounds of the United States Capitol. I am sure that both the chairman and the ranking member, Ms. EDWARDS, have already said that.

This year will be the 74th soapbox derby, held on June 20. On that day, young people from around Washington, D.C., will gather at the Capitol for an event that is both fun, educational, and a teacher of responsibility and making things in America.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby began in 1938 with Norman Rocca outmaneuvering 223 other racers to win the inaugural race. Each year since, dozens of boys and girls, ranging in age from 8 to 17, have competed in three divisions: stock, super stock, and masters. The winner in each will qualify to compete with racers from across the country in the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio.

Called "the greatest amateur racing event in the world," America's soapbox derbies bring parents, children, and friends and neighbors together. They teach hard work, leadership, sportsmanship, and pride of achievement.

These values not only make great soapbox racers, but great American innovators and leaders in business, government, science, and the arts. Participants are often sponsored by community groups, police departments, fire departments, service organizations, and others who see future great promise in these children and teenagers.

Mr. Speaker, I have been sponsoring this resolution for 24 years because I am so proud of America's soapbox derby tradition and proud of those from Maryland's Fifth District who participate.

My district has celebrated a number of derby champions, including the winners from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2014. My district is sort of like John Wooden's UCLA or the Duke Blue Devils, maybe, or the Maryland Terrapins. The young Marylanders who won the Greater Washington race in 2007 and 2008 went on to win the national championship.

I want to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this resolution: Representatives CHRIS VAN HOLLEN; GERRY CONNOLLY; DON BEYER; JOHN DELANEY; ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON; DONNA EDWARDS, who has brought this to the floor with the chair; and BARBARA COMSTOCK.

I hope all Members of this House will join in supporting our resolution, and they will come to watch the soapbox derby in action on June 20.

Again, I thank my colleague from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), for making sure that I got here so that I could, once again, say how proud I am of

those who participate in the soapbox derby.

Good luck to all of them.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to, once again, thank the gentleman from Maryland for his commitment to our youth and for, once again, introducing this great piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 21.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 25

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 34th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the “Memorial Service”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2014.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2015, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 12, 2015.

#### SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the “Exhibition”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bag pipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2015, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

#### SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

#### SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

#### SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1630

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Con. Res. 25.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 25 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and a National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution, along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

These events are held each year as part of Police Week, to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This year, over 125 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers will be honored for their ultimate sacrifice: giving their lives in the line of duty. Four of these officers are from Pennsylvania, including one from near my district, Corporal Bryon Dickson II of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Corporal Dickson was killed in September of 2014 after he and Trooper Alex Douglass were shot during an ambush targeting police officers outside the Blooming Grove barracks in northeastern Pennsylvania. The suspect, Eric Frein, cowardly hid in the woods while local, State, and Federal law enforcement searched for him. He was finally captured after a 7-week manhunt.

Corporal Dickson was a United States Marine Corps veteran and served with the Pennsylvania State Police for 7 years. He left behind a wife and two young sons.

Three other Pennsylvania officers will also be honored, including Officer Richard Champion of the Perryopolis Borough Police Department, who was killed during a vehicle pursuit in December; Trooper David Kedra of the Pennsylvania State Police, who was accidentally shot during a training exercise; and Sergeant Sheryl Pierce of the South Londonderry Township Police Department, who died from a deadly illness contracted while carrying out her duties.

The sacrifices of these officers and the sacrifices of those like them should not be forgotten. These tragic episodes should serve to remind all citizens of the dangerous jobs our men and women of law enforcement courageously volunteer for. They put their lives on the line to protect us daily, and for that we should always remain grateful.

I support passage of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 25 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service on May 15 and a National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. Both events will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police.

The National Peace Officers Memorial will honor law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2014. According to preliminary estimates, over 125 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty just this last year, a 24 percent increase over the 102 officers killed in 2013.

Firearms-related incidents were the leading cause of death among law enforcement officers in 2014, with 50 officers slain by firearms. The second leading cause of death among law enforcement officers was traffic-related fatalities, with 49 officers killed in that manner.

In the State of Maryland, there was one law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 2014, Officer Jamel Claggett from the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we are honoring and recognizing peace officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2014, but I would like to make a personal note that in the State of Maryland alone, just since the beginning of

this year, three officers were killed and one police dog was also killed in the line of duty:

Just a couple of weeks ago, Federal Protective Service Officer Lawrence Buckner was killed outside of the Census Bureau on April 9; just a few weeks before that, Prince George's County Police Officer Brennan Rabain was killed in an automobile accident on March 7; just prior to that, in January, a police officer from Baltimore, Craig Chandler, was also killed in a vehicle accident; a canine, Bella, from the Maryland Division of Correction in Maryland was killed in a fire incident also just a few weeks ago.

It is a stark reminder of the jeopardy that officers place themselves in and a reminder of what they do every single day to protect each and every one of us. I have such a deep admiration and appreciation for the fallen officers who will be honored on May 15 and the ultimate sacrifices they have made on behalf of all of our local communities. I urge Members to join me in supporting this tribute to our law enforcement officers across the country who died in the line of duty in 2014.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 25, which authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

Carved on its walls are the names of 20,538 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

Added to the Wall this year will be the names of the 117 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, enshrined on the Memorial Wall of Honor also are the names of 1,695 fallen peace officers from the state of Texas, the most of any state, including 114 members of the Houston Police Department who gave their lives to keep their city safe.

I ask unanimous consent to include a list of these fallen heroes from Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever.

About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Every year, a law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in the United States every

60 hours, and there are also 58,930 assaults against our law officers each year, resulting in 15,404 injuries.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 117 fallen heroes who will be joining the 20,538 gallant men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

#### HOUSTON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIALIZED ON THE WALL OF HONOR

1. Timothy Scott Abernethy, End of Watch: December 7, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.
2. Charles H Baker, End of Watch: August 16, 1979, Houston, Texas, P.D.
3. Johnny Terrell Bamsch, End of Watch: January 30, 1975, Houston, Texas, P.D.
4. Claude R Beck, End of Watch: December 10, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.
5. Jack B Beets, End of Watch: March 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.
6. Troy A Blando, End of Watch: May 19, 1999, Houston, Texas, P.D.
7. James Charles Boswell, End of Watch: December 9, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.
8. C E Branon, End of Watch: March 20, 1959, Houston, Texas, P.D.
9. John M Cain, End of Watch: August 3, 1911, Houston, Texas, P.D.
10. Richard H Calhoun, End of Watch: October 10, 1975, Houston Texas Police Department
11. Dionicio M Camacho, End of Watch: October 23, 2009, Harris County, Texas, S.O.
12. Henry Canales, End of Watch: June 23, 2009, Houston, Texas, P.D.
13. Frank Manuel Cantu Jr, End of Watch: March 25, 2004, Houston, Texas, P.D.
14. E C Chavez, End of Watch: September 17, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
15. Charles Roy Clark, End of Watch: April 3, 2003, Houston, Texas, P.D.
16. Charles Robert Coates II, End of Watch: February 23, 1983, Houston, Texas, P.D.
17. Pete Corrales, End of Watch: January 25, 1925, Houston, Texas, P.D.
18. Rufus E Daniels, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.
19. Johnnie Davidson, End of Watch: February 19, 1921, Houston, Texas, P.D.
20. Worth Davis, End of Watch: June 17, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.
21. Keith Alan Dees, End of Watch: March 7, 2002, Houston, Texas, P.D.
22. Reuben Becerra Deleon Jr, End of Watch: October 26, 2005, Houston, Texas, P.D.
23. William Edwin Deleon, End of Watch: March 29, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.
24. Floyd T Deloach Jr, End of Watch: June 30, 1965, Houston, Texas, P.D.
25. George D Edwards, End of Watch: June 30, 1939, Houston, Texas, P.D.
26. Dawn Suzanne Erickson, End of Watch: December 24, 1995, Houston, Texas, P.D.
27. J C Etheridge, End of Watch: August 23, 1924, Houston, Texas, P.D.
28. James E Fenn, End of Watch: March 14, 1891, Houston, Texas, P.D.
29. E D Fitzgerald, End of Watch: September 30, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.
30. C Edward Foley, End of Watch: March 10, 1860, Houston, Texas, P.D.
31. Joseph Robert Free, End of Watch: October 18, 1912, Houston, Texas, P.D.
32. Guy P Gaddis, End of Watch: January 31, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.

33. James T Gambill, End of Watch: December 1, 1936, Houston, Texas, P.D.

34. Florentino M Garcia Jr, End of Watch: November 10, 1989, Houston, Texas, P.D.

35. Ben Eddie Gerhart, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.

36. G Q Gonzalez, End of Watch: February 28, 1960, Houston, Texas, P.D.

37. Charles R Gougenheim, End of Watch: April 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.

38. Carl Greene, End of Watch: March 14, 1928, Houston, Texas, P.D.

39. Leon Griggs, End of Watch: January 31, 1970, Houston, Texas, P.D.

40. Maria Michelle Groves, End of Watch: April 10, 1987, Houston, Texas, P.D.

41. Gary Allen Gryder, End of Watch: June 29, 2008, Houston, Texas, P.D.

42. Antonio Guzman JF, End of Watch: January 9, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.

43. Howard B Hammond, End of Watch: August 18, 1946, Houston, Texas, P.D.

44. James Donald Harris, End of Watch: July 13, 1982, Houston, Texas, P.D.

45. David Michael Healy, End of Watch: November 12, 1994, Houston, Texas, P.D.

46. Timothy A Hearn, End of Watch: June 8, 1978, Houston, Texas, P.D.

47. Oscar Hope, End of Watch: June 22, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.

48. Elston M Howard, End of Watch: July 20, 1988, Houston, Texas, P.D.

49. David Huerta, End of Watch: September 19, 1973, Houston, Texas, P.D.

50. James Bruce Irby, End of Watch: June 27, 1990, Houston, Texas, P.D.

51. Bobby L James, End of Watch: June 26, 1968, Houston, Texas, P.D.

52. John C James, End of Watch: December 12, 1901, Houston, Texas, P.D.

53. Rodney Joseph Johnson, End of Watch: September 21, 2006, Houston, Texas, P.D.

54. Ed Jones, End of Watch: September 13, 1929, Houston, Texas, P.D.

55. P P Jones, End of Watch: January 30, 1927, Houston, Texas, P.D.

56. Frank L Kellogg, End of Watch: November 30, 1955, Houston, Texas, P.D.

57. S A Buster Kent, End of Watch: January 12, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.

58. James F Kilty, End of Watch: April 8, 1976, Houston, Texas, P.D.

59. Kent Dean Kincaid, End of Watch: May 23, 1998, Houston, Texas, P.D.

60. Louis R Kuba, End of Watch: May 17, 1967, Houston, Texas, P.D.

61. J D Landry, End of Watch: December 3, 1930, Houston, Texas, P.D.

62. Robert Wayne Lee, End of Watch: January 31, 1971, Houston, Texas, P.D.

63. Fred Maddox Jr, End of Watch: February 24, 1954, Houston, Texas, P.D.

64. Eydelmen Mani, End of Watch: May 19, 2010, Houston, Texas, P.D.

65. A P Marshall, End of Watch: November 8 1937, Houston, Texas, P.D.

66. Charles R McDaniel, End of Watch: August 4, 1963, Houston, Texas, P.D.

67. E G Meinke, End of Watch: August 23, 1917, Houston, Texas, P.D.

68. Harry Mereness, End of Watch: October 18, 1933, Houston, Texas, P.D.

69. Noel R Miller, End of Watch: June 6, 1958, Houston, Texas, P.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 25.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 1195, to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1195.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1637

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, today the House considers H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. This bill is essential to provide small businesses a voice in the regulatory process and to help ensure community banks and credit unions continue to have a voice at the CFPB going forward.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, yet our regulatory system silences these hard-working Americans. Regulations meant for large corporations trickle down and have disproportionate impacts on Main Street businesses. We must remember that these businesses are, by and large, owned and operated by our neighbors and friends. They represent a life's work and a vision of the American Dream.

The CFPB was created to protect consumers in the financial marketplace, and it would seem impossible to responsibly undertake this endeavor of protecting the American consumer without consulting institutions that are most closely associated with the American consumer: small businesses and community financial institutions.

H.R. 1195 is a straightforward and bipartisan piece of legislation. It would amend the Dodd-Frank Act to create a small business advisory board to advise the CFPB. This bill would also codify two other advisory committees created by Director Cordray: the Credit Union Advisory Council and the Community Bank Advisory Council.

Under H.R. 1195, each board or council would advise the CFPB regarding concerns of its established membership. The Director of the CFPB would be required to appoint at least 15, but not more than 20, members to each board or council.

This bill is publicly supported by the following organizations: the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the Texas Land Title Association, the American Land Title Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Mr. Chairman, this is a truly a commonsense and bipartisan bill. Last Congress, an identical piece of legislation passed the House by voice vote. This Congress, H.R. 1195 passed out of the committee by a vote of 53-5. The ranking member, who is with us today, has voted for this bill two times, yet we find ourselves here today debating the merits of providing a voice for small businesses and community financial institutions.

This week, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was questioned about the health of American businesses. She said she was "surprised" to learn that small businesses were struggling.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1195 is just one small and commonsense step to providing a voice for our small businesses and community financial institutions in the regulatory process. It helps ensure that politicians and Washington bureaucrats aren't surprised to learn of the plight and struggles of these Main Street pillars. It gives these hard-working Americans a voice and a seat at the table.

Now, Democrats are going to say that our disagreement is with how the bill is paid for. Well, let me address that for a minute.

House rules require that any increase in mandatory spending be offset with a reduction in mandatory spending elsewhere. The CBO says H.R. 1195 will cost \$9 million, in total, over the next 10 years. Republicans simply reduced the maximum amount that the CFPB can draw from the Fed over the same 10-year period to offset this cost.

To put this into perspective, the CFPB, by statute, can draw approximately \$6.7 billion over the next 10 years. This offset that we are debating today amounts to 0.1 percent of this amount. If Democrats really want to claim that a 0.1 percent reduction in the \$6.7 billion that CFPB can spend over the next decade really threatens the Bureau's mission, perhaps it is time to examine the Bureau's current spending practices. I am quite confident that we can debate spending problems at the CFPB for the rest of the afternoon, should we need to.

Just to reiterate, H.R. 1195 will not cut spending on consumer protection. Let me repeat that. Just to reiterate, H.R. 1195 will not cut spending on consumer protection. It will provide a voice for small businesses.

Let's help our small businesses succeed. Let's help Main Street prosper, and let's vote today to move H.R. 1195 forward.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want the Members of the House to pay very close attention to this bill today because this bill represents tricks and games in ways that people don't often understand. But this is a prime example of how you take a good idea and mess it up. So I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1195, a measure that is, again, a shining example of how far Republicans will go to squander compromise, consensus, and good faith to advance an ideological anticonsumer agenda.

The bill before us today is just the latest instance of Financial Services Committee Republicans snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

□ 1645

It makes clear their commitment to do all they can to undercut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Let me say that again. They have spent so much time—amendment after amendment, attempt after attempt—to try and gut and dismantle the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and they have gone so far with this bill to undermine our efforts to be of assistance to small businesses and include them in a stronger advisory way to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau because they hate the Bureau so much.

Well, again, they do all they can to undercut this Bureau, an agency with an extraordinary record of success protecting consumers, reining in bad actors, and ensuring that we do not return to the predatory practices that put this Nation on the verge of economic collapse less than 10 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, as originally written, H.R. 1195 was a good and decent measure offered by my colleague, Mr. HECK

from Washington State, and, again, I applaud him for his leadership. The straightforward proposal offered by Mr. HECK would codify two of the advisory boards that the CFPB voluntarily created related to community banks and credit unions, while also creating a new small business advisory board for small businesses. Along with many other requirements of the Bureau, these boards create additional avenues for input from the entities that they have been given the power to regulate under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act.

So here is what we are talking about. The Bureau itself had created a number of advisory committees. Mr. HECK saw room for strengthening the ability of small businesses to have an advisory role, and so he created this bill. But, because, again, my friends on the opposite side of the aisle, the Republicans, hate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so much, they decided that they were going to play tricks and games and create an opportunity to reduce the funding so they could try and limit the Bureau's ability to do its work by adding all of these amendments. I am going to point out the tricks of these amendments as we go along here today.

So in a rare show of bipartisanship, the Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 1195 by a vote of 53-5. Many of my Democratic colleagues supported the proposal, just as we have supported the many efforts of the CFPB to be responsive to the unique needs of small businesses, community banks, and credit unions. But, as usual, that bipartisanship was short-lived, as Chairman HENSARLING added an amendment designed to pay for this measure by undermining the CFPB's authority and independent funding.

I find it ironic that this House has determined now is the time to offset the cost of legislation. Don't forget, we have the pay-for kings and queens on that side of the aisle. They said, they worked for, and they made a big issue that everything must be paid for, except when they decide to try and slip something in that they don't pay for. And they have done that on this floor with some of these bills that we will be talking about.

But with this bill, they decided a new kind of trick; and that is, let's find a way to take it from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau because not only will this pay for it, but this will reduce their ability to do their job paying for other things.

Just last week, the House majority voted to repeal the estate tax without paying for it at a staggering cost of \$269 billion. At a time when far too many Americans are struggling with stagnant wages and historic income inequality, my Republican counterparts seem all too willing to add to the Nation's deficit in order to pass give-

aways for the richest 0.2 percent of Americans.

Yet when it comes to a reasonable bill to enhance the voice of small businesses, community banks, and credit unions, which they claim to care so much about, the Republicans insist that the only way to pass the legislation is by cutting the CFPB—an agency that 84 percent of small-business owners support, according to polling from the small-business majority.

The truth of the matter is that, after several years of attempting to cap CFPB funding, the Republicans have chosen to transform Mr. HECK's bill into a vehicle to make drastic cuts to the CFPB's budget.

While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will claim otherwise, the CFPB itself estimates Chairman HENSARLING's poison pill amendment will cut its budget by about \$45 million over the next 5 years and by \$100 million over the next 10 years, capping it substantially less than the amount that they are currently able to request. That means this vote is one to weaken an agency with the explicit mission of standing up for consumers and taxpayers who have been subject to the deceptive practices of unscrupulous corporations.

The chairman's amendment guarantees that this otherwise bipartisan proposal will never become law, garnering significant opposition in the Senate and a veto threat from the Obama administration, who said this measure was "solely intended to impede the CFPB's ability to carry out its mission of protecting consumers in the financial markets," and further, they said, "could result in, among other things, undermining critical protections for families from abusive and predatory financial products."

Mr. Chairman, Republicans could have chosen any number of offsets to account for the cost of this proposal or, as they have done so many times before, waive their CutGo rules. Make no mistake about the intent of the Hensarling amendment. It is designed to back Democrats into a corner by attaching an unacceptable provision cutting CFPB's budget to a proposal that Democrats supported in committee.

The important work of the CFPB will not be undermined on our watch, and this backdoor attempt to cut its budget sets a dangerous precedent of using bipartisan bills as a way to sneak through measures that undermine the Bureau's independence and its ability to protect consumers.

Mr. Chairman, we don't understand on this side of the aisle why it is that our Republican friends hate the CFPB so much and have done so much to undermine them, to undercut them, and to try to reduce their funding. They know as well as we know that prior to the establishment of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that we put

into Dodd-Frank's reforms, consumers had no protections in the Government of the United States of America. Our regulatory agencies were not doing their jobs.

They say they were focused on safety and soundness. But who was working for the consumers? Nobody.

And so now we have a Bureau working for the consumers that is doing a wonderful job. And here we have every attempt that you can dream of, every scheme that you can think of, being levied by our friends on the opposite side of the aisle because they want to kill the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. As I have said, this is not going to happen on our watch. They can try any trick that they want. We are on to it.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I would just remind the ranking member that the Republicans, during the Rules Committee hearing, asked if they had a pay-for that they would like to offer in substitute for that, and they chose not to. So I think what we are hearing is that the minority is choosing to say that small businesses in this country aren't worth \$9 million. And what \$9 million is is, in 3 minutes, that will be the increase in our national debt in this country. So Republicans do take our deficit seriously, and we take the rules of this House seriously because the rules of the House require that when you have an increase in mandatory spending, you have to have an offset for that. What Republicans were trying to do is follow the rules of the House.

It is now my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), one of the primary sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Chairman, I do rise today in support of H.R. 1195, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau continues to issue regulations designed for massive, systemic-risk financial institutions without considering how those same rules harm small businesses, community banks, and credit unions.

That is why my good friend and colleague, Congressman DENNY HECK, joined with me to establish a small business advisory board within the CFPB. The goal is simple: to advise and consult with the CFPB on how any proposed regulations would impact the small-business community. Members of the small business advisory board must represent a small business dealing with financial services products. The legislation also encourages the CFPB Director to ensure participation of women- and minority-owned small businesses when appointing members to the board.

H.R. 1195 also makes permanent the Credit Union Advisory Council and the



Community Bank Advisory Council, both of which are currently voluntary and can be eliminated at any time at the discretion of the CFPB Director.

Credit unions and community banks are struggling under enormous compliance burdens designed for too-big-to-fail banks. They are hiring compliance officers instead of loan officers, meaning less access to capital for small businesses to grow and to create jobs.

Clear and open communication between the CFPB, small businesses, community banks, and credit unions will improve rulemaking and lead to better outcomes for consumers.

H.R. 1195 is supported by the Credit Union National Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Land Title Association, and the independent community bankers association. This legislation also enjoys strong bipartisan support, having passed out of the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 53-5.

Allow me a moment to address the concern that was raised by the ranking member and other Democrat colleagues in their objection to how we propose to pay for the advisory boards. The CBO estimates this legislation will cost taxpayers \$9 million over a 10-year period. In those same years, the CFPB will have access to \$6.7 billion in operating funds.

We propose making a very small reduction—just 0.1 percent—in the amount the CFPB is allowed to draw, which will pay for the advisory boards without additional cost to taxpayers. If the CFPB can't find \$9 million in savings over 10 years out of a total potential draw of \$6.7 billion, then they need another advisory board of small-business owners who will travel to D.C. and teach the CFPB how to budget.

Mr. Chairman, our economy is growing today at a tepid pace of 2.2 percent. We have in reality about 12 percent unemployment when you consider the underemployed and when you consider those who have given up. Small banks and other lending institutions are under enormous compliance restrictions and guidelines, the same as the major banks. They need a voice at the table. We need opportunity. We need people to be able to expand their businesses, and yet they can't get capital through these small banking lending institutions.

That is what this bill is all about. It is all about jobs. It is all about families and people's lives and their futures.

The CFPB is supposed to be focused on protecting consumers, not protecting bureaucratic fiefdoms and perks. Our commonsense, bipartisan legislation helps focus the CFPB on their sole, core mission of benefiting consumers.

Small businesses create jobs. Bureaucrats create rules. Please join me in supporting H.R. 1195 so that heavy-handed D.C. regulators are forced to

take time to consider how their burdensome and unnecessary regulations negatively impact small business and make necessary adjustments to protect consumers while allowing small businesses, credit unions, and community banks to help grow the economy and create good-paying jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK). He is the next gentleman that you are going to hear from this side of the aisle. He is the author of the legislation that certainly would have given small businesses a seat at the table of the CFPB. He worked very hard on this bill, and he is one of those persons on our committee who reaches across the aisle all the time on bipartisan efforts.

□ 1700

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, in a gesture of reaching across the aisle, let us be clear that prior to this bill's arrival at the Rules Committee, it was Mr. PITTENGER and myself who worked in a collaborative and in a bipartisan way, hard for nearly the last 2 years, to get it to this point where we might have an opportunity to vote upon it.

I cannot exaggerate to you how saddened I am, how much I regret, and how surreal I find it that I stand here now and ask my colleagues to please vote "no" against my bill, oppose the bill that I have worked so hard on for nearly 2 years.

Its content, prior to its arrival in Rules, had been laid out commonsensically: codify the Credit Union Advisory Council; codify the Small Community Bank Advisory Council; and create a nonbank advisory board for the appraisers, the title insurers, the real estate agents, escrow company, all people that the Bureau regulates and with whom they should have an iterative conversation going with respect to the proposed regulations.

It wasn't easy getting here even before Rules. There was a lot of back and forth, a lot of compromising along the way. We had to allay fears from the consumer groups that this was a Trojan horse. We accepted amendments; we broadened the bill; we did a lot of things together, but with a collaborative spirit and the support of the ranking member, we did pass the bill out of committee 53-5, and then a torch was put to it. A torch was put to it.

As has been described, the bill now includes a so-called pay-for amendment to lower the cap of available funds to CFPB by \$45 million by the year 2020 and \$100 million by the year 2025. It is bad policy; it is bad precedent, and it is completely unnecessary.

The amendment was inserted under color of being a pay-for. Well, I have

got a couple problems with that. The first is obvious. CBO projection is \$9 million. We are talking about a cap that cost \$45 million and \$100 million. It is a multiple of it—or \$75 million to \$100 million by last count.

The second, of course, is the fact about how the rule is applied, which has been heralded here, and, in fact, genned as an important rule to provide for pay-fors when there are expenditures caused by proposed legislation.

The motivation is, frankly, inscrutable to me. I honestly don't know how you do it with a straight face. Literally, a matter of hours ago, voting for \$300 billion, with a "b," with no PAYGO or pay-for and to stand up here and say, Well, we absolutely have to have a pay-for for \$9 million over 10 years, but \$300 billion was okay, I say sincerely: I don't know how you do that with a straight face.

Frankly, there is so much about this that I find surreal. Much in the debate was about questioned architectural practices by the agency. The truth of the matter is GSA took over construction, what, 2-plus years ago? If that is the issue, write an amendment to the GSA budget; don't punish CFPB.

It has been argued that this funding is unique; therefore, it has to be curtailed, unrelated to the underlying purpose of the bill. Maybe that is true. Check the history. It was a Republican who wanted it funded by the Fed—Mr. SHELBY, I believe. That may be unique in that way.

It has been suggested CFPB is non-budgeted—again, unrelated to the underlying purpose of the bill. Well, guess what, so is every other bank, regulator, agency in the Federal Government: the FDIC, the OCC, the Fed itself, FHFA, and NCUA. They are all nonbudgeted; but, no, let's pick this one out of the pack and punish it.

There is so much about this that is surreal to me. I believe that there is a bit of a trial under way here today, and we are laying a marker down on April 21 on whether or not we are actually going to be able to function in a bipartisan way. We did. It took hard work, 18-plus months with Mr. PITTENGER, 53-5 in committee; and now, as I say, we are putting a torch to it.

We are going to decide. This is a test. Are we going to use the CFPB as a piggybank to pay for all other manner of agendas? Are we going to ask them to swallow this poison pill in the goal of getting a bipartisan bill passed?

It is a test of whether or not we are going to do that. It is an experiment to see how radically—and it is radical—we can change bills and still keep "yes" votes in the name of consistency, although there is certainly no consistency between the pay-fors provided in this proposed legislation and that for legislation that passed last week.

By the way, in addition to the estate tax and the sales and use tax totalling



over \$300 billion, we did two CFPB bills last week, too. Nobody offered pay-fors on those, so it isn't consistent.

This is surreal, standing here, asking you to oppose the bill that I have worked so hard on with Mr. PITTINGER. It is surreal. I am reminded of my favorite passage in "Through the Looking Glass."

If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is because everything would be what it isn't. And contrariwise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?

This is surreal; but I say my strongest assertion that what is the most sad about this—and I have said this in Rules, and I am going to say it now—you know, you know you are killing this bill.

You are killing it and evidently don't care, 18 months of hard work out the window to do something good and worthwhile, but you know you are killing the bill. You know you are killing it because you are not passing here veto-proof; and the administration has, as the ranking member suggested, already issued the Statement of Administration Policy.

I will go one further. This bill will never see the light of day in the United States Senate. You are killing the bill that we worked on for 2 years to help nonbank businesses have a better structured institutionalized relationship, which is as it should be, and you are doing it by inconsistently applying a House rule for which you grant waivers left and right when you were of a mind.

This is good legislation. My friend from North Carolina has worked hard. Frankly—and I will say it—he deserves better than this. This bill deserves better than this. The businesses that are regulated by CFPB deserve better than this, than to kill this bill, which is what you are assuredly doing.

Vote "no" on my bill.

The CHAIR. The Chair reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I just want to remind him that the GSA only took over the management of the project, not the budget, so GSA doesn't have control over this entity's budget.

I think the thing that is troubling to me is my colleagues are talking about a drastic cut. You have got an entity that can draw \$6.7 billion over a 10-year period, and \$7 million is a drastic cut.

Basically, the CBO says that this bill now is revenue neutral, and these numbers that are coming of \$45 million, those are CFPB's numbers, but these are the nonpartisan CBO numbers.

I think one of the things we have to do is we have to deal in the facts and reality here, and this is a very small amount of money.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act.

I want to thank my friend from North Carolina for his work, and I want to thank my friend from Washington for his work as well on what really should be a bipartisan bill. Honestly, I think the American public, Mr. Chairman, will take a look at what is happening here on the floor and are going to be baffled by it as well.

As a small-business owner, let me just tell you, Mr. Chairman, there are nearly 29 million small businesses in our Nation; 99 percent of all employer firms in the United States are considered small businesses; over 56 million Americans work in these small businesses; and two-thirds of all net new jobs.

Last I checked, the labor force participation rate is near a three-decade low, so the net new jobs that we are looking for are created by small business. Two-thirds are created by small business.

This is a bill that would basically say to the CFPB: we want you to have a small business advisory board.

With all of the businesses that are out there, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency in Washington that sets the rules and regulations with far-reaching impacts into our economy, completely fails to ensure that small businesses have a permanent seat at the table when the CFPB is making decisions, making decisions that impact the lives of millions of Americans and businesses across the land.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation. If we are going to talk about small businesses, my goodness, please, let's talk about having small business representation at the table.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of decisions that get made in this Chamber. There are a lot of decisions that get made in Washington. I have to tell you, one of the things that I try to do is I try to surround myself with people that it impacts.

If we are going to talk about health care, I try to surround myself with physicians and patients and nurses, to try to get their input in terms of how this bill or how a bill that comes to the floor would impact them. Surround yourself with people that might know more about a topic than you do; educate yourself.

The fact that the CFPB doesn't already have a small business advisory board or small business voice at the table is unacceptable—unacceptable in today's day and age.

This is something that we need to support. Frankly, I want it to be a bi-

partisan bill. I think the underlying substance of it is bipartisan, and only at the last minute are we talking about not making this a bipartisan bill over the pay-for.

Mr. Chairman, I want you to think about this for a second as a business that gets regulated time and again. They don't come with a pay-for there. Basically, they say: this is what we need you to do, and you find a way to pay for it.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOLD. This body is, in essence, saying to the CFPB, Mr. Chairman, to the CFPB and Director Cordray, we are saying: please get small business input into what you are thinking.

In order to do that, the dollars that are out there, Mr. Chairman, are talking about trying to fly people in, small businesses in. That is where the dollars are coming from.

We think the CBO has scored this at about \$9 million out of nearly a \$7 billion budget over 10 years. Surely, this can't be the thing that is killing the bill. There has got to be something bigger that is killing the bill because, frankly, the American public, Mr. Chairman, are going to roll their eyes and say: you have got to be kidding me.

We are going to disregard small businesses from being able to come in and weigh in on something that is going to drastically impact the economy because they don't want to take what could potentially be \$9 million in airfare and other things to try to make sure they can get the small business advisory board to come to Washington.

If we find that there is a problem, I will be the first one to reach across the aisle to say we need to fix this. This is a problem that we need to solve, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill to get small businesses engaged.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I first need to remind the gentleman from Illinois that Mr. HECK worked hard to put small business advisory at the table and to codify the other businesses that the CFPB had already put at the table. They snatched it right away from the table. They took away small business.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), who is the cochair of the Progressive Caucus and a member of the Financial Services Committee.

□ 1715

Mr. ELLISON. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Chairman, I will just remind my colleagues that, yes, the bill was bipartisan, but the amendment was not. The amendment, which was rigidly partisan, is what has put this good idea in

a space of being very partisan on this House floor.

You would have thought that after the hard work that Mr. HECK had put into this bill that maybe somebody would have listened to him and would have said, "Mr. HECK, you have put your time in on this bill. We are not going to do this to your bill. We are going to stick with that bipartisanship that we had all along," but that kind of consideration has gone missing in this place.

The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that the Republican leadership has brought us another bill in a long series of bills to weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and no small-business person who is listening to this debate should be bamboozled, tricked, or led astray in believing that the rhetoric on this floor is about helping them. The fact is that a lot of small-business people are protected by predatory lenders that the CFPB stops. A lot of small-business people open their businesses with a credit card. They rely on the CFPB to keep the predation away from them. They, in fact, are the beneficiaries of the work of the CFPB's.

All of these bills to attack the CFPB harm the American people. These bills make it easier to steer customers into costly loans that strip their wealth and limit their economic mobility. These bills divert CFPB resources from protecting consumers to costly, unnecessary, bureaucratic activities.

Last week, we had a bill to repeal the CFPB rules that protect buyers of manufactured homes from what had been before Dodd-Frank a predatory market. Enough Democrats voted "no" on H.R. 650 to sustain the President's veto. That is a good thing. We should not remove consumer protections for high-cost loans that are targeted at buyers of manufactured homes. Also last week, the GOP brought another bill which would weaken the CFPB protections against controlled business arrangements in real estate transactions.

Today, the Republican majority considers what is a good idea. H.R. 1195 would require the CFPB to establish a small business advisory council. It is a pretty fair idea. You could argue that it is already there, but if you don't believe it is, it is not at all a highly objectionable bill. In fact, it has merit. What is wrong with a little bit more input from small business? That is a good thing. The fact of the matter is that it is a Trojan horse that is being used to attack the CFPB all over again.

My question is this: Why would you want to destroy an organization that has identified \$5.3 billion, which is the approximate amount of relief to consumers ordered by the CFPB enforcement actions? It is \$5.3 billion that hard-working Americans have saved from predatory lenders. Why in the world, unless you favor predation in fi-

nancial markets, would you be against the CFPB? There are 15 million consumers who receive relief because of the CFPB, and I hope they let their voices be heard all across the United States against these people who relentlessly try to rip down the CFPB. \$208 million is the amount of money that has been ordered to be paid in civil penalties as a result of CFPB's enforcement actions against people who do not help the market but who distort the market.

The CFPB helps business because good, honest, decent businesses—and America is full of them, the ones that play by the rules—get harmed when a cheater goes without being punished. When a business that cuts corners and abuses consumers does not get eliminated from the market or punished because of its bad behavior, it means that playing by the rules is no longer profitable or the thing to do. The CFPB makes the market work as it should.

There were 145 banks and credit unions under the CFPB's supervisory authority as of June 2014. That is a good thing. There are 30 million consumers with debts in collection, and larger debt collection companies are now under Federal supervision for the first time because of the CFPB. The CFPB is a good institution. Vote "no" on this Trojan horse bill.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I am delighted to hear that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are concerned about \$9 million. I wish they had been as concerned when we had hearings and we found out that the CFPB is going to spend \$216 million on the luxury renovations of a building that they do not own and when we found out that the taxpayers are also going to get to fund a two-story waterfall that falls into sunken gardens and that has a four-story glass staircase. How about the spending of \$14 million on marketing and advertising? How about the \$61.3 million they spent on management consulting fees?

It should be an affront to small businesses around the country that an organization that can't control its spending is being asked not to spend an additional \$9 million so that small businesses can have a voice at the table.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, really what we are talking about are the merits of entitling this enormous agency, the largest in the history of this country, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to be accountable to nobody, not to be accountable to the executive branch and not to be accountable to the Congress. They are able to do whatever they want to do. They make all of their own rules. They determine the winners, and

they determine the losers. They have zero accountability.

Let's discuss their funding of \$6.7 billion over a 10-year period. Yes, what we are talking about is an offset to pay for an advisory board to protect small business—\$9 million. That is 0.1 percent. Let's look at the priorities then of the CFPB's.

Truly, would any of us lease a building, not own it, and spend \$260 million on renovations? That is more per square foot than of any luxury hotel in Las Vegas.

Yes, how about a two-story waterfall into a sunken garden? How magnificent. Is that more important than an advisory board that is for small business to ensure that we can create jobs?

How about a green roof and a four-story glass staircase? It costs millions. Is that more important than an advisory board for small business?

How about a tree bosc and a timber porch—how lovely—so that employees can have a place of restful contemplation and meditation? Do bureaucrats really need a serene place to rest while they are on the job? Are they that concerned about their plight?

My goodness. Here are struggling, hardworking, tax-paying Americans who are trying to build their businesses, who are trying to find capital, who are looking to community banks that are under siege with burdensome regulations. It is the same as the major banks. This isn't right. This makes no sense. This is not fair. We need to get priority where priority is due.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE). She serves on the Financial Services Committee and is a strong supporter of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's.

Ms. MOORE. Thank you so much, Madam Ranking Member.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1195 and not because I don't think it is a wonderful idea that Mr. HECK has come up with, along with his colleague from the Republican side, for a small business advisory panel within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Prior to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, we had example, after example, after example of Wall Street's preying on consumers and treating working class Americans just like an ATM in order to feather their bonuses; but here, today, we find yet another not so veiled attempt to defund the CFPB.

I guess I could take the PAYGO rules a little bit more seriously if just last week we had not repealed the estate tax to the tune of \$270 billion for the 6,000 wealthiest Americans. It is a tax from which only 6,000 people will benefit. I am certainly not looking for a pay-for. I am just pointing out the hypocrisy of the notion that we have got

to offset this \$9 million for the CFPB. As has been mentioned, the CFPB has returned \$5.3 billion to more than 15 million consumers who have been harmed by financial fraud, and I think PAYGO is just more of a convenient excuse to cut the CFPB than an actual principle that we follow here.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for American consumers. Oppose these attempts to attack the CFPB and to expose our constituents to these emboldened financial fraud centers. Let's reject H.R. 1195.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I came to this floor opposed to this version of H.R. 1195, and as I have listened to the debate, I have become even more opposed to the legislation. Most fifth graders know a Trojan horse when they see one, and today's legislation is, indeed, a Trojan horse. Let me tell you why.

Once again, Republicans are trying to roll back and limit consumer protections. Once again, they are attacking the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by adding burdensome legislation that replicates what the Bureau is already doing and by stripping funding from the CFPB in future years. Let's remember that this was the agency that was created to prevent the very abusive practices that led to the 2008 financial crisis; yet here they go, pretending to help small businesses and community banks and credit unions but are gutting the agency that is responsible for protecting consumers.

Just 6 years ago, we saw the fallout of the financial crisis right in my district in Prince George's County and in Baltimore City, where homeowners lost their homes. It was Black and Latino families who suffered the most in Prince George's County and Baltimore City, and it is not over for us. Many of those homeowners were small-business owners, and they used their homes to leverage their businesses. They can't do that anymore because they are still underwater and because the rules are still set against them.

We are still in crisis, and we need a robust, unencumbered, unburdened Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers, homeowners, and small businesses that are still struggling and are vulnerable. We need a robust lifeline CFPB as our credit unions and community banks are struggling.

They need real relief that is hidden behind this Trojan horse legislation.

Many of my Republican colleagues have long opposed the CFPB, and they have long sought to dismantle it. This legislation is no different, and it needs to be defeated. If they want bipartisan legislation, we need to start all over again and do something that really is in the interest of consumers.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think that we have done a very good job on this side of the aisle of exposing what is happening on the opposite side of the aisle as simply an attempt to try and gut and demean the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

□ 1730

Let me just deal with this argument that they made about the cost of renovation for the CFPB.

Bloomberg Businessweek, in an article, entitled, "Republican Attacks on a CFPB Office Renovation Don't Add Up," found that Republicans took liberties with their math. Using data from a report prepared by the CFPB's inspector general, Bloomberg found that renovation would only cost \$421 per square foot, if you inflate the price by including rental of temporary space and paying for movers, compared to the GOP claim of \$590. Actual construction costs are only \$283 per square foot, half of what the Republicans claim.

However, and I think this is very interesting, there is one very expensive renovation happening in Washington, D.C., right now. It is the Cannon House Office Building, which houses Members and committees of the House of Representatives. All end costs for the renovation of the Cannon Building approved by Speaker BOEHNER will be \$753 million, or \$911 per square foot, much pricier than the Bellagio or the Burj Khalifa. If we want to talk about what is high cost, take a look at ourselves right here in Congress for what we are doing.

Having said that, I just wonder why the continued attempts on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Maybe it is because somebody else is being protected.

Let's look at some of the work of the Bureau: a January 2015 settlement against J.P. Morgan and Wells Fargo for \$35.7 million after uncovering a scheme where loan officers illegally referred customers to affiliated businesses in exchange for cash and marketing services.

Look at a July 2014 settlement against Rome Finance for \$92 million for a predatory lending scheme that targeted servicemembers by hiding finance charges, withholding informa-

tion from billing statements, and engaging in illegal debt collection practices.

Another settlement from July 2014 against payday lender ACE Cash Express for \$10 million for intentionally trapping consumers in a cycle of debt, a practice formalized in their employee training materials, as well as illegal debt collection practices, including harassment.

I could go on and on and on how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has taken on some of the biggest corporations, the biggest businesses in this country to protect consumers. What is it you are afraid of? What is it you are worried about? Why are you trying to kill the agency that is protecting consumers rather than applauding them for making sure that the consumers don't continue to be taken advantage of the way they were prior to 2008 when we didn't have any consumer protection? I ask you to question yourselves about why you hate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so much.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I have read H.R. 1195. Let me tell you what it doesn't do first.

It doesn't shut down the CFPB. It doesn't keep the Bureau from carrying out its mission of consumer protection—so all of those things that the other side has been saying that the CFPB has been doing in a positive way, they can continue to do that—nor will the employees of CFPB have to take a pay cut, nor will the construction project and the other consulting fees that they keep passing out be impacted in any way.

So the charge on the other side that somehow Republicans are trying to kill CFPB, I think you need to go back and read the bill. The bill doesn't say anything about killing the CFPB.

What does H.R. 1195 do? It provides a voice for small businesses in this country, the number one job creators in America, the people that are day in and day out on the front line in our communities. It allows them to have a voice with an agency that has a huge impact on the future of this country. It also codifies and makes sure that community banks and credit unions have a voice at the table in the future.

One of the bill's sponsors said he was sad. I am sad. I am sad that people today are on this floor arguing that paying for a program that will provide a voice for our small businesses is a point of contention, that somehow we are not acting in a bipartisan way. This is a bipartisan bill. It passed by voice vote in the last Congress. It passed overwhelmingly, I think 55-5, in the Committee on Financial Services just a week ago.

I think we have to focus on what this bill does. This bill does make sure that

small businesses have a voice moving forward.

If we have a government that doesn't listen to the people, then we do not have good government. So this bill is about good government. It is about saying to the American people: Hey, the bureaucrats may not have all the answers, so it is good to bring the people that have been out there that are running businesses that have some expertise in those areas that this agency is trying to regulate and set precedence for, it is good for government to listen to the people.

So, Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to pass and vote for H.R. 1195.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, as originally introduced, H.R. 1195 was that rare piece of legislation with bipartisan support. It supported the simple proposition that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) could benefit from the guidance of advisory councils comprised of representatives from small businesses, credit unions, and community banks.

As introduced, the legislation would have required the CFPB to hear from small business representatives regarding the impact of proposed rules on financial products used by consumers for family and household purposes. The bill also encouraged the CFPB to ensure the participation of credits unions and community banks that serve traditionally underserved communities.

The CFPB—and all relevant government agencies—should continue to focus on expanding banking opportunities in underserved communities, which are too often subjected to the worst forms of predatory financial practices.

According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development, my hometown of Baltimore, Maryland, is one of the top ten unbanked large cities in the country—13.9 percent of residents have no checking or savings account, and more than one in four residents is underbanked. Too many of these folks rely on alternative financial services like check-cashing stores, rent-to-own agreements, or pawnshops.

While Maryland has instituted a 33 percent usury cap and storefront payday lending operations do not exist in the state, Maryland residents with small-dollar credit needs have continued to turn to on-line lenders—lenders that are too often perpetrating fraudulent and abusive practices.

But this does not need to be the reality in Baltimore or any American city.

According to the Urban Institute, the small-dollar credit market in the United States reached approximately \$21.4 billion in 2012. Credit unions and community banks across the country have begun to tap into this market by experimenting with small-dollar, short-term loans that help consumers stretch their monthly budgets or pay for emergency expenses without trapping them in a cycle of debt.

The CFPB has taken a critical first step toward reforming the small-dollar industry by releasing proposals for a potential rule that would require short-term lenders to either ensure borrowers have the ability to repay their

loans or to provide affordable repayment plans. This is why I was so disappointed by a recent amendment to H.R. 1195 from the Rules Committee that would pay for the new advisory councils the bill would create by capping or reducing the CFPB budget by \$45 million over five years and \$100 million over ten years.

In contrast, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the new councils would cost only \$9 million over ten years—confirming that the new amendment is nothing more than an attempt to slash the CFPB budget.

By transforming a simple bill into a major budget cut, this amendment is simply another in a series of continuing attacks on the work of the CFPB, which has provided \$5.3 billion in relief to consumers since its creation.

Just as the CFPB embarks on its latest effort to protect consumers from predatory and abusive practices, we simply cannot afford a weakened consumer protection agency.

As amended, H.R. 1195 is not only a dis-appointment—it's an insult to the same underserved communities the bill would have helped the CFPB to better serve. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and its attempt to undercut protections for working American families.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment printed in part C of House Report 114-74 shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

#### H.R. 1195

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARDS WITHIN THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after section 1014 (12 U.S.C. 5494) the following new section:

##### “SEC. 1014A. ADVISORY BOARDS.

“(a) SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Small Business Advisory Board—

“(A) to advise and consult with the Bureau in the exercise of the Bureau's functions under the Federal consumer financial laws applicable to eligible financial products or services; and

“(B) to provide information on emerging practices of small business concerns that provide eligible financial products or services, including regional trends, concerns, and other relevant information.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) NUMBER.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Small Business Advisory Board.

“(B) QUALIFICATION.—Members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be representatives of small business concerns that—

“(i) provide eligible financial products or services;

“(ii) are service providers to covered persons; and

“(iii) use consumer financial products or services in financing the business activities of such concern.

“(C) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In appointing members pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of minority- and women-owned small business concerns and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The Small Business Advisory Board—

“(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

“(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

“(b) CREDIT UNION ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Credit Union Advisory Council to advise and consult with the Bureau on consumer financial products or services that impact credit unions.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Credit Union Advisory Council. In appointing such members, the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of credit unions predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities and populations and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The Credit Union Advisory Council—

“(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

“(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

“(c) COMMUNITY BANK ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a Community Bank Advisory Council to advise and consult with the Bureau on consumer financial products or services that impact community banks.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Director shall appoint no fewer than 15 and no more than 20 members to the Community Bank Advisory Council. In appointing such members, the Director is encouraged to ensure the participation of community banks predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities and populations and their interests, without regard to party affiliation.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The Community Bank Advisory Council—

“(A) shall meet from time to time at the call of the Director; and

“(B) shall meet at least twice each year.

“(d) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council who are not full-time employees of the United States shall—

“(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Director while attending meetings of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council, including travel time; and

“(2) be allowed travel expenses, including transportation and subsistence, while away from their homes or regular places of business.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘eligible financial product or service’ means a financial product or service that is offered or provided for use by consumers primarily for personal, family, or household purposes as described in clause (i), (iii), (v), (vi), or (ix) of section 1002(15)(A); and

“(2) the term ‘small business concern’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Dodd-

Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1014 the following new item:

“Sec. 1014A. Advisory Boards.”.

### SECTION 3. BUREAU FUNDING AUTHORITY.

The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, under section 1017 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, may not request—

(1) during fiscal year 2020, an amount that would result in the total amount requested by the Director during that fiscal year to exceed \$655,000,000; and

(2) during fiscal year 2025, an amount that would result in the total amount requested by the Director during that fiscal year to exceed \$720,000,000.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part D of House Report 114-74.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, amendment No. 1, and I offer that amendment at this time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, beginning on line 19, strike “is encouraged to ensure the participation of” and insert “shall include members representing”.

Page 5, beginning on line 12, strike “is encouraged to ensure the participation of” and insert “shall include members representing”.

Page 6, beginning on line 6, strike “is encouraged to ensure the participation of” and insert “shall include members representing”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, my amendment is straightforward.

The underlying bill encourages but does not require the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to include women-owned small businesses and minority-owned small businesses in the membership of the small business advisory board. The bill also encourages the Director to include financial institutions predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities in the membership of the Credit Union Advisory Council and the Community Bank Advisory Council.

My amendment would simply change the underlying bill to make the inclusion of these groups a requirement, to

ensure that a broad and diverse range of voices are included in these bodies. Federal regulators should listen to stakeholders when writing new rules for our economy, and this amendment will help ensure that these advisory boards are more representative of the American people.

I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chairman, the underlying language in this bill was a bipartisan agreement that was worked out in the last Congress. When we were marking up this bill previously, it was brought up that minority representation would be important to this bill, and so the chairman of the committee, Mr. HENSARLING, actually stopped the deliberation there and worked in a bipartisan way across the aisle with Ms. WATERS to make sure that we put language in the bill that would encourage the Director to make sure that women and minorities' business concerns on the small business advisory board were taken into consideration.

We have addressed that, and we kept that language that was agreed to and, by the way, was passed by a voice vote. Mr. PITTSINGER accepted that amendment, and the bill reported out of the committee 53-5. So, basically, we have kept our word and kept in the spirit of the agreement that was negotiated in the previous Congress, and that language is in this underlying bill.

I would encourage folks not to vote for this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part D of House Report 114-74.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, amendment No. 2. I offer that amendment at this time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 20, strike “minority- and women-owned” and insert “minority-, women-, and veteran-owned”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Chair, the underlying bill before us today authorizes a small business advisory board to advise the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on small business concerns and practices.

I agree that small businesses must have a seat at the table when Federal regulators make decisions with wide-ranging consequences for our economy, and I appreciate that this legislation already encourages the participation of women-owned and minority-owned small businesses on the board. Women and minority entrepreneurs often have unique perspectives and concerns, and the CFPB would be well served by seeking and heeding their input.

Similarly, as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I believe that veteran entrepreneurs have unique perspectives and experiences in the economy, and I believe that the small business advisory board would be strengthened by the inclusion of veteran small-business owners. To that end, my amendment simply encourages the CFPB Director to also include veteran-owned small businesses in the membership of the small business advisory board.

After fighting to protect the American Dream for all of us, many veterans have realized that same American Dream by starting their own business upon their return to civilian life. We owe it to our returning heroes to support their success.

I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. Foxx). Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. I would like to thank Chairman NEUGEBAUER for yielding me this time.

Madam Chair, it is an honor to stand alongside my fellow Granite State colleague in support of her amendment.

Our State of New Hampshire has one of the highest populations of veterans per capita in the United States. Because of this, both the gentlelady from New Hampshire and myself understand the importance of working together to support our Nation's veterans and veteran-owned businesses. There are hundreds of veteran-owned businesses just

in New Hampshire alone, and we need to ensure that our commitment does not end with their term of commitment to our military.

I thank the gentlelady from New Hampshire for her amendment. I urge my colleagues both on the committee and in the full House to support this amendment. I would encourage them to support H.R. 1195, despite the objections of the 0.0015 percent in the pay-for that was earlier discussed.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that we support this. It is a thoughtful amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS).

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire for offering this measure, which will ensure that the concerns of our Nation's veteran-owned businesses are represented on the small business advisory board this legislation creates.

Madam Chairman, our Nation's veterans heroically put their lives on the line for this country. And when they come home and decide to start a small business, they are carrying forth that patriotic duty by taking another risk for the betterment of our Nation.

Just as our Nation has a responsibility to care for those who return from battle, we too have a duty to ensure those who have served in our Armed Forces have a voice at the table, in whatever vocation they enter.

Early on, the CFPB recognized the unique needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families by creating an office targeted to address their needs. Likewise, small businesses owned by veterans comprise a subset of our Nation's economic backbone that should not be ignored. This amendment ensures that the CFPB is made aware of their views, perspectives, and interests in the same manner as all small-business owners.

But Madam Chairman, while I support this amendment and believe in its goals, I remain strongly opposed to the underlying bill, which would impose cuts to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and would set a precedent that could ultimately lead to a time when the Nation's leading consumer advocate is cash-strapped, underfunded, and financially unable to ensure that the views of veteran business owners—or any other business owners—are appropriately taken into account.

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUINTA) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-28)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

#### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement"). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of pro-

liferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with China based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, information, and technology for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any Restricted Data. Transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities may only occur if the Agreement is amended to cover such transfers. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the Agreement.

The proposed Agreement would obligate the United States and China to work together to enhance their efforts to familiarize commercial entities in their respective countries about the requirements of the Agreement as well as national export controls and policies applicable to exports and imports subject to the Agreement. It would have a term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force. Either party may terminate the proposed Agreement on at least 1 year's written notice to the other party.

Since the 1980s, China has become a party to several nonproliferation treaties and conventions and worked to bring its domestic export control authorities in line with international standards. China joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992 as a nuclear weapon state, brought into force an Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement in 2002, and joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004. China is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for use, storage, and transport of nuclear material, and has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention. A more detailed discussion of China's civil nuclear program and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and in two classified annexes to the NPAS submitted to you separately. As noted above, the Director of



National Intelligence will provide an addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of China with respect to nuclear-related matters.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the proposed Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 2015.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—410

Abraham	DelBene	Jones
Adams	Denham	Jordan
Aderholt	Dent	Joyce
Aguilar	DeSantis	Kaptur
Allen	DeSaulnier	Katko
Amash	Deutch	Keating
Amodei	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (IL)
Ashford	Dingell	Kelly (PA)
Babin	Doggett	Kennedy
Barletta	Dold	Kildee
Barr	Doyle, Michael	Kilmer
Bass	F.	Kind
Beatty	Duckworth	King (IA)
Becerra	Duncan (SC)	King (NY)
Benishke	Duncan (TN)	Kinzing (IL)
Bera	Edwards	Kirkpatrick
Beyer	Ellison	Kline
Bilirakis	Ellmers (NC)	Knight
Bishop (GA)	Emmer (MN)	Kuster
Bishop (MI)	Engel	Labrador
Bishop (UT)	Eshoo	LaMalfa
Black	Esty	Lamborn
Blackburn	Farenthold	Lance
Blum	Farr	Langevin
Blumenauer	Fattah	Larsen (WA)
Bonamici	Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)
Bost	Fleischmann	Latta
Boustany	Fleming	Lawrence
Boyle, Brendan	Flores	Lee
F.	Forbes	Levin
Brady (PA)	Fortenberry	Lewis
Brat	Foster	Lieu, Ted
Bridenstine	Fox	Lipinski
Brooks (AL)	Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Loeb
Brown (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Loftgren
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	Long
Buchanan	Gabbard	Loudermilk
Buck	Gallego	Love
Bucshon	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Burgess	Garrett	Lowey
Bustos	Gibbs	Lucas
Byrne	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Calvert	Gohmert	Lujan Grisham
Capps	Goodlatte	(NM)
Capuano	Gosar	Luján, Ben Ray
Cárdenas	Gowdy	(NM)
Carney	Graham	Lummis
Carson (IN)	Granger	Lynch
Carter (GA)	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Carter (TX)	Graves (LA)	Maloney,
Cartwright	Grayson	Carolyn
Castor (FL)	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Castro (TX)	Green, Gene	Marchant
Chabot	Griffith	Marino
Chaffetz	Grothman	Massie
Chu, Judy	Guinta	Matsui
Cicilline	Guthrie	McCarthy
Clark (MA)	Hahn	McCaul
Clarke (NY)	Hanna	McClintock
Clawson (FL)	Hardy	McCollum
Clay	Harper	McDermott
Cleaver	Harris	McGovern
Clyburn	Hartzler	McHenry
Coffman	Heck (NV)	McKinley
Cohen	Heck (WA)	McMorris
Cole	Hensarling	Rodgers
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	McNerney
Collins (NY)	Hice, Jody B.	McSally
Comstock	Higgins	Meadows
Conaway	Hill	Meehan
Connolly	Himes	Meeks
Conyers	Hinojosa	Meng
Cook	Holding	Messer
Cooper	Honda	Mica
Costa	Hoyer	Miller (FL)
Costello (PA)	Hudson	Miller (MI)
Courtney	Huelskamp	Moolenaar
Cramer	Huffman	Mooney (WV)
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Moore
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Moulton
Crowley	Hunter	Mullin
Cuellar	Hurt (VA)	Mulvaney
Culberson	Israel	Murphy (FL)
Cummings	Issa	Murphy (PA)
Curbelo (FL)	Jeffries	Nadler
Davis (CA)	Jenkins (KS)	Napolitano
Davis, Danny	Jenkins (WV)	Neugebauer
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (GA)	Newhouse
DeFazio	Johnson (OH)	Noem
DeGette	Johnson, E. B.	Norcross
Delaney	Johnson, Sam	Nunes
DeLauro	Jolly	O'Rourke

Palazzo	Ruiz	Thornberry
Pallone	Ruppersberger	Tiberi
Palmer	Rush	Tipton
Pascarella	Russell	Titus
Paulsen	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
Payne	Ryan (WI)	Torres
Pearce	Salmon	Trott
Pelosi	Sánchez, Linda	Tsongas
Perlmutter	T.	Turner
Perry	Sanchez, Loretta	Upton
Peters	Sanford	Valadao
Peterson	Sarbanes	Van Hollen
Pingree	Scalise	Vargas
Pittenger	Schakowsky	Veasey
Pitts	Schiff	Vela
Pocan	Schrader	Velázquez
Poe (TX)	Schweikert	Visclosky
Poliquin	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Polis	Scott, Austin	Walden
Pompeo	Scott, David	Walker
Posey	Sensenbrenner	Walorski
Price (NC)	Serrano	Walters, Mimi
Price, Tom	Sessions	Walz
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Waters, Maxine
Rangel	Sherman	Watson Coleman
Ratcliffe	Shimkus	Weber (TX)
Reed	Shuster	Webster (FL)
Reichert	Simpson	Welch
Renacci	Sinema	Wenstrup
Rice (NY)	Sires	Westerman
Rice (SC)	Slaughter	Westmoreland
Richmond	Smith (MO)	Whitfield
Rigell	Smith (NE)	Williams
Roby	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Roe (TN)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rogers (AL)	Speier	Wittman
Rogers (KY)	Stefanik	Womack
Rokita	Stewart	Woodall
Rooney (FL)	Stivers	Yarmuth
Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Yoder
Roskam	Swalwell (CA)	Yoho
Ross	Takai	Young (AK)
Rothfus	Takano	Young (IA)
Rouzer	Thompson (CA)	Young (IN)
Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)	Zeldin
Royce	Thompson (PA)	Zinke

#### NOT VOTING—21

Barton	Gutiérrez	Ribble
Brady (TX)	Hastings	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Hurd (TX)	Smith (WA)
DesJarlais	Jackson Lee	Wagner
Duffy	Neal	Wasserman
Fincher	Nolan	Schultz
Graves (MO)	Nugent	
Grijalva	Olson	

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 162 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 707

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H.R. 707.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.



□ 1900

HONORING ANNA "MICKEY"  
PETERS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Recently, the Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Extension honored Anna "Mickey" Peters for her more than half century of volunteerism to Penn State Extension's 4-H volunteer youth program.

This was just the latest honor for Mickey, who, last year, was inducted into the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Hall of Fame. This honor was only granted to 14 individuals from across the Nation who best embodied the award motto: "Making the Best Better." Mickey was the sole recipient from Pennsylvania.

Since the early 1960s, this dairy farm wife and mother of four has been a mentor and a trainer, exhibiting outstanding citizenship and leadership. Mickey has been recognized through numerous awards, including the National 4-H Salute to Excellence award, the President's Volunteer Service Award, and the Centre County Council of Human Services Extension award. During her years with the Extension, Mickey has worked with over 500 members and has mentored over 30 4-H leaders.

At age 83, Anna "Mickey" Peters continues to help us all understand that every person has the best within himself and that we all have the capacity to make the best better.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF  
WORLD WAR II

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

We are at a critical juncture in America's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, and I really believe that further cooperation between the United States, Japan, and Korea will play a pivotal role towards peace and prosperity throughout the world.

Next week, Japanese Prime Minister Abe will make a historic visit to Capitol Hill as the first ever Japanese Prime Minister to deliver an address to a joint session of Congress. That address must be honest. That address has to address Japan's wartime history. It has to honestly address Japan's atrocities and enslavement of thousands of women who have been forced to work as sex slaves, or comfort women.

To ignore past atrocities, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure a very troubling future. These wounds need to be closed, and they need to be healed. Prime Minister

Abe can attain that closure, can attain that healing by exposing those wounds to the light of the truth—and an apology. I am hopeful that he will do this on this floor when he addresses us next week.

TPA PUTS AMERICAN BUSINESSES  
ON LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support legislation that will benefit American manufacturers, farmers, and workers.

By passing Trade Promotion Authority, we can establish fair and strong rules that hold other nations accountable for their unfair trade practices, and we can tear down the barriers that block our goods from foreign markets.

Passing TPA is critical to ensuring that we can get the best deal available from our trading partners that will benefit hard-working Americans. Studies have shown that jobs supported by trade earn, on average, more than 18 percent more than other jobs. In Minnesota, 775,000 jobs are connected to trade. We can build and improve on that by lowering regulatory barriers and allowing access to emerging markets.

Today, with over 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside of the United States, we need to create a system of fair rules and enforcement so that American products and services are able to compete on a level playing field.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to enact meaningful trade deals that will build a stronger and a healthier economy, and it begins with TPA.

## CYBER WEEK

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is Cyber Week in the House again. Tomorrow and Thursday, the House will be considering two very important pieces of information-sharing legislation, and I commend the leadership of the Intelligence and the Homeland Security Committees for their bills.

As co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, I am glad that the House is, once again, taking the lead to protect our networks—both public and private—from attack as well as looking to protect privacy and civil liberties. I am also hopeful that, unlike in the last two Congresses, my colleagues in the other Chamber, in the Senate, will take up their proposals so that we can get a bill on the President's desk.

It is particularly important that we codify an information-sharing frame-

work so that we can turn our attention to other challenges in the cyber domain. From data breach to critical infrastructure protection, our ever more connected world ensures that there will be a further demand for congressional action.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of the committees for their attention to this issue.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF WIL-  
LIAM RAMIREZ AND OFFICER  
ROSNY OBAS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine the spotlight on a Miami constituent who courageously risked his life for a stranger.

Last Tuesday, on his way to work, William Ramirez witnessed Miami Police Officer Rosny Obas become pinned down under a hail of gunfire. Mr. Ramirez bravely swerved his van into the line of fire to shield Officer Obas, then was able to get the officer to safety.

When asked why he did it, William humbly said, "How could I not?"

I say William Ramirez is a hero.

South Florida is blessed by the service of patrolmen like Officer Obas, who work every day to keep us safe, and we are further strengthened by residents like William Ramirez, who sometimes add heroic action to their everyday routines because it is simply the right thing to do.

How could we not?

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFE  
CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of the ambitious investment in water infrastructure in every community across our great Nation.

I recently wrapped up a tour of several water systems in upstate New York, and what I saw was infrastructure in urgent need of attention—broken pipes, flooded communities, and a lack of technical support for our municipalities. I have spoken with colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the House, and I have heard similar problems.

We as a Nation must always keep an eye on our debt and on our deficits, both current and those years down the road. To that end, we must realize that investment is needed now to save dollars in the decades to come. We live in a world in which we upgrade our phones, our TVs, our cars, and other personal items almost every 2 years. It is time to apply that same mentality

to the delivery systems that move around our most precious commodity—water.

To my colleagues who haven't already done so, I urge them to get involved in this issue within their own communities because it is not just H2O flooding out of those broken pipes just under our feet; it is water plus taxpayer dollars—hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

#### STOPPING TSA ABUSES ACT

(Mr. ROONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, we saw disturbing news of two TSA screeners who allegedly conspired to sexually assault passengers. This was not the first we have heard about screeners exceeding their authority to abuse passengers. We have read about the pat-downs and strip searches of young children, senior citizens, and cancer patients. Instead of reining in screeners, TSA has unilaterally given them the appearance of even greater authority—metal badges, blue uniforms, and the title of “officer.”

When you dress someone up like a policeman and call him “officer,” you are misleading passengers about his actual authority. Most people see a badge and a uniform, and they comply with the screener's demands even when those demands are abusive. That has to end.

I have introduced the Stopping TSA Abuses Act to prohibit the TSA from giving screeners metal badges, police-like uniforms, and the title “officer.” It reserves those rights for sworn officers who have actually completed law enforcement training.

When you see someone wearing a Federal badge and uniform, you should have the faith that he actually has received the proper training. This bill is an important step towards that goal.

#### MAYOR PRADEL

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor A. George Pradel of the city of Naperville, Illinois.

A lifelong Naperville resident, Mayor Pradel has spent his life in service to the community that he loves.

George was born and raised in Naperville, and after a 3-year detour in the Marine Corps, he returned home to become a police officer. Known around town as “Officer Friendly,” he served on the force for 30 years. One of his proudest achievements during his time as an officer was the dedication of Safety Town, a miniature town that teaches children about public safety and how to avoid danger.

In 1995, he was first elected and has served as mayor for a record-setting 20

years, during a time of great expansion and growth for the city. The mayor has led Naperville with his signature mix of charm and compassion. His annual tradition of delivering the State of the City Address in a tuxedo and silk top-hat will certainly be missed.

Mayor Pradel is also a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Pat, and is a dedicated father to his children and foster children.

Mayor Pradel, as you step down and spend time with your family, know that your dedication to the community and know that your energy and enthusiasm for serving Naperville will never be forgotten.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF SAN JACINTO DAY

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day for us Texans. Today, we celebrate San Jacinto Day, which marks the day Texas won its independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

On this very day in 1836, General Sam Houston's army decisively defeated Mexican President Santa Anna and his forces at the Battle of San Jacinto while famously shouting, “Remember the Alamo. Remember the Goliad.”

In the U.S. Congress, I am honored and proud to represent this historic battlefield, which now lays home to the San Jacinto Monument. This monument is a staggering and stunning piece of architecture that proudly pays tribute to Texas' victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Since its completion in 1939, the San Jacinto Monument has served as a symbol of pride, sacrifice, and honor to not only Texas but also to our local community.

As we celebrate 179 years of freedom, let us remember the brave Texas heroes who conquered the Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto on this day.

May we also remember the significant sacrifices made by so many during the Texas Revolution to achieve the freedoms and liberties that we proudly enjoy today in the Lone Star State.

#### COMFORT WOMEN

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the United States continues to work with Japan to promote peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the broader global community, it is my hope that Prime Minister Abe's visit next week will lay the foundation for healing and humble reconciliation by addressing the historical issue of the comfort women.

I look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister for Japan is a close

friend and ally, as is South Korea. We want to encourage our close friends and allies to communicate and to foster an ability to work together productively.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor resolutions in the United States Congress to urge the Japanese Government to formally acknowledge and apologize for their Imperial Military's coercion of young women into sexual slavery during the thirties and forties. The recognition of these events by the Japanese Government, through the report released last year on the Kono Statement, takes a step backward in taking full responsibility for the immeasurable pain and incurable wounds suffered by the comfort women.

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I will continue to work every day to ensure that our children and our children's children will inherit a world where these types of atrocities are a thing of the past.

Mr. Speaker, MIKE HONDA, who will be speaking in a little while, has kept this hope alive.

#### CONSTITUENT CASES AT THE PHILADELPHIA VA

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Veterans' Affairs Committee member, tomorrow we will have a hearing on the abuses at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office. We are going to hear a lot about the volume of mismanagement, and I want to talk about one individual constituent just to highlight that we are talking about individual lives, individual veterans, who have sacrificed and who have not been treated fairly by the VA regional office.

My constituent has had to file numerous claims for service-connected disabilities. His initial claim was filed in the mid-1990s, and he has gone through five appeals. He has provided additional evidence per the VA's request and has followed their wishes in responding in a timely manner. However, per a court order by the Veterans' Appeals to handle my constituent's case in an expeditious manner, the Philadelphia VA failed to respond until well after 6 months.

The Philadelphia VA failed to provide the Lebanon VA medical doctor's copies of his records for his C&P exams, further holding up his claims. On two occasions, once for an asbestos claim and another for his hearing loss claim, he was seen by a doctor who had to rely on his explanation of diagnosis instead of on his actual file.

Many times, the VA has miscalculated his disability ratings, and due to the VA's lack of timeliness, his claims have been subjected to denials because

of errors made by the Philadelphia VA's intake units concerning the misplacement of documentation, medical records, and ignoring requests by the Court and Veterans' Appeals Boards. It is time for accountability.

□ 1915

#### JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MOVE FORWARD

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman HONDA and all the Members who are asking that the Prime Minister of Japan try to restore the integrity that has been built up to this great nation since the war.

Having been a combat soldier, I know, history will dictate that people are not particularly proud of what viciousness can come out of physical combat. Without getting into the years of occupation that Japan has caused so many Koreans to suffer before the end of World War II, we now have found that these two nations have rebuilt themselves into being our strongest security and trading partners, and so we should remove the stigma of lack of credibility from the Government of Japan.

Certainly I think that most Americans who remember Pearl Harbor, Corregidor, and Bataan—I was a kid, but all I knew was that the Japanese had attacked us. I can't begin to tell you the visions that they tried to have us have. But today they are our friends. Let's try to get this behind us and move forward.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1560, PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1731, NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-88) on the resolution (H. Res. 212) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing horror and nightmare that is violence against women. Whether in times of conflict or disaster, too often we see the worst battles fought on women and girls' bodies.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize one woman who has survived unspeakable violence. She is a survivor. At 87 years old, she traveled all the way from South Korea. Her name is Lee Yong-Soo, known to everyone as Grandmother Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In 1944, 16-year-old Yong-Soo Lee of Tasegu, Korea, was lured by a friend of hers to meet with an older Japanese man. The man took the two of them and three other teenaged girls by train, then ship to Taiwan. There, the girls were forced into sexual slavery, serving four to five Japanese soldiers every day for a year.

Ms. Lee suffered beatings and torture, was infected with venereal disease, was fed paltry amounts, faced temperatures so cold that ice formed on her body, and was never allowed outside. Only the end of World War II brought her relief.

Ms. Lee is just one example of the over 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor who were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These so-called comfort women suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. Of her 200,000 sisters, Grandmother Lee is but one out of a handful of survivors across Asia Pacific still alive. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was right when she reportedly called these victims, rather than "comfort women," "sex slaves."

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a joint meeting of Congress next week on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese Government.

The Prime Minister's visit is indeed a historic one. He will be the first Japa-

nese Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress. He will address this institution on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the normalization between Korea and Japan.

Prime Minister Abe will address this hallowed Chamber, where President Roosevelt delivered an address to our body as America entered war. There is much to be expected and anticipated in next week's address.

According to yesterday's editorial by The New York Times, the success of Prime Minister Abe's visit "depends on whether and how honestly Mr. Abe confronts Japan's wartime history, including its decision to wage war, its brutal occupation of China and Korea, its atrocities and its enslavement of thousands of women forced to work as sex slaves or 'comfort women' in wartime brothels."

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Government of Japan by passing H. Res. 121, which I authored. The resolution stated:

"That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan:

"(1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as comfort women, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;

"(2) would help to resolve recurring questions about the sincerity and status of prior statements if the Prime Minister of Japan were to make such an apology as a public statement in his official capacity;

"(3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the comfort women for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and

"(4) should educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the comfort women."

And yet the Japanese Government has continued to fail to address this resolution.

To be fair, the Government of Japan has made important and appreciated efforts to face its history. In 1993, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued a statement saying the Japanese military was involved in establishing the comfort stations. He said the women-girls, really from Korea and elsewhere, had been recruited against their own will. This was based upon many documents.

In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, then Prime Minister Tomiichi

Murayama admitted Japan's "colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations."

"In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology."

Yet in 2006, during Abe's first term as Prime Minister, he unleashed an international firestorm of criticism when he undermined the 1993 Kono Statement, incorrectly alleging that no documentary evidence existed of Japan's complicity in setting up and running the comfort women stations.

There was, in fact, plenty of evidence, including the extensive personal testimonies of the survivors, who spoke of being raped 10, 20, up to 50 times per day. In addition, many international bodies have issued recommendations and conclusions on Japan's history and actions.

In 2003, the U.N. committee that evaluates Japan's compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment expressed concern regarding inadequate remedies for the victims of sexual slavery and violence, particularly survivors of Japan's military sexual slavery practice during World War II.

This committee also recommended that Japan "provide education to address the discriminatory roots of sexual and gender-based violence violations, and provide rehabilitation measures to the victims."

In 2008, the committee that assesses Japan's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concluded that Japan should "accept legal responsibility and apologize unreservedly for the 'comfort women' system . . . and take immediate and effective legislative and administrative measures to adequately compensate all survivors . . . educate students and the general public about the issue, and to refute and sanction any attempts to defame the victims or deny the events."

Talking about educating students, the books, the textbooks in Japan, still do not address the history of the military action in Asia during World War II.

Following the passage of H. Res. 121, many countries followed suit and passed their own resolutions: Taiwan, Canada, Netherlands, the European Union, and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important right now than for a democratic country like Japan to apologize for its past mistakes. A government is a living, breathing organism that is responsible for its past, present, and its future. Yet, as *The New York Times* editorial said, "history should have

been settled. That it is not settled is largely the fault of Mr. Abe and his right-wing political allies who keep questioning history and even trying to rewrite it."

Last year, I, along with 17 of my House colleagues, wrote to the Ambassador of Japan to the U.S., calling the timing and context of the Japanese Government report on the Kono Statement regrettable, unfortunate, unacceptable, and destabilizing.

Also, last year, the Abe administration tried and then failed to get the United Nations to partially retract the authoritative 1996 report, which called on Japan to apologize to the victims and pay reparations to the survivors who had been forced into sex slavery during the war.

Most notably, this year, the Japanese Government tried unsuccessfully to change passages in a history textbook about the comfort women during World War II. I believe the budget of Japan Prime Minister Abe was able to secure almost half a billion dollars to effect that kind of change wherever they deemed necessary.

Now, some say that Japan has apologized enough and it is time to move on. To those people I would say, given these continued revisionist attempts, for every step forward toward peace and reconciliation, the Government of Japan takes two steps backwards. Enough is enough. Seventy years later, it is time for Prime Minister Abe to be clear and unequivocal and issue an irrefutable apology, something that carries the weight of his government.

The German Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged Prime Minister Abe to face Japan's history. Germany knows something about this. After World War II, it engaged in a painful national coming to terms with the past that ripped open old wounds so that they could properly heal.

In 1970, on a cold and wet day in Warsaw, then-German Chancellor Willy Brandt laid down a wreath at the memorial of the Jewish ghetto. Then he fell to his knees in front of the memorial. As a reporter who witnessed this event wrote later:

"If this man, who wasn't responsible for the crime, who wasn't there in those years, now decides to walk through the former Warsaw ghetto and to kneel down—then it's clear he doesn't kneel there for his own sake . . . he confesses a guilt that he doesn't have to carry, and he asks for a forgiveness that he himself doesn't need. Then he kneels there for Germany."

□ 1930

And so 70 years later, Grandmother Lee and the hundreds of thousands of souls of the departed continue to wait for their justice and peace.

As someone who was put into an internment camp as an infant, I know firsthand that governments must not be ignorant of their pasts.

In 1942, during World War II, my country, my government, put aside the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans and systematically incarcerated thousands of us—120,000. We were U.S. citizens, but we also looked like the enemy.

Decades later, we, the Japanese American community, fought for an apology from our own government. In 1988, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed into law H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This was a formal apology to United States citizens of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly put into internment camps during World War II. Our government made a mistake, but they apologized for it and healed many wounds as a result.

Even though 40 years have passed, it still warmed my heart to hear my government say, "We're sorry." Japan must now do the same. They must show the maturity of a democratic country, apologize for their mistake, and thereby gain the trust of their sister Asian nations.

Violence against women continues today. According to the World Health Organization, women aged 15 to 44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than cancer, car accidents, war, and malaria.

By 1993, the Zenica Centre for the Registration of War and Genocide Crime in Bosnia-Herzegovina had documented 40,000 cases of war-related rape. Of a sample of Rwandan women surveyed in 1999, 39 percent reported being raped during the 1994 genocide, and 72 percent said they knew someone who had been raped.

An estimated 23,000, to 46,000 Kosovar Albanian women are believed to have been raped between August 1998 and August 1999, the height of the conflict with Serbia.

In 2003, 74 percent of a random sample of 399 Liberian refugee women living in camps in Sierra Leone reported being sexually abused prior to being displaced from their homes in Liberia. Fifty-five percent of them experienced sexual violence during displacement.

Even today, the U.N. labeled the Democratic Republic of Congo as the "rape capital of the world." There are rape camps that are destroying the lives of babies, young people—boys and girls—and women and men. In the DRC, 48 women are raped every hour.

In addition, according to a recent Human Rights Watch report, the extremist group ISIL has carried out systematic rape and other sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq.

ISIS forces took several thousand Yazidi civilians into custody in northern Iraq's province in August 2014, according to Kurdistan officials and community leaders. Witnesses said that fighters systematically separated young women and girls from their families and other captives and moved

them from one location to another inside Iraq and Syria.

The 11 women and 9 girls Human Rights Watch interviewed had escaped between September 2014 and January 2015. Half, including two 12-year-old girls, said they had been raped—some multiple times and by several ISIS fighters. Nearly all of them said they had been forced into marriage; sold—in some cases, a number of times; or given as “gifts.” The women and girls also witnessed other captives being abused. Violence against women must stop.

Today, there are fewer than 100 surviving Comfort Women women across the Asia Pacific. Each year, this number declines. The survivors are dying by the day. They deserve the justice that has been due to them for the past 70 years. They deserve the justice that has been denied them. These women want and deserve an official apology.

In 1991, with the swift courage of Kim Hak-sun, she brought to light her story of being a sex slave to the Japanese Imperial Army. Her story was the spark that ignited the flames of justice.

Since then, we have the courageous survivors, such as Grandmother Lee, who continues to be a voice for the voiceless. We also have the courage of Ms. Jan Ruff O’Herne, who now resides in Australia.

Ms. O’Herne was born in Java in the former Dutch East Indies, known today as Indonesia. When she was 19 years old, Japanese troops invaded Java. They were interned in Japanese prison camps.

Two years later, she was selected, along with several other girls, and was told by the Japanese military that they were there for the sexual pleasure of the Japanese military.

As Ms. O’Herne relayed during the 2007 House Foreign Affairs hearing on Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women, a Japanese officer ran his sword all over her body and forced himself on her.

The trauma these women—these girls—endured is unimaginable. That is why my patience for securing justice for the dignity of these victims is running out.

The opportunity to speak to a joint session of Congress is an honor that is reserved for the heads of state of our closest allies. It is my sincere hope that, for Ms. O’Herne’s sake, for Kim Hak-sun’s sake, for Grandmother Lee’s sake, Prime Minister Abe will take the privilege to address the joint meeting of Congress and finally and firmly apologize and commit to educating the future generations honestly and humbly. The spirit of these women—these girls—deserves no less.

In closing, I am going to quote Grandmother Lee’s comments when she testified before our subcommittee in 2007. She said:

If you cannot apologize to me, give me back my youth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for women around the world who are targeted victims of violence. It is estimated that 1 out of every 3 women around the world will be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Women in areas of conflict are in even more danger. We know that rape and sexual assault are tools of war used around the world to terrorize entire communities. Displaced, refugee and stateless women are at an increased risk of violence, and they are often forced to exchange sex for food and humanitarian supplies. These tactics are not new, they have been used as tools of war throughout the centuries and these despicable practices have been ignored for far too long.

Today, sitting in the House Gallery, is Grandmother Yong Soo Lee, a courageous survivor of war. In the 1930s and 1940s, women and girls were forced to provide sexual services for Japanese soldiers. These women are known as comfort women, and Grandmother Lee is one of the few remaining survivors still alive.

Every country, including our own, has made mistakes in the past. At one time or another, each country has had to apologize for actions unbefitting its values and principles.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has been one of the United States’ most important allies and we have enjoyed a successful partnership based on respect and cooperation. However, the historical record on comfort women must be universally accepted, without wavering on the horrific details.

In 1993, the Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono apologized to the victims and admitted responsibility by the Japanese military. Despite this apology, in the past twelve years, government officials have made statements that seem to call the Kono Statement into question. These discrepancies are an impediment to a successful tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s scheduled address to a joint meeting of Congress next week is a landmark moment for U.S.-Japan relations. I look forward to hearing Prime Minister Abe speak and it is my hope he uses this opportunity to clarify any remarks that have been interpreted as a revocation of the Kono Statement.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HONDA for hosting this very important Special Order this evening.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women in America.

More often than not, cases of violence against women go unreported.

Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short-term and long-term impacts related to the violence and were more likely to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and long-term chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Every year in the United States, 1,000 to 1,600 women die at the hands of their male partners, often after a long, escalating pattern of battering.

In 2009, 111 women were killed by their former or current husband, intimate partner or boyfriend in the State of Texas.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women in America.

Every nine seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner.

Another form of violence against women is sex trafficking.

Trafficking ensnares millions of women and girls in modern-day slavery.

According to the FBI, sex trafficking is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world.

More than 300,000 American children are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking annually in what is estimated to be a \$9.8 billion industry.

Women and girls represent 55 per cent of the estimated 20.9 million victims of forced labor worldwide and 98 per cent of the estimated 4.5 million forced into sexual exploitation.

Similar to current sex trafficking crimes is the past atrocity of the crimes that were committed towards the Korean women.

The “comfort women” system of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century.

Today, there are now only just 59 known survivors that were comfort Korean victims.

There are about 200,000 women are estimated to have worked as comfort women in Japan’s military brothels.

Today, the comfort women issue remains taboo and controversial topic, just like other violent crimes committed to women.

These women are not victims but also survivors, survivors from a brutal crime.

The comfort women issue is not just about the past, but it is very relevant today.

The world’s strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability, for actions present, but also past.

It’s weakened by denial of accountability and obfuscation of past acts.

History is a continuum that affects today and tomorrow.

Women everywhere should not be victims of such an atrocity.

It’s much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong.

Today, we call on to the Japanese government to apologize to the few women who continue to live with the shame of the crimes committed against them.

#### SAN JACINTO DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ABRAHAM). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is April 21, 2015. April 21 is an important day. It is an important day not only in Texas history, but I think in world history. But it is more important to my mother. Because today, Mr. Speaker, my mother is 90 years young.

When I was growing up in Texas, April 21 was a holiday. We did not go to school on April 21 in Houston. And my mother told me the reason we did not go to school was because it was her birthday and everybody got off from school on her birthday.

Of course, I believed her—and she still says that is the reason we get off—but it wasn't until I took fourth-grade Texas history that I learned there was another reason why April 21 was an important day and a holiday. It is called San Jacinto Day, Mr. Speaker.

San Jacinto Day is based upon Texas history that occurred on April 21, 1836—179 years ago. That was the day that the Battle of San Jacinto took place on the marshy plains where Buffalo Bayou meets the San Jacinto River, near the Gulf of Mexico, in a place that we now call Harrisburg, which is near Houston, Texas. It was a battle that was successful for liberty and freedom for people who lived in Texas.

The Battle of San Jacinto was won by Sam Houston defeating the invading Mexican Army led by Santa Anna. And I will get back to that in a moment. I think it is important, though, we have a little history lesson so we understand why this battle for freedom is so important to all people who believe in freedom.

Texas, Mr. Speaker, was wanted by a lot of folks. The French claimed Texas. Of course, the Comanches, the Apaches, and a lot of other Native American tribes claimed Texas—and wanted Texas.

But Spain controlled Texas for a great number of years. From 1690 to about 1821, Texas as we know it was part of Spain. In fact, we still have Spanish land grants in Texas, where people own land that they can trace back to the Spanish when they controlled Texas.

In about 1821, a portion of Spain—Spanish Texas and Spanish Mexico, if you will—decided they wanted independence from Spain. So, Mexico as we now know it had their war of independence from the European power of Spain, and they were successful in defeating the Spanish and declaring independence and becoming a democratic republic south of the border called the Republic of Mexico. That was 1821. Texas was a part of that revolution and that rebellion. Texans fought in those battles.

And all went well until about 1835, when a person by the name of Santa Anna took over the Presidency of Mexico—a republic, a democracy—and made himself a military dictator. He abolished the constitution—dictators have a habit of doing that, even to this day—dismissed the assembly or congress, and he was in total control of Mexico.

Now, this did not set well with people in Mexico, which includes what we now know as Texas.

Here is a map of the region in about the time of 1821 to 1836. This portion here was Texas. It was part of another state in Mexico called Coahuila.

When dictator Santa Anna took control of this entire area, 11 of the states rebelled. They wanted their own independence from their dictator, who destroyed the democracy, or the democratic Republic of Mexico.

Several of the states rebelled. In fact, some were somewhat successful. The Republic of Yucatan lasted for a while, went back to Mexico, gained independence again, and was a republic for about 7 years in the 1840s, and then joined Mexico again.

There were several other states—and I will put in the RECORD the names of those states—that wanted independence from Mexico, to go their own way, and some were more successful than others.

And what Santa Anna did is assemble his army. He went through Mexico, retaking this land, putting down the rebellion of all of the individuals who were trying to be independent from the Mexican dictator.

After he had successfully done that, he moved across the Rio Grande River, where those Texans were causing the same type of controversy of wanting freedom and independence. And what started the actual fighting between the people of Texas—and they were of all races. Tejanos is a special, unique name of Texans of Spanish or Mexican birth. Tejanos, Anglos, and Blacks in that area wanted independence. Not all, but many of them did. And there was a controversy, and there were political disputes with the Mexican Government. But what set it all off occurred in a small, little town of Gonzales, Texas.

In Gonzales, Texas, they had a cannon. It wasn't really much of a cannon, but it was a cannon. And it was to protect themselves from the Karankawas, the Apaches, and other folks.

□ 1945

The Mexican Government decided they were going over to take that cannon away from the settlers. The settlers objected. They said, You can't have it. They made themselves a flag that said, "Come and take it." We still have that flag. "Come and take it." It had a cannon with the words, "Come and take it."

So the Mexican military shows up. The settlers have a skirmish with the Mexican military. Shots were fired. I don't think anybody was really hurt too bad, but the Mexican Army retreated. They left Gonzalez, but they left without the cannon.

It is an interesting note that the Texas war of independence started because government tried to take the firearms, the weapons, the guns of the people. If you recall American history, Mr. Speaker, which I know you know

quite well, there is a little place called Lexington and Concord, up in Massachusetts, where the British tried to take the guns from the colonists, to take the guns from the armory at Lexington and Concord. The colonists objected.

The shot heard around the world started the American war of independence, successful just like the Texas war of independence was successful, but the fighting started when the government showed up to take the weapons of the settlers.

In any event, the Battle of Gonzalez took place. The fighting was on. Texans moved into Bexar, which is now San Antonio, which was the central city in the Republic, or in Texas, and took that away from the Mexican military that was there, ran them out of town, and that was toward December of 1835.

Then we get to the early part of 1836, and this part of history is what most Americans are aware of: Santa Anna now is coming across the Rio Grande River with his three armies to retake Texas and make it part of Mexico again, as he had done with these other rebellious states in Mexico.

He showed up at a little place, a beat-up old Spanish church that was over 100 years old at the time, in February of 1836. We call it the Alamo, the cradle of Texas liberty.

Assembled at the Alamo, in Bexar—San Antonio, if you will, same place—were 187 Texas volunteers. Now, most of them were not from Texas. In fact, the only natives there were the Tejanos. Eleven Tejanos fought in the Texas revolution at the Alamo, but they were from all the States, 13 foreign countries, and of all races, volunteers, led by my favorite person—William Barret Travis, a South Carolina lawyer. He came to Texas; and he is 27, the commander of the Alamo.

Santa Anna's army, historians disagree on how many thousands there were, but there were a lot of them; and, after 13 days—we all know the rest of the story. After 13 days of holding the Mexican Army at bay and Santa Anna, Santa Anna was able to breach the walls and kill all of the defenders, all of the volunteers at the Alamo.

After that occurred, people who lived in Texas started moving from that direction of central Texas towards the east, towards Louisiana. It is called the Runaway Scrape.

Why were they running? Because the Mexican armies have invaded Texas and are coming after the settlers in that portion of the State, that portion of Texas—so Sam Houston, who had already come to Texas, was building an army to fight and defend the State of Texas and to fight and defend, from the invaders, Texas liberty. He was building this army.

It is interesting how he got to Texas. Sam Houston was famous in his own

right before he made it to Texas. He was from Tennessee. He was an attorney general, Member of Congress—twice elected to Congress—and Governor of Tennessee.

He eventually left the Governorship and came back to Washington, Mr. Speaker, and advocated on behalf of the Cherokee Indians who he was living with in what is now Oklahoma.

He got into a dispute with an Ohio Congressman named Stanbery. Stanbery had impugned the integrity of Sam Houston, and Sam Houston didn't like that. That conversation, apparently, by Stanbery occurred on this House floor.

One morning, Sam Houston is coming out of his home, his dwelling over here on Pennsylvania Avenue, and he sees Stanbery. Sam Houston carried a cane. You may see the pictures of Sam Houston with his cane. Sam Houston comes upon—I get all choked up telling the story, Mr. Speaker.

Sam Houston comes up on Stanbery. He is walking down the street. Sam Houston, remembering the bad things that Stanbery said about him on the House floor, and he starts to thrash Stanbery with his cane, beats him pretty bad.

Stanbery had a pistol. He pulls it out of his vest. He pokes the pistol in Sam Houston's chest and pulls the trigger. The gun misfired; and, therefore, Sam Houston lived. He was tried on this House floor for demeaning a Member of Congress. The Supreme Court sat in judgment of him. The trial lasted a month. Sam Houston took the House floor and talked over a full day, defending himself.

After the trial was over, Sam Houston was found guilty, ordered to pay a \$500 fine for demeaning a Member of Congress. Sam Houston was represented by Francis Scott Key—yes, the same lawyer that wrote our Star-Spangled Banner.

Rather than pay the fine, rather than deal with Congress anymore and Mr. Stanbery, he left Washington and ended up in Texas and became a political figure there. They loved Sam Houston when he came to Texas. They didn't care about his troubles here in Washington, D.C., and he was made general of the Texas Army.

So the Alamo takes place. William Barret Travis, the commander, they were all killed. Sam Houston builds his army, and he is ready to defend Texas against the invading army from Santa Anna.

That brings us to April 21. Sam Houston did not engage Santa Anna quickly. In fact, he kept moving east. He got as close as he could to Louisiana, and then he moved south, down towards the Gulf of Mexico. Santa Anna is chasing him.

Finally, Sam Houston stopped on those marshy plains of San Jacinto, where Buffalo Bayou meets the San

Jacinto River—Santa Anna's army, about 1,800; Houston's army, 700, 800—outnumbered.

Remember, Santa Anna's armies had yet to be defeated, in all those battles in Mexico, Alamo, a place called Goliad, where Santa Anna killed all the Texas defenders, yet to be defeated. Sam Houston has yet to fight a battle.

They assemble there, April 19, 1836. Most battles, even today, are fought when the sun comes up, sunrise; and they were then. They were for thousands of years. Everybody expected battle on April 22 at sunrise, but the Texas Army did not want to wait, so on the afternoon of April 21, there was a council of war. Sam Houston decided that now is as good a time as any.

Well, less than a mile away was Santa Anna's army, but it is in the afternoon. Many of the soldiers in Santa Anna's army were taking a siesta.

Legend has it that Santa Anna was occupied with a mixed-race lady by the name of Emily Morgan. She was keeping him busy during this time. I don't know if that is true or not. We believe it is true. We named buildings after Emily Morgan. We call her the Yellow Rose of Texas. We still honor ladies in Texas by calling them the yellow rose.

But anyway, so he is busy. The Texans line up in one column. There weren't a lot of them; there were only 700 or 800 of them. They didn't have uniforms. They were wearing buckskins and frontier clothes. They have bowie knives and pistols in their belts, tomahawks, rifles.

Juan Seguin, Hispanic Tejano, his cavalry are riding the flanks, protecting the flanks, also didn't have uniforms. So that the Texans would not mistake them for the enemy, Juan Seguin had all of his cavalry put in their sombreros, their hats, a playing card so they would know that these are the good guys and they wouldn't mistake them for the enemy.

They are marching in a single file, if you can imagine this, this odd-looking bunch of folks. Leading them was a fife guy—a fifer, on a fife—another person carrying a flag. It was Miss Liberty that they were carrying the flag of.

Miss Liberty was a partially nude female with the word "liberty" written across her. The fifer, he only knew one song. It was called "Come to the Bower." The Bower was a house of ill repute, so he is playing this house of ill repute song on his fife, and the Texas Army is marching down the hill, ready.

The Mexican Army, not prepared, no scouts, no lookouts, no one is watching; and they charge in broad daylight in the middle of the afternoon, when battles are never fought.

Santa Anna was caught napping. The Mexican Army was caught by surprise. In 18 minutes, a lot shorter time than I have already talked, Mr. Speaker, the battle started, and it was ended. Half

the Mexican Army was killed, the other half captured. More were captured than were in the Texas Army. Texas casualties, nine were killed. The enemy was caught by total surprise. They were caught sleeping.

Santa Anna changed his clothes, took off his fancy general, Presidential uniform and put on the uniform of a Mexican private, but he was caught, and he was brought to Sam Houston, who happened to be one of the few that were wounded. He was shot in the ankle off his horse.

The Texans wanted to hang Santa Anna right there from the closest oak tree. Sam Houston was not about to have a lynching of the enemy leader, and he held him for bargaining power later, to get a better deal for Texas independence.

The Texans at San Jacinto, like at the Alamo, all volunteers, they came from every place. They were of all races. They came from several foreign countries. They came from many of the States. One was from Rhode Island, another from Vermont; several were from New York.

In fact, several New Yorkers helped in Texas' independence, at the Alamo and at San Jacinto, but from most of the States and, as I said, foreign countries as well.

□ 2000

They succeeded in defeating Santa Anna.

Texas declared independence earlier that year, on March 2, 1836, about 6 weeks before the Battle of San Jacinto, declared independence from Mexico. And it was won. It was successful on April 21, 1836, which we call San Jacinto Day today.

After that battle was over with, military historians say it was one of the most decisive battles in Western Hemisphere history because of the massive amount of land that changed hands because of one battle.

After the Battle of San Jacinto, you can see what modern-day Texas looks like right through here, this area. Texas not only claimed what is now modern-day Texas, but it claimed parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and all the way up to Wyoming.

This was the Republic of Texas in April of 1836. This land was all claimed by Texas. Texas established a constitution, a government, and became an independent, free nation that lasted for 9 years. Sam Houston, of course, was the President of the Republic of Texas and got elected twice to the Republic of Texas.

The Republic of Texas, as I said, lasted for 9 years, and then the majority of Texans wanted to join the United States. It was not an easy task. Many people in the United States didn't want Texas in the Union.

Primarily the way for Texas to get into the Union was a treaty because



Texas was a country. The United States is a country. There would be a treaty, and Texas would come in as a State. As we know, those folks down the hallway in the Senate, it takes two-thirds of them to approve a treaty.

Two-thirds of the States in the United States would never have approved Texas coming into the Union, so how did Texas become a part of the Union? They changed it to a joint resolution. It just takes a majority vote to get a joint resolution passed in the Senate. So Texas came into the Union after several tries unsuccessfully when, apparently, a Louisiana Senator changed his vote from “no” to “yes,” and Texas came in under a joint resolution. Thus, the Republic of Texas was no more and became a State in the Union in 1845, in December of 1845.

When it came into the Union, Texas was allowed to fly its flag at the same height as the United States flag. If you come to Texas, you will notice there are a lot of Texas flags flying at the same level as the American flag.

Texas is allowed to divide into five States. We are not going to do that. People would debate who would be called Texas and what would the other four be called. So we are not going to divide into five States. But we have the ability, and we have the right to decide and to divide into five States.

But going back to Texas and the way it was when it came into the Union, what happened to all this land? Well, Texas had mounted a lot of debt and, to pay off its debt to the United States and to its creditors, sold this land to the Federal Government and wiped the slate clean. Therefore, Texas now looks like what we all know it looks like. The rest of that land went to the Union.

I mentioned and talked to you tonight, Mr. Speaker, about San Jacinto Day, not so much because it is really San Jacinto Day, but about the people who were there 179 years ago. I mentioned there were all types of folks. But similar to our ancestors in the colonial days who said “no” to oppression, they weren’t going to tolerate it. We still have oppression throughout the world. We have governments and dictators, military dictators oppressing their people. A lot of times, they can’t do anything about it, those people. They would like to be free and independent, but they are not.

Those folks back in 1836 made a decision that it was more important to them to be free than it was to be safe, secure in their own personal life. So they were willing to give their life for freedom. That is not a trite statement. We have had people from all over the United States who have done that since then, have fought for America, fought for liberty, fought for freedom, even for other people. They have sacrificed their lives so that other people can enjoy those words that most people

have never enjoyed, “freedom” and “liberty.”

And when a dictator or any other powerful government shows up, some people have the ability to step up and say: I am not going to take it. I will give up my life so that there can be a free nation.

So we are grateful for those folks in 1836, on San Jacinto Day, and the ones at the Alamo who all died and the others who died and the ones that fought and lived, sacrificed their land to make sure that freedom rings in our State.

Texans are proud of their history. I mentioned that I learned about San Jacinto Day in Texas history. Kids growing up in Texas today have to take Texas history twice, in the fourth grade and the seventh grade, where they learn about the history of our State.

Our history is different than the Thirteen Colonies’ history. It received its independence, but it was not from England; it was from a Mexican dictator.

And we appreciate that. We appreciate those folks—Sam Houston, William Barret Travis, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie—all those many men and women who sacrificed life and their well-being so that we could be an independent nation that tyrants will not rule. They will not be successful. They will be defeated. And we should admire people like that. I think we do here in the House of Representatives and in the United States. We have had people like that in all of our history. That is what makes us a unique nation, because we can go all the way back to the American War for Independence and trace all of the history; and in much of it, the United States was at war and fighting for our liberty, and we thank those people.

We are still involved in war throughout the world today, the people fighting for America. So we are grateful for them, and we are grateful for those folks—Sam Houston and all of his boys of summer and boys of spring—that fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

One hundred years after the battle, Texans built a monument similar to the one down the street, the Washington Monument. We have all seen the Washington Monument. If you come to the battlefield of San Jacinto, you will see a similar monument, but it has a big star on the top of it. It is taller than the Washington Monument because it is in Texas, and the star makes it taller than the Washington Monument.

As a side note, the Texas State capitol is also taller than this Capitol. That was built later.

And we honor those folks with that monument. We honor them on San Jacinto Day, today. It is not a holiday anymore. Kids don’t get out of school.

But it is still my mother’s birthday. I don’t know if she is watching or not,

but she is certainly celebrating her birthday down in Texas.

So on behalf of those of us here, we commend those folks at the Battle of San Jacinto. And I also want to wish my mom a happy birthday on this April 21, 2015.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1215. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Reserve Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s STARBASE Program 2014 annual report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2193b(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1216. A letter from the Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office, transmitting a re-issued report entitled “Defense Acquisitions: Assessments of Selected Weapon Programs” (GAO-15-342SP) to reflect changes made to the quantities of one of the programs used in the Office’s calculations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1217. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, on a transaction involving Hainan Airlines Co., Ltd. of Haikou, China; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1218. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s final rule — Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Possession by Conservators and Receivers for Federal and State Savings Associations (RIN: 3064-AE17) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1219. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Rules of Practice and Procedure and Amendments to FDIC Rules and Regulations (RIN: 3064-AE08) received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1220. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of Section 235 Home Ownership Program Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5829-F-01] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1221. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640; FRL-9919-44-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AE81) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1222. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R01-RCRA-2015-0195; FRL 9926-54-Region 1] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0063; FRL-9926-50-Region 6] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Charlotte; Base Year Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0209; FRL-9926-47-Region 4] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1225. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island: Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0148; A-1-FRL-9926-51-Region 1] received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1226. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, OC/OPPLA/OP/RPMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-0828] received April 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1227. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 annual report and data, pursuant to Secs. 203(a) and (b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1228. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination

and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1229. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1230. A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Office's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1231. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — 2015 Annual Determination To Implement the Sea Turtle Observer Requirement [Docket No.: 140829733-5046-02] (RIN: 0648-BE35) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1232. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's "Detainees Not Seeking Asylum" report for FY 2013, pursuant to Sec. 904 of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1233. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on "Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957", Pub. L. 85-316, for February 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1234. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on "Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957", Pub. L. 85-316, for January 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1235. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on "Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957", Pub. L. 85-316, for January 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1236. A letter from the Designee of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the monthly report to Congress on "Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957", Pub. L. 85-316, for December 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1237. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1123; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-037-AD; Amendment 39-18120; AD 2015-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1238. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's

Major final rule — Medicare Program; Right of Appeal for Medicare Secondary Payer Determinations Relating to Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance), No-Fault Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Laws and Plans [CMS-6055-F] (RIN: 0938-AS03) received April 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 212. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-88). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (for himself and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 1897. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to make technical corrections to law governing grazing permits and leases on National Forest System lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BERA, Ms. ESTY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 1898. A bill to provide for investment in innovation through research and development and STEM education, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 1899. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1900. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 1901. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phaseout and repeal the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources, to reduce the corporate income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1902. A bill to ban hydraulic fracturing on land owned by the United States and leased to a third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 1903. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to eliminate the consumptive demand exception to prohibition on importation of goods made with convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1904. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree or doctoral degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 1905. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1906. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include recreational therapy among the therapy modalities that constitute an intensive rehabilitation therapy program in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital or unit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 1907. A bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MOORE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUM-

MINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 1908. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 1909. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GUTIÉRREZ:

H.R. 1910. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel to solicit recommendations for and select a portrait of a woman to be used in a redesign of the \$20 Federal Reserve note; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 1911. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1912. A bill to exempt smaller public companies from requirements relating to the use of Extensible Business Reporting Language for periodic reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1913. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop guidance and procedures for the recovery of refunds relating to tax return preparer fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1914. A bill to terminate certain toll authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 1915. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out activities relating to the research, development, test, and evaluation and procurement of the David's Sling weapons program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 1916. A bill to reauthorize trade enforcement and trade facilitation functions and activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1917. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to establish congressional procedures for

the termination of economically harmful free trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. SENBRENNER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 1918. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 1919. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota):

H.R. 1920. A bill to require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training related to medical graduates in the countries in which such officers are serving, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota):

H.R. 1921. A bill to facilitate the expedited review of applications of aliens applying for admission to the United States under section 101(a)(15)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act who are coming to the United States to participate in a program under which they will receive graduate medical education or training, require the Secretary of State to provide relevant Foreign Service officers with training regarding such aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1922. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the use of dispersants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1923. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to appoint a coordinator for issues relating to harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VELA, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SIREs, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 1924. A bill to provide for the establishment of a program by the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at Hispanic-serving institutions; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. BARTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YODER, Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 1925. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Balazs "Ernie" Bodai in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation, including a tireless commitment to breast cancer research; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to regulate campaign contributions for Federal elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida):

H. Res. 213. A resolution condemning the April 2015 terrorist attack at the Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, and reaffirming the United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms.

WILSON of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HAHN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H. Res. 214. A resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LATTA:

H. Res. 215. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any comprehensive plan to reform our national energy policy must promote the sustainable use of renewable and alternative energy sources; increase our domestic refining capacity; promote conservation and increased energy efficiency; expand research and development, including domestic onshore and offshore exploration; and enhance consumer education; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 216. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2015 as "National Campus Sexual Assault Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H. Res. 217. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Henry Thomas Segerstrom and expressing condolences on his passing; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 218. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

14. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico, relative to House Memorial No. 119, recognizing and commending the longstanding traditions of tolerance and inclusion in Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution states, "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 1, under the "Power To lay and collect Taxes";

Amd. 16, under the "power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration"; and

Art. I Sec. 8 cl. 18, under the power to "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 1902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 1906.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and including, but not solely limited to Article I, Section 8, Clause 14.

By Mr. TIBERI:  
H.R. 1907.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:  
H.R. 1908.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CULBERSON:  
H.R. 1909.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:  
H.R. 1910.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 6, Congress has the authority to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures.

By Mr. HUNTER:  
H.R. 1911.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8  
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for the carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:  
H.R. 1912.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JEFFRIES:  
H.R. 1913.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:  
H.R. 1914.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. KILMER:  
H.R. 1915.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LEVIN:  
H.R. 1916.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:  
H.R. 1917.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 permitting Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign nations.

By Ms. LOFGREN:  
H.R. 1918.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:  
H.R. 1919.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Medicare program under Title 18 if the Social Security Act.

By Ms. MENG:  
H.R. 1920.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MENG:  
H.R. 1921.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8  
By Mr. NADLER:  
H.R. 1922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:  
H.R. 1923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
"The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution."

By Mr. SERRANO:  
H.R. 1924.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. SPEIER:  
H.R. 1925.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHRADER:  
H.J. Res. 46.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article V of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 258: Ms. BASS.  
H.R. 270: Mr. JONES and Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 271: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 343: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 402: Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 430: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 432: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 448: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 456: Mr. MARINO.  
H.R. 484: Mr. BERA and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
H.R. 509: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 526: Mr. TROTT and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 528: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 531: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 551: Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 588: Mr. BERA and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 590: Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 592: Ms. LEE and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 600: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 602: Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 606: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 610: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 649: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 662: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. PEARCE.  
H.R. 697: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 721: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 732: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 735: Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 738: Ms. LEE, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 745: Mr. JOYCE.  
H.R. 748: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 767: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CLAY, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 771: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 775: Ms. ESTY and Mr. JONES.  
H.R. 776: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 812: Mr. REICHERT.  
H.R. 817: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 821: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 825: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 839: Mr. NEAL, Mr. TURNER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 842: Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 849: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 855: Ms. FUDGE.  
H.R. 863: Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 881: Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 885: Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 887: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 912: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 927: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 928: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 932: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
H.R. 953: Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 963: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 970: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
H.R. 971: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. GIBSON.  
H.R. 972: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 980: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 985: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 986: Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 997: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 999: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. ADERHOLT.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 25: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 91: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 93: Mr. MARINO.  
H.R. 131: Mr. FORBES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 167: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 232: Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 235: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. ENGEL.

- H.R. 1002: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 1016: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. COFFMAN.
- H.R. 1019: Mr. LONG, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 1048: Mr. CONAWAY.
- H.R. 1057: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 1062: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 1063: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
- H.R. 1086: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 1089: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 1090: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. DOLD.
- H.R. 1096: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 1111: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 1117: Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 1120: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1141: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 1147: Mr. MESSER.
- H.R. 1150: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. BABIN.
- H.R. 1170: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 1171: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. ABRAHAM.
- H.R. 1174: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
- H.R. 1190: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 1192: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
- H.R. 1197: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. BARLETTA.
- H.R. 1199: Mr. KLINE and Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 1210: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mrs. NOEM.
- H.R. 1211: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 1221: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. POCAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 1233: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
- H.R. 1234: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HENSARLING.
- H.R. 1247: Mr. PETERS and Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 1249: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 1258: Mr. DOLD, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 1261: Mr. TROTT.
- H.R. 1263: Mr. TROTT.
- H.R. 1269: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
- H.R. 1275: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FARR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 1276: Mr. FARR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 1277: Mr. KEATING, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 1278: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. FARR.
- H.R. 1288: Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1298: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 1301: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 1309: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. HARPER.
- H.R. 1331: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 1338: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BABIN.
- H.R. 1340: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. DOLD.
- H.R. 1342: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
- H.R. 1343: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 1349: Mr. MOULTON and Mrs. WALORSKI.
- H.R. 1356: Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 1365: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 1369: Mrs. NOEM and Ms. TSONGAS.
- H.R. 1375: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 1383: Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 1384: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 1387: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. BUCHON.
- H.R. 1388: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
- H.R. 1389: Mr. ROTHFUS.
- H.R. 1399: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DOLD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 1416: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
- H.R. 1421: Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 1424: Mr. PIERLUISI.
- H.R. 1464: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 1466: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 1475: Mr. KLINE.
- H.R. 1476: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. MULLIN.
- H.R. 1479: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1482: Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 1486: Mr. ROTHFUS.
- H.R. 1496: Miss RICE of New York and Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 1498: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 1515: Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 1516: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. YODER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 1517: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 1559: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 1567: Mr. MEADOWS.
- H.R. 1572: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
- H.R. 1600: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BARLETTA.
- H.R. 1602: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 1607: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JONES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 1610: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mrs. LOVE.
- H.R. 1614: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. COLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
- H.R. 1616: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 1618: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 1621: Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 1624: Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 1627: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. ENGEL.
- H.R. 1635: Mr. BUCK and Mr. COFFMAN.
- H.R. 1636: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
- H.R. 1650: Mr. HENSARLING.
- H.R. 1654: Mr. LYNCH.
- H.R. 1658: Mr. HILL and Mr. POSEY.
- H.R. 1664: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1674: Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 1680: Mr. WALKER and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 1684: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CHABOT.
- H.R. 1688: Mr. JONES, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
- H.R. 1706: Mr. MCNERNEY.
- H.R. 1713: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. SERRANO.
- H.R. 1714: Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 1718: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. WILLIAMS.
- H.R. 1737: Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TIPPON, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 1739: Mr. BABIN.
- H.R. 1740: Mr. MASSIE.
- H.R. 1764: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 1769: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YODER, and Mr. ZELDIN.
- H.R. 1779: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. ENGEL.
- H.R. 1814: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 1846: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1854: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
- H.R. 1860: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
- H.R. 1861: Mr. HANNA.
- H.R. 1862: Mr. RICHMOND.
- H.R. 1863: Mr. RICHMOND.
- H.R. 1866: Ms. SINEMA and Ms. TITUS.
- H.R. 1886: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. ROKITA.
- H.R. 1887: Mr. COURTNEY.
- H.J. Res. 9: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
- H.J. Res. 43: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. MESSER.
- H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. MOORE.
- H. Res. 12: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
- H. Res. 15: Mr. CAPUANO.
- H. Res. 28: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. COSTA.
- H. Res. 56: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. CHABOT.
- H. Res. 102: Mr. PETERS.
- H. Res. 111: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. HENSARLING.
- H. Res. 112: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. GOODLATTE.
- H. Res. 130: Mr. ZELDIN.
- H. Res. 154: Mr. BUCK.
- H. Res. 179: Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H. Res. 181: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
- H. Res. 208: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. COOPER.
- H. Res. 210: Mr. CHABOT.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative NUNES, or a designee, to H.R.

1560, Protecting Cyber Networks Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative MCCAUL, or a designee, to H.R. 1731, National Cybersecurity Protection Ad-

vancement Act of 2015, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 707: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.



## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NICHOLSON, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church in Nicholson, Pennsylvania. The church is a historic landmark within my congressional district, and provides my constituents with a place to come together and worship.

Founded in April of 1865 by Reverend Lyman Richardson, the church remains the tallest structure in Nicholson. This house of worship, which rises to a height of 60 feet and is adorned with 10 beautiful stained-glass windows, serves as a magnificent symbol reminding onlookers of the great sense of pride and community the town's residents share.

First Presbyterian is comprised of nine board members who oversee a vibrant and active congregation. Thanks to an enthusiastic and committed staff of teachers, the youth of the church are able to enjoy a Sunday school program that runs 12 months of the year. Additionally, in 1879, a women's Missionary Society was organized in order to aid the church in its everyday spiritual and monetary needs. The group survives over 100 years later, and is referred to today as the "Presbyterian Women."

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the First Presbyterian Church of Nicholson, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 150th anniversary, and I commend its congregation, both past and present, for their tireless efforts to preserve its longstanding legacy.

KATHERINE WHISENANT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katherine Whisenant for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katherine Whisenant is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katherine Whisenant is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential stu-

dents at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katherine Whisenant for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,997,679,396.05. We've added \$7,525,120,630,482.97 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize all of the medical laboratory professionals in Georgia. Laboratory professionals are vital to the healthcare team and instrumental in the decision making of clinicians. These men and women dedicate themselves to their work in hospital laboratories, research institutions, public health departments, and university health centers. Medical laboratory professionals are frontline responders, performing and interpreting more than 10 billion tests annually to provide physicians with critical lab results.

Each year, we acknowledge laboratory professionals during National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. This year's theme, Laboratory Professionals Get Results, speaks to the "can do" attitude of those in the field as well as the critical role they play in the continuum of healthcare delivery. Thank you to all the hardworking medical laboratory professionals in the nation, state of Georgia, and 8th Congressional District.

MACKAELA RIEDEL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mackaela Riedel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mackaela Riedel is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mackaela Riedel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mackaela Riedel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL JOB CORPS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the National Job Corps.

Job Corps was established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The organization's mission is to help young people gain the credentials and employment skills needed to enter the workforce and build successful careers. Job Corps provides career preparatory training to high school dropouts, homeless young adults, and students with learning disabilities, enabling them to become productive and financially independent members of society. Job Corps provides over 50,000 at-risk youth with invaluable job training and life skills each year.

The Cassadaga Job Corps Center, located in Chautauqua County, New York, has had an immensely positive impact on lives and families in my congressional district. The Center enrolls over 300 local youths every year, providing them with the resources and opportunities necessary to achieve success, both now and in the future. These programs have enabled thousands of young adults to enter the workforce and begin careers in construction, healthcare, security, and various vocational industries.

Our local communities have greatly benefited from the services provided by the hardworking staff of the Cassadaga Job Corps

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Center. The staff provides a "hand up" to young adults in need, by mentoring, encouraging, and supporting the program participants as they work to better themselves. The staff works with the participants as they establish solid foundations upon which to build their careers, which directly benefits the participants and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the National Job Corps on fifty years of excellent service to students and young adults across the country. I salute Job Corps on a job well-done, and extend my best wishes for continued success in the future.

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAY  
AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE  
OF WASHINGTON, DC  
(GLAA)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA), a much-valued human rights organization that has long been a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Since its founding, in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District.

GLAA has also stoutly defended the District's comprehensive human rights law; has been an outspoken advocate for LGBT youth and seniors; has stood up for the rights of LGBT consumers; has upheld the rights of transgender people, including equal treatment by police and access to culturally competent healthcare; and has built and nurtured coalitions with other constituencies to advance these causes and defend the District's autonomy.

At GLAA's 44th anniversary reception on April 23, 2015, the recipients of its 2015 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including:

Alexandra Andrea Beninda serves as a member of the D.C. Commission on Human Rights. She is a dedicated transgender advocate and community volunteer. She has also served as a board member for Equality Virginia, Treasurer of the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, Treasurer of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, and a board member for the DC Center for the LGBT Community. She has represented the Stein Club on the D.C. Democratic State Committee. She is an active member and Assistant Treasurer at All Souls Unitarian Church.

Chuck Hicks is a longtime specialist in Black history and strong supporter of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. He is founder and chair of the DC Black History Celebration Committee, and collaborated with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in last year's multimedia production on Bayard Rustin and James Baldwin, and this year's production on Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. He is founder and chair of Bread for the Soul. He has also served on the board of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. He led creation of a local host committee for the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and served on the D.C. Mayor's Committee on the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. He currently serves on the Commission on Aging, D.C. Commission on African-American Men and Boys, Commission on African-American Affairs, and the MLK Holiday Commission.

Anne Phelps is a former D.C. Council Committee Director for the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, serving under then-chairman Tommy Wells. Before that, she was Committee Director for the Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation, and Planning, and General Counsel for the Committee on Transportation and Public Works. During her tenure on the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, the following bills supported by GLAA were passed: the Marriage Officiant Amendment Act of 2013; JaParker Deoni Jones Birth Certificate Equality Amendment Act of 2013; Marriage License Issuance Amendment Act of 2013; Civil Marriage Dissolution Equality Clarification Amendment Act of 2014; Repeal of Prostitution Free Zones Amendment Act of 2014; and Human Rights Amendment Act of 2014. During her previous committee post, she shepherded the Youth Bullying Prevention Act of 2012. She continues to work on LGBT issues as Legislative Director for Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2015 Distinguished Service Award and celebrating GLAA's 44 years of contributions to the LGBT community in the District of Columbia.

**KELLAN LANGFIELD**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kellan Langfield for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kellan Langfield is a 10th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kellan Langfield is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kellan Langfield for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MAGGIE L.  
CRIMES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of grace, class and dignity, Mrs. Maggie Crimes. Sadly, Mrs. Crimes passed away on April 17, 2015. Her funeral service was held on April 19, 2015, at New Hope Baptist Church in Preston, Georgia.

Mrs. Crimes was born in Webster County, Georgia on September 1, 1927, to the union of the late Mr. Willie Muff and the late Mrs. Evelyn Hawkins Muff Colbert Holley.

She was educated in the Webster County School System. At an early age, she joined Shiloh Baptist Church in Preston, Georgia. In later years, she was a dedicated member of New Hope Baptist Church, also in Preston. In 1944, she married Mr. Jimmie Lee Crimes, Sr. This union produced ten children.

Following in the footsteps of the great African American woman entrepreneur, Madame C.J. Walker, she pursued her entrepreneurial dreams and opened Mom's Kitchen in Preston in 1981. At the request of former President Jimmy Carter, she opened a second Mom's Kitchen location in Plains, Georgia in 2000.

She made Mom's Kitchen a family affair, as many of her children and other relatives are employed in the business. Mom's is a place where you can get a good meal, get good customer service, and talk about the burning issues of the day. Mother Crimes made Mom's Kitchen a place that is welcoming to all people from many diverse backgrounds. She was a dear friend to me and my wife, Vivian. She gave me a platform and venue at Mom's Kitchen that I used on many occasions to interact with constituents.

Mother Crimes was a great woman who treated all people with respect. She loved her God. She was honest, hardworking, and always told you the truth. She instilled these values in all of her children. Mom truly believed in the words of George Washington Carver, when he said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Maggie Crimes and in extending condolences on behalf of my wife and the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District. I know that her ten children, forty-three grandchildren, sixty-two great grandchildren, and four great great grandchildren will all miss her presence and wise counsel. But, I know that they will be more determined than ever to carry out her legacy. Heaven now has the "best cook" around and Mom now serves in the "greatest kitchen" of all.

RECOGNIZING ST. CLOUD HONOR  
FLIGHT

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans from St. Cloud, Minnesota, as they visit our nation's capital as part of the Honor Flight program.

This afternoon I had the honor of meeting the St. Cloud Honor Flight as they visited the World War II Memorial down on the National Mall. The remaining men and women of the Greatest Generation are a reminder to all of us of the importance of duty, patriotism, and sacrifice. No word or action will ever repay what these men and women have done for our country, but I hope that today's journey with the Honor Flight serves as a small token of our immeasurable gratitude for their service to this great nation.

I ask that this body join me in thanking our veterans for their service, and the Honor Flight program for making days like today possible for veterans across the country.

**MADDIE MIERA**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maddie Miera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Maddie Miera is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Maddie Miera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maddie Miera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN PA-  
CIFIC STATE EMPLOYEES ASSO-  
CIATION

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) and the distinguished Sacramento leaders who are being honored at their 16th annual scholarship gala. I ask all my

colleagues to join me in recognizing APSEA, the students they serve, and the fine Sacramentans they are honoring.

APSEA and the APSEA Foundation have played a vital role in the education and professional development of countless state employees and local students. Since 1975, APSEA and the APSEA Foundation have advocated for the advancement of its members, who are primarily California State government employees. APSEA holds training seminars and provides networking opportunities that have resulted in a more well trained state workforce. Additionally, they foster civic participation and cultural awareness throughout Sacramento. The APSEA Foundation raises money to provide vital scholarships for our leaders of tomorrow.

At the 16th annual gala, Darrel H. Woo is being honored with APSEA's President Award. Mr. Woo is a community leader and activist who serves as a senior staff counsel for the State of California Department of Insurance, as well as an elected trustee of the Sacramento City Unified School District. Jim Kahue is also being honored at this year's gala, as APSEA's Member of the Year Award. Mr. Kahue has been a public servant since 1960 when he began working for the State of California. He has been actively involved in APSEA as the organization's co-founder and its first president.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association and the Asian Pacific State Employees Association Foundation gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to the Sacramento Region.

RECOGNIZING THE ENLISTMENT  
OF TWENTY-THREE GRADUATING  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM  
FLORIDA'S 20TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize twenty-three graduating seniors from my Congressional district for their record of scholastic and athletic accomplishment, and their honorable decision to enlist in the United States Military.

As graduation season begins this year, thousands of young people all across the nation are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Many will pursue higher education or vocational training, some will enter the workforce immediately, and a select few will dedicate themselves to serving their country.

The United States of America has set itself apart by the determination and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these

qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Military:

Darius Freeman, Royal Palm Beach, FL—Air Force

Cacinni Young, West Palm Beach, FL—Air Force

Jelani Mccray, Riviera Beach, FL—Air Force

Devon Breen, Loxahatchee, FL—Army

Angel Sanchez, Lake Harbor, FL—Army

Arturo Roblero, West Palm Beach, FL—Army

Cristian Martinez, West Palm Beach, FL—Marines

Ryan Dunning, West Palm Beach, FL—Marines

Yvesland Belizaire, Boynton Beach, FL—Marines

Monroe Desulma, Boynton Beach, FL—Marines

Cesar Silva, Belle Glade, FL—Marines

Gunnar Gustafson, Wellington, FL—Marines

Kevin Garcia Velasquez, West Palm Beach, FL—Marines

Manuel Palomino, West Palm Beach, FL—Marines

Christie Pierre, Riviera Beach, FL—Marines

Michael Westman, Lake Worth, FL—Marines

Bryan Headley, Riviera Beach, FL—Marines

Peter Gay Bryan, West Palm Beach, FL—Marines

Tyi Thomas, Riviera Beach, FL—Marines

Phillip Perkins Jr., Riviera Beach, FL—Marines

Ruthlynn Laurince, Lantana, FL—Navy

Indira Merrick, Belle Glade, FL—Navy

Diana Noethig, West Palm Beach, FL—Navy

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize these selfless young people for their invaluable commitment to serve our great nation, and their leadership and courage as positive examples for their fellow classmates. I wish them all the very best.

**KONRAD SCHNEIDER**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Konrad Schneider for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Konrad Schneider is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Konrad Schneider is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Konrad Schneider for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

WALTER SCOTT AND POLICE VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman JEFFRIES for his leadership in hosting this important Special Order on a critical issue facing every single member of the House—the senseless murder of our young African American male constituents and the overmilitarization of our police forces.

My heart and prayers continue to go out to Walter Scott's family. Losing a loved one is always incredibly hard. But it is unbearable when a life is cut short.

The unfortunate truth is the tragic death of Walter Scott is another in a series of tragedies that remind us that, to some, the lives of young black men and women do not matter.

Tragedies like Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—are far too common in communities across this country.

As the mother of two black men and two black grandsons, I have had many uncomfortable but necessary conversations about how to walk, how to talk and how to interact with police.

This is not just my reality. It is also the reality of millions of other black mothers and grandmothers.

Tonight, we stand here, once again, to discuss the ongoing failures of our criminal justice system and over-use of deadly force by law enforcement across the country.

In order to address the problem people need to know the facts.

I applaud President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

The Task Force provided much needed recommendations, such as the creation of a National Crime and Justice Task Force that will review all components of the criminal justice system and provide recommendations on comprehensive criminal justice reform as well as renewed focus on community policing.

The unfortunate facts are since President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing released its report; there have been more than 100 fatal police shootings in America.

Every 28 hours an African American male is killed by a security officer.

1 in 3 African American men and 1 in 6 Latino men will spend some part of their lives in prison.

The truth is that disparity and inequality continue at every level of our society, especially in our criminal justice system.

It's past time that Congress start enacting policies to dismantle the bias endemic in our institutions.

We must come together like never before to tackle the systemic, structural and rampant racial bias endemic in our institutions and criminal justice system.

We need to empower communities and work to build greater trust between law enforcement and the community, especially communities of color.

That is why Congress should pass the bipartisan Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act

(H.R. 1232), which I am a proud cosponsor of, to stop the militarization of our nation's police forces.

We need to pass the Police Accountability Act (H.R. 1102) and the Grand Jury Reform Act (H.R. 429) so we can ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and there is more accountability among police officers.

Congress should also work to pass the Shield Our Streets Act (H.R. 103) to increase investments in proven, community-orientated policing programs that reduce crime and increase community and law enforcement trust and understanding.

Congress must work with the Department of Justice to ensure training programs are available to ALL law enforcement officials to reduce racial bias and profiling and provide law enforcement officers with the resources to address, defuse and manage situations without the unnecessary use of deadly force.

We also must support funding programs that focus on increasing police force diversity and retention of qualified officers in communities. This is something that the President's Task Force recommended in its report.

It is vital that Congress acts to ensure the tragedies in Ferguson, Staten Island, Oakland—in my district—and now North Charleston are not repeated.

So I urge my colleagues to support these efforts that can end the structural injustice that is endemic in our criminal justice system.

These events must be our call to action—as Dr. King reminded us in his “Two Americas” speech in 1967.

He said: ‘We must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.’

We must, each of us, be those dedicated individuals working persistently for the social progress that is so greatly needed.

Too much is at stake to do nothing—we must act and act now.

**HONORING VICKI SAPORTA**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Vicki Saporta for 20 years of outstanding leadership and service as President and CEO of the National Abortion Federation (NAF).

As the first woman organizing director for an international union and now as a visionary leader in the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement, Vicki Saporta has spent her career fighting for women's equality and to improve women's lives. Since taking the helm of NAF in 1995, President Saporta has worked tirelessly to ensure women's access to safe, legal abortion care.

Recognizing the need to address violence against abortion providers, Saporta successfully advocated for the establishment of the Department of Justice's National Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers.

She has actively worked with Attorney Generals Janet Reno and Eric Holder; the Department of Justice; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and U.S. Marshals to improve law enforcement response to clinic violence. As a result, major incidences of violence against abortion providers have decreased significantly in recent years.

Saporta has brought abortion providers and their patients into the forefront of the public debate about abortion. In 1996, she brought five women and their families to the Oval Office to meet with President Clinton, who publicly announced that he vetoed a federal abortion ban because he was so moved by their stories. More recently, she worked closely with Congress to build support for lifting a decades-long ban on federal funding for abortion care for servicemembers and their dependents in cases of rape and incest—one of the only pro-choice legislative victories in the last 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring President and CEO Vicki Saporta for her outstanding service to reproductive health. Her legacy continues to offer a powerful example for serving our communities.

**MARCUS LOPEZ**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marcus Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marcus Lopez is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marcus Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marcus Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE UNVEILING OF THE DACHAU VICTIMS MEMORIAL AT THE DURHAM HEBREW CEMETERY IN DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the unveiling of a very special memorial in my congressional district in Durham, North Carolina. On Sunday, April 26, 2015, a

memorial forever marking the final resting place of ashes from victims who lost their lives during the Holocaust at the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany will be unveiled in the Durham Hebrew Cemetery.

The amazing and unlikely journey that brought these hallowed ashes to their final resting place in Durham, North Carolina took over seventy years.

David Walter Corsbie, Jr. served in the United States Army Air Corps with the 364th Fighter Squadron during World War II. In 1945, shortly after Dachau was liberated by American troops, Mr. Corsbie was sent there on assignment. It was there that a survivor who had been imprisoned at Dachau gave the ashes to Mr. Corsbie telling him to never forget the unspeakable horrors that occurred there.

In late 2012, Mr. Corsbie's son Joseph made the existence of these ashes known after they had remained a secret since the end of World War II. Last year, those ashes were finally laid to rest in the Durham Hebrew Cemetery. The victims whose ashes were interred were finally given the honor and respect they were denied so long ago. A memorial to mark their final resting place will be unveiled this Sunday. This memorial will serve as an enduring reminder that will ensure the victims at Dachau and the millions of others that were lost during the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me both in commemorating the unveiling of this truly special memorial and in solemn remembrance of the millions of lives lost in the concentration camps of World War II.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MARK JOHNSON

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with sorrow and a heavy heart in recognition of Mr. Mark Johnson, a former DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education Member and constituent of mine. Mark was diagnosed with bone cancer this past spring and passed away on December 13, 2014.

Mark did everything with a sense of commitment and dedication. His contributions and character have greatly impacted our community, and his legacy will not only live on in the School District, but also in the hearts of those who knew him.

Mark served on the District 88 Board of Education since 1999 and was President from 2003-2011. He graduated from Willowbrook High School in 1966 and received the school's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. Through being a District 88 graduate and Board member, a D.A.R.E. officer and a Villa Park Police Department employee, Mark was involved in the communities of District 88 for more than 50 years.

Thank you Mark for all that you have done for DuPage County, you will be sorely missed.

KYLE PAPPAS-ADAMSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle Pappas-Adamson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kyle Pappas-Adamson is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle Pappas-Adamson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle Pappas-Adamson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

JOB CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Job Corps on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

Five decades ago, President Lyndon Johnson stood before Congress and challenged us to end poverty in the United States. Job Corps is a critical part of the answer to that challenge. Since 1965, the program has helped level the playing field for more than two million disadvantaged young men and women through its 125 centers across 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Young people come to Job Corps unsure about their future and often in need of a second chance. When they graduate, they are ready to take on the challenges and opportunities of the adult world. Put simply, Job Corps changes lives for the better.

Job Corps is not like other career preparation programs. It does not just train and educate its participants. It instills in them discipline, structure, and the social skills they need to be successful in their lives.

I had the honor of taking part in the opening of Connecticut's very first Job Corps center in New Haven in 1996. A year later, I returned to serve as graduation speaker. I was amazed at how far the students had come.

Today, the New Haven Job Corps center is among the best in the nation. Armed with the right skills, its alumni pursue careers everywhere from Yale-New Haven Hospital to the Department of Homeland Security.

Job Corps successfully places more than three quarters of its graduates in higher education programs or careers. Thanks to this track record of achievement, our nation now

has many more skilled young people ready for careers as emergency medical technicians, chefs, nurses, carpenters, entrepreneurs, and all kinds of other vocations.

No investment is more critical than investment in our human capital. If we want to compete in the global economy, we must invest in the workers of tomorrow and give them the skills they need to succeed. For half a century, Job Corps has been doing just that.

I could not be more proud of the role I have played, as Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds Job Corps, in supporting the program. I congratulate Job Corps, its staff, and its many graduates on fifty years of success.

HONORING BOB RULEY

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bob Ruley, a dedicated service member, loving family man, and proud New Mexican.

Growing up in Encino, New Mexico, Bob learned the importance of hard work, shared responsibility and a commitment to his family and country. When Bob was 8 years old, his mother passed away and the siblings were expected to step up and support the family. Every morning at 8:00 a.m., Bob and his brother would wake up, strap on their boots, and prep his family's 110 cattle for the all-day excursion across town.

As Bob got older, World War II intensified in Europe, and on February 7, 1941 in El Paso, Texas, Bob made a decision that would change his life. At the age of 18, in front of a tiny kiosk amid the bustling Alligator Square crowd, Bob enlisted into the United States Army's Eighth Cavalry Regiment, First Cavalry Division.

In total, Bob spent over 4 years in service to the United States in what was a remarkable career. As a Cavalryman, Bob conducted strategic maneuvers on the Louisiana and Texas borders with his horse Stony (Army Number 5U27) to protect against any German attacks that could originate in Mexico.

On December 2, 1942, Bob began training and prepared for deployment to the Philippines. As an Infantryman he completed two beachheads in the Pacific theatre. The first was January, 1944 at Manus Island, Philippines, with instructions to take the Lorengau airstrip. Bob's unit, the Eighth Cavalry Regiment, landed at Lugos Mission and led the charge for the U.S. forces. Bob explained, "Anytime you were a lead guy, you got hit". That didn't stop Bob or the Eighth Cavalry Regiment from pushing forward and repelling the enemy. At the end of the battle, U.S. forces successfully drove the Japanese from the island. Bob later earned a Purple Heart for his injuries sustained during the conflict.

The second beachhead was October, 1944 at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in what became known as one of the most decisive battles of the war. Bob recalled the heroism of the

troops, and in particular, two local Filipino men who spent all night paddling 185 men up and down the river. The battle was so influential that President Truman announced a Presidential citation for the skill, bravery, and courage that U.S. forces displayed in the victory.

On September 12, 1945, Bob returned home and began looking for work. Employment prospects were slim and, for Bob, that meant taking odd jobs to make a living. Whether he was delivering flowers, passing out court summons, or covering the night shift at a meat factory for an overworked employee, Bob always did what was needed to provide for his family. He eventually landed a full time job at the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he would spend the next 38 years as a Conductor and Brakeman.

Bob's story reminds us of a generation of Americans who, with hard work, persistence and determination, resolved to build a better America—a generation that constructed our modern concept of the "American Dream" and safeguarded the freedoms that we enjoy today. I have known Bob my whole adult life and am fortunate to have felt his exuberant joy and generous heart over the years. He could always be found at the local Denny's, walking along the perimeter of the University of New Mexico's North golf course, at his favorite restaurant, Hurricane's, in downtown Albuquerque, or spending time with his family that he cherished deeply.

From his childhood efforts to support his family, to risking his life overseas to preserve the liberties of millions of Americans, to fighting to create a richer life for his children, Bob represents the very best of our country. Bob's enduring legacy of service, sacrifice and unwavering faith in our community, state, and country will remain a lasting inspiration for future generations.

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MARQUEZ NEUMILLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marqez Neumiller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marqez Neumiller is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marqez Neumiller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marqez Neumiller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GABRIEL  
ROSENFELD

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gabriel Rosenfeld, who is being honored in memoriam at the Neighbors Link Gala this year, where the "Be a Hero" award will be instituted in his name.

Mr. Rosenfeld, known to all as Gabby, was a good friend of mine. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and fought in World War II, during which he was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. In recognition of his service to the people of France, he was also inducted into the French Legion of Honor in 2011 and awarded the French Legion of Honor medal. Following the war, Gabby attended Cornell University, where he met his wife Louise, and together they moved to Chappaqua, New York, in my district.

While living in Chappaqua, Gabby was known for his devotion to serving the community. He served as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of New Castle for over 30 years, as well as serving on the boards of the Katonah Museum of Art, Northern Westchester Hospital, A-Home, and the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center. He was a president of the Rotary Club and also a long-time and very active member of the New Castle Historical Society, the League of Women Voters, and the New Castle Democratic Committee.

Additionally, Gabby served on the board of Neighbors Link, an organization dedicated to the healthy integration of immigrants into our communities. In memory of his lifetime of hard work and commitment to the mission of their organization, Neighbors Link has created the "Be A Hero" award in Gabby's name. This annual honor will pay tribute to his legacy, and will be presented to individuals who have demonstrated vision, compassion, and commitment to his or her community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my good friend Mr. Gabriel Rosenfeld. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating his life, and to praise Neighbor's Link for the creation of the "Be a Hero" award in his name.

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REGARDING THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS TO PREVENT IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPON

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand to commend the efforts of President Obama and our P5+1 partners to achieve a strong, verifiable agreement to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

The economic sanctions imposed through joint action from the Congress and the president, combined with the sanctions imposed by

our international partners, have succeeded in bringing Iran to the negotiating table. We must maintain the unity that has succeeded in keeping the pressure on Iran. That unity helped produce an interim agreement last November that, among other things, effectively eliminated Iran's stockpile of more highly enriched nuclear material. Even the early critics of the interim agreement have now acknowledged that it was a useful step.

We now have The Framework for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's Nuclear Program that represents another important step toward the goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. As the Administration has acknowledged, many important details remain to be negotiated in the coming months. I will be carefully monitoring and reviewing the ongoing negotiations to determine whether the final product meets the objectives we have established. As these negotiations proceed, it is important that Congress refrain from taking actions that could weaken our negotiating position and undermine the multi-lateral sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table.

There is a very important role for Congress in this process. Congress will review this agreement and have the opportunity to act. Moreover, any repeal of the sanctions legislation will require congressional action. As negotiations continue, I look forward to working with the president and my congressional colleagues to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. I agree with President Obama that it would be best if we can achieve that objective by negotiating a verifiable agreement.

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LOGAN BEDFORD

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Logan Bedford for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Logan Bedford is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Logan Bedford is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Logan Bedford for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DAVE MCCONNELL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dave McConnell, who this year is observing his 50th year in the District of Columbia at WTOP Radio, where he has provided outstanding service to radio listeners in Washington, D.C. and the national capital region.

For five decades, Dave McConnell has been the deeply crisp golden voice the national capital region has tuned in to for news. Dave has brilliantly made himself the preeminent reporter the region can trust to get the news straight. Dave's grasp of the complicated news of the day is so profound that he can summarize it in a few short edifying sentences. So significant has been Dave's talented voice, his peerless dedication to unbiased reporting, and his vast knowledge of Congress and of Washington that WTOP owes part of its continued success to Dave McConnell.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Dave McConnell was drafted to work for Armed Forces Radio before returning to the Washington area, where he first worked at WTTG Channel Five and WMAL before starting at WTOP in 1965, where he has remained for 50 years.

Dave continues to thrive in his career. His popular "Today on the Hill" reports are broadcast each weekday, each hour in the morning and afternoon, with the occasional special reports. Dave has provided exemplary coverage of 12 presidential elections, five inaugurations, and countless political changes. He has been the recipient of a host of honors. Among the most notable are his recent Career Achievement of the Radio and Television Correspondents Association award in 2013 along with his 2001 AIR Lifetime Achievement Award and the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame award in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, like residents of the District of Columbia, where WTOP is located, and the entire national capital region, have benefited from Dave's straight forward and always unbiased reporting. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dave McConnell for 50 years of extraordinary reporting with WTOP Radio.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF  
"FIELD OF DREAMS"

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the motion picture, "Field of Dreams," which is set in the First District of Iowa. 26 years ago today, movie-goers were introduced to the wonderful pastoral landscapes that dot my district and first heard "If you build it, he will come." Since then, the movie, adapted from the novel "Shoeless Joe"

by W.P. Kinsella, has become recognized as a representation of classic American cinema.

Directed by Phil Alden Robinson and starring Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Ray Liotta, and Burt Lancaster, "Field of Dreams" uniquely blends the importance of family, dreams deferred, and America's pastime—baseball. Released on April 21, 1989, "Field of Dreams" received three Academy Award nominations: Best Original Score, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Picture.

The original farmhouse and baseball diamond from the movie, in Dyersville, Iowa, is open daily to the public for the 2015 season through October free of charge. On July 5, 2015, the ghost players will return to the field for their first "Ghost Sunday" game of the year. Visitors enjoy a ball game played by the baseball legends appearing in the movie. I encourage all fans to visit the Field of Dreams site website at [www.fodmoviesite.com](http://www.fodmoviesite.com) for more information.

On the anniversary of the release of "Field of Dreams," I encourage all baseball lovers, movie-buffs, and Americans to visit this timeless piece of Americana where they may ask themselves: "Is this heaven?—No, it's Iowa."

MELISSA PEREZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melissa Perez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Melissa Perez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Melissa Perez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Melissa Perez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MS. DEE RASCO

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dee Rasco, an exemplary teacher, on the day of her eighth grade class' trip to our nation's Capitol. Ms. Rasco has taught at Junipero Serra School in Carmel, CA for 25 years and has led her class on the Washington, DC trip for the last 15 years. A day has not gone by without her inspiring her students to learn, flourish, and thrive.

Ms. Rasco embodies the qualities of an extraordinary educator. An expert on U.S. history, she instills a love for our nation's heritage and tradition in her students. She encourages an unending curiosity and love of learning that will endure over a lifetime. She patiently works with all students regardless of individual difficulties; her passion to help them succeed overcomes all barriers.

Mr. Speaker, a great teacher is a treasure to her school, community, and country. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Dee Rasco for her dedication.

WISHING SSGT HOWARD LEE  
PAYNE A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, in February, 1942, Howard Payne was a 27-year old employee of the Bank of Benton when he received his induction notice. He reported to the Scott Field, IL, Induction Center and was assigned an Army serial number. Payne completed his basic training at Camp McCoy, WI, the site of the Second Army Maneuvers where 65,000 Soldiers from seven states formed the largest troop concentration in the Midwest. Payne was sent to Fort Sheridan, IL and then to Camp Ellis near Macomb, IL where he was assigned to the 368th Engineer Battalion. In October 1943, Payne's battalion was alerted that it would be shipping out from Camp Shanks, NY.

Payne remembers leaving the New York Harbor and viewing the Statue of Liberty. "Our Captain told us to take a good look at the Statue because some of you will never see her again." Payne recounts, "He was right. I saw an unbelievable loss of life. We did not outgun the German's. We just outnumbered them."

Payne was with the first military convoy to travel overseas. Passage of the Atlantic Ocean was dangerous because the German's controlled the air and sea with submarines below and with airplanes above. It took his ship 14 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean due to the strength of the enemy. "Our ship had to zigzag in the ocean to keep out of harm's way." Most American troop ships were accompanied by battleships.

Payne's ship landed in Bristol, England, amid a furious battle. German airplanes were strafing Bristol's railroad tracks, city streets, and local citizens. To help ward off the low flying airplanes, the residents of Bristol had erected huge balloons to keep the planes from flying at a low altitude. "We were introduced to war shortly after we landed." Members of the 368th were boarded on trains and transported to Liverpool, England. "We began building airports and housing for the troops," noted Payne. While they were constructing airfields and barracks, the United States declared war on Germany.

In May, 1944, the 368th were told that they would be a part of an invasion. "We loaded our ships with equipment and troops and waited. Multiple times we were told to "ship-out,"



but on two occasions, we were ordered to "stand-down." Weather played a role in the timeline for the invasion. "Finally, we got orders to ship out" Payne remembers. On June 6, 1944, U.S. Army Private Payne was in the second wave at Utah Beach in the Normandy Peninsula Invasion. Payne joined thousands of Americans in Operation Overlord.

GIs from the 368th were transferred from ships to Landing Ships, Tanks (LST). The LSTs were filled with caterpillars, tractors, and heavy construction equipment. The weight of the equipment caused the LST to sit deep in the water. "Our LST hit the ocean's floor early and we had to jump out and wade ashore."

Utah Beach was one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landings. The westernmost of the five landing beaches, Utah is on the Cotentin Peninsula. Amphibious landings at Utah were undertaken by U.S. Army troops, with sea transport and naval artillery support provided by the U.S. Navy, with elements from the British Royal Navy.

The objective at Utah Beach was to secure a beachhead, the location of important port facilities at Cherbourg. The amphibious assault by the U.S. 4th Infantry Division and 70th Tank Battalion was supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and the 101st. Their mission was to seal off the Cotentin Peninsula to prevent the Germans from reinforcing Cherbourg. The Allies faced two battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, part of the 709th Static Infantry Division. German fortifications were under the leadership of "The Desert Fox," Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

Payne remembers that the beaches were strewn with men who were dead, dying and wounded. The Germans were high over the cliffs. The first goal was to get ashore and scale the cliffs. "When we got to the top of the cliffs, I thought the rough part was over, but I discovered the bad stuff was just beginning" Payne recalls.

Members of the 386th immediately began clearing the area of obstacles and mines. Additional American reinforcements continued to arrive. At the close of D-Day, Allied forces had captured about half of the planned area. Contingents of German defenders remained, but the beachhead was secure. Payne's unit pushed the Germans back to Le Mans, France. The 368th constructed a pontoon bridge to facilitate the European Theater of Operations and allowed Lieutenant Colonel Christian Clarke, Jr. to move his 358th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division across the river. Clarke proceeded on into Western France.

Payne was with the forces that helped liberate Paris, fought the enemy to Luxembourg, and was caught in the Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium. It was the winter of 1944 when the Allied Forces had to defend the important harbor of Antwerp from the Germans in a 40-day surprise attack that came to be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Between December 16, 1944, and January 25, 1945, the U.S. forces fought back the German attack, and in doing so, incurred their highest casualties for any operation of the war. America's fighting spirit prevailed and, late in January, the Allied forces scored a decisive victory over Germany.

The Allied forces fought the enemy up the Ryan River and forced the German's back to

Berlin. Payne's battalion was stopped from attacking Berlin due to terms of the Yalta Agreement. The United States and England capitulated to Russia, and agreed that the only invading forces would be the Red Army. "We had the fight and we had the spirit to battle the enemy all the way to Berlin, but Russian dictator Joseph Stalin had convinced the Allied forces to stop our progress."

On May 8, 1945, Payne was near Dusseldorf, Germany when the Allied forces announced Victory in Europe. The six-year-old War had concluded in Europe, but the Japanese were still fighting in the Pacific Theatre. Payne and others were told that GIs involved in the Normandy Invasion were exempt from the war in the Pacific. The Pacific conflict ended only after the August 6, 1945, detonation of the Atomic Bomb. President Harry S. Truman ordered the deployment of the new weapon that caused the Japanese to capitulate to Allied demands. Payne waited from June until November to be shipped back to the states.

On Dec. 5, 1945, Payne was discharged from the U.S. Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Ten days after his discharge, he married Helene Takie in his hometown of Benton, IL. Their marriage lasted almost 65 years, until her passing in July, 2010. Payne returned to his position at the Bank of Benton and eventually became its president. He remains active as a community leader, a champion of education projects and a philanthropist.

Mr. Speaker, today Payne will celebrate his 100th birthday at his rural Benton, Illinois, home. We extend our deepest appreciation to Howard Lee Payne for his service to his country, both in battle during WWII, and for his post-war contributions.

PATRICIA JOAN HOFSTETTER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Judge Patricia "Pat" Joan Hofstetter, who passed away on March 25, 2015, at her home in Ferndale, California. Ms. Hofstetter was a pioneer for women on the California bench, and her commitment to the communities in which she lived was well known to everyone acquainted with her. A longtime fisherwoman, Ms. Hofstetter grew to know and love Northern California rivers, for which she was a staunch advocate.

Born in Burbank, California, on August 25, 1927, to Helen Culbertson and Leonard Orin Hofstetter, Ms. Hofstetter grew up in the towns of Artesia and Whittier. She graduated from Whittier High School in 1943, Monmouth College in 1948, and Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California at Berkeley in 1951. Ms. Hofstetter opened a law office with her sister Marilyn in 1953. She was appointed to judge at Whittier Municipal in 1963, and became the first woman to serve as President of the California Judges Association in 1976.

Ms. Hofstetter was a life member of Soroptimist International and the American Association of University Women. She served on the

College Board at Monmouth College, where she was later inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ms. Hofstetter was an active member of the Democratic Party and a champion of democratic values on the North Coast.

Among her favorite hobbies was fishing the rivers and lakes of California and Oregon with her lifelong friend and partner, former California Assemblywoman Sally Tanner. In 2001 and 2002, Pat and Sally were winners in the California-Oregon Fishing Derby. Ms. Hofstetter was an avid poker and bridge player and had a great appreciation for music and movies. Pat is survived by her companion Sally Tanner; her sister Helen Raphael and niece Rose Anne of New Liberia, Louisiana; her sister Marilyn Hofstetter of Ferndale and nephew John Raphael and wife Christine, along with their children Melanie and Kathleen.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that we pay tribute to Ms. Patricia Hofstetter and extend condolences to her partner, Sally Tanner, and surviving family. Her presence will be sorely missed and her legacy not soon forgotten.

H. RES. 208, THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION OF 2015

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 208, the Equality for All Resolution of 2015, which is being introduced by my good friend from Indiana Mr. CARSON.

As a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and representative of a diverse and vibrant LGBT community in California's 13th Congressional district, I strongly support this legislation.

It is a shame and a disgrace that in 2015, after the LGBT community has made such enormous strides towards equal protections under the law, that we continue to see discriminatory legislation advanced in states like Indiana and Arkansas.

At a time when what we truly need is comprehensive legislation to ensure that LGBT individuals are treated and protected, intolerance is sadly being codified in law under the false flag of religious liberties.

I am glad that the national reaction to discriminatory RFRA laws was swift and disapproving, from businesses and individuals, to governments and communities. I was proud that the City of Oakland located in my district, banned city-funded travel to Indiana in the wake of the state's discriminatory statute.

Now, Congress must respond by sending a strong message that we will not stand for prejudice and small-mindedness.

This resolution is a step in the right direction. It outlines the need for LGBT people to receive full protections under the law and urges comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination in areas where unequal treatment against LGBT people is still the law of the land.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana as well as my fellow colleagues in the LGBT Equality

Caucus for introducing this important resolution and urge my colleagues to lend it their support.

HONORING DIANE JUERGENSMEYER FOR BEING NAMED TO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for being named to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Juergensmeyer led the St. Elizabeth softball team to more than 400 wins in 31 seasons, including three state titles.

Coach Juergensmeyer's dedication to her players, both on and off the softball field, brought more than state champions to St. Elizabeth. Her mentorship throughout the years helped mold her players into respectful young women, and it was her leadership that united a school and a community.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for receiving this distinctive honor.

HONORING THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY BRUINS

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Belmont University and its men's basketball program, the Belmont Bruins, led by Coach Rick Byrd.

Under Coach Byrd's leadership, Belmont's basketball program has flourished. Belmont is consistently among the top Division I teams and has made it to seven NCAA tournaments. But its most prestigious accomplishments are not on the court. The USA Today said it best: "Belmont wins where it counts: In the classroom."

Thanks to its perfect score from Inside Higher Ed's rankings, Belmont won the national championship for academics for the second time in three years. Every single player graduates. The team's cumulative grade point average has been above 3.0 for fourteen consecutive seasons, and no Belmont player since 2003 has left the basketball team for any reason other than graduation.

Belmont's successes both on and off the court have separated the Bruins from the rest of the pack. Today, I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Coach Rick Byrd and the Belmont Bruins for their vigorous commitment to the highest standards in academics and athletics. They make our district and the state of Tennessee proud.

HONORING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to thank Mike Nerheim and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office for organizing the event. This year's theme of engaging communities and empowering victims emphasizes the role that communities can and should play to support victims of crime during their recovery.

Engaging communities to recognize the impact of victimization enables us to help more victims by providing a safe environment where they are supported and empowered. By working with local community leaders like victim counselor Debbie Vanderwall, State's Attorney's citizen advisor Pastor John Caples and education advocate Jonathan Meier, we can leverage our resources to better understand the needs of victims.

We are fortunate that Lake County is such a strong community, eager to offer help to those who need it. I am honored to work with State's Attorney Mike Nerheim to help raise awareness for this important cause and facilitate new partnerships to elevate victims' rights.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF TOM RAY RAPER

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tom Ray Raper, an innovative entrepreneur, generous philanthropist and devoted family man from the Sixth District of Indiana.

Tom embodied what it meant to live the American Dream. He took a \$2,000 investment in 1964 to open a small used car dealership and eventually turned it into one of the largest RV dealerships in America. He owned and operated Tom Raper RVs for 38 more years before selling his dealership empire to David Bane's Camping World Company in 2002.

Not only was Tom a monumental success in the RV business, but he was also known for his huge heart and charitable spirit. After selling his company, Mr. Raper used his time and money to give back to the Richmond community. In 2009, Indiana University East renamed Middlefork Hall to Tom Raper Hall after he bequeathed \$2.17 million to the university. Tom donated more than \$1 million to Wayne County to build a 5,000-seat exhibition building and to make other improvements to the Wayne County Fairgrounds. He also gave \$250,000 to the city to transform the gymnasium at the Civil Hall into a modern performing arts center.

Most recently, Tom, established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund at Ivy Tech Community College in Richmond as a means to

provide more students with the opportunity to get a college education. It is for selfless contributions like these that the city of Richmond renamed Williamsburg Pike to Williamsburg Pike/Tom Raper Way.

I have had the pleasure to meet with Tom several times throughout my life. He was an icon in Richmond and a philanthropic inspiration for any man or woman looking to give back to their community. I will always be grateful for the contributions he has made to improve the great city of Richmond, Indiana.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Tom Raper. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family and his wife of 46 years, Suzanne. May God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Job Corps program as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

For fifty years, Job Corps has served America's most at-risk and vulnerable youths by providing an opportunity to finish their education while obtaining career training and the skills necessary to become productive members of society. It is Job Corps' unique model, partnering the federal government with private industry that has made the program so successful for so many years. Each year Job Corps serves over 50,000 at-risk youth at 125 residential campuses located across the country, and over eighty percent of Job Corps graduates find employment, enlist in the military, or enroll in higher education classes.

I am honored to represent two of these outstanding centers: the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield and the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville. These centers are true assets to their communities. I have visited these centers in person, and I have met with educators, staff, and students. It is the students who are the true testament to the success of this program, and I am moved each time I visit with them and hear just how much Job Corps has changed their lives.

I cofounded the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus in 2006 because I believe in this program. I congratulate Job Corps on its fifty years of success, and I hope it will continue to enrich the lives of many more young people in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING POWERTALK 21

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Alcohol Awareness Day and the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) initiative to have open

discussions with children about alcohol. PowerTalk 21 is a program that gives families an opportunity to come together to discuss the dangers of underage drinking.

The Southeast Florida chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been proactive in their efforts to educate the community about the dangers of underage drinking. This year they have offered more ways than ever before to share personal experiences about alcohol abuse and the consequences of driving under the influence.

Every day from April 1 to April 21, MADD volunteers published blog posts about their personal tragedies caused by individuals driving under the influence. By sharing their stories, these brave volunteers have given a face to the daunting statistics of lives lost to drunk driving.

The Southeast Florida Chapter of MADD has a long history of championing efforts to raise awareness of underage drinking in our community. They also facilitate the DUI Victim Impact Panel Program, an awareness program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. This program shows offenders the trauma, emotional suffering, and financial loss that is commonly experienced by innocent victims and their family members resulting from a DUI-related accident.

I am honored to recognize the PowerTalk 21 program, and I hope that this initiative can help inspire our community to come together to make safer decisions for all of us in South Florida and around the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF THE "START BY BELIEVING" CAMPAIGN

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, there were 1,725 reports of rape or attempted rape in 2012, which is five sexual assaults per day. And in 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice gave an alarming estimate that as many as 1 in 3 Native American women would be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, a rate 2.5 times higher than for any other group.

Unfortunately, only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported, and if the victim is in college that number is cut in half, according to the Justice Department. Research and information from Pennsylvania State University and a 2010 U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing found that the top reason sexual assault victims do not report the crime is their fear of not being believed and being blamed for the attack.

To address this issue, End Violence Against Women International has developed a program titled "Start By Believing," a message that confronts the reality that many victims do not get the support they need when they report the crime. Local governments, private businesses, universities and colleges across the country are participating in the Start By Believing campaign.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I encourage people everywhere to share

this simple message of support for survivors of sexual assault.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN OREGON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 26 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Saturday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Southern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Lloyd A. Gathright, Army; Ralph K. Lanning, Army; Charles E. Leierer, Army; William S. McMorrine, Army; Edward C. Phillips, Army; Michael Roebuck, Army; Eugene A. Schmick, Army; Clifford W. Scovell, Army; Duane J. Smolik, Army; Vernon Staley, Army; James A. Holland, Army Air Force; Frederic W. Kuhlmann, Army Air Force; Donald D. Williford, Army Air Force; Joe L. Winter, Army Air Force; Charles F. Paul, Marine Corps; Edward C. Glen, Navy; Gerald G. Holland, Navy; Herbert A. Johnson, Navy; Melvin A. Jones, Navy; Robert E. Murray, Navy; Dale B. Palmer, Navy; John K. Penniman, Navy; Walter W. Schafer, Navy; John Wallenburg, Navy; Kenneth A. Wisdom, Navy; Michael D. Zagyva, Navy.

These 26 heroes join more than 81,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize Honor Flight of Oregon President, Gail Yakopatz. Her tireless work will result in over 350 World War II veterans from Honor Flight of Oregon and Southern Oregon Honor Flight visiting the memorials and U.S. Capitol.

COMMENDING THE NEW RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. for establishing the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund that strives to not

only assist young students in their pursuit of higher education but to embody the generous and selfless spirit of Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer.

Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer was born in Houston, Texas on September 21, 1964, as the youngest child to Manfred and Helen Spencer. After attending public schools in Houston, he went on to obtain his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma Christian College in 1989. He then completed the Master of Divinity Program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, which I am proud to represent in Congress. Dr. Raymond Bernard Spencer continued in his education at Southwestern and obtained his doctoral degree in Theology in 2001. As a further distinction and honor, he served as the first full time African American pastor at Southwestern where he taught preaching in the School of Theology while also serving as adjunct professor of the Old and New Testament at Dallas Baptist University. Finally, his service to faith included Superintendent of Church School and Assistant to Pastor Isadore Davis, Jr. at The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Spencer was an exceptional student, respected seeker of knowledge, and follower in the path of God, but he was also a caring professor, a trusted friend, gifted vocalist, and a generous advocate of academic excellence for students and young people. He pursued all of these passions in life, faith, and academics with such staunch persistence and zeal until he was laid to rest on January 10, 2013. I can think of no better way to honor his lifelong devotion to improving the lives of those around him than continuing his advocacy for higher education with the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund and I congratulate The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church on their tenth anniversary of this wonderful endeavor.

I am so proud to represent The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church and many members of their congregation who devote their lives to improving the lives of their young students and opening up opportunities for them to preserve Dr. Spencer's legacy of excellence. Let their efforts serve as a testament to the lives of others for what can be achieved through dedication and devotion to the greater good of humanity.

In honor of The New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church led by Pastor Isadore Edwards, Jr. and the Raymond B. Spencer Scholarship Fund this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

CONGRATULATING 2015 INDUCTEES INTO THE IOWA VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, Governor Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds inducted three individuals and one organization into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame on April

14th, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2015 inductees include H.D. "Ike" Leighty from Waterloo and the Sisters of Mercy from Cedar Rapids. Both reside in my district and I rise today to honor their hard work and acknowledge their accomplishments.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty co-founded Engineered Products Company in Waterloo, Iowa in 1977. After selling the business, he established The Leighty Foundation and the Mother Moon Service Scholarship program. Every year, this program awards a college scholarship to one Black Hawk county high school junior who completes over 100 hours of community service. To date, 179 Iowans have received assistance towards a college education from the Mother Moon Service Scholarship.

In 1989, the Sisters of Mercy founded the Catherine McAuley Center to develop long term solutions to poverty in the Cedar Rapids area. Guided by the five core values of empowerment, learning, mercy, community, and commitment, the Sisters provide one-on-one tutoring for adults, as well as transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, and those who suffer from mental illness and substance abuse.

H.D. "Ike" Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy are model citizens and assets to their communities. I encourage all Iowans to visit the State of Iowa Historical Museum in Des Moines and view the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame plaques where their names now join 155 other inductees. On behalf of the people of Iowa's first district, I commend Mr. Leighty and the Sisters of Mercy for their selflessness and sacrifice in service to our communities. I congratulate them on their 2015 induction into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. NELSON IN  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John P. Nelson for his many years of service and dedication to the Iowa West Foundation. He is an Iowa native and I'm proud to recognize him today for his great achievement.

Mr. Nelson is Chairman of the Board for the Silverstone Group. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa and attended Carleton College in Minnesota and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Mr. Nelson then joined the United States Navy and served his country for three years. After leaving the Navy, Mr. Nelson returned to Iowa and joined his family's insurance agency, now the Silverstone Group.

Because of his active service participation throughout the area in business and his community, Mr. Nelson has earned several prestigious awards for his service. He continues to serve on many area boards and commissions. Mr. Nelson's endless dedication, commitment, generosity and leadership to the Iowa West Foundation and the Council Bluffs community

has enhanced and improved the quality of life for our community and citizens. Mr. Nelson's devotion to Iowa has helped create a place where it is great to raise a family, work and live.

Mr. Nelson is an Iowan who has made a difference and made our state proud. He has dedicated his life to helping and serving others and it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA PATTON  
IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pamela Patton, an entrepreneurial restaurant owner in Des Moines, Iowa. Ms. Patton received the 2015 Faces of Diversity American Dream Award.

This prestigious award, sponsored by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation in partnership with PepsiCo Foodservice, celebrates the importance of diversity and inclusion by recognizing three restaurateurs nationwide that excelled in promoting these goals for 2015. Ms. Patton worked hard and with determination in order to get the funding to pursue her dream. She made the decision to open her restaurant in a neighborhood of Des Moines where she could help elevate a diverse neighborhood, offering jobs to help support the surrounding community.

I applaud and congratulate Pamela for her award and for providing the Des Moines community with her support and service. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Pamela Patton and wishing her well and continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the recent birth of my twin daughters, I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of April 13, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 1259, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, which creates a process for areas to be considered rural to allow otherwise prohibited balloon payments in qualified mortgages. This bill aims to improve access to financing for borrowers in rural, underserved areas, which will help families nationwide achieve the dream of home ownership.

I would have voted for H.R. 1265, the Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act,

which requires advisory committees established by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to adhere to federal ethics and conflict-of-interest laws. Government transparency is essential to holding administration officials accountable, and this bill will help ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau conducts their crucial work out in the open.

I would have voted for H.R. 1480, the SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act, which would provide confidentiality protections to financial services regulators when they access information in the national mortgage licensing and registry system. This bill will provide financial regulators the confidentiality protections they need to protect consumers and eliminate fraud in the mortgage industry.

I would have voted against H.R. 650, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act, which reduces regulatory restrictions on high-cost mortgages in the manufactured housing industry to increase the maximum interest rates manufactured housing vendors can charge. This bill would hamstring Dodd-Frank regulations designed to protect consumers from predatory lending practices in the manufactured housing industry. The bill seeks to reduce the regulatory restrictions on high-cost mortgages in the manufactured housing industry by increasing the maximum interest rates manufactured housing vendors can charge.

I would have voted for H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015, which seeks to clarify conflicting definitions under current law concerning affiliated and unaffiliated title companies, and could help keep interest rates on mortgage loans affordable.

I would have voted for Rep. VAN HOLLEN's Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. Con. Res. 11, which would instruct conferees to recede to the Senate budget resolution accommodation for legislation to improve workplace benefits, including paid sick leave. The motion would also instruct budget conferees to reject the House-passed budget's provision to turn Medicare into a voucher program. Our seniors depend on Medicare, and I will reject any attempt to end the Medicare guarantee and increase out-of-pocket health costs for seniors.

I would have voted for H.R. 1562, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015, and H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015. H.R. 1562 would generally prohibit individuals and companies with seriously delinquent tax debts from receiving federal contracts and grants, and H.R. 1563 would make individuals with seriously delinquent tax debt ineligible for federal employment if they fail to accept a payment plan within nine months of enactment. Corporations and individuals with serious tax delinquencies should not receive taxpayer-subsidized benefits over those who fulfill their tax obligations.

I would have voted against H.R. 622, the State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act, which would permanently allow taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of state and local income taxes, without offsetting the cost. This bill would increase the deficit by \$42 billion and encourages states to raise taxes, pressuring the federal government to increase taxes to account for the difference. California does not benefit from the state and local sales tax deduction, so this bill would

push more of the nation's tax burden onto hardworking taxpayers in my district.

Finally, I would have voted against H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act. This bill repeals the federal estate tax, which currently affects only estates valued at \$5.4 million or above (\$10.8 million for couples). This bill would add \$269 billion to the federal deficit, and the entirety of those benefits would go to the wealthiest 0.2 percent of estates. The federal tax code should expand opportunity for everyone, rather than stacking the deck against middle-class families.

A TRIBUTE TO GALE AND MARY  
MCKINNEY IN THE FIRST SES-  
SION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gale and Mary McKinney on the very special occasion of their 75th wedding anniversary.

The McKinneys were married at the Little Brown Church in the Vale, in Nashua, Iowa, on April 21, 1940. This wonderful couple continues to be a visible and important part of their community and it is an honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

Gale and Mary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. I salute this devoted couple on their 75th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB  
CORPS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this evening, hundreds of individuals from across the United States will be gathering at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Job Corps.

Originally created by President Lyndon B. Johnson to wage the War on Poverty, the Job Corps program is one of the nation's most successful anti-poverty programs today. Job Corps empowers its participants to become productive members of society by helping them reach their goals, achieve educational aspirations, and learn a trade.

I have seen first-hand the positive impact Job Corps has had on the graduates of Turner Job Corps in my hometown of Albany, Georgia.

There is Marc Scotton of Atlanta, Georgia, who arrived at Turner Job Corps Center not believing in himself and not focused on his schoolwork. After successfully completing the program, he will begin an internship at an Atlanta radio station and plans to study Mass Communications at college.

There is Anna Washington, who first heard of Turner Job Corps through her church. She chose to pursue a certification as a Medical Administrative Assistant. Staying focused, Anna completed her career pathway in six months. A year and a half ago, she became a certified Clinical Medical Administrative Assistant and attended advanced training at the Atlanta Job Corps.

These two stories are but a few of the successes of the Turner Job Corps Center and the Job Corps program in general. Their achievements also are the result of the outstanding staff at these Job Corps Centers.

The young men and women who successfully complete their training at Job Corps Centers across the country receive much more than a certificate of completion. They gain valuable career and social skills that will serve them well throughout their lives—all in a supportive environment that encourages growth and success.

President Lyndon Johnson once said when describing his War on Poverty—"What we're trying to do—instead of people getting something for nothing, we're going to try to fit them where they can take care of themselves . . . That's our program. We don't want them to get something for nothing. We want to get them where they can carry their own weight."

As the Co-Chairs of the Friends of the Job Corps Congressional Caucus, Congressman CHRISTOPHER GIBSON and I will work with the 79 other members of the Caucus to ensure that it continues to fulfill President Lyndon B. Johnson's goal now and into the future.

A TRIBUTE TO GREGORY "GREG"  
REEDER IN THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Reeder for being named one of the American Public Works Association top ten Public Works Leaders.

For 55 years, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has annually honored ten outstanding public works professionals from the U.S. and Canada as the "Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year." The Public Works Leader Award aims to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from either the public or private sector. As the most prestigious national award in the public works profession, the honorees are recognized for their professionalism, expertise and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of public works services.

Mr. Reeder graduated from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He served as the Council Bluffs City Engineer and continues to serve as the Public Works Director.

Mr. Reeder managed the implementation of the mandated separation of the city's com-

bined sanitary and storm systems. He played a major role in the recovery from the 1988 tornado and the 2011 flood events that impacted Council Bluffs. Mr. Reeder instituted an "Infrastructure Management System" which combined street needs and sewer needs in an effort to prioritize infrastructure projects. Under his leadership the city received recognition by the APWA for their "Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award." He is a frequent continuing education presenter to his fellow civil engineers and he has been published in the 'APWA Reporter'.

Mr. Reeder is an Iowan who has made a difference in the lives of many and for that we are deeply proud. He has dedicated his life to helping and serving others and so it is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
PETER DANIEL MUENCH

**HON. DENNY HECK**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant Colonel Peter Daniel Muench, United States Army, recipient of the 2015 Hero of Military Medicine Award, for his commitment to our nation's servicemembers and their families. The Hero of Military Medicine Award is presented by the Henry Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Following graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1998 and Medical School in 2002, LTC Muench married Dr. Dawn Muench and trained as an intern, resident, and Chief Resident in Family Medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. His first assignment following residency was as the Chief of Flight Medicine at the DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. LTC Muench completed fellowship in Primary Care Sports Medicine at the National Capital Consortium, Washington, DC, in 2009. He deployed as a Battalion Surgeon with 2-87 Infantry in the 10th Mountain Division to Afghanistan in 2006-2007, and with the 28th Combat Support Hospital as the Director of Inpatient Services in Basra, Iraq, in 2010.

LTC Muench served as full-time teaching faculty in the Madigan Army Medical Center Family Medicine Residency at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, as well as the Director of Primary Care Sports Medicine for the Hospital from 2009-2013. From 2012-2013 he was the project officer and Director of the Soldier Peak-Performance and Rehabilitation of the Tactical Athlete (SPAR-TA) Clinic on JBLM, instituting a cutting-edge approach to injured Soldier care. He currently serves as the Battalion Surgeon for 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) on JBLM.

In addition to his military contributions, LTC Muench has served as the Team Physician for

American University in Washington, DC, the U.S. Army Team Physician for the Wounded Warrior Games, and as a U.S. Olympic Team Physician in Sochi, Russia.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, his friends, family and fellow servicemembers, I commend LTC Muench for his accomplishments.

**A TRIBUTE TO EMC INSURANCE IN  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa company, EMC Insurance. EMC has been recognized as a Hero for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

EMC was founded in Iowa in 1911 and now has more than 2,100 employees; it is considered to be among the top 50 insurance companies in the country. The business has evolved since its original founding and now provides property and casualty insurance products along with other services throughout the United States.

As a company, EMC has dedicated itself to serving those who are less fortunate, working to build a better future for the next generation. Every year Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its "Heroes" who have significantly given time and financial support to address homelessness in Central Iowa. EMC deserves to be commended for their active role reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate EMC for receiving this award and their tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating EMC Insurance and wishing them well with continued success in the future.

**IN RECOGNITION OF COL BRETT  
BOLANDER'S CHANGE OF COM-  
MAND**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for the House's attention to recognize Colonel Brett Bolander who will have a change of command from Anniston Army Depot at the end of July.

Colonel Bolander was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer upon graduation from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. His later education includes the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course; Logistics Executive Development Course; the Florida Institute of Technology, where he earned his Master's Degree in Logistics Management; the

Command and General Staff College; and the National War College, where he earned his Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Shop Officer, Battalion S4 and Headquarters Company Commander, 3rd Armored Division, 122nd Main Support Battalion, in Germany, deploying with the division to Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort; Battalion S4 of the 42nd Medical Field Hospital, Deputy Brigade S4, Commander of 156th Maintenance Company, Brigade Inspector General, and later as Chief Assistance Branch, United States Army Armor Center and Fort Knox Inspector General, Fort Knox, KY; Support Operations Officer, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas; Brigade S4, 101st Forward Support Battalion Support Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team (Mechanized), Fort Riley, KS; Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General and as the Secretary to the General Staff, United States Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, VA; Commander, 302d Brigade Support Battalion; Operational Readiness Officer, Department of the Army G4 to include a three month deployment to Haiti; Support Operations Officer, Operation Unified Response.

His most recent assignment was Senior Logistics Advisor and Director for Strategic Operations for the Deputy Commander Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Included in his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 device, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Bolander is married to the former Donna McDonald. They have three children, Jessie, Katherine, and Austin. He led and commanded Anniston Army Depot from August 2012 to July 2015.

The Depot has 4,000 military, civilian and contractor employees with an annual budget of approximately \$750 million.

While at Anniston Army Depot, he safely helped execute millions of direct labor hours while helping overhaul and maintain our nation's critical combat equipment. His hands-on leadership for the workforce helped ensure our nation's military was provided the best possible equipment available to keep them as safe as possible while allowing them to accomplish their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Colonel Bolander in Anniston, but wish him the very best.

**A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR FRANK  
COWNIE IN THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE 114TH CONGRESS**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Des Moines Mayor, Frank Cownie. Mayor Cownie has been recognized as a Hero for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Mayor Cownie was first elected Mayor in 2008 and he has been proudly serving the people of Des Moines ever since that day. He has been an advocate for the less fortunate and has worked tirelessly to find new, innovative ways to support those in the Des Moines community who need it the most.

Mayor Cownie has deep ties to Des Moines and has always worked hard to make it the best place to work, live and raise a family. Every year Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its "Heroes" who have significantly given time and financial support to address homelessness in our communities. Mayor Cownie deserves to be commended for his active role in reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate Mayor Cownie for this award and for providing his tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mayor Cownie and wishing him continued success in the future.

**LIFT THE CRUDE OIL BAN**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, new technologies have ushered in an American energy revolution. Last year, the U.S. overtook Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the largest crude oil producer in the world.

We now have more oil than we can refine or store. A majority of U.S. refineries are built to handle heavy, sour crude but new oil production is light, sweet crude. U.S. refiners simply can't keep up with the new production.

Normally producers could simply pump oil into storage containers. But experts say those storage tanks could fill up before the end of this month.

Instead of exporting excess oil like producers get to do in other countries, the ban is already forcing U.S. oil producers to leave oil in the ground and lay off workers.

About 50% of the working rigs in my home state of Texas have had to shut down in the last 6 months. Over 70,000 people have been laid off since Thanksgiving.

The solution to this problem is clear: it is time for the crude oil ban to be lifted.

Critics of lifting the ban are afraid that U.S. oil exports will lead to higher domestic gas prices. Fortunately, many studies have debunked this myth.

Gas prices are more closely linked to the international market—or Brent price—than the domestic price of crude because refined products like gasoline are traded freely on the international market. So the more crude oil we can put on the international market, the lower the international price of crude oil. The lower the international price of crude oil, the lower the price of gas for Americans.

A Rice University study released in March 2015 reviewed previous studies that examined the impact of removing the ban on gas prices. They found that “all studies underscore that lifting the export ban will not translate into higher gasoline prices. In fact, studies generally project gasoline prices in the U.S. will fall once the ban is lifted.”

U.S. crude entering the global market will increase the international oil supply and decrease the price of gas.

The only thing the studies do not agree on is just how much gas prices will drop. Savings could range from 1.8 to 12 cents per gallon at the pump.

Lifting the ban will also lead to more jobs and a higher GDP.

An IHS study predicts crude oil exports would support nearly 300,000 jobs by 2018. Removing the export ban would add \$26 billion to GDP per year and improve labor income by about \$158 per year, on average.

As it improves the U.S. economy, removing the ban will also improve our national security.

The original purpose of the ban put in place back in 1973 was to insulate the United States from the volatility of the international oil market. Ironically, today the ban exposes the U.S. market to volatility. Because our gas prices are tied to the international price of crude, if there is a disruption in the international supply, that directly affects our gas prices. The more crude oil we can put on the market, the more we can minimize those disruptions. Even 1 million barrels of swing capacity matters a lot in the world.

So if ISIS continues to wreak havoc and disrupts oil supply in places like Libya and Iraq, having more U.S. crude oil on the market would help prevent a spike in the price of crude oil and gas prices.

Lifting the ban would also free us up to help our allies more. Europe gets 40% of its oil from Russia. Exporting crude oil would give the Europeans an alternative to having to depend on Russia.

It would also increase our influence in Asia. Japan and South Korea partly rely on crude oil from Iran to satisfy their growing energy consumption. U.S. exports can help diminish that reliance.

Ironically, with the so-called deal with Iran it is now U.S. government policy to allow Iran to export crude oil and inject billions of dollars into their own economy. At the same time it is still U.S. government policy to prohibit U.S. producers from doing the same.

U.S. exports offer a stable source of energy to our allies and decrease their reliance on dictators and state sponsors of terror.

Lifting the ban shows that the U.S. is serious about supporting free market rules around the world. We criticize China for not exporting rare earth minerals and yet here we are not exporting crude oil. Removing the ban will give us more credibility when we criticize other nations' export bans.

All in all, it is high time we remove the crude oil export ban. Exporting U.S. crude will lower gas prices, increase American jobs, and strengthen our national security.

And that's just the way it is.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA & MICHAEL GARTNER IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara and Michael Gartner. Barbara and Michael have been recognized as Heroes for the Homeless by the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Barbara and Michael have spent the last 40 years serving the people of Des Moines, volunteering their time as board members, fundraisers and philanthropists. They have been advocates for the less fortunate and have worked extensively to transform the Des Moines area, making it a better place to live, work and raise a family. Every year, Central Iowa Shelter and Services recognizes its “Heroes” who have significantly given time and financial support to address homelessness in our communities. Barbara and Michael deserve to be commended for their active role in reducing the number of homeless in the Central Iowa Community.

I applaud and congratulate Barbara and Michael for this award and for providing their tireless support for the homeless in Iowa's Third Congressional District. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbara and Michael; we wish them well with continued success in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my first children—twin baby girls named Sky and Sage—I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of March 23, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 360, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and for other purposes, because it provides housing assistance to Native Americans by allowing tribes to determine their own low-income housing needs, including housing for Native American veterans who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

I would have voted for H. Res. 162, which calls on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, because an independent, democratic and prosperous Ukraine

is in the national interest of the United States, and that Russia has engaged in political, economic and military aggression that violates the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

I would have voted for H.R. 216, the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015, which I also supported in the Veterans Affairs Committee. This bill requires the VA to plan ahead, annually submit a five-year budget plan for the agency to meet its commitment to veterans, including the resources necessary to meet those needs, and will assist Congress in holding the VA accountable for its obligation to our veterans.

I would have voted against the Ellison Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute budget. While I support some of the provisions of this alternative budget, I oppose raising America's tax burden by \$6.9 trillion over the next decade. This budget would not do enough to reduce the deficit and trim wasteful government spending, and does not reflect the best course for the nation at this time.

I would have also voted against the Butterfield Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Congressional Black Caucus substitute budget. While this alternative also contains many worthwhile measures, I cannot support a budget that adds \$2.7 trillion in new taxes over the next 10 years. My district's priorities dictate a more fiscally responsible approach.

I would have also voted against the Van Hollen Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Democratic Caucus substitute budget. While I support many of the priorities in this budget, it also increases the deficit and burdens American families with more \$1.8 trillion in additional taxes. This budget does not do enough to trim unnecessary government spending, and is not right for the 36th District at this juncture.

I would have voted against the Stutzman Amendment to H. Con. Res. 27, the Republican Study Committee substitute budget. This extremist, destructive plan would render Medicare unrecognizable from the current, successful program. It would keep seniors from enrolling in Medicare until age 67, and then give them a voucher that would raise their out-of-pocket costs substantially. It would keep seniors from receiving Social Security until age 70, and result in millions of individuals, families, and children losing Health coverage. There is no place in Congress for radical, extremist agendas that distract us from genuine solutions for hardworking Americans, and I would have vehemently rejected this alternative budget.

I would have strongly opposed, spoken on the floor against, and voted against the Price Amendments to H. Con. Res. 27, the House Republican budget resolution. Once again, House Republican Leadership seeks to balance the budget on the backs of middle-class families and seniors, undermine our economic recovery, and end the Medicare guarantee.

This disastrous Republican budget puts an end to Medicare as we know it, turning it into a voucher program that makes health care more expensive and less accessible for seniors. Thousands of seniors in my district rely on Medicare, and this backwards budget proposal threatens the retirement security of seniors living in our desert and across the nation.



Our priority should be to strengthen Medicare by reducing health care costs and improving patient outcomes.

Instead, House Republican Leadership has shifted the cost of Medicare to seniors, prioritizing more tax cuts for billionaires and big business. We must work together to protect and preserve Medicare, reduce our deficit, and decrease health care costs. This budget would do the opposite—jeopardizing Medicare and threatening the well-being of our seniors.

In addition, this budget would remove more than 16 million Americans from their health plan, swelling the ranks of the uninsured while callously removing consumer protections for women, young adults, and those with pre-existing conditions. Worse yet, this budget would not even offer economic benefit in return for eviscerating the health care system. In fact, independent studies estimate the Republican budget would grind economic growth to a halt, costing Americans almost 3 million jobs by 2017.

The House Republican budget would end Medicare as we know it, ask seniors and families to pay more for less health coverage, and decimate economic growth for the middle class, all to give huge tax breaks to wealthy corporations. This is not a serious effort to work across party lines for the good of the country, but a reflection of the extreme, upside-down priorities of the House Republican caucus.

Finally, I would have voted for H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. This long-overdue legislation abolishes the flawed SGR formula and replaces it with HR a bipartisan agreement to provide stability for Medicare beneficiaries and providers alike. By providing a reliable, value-based payment system, this bill will protect seniors' access to Medicare and preserve their established relationships with their doctors.

Additionally, this bipartisan bill will extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides crucial health coverage for low-income children, extend vital funding for Community Health Centers and other safety net providers, and avoid premium spikes or doctors dropping Medicare patients.

As long as I have been in Congress, I have advocated for a long-term SGR fix for our seniors and physicians. I co-sponsored the bipartisan framework that forms the foundation of this bill, and I have written to House leadership multiple times asking for this solution to be brought to the floor. This bill is a practical solution that will protect and preserve Medicare for our seniors and provide stability and relief for our nation's health care providers, and I am proud to support it.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HOHN IN  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis Hohn for his retirement after many years of service to the Stuart Fire Department in Stuart, Iowa.

For the past 30 years Dennis has served the Stuart Fire Department in a variety of different roles. He has also been active with the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau as a certified trainer. Dennis was recently honored by Fire Chief, Mike Renslow, for his long history of commitment to the safety of his community. I truly admire his hard work and the service that he has provided to his fellow Iowans.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Den-

nis for his service to the community in Stuart and wishing him the best in his retirement. It is a great honor to represent Iowans like Dennis in Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNY WULF IN  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
114TH CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Denny Wulf, Superintendent of Norwalk Community School District. Mr. Wulf has been named the Superintendent of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Mr. Wulf has been superintendent of the Norwalk district since 2004. He previously served as Middle School principal and began his teaching career in the high school and as a coach. This award is based on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and focuses on a shared vision of leadership, safety, efficiency and effective learning by working with parents and the community to provide a presence of fairness, integrity and ethics.

I applaud and congratulate Mr. Wulf for his award and for providing the youth in Iowa's Third Congressional District the education that they will need to be successful in the future. I am proud to represent him, and the entire Norwalk School District in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Denny Wulf and wishing him well with continued success in the future.

**SENATE—Wednesday, April 22, 2015**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal God, You are the meaning and mystery of all that is, was, and is to be. Thank You for Your sustaining love and for the opportunities to learn from each other. Thank You for the challenges and difficulties You use to test and refine us.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to trust the unfolding of Your providence. May they embrace a humility that seeks first to understand, instead of striving first to be understood. Deliver them from a false patriotism that would render unto Caesar what belongs to You. Guide them with Your powerful hand until the potentates of this world acknowledge Your sovereignty and might.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Democratic leader is recognized.

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of a heinous and violent event that has tragically changed the world. On April 21, 1915, near the beginning of World War I, the German Army introduced to the world large-scale chemical weapons. That gas swept the battlefield. People died and suffered enduring pain, and those who survived, with rare exception, suffered the rest of their lives.

The Kaiser's army released tons of chlorine gas, nearly devastating the Allied line in Belgium. Europe would never be the same. The world would never be the same.

The use of poisonous gas proliferated during World War I, bringing death and devastation to members of the military and civilians. Following World War I, nations joined to support the Geneva

Protocol of 1925, declaring that chemical weapons were so barbaric, so evil that they should be prohibited from use.

The use of chemical weapons has continued. The world will never forget the atrocities perpetrated by Hitler during World War II, as Nazi Germany used chemicals in the genocide of millions of Jews. During the Nazi regime, at the beginning of it, five men—one name started with S, one started with A, one started with R, I, and N—invented sarin gas. The world will not forget the atrocities perpetrated by the Hitler regime during World War II as Nazi Germany used chemicals in the genocide of millions—millions—of Jews.

The Iraq-Iran war of the 1980s was another terrible instance of lethal gasses being deployed as a tool of warfare. In 1988, Saddam Hussein unleashed a chemical arsenal on his own people, killing thousands of Kurds. Those pictures are available to see. The people are indiscriminately lying there—old men, old women, middle aged people, and babies. The world witnessed these events in horror and decided international action was absolutely necessary again. In 1992, the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in Geneva. The Chemical Weapons Convention outlaws the production, stockpile, and use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction. I voted for that ratification with pleasure. I voted for ratification—which was ratified here in the Senate—of the convention to do something more about these chemical weapons.

But in spite of other efforts, the use of chemical weapons endures. One hundred years have passed since that fateful date in Belgium, and the world has yet to end the evil of those poisons. Today, Bashar al-Assad and his regime and forces loyal to him in Syria are responsible for horrific violence that violates basic decency. It violates international laws of war and has shocked the global conscience.

It is no secret that Assad has repeatedly used chemical weapons against the Syrian people and the country over which he dictates. Even after Syria was compelled to accede to the convention—the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2013—there is clear evidence that Assad has continued to reign terror over his own people by using barrel bombs filled with chlorine to indiscriminately wreak havoc.

We are reminded of this all the time. I do not usually watch “60 Minutes.” It is a good program, but I usually have other things to do. But I watched because of the promotion on Sunday

evening about something they were going to do on “60 Minutes.” They had graphic pictures that had never been shown before of what this evil person who runs this country of Syria did to his own people.

Sadly, in addition to the use of chemical weapons, the Assad regime has carried out all manner of atrocities throughout the course of the 4-year civil war in Syria. As we speak, about 400,000 Syrians have been killed. He is responsible for the vast majority of those deaths. That does not take into consideration the millions of people who have been displaced.

The regime has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including starvation, systematic murder, torture, rape, sexual violence and enforced disappearance. If there were ever, ever something that is evil, bad, wrong, it is what he has done. The action of the Assad regime has resulted in the deaths—as I indicated—of countless innocent civilians and has sewn discord and disarray across the regime.

Yet Assad has repeatedly lied to the world about using chemical weapons. He loves to get on these shows. The U.S. journalists go over there, and he sits there before us talking all of these lies about what he has not done. There are dead people—hundreds of thousands of them there. There are barrel bombs, cluster bombs. He targets civilians. He starves them, demonstrating again and again what a terrible person he is and someone who cannot be believed about anything he says.

I am going to submit a Senate resolution condemning the actions of the Assad regime and its military forces for these crimes they have carried out against humanity. This legislation will express the Senate support for the referral of these evil acts that Assad has perpetrated and that have also been perpetrated by other Syrian officials and of course by the military leaders to an appropriate international tribunal.

Also, I have to say, it turns my stomach to hear people talk about making a peace deal in Syria and having Assad be a part of that deal. How could we do that? This resolution will make clear the Senate's opposition to any role for Bashar al-Assad in any final settlement of that civil war. I am confident my Senate colleagues will join me in condemning the Assad regime and its unthinkable campaign of evil against its own people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we will have a busy day of voting today. Senators should expect two rollcall votes at approximately 10:45 a.m. this morning and up to six rollcall votes starting at 2 p.m. to finish the antitrafficking bill. I filed cloture on the Lynch nomination last night, and under the regular order, that cloture vote would occur 1 hour after the Senate convenes tomorrow.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1035

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1035) to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, help is finally on the way for the thousands of enslaved victims who suffer unspeakable abuse in the shadows. These victims often have nowhere safe to sleep. They often have no safe place to turn to. And if they do try to escape, many risk being treated by the justice system like criminals instead of the victims they truly are.

These victims deserve the help the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would provide. It is a human rights bill that victims groups and advocates have called “the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation currently pending” and one that provides unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking, who are all too often invisible and underserved.

We are relieved we can finally say that we will pass it today and that the Senate won’t violate longstanding bipartisan Hyde precedent in doing so. But let me be as clear as possible. There was never a logically consistent rationale for the filibuster that held up this bill, and the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service explicitly backed up what Republicans have long said when it confirmed that there are no private funds in this bill.

Thankfully, the filibuster is at an end. Today is a new day. Today, we will finally vote to deliver much needed resources for the victims of modern slavery, with Hyde essentially applying to all funds used for health and medical services, just as it was in the original bill. This is nothing new; it is simply a reaffirmation of the status quo.

We know that today’s outcome would not have been possible without the Herculean efforts of my colleague Senator CORNYN. He was absolutely determined to see justice for victims, and we really cannot thank him enough. He negotiated across the aisle in good faith. He never gave up, not even in the bleakest hour. And today, the real focus of all our efforts—the victims of trafficking and modern slavery—can see that help is finally on the way.

We thank Senator CORNYN. We thank his negotiating partners from both parties. We thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his superb work on this important bill in the Judiciary Committee as well. We look forward to this bill’s passage in the House and its signature by the President.

Mr. President, once the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act passes in the Senate, we will turn to consideration of the President’s nominee to be Attorney General. That is just what I pledged we would do, and that is what we will do.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, I believe we are going to be hearing from the chairman of the Finance Committee shortly. Senator HATCH will be on the floor to discuss bipartisan trade promotion authority legislation which is important because we know that trade is the key to supporting high-quality American jobs and exporting more of the things American workers make and exporting more of the things American farmers grow.

Congress is working again, and this bipartisan bill is another sign of that. No legislation will ever be perfect, but Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN, along with Chairman RYAN in the House, put together an agreement of which we can all be proud. It protects and enhances Congress’s role in the trade-negotiating process, while making sure Presidents of either party will have the ability to negotiate good agreements that can increase growth

in our American economy and support many high-quality American jobs. They are marking up that bill today. I wish them the best of luck. We look forward to having it on the floor in the very near future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to say very briefly—I know the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee is on the floor to speak on an important matter—I would like to express my gratitude to the majority leader for his determination to see this Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act come to completion in the Senate, which it will this afternoon. It would not have happened without his determination to make it happen.

AMENDMENT NO. 1120 WITHDRAWN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 1120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1124

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I offer amendment No. 1124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR, proposes an amendment numbered 1124.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments)

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

**SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS’ FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 3014. Additional special assessment**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September

30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

“(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

“(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

“(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

“(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by

section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

“(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

“3014. Additional special assessment.”

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I will be back to speak further on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, but for now I yield to my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Finance Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I thank both of my colleagues who have spoken this morning, Senators MCCONNELL and CORNYN.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes this morning to talk once again about Congress's role in advancing our Nation's trade policy. While I know trade policy can be a very contentious topic here in Congress, there are two simple facts that are beyond dispute: No. 1, more than 96 percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States, and No. 2, in order to be competitive, American businesses need to be able to sell more American-made products and services to those overseas customers. In order to do that, we need to tear down barriers to American exports. At the same time, we should lay down enforceable rules for our trading partners so that we can be sure American workers and

job creators are competing on a level playing field.

In order to accomplish these goals and to advance our Nation's interests in the global marketplace, Congress and the administration need to work together. Most people acknowledge this reality. Yet, there are differing views as to what mechanisms should be in place to facilitate cooperation between these two branches of government. In the end, there is only one legislative tool with a proven track record, and that is trade promotion authority, otherwise known as TPA.

For decades—going back as far as FDR—TPA has been a cornerstone of U.S. trade policy. TPA is a compact between the Senate, the House, and the administration. Under this compact, the administration agrees to pursue objectives specified by Congress and to consult with Congress as it negotiates trade agreements. In turn, both the House and the Senate agree to allow for expedited consideration of trade agreements without amendments.

For a number of reasons, this compact is essential for conclusion and passage of strong trade agreements. Put simply, without TPA, our trading partners will not put their best offers on the table because they will have no guarantee that the agreement they reach will be the one Congress actually votes on in the end.

The most recent version of TPA expired 8 years ago. While trade negotiations have continued since that time, without TPA in place, our negotiators have effectively been negotiating with one arm tied behind their backs. We need to renew TPA sooner rather than later in order to give these negotiators the tools they need to reach the best deals possible.

The stakes are very high. Currently, the United States is in the midst of negotiating some of the most ambitious trade agreements in our Nation's history—most notably, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. If we want those negotiations to succeed—and I would hope that for the good of our country most of us do want them to succeed—we need to renew TPA.

Last week, I was joined by my colleague Senator WYDEN and Chairman RYAN of the House Ways and Means Committee in introducing the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015. This legislation would renew TPA and promote the advancement of 21st-century trade policies. Later today—in just a little while, in fact—the Senate Finance Committee will be marking up this bill, as well as other important pieces of trade legislation.

It has taken a long time to get here. As you may recall, I, along with the two former chairmen, Senator Baucus and Congressman Camp, introduced a bill to renew TPA early last year. That bill had bipartisan support in Congress

and was broadly endorsed by the business community. It also had the support of officials in the Obama administration.

When Republicans took control of the Senate this year and I became the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I made renewing TPA my top trade priority for this Congress and set out to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This legislation we will be marking up today is the result of that hard work, and I am grateful to my colleagues for working with me to get us this far.

Of course, the effort to renew TPA really began a long time before we introduced our bill last year. Indeed, the discussion and debate over a new and improved TPA began even before the last iteration expired in 2007. We have been talking about this for a long time. Now is the time to act.

Over the past few weeks, as we have been preparing to move our legislation forward, some people—including some of my colleagues—have expressed concerns about TPA and trade agreements in general. So I wish to take a few minutes this morning to address some of the specific issues that have been raised.

Constitutional and sovereignty concerns. Some have argued that TPA cedes too much power to the administration and undermines Congress's constitutional authority to make laws.

I know the people have heard the President claiming that TPP—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—will be “the most progressive trade agreement in history,” and they have heard him brag about the labor and environmental standards the administration is shooting for with the agreement. The question inevitably becomes, will President Obama try to use this or other trade agreements to try to advance unilateral changes in U.S. law and policy? Even though we all know that no trade agreement can go into force without Congress's approval, given this administration's track record on executive overreach, people are right to be concerned about these issues.

Fortunately, our TPA bill addresses these uncertainties. Rather than ceding authority to the executive branch, our bill empowers Congress at every step, from trade negotiations to final approval of the agreement itself.

Our bill makes clear what objectives a trade agreement must reach in order to be approved by Congress. In fact, the bill contains the clearest articulation of trade priorities in our Nation's history. It includes nearly 150 ambitious, high-standard negotiating objectives, including strong rules for intellectual property rights and agricultural trade, as well as protections for U.S. investment.

In addition to setting negotiating objectives, our legislation constrains the

administration in a number of ways. For example, it ensures that implementing bills for trade agreements will include—and I am quoting the text of the bill—“only such provisions as are strictly necessary or appropriate to implement” trade agreements.

Additionally, it makes clear that any commitments made by the administration that are not disclosed to Congress before an implementing bill is introduced are not to be considered part of the relevant agreement and will have no force of law.

Our legislation clarifies that trade agreements must be concluded within the TPA timeframe and that any substantial modifications or additions made after that time will not be eligible for approval under TPA procedures.

So while I understand and even sympathize with those who might be suspicious of this administration and its tendency to push the boundaries of its constitutional authority, our TPA bill speaks to these exact concerns.

Furthermore, for those who might be worried that trade agreements could be used to harm U.S. sovereignty, our bill addresses those issues as well.

First, the bill makes clear that any provision of a trade agreement that is inconsistent with Federal or State law will have no effect.

Second, it states specifically that Federal and State laws will prevail in the event of a conflict with the trade agreement.

Third, it affirms that no trade agreement can prevent Congress or the States from changing their laws in the future.

Fourth, it confirms that the administration cannot unilaterally change U.S. law.

As you can see, far from abdicating Congress's power from U.S. trade policy, our TPA bill enhances the role of Congress when it comes to trade agreements.

Immigration. In addition to general concerns about constitutional powers and U.S. sovereignty, I have heard some express specific concerns that President Obama can use the Trans-Pacific Partnership to enact changes to our immigration laws and that TPA will somehow empower him to do so. These concerns are unfounded for at least two reasons.

First, immigration is completely irrelevant to the objectives of the TPP agreement and administration officials have been clear and unequivocal that no immigration provisions are under negotiation.

Just last week, USTR Michael Froman testified before the Senate Committee on Finance and said:

I can assure you that we are not negotiating anything in TPP that would require any modifications of the U.S. immigration laws or system, any changes to our existing visa system. And, in fact, TPP will explicitly state that it will not require changes in any party's immigration laws or procedures.

Second, even if people don't trust this administration, particularly when it comes to immigration, the provisions of our TPA bill, the ones I just got through talking about, provide greater congressional oversight and authority over trade agreements and prevent this or any future administration from misleading Congress about what is included in any trade agreement.

In other words, if anyone is worried that despite their clear statements to the contrary, the administration will use TPP to advance its immigration agenda, they should support our TPA bill.

Transparency. Another concern I have heard from people both in and out of government is that trade agreements currently under discussion have been negotiated behind closed doors and that by renewing TPA, Congress would be enabling this type of secrecy.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the opposite is true. Our TPA bill goes further than any previous version of TPA to promote transparency both for Members of Congress and the American people.

Under our legislation, any Member of Congress who wants access to the negotiating text will get it, and at any time during the negotiations, Members of Congress will be able to request and receive a briefing from USTR on the status of negotiations.

In addition, the bill will require the administration to publicly release the full text of an agreement at least 60 days before they sign it, giving the American people full access and knowledge of all trade agreements before they are signed and well before they are submitted to Congress for their approval.

In short, any Member of Congress who is concerned about a lack of transparency in trade negotiations should be a cosponsor of the Hatch-Wyden-Ryan TPA bill.

Currency. The last concern I will talk about today deals with currency manipulation. Specifically, I have heard from colleagues that our TPA bill should include stronger, enforceable standards to prevent our trading partners from engaging in currency manipulation.

Now, make no mistake, I think currency manipulation is a serious issue. Like my colleagues, I am worried the currency policies of a number of countries, including some of our trade partners, continue to have negative consequences on U.S. businesses and workers. I believe Congress should carefully consider ways to address this issue. That is why, for the first time, our TPA bill includes a negotiating objective intended to address currency manipulation.

While I understand some of my colleagues would like that provision to be stronger, this is a very complex issue. Many have expressed valid concerns

that by requiring our trade agreements to contain enforceable currency provisions we would be inviting a number of unintended consequences, including challenges to U.S. monetary policy. In addition, most have acknowledged that such provisions would effectively derail the TPP negotiations, harming our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and others who so desperately need access to these markets.

It is not just me saying this. Yesterday, I received a letter from Treasury Secretary Lew expressing these very concerns about the possibility of including enhanced currency provisions in TPA. On top of that, 10 former Treasury Secretaries, from both Republican and Democratic administrations, sent a letter to congressional leaders that made similar arguments.

As you can see, there is more than ample reason to doubt the wisdom of inserting stronger currency provisions into TPA. I think it is fair, given Secretary Lew's very clear statements, to assume that President Obama would not sign a TPA bill that included such provisions, and I think it is more than fair to say that even if he would sign such a bill, it would be devastating to our ongoing trade negotiations; thereby, threatening growth and jobs right here at home. That being the case, I hope my colleagues pursuing this route will reconsider their positions.

Once again, we are going to mark up our TPA bill later today. I am excited and pleased for this opportunity. I think we will get a strong bipartisan vote to report the bill and send it to the floor. We have crafted a very good bill, one that I think Members of both parties can support. I know some Members have anxieties and concerns about these issues. We have put the bill together with those types of concerns in mind and, as I think I have demonstrated today, anyone who is truly supportive of trade and of opening foreign markets to U.S. goods and services and wants to create more good jobs right here at home should support our bill.

Since the day we introduced our legislation, letters and statements of support have been pouring in. I will mention just a few.

We have had statements from administration officials, including the President himself, and to say support from the business community has been overwhelming would be a gross understatement. We have letters from virtually every industry—farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, tech companies, health care companies, and I could literally go on and on, but I will not, at least not right now. Instead, today, I will just mention two of the many letters of support we have received from businesses and job creators.

I have a letter from the Trade Benefits America Coalition signed by hundreds of companies and major trade as-

sociations expressing their strong support for the Hatch-Wyden-Ryan TPA bill.

I have another letter signed by nearly 300 State and local chambers of commerce, farm bureaus, and manufacturing associations, all expressing their support for the swift renewal of TPA.

Leaders from a number of leading conservative organizations have expressed support as well, including the Conservative Reform Network, the Cato Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, American Enterprise Institute, American Action Forum, Tea Party Express, 60 Plus, American Commitment, American Conservative Union, Americans for Job Security, Center for Individual Freedom, Citizens for Limited Taxation, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Conservative Reform Network, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Crossroads GPS, Digital Liberty, Ending Spending, Frontiers of Freedom, Georgia Center Right Coalition, Institute for Liberty, Minnesota Center Right Coalition, National Taxpayers Union, R Street, Rio Grande Foundation, Taxpayer Foundation Alliance, and the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy.

That is a long list and by no means contains everybody who is for this bill, and it is growing every day. As you can see, TPA is supported across the ideological spectrum.

I suppose this is the best way I can put it: Senator TED CRUZ coauthored an op-ed with Senator Ryan in support of our bill in today's Wall Street Journal. If both TED CRUZ and Barack Obama support our legislation, it is probably safe to say we are onto something.

I appreciate all the support we have received thus far for our TPA bill. It has been gratifying to see, and I look forward to talking more with colleagues about these issues in the coming week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during quorum calls before the votes this morning be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is over 100 days since the 114th Congress has been in session led by a new majority following the November election. This Chamber can point to significant accomplishments in this short period of time.

Now, none of us is spiking the football or saying that we have done miraculous things, but it is undeniable that we have made discernible, concrete progress on important matters that affect the lives and the quality of life of the American people.

In only 3 weeks into the new Congress, the Senate already had more votes on amendments than the Chamber did in all of last year. What that means is that, on a bipartisan basis, Senators have been able to contribute their ideas on legislation—how to improve it and get votes on it. That was something we promised voters that would change after the last election. In the new Congress and under the new majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, we have delivered.

Just a few weeks ago, the Senate passed a budget that actually balances in 10 years—something the Chamber has done only once since 2009. More recently, we sent to the President's desk the so-called doc fix, which, more importantly, ensured access to the doctors and hospitals that our seniors need. We also made great strides in providing the American people a final say on the Iran nuclear deal that is being negotiated now by the President's representatives. We have made progress on bipartisan legislation that ensures the United States will get the best deal with our trading partners in pending negotiations—opening up American goods and services to global markets, which is good for our economy. It is good for jobs, and it is good for better wages for hard-working American families.

But I must say, even with all of these accomplishments, I am most proud of the deal we were able to reach this week concerning the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

I have noticed one thing since I have been here in Washington; it is that the rich and powerful seem to do pretty well. They are well represented on K Street, and they are not hesitant about letting their needs be known. But one indicator of the character of a nation is how that nation—our Nation—treats those who are the most vulnerable in our society, those who actually need our help, who do not have lobbyists or other people working on their behalf in the halls of Congress.

So this legislation, I think, actually is a very positive step because it demonstrates that we have not fallen deaf to the cries of those who actually need our help—the victims of human trafficking.

This legislation will be instrumental in helping victims of sexual abuse and trafficking recover from a life in bondage, and it will provide stronger tools for law enforcement officials to track down and punish those who want to keep them in the shadows, who want to continue to make profit from the pain, the anguish, and the involuntary servitude of typically young women between the ages of 12 and 14. And often these young women—these children—are treated as criminals and not as the victims they truly are. With the passage of this bill, we are one step closer to reining it in.

So I thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, some of whom are here in the Chamber, for working with us in the spirit of trying to accomplish something important and actually getting it done. I know the distinguished ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, with whom I partnered on a number of important topics, is here, and I thank him for his contribution. And the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, has been very important in the negotiation and in getting us to yes.

Finally—and I know time is short, so I will have more to say on this later. But there are literally 200 outside groups—faith-based groups, law enforcement organizations, and other organizations—that worked on the sidelines cheering us, asking us to get this done—groups such as Rights4Girls, Shared Hope International, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking organization, and the National Association to Protect Children. These groups and hundreds of others across the country have literally been our boots on the ground.

I also think it is important to recognize organizations such as Google Ideas and the McCain Institute, particularly Cindy McCain, who joined me in Houston recently to talk more about this important topic.

So there are a lot of people who contributed to get us to where we are today. We are not done yet. We have some important votes in just a few minutes—a total of 8 votes today—before we complete our work on this legislation, but I think this is a good day. This will be a good day for the Senate and for the victims of human trafficking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 301

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 301.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] proposes an amendment numbered 301.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 16, 2015, under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate what the Senator from Texas has said. We have worked together. I hope we continue to do this, but before I talk about my substitute, I want to yield the floor to the distinguished Senator from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, so many Members helped us get this bill back on a bipartisan path, but I want to thank Senators REID, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, FEINSTEIN, MIKULSKI, and LEAHY in particular for their work. I also want to thank all of the staff who have worked extremely hard to get this done, especially Melanie Rainer from my staff.

From the beginning of this debate, Democrats have been very clear that this bill to help survivors should focus squarely on that goal alone. We also felt this conversation was no place for a debate about restrictions on women's health access. While there are clear differences between the two parties when it comes to women's health, I know Senator CORNYN and many others agreed with us that an effort to fight back against human trafficking in our country is, without question, no place for gridlock and dysfunction. It should not have taken this long, but I am very pleased that we were able to work together, find common ground, and reach an agreement.

This agreement isn't perfect. No compromise ever is, and I am sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would say the same thing. I believe there is much more we can and must do to protect and strengthen women's access to comprehensive, high-quality health care.

In the 21st century, there is no reason a woman should be prevented from exercising her constitutionally guaranteed right to make her own choices about her own body. That is something I could not feel more strongly about, and I am going to keep working to not only protect that right but expand and improve access to care for women across the country.

I am very glad, however, that the amendment we are proposing this morning would provide survivors now with real, dedicated funds and support, including important health services. Critically, this amendment would take away the expansion of restrictions on women's health that would have occurred under the original legislation. It would ensure that the Hyde language is

now not expanded to any new programs under this bill.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this amendment so we can pass this bill to help trafficking survivors, and then move as quickly as possible to confirm our highly qualified nominee for Attorney General.

I thank my colleagues again for their work to reach this compromise. The families and communities we serve rightly expect us to work together to solve problems and not let gridlock and dysfunction get in the way of results. I am very pleased we were able to find that common ground and a path forward for this important legislation. I am very hopeful that now we will be able to continue working together to tackle the many other challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my substitute amendment, No. 301, brings together three very important bills that provide a comprehensive approach to preventing human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives. First, it includes the Leahy-Collins-Murkowski-Ayotte amendment to protect runaway and homeless youth from trafficking. Second, it includes the Klobuchar-Cornyn bill as reported in February by the Judiciary Committee. The safe harbor bill encourages States to treat victims of trafficking as victims and not—as oftentimes they are treated—as criminals. Finally, it includes the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill, S. 178, but without the divisive language that limits victims' services, which has held us up so long.

My amendment came about as a response to the request of survivors and the dedicated people who work with them, the people who actually see this day-by-day, for whom it is not a theoretical thing, but is an actual day-by-day crisis. They have urged us to remove the unnecessary and harmful provision which stalled this bill for weeks.

Congress has a long history of passing legislation to address human trafficking. We did so in the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which included the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. We consistently have addressed human trafficking legislation without abortion politics being inserted in the discussion. My amendment would return us to the path of the bipartisan bills we passed in years past. Importantly, my amendment is going to make sure we are preventing human trafficking in the first place.

It is one thing to work with children after they become victims. I think we would all agree it is better if we can help prevent them from becoming victims. The best way to do that is to support runaway and homeless kids. Without a safe place to sleep, these children and teens are exceptionally vulnerable



to human traffickers. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, first passed in 1974, funds tried-and-true programs to help these youth stabilize their lives. When a homeless or runaway teen is looking for a place to stay and there is nothing available, they sometimes resort to desperate measures. They are picked up almost at once by sex traffickers and exploited.

The substitute amendment reauthorizes and strengthens the programs that have worked ever since 1974. It adds training for service providers so we can better identify victims of trafficking and refer them to the appropriate resources. It includes language to prevent discrimination against homeless youth based on their sexual orientation or gender identification.

We found, in the testimony before the Judiciary Committee, a growing number of homeless and runaway youth identify as LGBT. Many of them have actually been thrown out of their homes for who they are. I am a parent; I am a grandparent. I find this heartbreaking to me that any child, any child for whatever reason would be thrown out of their home. We have to ensure that these vulnerable children who have already been rejected do not face rejection again because of how they look or dress or whom they love.

I urge all Senators to support this amendment. This is a moral issue. If we are serious about listening to survivors and responding to their needs and if we are serious about preventing human trafficking and protecting vulnerable children in the first place, this amendment is the strongest option before us.

We should be judged by what we do for the most vulnerable among us. The combination of these three bills should bring us together. I urge the Senate to support this comprehensive substitute.

Several of us in this body, both parties, have had the privilege to serve law enforcement before coming here, as I did. I said many times on this floor that I still have nightmares today, 40 years later, from some of the scenes I saw back then. I could arrest and prosecute these people who harm these youth, but we could never give back to the youth who they were before they were harmed.

Unfortunately, what I have nightmares about happens in so many more places. In the distinguished Presiding Officer's own home State, as well as the home States of every single Member of this body, it is happening today. These are the most vulnerable of our citizens. We as Senators should help protect them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be allowed to meet during today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I object to the unanimous consent request to waive rule XXVI to allow the Finance Committee to pass a fast-track bill that will undermine the American worker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say to my good friend from Vermont, the Finance Committee is scheduled to deal with the trade promotion authority issue this afternoon. There are over 200 amendments. I would say to my friend, all this objection is going to do will be to require us to recess after the votes on trafficking and stay in session because we are going to finish the bill in the Finance Committee today. I appreciate the Senator's opposition, but I want to make clear to him and to our colleagues that it will not prevent the trade promotion authority bill from being dealt with in Finance today. We will simply go into recess after we finish the trafficking bill and stay in recess, and the committee will work until it reports out the bill.

I understand the Senator's vigorous opposition to it. The Senator has made that quite clear. It is certainly understandable. The Senator has a right to do that. I am just making the point that this particular way to oppose it will not be successful today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me say to my friend, the majority leader, I appreciate his position. But as he knows, not only is there massive opposition to this TPP agreement, but there is a lot of concern that the American people have not been involved in the process, that there is not a lot of transparency. What we are trying to do is to make sure this debate takes place out in the public, that the American people have as much time as possible to understand the very significant implications of this trade agreement. I, and I suspect others, will do our best to make that happen.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand the position of my friend from Vermont on this. This Finance Committee meeting obviously will be open to the public. There will be many amendments offered, most of them I expect reflecting the views of the Senator from Vermont, but the meeting will go forward. The committee will simply be inconvenienced by the current actions of the Senator from Vermont, but the committee will go forward. The Senate will be in recess, and the committee will meet at the earliest possible time and finish the bill today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds to speak before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to make clear that the first amendment we will vote on relative to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will remove the Hyde amendment which is the longstanding, 39-year consensus that taxpayer funds will not be used to fund abortions. This amendment would completely strip that Hyde amendment, and it would undermine the delicate compromise that has been reached on the important legislation. The next vote we will have will be on that compromise piece of legislation, the Cornyn-Murray-Klobuchar legislation. It would literally cut funding for human trafficking victims as compared to this compromise.

I would urge our colleagues to stick with the bipartisan compromise and to vote against the Leahy amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG SAFER CHEMICALS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise on Earth Day to speak about our children and about chemical safety. We come in contact with thousands of chemicals every day. As I am speaking now, millions of our fellow citizens are buying groceries or going to the hardware store or getting clothes or toys for their children. They assume the government has studied the chemicals in these products and determined they are safe. But that is not the case.

The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, or TSCA, is supposed to protect American families, and it doesn't. There are over 84,000 known chemicals in manufactured and commercial products, and hundreds of new ones come on the market every year. How many of those products have been regulated by the EPA? Less than half a dozen.

These are troubling numbers. TSCA has been in existence for almost 40 years, and out of 84,000 chemicals—and counting—less than a dozen are actually regulated. The EPA cannot even regulate asbestos, a known carcinogen. Since losing a court battle in 1991, they have not been able to regulate it. The risks and dangers have been around for decades, but there is no cop on the beat. TSCA has failed.

Some States are trying to fill the gap by regulating a few chemicals, but my home State of New Mexico, and the vast majority of others, have no ability to test chemicals. They don't have a department to write regulations. Without a working Federal law, they have no protection. Even California, which probably has the greatest capacity of all States to test and regulate, has only proposed rules for three chemicals. In 7 years, since California passed a law to regulate chemicals, it has only begun the process on three chemicals.

That is why I and others have worked so hard to find compromise on this issue. That is why I introduced the Frank R. Lautenberg Safer Chemicals for the 21st Century Act.

I come to the floor today on Earth Day to urge all of my colleagues here to make reforming our broken chemical safety law a priority. We have a moral obligation to protect our kids from dangerous chemicals.

I have been privileged to work with Senator VITTER on this bill. I thank him and our colleagues who have worked with us. This is a true bipartisan effort. We don't always agree on some of the issues, but we have one basic goal here. Reform is overdue. It is 40 years overdue.

All of our landmark environmental laws have been reformed or amended—the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act—but not the Toxic Substances Control Act. It should have been—and it was not for lack of trying.

Our esteemed former colleague, the late Senator Frank Lautenberg led the way for many years, with great determination.

He never gave up. Together we fought the good fight to pass our dream bill, but were never able to make any progress. And he realized we needed to work with all stakeholders. Everyone at the table, including industry. Because he understood, this is not about getting all that we want. This is about getting the American people the protections they need. His effort to reform TSCA was the last major legislation he introduced.

Mr. President, 2 years ago, the New York Times endorsed the Lautenberg-Vitter bill. The Times said—correctly—that previous efforts at reform had gone nowhere, and the bill “deserves to be passed because it would be a significant advance over the current law.”

That was 2 years ago. I was honored to take over as the lead Democrat on the bill. Since then, I have listened to concerns. I reached across the aisle. I brought everyone into the room, or at least tried to. With my Republican colleague, Senator VITTER, we have improved the bill.

I want to talk for a moment about what this bill actually does, and how it moves us forward. Specifically, it does the following:

First, the manufacture of a new chemical cannot begin until EPA approves it. Currently, a new chemical is on the market after 90 days, unless EPA finds unreasonable risk. Our bill gives EPA the time it needs, and keeps these chemicals out of American homes in the meantime.

Second, current TSCA has no requirement for evaluating existing chemicals. None. Our bill does and includes deadlines, even more aggressive than the EPA itself asked for.

Third, we require a stronger safety standard for all chemicals to be evalu-

ated. No longer will EPA be required to choose the “least burdensome” regulation. Its criteria will be safety, science, and public health—never cost or convenience.

Fourth, our bill defines, for the first time, our most vulnerable populations—pregnant women, infants, the elderly, and workers—and explicitly requires that EPA ensure they are protected from chemicals in commerce or manufacturing.

Finally, we limit confidential business information protection for industry. Currently, it is limitless, unless challenged by EPA. We call for a 10-year sunset on confidential business information claims.

Reform takes time. But, it should not take decades. We can't afford to wait any longer. Our children and our communities can't afford to wait for protection from chemicals. Yes, that means compromise. The goal was not a perfect bill. The goal was, and is, real reform.

We have worked to address the issues with the original bill, and we still have work to do. It doesn't do everything I want. Senator VITTER has given a great deal as well. But this is a strong, bipartisan bill. I am confident it can pass the Senate. It will ensure EPA has the authority to keep us safe, something EPA cannot do now.

So, let's be clear. We have a choice. We can continue with a law that has failed. We can continue to leave the American people unprotected. Or we can actually make a difference. We can give the EPA the power it needs to do its job—so that chemicals are tested—so that our homes and workplaces are safe—and so that American families are protected.

I believe the choice is obvious. To those who disagree, I would ask a simple question. Are you willing to live with a failed law another 20 or 40 years? Because we all agree on one thing—TSCA is a failure.

This is the best chance we have, possibly for many years, to pass a law that will protect our kids from dangerous chemicals.

Our bill will make Americans safer. Not just Americans fortunate to live in States with protections. All Americans. No matter where they live.

For those Americans in States with existing safeguards, that won't change. Those safeguards will stay in place. Any regulations in place as of January of this year will remain. And there is a role for States to play—to help with the thousands of chemicals that EPA will not be able to evaluate.

But, let's be clear. The EPA has the largest staff on chemical safety of any country in the world. They should be able to put that staff to good use. To do otherwise is wasted opportunity and continued failure.

This has not been an easy process. But, it is a necessary one. I believe it

will result in a good bill. We welcome a healthy debate. We welcome constructive amendments. At the same time, we should not lose sight of the key goal—to actually pass a bill. To reform a law that is not working. To protect our families and communities.

I believe we can do this. And Senator Lautenberg, who was a great environmental champion, he believed we could as well.

Americans trust that when they go to the grocery store, or when they are in their own homes, that the products they reach for are safe. The current system fails that trust. It fails to provide confidence in our regulatory system. And it fails to provide confidence in our consumer products. We cannot let that failure continue. It hurts our economy, and it hurts the American people.

We need solutions, not roadblocks and closed doors. Senator VITTER and I will continue to work with all stakeholders. If we can make this bill better, we will. We all share that goal. But, here's the bottom line: We must work through the remaining challenges. Now is not the time for digging in our heels—and going nowhere. Mr. President, 40 years of that is enough. Now is the time for change.

There is only one essential question before us. Is this reform better than what we have? The answer is yes. Can we make it even better? I hope the answer to that question is yes as well. But, that will require a spirit of cooperation and compromise. That will require that we continue to have everyone at the table.

Critics charge that this is an alliance with the chemical industry. That is false. It is an alliance with the American people. They put their trust in the American government to protect them. That trust has not been met.

It is in everyone's interest—to identify dangerous chemicals, to protect the American public, and restore confidence in the safety of the products made by American companies.

We have a historic opportunity to create a chemical law that works and provide American families with the protections they expect and deserve. Let's work together. Let's make that happen. Let's not wait another 40 years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### MEDICARE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME MEDICAL PRACTICE DEMONSTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 971, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 971) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Wyden amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1129) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 2, line 5, insert “of the Social Security Act” after “1866E(e)(1)”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 971), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 971

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE LIMIT ON THE LENGTH OF AN AGREEMENT UNDER THE MEDICARE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME MEDICAL PRACTICE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 1866E(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-5(e)(1)) is amended by striking “3-year” and inserting “5-year”.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### STEVE GLEASON ACT OF 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 984, that the bill be read a third time, and that the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

A bill (S. 984) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove

the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 984) was passed, as follows:

S. 984

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Steve Gleason Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. PROVIDING MEDICARE BENEFICIARY ACCESS TO EYE TRACKING ACCESSORIES FOR SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by inserting “and eye tracking and gaze interaction accessories for speech generating devices furnished to individuals with a demonstrated medical need for such accessories” after “appropriate organizations”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to devices furnished on or after January 1, 2016.

#### SEC. 3. REMOVING THE RENTAL CAP FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER MEDICARE WITH RESPECT TO SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES.

Section 1834(a)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by adding “or” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

“(iv) in the case of devices furnished on or after October 1, 2015, and before October 1, 2018, which serves as a speech generating device or which is an accessory that is needed for the individual to effectively utilize such a device.”.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 144, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week; S. Res. 145, Parkinson’s Awareness Month; S. Res. 146, Assistant Principals Week; and S. Res. 147, Historian Emeritus.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolu-

tions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 782

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 782 be discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works and be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 710

Mr. CORNYN. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 710 be discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I understand there are 4 more minutes on this side. Am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2½ minutes of debate remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back our time.

#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 301

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 301, offered by the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 156 Leg.]

## YEAS—43

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

## NAYS—55

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Casey	Heller	Sasse
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Sullivan
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Daines	McCain	Wicker
Donnelly	McConnell	
Enzi	Moran	

## NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1124

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1124, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Leg.]

## YEAS—98

Alexander	Casey	Fischer
Ayotte	Cassidy	Flake
Baldwin	Coats	Franken
Barrasso	Cochran	Gardner
Bennet	Collins	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Coons	Graham
Blunt	Corker	Grassley
Booker	Cornyn	Hatch
Boozman	Cotton	Heinrich
Boxer	Crapo	Heitkamp
Brown	Daines	Heller
Burr	Donnelly	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Hoeven
Capito	Enzi	Inhofe
Cardin	Ernst	Isakson
Carper	Feinstein	Johnson

Kaine	Murphy	Sessions
King	Murray	Shaheen
Kirk	Nelson	Shelby
Klobuchar	Paul	Stabenow
Lankford	Perdue	Sullivan
Leahy	Peters	Tester
Lee	Portman	Thune
Manchin	Reed	Tillis
Markey	Reid	Toomey
McCain	Risch	Udall
McCaskill	Roberts	Vitter
McConnell	Rounds	Warner
Menendez	Sanders	Warren
Merkley	Sasse	Whitehouse
Mikulski	Schatz	Wicker
Moran	Schumer	Wyden
Murkowski	Scott	

## NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to propound a unanimous consent request to call up an amendment, speak briefly, and then be followed by Senator SANDERS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. is equally divided in the usual form.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1121

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1121.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] proposes an amendment numbered 1121.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders)

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE \_\_\_\_—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING**

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the "Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015".

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

**"SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.**

"The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

"(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

"(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10,

United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

"(2) required to register under this title.".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

"Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.".

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to speak very briefly on an amendment the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on this afternoon.

Due to the way the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is currently written, there is a problem with tracking sex offenders convicted in a military justice system. Some of these offenders are exploiting the cracks in that system.

My amendment is, quite honestly, a fix to the problem and will help authorities and the public better track sex offenders in our communities.

To explain, currently, military sex offenders are only required to self-report to a State government after they are released from a military correctional facility.

Under the civilian justice system, sex offenders are registered in the State before they are released. The State then provides the information to the Department of Justice to be included in both the public and the private National Sex Offender Registry, which is where the average citizen can go and see if there is a sex offender in their neighborhood.

A Department of Defense inspector general report issued in August of last year revealed that an estimated 242 of the 1,312 released sex offenders failed to self-report.

In that inspector general's report, they said:

The lack of jurisdiction for DOD to register military sex offenders with the National Sex Offender Registry enables military sex offenders released from military prisons to evade sex offender registration requirements.

I am not sure it can be put any plainer than that.

The Department of Defense tried to correct the problem by working with State authorities and the U.S. Marshals, but underreporting continues today.

Differences in State laws in military reporting procedures enables some criminals to totally evade reporting and detection.

A recent Scripps news report revealed grim examples of the consequences of these cracks in the system.

Consider the recent case of Matthew Carr. The military convicted Matthew Carr for posing as a gynecologist. He preyed on seven women. After spending 7 years incarcerated, he evaded registration upon his release. He assaulted

another woman before being apprehended by civilian authorities. This assault was preventable in that community, but the DOD wasn't required to post him as a sex offender.

In another case, a former officer served 5 years for sexually assaulting 3 minors in the cruelest way possible. He evaded registration, and Scripps located this individual living within a mile of a school. It is scary, a pedophile living next to a school—and no one knew he was there.

This amendment requires the Department of Defense to communicate a criminal's information directly to the Attorney General to improve tracking and public notification.

My amendment is based upon a bipartisan bill, S. 409, that I introduced with the support of Senator MCCASKILL. That bill already has the support of 15 of our colleagues: Senators AYOTTE, BLUNT, CORNYN, COTTON, CRAPO, FISCHER, RUBIO, SESSIONS, TILLIS, TOOMEY, FEINSTEIN, KING, MIKULSKI, and NELSON.

My amendment costs taxpayers nothing, and it is a commonsense solution to a real problem that exists.

I encourage my colleagues this afternoon, when we have an opportunity to get back into votes, that they support amendment No. 1121.

I yield the floor to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I objected to the unanimous consent request to waive rule XXVI to allow the Finance Committee to pass a fast-track bill because I think it is time we slowed down fast-track.

This trade agreement, I think everybody acknowledges, is of enormous consequence to working people all over this country. We need more transparency. We need to know what is in this legislation, and we need to involve the American people in this discussion.

I must say I am extremely disappointed that on a piece of legislation which involves 40 percent of the world's economy, that is the largest trade agreement in the history of the United States of America, much of the major media has virtually ignored this issue.

Now, you may be for the agreement, you may be against the agreement. I am strongly against it—and I will tell you why in a moment, but I would hope we could all agree this is an enormously important issue that deserves significant discussion on the part of the American people and their elected representatives.

I find it incomprehensible that, to the best of my knowledge, ABC—the ABC television network—has had zero coverage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, zero; CBS television, zero coverage; NBC, zero coverage. PBS has had three mentions of the TPP. CNN has had zero coverage, FOX television has

had four mentions, and MSNBC—mostly because of the excellent work of Ed Schultz—has covered it on 33 occasions, and all of this since January of 2015.

So here we are engaged in a discussion—some people are for it and some people are against it—but how do the American people know what is going on if the major networks are virtually blocking out any serious discussion, any mention of the agreement?

Supporters of the fast-track bill have told us over and over again that unfettered free trade will increase American jobs and increase American wages, but they have been proven dead wrong every single time we have had a trade agreement. In other words, we hear the same rhetoric: vote for NAFTA, vote for CAFTA, vote for the free-trade agreement with China. It is going to increase jobs in America, improve life for the middle class. Yet every single time the rhetoric around these past trade agreements has been proven to be dead wrong.

I was in the House of Representatives in 1993 and 1994 during the debate over NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. I remember all of those people who supported that agreement telling us how NAFTA was going to open the Mexican economy for products made in the United States of America and how it was going to create all kinds of good-paying jobs in this country.

On September 19, 1993, President Bill Clinton said the following:

I believe that NAFTA will create 200,000 American jobs in the first two years of its effect. . . . I believe that NAFTA will create a million jobs in the first five years of its impact.

That was President Bill Clinton, who strongly supported that agreement.

But it wasn't only President Clinton who made those claims. The Heritage Foundation, one of the most conservative think tanks in this country, said in 1993: "Virtually all economists agree that NAFTA will produce a net increase of U.S. jobs over the next decade." That is from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Further, during the debate over NAFTA and the Senate in 1993, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, MITCH MCCONNELL, who is now the majority leader, said: American firms will not move to Mexico just for lower wages.

That was Senator MCCONNELL. Virtually every major newspaper in America had editorials saying: Support NAFTA—the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal. Support NAFTA; it is good for the American worker.

Well, it turns out that NAFTA, which, of course, was supported by every major corporation in America, supported by Wall Street, supported by all of the Big Money interests—well, it

turns out that all of those projections regarding NAFTA turned out to be dead wrong.

According to the well-respected economists at the Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA has led to the loss of more than 680,000 jobs—not the creation of 1 million jobs, the loss of 680,000 American jobs.

In 1993, the year before NAFTA was implemented, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of more than \$1.6 billion. Last year, the trade deficit with Mexico was \$53 billion.

I quote what the Economic Policy Institute says about NAFTA:

[President] Clinton and his collaborators promised [NAFTA] would bring "good-paying American jobs," a rising trade surplus with Mexico, and a dramatic reduction in illegal immigration. Instead, NAFTA directly cost the United States a net loss of 700,000 jobs. The [trade] surplus with Mexico turned into a chronic deficit. And the economic dislocation in Mexico increased the flow of undocumented workers into the United States.

Further, I quote an article that appeared in the New York Times yesterday:

Mexico has become the most attractive place in North America to build new automobile factories, a shift that has siphoned jobs from the U.S. and Canada. . . . In the past two years, eight automakers have opened or announced new plants or expansions in Mexico. . . . Low labor costs and fewer tariffs are the swing factors.

That was the New York Times yesterday. In other words, despite all of the rhetoric about how this unfettered free-trade agreement with Mexico was going to create jobs in this country, it turned out—not too surprisingly, I voted against NAFTA—to be exactly the opposite. Those people who told us how great the agreement was going to be were dead wrong.

Why were they wrong? Well, for obvious reasons. When you have workers in low-wage countries, people who are prepared to work for 50 cents an hour, \$1 an hour, \$2 an hour, it doesn't take a Ph.D. in economics to figure out that corporations will shut down in America, move to those countries, pay workers pennies an hour—not have to worry about environmental regulations, not have to worry about, in some cases, trade unions. You don't have to worry about that stuff.

So what would American corporations do? Of course they would go to those countries. That is exactly what they have done.

I talked for a moment about NAFTA. What about permanent normal trade relations with China? I don't think I have to elaborate on the fact that when Americans go shopping and they walk into a department store—just look at the labels. Look at where the products are manufactured. Time after time, the products come from China, China, and China.

As unbelievable as it may sound, back in 1999 and 2000, we were told—

this is again what we were told—that permanent normal trade relations with China would open up the huge Chinese market to all kinds of American-made products. The argument was, look, China is the largest country in the world. If we can just have an unfettered free-trade agreement with them, think about all the products manufactured in America that would be sold to the huge population in China.

That was the argument. I think it is important for the American people to hear what the supporters of permanent normal trade relations with China—free trade with China—had to say back then and whether those arguments turned out to be right. In other words, if we are going to look at TPP today and hear what people are saying now, it is important to hear what people said about these other free trade agreements back then.

Here is what President Bill Clinton said about PNTR with China back in 1999:

In opening the economy of China, the agreement will create unprecedented opportunities for American farmers, workers and companies to compete successfully in China's market . . . This is a hundred-to-nothing deal for America when it comes to the economic consequences.

That was President Bill Clinton.

In addition, this is what the conservative economists at the Cato Institute—a very conservative think tank—wrote back in 1999:

The silliest argument against PNTR is that Chinese imports would overwhelm U.S. industry. In fact, American workers are far more productive than their Chinese counterparts . . . PNTR would create far more export opportunities for American than Chinese concerns.

In other words, we had a liberal President, President Clinton, saying PNTR—free trade—with China would open up great economic opportunities in America, create new jobs, and raise wages. We had a conservative think tank say exactly the same thing. We had all of corporate America, all of Wall Street, all of the big-money interests saying: Oh boy, what a great opportunity for the United States. We can create all these jobs.

Well, were they right or were they wrong? I think everybody knows—the facts are pretty clear—they were, once again, not wrong, they were dead wrong. The Economic Policy Institute estimated that PNTR with China has led to the net loss of over 2.7 million American jobs. The trade deficit with China has increased from \$83 billion back in 2001 to a recordbreaking \$342 billion in 2014. I note that my Republican colleagues often talk about our national deficit, which is an important issue, but I don't hear much discussion about our huge trade deficit, especially with China, which was at \$342 billion in 2014.

After all of the talk on the floor of the Senate and the floor of the House,

after all of the editorials written in the major newspapers throughout our country, after all of the discussion and expositions of Wall Street and the big-money interests, it turned out that the trade agreement with China was an unmitigated disaster for American workers.

PNTR was passed in the year 2000. A couple of years later—and this kind of tells you everything you need to know about unfettered free trade—Jeffrey Immelt, the CEO of General Electric, one of our large corporations, was quoted on this subject at an investor meeting 1 year after China was admitted to the World Trade Organization, and this is what Mr. Immelt said:

When I am talking to GE managers, I talk China, China, China, China, China. You need to be there. You need to change the way people talk about it and how they get there. I am a nut on China. Outsourcing from China is going to grow to \$5 billion. We are building a tech center in China. Every discussion today has to center on China. The cost basis is extremely attractive. You can take an 18 cubic foot refrigerator, make it in China, land it in the United States, and land it for less than we can make an 18 cubic foot refrigerator today ourselves.

What Mr. Immelt was saying is what virtually every major corporation CEO was thinking, and it is not hard to understand why. In China, wages are very, very low. Environmental regulations are almost nonexistent. It is hard to find a trade union to negotiate for workers. Why wouldn't a company shut down in America and run to China? And that is exactly, of course, what they have done.

Before PNTR with China passed, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce told us it would create jobs. But just a few years later, on July 1, 2004, the Associated Press ran an article with the headline "Chamber of Commerce leader advocates offshoring of jobs." The article quotes Thomas Donohue, the president and CEO, who, by the way, just yesterday was before the Senate Committee on Finance advocating for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This is what the AP article said back in 2004:

Mr. Donohue urged American companies to send jobs overseas as a way to boost American competitiveness . . . Donohue said that exporting high-paid tech jobs to low-cost countries such as India, China and Russia saves companies money.

So the dirty secret is that of course these guys like these free-trade agreements—not because they are going to create jobs in America. No one seriously believes that. When they are honest about it, they understand and they say that if companies shut down plants in America, throw millions of people onto the streets in this country and move abroad—when they do that, their profits go up. And they are right. I give them credit for that. That is right. That is what unfettered free trade has meant in this country.

And on and on it goes. It is not just Mr. Immelt, the head of General Elec-

tric; it is not just Mr. Donohue, the head of the chamber of commerce; it is major corporation after major corporation. It is Wall Street. It is all of the moneyed interests. Before the agreement, they tell us as part of the discussion how many good jobs NAFTA is going to create, how many good jobs free trade with China will create, how many good jobs the Korean trade agreement will create. After the agreement, word comes out: Hey, this is a good opportunity. Shut down in America, go abroad, pay people pennies an hour, and bring your products back into this country.

In 2011, we were told we just had to pass the South Korea Free Trade Agreement because of all the jobs it would create. Same arguments—another free-trade agreement that is going to be great for the American worker. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce told us this free-trade agreement could create some 280,000 jobs in America. Instead, the South Korea Free Trade Agreement has led to the loss of some 60,000 jobs and the trade deficit with our country has gone from \$16.6 billion in 2012 to \$25 billion in 2014.

Now the administration, Wall Street, and the largest corporations in this country are saying: Trust us. Forget about everything we said about all of these other trade agreements. Yeah, maybe we were wrong on NAFTA. Maybe we were wrong on CAFTA. Maybe we were wrong on the China Free Trade Agreement. Maybe we were wrong on the South Korea Free Trade Agreement. But trust us, on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, it is different. This one really, really, really—cross our fingers—really is going to be different.

This one will support about, they say, some 650,000 American jobs. You know, it is one thing to be fooled once. It is another thing to be fooled twice. It is another thing to be fooled three times. But there comes a point where the American people are catching on that one of the reasons why the middle class of this country is disappearing, one of the reasons why most or many of the new jobs being created are low wage and part time, one of the reasons why real inflation-accounted-for wages for American workers has plummeted is because of these disastrous free-trade agreements. So you can fool me once. You can fool me twice. Maybe I am dumb and you can fool me three times. But there does come a limit to how many times you think you can fool the American people.

When we talk about why the middle class of this country has been in decline for the last 40 years, one of the important reasons is that since 2001 we have lost nearly 60,000 factories in this country. Over that same time period, we have lost over 4.7 million manufacturing jobs. In 1970, 25 percent of all jobs in the United States were manufacturing jobs. Today, that number is

just 9 percent. In January of 2001, there were 17.1 million manufacturing workers in this country. Today, there are only 12.3 million manufacturing workers.

In my small State of Vermont, we have lost 34 percent of our manufacturing jobs over the past 14 years. In January of 2001, Vermont had 47,000 factory jobs. Last February, it was down to 30,700. And that is true for virtually every State in this country.

Why is this significant? It is significant because historically manufacturing jobs paid the highest wages available to blue-collar workers. If you had a job at a manufacturing plant, if you had a union, the likelihood was that you would earn decent wages, have decent benefits, and you could actually support your family. You earned the wages that enabled you to take good care of your family. With the decline of manufacturing, what has happened is we have seen a huge increase in service industry jobs—McDonald's, Walmart—where wages are low, benefits are nil, and American workers who work there are having a hard time surviving economically. Manufacturing goes down, people lose their jobs, wages go down, and new jobs are being created that pay significantly less than the jobs people used to have.

The fact is that TPP is just a new and easy way for corporations to ship jobs overseas and force Americans to compete with low-wage workers in Vietnam and other countries. The minimum wage in Vietnam is 56 cents an hour. What this trade agreement says to American workers is, you are now competing against people who in some cases will be working for 56 cents an hour. I think that is grossly unfair. We should not force American workers into a race to the bottom.

Let's be clear. The TPP is much more than a free-trade agreement; it is part of a global race to the bottom to boost the profits of large, multinational corporations and Wall Street by outsourcing jobs, undercutting workers' rights, dismantling labor, environmental, health, food safety, and financial laws, and allowing corporations to challenge our laws in international tribunals rather than our own court system.

The TPP is poised to be the largest free-trade agreement in history, encompassing 12 nations that account for roughly 40 percent of the global economy. That is why it has been referred to as "NAFTA on steroids."

Incredibly, while Wall Street, the pharmaceutical industry, and major media companies have full knowledge as to what is in this treaty, the American people and Members of Congress do not. They have been locked out of the process. While the full text of the TPP has not been made public, there have been some leaks of what is included in it, and what I have seen is very disturbing.

It has been estimated by outside experts that the United States would lose more than 130,000 jobs to Vietnam and Japan alone if the TPP goes into effect. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. At a time when corporations have already outsourced over 3 million service sector jobs that were in the United States, the TPP includes rules that will make it even easier for corporate America to outsource call centers, computer programming, engineering, accounting, and medical diagnostic jobs. So these are not just manufacturing jobs; these are all kinds of other jobs which, if they can be done cheaper in other countries, will be sent there.

Under TPP, Vietnamese companies would be able to compete with American companies for Federal contracts funded by U.S. taxpayers, undermining American laws. The TPP will undermine U.S. sovereignty by giving foreign corporations the right to challenge any law in this country that threatens their expected future profits before international tribunals. In other words, if we pass an increase in the minimum wage, under the TPP, Vietnamese companies that invest in America could sue the United States in an international court full of corporate lawyers if they believe it will hurt their profits. By the way, that is what this whole agreement is about—maximizing the investment profits of corporations from the United States and all over the world.

If localities—local governments, state governments, federal governments—stand up and say: You know what, we want to protect health, and we want to protect the environment—if that impinges on the future profits of the corporation, it can take legal action against that local, state, or federal agency. That may sound kind of crazy, but that is exactly what has already happened in Egypt after it signed a free-trade agreement with France. In 2012, a French utility company sued Egypt in an international tribunal for 82 million euros. And what was Egypt's crime? For what were they being sued? They were being sued because they had increased their minimum wage, among other things. The French company saw raising the minimum wage for Egyptian workers—which is very low—as an impingement on their ability to make profits.

Further, large pharmaceutical companies are working hard to ensure that the TPP extends the monopolies for their prescription drugs by extending patents that already can last for 20 years or more. Doctors Without Borders—a heroic organization of doctors who go to some of the most difficult, the poorest, the most dangerous parts of this world to treat people who desperately need medical care—they are very brave people. They wrote that "the TPP agreement is on track to become the most harmful trade pact ever

for access to medicines in developing countries." In other words, what the big pharmaceutical industry wants is for countries all over the world to have to pay top dollar for prescription drugs. They want to be able to maintain their patents for as long as possible and prevent those drugs from going generic, where the prices would be significantly lower. The problem is that people in poor countries cannot pay a lot of money for their prescription drugs. So if this agreement goes through and the pharmaceutical industry can force poor countries to pay high prices for prescription drugs, people will suffer and people will die.

After one disastrous trade agreement after another, I think it is time for the American people and their elected officials to reassess how we do trade in America. It is time to say we need trade agreements that work for working people in this country and not just trade agreements that work for the CEOs of large, multinational corporations. It is time to say to corporate America: If you want us to purchase your products, it is time you started manufacturing those products here in the United States and not in low-wage countries all over the world.

The evidence is overwhelming. For decades, our trade policies have been responsible for lowering the standard of living of tens of millions of Americans. People today all over this country are working longer hours for lower wages. Most of the new jobs being created are low-wage jobs, and many of them are part-time jobs.

We need to rebuild our manufacturing sector. To do that, we need a fundamental revision in our trade policies. NAFTA has failed. CAFTA has failed. Permanent normal trade relations with China has failed. The Korea trade agreement has failed. It is basically insane to keep going with the same type of trade policy that has failed and failed and failed.

I hope very much that here in the Senate and in the House we can defeat this TPP and come back to the table and develop a trade agreement that works for American workers, works for people all over the world, and not continue these disastrous trade agreements.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I am glad that today the Senate will take the long-overdue step forward and approve the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—bipartisan legislation that I am proud to be a cosponsor of that will help victims of human trafficking.

Montanans know firsthand the immeasurable damage human trafficking has inflicted on our communities, our schools, and, most of all, the victims of these horrific crimes. We also know the



importance of coming together to support the victims of this modern-day slavery.

Too often, victims of human trafficking are underserved and fail to get the resources they so desperately need. This important bill will provide our law enforcement officials and the communities with the necessary tools to help lift these innocent victims out of the shadows.

Montanans understand the importance of cracking down on the perpetrators of these crimes and ensuring that we are serving as an advocate for victims—without letting partisan politics get in the way.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to come together today and do what is right for the victims of human trafficking and pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AIRPORT SECURITY

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, our Nation's airports are not secure. We were rudely awakened to that fact last December when it was discovered that for a several-month period at the Atlanta Airport, employees of the airport—one in particular—since there was limited, if any, screening of the airport employees coming into the airport, had concocted a scheme with another fellow to transport guns to New York, where they were sold on the streets of Brooklyn.

The police couldn't figure out how in the world they were getting these guns to New York because they kept watching the roads. It was in plain sight. What they were using were the defects in airport security—if you can believe this—to bring guns to the Atlanta Airport. Then once at the airport, the airport employee would go up to the sterile passenger area, where, in the restroom, he would meet a passenger who came through security with an empty backpack and transfer the guns he had brought onto the airport property to the passenger, who then would take them on the flight from Atlanta to New York.

This went on for several months. This passenger even carried a carbine. When he was arrested in December, he had 16 handguns in his backpack on the airplane. It is a good thing these guys were criminals and not terrorists because you can imagine—this is exactly what we are trying to prevent: weapons getting on airplanes.

Interestingly, when I got into this from the position of having the privi-

lege of being the ranking member of the commerce committee, where we have jurisdiction over aviation, lo and behold, what I discovered in my own State is that two airports had already solved the problem by increasing security. The security we as passengers go through—they have similar security for all airport employees. The first one to do that was Miami International Airport back in 1999 after they discovered a drug-smuggling ring. Instead of having hundreds of entry points into the airport for employees, what they had was boiled down to a handful, where they screen the employees. It was then inaugurated by the Orlando International Airport after 2007 when they discovered a drug-smuggling ring, and Orlando has boiled it down to about five entry points for airline employees. I went through those entry points at both Orlando and Miami, and it is not only what we go through as passengers, but they also have to double-check that the person is who they say they are. They have their badge. The airport employee checks the photograph on the badge with the person, and they swipe the card. In the case of the Orlando Airport, they also have to punch in an identification number.

That seems to have solved the problem at those two huge airports, Orlando and Miami, but what about the other 448 commercial airports in the United States? Are they going to be the victims? Are we, the American traveling public, going to be the victims like they were in Atlanta?

In this age of terrorism, we cannot afford any of those mistakes. We have been after the Department of Homeland Security and TSA to start changing this. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary just announced that they will take immediate steps to increase the screening of airport employees across the country because they indeed understand this is a problem. They are going to have a comprehensive review. They are not saying they are going to require what Orlando and Miami do, but at the end of the day, they are going to have to end up doing that.

We have to simplify the system by boiling down the hundreds of entry points to just a few, and then we have to put up screening devices similar to the ones passengers go through to go into a sterile environment.

I am very grateful to Secretary Johnson for calling on TSA to start this immediate inquiry and to have some action. I hope the increased attention to this matter now will get airports and airport employees more highly sensitized to what had been such a breach at the Atlanta Airport. If we can do this, then it will be another measure we can take to make sure the public is traveling safely.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNITED STATES-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in 1941, in an address delivered at an event in honor of the Canadian Prime Minister, Winston Churchill famously declared, "Canada is the linchpin of the English-speaking world." As with most things, Churchill was able to see deeper truths and recognize Canada for what it really is. Today, I wish to recognize the close and vital relationship between the United States and Canada, our great neighbor to the north. Canada is a critical partner to both America and Arkansas. We ought to find every way to strengthen our relationship and avoid every possible trouble on the horizon.

The bond between the United States and Canada starts with our common heritage and our common way of life, including individuals rights, constitutional democracy, the rule of law, open markets, and the defense of freedom around the world. Canada has stood with the United States in our toughest hours to defend our common way of life. Canadian troops fought alongside our GIs on D-day at Juno Beach, where 1 in every 13 Canadians perished. After the 9/11 attacks, Canada was one of the first countries to join our campaign in Afghanistan, where 158 brave Canadians died on the battlefield—the rough equivalent of 1,400 American troops. As with our own soldiers, we honor their ultimate sacrifice and entrust their families to the tender care of a loving providence.

Canada has also been a willing partner in many other security and humanitarian operations around the globe, including Libya, Haiti, and the NATO-led stabilization force in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1990s. Moreover, Canada is part of the Five Eyes intelligence partnership, which has its roots in World War II. This partnership is vital to our national security, helping, for example, to disrupt a 2013 Al Qaeda-associated plot to derail a train traveling between New York and Canada. If successful, this attack could have killed dozens, perhaps even hundreds.

Canada and the United States also share the world's longest border—and the world's longest peaceful border. Over 300,000 people cross our shared border every day by every mode of transport. Americans too often forget ours is the most secure and mutually beneficial international relationship among nations, taking for granted our peaceful partner to the north. Our success as the global superpower and the ability to protect our interests and

global stability depends heavily on our peaceful and productive relationship with Canada. Without it, the New World would not be able to project power into the Old.

Our relationship with Canada is indeed productive, as Canada has remained our best and most important trading partner. Last year, \$759 billion in goods and services moved between Canada and the United States. To put that into perspective, Canada purchased more goods from the United States than did all 28 members of the European Union combined and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more than did China. These purchases included everything from raw materials to paper produced in Ashdown, rice milled in Stuttgart, and construction hardware manufactured in Blytheville.

Moreover, Canada is the largest supplier of energy to the United States. In January, in fact, the United States imported more oil from Canada than all OPEC countries combined, and Canada produces 97 percent of all U.S. natural gas imports. Of course, these numbers would be even greater if President Obama would finally approve the Keystone XL Pipeline which would also create thousands of high-paying American and Canadian jobs.

Arkansas, like America as a whole, has benefited immensely from our close ties to Canada. Agricultural products, iron and steel produced in Arkansas factories, and countless other products manufactured in the natural state find their way to our friends in the north, providing Arkansans with good customers and good jobs. Indeed, Canada is Arkansas' No. 1 foreign customer and 66,000 Arkansas jobs depend on United States-Canada trade and investment, which totals \$2.3 billion every year.

Some of Arkansas' most recognizable names reflect these Arkansas-Canada ties. Murphy Oil, headquartered in El Dorado, has operated in Canada for over 60 years, producing oil and natural gas through stakes in several projects off the coast of Newfoundland and in Alberta and British Columbia. Walmart has also had a strong presence in Canada for over 20 years. Today, they employ over 90,000 Canadians across nearly 400 retail stores. Tyson and Skippy Peanut Butter are just two of the household names produced in Arkansas that are pantry staples in Canada. With agricultural products making up nearly 20 percent of Arkansas' exports to Canada, Arkansas' ranchers and farmers help round out Canada's pantries and freezers.

Given these warm, longstanding ties to Canada, my team and I have worked closely with the Canadian Embassy during my time in Congress to promote and strengthen our relationship. Unfortunately, the Obama administration at times has impeded it. The Keystone Pipeline, for instance, is not just good

for American jobs but also a critical project for Canada's economy. Yet President Obama dismissed it as mere Canadian oil from Canadian companies—cavalier comments that minimize the pipeline's benefits for American workers, while also manifesting a casual disregard for our close ally's interests.

Now we are seeing this neglect again with country-of-origin labeling requirements for meat products processed in the United States which threaten to disrupt trade between our two countries. These so-called COOL regulations needlessly require different labeling for products born, raised or slaughtered in either country. Today, processors are forced to either operate two production lines to keep their Canadian-born or raised cattle separate from those born and raised in the United States or maintain extensive records on where each head of cattle came from. These regulations unduly burden Canadian producers and American processors while also violating our treaty obligations. Yet they deliver little value to consumers.

Yet, despite multiple adverse rulings from the World Trade Organization, the administration continues to pursue appeals, a process which is expected to end next month. As a result of these trade barriers and WTO rulings, Canada may be forced to impose reciprocal trade barriers on American products. Unfortunately, products already targeted for trade barriers include Arkansas rice, poultry, grains, and beef. If the administration does not relent, nearly \$130 million in Arkansas agricultural trade with Canada will be threatened—more than half our State's annual total.

We should put a stop now to this trade dispute that no one intended and no one wants. I stand ready to work with my fellow Senators and the administration to modify the labeling requirements at the earliest opportunity following a final WTO ruling. It will be good for Arkansas' farmers and ranchers, good for American consumers, and good for the health of the United States-Canada partnership. Let's work together to fix this problem, protect American jobs, and help our neighbor to the north remain our linchpin in the world.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have commemorated National Crime Victims' Rights Week every April since 1981. This year it takes place from April 19 through April 25.

This week is dedicated to remembering victims of crime, building awareness, and advocating for victims' rights. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the millions of Americans and thousands of Iowans who fall vic-

tim to senseless acts of crime each year.

On Monday I introduced a bipartisan resolution commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and I am happy that my colleagues have joined me by unanimously passing this resolution this morning.

The theme for this week, "Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims," recognizes the importance of offering the support necessary to help crime survivors heal.

During this week we also remember the contributions of the countless crisis hotline volunteers and staff, victims' rights attorneys, medical professionals, and emergency responders who provide critical assistance to survivors of crime every hour, every day in communities across the United States.

The Judiciary Committee has worked to strengthen Federal laws and direct resources to efforts to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. And, although we still have a way to go to ensure that all crime survivors are treated with appropriate fairness and respect in the criminal justice system, I am proud that we have made important strides toward this goal.

An important issue for many crime victims is restitution. It is an issue that would be addressed by the "Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act," a bill introduced by Senator HATCH that has my strong support.

The Judiciary Committee, of which I serve as chairman, reported this bill on February 5. If enacted, the measure, which passed the full Senate by a vote of 98-0 on February 11, would reverse a Supreme Court decision that limits the amount of restitution that victims of child pornography can recover from any one perpetrator.

It would ensure that victims can recover a minimum amount of damages for certain child pornography offenses, and it also would make any single perpetrator potentially responsible for the full damages that result from an offense involving multiple perpetrators.

Americans also deserve to know that we are doing everything possible to prevent sexual assault, especially in our most acclaimed institutions of society, including college campuses and our Nation's military. In fact, a zero tolerance standard needs to be set at the highest levels of the Federal government.

Take, for example, the lack of accountability within some of our Nation's Federal law enforcement entities. In the last few years, a string of sex scandals involving prostitutes being solicited by public servants working for the FBI, Secret Service and, most recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration reflect an embarrassing lack of ethics and moral code of conduct by Federal agents hired to flush out illicit criminal activity at home and abroad.

It should go without saying that this type of conduct by Federal law enforcement personnel—on or off the clock—cannot be tolerated. This behavior telegraphs the wrong message about acceptable sexual conduct to society and contributes to the demand for the human sex trade around the world.

I supported the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and earlier this year I chaired a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on human trafficking, where witnesses discussed the consequences of sex trafficking for both child and adult victims.

The witnesses at this hearing, which took place on February 24, 2015, also testified in support of several measures that would help us further combat the various forms of human trafficking in the United States.

One of these measures is the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act which is now pending on the Senate floor, and of which I am a cosponsor.

It is vitally important that we pass this legislation, which would authorize much needed services to victims of child pornography as well as labor and sex trafficking.

The bill also equips law enforcement with new tools for prosecuting human trafficking offenses and recognizes that the production of child pornography is a form of human trafficking.

Also, earlier this year, I introduced the Combating Human Trafficking Act. Among other things, the bill would clarify that Federal grant resources can be used to meet the housing needs of human trafficking victims and offer training on the effects of sex trafficking to those who offer services to runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth.

I led the Judiciary Committee in supporting the inclusion of this legislation as an amendment to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act during committee consideration of that bill.

The committee accepted the measure by voice vote on February 26. The committee reported the bill to the Senate floor by a vote of 19–0.

I am grateful we have been able to reach an agreement that will finally allow a vote on this very important legislation, and I look forward to casting my vote in favor of this bill.

Our next challenge should be to address the two broken systems of justice found on our college campuses and within our military institutions. First, a flawed reporting system on college campuses requires a stronger set of tools that would help survivors of sexual assault as well as protect the rights of the accused. That is why I have cosponsored the “Campus Accountability and Safety Act” with Senator McCASKILL.

It would establish new campus resources and support services for students, including: a requirement that colleges designate a confidential advi-

sor for survivors of sexual violence; new transparency and reporting requirements; coordination between colleges and local law enforcement; and protections for due process rights of survivors and the accused.

It would also increase financial penalties for colleges found not in compliance with the new standards.

Cases of sexual assault, which too often go unreported on college campuses and in our own communities, require sustained, collective attention by policymakers, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors.

Every student who heads off to a college campus in America deserves to know that there is a system in place to secure justice and due process for the victim and the accused.

Likewise, every young man and woman who serves his or her country in uniform deserves to know that sexual assault is a crime and will be treated and prosecuted as such.

In the last Congress, I cosponsored the bipartisan “Military Justice Improvement Act” with Senator GILLIBRAND.

The bill would empower enlisted soldiers and sailors to come forward and report a sexual crime.

It would create an independent system of justice within the ranks of the military.

It would remove the chain of command from prosecutorial decisions regarding sexual assault.

The fear of retaliation and retribution in the military has been a reality for too many survivors of sexual assault. The current system has created an environment that emboldens predators instead of empowering victims.

Barring access to fair and impartial justice pours salt in the wounds of those who have suffered immeasurable indignity and harm while serving their country in uniform. I will continue working to advance bipartisan measures through Congress to send a clear message. Sexual assault is a crime.

The sooner our culture and systems of justice on college campuses and in the Nation’s military work together to deter, prosecute, and stop sexual violence, the safer our society will be for America’s sons and daughters growing up in the 21st century.

In closing, crime victims and survivors in the United States deserve our assistance in helping them cope with the often devastating consequences of crime. That is why it is so important that we support the mission and goals of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting passage of this resolution.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 273, AS MODIFIED

Mr. President, for the leader, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up amendment No. 273 with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], for Mr. KIRK, for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, proposes an amendment numbered 273, as modified.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts)

At the appropriate place, add the following:

#### SECTION \_\_\_\_ . SAVE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2015” or the “SAVE Act of 2015”.

(b) ADVERTISING THAT OFFERS CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting “advertisements,” after “obtains,”.

(2) MENS REA REQUIREMENT.—Section 1591(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by inserting “, except where the act constituting the violation of paragraph (1) is advertising,” after “knowing, or”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1591(b) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “advertised,” after “obtained,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “advertised,” after “obtained,”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to speak in support of my amendment No. 294 to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It is important as part of our duties as stewards of the taxpayer money to ensure that the Federal Government is running as efficiently as possible. This is rooting out waste, duplications, and overlap where we find it in the Federal Government and in these programs.

This amendment simply requires the GAO—the Government Accountability Office—to study the programs and initiatives which are affected by this bill and those which are related to services for trafficking victims and other victims services. In particular, the amendment directs GAO to look for duplication and overlap and requires GAO to issue a report to Congress describing costs associated with them and to make recommendations on how to achieve cost savings.

I do support this legislation. I voted for it when it was considered by the Judiciary Committee. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that other programs that are affected by this legislation are studied to make sure we don’t have duplication, that we don’t have other programs that are doing the same things.

We need to make sure we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money. The GAO has considerable experience of this kind to do this type of analysis.

I look forward to having support for this amendment, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to thank my colleagues and to ask for their support for our first amendment, Klobuchar amendment No. 296. I understand it is going to be by voice vote, and it is something I have worked on for a long time.

I know everyone has put a lot of effort into this bill—certainly Senator CORNYN and I have—and we are very pleased that it is moving forward. I thank all my colleagues for their work.

This afternoon, I know we will be considering a number of important amendments, and, as I mentioned, one is the safe harbor legislation. I think we have 26 cosponsors on the bill.

Let's first get to why we are doing this bill. The United Nations considers human trafficking to be one of the three largest criminal enterprises in the world. The first is illegal trafficking of drugs, the second is illegal trafficking of guns, and the third is illegal trafficking of humans. It is not just something, as we know, that is happening in faraway lands. It happens in our own backyards. It has happened to 12-year-olds in my own State. As Senator HEITKAMP knows, it happens in the oil patches of North Dakota. That is why this bill and this amendment No. 296, which passed with the bill unanimously through the Judiciary Committee, are so important.

This is about treating the children who are victims of these crimes as victims because that is what they are. Right now, in many States around the country, these kids can still be prosecuted.

In a State such as mine, the State of Minnesota, we have in place a safe harbor law that has been very effective. Why? One, it gives the kids the services they need, whether it is through child protection, whether it is housing, whether it is getting the kind of medical care they need. That is what our bill does. On the other hand, if you just prosecute these kids, do you actually think they are going to turn against the person running the sex ring? Are they going to turn against the pimp? No. They are going to go right back into the hands of the person they were

with—the perpetrator—to begin with. In our State, we have had a lot of success with this safe harbor law. We have obtained one of the longest sentences ever—40 years—against someone who was running a sex ring because we give help to the victims of the crime.

As I said, there are 26 of my colleagues across the Senate who have cosponsored the bill. It has been an honor to work on the issue with Samantha Power, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Cindy McCain, wife of our colleague Senator MCCAIN. Senator HEITKAMP, Cindy McCain, and I went down to Mexico to talk with them about the partnership we have in going after these cases.

The amendment has the support of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Fraternal Order of Police, Shared Hope International, and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

As I said, this bill and this amendment simply create an incentive for States across the country to enact a safe harbor law. Fifteen States already have these laws. Another 12 States are making progress in that direction. The House passed a similar bill last year under the leadership of ERIK PAULSEN, one of the Congressmen from Minnesota.

Secondly, in addition to creating an incentive for these States to enact safe harbor laws, the bill also creates a national strategy to combat human trafficking. The national strategy will encourage cooperation and coordination among all the agencies that work on this problem—Federal, State, tribal, and local. That is a major part of the bill, and it wasn't in the House bill. We think it is very important.

The bill also gives sex trafficking victims the right support they need. It qualifies them for job-training programs. The bill allows victims of sex trafficking to participate in the Job Corps program to help them get back on their feet.

Senator CORNYN, who is the lead Republican on this amendment, and I were pleased to include a provision that Senators WHITEHOUSE and SESSIONS have been working on to clarify the authority of the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local law enforcement agencies in locating missing children.

That is what the amendment does. There are incentives for the safe harbor laws we have already seen in 15 States. There is a national sex trafficking strategy, which is something we dearly need as we see an increase in these kinds of crimes. It qualifies victims of these crimes for job-training programs. Finally, there is a provision to make it easier for the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local law enforcement, a measure proposed by Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator SESSIONS which is included in this amendment and which came through the committee.

I want to end by telling you what this is about. It is about a 12-year-old girl in Rochester who got a text message. The text message said she was invited to a party. The text said to go meet in a parking lot. She went there, and then she was thrown into a car, brought up to the Twin Cities, raped by a man, then sold on craigslist, sold for sex, and raped by two other men. Finally, weeks later, the guy who did this was found, and he is being prosecuted federally.

That is what this is about. These are serious crimes. The average age of a victim is 12 years old—not even old enough to go to a high school prom, not old enough to get a driver's license.

Again, I thank Senator CORNYN for his work. We worked together on both the bill as well as this amendment we are considering today. This has been a lot of work the last month, but I am so pleased we are advancing this important trafficking bill.

I see that the Senator from Maine is here. She has also been a leader in this area.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, let me commend Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for the work they have done on this antitrafficking bill.

This is, in fact, a horrendous crime. Just a few months ago in my home State, in Bangor, a couple was arrested for allegedly trafficking a 13-year-old girl. That is what we are talking about, and that is why this legislation is so important.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill, and I commend Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR and others for working so hard on it.

The antitrafficking bill deals with the law enforcement piece of this horrendous problem. But we also need to pay attention to prevention programs. That is why this afternoon we will vote on a proposal that Senator LEAHY and I, along with Senators HEITKAMP, AYOTTE, MURKOWSKI, and BALDWIN, have put forth to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs, which already have expired. They expired in 2013.

These are absolutely critical programs for preventing homeless youth and runaway youth from ending up in the hands of sex traffickers. The runaway and homeless youth programs are comprised of three programs: the Street Outreach Program, the Basic Center Program, and the Transitional Living Program. They have helped thousands of our homeless youth meet their immediate needs and provided long-term residential services for those who, sadly, cannot be reunited with their families.

The amendment that we are offering complements the underlying bill by addressing prevention, intervention, and recovery service for trafficking victims, particularly among the most vulnerable population—our homeless youth.

According to a 2013 report by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council, homelessness is one of the most common risk factors for sex trafficking. Without access to food, shelter, and social supports, homeless young people often turn to what is termed “survival sex;” that is, a way to trade sex for a place to sleep, for food, and for other basic necessities.

Another recent report found that one in four homeless youth are victims of sex trafficking or engage in survival sex. Our amendment strengthens the existing programs by ensuring that service providers know how to identify trafficking victims and give these youth the support they need. In many cases these services can prevent these homeless and runaway youth from becoming victims in the first place.

In Maine, our homeless shelters are critical partners in the fight to end human trafficking. In Portland, for example, the Preble Street Resource Center has used Runaway and Homeless Youth Act resources to connect youth who need food, shelter, health services, and educational support. The Preble Street Anti-trafficking Coalition is currently helping approximately 50 trafficking victims whose ages range from 14 to 42. They enable them to start new lives.

New Beginnings, a great program in Lewiston, ME, and the Shaw House in Bangor, ME, are other organizations that have successfully leveraged Federal grants from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program to provide shelter and services to homeless youth in my State. With this kind of support, young people can make their way off the street and away from criminals who will exploit them at a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

There are more than 1.6 million homeless teens in our country—a truly astonishing number. A growing number of these homeless youth identify themselves as LGBT. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of runaway or homeless youth are LGBT. Some of them have been kicked out of their own homes. Others have felt that there has been no place for them in their community. Our amendment would help ensure that those seeking services through the federally funded programs are not denied assistance based on their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

All homeless young people need access to safe beds at night and services during the day so that they never have to choose between selling their bodies and a safe place to sleep. I would like

to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator HEITKAMP for being so passionate about this issue. They have worked with me to incorporate important feedback into our amendment, particularly from faith-based organizations.

In fact, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, a letter be printed that I have from numerous faith-based organizations endorsing our amendment. These organizations represent millions of people in all 50 States. They urge us to pass our legislation with that nondiscrimination clause intact.

They include, for example: Covenant House International, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Interfaith Alliance, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Metropolitan Community Churches, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, and many others that are backing our amendment.

We have clarified that providers can still provide and offer sex-specific shelters and programming. By that, I mean all-girl shelters or all-boy shelters. The nondiscrimination clause is modeled—it is virtually identical to a provision enacted into law during the last Congress through the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act. Nothing, nothing in our amendment alters the ability of faith-based providers to give preference in hiring to people of their same faith.

The stand-alone bill on which our amendment is based was reported out of the Judiciary Committee last Congress by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 15 to 3. It has the support of nearly 270 organizations including, as I mentioned, many faith-based providers that serve homeless youth, other service providers, and antitrafficking groups. They all strongly support the reauthorization of these prevention, intervention, and treatment programs.

Our health care workers in Maine are also tremendous partners in helping to address trafficking crimes and their victims. Saint Joseph Hospital in Bangor has educated its clinicians to identify the signs of human trafficking among their patients. Congress must do more both to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to pursue sex trafficking, but we cannot forget those prevention and intervention programs that are provided by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program.

By giving homeless youth the support and the services they need, we can help prevent them from becoming trafficked in the first place. These programs have provided lifesaving services and housing for America's homeless and runaway youth for 40 years. They are vital in addressing this serious problem. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment that Senator LEAHY and I, Senator HEITKAMP, Senator AYOTTE, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator BALDWIN are offering today. It is so important.

Again, I want to especially thank Senator HEITKAMP for all of her advocacy. She has done tremendous work.

I am very happy to yield the floor for her.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 11, 2015.

DEAR SENATORS: As faith-based organizations representing millions of people in all 50 states across our nation, we are writing today regarding the Runaway Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. Based on the values of our diverse faith traditions, we are committed to ensuring that all victims of violence have equal access to justice, strong legal protections and can access the lifesaving services they need to move from crisis to stability. We urge you to pass this legislation with the nondiscrimination clause intact. Federal funds should not be used to discriminate.

In times of crisis, victims often turn to their faith communities and leaders for guidance and support. Faith leaders are on the front lines each day identifying victims, providing refuge, referring victims and their families to programs and services for homeless and trafficked youth, and offering hope and healing. Part of meeting these needs includes respecting the religious liberty of those receiving services.

A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that 46% of homeless youth had run away from home because of physical abuse and 17% because of sexual abuse. A growing number of homeless youth identify as LGBT, and it is estimated that they comprise up to 40% of the runaway homeless youth (RHY) population. We believe that ALL vulnerable young people should have access to programs designed to stop the cycle of victimization and provide comprehensive solutions. Federal grantees must be prohibited from discriminating against any youth based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to working with faith communities to support vulnerable young people and victims of trafficking. We look forward to working with you to swiftly pass the Runaway Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.

Sincerely,

Catholics for Choice, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, Covenant House International, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Global Faith and Justice Project, Global Justice Institute, Interfaith Alliance, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Metropolitan Community Churches, National Council of Jewish Women;

National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Religious Institute, Society for Humanistic Judaism, The General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church, The Jewish Federations of North America, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to add my voice to all of the accolades that have been expressed today to

Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for giving a voice to the victims of the most horrific crime that occurs in our country; those are the victims of human trafficking. Without their hard work, without their advocacy, we would not be debating this on the floor of the Senate. So it is so important to acknowledge that work and to advance the cause by working together.

Today, I wish to speak to amendment No. 290, which is the Collins-Leahy runaway and homeless youth amendment. I want to thank Senator COLLINS and Senator LEAHY for being such fierce advocates for runaway and homeless youth. I have had years of experience working with victims and vulnerable youth. I can tell you based on this experience that this amendment is the most critical piece that we are considering today to truly address prevention and early intervention for a population that is the most susceptible to being trafficked; that is the population of runaway and homeless youth.

It is a story I believe is too often told. It is a story of a runaway and homeless youth engaging in survival sex, being coerced into criminal activity by people offering nothing more than a roof over their head or maybe even a meal. Since 1995, North Dakota has received \$11.5 million in this very critical and important prevention program. How many of these children have we rescued from a life of despair? We will never know.

But I am certain, telling those stories and visiting them in the shelters and in their apartments that are transitory living situations, that they would otherwise be so extraordinarily vulnerable. I have heard firsthand the stories of these homeless and runaway youth. The stories that you hear are literally heartbreaking. With prior physical, mental, and sexual abuse, these runaway and homeless youth have already been devalued. They have already been told that they are not worth what other children are worth. They have substance addictions. They have been shunned by their family or communities for who they are and how they identify. They are the most marginalized children in our country.

Last July, a 13-year-old runaway from Minneapolis was picked up by her traffickers in the Cities and then worked her way across—she was heading off to the oil patch in western North Dakota. She stopped in Fargo-Moorhead to make some money on the way, being trafficked by a man who was selling a 13-year old for sex online through backpage.com. Fargo-Moorhead law enforcement set up a sting and rescued the victim and arrested the trafficker.

Just 2 weeks ago, there was another tragic story of a 14-year old—a 14-year old runaway from Las Vegas. Her parents did not know where she was. She

got mixed up in the wrong crowd. She was put in a car and taken to Minot, ND. Her mother, desperate to find her, searched through her email records, found a connection to Backpage, and saw that her daughter was being advertised on Backpage in Minot, ND. She called the local authorities. The local authorities were able to rescue her.

She was rescued with a 16-year-old and returned to Las Vegas. She is now with her mother. The 16-year-old got off the plane and ran—got off the plane and ran. There was no hope for her, no place to return that was welcoming, no mother who searched for her on the Internet and found her.

As we work through these stories, I want you to think about what is the common element, what is the common factor. You look behind these stories, and you will see in these stories of trafficking runaway and homeless youth—runaway and homeless youth—vulnerable, on the street, susceptible to a warm bed, susceptible to a hot meal, susceptible to any kind of love and comfort they can find, only to find out that it might be their worst nightmare.

They are trapped, and where do they go? Where do they go if there is not a program for runaway and homeless youth? Where do they go if someone is not reaching out a hand? So what has become a common recurring fact of these offenders or these victims is that they have been thrown away or they are runaways.

Forty percent, we estimate, of these children, identify themselves as gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual youth.

If we pass an amendment that doesn't have protection for this population, that doesn't have protection for these children, what is the message? The message is the message that has been reinforced their entire life, which is that they are not worthy of help, they are not worthy of being treated as all other children are.

So this Senate will reinforce the recurring message that is so tragically identified and so tragically delivered to these children every day.

I urge my colleagues, I beg my colleagues to please recognize the worth of all children. Recognize the vulnerability of this population of children.

Vote with us to support the Leahy-Collins amendment. It is so critical to sending the right message, so critical to giving the right services, but so critical to sending the right message that all children matter and that we in the Senate do not see or discriminate. What we do is we help provide shelter to the most vulnerable among us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for her very, very strong statement.

We sometimes talk about numbers and this and that. It is when you talk

about real cases that we understand what we are talking about here. We are going to consider two amendments related to preventing human trafficking of runaway and homeless youth.

Senator CORNYN's amendment speaks to this effort, but it is not a meaningful alternative to the comprehensive amendment that Senator COLLINS and I will offer. Our amendment No. 290, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, has the support of 30 bipartisan cosponsors.

Senator CORNYN has said that no effort to end human trafficking can be complete without addressing the needs of runaway and homeless youth. I agree and that is why amendment No. 290 is so important. In fact, when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted on this legislation last year, it received the vote of almost every single member, including Senator CORNYN.

In our hearings since then, I have listened to the stories of survivors. Some have been in my office and some have been in the offices of other Senators, and they talked about this. So many of them begin the same way. They are a homeless or a runaway teen, scared, desperate for affection and a safe place to sleep, especially if they are somewhere in inclement weather.

Traffickers know this. They prey on that desperation. They know there are so very few places these children can turn to.

A recent survey found that one in four—now, think of this—homeless youth had been victims of sex trafficking or they have traded sex for survival needs such as food or a place to sleep. Just think of this. They are the age of our children or our grandchildren.

This is a human issue. In fact, a survey found that 50 percent of homeless youth had been solicited for sex by an adult within 48 hours of leaving home. Just think of that—half of these homeless kids were solicited by an adult within the first 2 days of leaving home.

I am talking about kids 12, 13, 14 years old. They have nowhere to go, but we can at least, through this legislation, make sure they have a safe place to turn. That is what our amendment does.

Senator CORNYN's amendment is not a good alternative. The amendment I am offering assures that homeless youth providers are specifically trained to recognize victims of trafficking, address the unique trauma, and refer them to the appropriate care and services.

It also lengthens the time they can stay in shelters or receive services. Look at what happens if they are forced back out of those shelters. How long does it take for traffickers to grab them?

The amendment includes important new efforts to encourage family reunification and allows the person to define



the people they consider family. This is particularly important as runaway children are often estranged from their parents.

Senator CORNYN's amendment does not have the crucial nondiscrimination provision that is in my amendment. This language would prevent the discrimination against youth based on their race, their color, their religion, their national origin, their sex, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, or their disability.

It is almost identical to a provision contained in the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which passed the Senate with 78 votes. It passed the Republican-controlled House overwhelmingly and was signed into law.

You may not like to think about this, but the reason this language is particularly important is because a growing number of these homeless and runaway youth identify as LGBT.

Many, sadly, have been thrown out of their homes precisely for that reason. They have been rejected by their parents. No child should face that kind of isolation or rejection—no matter what.

I am a parent. I am a grandparent. I find it heartbreaking that a child could be turned out of their home and then turned away by a service provider. We shouldn't allow organizations to take Federal funds and then turn their backs against these kids because of their race or their religion or whom they love. That is why I can't understand why the side-by-side amendment offered had the nondiscrimination protections for these children stripped from it.

I urge all Senators to support my bipartisan amendment.

I thank Senators COLLINS and HEITKAMP for their steadfast and very strong support. We have to support the efforts of dedicated service providers. They make these programs work. We have to protect these kids. The most important thing is not being in a position where the only time we can act is after someone has been trafficked. Let's prevent them from being trafficked in the first place.

Prevention will cost money, but it is going to save lives, and it is going to prevent the far more costly effects of human trafficking. This is smart money—we ought to be able and ready to invest in our children. We have to include the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act in our efforts to prevent more of our kids from becoming victims.

I have said it so many times on this floor that I almost grow weary of hearing myself saying it. I have prosecuted some of these cases. And it was nowhere near the problem, when I was a prosecutor, that it is today throughout this country.

I still have nightmares from what we saw. This Senator hopes that someday,

under this legislation, if we work hard enough, none of us will have these nightmares.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the question really comes down to this: Do we want provider services to homeless and runaway youth to be able to turn away at the door a 13-year-old girl simply because of her sexual orientation? That is what this comes down to, and I think the answer is no if that provider is receiving Federal funds. It shouldn't matter, and we should be willing to stand and say that we want to help all youth stay out of the clutches of these truly evil sex traffickers. That is what this is about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 290

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 290.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY], for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR, proposes an amendment numbered 290.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 11, 2015, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will speak briefly in support of the remarks of the Senator from Maine and the Senator from Vermont.

The Cornyn approach on runaway and homeless youth excludes language that would prohibit discrimination against the recipients of these services because of their sexual orientation. How can we have reached that point in the Senate?

Haven't we engaged in a national debate that centered on Indiana and other States? Haven't we decided in America that, regardless, we aren't going to allow discrimination against

people because of sexual orientation? Sadly, this Cornyn amendment excludes language that prohibits discrimination against LGBT youth.

Secondly, to fund a less than \$1 billion a year program, the Senator from Texas is eliminating a \$10 billion health prevention fund, which serves 50 States to deal with infectious disease and serious health issues.

This is, sadly, an effort to attack ObamaCare, and it shouldn't be done in this important legislation. We have wasted 4 weeks on an extraneous issue. Let us stick to the basic issue before us.

Defeat the Cornyn amendment and support the amendment being offered by Senator COLLINS and Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1127

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 1127.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 1127.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "for fiscal year 2009," and all that follows through the period and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.,";

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013." and inserting "\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.,"; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking "for fiscal year 2009" and all that follows through the period and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.,".

(b) OFFSET; REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) is repealed.

(2) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under such section 4002, the unobligated balances are rescinded.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection takes effect on October 1, 2015.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I could just say in the next 30 seconds or so that the first amendment we will vote on reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which is something that we all support, which permits treatment of victims of human



trafficking without discrimination. It also happens to be paid for, something that the Leahy amendment is not.

Right now, most faith-based organizations, such as Catholic Charities, treat all victims of human trafficking without regard to sexual orientation, gender issues, and the like—as I am proud to say they should.

But there is nothing—we have been told that the various faith-based organizations worry that the Federal Government is basically going to intervene and tell them whom they can hire and what their administration and implementation practices must be. That is why almost uniformly, faith-based organizations that would be eligible for the grants to help the victims of human trafficking say that this would render this administration of this victims trafficking fund legislation unworkable.

I ask my colleagues to support the Cornyn amendment, to vote against the Leahy amendment, and let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there any time remaining on this amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining in opposition.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in opposition to the Cornyn amendment, let me say this. Up to forty percent of the overall homeless youth population identify as LGBT, and many have reported that they have been subjected to service denial and discrimination by staff and providers based on their sexual orientation. The Leahy-Collins alternative expressly prohibits discrimination against youth because of their sexual orientation. That should be the gold standard.

Defeat the Cornyn amendment and vote for the bipartisan Collins-Leahy amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1127, offered by the Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Leg.]

#### YEAS—45

Alexander	Blunt	Burr
Barrasso	Boozman	Cassidy

Coats  
Cochran  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Daines  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Fischer  
Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley

Hatch  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Lankford  
Lee  
McCain  
McConnell  
Moran  
Paul  
Perdue

Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Sessions  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Vitter  
Wicker

#### NAYS—53

Ayotte  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Boxer  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Capito  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Collins  
Coons  
Donnelly  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Flake

Franken  
Gillibrand  
Heinrich  
Heitkamp  
Hirono  
Kaine  
King  
Kirk  
Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Manchin  
Markey  
McCaskill  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Mikulski  
Murkowski  
Murphy

Murray  
Nelson  
Peters  
Portman  
Reed  
Reid  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—2

Cruz  
Shelby

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 290

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 290, offered by the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, my bipartisan amendment to prevent human trafficking includes important language to prohibit discrimination against homeless children.

The language should be familiar to most Senators here. It is nearly identical to what we voted for overwhelmingly as part of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization 2 years ago. It shouldn't be controversial. We should reaffirm our commitment to nondiscrimination. All children—all children—deserve our protection. We should not be picking and choosing, saying: This child deserves protection, this one doesn't. They all deserve our protection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I urge a "no" vote on the Leahy amendment.

I agree with the senior Senator from Vermont that all victims of human trafficking should be treated with the dignity they deserve without regard to sexual orientation or any discrimination. That is what the Cornyn amendment we just voted on would do.

What we are told by faith-based organizations that provide many of these services is that the Leahy language would make rendition of those services difficult, if not impossible. There is

some debate whether it would also intrude on hiring practices and whether people could actually be hired in faith-based organizations if they didn't agree with some of the services that are rendered here.

Finally, the Leahy amendment would authorize \$115 million of spending that it is not paid for and thus would increase the deficit. A number of organizations, such as the Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Religious Broadcasters, National Association of Evangelicals, among other religious organizations, urge a "no" vote on the Leahy amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, how much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Fifteen seconds.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the question before us is very clear: If you believe runaway and homeless youth should receive services that are federally funded without regard to their sexual orientation, you should vote yes on this amendment. The Cornyn amendment does not prohibit discrimination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask that all votes be kept to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 290, offered by the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Leg.]

#### YEAS—56

Ayotte	Heinrich	Paul
Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Heller	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Sullivan
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Toomey
Coons	Merkley	Udall
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	

## NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Gardner	Roberts
Boozman	Graham	Rounds
Burr	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Daines	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

## NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The Senator from Ohio.

## AMENDMENT NO. 311

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up Brown amendment No. 311.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. BALDWIN, proposes an amendment numbered 311.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To direct the Attorney General to increase the amount provided under certain formula grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE —RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY**

**SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Rape Survivor Child Custody Act”.

**SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) COVERED FORMULA GRANT.—The term “covered formula grant” means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program”); or

(B) section 41601 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043g) (commonly referred to as the “Sexual Assault Services Program”).

(2) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “termination” means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent’s right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the

amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants under this title, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

**SEC. 03. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and, as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in *Santosky v. Kramer* (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

**SEC. 04. INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this title if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

**SEC. 05. APPLICATION.**

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section 04.

**SEC. 06. GRANT INCREASE.**

The amount of the increase provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title shall be equal to not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under the covered formula grants under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

**SEC. 07. PERIOD OF INCREASE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title for a 2-year period.

(b) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not provide an increase in the amount provided

to a State under the covered formula grants under this title more than 4 times.

**SEC. 08. ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.**

The Attorney General shall allocate an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title such that—

(1) 25 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 02(1)(A); and

(2) 75 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 02(1)(B).

**SEC. 09. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 311, offered by the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, women who give birth to a child conceived through rape can often face intimidation from attackers who—believe it or not—pursue parental rights.

I was first moved to introduce this bill following the case of Ariel Castro in Cleveland. He was on trial for kidnapping, raping, and holding prisoner three women for a decade and then he asked the judge for parental rights to visit the 6-year-old daughter who was conceived through his rape.

Madam President, the Brown-Ayotte-Shaheen-Gillibrand-Baldwin amendment helps protect rape survivors by encouraging States to pass laws allowing women to petition for the termination of their attacker’s parental rights if there is clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through the rape.

Madam President, I yield 1 minute to my colleague from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I thank Senator BROWN. This is a very important amendment.

If you are for supporting victims, protecting life and children and against rapists, vote for this amendment. Unfortunately, rapists too often try to manipulate their victims by claiming custodial rights over children, and we need to stand with victims on this issue and allow States to be incentivized to allow victims to terminate their parental rights should they choose to have a child and to raise that child without having the threat of a rapist over their shoulder.

I ask for support on this amendment, and I thank all of my colleagues. This is a commonsense bill, and I thank Senator BROWN for his leadership.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 311, offered by the Senator from Ohio.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Leg.]

#### YEAS—99

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1121

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 1121, offered by the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, we yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. BURR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1121, offered by the Senator from North Carolina.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Leg.]

#### YEAS—98

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Sessions
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 273, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 273, as modified, offered by the Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on amendment No. 273. It stands for the principle that freedom on the Internet is not the freedom to enslave others.

I want to make sure this country stands for the principles under the 13th Amendment that we enshrined with Lincoln's victory in the Civil War, and I urge all Members to adopt this amendment by a strong, substantial vote to pass the SAVE Act to make sure that providers of human traffic services do not have freedom to advertise on the Internet.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as the Democratic sponsor of this amendment, I would like to thank the distinguished Senator from Illinois for his leadership on this issue. The fact is, this amendment is essentially the same as the House stand-alone bill that passed unanimously.

Members, it is a fact that approximately 76 percent of sex trafficking of underage girls takes place on the Internet—76 percent.

We know at least 19 Web sites that post ads for commercial sex acts with children. They are paid for so doing.

The amendment essentially does two things. It adds the word "advertises" as one of the sex trafficking offense verbs. Second, it clarifies that only the "knowing" intent and not the "reckless disregard of the fact" intent applies to the new offense.

We have checked with the Department of Justice. We believe it meets constitutional standards. We believe it is necessary and is long overdue. I urge an "aye" vote of all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 273, as modified, offered by the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

#### YEAS—97

Alexander	Franken	Nelson
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	
Flake	Murray	

#### NAYS—2

Cantwell Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment, as modified, is agreed to.

The majority whip.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 296; 299, AS MODIFIED; 279; 1126; 294; 308; 1128; 310; 312; 1122; AND 303

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up the following amendments en bloc: Klobuchar No. 296; Hoeven No. 299, as modified; Sullivan No. 279; Wicker No. 1126; Flake No. 294; Cassidy No. 308; Portman No. 1128; Brown No. 310; Brown No. 312; Heller No. 1122; and Shaheen No. 303.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for others, proposes amendments numbered 296; 299, as modified; 279; 1126; 294; 308; 1128; 310; 312; 1122; and 303.

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 296

(Purpose: To stop exploitation through trafficking)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

#### TITLE IV—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

##### SEC. 401. SAFE HARBOR INCENTIVES.

Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1701(c), by striking “where feasible” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “where feasible, to an application—

“(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

“(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law that—

“(A) treats a minor who has engaged in, or has attempted to engage in, a commercial sex act as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

“(B) discourages or prohibits the charging or prosecution of an individual described in subparagraph (A) for a prostitution or sex trafficking offense, based on the conduct described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) encourages the diversion of an individual described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate service providers, including child welfare services, victim treatment programs, child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, or other social services.”; and

(2) in section 1709, by inserting at the end the following:

“(5) ‘commercial sex act’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(6) ‘minor’ means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

“(7) ‘severe form of trafficking in persons’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”.

##### SEC. 402. REPORT ON RESTITUTION PAID IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Section 105(d)(7)(Q) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)(Q)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “1590,” the following: “1591,”;

(2) by striking “and 1594” and inserting “1594, 2251, 2251A, 2421, 2422, and 2423”;

(3) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end; and

(5) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) the number of individuals required by a court order to pay restitution in connection with a violation of each offense under title 18, United States Code, the amount of restitution required to be paid under each such order, and the amount of restitution actually paid pursuant to each such order; and

“(vii) the age, gender, race, country of origin, country of citizenship, and description of the role in the offense of individuals convicted under each offense; and”.

##### SEC. 403. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.

Section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Victims of Crime Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Subject” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, and in each fiscal year thereafter, of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for a national communication system to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons in communicating with service providers. The Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience in providing telephone services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.”.

##### SEC. 404. JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY.

Section 144(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)). Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an individual described in this subparagraph shall not be required to demonstrate eligibility under such paragraph.”.

##### SEC. 405. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

Section 566(e)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.”.

##### SEC. 406. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall implement and maintain a National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the “National Strategy”) in accordance with this section.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The National Strategy shall include the following:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including—

(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate

the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;

(B) the appointment of not fewer than 1 assistant United States attorney in each district dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking cases or responsible for implementing the National Strategy;

(C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and

(D) any other efforts intended to enhance the level of coordination and cooperation, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) Case coordination within the Department of Justice, including specific integration, coordination, and collaboration, as appropriate, on human trafficking investigations between and among the United States attorneys, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Annual budget priorities and Federal efforts dedicated to preventing and combating human trafficking, including resources dedicated to the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other entities that receive Federal support that have a goal or mission to combat the exploitation of adults and children.

(4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking.

(5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 299, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To ensure that eligible entities that have only recently begun collecting data on child human trafficking are not precluded from being awarded certain grants)

On page 60, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

“(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES SOLICITING DATA ON CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—No eligible entity shall be disadvantaged in being awarded a grant under subsection (a) on the grounds that the eligible entity has only recently begun soliciting data on child human trafficking.”.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 279

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General of the United States to grant certain requests by State attorneys general to cross designate State and local attorneys to prosecute individuals for sex trafficking)

At the end, add the following:

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES.

Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking section 2421 and inserting the following:

##### “§ 2421. Transportation generally

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense,

or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

“(b) REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a request by a State attorney general that a State or local attorney be cross designated to prosecute a violation of this section unless the Attorney General determines that granting the request would undermine the administration of justice.

“(2) REASON FOR DENIAL.—If the Attorney General denies a request under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the State attorney general a detailed reason for the denial not later than 60 days after the date on which a request is received.”.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1126

(Purpose: To direct the Attorney General to create a publicly accessible database for trafficking victims advocates that contains information about services for trafficking survivors)

At the end of title I, add the following:

#### SEC. 118. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

- (1) counseling and hotline resources;
- (2) housing resources;
- (3) legal assistance; and
- (4) other services for trafficking survivors.

#### SEC. 119. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose.” and inserting “not later than the later of—

- “(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or
- “(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.”.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 294

(Purpose: To require a GAO study on the programs authorized by the bill)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on each program or initiative authorized under this Act and the following statutes and evaluate whether any program or initiative is duplicative:

- (1) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-164; 119 Stat. 3558).
- (2) Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).
- (3) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.).
- (4) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).
- (5) Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—

- (1) a description of the cost of any duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a); and

- (2) recommendations on how to achieve cost savings with respect to each duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a).

#### AMENDMENT NO. 308

(Purpose: To provide for the development and dissemination of evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking and respond to such individuals appropriately, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### TITLE \_\_\_\_ —TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_02. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

(a) GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in consultation with the Administration on Children and Families and other agencies with experience in serving victims of human trafficking, shall award, on a competitive basis, a grant or contract to an eligible entity to train health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall develop evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking, including—

(A) consultation with law enforcement officials, social service providers, health professionals, experts in the field of human trafficking, and other experts, as appropriate, to inform the development of such best practices;

(B) the identification of any existing best practices or tools for health professionals to recognize potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(C) the development of educational materials to train health care professionals on the best practices developed under this subsection.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Best practices developed under this subsection shall address—

- (A) risk factors and indicators to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking;
- (B) patient safety and security;
- (C) the management of medical records of patients who are victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(D) public and private social services available for rescue, food, clothing, and shelter referrals;

(E) the hotlines for reporting human trafficking maintained by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) validated assessment tools for the identification of victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(G) referral options and procedures for sharing information on human trafficking with a patient and making referrals for legal and social services as appropriate.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall design and implement a pilot program to test the best practices and educational materials identified or developed with respect to the recognition of victims of human trafficking by

health professionals at health care sites located near an established anti-human trafficking task force initiative in each of the 10 administrative regions of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) ANALYSIS AND REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which an entity implements a pilot program under paragraph (4), the entity shall—

(A) analyze the results of the pilot programs, including through an assessment of—

- (i) changes in the skills, knowledge, and attitude of health care professionals resulting from the implementation of the program;
- (ii) the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking who were identified under the program;

(iii) of those victims identified, the number who received information or referrals for services offered; and

(iv) of those victims who received such information or referrals—

(I) the number who participated in follow up services; and

(II) the type of follow up services received;

(B) determine, using the results of the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A), the extent to which the best practices developed under this subsection are evidence-based; and

(C) submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report concerning the pilot program and the analysis of the pilot program under subparagraph (A), including an identification of the best practices that were identified as effective and those that require further review.

(b) DISSEMINATION.—Not later than 30 months after date on which a grant is awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) collaborate with appropriate professional associations and health care professional schools to disseminate best practices identified or developed under subsection (a) for purposes of recognizing potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(2) post on the public website of the Department of Health and Human Services the best practices that are identified by the as effective under subsection (a)(5).

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_03. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term “eligible entity” means an accredited school of medicine or nursing with experience in the study or treatment of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) The term “eligible site” means a health center that is receiving assistance under section 330, 399Z-1, or 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 280h-5, and 300).

(3) The term “health care professional” means a person employed by a health care provider who provides to patients information (including information not related to medical treatment), scheduling, services, or referrals.

(4) The term “HIPAA privacy and security law” has the meaning given to such term in section 3009 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-19).

(5) The term “victim of a severe form of trafficking” has the meaning given to such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_04. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, and this title shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1128

(Purpose: To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE IV—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**

**SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking”.

**SEC. 402. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10))); and

“(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).”.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

“(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of ‘child’ in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting “(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)” after “sexual abuse or exploitation”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of

section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking “inhuman;” and inserting “inhumane.”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 312

(Purpose: To allow grants under the victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program to be used for assisting law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth)

On page 57, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(3) activities of law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth, including salaries and associated expenses for retired Federal law enforcement officers assisting the law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth; and

## AMENDMENT NO. 312

(Purpose: To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons, and for other purposes)

At the end of title II, add the following:

**Subtitle D—Expanded Training**

**SEC. 231. EXPANDED TRAINING RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.**

Section 105(c)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Appropriate personnel” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Appropriate personnel”; (2) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by inserting “, including members of the Service (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903))” after “Department of State”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) TRAINING COMPONENTS.—Training under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State’s obligations under this Act, which shall be designed for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus’ trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;

“(ii) specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before such individuals depart for their posts; and

“(iii) at least annual reminders to all personnel referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of—

“(I) key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located; and

“(II) appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1122

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**TITLE IV—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL**

**SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term “human trafficking” means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

**SEC. 402. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department’s initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

**SEC. 403. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

**SEC. 404. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a

program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

**SEC. 405. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.**

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).”.

**AMENDMENT NO. 303**

(Purpose: To aid human trafficking victims' recovery and rehabilitation)

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE —HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT**

**SECTION 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 02. PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.**

Section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(c)) is amended by striking “where feasible” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “where feasible, to an application—

“(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

“(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law—

“(A) that—

“(i) provides a process by which an individual who is a human trafficking survivor can move to vacate any arrest or conviction records for a non-violent offense committed as a direct result of human trafficking, including prostitution or lewdness;

“(ii) establishes a rebuttable presumption that any arrest or conviction of an individual for an offense associated with human trafficking is a result of being trafficked, if the individual—

“(I) is a person granted nonimmigrant status pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(T)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(i));

“(II) is the subject of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)); or

“(III) has other similar documentation of trafficking, which has been issued by a Federal, State, or local agency; and

“(iii) protects the identity of individuals who are human trafficking survivors in public and court records; and

“(B) that does not require an individual who is a human trafficking survivor to provide official documentation as described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii) in order to receive protection under the law.”.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators SULLIVAN, CASSIDY, WICKER, KLOBUCHAR, and PORTMAN each be recognized to speak for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

**AMENDMENT NO. 279**

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of amendment No. 279, the Mann Act cooperation amendment. This is a simple amendment with strong bipartisan support.

I appreciate the cosponsors, Senators MURKOWSKI, AYOTTE, HEITKAMP, and GILLIBRAND.

What this amendment will do, it will increase prosecutions of human trafficking without an increase in cost. It allows and encourages Federal prosecutors to work with State officials to prosecute Mann Act violations and increases transparency.

The key goal of this amendment is to enable the resources and cooperation between State and Federal prosecutors to ensure all cases of human trafficking are pursued and victims have justice.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1126**

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the underlying bill. I thank the leadership on both sides for coming to a bipartisan agreement, and I thank the leadership for agreeing to take the Wicker amendment by a voice vote.

My amendment does two things. Simply, it extends the statute of limitations to allow child victims to file civil lawsuits against perpetrators up to 10 years after they reach the age of 18, rather than 10 years after the cause of action arises. Secondly, my amendment creates a Department of Justice data base for education and outreach. Trafficking is a complex issue, and it will take a comprehensive approach to facility adequate support for victims.

That is what the Wicker amendment does.

I urge an “aye” vote when we take it by voice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1128**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express strong support for the underlying bill and also my appreciation to the managers of the bill for including the en bloc amendments. One I offered is entitled the “Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking,” part of a larger bill we passed last year.

This one ensures all children who are sex-trafficked will be classified as child abuse victims for purposes of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Currently, sex trafficking of a minor is not considered child abuse unless a parent or caregiver was directly involved in the child's exploitation. This amendment clarifies that a child victim of sex trafficking is a victim of child abuse and, therefore, can be eligible for the services as they recover.

Over the past couple of days, we have made some great progress, including

putting aside partisan divides in coming together to combat human trafficking, a heinous criminal industry that all of us want to stop.

I am proud my bringing missing children home legislation with Senator SCHUMER, as well as my Combat Human Trafficking Act with Senator FEINSTEIN is on the floor and have been included in the underlying bill. We have made a lot of progress, and we are a few steps closer to actually ending trafficking for once and for all.

I particularly congratulate Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for their hard work in bringing this to the floor and doing something important to fight human trafficking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

**AMENDMENT NO. 296**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am speaking in favor of the Klobuchar-Cornyn amendment No. 296. This is a very important policy amendment.

It basically encourages States across the country—we already have 15 States doing this—not to prosecute victims of sex trafficking and to treat them as victims—not as criminals—so they don't end up in jail.

It also sets forth a national sex-trafficking strategy. It also qualifies these victims for job training programs. Then, finally, it includes a very important bill that Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator SESSIONS had that helps Federal marshals to track down victims of sex trafficking.

I thank my coauthor and all 26 cosponsors of this amendment. Senator CORNYN—I know we will talk later about the underlying bill, but this is a bipartisan effort from beginning to end and a very important policy bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

**AMENDMENT NO. 308**

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise in favor of the Cassidy-Peters amendment.

I am a physician who has been working in a public hospital for 30 years. I am aware the following is true: 90 percent of victims in a recent survey saw a nurse or doctor or other health care professional while being held captive.

If those health care workers had the training and tools to identify the signs and symptoms of those being trafficked, they can make the appropriate referral and help them escape that terrible existence.

This amendment will provide for the development of best practices to enable health care workers to recognize and assist victims of human trafficking.

If passed today, this will help women and children in Louisiana, Michigan, and across the Nation rebuild their lives.

I thank Senator PETERS for joining this effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.



Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 296

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the Klobuchar amendment No. 296.

The amendment (No. 296) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 299, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Hoeven amendment No. 299, as modified.

The amendment (No. 299), as modified, was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 279

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sullivan amendment No. 279.

The amendment (No. 279) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1126

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Wicker amendment No. 1126.

The amendment (No. 1126) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 294

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Flake amendment No. 294.

The amendment (No. 294) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 308

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Cassidy amendment No. 308.

The amendment (No. 308) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1128

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Portman amendment No. 1128.

The amendment (No. 1128) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 310

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Brown amendment No. 310.

The amendment (No. 310) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 312

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Brown amendment No. 312.

The amendment (No. 312) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1122

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Heller amendment No. 1122.

The amendment (No. 1122) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 303

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Shaheen amendment No. 303.

The amendment (No. 303) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator

from Minnesota and I be permitted to speak for up to 1 minute each prior to the vote on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I first of all want to thank Senator CORNYN. We have been working on these bills for over 1 year. I want to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY for their leadership on the Judiciary Committee, Senator MURRAY for her work in negotiating this agreement and working with us, as well as so many other people who have been involved in working on this bill.

Through the last month, I think every so often people have forgotten what this really is about. This is about victims of sex trafficking, with an average age of 12 years old—not even old enough to get their own driver's license, not even old enough to go to a high school prom. Yet this is happening all over the country, from the oil patches of North Dakota to the suburbs of Minneapolis.

What this bill does and what this Senate is doing today is saying we want to be there in our country for these victims. We are going to pay for services. We are actually going to change some policies so that when we go to the rest of the world and look at something that is now the third biggest international criminal enterprise in the world, when we look at what Boko Haram is doing in Nigeria and in other countries, we can hold our heads up high and say that in the Senate we are finally doing something about this and our country is united across party lines against this practice.

Again, I thank Senator CORNYN for what he has done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Winston Churchill supposedly once said: The Americans always do the right thing after they exhaust every other possibility. And you might say the same thing about the Senate when it comes to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This has been a long strange journey here to final passage, but here we are. And we have kept our focus all along on the victims—typically, a girl of 12 to 14 years old who has been sex trafficked and who has been treated as a common object and enslaved.

This is a terrible, heinous crime, but one that most of us don't see because it operates outside of our vision and our experience. We are throwing a lifeline to these victims of human trafficking by providing them real resources to help them—to help first to rescue them and then to help them heal.

This is a good day for the Senate because we are doing the right thing for people who have no voice. We are their

voice, and we are going to get this done in a way that provides them some real help.

I want to thank all of our colleagues here on a bipartisan basis. It was a rocky trip here. But we got here. That is what counts, because we are providing necessary and needed help for these victims of human trafficking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, to S. 178 is agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The bill (S. 178), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 178

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Sec. 101. Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

Sec. 102. Clarifying the benefits and protections offered to domestic victims of human trafficking.

Sec. 103. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.

Sec. 104. Direct services for victims of child pornography.

Sec. 105. Increasing compensation and restitution for trafficking victims.

Sec. 106. Streamlining human trafficking investigations.

Sec. 107. Enhancing human trafficking reporting.

Sec. 108. Reducing demand for sex trafficking.

Sec. 109. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 110. Using existing task forces and components to target offenders who exploit children.

Sec. 111. Targeting child predators.

Sec. 112. Monitoring all human traffickers as violent criminals.

Sec. 113. Crime victims' rights.

Sec. 114. Combat Human Trafficking Act.

Sec. 115. Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act.

Sec. 116. Bringing Missing Children Home Act.

Sec. 117. Grant accountability.

Sec. 118. SAVE Act.

Sec. 119. Education and outreach to trafficking survivors.

Sec. 120. Expanded statute of limitations for civil actions by child trafficking survivors.

Sec. 121. GAO study and report.

#### TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

Sec. 201. Amendments to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

Sec. 211. Response to victims of child sex trafficking.

Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

Sec. 221. Victim of trafficking defined.

Sec. 222. Interagency task force report on child trafficking primary prevention.

Sec. 223. GAO Report on intervention.

Sec. 224. Provision of housing permitted to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking.

Subtitle D—Expanded Training

Sec. 231. Expanded training relating to trafficking in persons.

#### TITLE III—HERO ACT

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. HERO Act.

Sec. 303. Transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes.

#### TITLE IV—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Findings.

Sec. 404. Increased funding for formula grants authorized.

Sec. 405. Application.

Sec. 406. Grant increase.

Sec. 407. Period of increase.

Sec. 408. Allocation of increased formula grant funds.

Sec. 409. Authorization of appropriations.

#### TITLE V—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

Sec. 501. Short title.

Sec. 502. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.

#### TITLE VI—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

Sec. 601. Safe Harbor Incentives.

Sec. 602. Report on restitution paid in connection with certain trafficking offenses.

Sec. 603. National human trafficking hotline.

Sec. 604. Job corps eligibility.

Sec. 605. Clarification of authority of the United States Marshals Service.

Sec. 606. Establishing a national strategy to combat human trafficking.

#### TITLE VII—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

Sec. 701. Short title.

Sec. 702. Development of best practices.

Sec. 703. Definitions.

Sec. 704. No additional authorization of appropriations.

#### TITLE VIII—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Sec. 801. Short title.

Sec. 802. CAPTA amendments.

#### TITLE IX—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

Sec. 901. Definitions.

Sec. 902. Training for Department personnel to identify human trafficking.

Sec. 903. Certification and report to Congress.

Sec. 904. Assistance to non-Federal entities.

Sec. 905. Expanded use of Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

#### TITLE X—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

Sec. 1001. Short title.

Sec. 1002. Protections for human trafficking survivors.

#### TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

##### SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 3014. Additional special assessment

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to

human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

“(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

“(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

“(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

“(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

“(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

“3014. Additional special assessment.”

#### SEC. 102. CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS OFFERED TO DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) NO REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in this subsection or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled.”; and

(3) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated, by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “subparagraph (G)”.

#### SEC. 103. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 203. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award block grants to an eligible entity to develop, improve, or expand domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims’ services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

“(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

“(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile

justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

“(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

“(B) address the unique needs of child victims of human trafficking;

“(C) facilitate the rescue of child victims of human trafficking;

“(D) investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking; and

“(E) utilize, implement, and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses, and other laws aimed at the investigation and prosecution of child human trafficking;

“(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

“(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section shall not be more than the percentage of the officer’s time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking;

“(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

“(i) wire taps;

“(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

“(iii) travel; and

“(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

“(C) dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenders, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking;

“(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims’ services through coordination with—

“(i) child advocacy centers;

“(ii) social service agencies;

“(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

“(iv) housing agencies;

“(v) legal services agencies; and

“(vi) nongovernmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking; and

“(E) the establishment or enhancement of other necessary victim assistance programs or personnel, such as victim or child advocates, child-protective services, child forensic interviews, or other necessary service providers;

“(3) activities of law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth, including salaries and associated expenses for re-

tired Federal law enforcement officers assisting the law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth; and

“(4) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for trafficking victims that include—

“(A) mandatory and regular training requirements for judicial officials involved in the administration or operation of the court program described under this paragraph;

“(B) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking, including case worker or child welfare supervision in collaboration with judicial officers, who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

“(C) the development of a specialized and individualized, court-ordered treatment program for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

“(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

“(ii) life skills training;

“(iii) housing placement;

“(iv) vocational training;

“(v) education;

“(vi) family support services; and

“(vii) job placement;

“(D) centralized case management involving the consolidation of all of each child human trafficking victim’s cases and offenses, and the coordination of all trafficking victim treatment programs and social services;

“(E) regular and mandatory court appearances by the victim during the duration of the treatment program for purposes of ensuring compliance and effectiveness;

“(F) the ultimate dismissal of relevant non-violent criminal charges against the victim, where such victim successfully complies with the terms of the court-ordered treatment program; and

“(G) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and nongovernmental organizations with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking to provide services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement.

“(c) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

“(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

“(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

“(B) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant;

“(C) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section; and

“(D) disclose—

“(i) any other grant funding from the Department of Justice or from any other Federal department or agency for purposes similar to those described in subsection (b) for which the eligible entity has applied, and which application is pending on the date of the submission of an application under this section; and

“(ii) any other such grant funding that the eligible entity has received during the 5-year period ending on the date of the submission of an application under this section.

“(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—

“(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b); or

“(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

“(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES SOLICITING DATA ON CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—No eligible entity shall be disadvantaged in being awarded a grant under subsection (a) on the grounds that the eligible entity has only recently begun soliciting data on child human trafficking.

“(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 3 years after the date of award of the grant.

“(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 2 times and for a period of not greater than 2 years.

“(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall—

“(1) enter into a contract with a non-governmental organization, including an academic or nonprofit organization, that has experience with issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct periodic evaluations of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section;

“(2) instruct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to review evaluations issued under paragraph (1) to determine the methodological and statistical validity of the evaluations; and

“(3) submit the results of any evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(f) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—An eligible entity awarded funds under this section that is found to have used grant funds for any unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost shall not be eligible for any grant funds awarded under the block grant for 2 fiscal years following the year in which the unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost is reported.

“(g) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this section if within the 5 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section, the grantee has been found to have violated the terms or conditions of a Government grant program by utilizing grant funds for unauthorized expenditures or otherwise unallowable costs.

“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount expended to carry out this section.

“(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall be—

“(1) 70 percent in the first year;

“(2) 60 percent in the second year; and

“(3) 50 percent in the third year, and in all subsequent years.

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING; FULLY OFFSET.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not

more than \$7,000,000 of the funds available in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, established under section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

“(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘child’ means a person under the age of 18;

“(2) the term ‘child advocacy center’ means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);

“(3) the term ‘child human trafficking’ means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) involving a victim who is a child; and

“(4) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a State or unit of local government that—

“(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;

“(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking;

“(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking, including—

“(i) the establishment of a shelter for victims of child human trafficking, through existing or new facilities;

“(ii) the provision of trauma-informed, gender-responsive rehabilitative care to victims of child human trafficking;

“(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers for all forms of human trafficking, with a focus on domestic child human trafficking;

“(iv) prevention, deterrence, and prosecution of offenses involving child human trafficking, including soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing human acts with children;

“(v) cooperation or referral agreements with organizations providing outreach or other related services to runaway and homeless youth;

“(vi) law enforcement protocols or procedures to screen all individuals arrested for prostitution, whether adult or child, for victimization by sex trafficking and by other crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence; and

“(vii) cooperation or referral agreements with State child welfare agencies and child advocacy centers; and

“(D) provides an assurance that, under the plan under subparagraph (C), a victim of child human trafficking shall not be required to collaborate with law enforcement officers to have access to any shelter or services provided with a grant under this section.

“(l) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY; SPECIALIZED VICTIMS' SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—No grant funds under this section may be awarded or transferred to any entity unless such entity has demonstrated substantial experience providing services to victims of human trafficking or related populations (such as runaway and homeless youth), or employs staff specialized in the treatment of human trafficking victims.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 203. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.”

#### SEC. 104. DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(5) (42 U.S.C. 13001a(5)), by inserting “, including human trafficking and the production of child pornography” before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 214 (42 U.S.C. 13002)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.”

#### SEC. 105. INCREASING COMPENSATION AND RESTITUTION FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “that was used or” and inserting “that was involved in, used, or”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and any property traceable to such property” after “such violation”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or any property traceable to such property” after “such violation”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking “used or” and inserting “involved in, used, or”; and

(B) by inserting “, and any property traceable to such property” after “any violation of this chapter”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) TRANSFER OF FORFEITED ASSETS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall transfer assets forfeited pursuant to this section, or the proceeds derived from the sale thereof, to satisfy victim restitution orders arising from violations of this chapter.

“(2) PRIORITY.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall have priority over any other claims to the assets or their proceeds.

“(3) USE OF NONFORFEITED ASSETS.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce or otherwise mitigate the obligation of a person convicted of a violation of this chapter to satisfy the full amount of a restitution order through the use of nonforfeited assets or to reimburse the Attorney General for the value of assets or proceeds transferred under this subsection through the use of nonforfeited assets.”

(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.—Section 524(c)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “chapter 77 of title 18,” after “criminal drug laws of the United States or of”.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 31.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and

(B) in section 9705(a), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (I)—

(aa) by striking “payment” and inserting “Payment”; and

(bb) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(II) in subparagraph (J), by striking “payment” and inserting “Payment”; and

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) in clause (iii)—

(AA) in subclause (I), by striking “or” and inserting “of”; and

(BB) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;

(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(cc) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

“(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);”;

(II) in subparagraph (G), by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) in subparagraph (H), by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CROSS REFERENCES.—

(I) TITLE 28.—Section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “section 9703(g)(4)(A)(ii)” and inserting “section 9705(g)(4)(A)”;

(II) in paragraph (10), by striking “section 9703(p)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”;

(III) in paragraph (11), by striking “section 9703” and inserting “section 9705”.

(ii) TITLE 31.—Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in section 312(d), by striking “section 9703” and inserting “section 9705”; and

(II) in section 5340(1), by striking “section 9703(p)(1)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”.

(iii) TITLE 39.—Section 2003(e)(1) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 9703(p)” and inserting “section 9705(o)”.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“9701. Fees and charges for Government services and things of value.

“9702. Investment of trust funds.

“9703. Managerial accountability and flexibility.

“9704. Pilot projects for managerial accountability and flexibility.

“9705. Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.”.

#### SEC. 106. STREAMLINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (a), by inserting a comma after “weapons”;

(B) in subparagraph (c)—

(i) by inserting “section 1581 (peonage), section 1584 (involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),” before “section 1591”;

(ii) by inserting “section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),” before “section 1751”;

(iii) by inserting a comma after “virus”;

(iv) by striking “, section” and inserting a comma;

(v) by striking “or” after “misuse of passports”;

(vi) by inserting “or” before “section 555”;

(C) in subparagraph (j), by striking “pipeline,” and inserting “pipeline.”; and

(D) in subparagraph (p), by striking “documents, section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)” and inserting “documents), section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,” after “kidnapping”.

#### SEC. 107. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

Section 505 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘part 1 violent crimes’ shall include severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).”.

#### SEC. 108. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or maintains” and inserting “maintains, patronizes, or solicits”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “or maintained” and inserting “, maintained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(B) by striking “knew that the person” and inserting “knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person”.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking “or obtaining” and inserting “obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting”.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the amendments made by this section is to clarify the range of conduct punished as sex trafficking.

#### SEC. 109. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, defines a sex trafficker as a person who “knowingly . . . recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains by any means a person . . . knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion . . . or any combination of such means will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act”;

(2) while use of the word “obtains” in section 1591, United States Code, has been interpreted, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to encompass those who purchase illicit sexual acts from trafficking victims, some confusion persists;

(3) in *United States vs. Jungers*, 702 F.3d 1066 (8th Cir. 2013), the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled that section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, applied to persons who purchase illicit sexual acts with trafficking victims after the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota erroneously granted motions to acquit these buyers in two separate cases; and

(4) section 108 of this title amends section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to add the words “solicits or patronizes” to the sex

trafficking statute making absolutely clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials that criminals who purchase sexual acts from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when this is merited by the facts of a particular case.

#### SEC. 110. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES AND COMPONENTS TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that—

(1) all task forces and working groups within the Innocence Lost National Initiative engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex; and

(2) all components and task forces with jurisdiction to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of child labor trafficking engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the capacity of such components to deter and punish child labor trafficking.

#### SEC. 111. TARGETING CHILD PREDATORS.

(a) CLARIFYING THAT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCERS ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.—Section 2423(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “means (1) a” and inserting the following: “means—

“(1) a”;

(2) by striking “United States; or (2) any” and inserting the following: “United States; “(2) any”; and

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “; or

“(3) production of child pornography (as defined in section 2256(8)).”.

(b) HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.—Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “a preponderance of the evidence” and inserting “clear and convincing evidence”.

#### SEC. 112. MONITORING ALL HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

Section 3156(a)(4)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “77,” after “chapter”.

#### SEC. 113. CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.

“(10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims’ Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.”;

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting “, unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration” before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “this chapter, the term” and inserting the following: “this chapter:

“(1) COURT OF APPEALS.—The term ‘court of appeals’ means—

“(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

“(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

“(2) CRIME VICTIM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

(B) by striking “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(B) MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.—In the case”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DISTRICT COURT; COURT.—The terms ‘district court’ and ‘court’ include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.”.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting “section” before “3771”.

(c) APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: “In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.”.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 114. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL SEX ACT; SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; STATE; TASK FORCE.—The terms “commercial sex act”, “severe forms of trafficking in persons”, “State”, and “Task Force” have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(2) COVERED OFFENDER.—The term “covered offender” means an individual who obtains, patronizes, or solicits a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(3) COVERED OFFENSE.—The term “covered offense” means the provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(4) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “Federal law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term in section 115 of title 18, United States Code.

(5) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “local law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a unit of local government authorized by law or by a local government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(6) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “State law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, AND JUDGES.—

(1) TRAINING.—

(A) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice, including each anti-human trafficking training program for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, includes technical training on—

(i) effective methods for investigating and prosecuting covered offenders; and

(ii) facilitating the provision of physical and mental health services by health care providers to persons subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(B) FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice for United States attorneys or other Federal prosecutors includes training on seeking restitution for offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that each United States attorney or other Federal prosecutor, upon obtaining a conviction for such an offense, requests a specific amount of restitution for each victim of the offense without regard to whether the victim requests restitution.

(C) JUDGES.—The Federal Judicial Center shall provide training to judges relating to the application of section 1593 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to ordering restitution for victims of offenses under chapter 77 of such title.

(2) POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that Federal law enforcement officers are engaged in activities, programs, or operations involving the detection, investigation, and prosecution of covered offenders.

(d) MINIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMMERCIAL CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.—Section 3583(k) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “1594(c),” after “1591.”.

(e) BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS REPORT ON STATE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall—

(1) prepare an annual report on—

(A) the rates of—

(i) arrest of individuals by State law enforcement officers for a covered offense;

(ii) prosecution (including specific charges) of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(iii) conviction of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(B) sentences imposed on individuals convicted in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(2) submit the annual report prepared under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Task Force;

(D) the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)); and

(E) the Attorney General.

#### SEC. 115. SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING EMPOWERMENT ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the “Council”), which shall provide advice and recommendations to the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)) (referred to in this section as the “Group”) and the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established under section 105(a) of such Act (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”).

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of not less than 8 and not more than 14 individuals who are survivors of human trafficking.

(2) REPRESENTATION OF SURVIVORS.—To the extent practicable, members of the Council shall be survivors of trafficking, who shall accurately reflect the diverse backgrounds of survivors of trafficking, including—

(A) survivors of sex trafficking and survivors of labor trafficking; and

(B) survivors who are United States citizens and survivors who are aliens lawfully present in the United States.

(3) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Council.

(4) TERM; REAPPOINTMENT.—Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed by the President to serve 1 additional 2-year term.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

(1) be a nongovernmental advisory body to the Group;

(2) meet, at its own discretion or at the request of the Group, not less frequently than annually to review Federal Government policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking, including programs relating to the provision of services for victims and serve as a point of contact for Federal agencies reaching out to human trafficking survivors for input on programming and policies relating to human trafficking in the United States;

(3) formulate assessments and recommendations to ensure that policy and programming efforts of the Federal Government conform, to the extent practicable, to the best practices in the field of human trafficking prevention; and

(4) meet with the Group not less frequently than annually, and not later than 45 days before a meeting with the Task Force, to formally present the findings and recommendations of the Council.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the date described in subsection (h), the Council shall submit a report that contains the findings derived from the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(2) to—

(1) the chair of the Task Force;

(2) the members of the Group;

(3) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Appropriations, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary of the Senate.

(f) EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Members of the Council—

(1) shall not be considered employees of the Federal Government for any purpose; and

(2) shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Council shall not be subject to the requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(h) SUNSET.—The Council shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

#### SEC. 116. BRINGING MISSING CHILDREN HOME ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Bringing Missing Children Home Act”.

(b) CRIME CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) a recent photograph of the child, if available;”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “60 days” and inserting “30 days”; and

(ii) by inserting “and a photograph taken during the previous 180 days” after “dental records”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution;”;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting “State and local child welfare systems and” before “the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) grant permission to the National Crime Information Center Terminal Contractor for the State to update the missing person record in the National Crime Information Center computer networks with additional information learned during the investigation relating to the missing person.”.

#### SEC. 117. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “covered grant” means a grant awarded by the Attorney General under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b), as amended by section 103.

(b) **ACCOUNTABILITY.**—All covered grants shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

(1) **AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of a covered grant to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(B) **DEFINITION.**—In this paragraph, the term “unresolved audit finding” means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

(C) **MANDATORY EXCLUSION.**—A recipient of a covered grant that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive a covered grant during the following 2 fiscal years.

(D) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding covered grants the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a covered grant.

(E) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—If an entity is awarded a covered grant during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

#### (2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

(A) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this paragraph and covered grants, the term “non-profit organization” means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) **PROHIBITION.**—The Attorney General may not award a covered grant to a non-profit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) **DISCLOSURE.**—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a covered grant and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

#### (3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.

(A) **LIMITATION.**—No amounts transferred to the Department of Justice under this title, or the amendments made by this title, may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this title, or the amendments made by this title, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) **WRITTEN APPROVAL.**—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) **REPORT.**—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.

(D) **ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.**—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this title, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification that—

(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have

been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;

(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

(iv) includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

#### (4) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts awarded under this title, or any amendments made by this title, may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) **PENALTY.**—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a covered grant has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another covered grant for not less than 5 years.

#### SEC. 118. SAVE ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2015” or the “SAVE Act of 2015”.

(b) **ADVERTISING THAT OFFERS CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1591(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting “advertisements,” after “obtains,”.

(2) **MENS REA REQUIREMENT.**—Section 1591(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by inserting “, except where the act constituting the violation of paragraph (1) is advertising,” after “knowing, or”.

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 1591(b) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “advertisements,” after “obtained,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “advertisements,” after “obtained,”.

#### SEC. 119. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

(1) counseling and hotline resources;

(2) housing resources;

(3) legal assistance; and

(4) other services for trafficking survivors.

#### SEC. 120. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose.” and inserting “not later than the later of—

“(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or

“(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.”.

#### SEC. 121. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on each program or initiative authorized under



this Act and the following statutes and evaluate whether any program or initiative is duplicative:

(1) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-164; 119 Stat. 3558).

(2) Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

(3) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.).

(4) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

(5) Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) a description of the cost of any duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations on how to achieve cost savings with respect to each duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a).

## TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

#### SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 343(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5714-23(b)(5))—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), and sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))” before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))” after “assault”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by inserting “, including such youth who are victims of trafficking (as defined in section 103(15) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(15)))” before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 351(a) (42 U.S.C. 5714-41(a)) by striking “or sexual exploitation” and inserting “sexual exploitation, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))”.

### Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

#### SEC. 211. RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 404(b)(1)(P)(iii) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(P)(iii)) is amended by striking “child prostitution” and inserting “child sex trafficking, including child prostitution”.

### Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

#### SEC. 221. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term “victim of trafficking” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

#### SEC. 222. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING PRIMARY PREVENTION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established under section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103), shall conduct a review that, with regard to trafficking in persons in the United States—

(1) in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that the Task Force determines appropriate, surveys and catalogs the activities of the Federal Government and State governments—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(2) surveys academic literature on—

(A) deterring individuals from committing trafficking offenses;

(B) preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(C) the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

(D) other similar topics that the Task Force determines to be appropriate;

(3) identifies best practices and effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and

(4) identifies current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall provide to Congress, and make publicly available in electronic format, a report on the review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

#### SEC. 223. GAO REPORT ON INTERVENTION.

On the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that includes information on—

(1) the efforts of Federal and select State law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking in the United States; and

(2) each Federal grant program, a purpose of which is to combat human trafficking or assist victims of trafficking, as specified in an authorizing statute or in a guidance document issued by the agency carrying out the grant program.

#### SEC. 224. PROVISION OF HOUSING PERMITTED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including programs that provide housing to victims of trafficking” before the period at the end.

### Subtitle D—Expanded Training

#### SEC. 231. EXPANDED TRAINING RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Section 105(c)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Appropriate personnel” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Appropriate personnel”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by inserting “, including members of the Serv-

ice (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903))” after “Department of State”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) TRAINING COMPONENTS.—Training under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations under this Act, which shall be designed for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;

“(ii) specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before such individuals depart for their posts; and

“(iii) at least annual reminders to all personnel referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of—

“(I) key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located; and

“(II) appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.”.

## TITLE III—HERO ACT

#### SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Human Exploitation Rescue Operations Act of 2015” or the “HERO Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 302. HERO ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The illegal market for the production and distribution of child abuse imagery is a growing threat to children in the United States. International demand for this material creates a powerful incentive for the rape, abuse, and torture of children within the United States.

(2) The targeting of United States children by international criminal networks is a threat to the homeland security of the United States. This threat must be fought with trained personnel and highly specialized counter-child-exploitation strategies and technologies.

(3) The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security serves a critical national security role in protecting the United States from the growing international threat of child exploitation and human trafficking.

(4) The Cyber Crimes Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a vital national resource in the effort to combat international child exploitation, providing advanced expertise and assistance in investigations, computer forensics, and victim identification.

(5) The returning military heroes of the United States possess unique and valuable skills that can assist law enforcement in combating global sexual and child exploitation, and the Department of Homeland Security should use this national resource to the maximum extent possible.

(6) Through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program, the returning military heroes of the United States are trained and hired to investigate crimes of child exploitation in order to target predators and rescue children from sexual abuse and slavery.

(b) CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, AND COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 890A. CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT, AND CYBER CRIMES UNIT.**

“(a) CYBER CRIMES CENTER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Cyber Crimes Center (referred to in this section as the ‘Center’).

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be to provide investigative assistance, training, and equipment to support United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s domestic and international investigations of cyber-related crimes.

“(b) CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CEIU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CEIU—

“(A) shall coordinate all United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement child exploitation initiatives, including investigations into—

- “(i) child exploitation;
- “(ii) child pornography;
- “(iii) child victim identification;
- “(iv) traveling child sex offenders; and
- “(v) forced child labor, including the sexual exploitation of minors;

“(B) shall, among other things, focus on—

- “(i) child exploitation prevention;
- “(ii) investigative capacity building;
- “(iii) enforcement operations; and
- “(iv) training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel, upon request;

“(C) shall provide training, technical expertise, support, or coordination of child exploitation investigations, as needed, to co-operating law enforcement agencies and personnel;

“(D) shall provide psychological support and counseling services for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel engaged in child exploitation prevention initiatives, including making available other existing services to assist employees who are exposed to child exploitation material during investigations;

“(E) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of the recruiting, training, equipping and hiring of wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program; and

“(F) shall collaborate with other governmental, nongovernmental, and nonprofit entities approved by the Secretary for the sponsorship of, and participation in, outreach and training activities.

“(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The CEIU shall collect and maintain data concerning—

“(A) the total number of suspects identified by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(B) the number of arrests by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, disaggregated by type, including—

“(i) the number of victims identified through investigations carried out by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(ii) the number of suspects arrested who were in positions of trust or authority over children;

“(C) the number of cases opened for investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(D) the number of cases resulting in a Federal, State, foreign, or military prosecution.

“(4) AVAILABILITY OF DATA TO CONGRESS.—In addition to submitting the reports required under paragraph (7), the CEIU shall make the data collected and maintained under paragraph (3) available to the committees of Congress described in paragraph (7).

“(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CEIU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(6) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Taskforce, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CEIU.

“(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

“(7) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the HERO Act of 2015, and annually for the following 4 years, the CEIU shall—

“(A) submit a report containing a summary of the data collected pursuant to paragraph (3) during the previous year to—

- “(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;
- “(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;
- “(iii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
- “(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;
- “(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(vi) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) make a copy of each report submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department.

“(c) COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Computer Forensics Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CFU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CFU—

“(A) shall provide training and technical support in digital forensics to—

- “(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and
- “(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

“(B) shall provide computer hardware, software, and forensic licenses for all computer forensics personnel within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(C) shall participate in research and development in the area of digital forensics, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

“(D) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of recruiting, training, equipping, and hiring wounded, ill, and injured veterans and

transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program.

“(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CFU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

“(4) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Task Force, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CFU.

“(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

“(d) CYBER CRIMES UNIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Cyber Crimes Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘CCU’).

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CCU—

“(A) shall oversee the cyber security strategy and cyber-related operations and programs for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

“(B) shall enhance United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s ability to combat criminal enterprises operating on or through the Internet, with specific focus in the areas of—

- “(i) cyber economic crime;
- “(ii) digital theft of intellectual property;
- “(iii) illicit e-commerce (including hidden marketplaces);
- “(iv) Internet-facilitated proliferation of arms and strategic technology; and
- “(v) cyber-enabled smuggling and money laundering;

“(C) shall provide training and technical support in cyber investigations to—

- “(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and
- “(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

“(D) shall participate in research and development in the area of cyber investigations, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

“(E) is authorized to recruit participants of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program for investigative and forensic positions in support of the functions of the CCU.

“(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CCU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 890 the following:

“Sec. 890A. Cyber crimes center, child exploitation investigations unit, computer forensics unit, and cyber crimes unit.”.

(c) HERO CORPS HIRING.—It is the sense of Congress that Homeland Security Investigations of the United States Immigration and

Customs Enforcement should hire, recruit, train, and equip wounded, ill, or injured military veterans (as defined in section 101, title 38, United States Code) who are affiliated with the HERO Child Rescue Corps program for investigative, intelligence, analyst, and forensic positions.

(d) INVESTIGATING CHILD EXPLOITATION.—Section 307(b)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 187(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) conduct research and development for the purpose of advancing technology for the investigation of child exploitation crimes, including child victim identification, trafficking in persons, and child pornography, and for advanced forensics.”.

#### SEC. 303. TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES.

Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking section 2421 and inserting the following:

##### “§ 2421. Transportation generally

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

“(b) REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a request by a State attorney general that a State or local attorney be cross designated to prosecute a violation of this section unless the Attorney General determines that granting the request would undermine the administration of justice.

“(2) REASON FOR DENIAL.—If the Attorney General denies a request under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the State attorney general a detailed reason for the denial not later than 60 days after the date on which a request is received.”.

#### TITLE IV—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

##### SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Rape Survivor Child Custody Act”.

##### SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FORMULA GRANT.—The term “covered formula grant” means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program”); or

(B) section 41601 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043g) (commonly referred to as the “Sexual Assault Services Program”).

(2) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “termination” means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent’s right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the amount provided to the State under the cov-

ered formula grants under this title, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

##### SEC. 403. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and, as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in *Santosky v. Kramer* (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

##### SEC. 404. INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this title if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

##### SEC. 405. APPLICATION.

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section 404.

##### SEC. 406. GRANT INCREASE.

The amount of the increase provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title shall be equal to not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under the covered formula grants under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

##### SEC. 407. PERIOD OF INCREASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title for a 2-year period.

(b) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title more than 4 times.

##### SEC. 408. ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.

The Attorney General shall allocate an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title such that—

(1) 25 percent of the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(A); and

(2) 75 percent of the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(B).

##### SEC. 409. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

#### TITLE V—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

##### SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015”.

##### SEC. 502. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

##### “SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

“The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

“(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

“(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

“(2) required to register under this title.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

“Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.”.

#### TITLE VI—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

##### SEC. 601. SAFE HARBOR INCENTIVES.

Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1701(c), by striking “where feasible” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “where feasible, to an application—

“(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

“(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law that—

“(A) treats a minor who has engaged in, or has attempted to engage in, a commercial sex act as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

“(B) discourages or prohibits the charging or prosecution of an individual described in subparagraph (A) for a prostitution or sex trafficking offense, based on the conduct described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) encourages the diversion of an individual described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate service providers, including child

welfare services, victim treatment programs, child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, or other social services.”; and

(2) in section 1709, by inserting at the end the following:

“(5) ‘commercial sex act’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(6) ‘minor’ means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

“(7) ‘severe form of trafficking in persons’ has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”.

#### **SEC. 602. REPORT ON RESTITUTION PAID IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.**

Section 105(d)(7)(Q) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)(Q)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “1590,” the following: “1591,”;

(2) by striking “and 1594” and inserting “1594, 2251, 2251A, 2421, 2422, and 2423”;

(3) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end; and

(5) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) the number of individuals required by a court order to pay restitution in connection with a violation of each offense under title 18, United States Code, the amount of restitution required to be paid under each such order, and the amount of restitution actually paid pursuant to each such order; and

“(vii) the age, gender, race, country of origin, country of citizenship, and description of the role in the offense of individuals convicted under each offense; and”.

#### **SEC. 603. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.**

Section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Victims of Crime Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Subject” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, and in each fiscal year thereafter, of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for a national communication system to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons in communicating with service providers. The Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience in providing telephone services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.”.

#### **SEC. 604. JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY.**

Section 144(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)). Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an individual described in this subparagraph shall not be required to demonstrate eligibility under such paragraph.”.

#### **SEC. 605. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.**

Section 566(e)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.”.

#### **SEC. 606. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall implement and maintain a National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the “National Strategy”) in accordance with this section.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The National Strategy shall include the following:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including—

(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;

(B) the appointment of not fewer than 1 assistant United States attorney in each district dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking cases or responsible for implementing the National Strategy;

(C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and

(D) any other efforts intended to enhance the level of coordination and cooperation, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) Case coordination within the Department of Justice, including specific integration, coordination, and collaboration, as appropriate, on human trafficking investigations between and among the United States attorneys, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Annual budget priorities and Federal efforts dedicated to preventing and combating human trafficking, including resources dedicated to the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other entities that receive Federal support that have a goal or mission to combat the exploitation of adults and children.

(4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking.

(5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved.

#### **TITLE VII—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE**

##### **SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015”.

##### **SEC. 702. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.**

(a) GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting

through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in consultation with the Administration on Children and Families and other agencies with experience in serving victims of human trafficking, shall award, on a competitive basis, a grant or contract to an eligible entity to train health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall develop evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking, including—

(A) consultation with law enforcement officials, social service providers, health professionals, experts in the field of human trafficking, and other experts, as appropriate, to inform the development of such best practices;

(B) the identification of any existing best practices or tools for health professionals to recognize potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(C) the development of educational materials to train health care professionals on the best practices developed under this subsection.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Best practices developed under this subsection shall address—

(A) risk factors and indicators to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(B) patient safety and security;

(C) the management of medical records of patients who are victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(D) public and private social services available for rescue, food, clothing, and shelter referrals;

(E) the hotlines for reporting human trafficking maintained by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) validated assessment tools for the identification of victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(G) referral options and procedures for sharing information on human trafficking with a patient and making referrals for legal and social services as appropriate.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall design and implement a pilot program to test the best practices and educational materials identified or developed with respect to the recognition of victims of human trafficking by health professionals at health care sites located near an established anti-human trafficking task force initiative in each of the 10 administrative regions of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) ANALYSIS AND REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which an entity implements a pilot program under paragraph (4), the entity shall—

(A) analyze the results of the pilot programs, including through an assessment of—

(i) changes in the skills, knowledge, and attitude of health care professionals resulting from the implementation of the program;

(ii) the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking who were identified under the program;

(iii) of those victims identified, the number who received information or referrals for services offered; and

(iv) of those victims who received such information or referrals—

(I) the number who participated in follow up services; and

(II) the type of follow up services received;

(B) determine, using the results of the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A),

the extent to which the best practices developed under this subsection are evidence-based; and

(C) submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report concerning the pilot program and the analysis of the pilot program under subparagraph (A), including an identification of the best practices that were identified as effective and those that require further review.

(b) **DISSEMINATION.**—Not later than 30 months after date on which a grant is awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) collaborate with appropriate professional associations and health care professional schools to disseminate best practices identified or developed under subsection (a) for purposes of recognizing potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(2) post on the public website of the Department of Health and Human Services the best practices that are identified by the as effective under subsection (a)(5).

#### SEC. 703. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term “eligible entity” means an accredited school of medicine or nursing with experience in the study or treatment of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) The term “eligible site” means a health center that is receiving assistance under section 330, 399Z-1, or 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 280h-5, and 300).

(3) The term “health care professional” means a person employed by a health care provider who provides to patients information (including information not related to medical treatment), scheduling, services, or referrals.

(4) The term “HIPAA privacy and security law” has the meaning given to such term in section 3009 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj-19).

(5) The term “victim of a severe form of trafficking” has the meaning given to such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

#### SEC. 704. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, and this title shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

### TITLE VIII—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

#### SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking”.

#### SEC. 802. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **STATE PLANS.**—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10))); and

“(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing com-

prehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population;”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).”.

(c) **SPECIAL RULE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

“(2) **STATE OPTION.**—Notwithstanding the definition of ‘child’ in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting “(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)” after “sexual abuse or exploitation”.

(3) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking “inhumane;” and inserting “inhumane.”.

### TITLE IX—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

#### SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**—The term “human trafficking” means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

#### SEC. 902. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current infor-

mation on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department’s initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) **TRAINING DESCRIBED.**—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) **TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

#### SEC. 903. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

#### SEC. 904. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

#### SEC. 905. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS’ FUND.

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).”.

### TITLE X—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

#### SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 1002. PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968

(42 U.S.C. 3796dd(c)) is amended by striking "where feasible" and all that follows, and inserting the following: "where feasible, to an application—

"(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

"(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law—

"(A) that—

"(i) provides a process by which an individual who is a human trafficking survivor can move to vacate any arrest or conviction records for a non-violent offense committed as a direct result of human trafficking, including prostitution or lewdness;

"(ii) establishes a rebuttable presumption that any arrest or conviction of an individual for an offense associated with human trafficking is a result of being trafficked, if the individual—

"(I) is a person granted nonimmigrant status pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(T)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(i));

"(II) is the subject of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)); or

"(III) has other similar documentation of trafficking, which has been issued by a Federal, State, or local agency; and

"(iii) protects the identity of individuals who are human trafficking survivors in public and court records; and

"(B) that does not require an individual who is a human trafficking survivor to provide official documentation as described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii) in order to receive protection under the law."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on an amendment that I was pleased to include in the human trafficking legislation that was passed earlier today. The amendment was based on the Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act, which I introduced several weeks ago.

It has a simple purpose. It provides an incentive for States to enact laws that allow human trafficking survivors to clear their criminal records of prostitution and other low-level, non-violent crimes that they can reasonably demonstrate were the result of being trafficked.

Many States, including my home State of New Hampshire, have vacatur laws in place. However, we need to en-

sure that survivors of human trafficking have access to these types of protections no matter where they are rescued, or what State they were forced to commit crimes in.

When I first introduced this legislation, I shared the story of a young woman named Katie featured in a recent NPR story on vacatur laws. In the story, she spoke about her heart-breaking experience as a trafficking victim.

Katie talked about being raped at age 11, and at age 13 being forced into commercial sex.

She talked about having her skull cracked and ribs broken, and about the regular beatings that resulted in bruises and black eyes. She talked about 7 years of the worst kinds of physical and emotional torture, and being transported nearly 1,400 miles from her home.

But Katie also talked about her recovery—about rebuilding a life with her family and young son, about working hard to make a better life.

According to Katie, one of the most important things we can do for these survivors, these brave young men and women, is to give them the tools to start over.

As Katie told NPR, "I'm not ever going to forget what I've done, but at the same time, I don't want it thrown in my face every time I'm trying to seek employment."

Survivors of human trafficking are victims of a crime. Yet often it is the victims who are arrested, detained, prosecuted, and convicted.

Records of these crimes, can follow survivors for life. These records limit access to safe housing and good jobs. They can even bar access to car loans and educational opportunities. They leave trafficking survivors with few options, and in some cases drive individuals back to engaging in commercial sex.

Vacatur laws help victims start fresh. They are a critical part of recovery and should be available in every State, and my amendment will help us achieve that goal.

I will close by sharing comments that Katie's mom recently sent to my office. It think it clearly demonstrates what is possible when survivors are given the time and support they need to recover.

She wrote:

As a mother and as a woman watching all those years, being totally overwhelmed by hopelessness AND helplessness, I can see a positive . . . I think the 11 year old girl I lost is coming back to me . . . as a woman—a little battle weary but stronger and happier and filled with so much hope.

We want this kind of new beginning for every victim of trafficking. And that is exactly what this provision will help accomplish. I want to thank my colleagues for their support, and hope this bill will move quickly through the

House and to the President for signature into law.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, widely recognized as the first genocide of the 20th century.

April 24, 1915 marked the beginning of a horrific period in our world's history and for the Armenian people. On this day, agents of the Ottoman Empire rounded up and executed Armenian community leaders, poets, and intellectuals. What ensued was the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government. From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the attempted destruction of the Armenian people for no reason other than their very existence.

Unfortunately, the events surrounding the Armenian genocide are fraught with denial. But the case is simple. When Raphael Lemkin coined the term "genocide" in the 1940s, he had what happened to the Armenians in mind as a definitive example.

Those who perished experienced some of the worst aspects of humanity. But the campaign to exterminate the Armenian people failed. And those who survived embodied the best qualities of the human spirit: hope, resilience, perseverance, and love. Some survivors made their way to America, and many of them built their new lives in Michigan. They have created thriving communities, built businesses, raised families, and contributed to the fabric of what makes the State of Michigan so great. Their descendants carry on these values, and the richness of their culture is part of what gives vibrancy to our State.

The Armenians in Michigan boast a community of well over 20,000. It is the largest in the Midwest, and I am proud to represent them. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, Michigan's Armenian community has organized a number of events, lectures, art exhibits, concerts, and vigils to remember the victims of the genocide, to educate their communities, and to look to the future. I applaud their efforts to preserve their culture and identity.

Over the last century, the Armenians of Michigan erected churches, established community centers, and built a day school. They also founded educational centers such as the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. International language and linguistics courses at Wayne State University are located in Manoogian Hall, which was named after the notable Detroit-Armenian philanthropist and businessman Alex Manoogian. These are just part of the Armenian community's contributions to Michigan.



While Armenians have found prosperity in their new home, they have not forgotten those who did not live to see what the future held for their people. Many of Michigan's Armenian community members have written books and recorded accounts of what happened to their families in 1915 in an effort to shed light and increase awareness. These stories will carry on for generations, and remind us all that if we do not recognize the atrocities of the past we risk blinding ourselves to the atrocities that could still occur today.

Charging toward a peaceful future requires making peace with the past. Denial does not serve our American values. Denial minimizes the great tragedy that fell upon the victims, the survivors, and their descendants. Over 40 States have affirmed the Armenian genocide, including Michigan. I have called on, and will continue to call on, the President to formally recognize that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people were in fact genocide.

Recognition of the Armenian genocide is long overdue. A crime like this casts a long shadow. This shadow can be conquered only by light—the light of truth that comes from fully acknowledging the full scale of the horror that the Armenians endured.

#### EARTH DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today is Earth Day, and on Earth Day it is important for all of us to reflect not only on how human activity impacts the environment but also how those impacts on the environment affect people.

Unfortunately, one of the impacts of climate change that is increasingly being documented by the military and intelligence communities is that climate change is a threat to our national security. This threat takes many forms. Perhaps the simplest manifestation is the threat of sea level rise on the Pentagon's 700 coastal facilities. Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia is the largest naval base in the world, but the station and the surrounding community is being inundated by coastal flooding from sea level rise. Norfolk is experiencing high tides 1½ feet higher than it did a century ago. This has already caused the naval base to have to abandon some piers, but perhaps the real worry is how flooding could prevent sailors from reaching the base during a weather event. One local minister quipped to the Washington Post that the local church that is now up for sale faced the prospect of putting "the tide chart on their Web site" so people would know whether they could get to church.

Norfolk and the Navy are exploring various solutions, including a costly flood gate proposal, but the reality is that Naval Station Norfolk and U.S.

Navy infrastructure around the world is at threat around the world, and in a time of tightening budgets, that can have real impacts on military readiness.

A similar problem exists in my home State, in Annapolis, home to the U.S. Naval Academy. NOAA's 2014 "Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes Around the United States" found that "Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland, lead the list with an increase in number of flood days of more than 920 percent since 1960." NOAA goes on to conclude that sea level rise in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay is the cause of these "nuisance flooding" events.

On Monday, I visited the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Southern Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. I raised the issue of how sea level rise is expected to affect the important work this installation does to ensure our Navy's defense preparedness and aircraft testing and what sort of preparation and mitigation work they were doing to meet these imminent challenges.

Critical to the function of Pax River's operations is that the base be located at sea level, so if sea level is changing, even by just a few feet, they have to account for these changes and essentially raise the base. Fortunately, the Navy is already putting a lot of thought into this issue; however, the infrastructure adaptation and mitigation projects that are essential to keeping our military prepared are coming at the expense of the taxpayer.

Climate change is also a threat to national security because it can serve as a threat multiplier. For as long as there have been humans, there has been conflict over resources, especially when those resources are scarce and essential. Many national security and defense experts have commented on how climate change's impacts on food production, freshwater resources, and the destruction of critical infrastructure is contributing to political instability in a number of countries, particularly in developing countries where political leadership is already tenuous.

As former colonel and current Department of Defense consultant Pete Newell put it, "As a precursor to conflict, lack of access to basic human needs is a major driver and it's only getting worse."

Prolonged drought and other serious environmental disasters are also made more likely in a warming world, and these kinds of conditions can overwhelm governments and cause government collapse.

The potential of conflict, radicalism, and terrorism are heightened when states fail.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Michael Mullen, was quoted in the DOD's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review:

The scarcity of and potential competition for resources . . . compounded by the influx of refugees . . . creates conditions of hopelessness that could lead to failed states and make populations vulnerable to radicalization.

CNA Corporation's Military Advisory Board issued a 2014 report titled "National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change" calling for political leadership to address the causes and impacts of climate change:

The national security risks of projected climate change are as serious as any challenges we have faced . . . Political posturing and budgetary woes cannot be allowed to inhibit discussion and debate over what so many believe to be a salient national security concern for our nation.

Scholars at U.C. Santa Barbara and Columbia University have shown how Syria is an example of how climate change can help create conditions that lead to conflict. The ongoing tragedy of ISIS cannot be explained by any one single cause, but studies are pointing to climate change as an important factor.

Between 2006 and 2010, Syria experienced its worst drought in decades. Reportedly this caused crop failure on 60 percent of Syria's arable land and the country lost 80 percent of its head of cattle.

Rural farmers had nowhere to go but to Syria's cities. Syria's Government, which was already dealing with 1 million displaced people from Iraq, was overwhelmed by an influx of 1 million people internally displaced by drought.

As we know all too well from recent history, failed states and the chaotic conditions within them are breeding grounds of terrorism and radicalism such as that practiced by ISIS.

Climate change helped create stresses on the Syrian Government it could not handle, and its collapse has helped lead to the emergence of ISIS.

Leaders and experts attribute other global conflicts to climate change. Ban Ki-moon holds that violence in Darfur was sparked by a decline in rainfall that devastated cattle herds. Others believe that the 2011 Arab spring relates to heat waves that forced cereal-exporting countries to take grain off the global market.

A severe drought in the Horn of Africa has starved off tens of thousands of Somalis, and many more are on the brink of starvation in crowded refugee camps nearby. This displacement and desperation can only compound other crises and issues, such as civil conflict, fragile societies, and underdevelopment.

Many Pacific Island nations, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, are being swallowed up by the ocean.

While no single extreme weather event can be attributed to climate change, and the Earth has certainly experienced hurricanes and cyclones since the dawn of time, what is worth noting is the trend in increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather



events is clear. Since 2000, there have been 18 category 5 hurricanes and cyclones—18 storms in the last 14 years. The previous 18 category 5 storms occurred over a 39-year period from 1961 to 2000. In other words, the phenomenon is becoming a more common occurrence in our world.

Last month, Cyclone Pam quite literally leveled the island nation of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. An overwhelming majority of the island's structures were destroyed. As the days went on and the media began to lose focus on the humanitarian crisis that was unfolding, access to food and fresh water became increasingly difficult for the people of Vanuatu. Foreign aid has slowly made its way to the stricken people of Vanuatu. The World Health Organization has noted a rise in illnesses related to lack of access to safe drinking water and exposure to mosquito-borne diseases.

We must remain mindful of the pace and quality of recovery efforts in Vanuatu. Cyclone Pam has created a situation that could very easily destabilize the government if conditions on the ground in Vanuatu do not continue to improve.

Extremist organizations feed on instability and chaos, and if the people of Vanuatu feel their government is not adequately addressing their needs in a timely fashion, concerned nations need to be vigilant of what forces may take hold.

As climate change worsens, more countries may become vulnerable to its effects. Lack of food, water, and living space is displacing and killing people.

To protect our national security, we need to listen to the Department of Defense and an emerging group of scholars who are showing the connections between climate change and conflict. That means heeding the warnings of humanitarian need, providing adequate aid to maintain stability during crises, and helping vulnerable countries build resilient infrastructure. But most fundamentally it means we need to fight climate change. Global warming pollution is harming our planet, harming nature, and endangering wildlife.

But Earth Day is not just about the Earth; it is also about the people inhabit it. Let's remember the most severe human impacts of climate, its impacts on our national security, and avert the worst affects of global warming.

Let's do justice to Earth Day and make fighting climate change a true national priority.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Saints John Neumann

and Maria Goretti High School girls varsity basketball team from Philadelphia, PA. After an undefeated 2014-2015 season, the Neumann-Goretti Lady Saints achieved the No. 1 rank in the Nation and were named the national champions of all high school basketball teams. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the fortitude and talent of the team, its leadership and the school.

Under head coach Andrea Peterson, the Lady-Saints dominated their regular season, securing their playoff berth when they earned their second consecutive Philadelphia Catholic League Championship. The Lady-Saints continued their streak, winning the PIAA District XII AA City Championship and earning a top seed in the Pennsylvania State tournament.

After earning wins with large margins in all four rounds of the Pennsylvania State tournament, the Neumann-Goretti team entered the State championship game against the Seton-La-Salle Rebels of Pittsburgh. Dominating the game with a score of 79-34, the Lady Saints earned the Pennsylvania State championship title. This monumental season resulted in national recognition by USA TODAY, ESPN, CBS MaxPreps, and Blue Star Media. The team was also named team of the year for the Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania region by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

I am proud to join the city of Philadelphia in celebrating the performance of senior players Ciani Cryor, Sianni Martin, A.J. Timbers, Christina Aborowa, Melanie Schoolfield, Kaschae Harris, and honorary team member Amanda Brett. I also congratulate returning players Felicia Aiyeotan, Erica Brown, Minika Glenn, Jabria Ingram, Alisha Kebbe, Jada Russell, Kamiah Smalls, Jaylen Durrett, Shayla Green, Daijah Parmley, and Chyna Wooten. I wish all of these players well as they continue their academic careers.

The Neumann-Goretti Lady-Saints, Head Coach Peterson, Assistant Coach Kat Scanlan, Ms. Letty Santarelli and the entire Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School should take great pride in this achievement. Their accomplishments are celebrated by the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish the team and the community every success in their future endeavors.●

#### JOB CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the Job Corps program, which trains our Nation's young people to see and create a viable future. This year, they celebrate their 50th anniversary. In my State, Alaska, our Job Corps Center is now 20 years old. In that time, it has graduated over 5,000 students. At any of Alaska's hospitals, businesses, government offices,

native corporations, contractors, electrical or telecom companies, nursing facilities, accounting firms, banks, water plants, and prestigious restaurants, you will always find successfully employed Alaska Job Corps graduates. These former students are now taxpayers and so proud of their achievements. I stand with them, as their proud Senator. These alumni look favorably upon their time at Alaska's Job Corps Center as a time that made an enormous difference in their lives; oftentimes the difference between safety and danger, success and failure, and wealth and poverty. This program works. It has a heart that never stops beating the supportive drumbeat of success and training for our young people.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S.535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 471. An act to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 471. An act to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and referred as indicated:

S. 782. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LEE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1036. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1037. A bill to expand the provisions for termination of mandatory purchase requirements under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1038. A bill to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1039. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans to achieve energy cost savings; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1040. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1041. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):

S. 1042. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1043. A bill to ensure that transportation and infrastructure projects carried out using Federal financial assistance are constructed with steel, iron, and manufactured goods that are produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1044. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1045. A bill to protect 10th Amendment rights by providing special standing for State government officials to challenge proposed regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1046. A bill to accelerate the adoption of smart building technologies in the private sector and key Federal agencies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1047. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to review rulemaking proceedings of other Federal agencies for the potential to cause an adverse effect on the cost, time, or difficulty of complying with energy efficiency regulations, guidelines, or standards; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1048. A bill to remove the authority of the Secretary of Energy to amend or issue new energy efficiency standards for ceiling fans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 1049. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1050. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by establishing a program to support the modernization, renovation, or repair of career and technical education facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1051. A bill to include county and municipal correctional facilities among medical facilities that qualify for designation as health professional shortage areas for purposes of the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1052. A bill to require a study on the impact of State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings, to provide for competitive awards to utilities, States, and units of local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1053. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to promote alternative fueled vehicle fleets and infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1054. A bill to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of the manufacturing sector by directing the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the National Academies and other appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a national smart manufacturing plan and to provide assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1055. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Energy to set goals for deep energy retrofits in Federal buildings; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1056. A bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1057. A bill to promote geothermal energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 1058. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1059. A bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1060. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1061. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1062. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1063. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 144. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights,

needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 145. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2015, as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PERDUE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 146. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as "National Assistant Principals Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 147. A resolution designating Donald A. Ritchie as Historian Emeritus of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal education mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide

for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 483

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 483, a bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 744

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 744, a bill to rescind certain Federal funds identified by States as unwanted and use the funds to reduce the Federal debt.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 922

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.

922, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 966, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 967

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 967, a bill to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to extend the authorization for the major medical facility project to replace the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage the construction of such project, to transfer the authority to carry out future major medical facility projects of the Department from the Secretary to the Army Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to strengthen

resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 1001

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1001, a bill to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

AMENDMENT NO. 290

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 290 proposed to S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 1049. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce today with my friend from Arkansas, Senator BOOZMAN, a bill which will increase our agricultural producer's competitiveness and exports into Cuba, a nation just 90 miles off our southern coast. This timely bill would make relatively simple changes to our country's burdensome regulations and help make our agricultural exporters more competitive at a time in which expanding sales and supporting prices is incredibly important.

When people think of Cuba, they don't usually think of North Dakota, but they should. When I traveled to Cuba with Senators TESTER and SANDERS last year, I saw first-hand just how compatible North Dakota's agricultural production is with the diet of the Cuban people. There are incredible export opportunities for North Dakota's pulse producers, along with exports of soybean products, corn, wheat, barley, beef, and more. Unfortunately, under

current regulations, our government is preventing North Dakota's producers from competing in a market in which we should hold majority market share.

Yesterday, the Agriculture Committee held a hearing on opportunities and challenges for agricultural trade with Cuba. Aside from lifting the Cuba embargo altogether, the number one barrier we heard about was the fact that our exporters are prohibited from offering credit for sales into Cuba. Meanwhile, our competitors from Canada, Brazil, Vietnam, and Europe, are offering credit and pushing our farmers out of a market in which we should be dominant.

The Agricultural Export Expansion Act would remove that barrier and put our producers on a more level playing field with our competitors. It modifies a provision of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act to allow for exporters and banks to offer private credit for agricultural exports to Cuba. Let me be clear: this bill does not allow for involvement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export credit guarantee program or the Export-Import Bank, and no taxpayer dollars will be at risk if Cuba were to default on a deal. This bill simply allows the market and private industry to dictate the terms of sale, weighing all of the risks and benefits, like they do with every other country in the world.

With the current low commodity prices, we should be doing everything we can to support our agricultural producers, and to me this just makes sense. Even if Cuba were to buy all of their wheat from Kansas and soybeans from Arkansas, a bushel sold is a bushel sold, and all of our producers will benefit.

This bill is also good for the people of Cuba. Making trade more efficient and affordable will allow us to provide food to Cuba's population. Given our proximity and our agricultural industry's incredible diversity, we can support both the people of Cuba and our producers by removing this one unnecessary regulation. I hope our colleagues will join us in this important effort to help our producers be more competitive into this natural market.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1051. A bill to include county and municipal correctional facilities among medical facilities that qualify for designation as health professional shortage areas for purposes of the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1051

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Health Service Corps Expansion Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. MEDICAL FACILITIES.

Section 332(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "(including care provided by a city or county health department to inmates of a county or municipal jail)" after "county health department"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "State correctional institution" and inserting "State, country, or municipal correctional institution".

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1057. A bill to promote geothermal energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today on the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, I am proud to introduce a pair of bills, S. 1057 and S. 1058, to promote clean energy and fight climate change.

The first bill is the Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act, or GEO Act for short. Clean, low-carbon geothermal energy can play a starring role in the fight against climate change, and this legislation encourages the development of the geothermal resource in a number of important ways.

The GEO Act helps prospective geothermal developers explore for and develop geothermal resources through a public-private grant program. As part of the partnership, developers report their findings, contributing to a nationwide map of geothermal potential that will reduce the risk and drive down the cost of geothermal energy for the future.

In many cases, Federal lands already under production for oil and gas also have a geothermal resource, and the GEO Act allows for the oil and gas leaseholders to coproduce such geothermal energy without going through an additional competitive lease process. It also fully incorporates the bipartisan Geothermal Production Expansion Act that I introduced with a number of my colleagues earlier this year. That provision would streamline the Federal geothermal leasing program to prevent speculative bidders from unproductively driving up the price of leases for developers of geothermal "hot spots" that extend into lands directly adjacent to their existing geothermal lease.

The Bureau of Land Management, which manages geothermal projects on Federal land under lease agreements, estimates about 250 million acres of Federal land contains geothermal power potential. Geothermal energy projects that are producing geothermal power under the BLM's management make up about half of the total geothermal generating capacity in the

United States. The GEO Act takes important steps to speed the development of this tremendous clean energy potential on public lands.

I am also introducing the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Act of 2015, along with my colleagues Senators MERKLEY, SCHATZ, and KING, to spur development of renewable electricity from the water power in oceans, rivers, and lakes. This bill reauthorizes the Department of Energy's marine renewable energy programs, including the national marine renewable energy research, development and demonstration centers around the country, one of which is run by Oregon State University in my home state. The Department of Energy estimates that there is enough potential energy in these non-traditional forms of hydropower to one day power millions of homes.

These two pieces of legislation will each promote the production of clean, domestic energy resources and in doing so help the United States lead the world in the fight against climate change. I strongly urge my colleagues to support both of them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1057

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act" or the "GEO Act".

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL GOALS FOR PRODUCTION AND SITE IDENTIFICATION.

It is the sense of Congress that, not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior should seek to have approved more than 15,000 megawatts of new geothermal energy capacity on public land across a geographically diverse set of States using the full range of available technologies; and

(2) the Director of the Geological Survey and the Secretary of Energy should identify sites capable of producing a total of 50,000 megawatts of geothermal power, using the full range of available technologies.

#### SEC. 3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND.

The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(1) identify high priority areas for new geothermal development; and

(2) take any actions the Director determines necessary to facilitate that development, consistent with applicable laws.

#### SEC. 4. FACILITATION OF COPRODUCTION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ON OIL AND GAS LEASES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) LAND SUBJECT TO OIL AND GAS LEASE.—Land under an oil and gas lease issued pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Mineral Leasing Act for Ac-

quired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) that is subject to an approved application for permit to drill and from which oil and gas production is occurring may be available for noncompetitive leasing under this section to the holder of the oil and gas lease—

"(A) on a determination that—

"(i) geothermal energy will be produced from a well producing or capable of producing oil and gas; and

"(ii) national energy security will be improved by the issuance of such a lease; and

"(B) to provide for the coproduction of geothermal energy with oil and gas.".

#### SEC. 5. COST-SHARED EXPLORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To promote the goals described in section 2, the Secretary of Energy may conduct a federally funded program of cost-shared drilling with industry partners—

(1) to explore and document new geothermal resources in the United States; and

(2) to develop improved tools and methods for geothermal resource identification and extraction, with the goal of achieving material reductions in the cost of exploration with a corresponding increase in the likelihood of drilling success.

(b) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy may award cost-share grants on a competitive and merit basis to eligible applicants to support exploration drilling and related activities.

(2) PROJECT CRITERIA.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(A) give preference to applicants proposing projects located in a variety of geologic and geographic settings with previously unexplored, underexplored, or unproven geothermal resources; and

(B) consider—

(i) the potential that the unproven geothermal resources would be explored and developed under the proposed project;

(ii) the expertise and experience of an applicant in developing geothermal resources; and

(iii) the contribution the proposed project would make toward meeting the goals described in section 2.

(c) DATA SHARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Data from all exploratory wells that are carried out under the program described in subsection (a) shall be provided to the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior for—

(A) use in mapping national geothermal resources; and

(B) other purposes, including—

(i) subsurface geologic data;

(ii) metadata;

(iii) borehole temperature data; and

(iv) inclusion in the National Geothermal Data System of the Department of Energy.

(2) SHARING OF CONFIDENTIAL DATA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, confidential data from all exploratory wells that are carried out under the program described in subsection (a) shall be provided to the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), to be available for a period of time to be determined by the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior.

#### SEC. 6. USE OF GEOTHERMAL LEASE REVENUES.

(a) AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, any amounts received by the United States as rentals, royalties, and other payments required under leases pursu-

ant to the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) (excluding funds required to be paid to State and county governments) and from new geothermal leases issued after the date of enactment of this Act shall be deposited into a separate account in the Treasury.

(b) USE OF DEPOSITS.—Amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of Energy for expenditure, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to carry out section 5.

(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—To promote the goals described in section 2, the Secretary of Energy may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any funds that are necessary to other cooperating Federal agencies.

#### SEC. 7. NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING OF ADJOINING AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) (as amended by section 4) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) ADJOINING LAND.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) FAIR MARKET VALUE PER ACRE.—The term 'fair market value per acre' means a dollar amount per acre that—

"(I) except as provided in this clause, shall be equal to the market value per acre (taking into account the determination under subparagraph (B)(iii) regarding a valid discovery on the adjoining land), as determined by the Secretary under regulations issued under this paragraph;

"(II) shall be determined by the Secretary with respect to a lease under this paragraph, by not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives an application for the lease; and

"(III) shall be not less than the greater of—

"(aa) 4 times the median amount paid per acre for all land leased under this Act during the preceding year; or

"(bb) \$50.

"(ii) INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The term 'industry standards' means the standards by which a qualified geothermal professional assesses whether downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability are sufficient to produce energy from geothermal resources, as determined through flow or injection testing or measurement of lost circulation while drilling.

"(iii) QUALIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term 'qualified Federal land' means land that is otherwise available for leasing under this Act.

"(iv) QUALIFIED GEOTHERMAL PROFESSIONAL.—The term 'qualified geothermal professional' means an individual who is an engineer or geoscientist in good professional standing with at least 5 years of experience in geothermal exploration, development, or project assessment.

"(v) QUALIFIED LESSEE.—The term 'qualified lessee' means a person that is eligible to hold a geothermal lease under this Act (including applicable regulations).

"(vi) VALID DISCOVERY.—The term 'valid discovery' means a discovery of a geothermal resource by a new or existing slim hole or production well, that exhibits downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability that are sufficient to meet industry standards.

"(B) AUTHORITY.—An area of qualified Federal land that adjoins other land for which a qualified lessee holds a legal right to develop geothermal resources may be available for a noncompetitive lease under this section to the qualified lessee at the fair market value per acre, if—

“(i) the area of qualified Federal land—“(I) consists of not less than 1 acre and not more than 640 acres; and

“(II) is not already leased under this Act or nominated to be leased under subsection (a);“(ii) the qualified lessee has not previously received a noncompetitive lease under this paragraph in connection with the valid discovery for which data has been submitted under clause (iii)(I); and

“(iii) sufficient geological and other technical data prepared by a qualified geothermal professional has been submitted by the qualified lessee to the applicable Federal land management agency that would lead individuals who are experienced in the subject matter to believe that—

“(I) there is a valid discovery of geothermal resources on the land for which the qualified lessee holds the legal right to develop geothermal resources; and

“(II) that thermal feature extends into the adjoining areas.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) publish a notice of any request to lease land under this paragraph;

“(II) determine fair market value for purposes of this paragraph in accordance with procedures for making those determinations that are established by regulations issued by the Secretary;

“(III) provide to a qualified lessee and publish, with an opportunity for public comment for a period of 30 days, any proposed determination under this subparagraph of the fair market value of an area that the qualified lessee seeks to lease under this paragraph; and

“(IV) provide to the qualified lessee and any adversely affected party the opportunity to appeal the final determination of fair market value in an administrative proceeding before the applicable Federal land management agency, in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON NOMINATION.—After publication of a notice of request to lease land under this paragraph, the Secretary may not accept under subsection (a) any nomination of the land for leasing unless the request has been denied or withdrawn.

“(iii) ANNUAL RENTAL.—For purposes of section 5(a)(3), a lease awarded under this paragraph shall be considered a lease awarded in a competitive lease sale.

“(D) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this paragraph.”.

#### SEC. 8. LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

Title VI of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after section 616 (42 U.S.C. 17195) the following:

##### “SEC. 616A. LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(1) the Geothermal Technologies Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department has included a focus on direct use of geothermal energy in the low-temperature geothermal energy subprogram (including in the development of a research and development plan for the program);

“(2) the Building Technologies Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department—

“(A) is focused on the energy demand and energy efficiency of buildings; and

“(B) includes geothermal heat pumps as a component technology in the residential and

commercial deployment activities of the program; and

“(3) geothermal heat pumps and direct use of geothermal energy, especially in large-scale applications, can make a significant contribution to the use of renewable energy but are underrepresented in research, development, demonstration, and commercialization.

“(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

“(1) to improve the components, processes, and systems used for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy; and

“(2) to increase the energy efficiency, lower the cost, increase the use, and improve and demonstrate the applicability of geothermal heat pumps to, and the direct use of geothermal energy in, large buildings, commercial districts, residential communities, and large municipal, agricultural, or industrial projects.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DIRECT USE OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.—The term ‘direct use of geothermal energy’ means systems that use water that is at a temperature between approximately 38 degrees Celsius and 149 degrees Celsius directly or through a heat exchanger to provide—

“(A) heating to buildings; or

“(B) heat required for industrial processes, agriculture, aquaculture, and other facilities.

“(2) GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP.—The term ‘geothermal heat pump’ means a system that provides heating and cooling by exchanging heat from shallow ground or surface water using—

“(A) a closed loop system, which transfers heat by way of buried or immersed pipes that contain a mix of water and working fluid; or

“(B) an open loop system, which circulates ground or surface water directly into the building and returns the water to the same aquifer or surface water source.

“(3) LARGE-SCALE APPLICATION.—The term ‘large-scale application’ means an application for space or process heating or cooling for large entities with a name-plate capacity, expected resource, or rating of 10 or more megawatts, such as a large building, commercial district, residential community, or a large municipal, agricultural, or industrial project.

“(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

“(d) PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, and demonstration for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

“(2) AREAS.—The program may include research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of—

“(A) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient heat transfer fluids;

“(B) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient thermal grouts for wells and trenches;

“(C) geothermal ground loop installation cost reduction through—

“(i) improved drilling methods;

“(ii) improvements in drilling equipment;

“(iii) improvements in design methodology and energy analysis procedures; and

“(iv) improved methods for determination of ground thermal properties and ground temperatures;

“(D) installing geothermal ground loops near the foundation walls of new construc-

tion to take advantage of existing structures;

“(E) using gray or black wastewater as a method of heat exchange;

“(F) improving geothermal heat pump system economics through integration of geothermal systems with other building systems, including providing hot and cold water and rejecting or circulating industrial process heat through refrigeration heat rejection and waste heat recovery;

“(G) advanced geothermal systems using variable pumping rates to increase efficiency;

“(H) geothermal heat pump efficiency improvements;

“(I) use of hot water found in mines and mine shafts and other surface waters as the heat exchange medium;

“(J) heating of districts, neighborhoods, communities, large commercial or public buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, and institutional buildings and multifamily residential buildings and campuses), and industrial and manufacturing facilities;

“(K) geothermal system integration with solar thermal water heating or cool roofs and solar-regenerated desiccants to balance loads and use building hot water to store geothermal energy;

“(L) use of hot water coproduced from oil and gas recovery;

“(M) use of water sources at a temperature of less than 150 degrees Celsius for direct use;

“(N) system integration of direct use with geothermal electricity production; and

“(O) coproduction of heat and power, including on-site use.

“(3) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts in accordance with section 614(c).

“(e) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants available to State and local governments, institutions of higher education, nonprofit entities, utilities, and for-profit companies (including manufacturers of heat-pump and direct-use components and systems) to promote the development of geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

“(2) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that apply to large buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, institutional, and multifamily residential buildings and campuses and industrial and manufacturing facilities), commercial districts, and residential communities.

“(3) NATIONAL SOLICITATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a national solicitation for applications for grants under this section.

“(f) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on progress made and results obtained under this section to develop geothermal heat pumps and direct use of geothermal energy.

“(2) AREAS.—Each of the reports required under this subsection shall include—

“(A) an analysis of progress made in each of the areas described in subsection (d)(2); and

“(B)(i) a description of any relevant recommendations made during a review of the program; and

“(ii) any plans to address the recommendations under clause (i).”.

#### SEC. 9. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the progress made towards achieving the goals described in section 2.

#### SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as are necessary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 1058. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1058

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Section 632 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “electrical”.

#### SEC. 3. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 633 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17212) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 633. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, shall carry out a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to accelerate the introduction of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy production into the United States energy supply, giving priority to fostering accelerated research, development, and commercialization of technology, including programs—

“(1) to assist technology development to improve the components, processes, and systems used for power generation from marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources;

“(2) to establish critical testing infrastructure necessary—

“(A) to cost effectively and efficiently test and prove marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy devices; and

“(B) to accelerate the technological readiness and commercialization of those devices;

“(3) to support efforts to increase the efficiency of energy conversion, lower the cost, increase the use, improve the reliability, and demonstrate the applicability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies by participating in demonstration projects;

“(4) to investigate variability issues and the efficient and reliable integration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy with the utility grid;

“(5) to identify and study critical short- and long-term needs to create a sustainable marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy supply chain based in the United States;

“(6) to increase the reliability and survivability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

“(7) to verify the performance, reliability, maintainability, and cost of new marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy device designs and system components in an operating environment;

“(8) to coordinate and avoid duplication of activities across programs of the Department and other applicable Federal agencies, including National Laboratories and to coordinate public-private collaboration in all programs under this section;

“(9) to identify opportunities for joint research and development programs and development of economies of scale between—

“(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies; and

“(B) other renewable energy and fossil energy programs, offshore oil and gas production activities, and activities of the Department of Defense; and

“(10) to support in-water technology development with international partners using existing cooperative procedures (including memoranda of understanding)—

“(A) to allow cooperative funding and other support of value to be exchanged and leveraged; and

“(B) to encourage the participation of international research centers and companies within the United States and the participation of United States research centers and companies in international projects.”.

#### SEC. 4. NATIONAL MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION CENTERS.

Section 634 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17213) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) PURPOSES.—A Center (in coordination with the Department and National Laboratories) shall—

“(1) advance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

“(2) support in-water testing and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, including facilities capable of testing—

“(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy systems of various technology readiness levels and scales;

“(B) a variety of technologies in multiple test berths at a single location; and

“(C) arrays of technology devices; and

“(3) serve as information clearinghouses for the marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy industry by collecting and disseminating information on best practices in all areas relating to developing and managing marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources and energy systems.”.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 636 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17215) is amended by striking “2008 through 2012” and inserting “2016 through 2019”.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 144—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2015 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK, WHICH INCLUDE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF, AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 144

Whereas in 2013, there were more than 6,000,000 victims and survivors of violent crime and nearly 17,000,000 victims and survivors of property crime in the United States;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, schools, and communities by protecting the rights of crime victims and survivors and ensuring that resources and services are available to help rebuild the lives of the victims and survivors;

Whereas despite impressive accomplishments between 1974 and 2015 in increasing the rights of, and services available to, crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, are—

(1) treated with dignity, fairness, and respect;

(2) offered support and services regardless of whether the victims and survivors report crimes committed against them; and

(3) recognized as key participants within the criminal, juvenile, Federal, tribal, and civil justice systems in the United States when the victims and survivors report crimes;

Whereas crime victims and survivors in the United States, and the families of the victims and survivors, need and deserve support and assistance to help cope with the often devastating consequences of crime;

Whereas during each year between 1984 and 2014, communities across the United States have joined Congress and the Department of Justice in commemorating National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to celebrate a shared vision of a comprehensive and collaborative response that identifies and addresses the many needs of crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors;

Whereas Congress and the President agree on the need for a renewed commitment to serving all victims and survivors of crime in the 21st century;

Whereas the theme of 2015 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, celebrated during the week of April 19 through April 25, 2015, is “Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims.” and highlights the many challenges that confront crime victim assistance, justice, and public safety;

Whereas engaging communities in victim assistance is essential to promoting individual and public safety;

Whereas the United States must empower crime victims and survivors by protecting



their legal rights and by providing them with quality, comprehensive services to help them in the aftermath of crime; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the continued importance of—

(1) promoting the rights of, and services for, crime victims and survivors; and

(2) honoring crime victims and survivors and individuals who provide services for the victims and survivors: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of—

(A) the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors;

(B) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime, and the families of the victims and survivors; and

(C) the many solutions to meet such challenges; and

(2) recognizes that crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 145—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2015, AS “PARKINSON’S AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson’s disease, but the disease affects an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson’s disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas every day Parkinson’s disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson’s disease;

Whereas the economic burden of Parkinson’s disease is an estimated \$14,400,000,000 each year, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6,300,000,000 each year;

Whereas although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and exact progression of the disease remain unknown;

Whereas an objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson’s disease does not exist;

Whereas a cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson’s disease does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, cognitive impairment, dementia, mood disorders, and a variety of other non-motor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are work-

ing to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease and providing access to quality care to individuals with Parkinson’s disease requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2015, as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(3) continues to support research to develop more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals with Parkinson’s disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and the families of those individuals.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 146—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 13 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2015, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PERDUE, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 146

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) have designated the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision-making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior pat-

terns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 147—DESIGNATING DONALD A. RITCHIE AS HISTORIAN EMERITUS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 147

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie will retire from the United States Senate after serving with distinction, first as Associate Historian from 1976 to 2009, and then as Senate Historian from 2009 to 2015;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has dedicated his Senate service to preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has produced or guided production of numerous publications detailing the rich institutional history of the Senate;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has been instrumental in preserving, organizing, and making available to scholars the vast archival holdings of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has assisted in the Senate’s commemoration of events of historical significance and in the development of exhibitions and educational programs on the history of the Senate and the Capitol;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has guided the Senate’s comprehensive Oral History Project to capture and preserve the institutional memory of Senators, Senate officers, and Senate staff;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate, and has performed his duties in a professional and nonpartisan manner; and

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has earned the respect and esteem of the United States Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That, effective June 1, 2015, as a token of the appreciation of the Senate for his long and faithful service, Donald A. Ritchie is hereby designated as Historian Emeritus of the United States Senate.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1129. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 971, to

amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

SA 1130. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1131. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1129. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 971, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; as follows:

On page 2, line 5, insert "of the Social Security Act" after "1866E(e)(1)".

SA 1130. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

"(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

"(A) Saeed Abedini of Idaho, who has been detained in Iran on charges related to his religious beliefs since September 2012.

"(B) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011.

"(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

"(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

SA 1131. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

"(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

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"(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

"(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Weathering the Storm: How Can We Better Communicate Weather to Enhance Commerce and Safety?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nomination hearing for Vanessa Sutherland to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety Board."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to con-

duct a hearing entitled "State Department Reauthorization: Ensuring Effective U.S. Diplomacy within a Responsible Budget."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Securing the Border: Understanding Threats and Strategies for the Northern Border."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 21

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, when the Senate resumes consideration of the Lynch nomination on Thursday, April 23, there be 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture; that if cloture is invoked, there be up to 2 hours of postcloture debate equally divided between the two leaders; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL  
23, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate convenes on Thursday, April 23, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to

resume consideration of the Lynch nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object. Sorry.

I withdraw the objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is nondebatable.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:34 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 22, 2015

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 22, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### IN MEMORY OF SCOTTY PROBASCO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, Chattanooga, Tennessee, the great State of Tennessee, and our Nation lost a wonderful man last Friday.

Scotty Probasco, my dear friend, passed away suddenly. All of this week, we have had memorials, tributes, eulogies—all justly deserved for this great man. I was wondering what I was going to say today as I put together these notes, but I want all of America to know about this special man and my dear friend.

Scotty Probasco was born on November 26, 1928. He attended the Bright School in Chattanooga. He attended the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Dartmouth College, and then the Wharton School at Penn. He was a gifted man, a very bright man, a great businessman, but he was a giver.

As I was thinking this week as to what I was going to say about Scotty, it was what did Scotty mean to me and what did Scotty mean to our community and to our Nation.

Scotty was something else. He would walk into a room, and he would smile. I think of Scotty Probasco's smile. Always an optimist. In our profession, sometimes you have good days and bad days. Whenever I would run into Scotty, he would smile and always encourage me, but he didn't just do that with me; he did that with everyone.

As most of you all know, I proclaim Chattanooga is the greatest midsize city in America, sometimes as the greatest midsize city in the world. It is because of people like Scotty Probasco that we got there. Scotty was truly outstanding. He gave and he gave, whether it was the United Way or any other charity, he was always there. As a man of Christ, he was there for the First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty; by their four children, Scott, Zane, Ellen, and Ben; and by 12 wonderful grandchildren.

As I think of what our Nation needs today more than ever it is more Scotty Probascos—folks who will always accentuate the positive, who are always looking for the good in people, and who are always encouraging us to do our best.

There is always a loss when we lose a friend, and there was a great loss when Chattanooga lost Scotty Probasco last week, and we all feel that. We feel that deeply. I feel that deeply. Yet, when I think of the generations to come and of the generosity, of the philanthropy, and of the kindness of Scotty Probasco and what that means to us as a people, this will be his legacy.

I am going to say something to him and to his great family today: Scotty Probasco, thank you, dear friend. Thank you for a job well done, and God bless you.

### MIGRANTS ARE HUMAN BEINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we witnessed the most gruesome example of a story that is becoming ever more common. Hundreds of migrants are missing and feared dead—700 or more—because the smuggling boat they were packed onto capsized in the Mediterranean Ocean off the coast of Libya. It was on the front page of every paper around the world. An estimated 3,500 people died in 2014 while making the journey from North Africa to the southern coast of Europe.

Right now, along our southern border, illegal immigration is at historically low levels, but we, too, have a border that is known for smuggling, tragic losses of life, and smugglers no less brazen and no less indifferent to the lives of their human cargo than those off the Libyan coast.

With few legal options and with great opportunity for work and freedom on the other side, migrants throughout the world are risking their lives in the hopes of surviving the journey to live a better life.

During the peak of illegal immigration to this country a decade or so ago, one person died every single day, on average, when trying to come to the U.S. They died of dehydration in the desert or died in trucks or in boxcars in botched smuggling operations or perished as stowaways, and those are the ones we know about.

Now we hear about “La Bestia,” or “The Beast,” which is the train carrying migrants from southern Mexico to the border of our country. Think about hundreds of people, most of them children and teenagers, clinging to the outside of a moving train while they are preyed upon by smugglers, sexual predators, and every kind of deviant.

The migrants who are fleeing violence and poverty and gang- and drug lord-infested communities in Central America, like those fleeing African and Asian countries, are willing to literally risk life and limb for the slim chance of a better life on this side.

Europe is responding to the migrant crisis by committing to more rescue operations. The rightwing, anti-immigration parties across Europe see the crisis as validation for their call to build a big wall around “fortress Europe.” There are a few people here in this Congress, in this building, who want to build a wall just like theirs.

Most people in Europe understand that building civil society and stable economies in the Southern Hemisphere is the best way to entice people to stay home. Foreign aid and international economic development are not dirty words in Europe the way they are here.

In the U.S., the policies set in Washington directly relate to the instability of neighboring countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Trade policies initiated here in this country have had devastating consequences in rural areas across our hemisphere, driving people from the land and driving people into drug cultivation. It is our insatiable appetite here in the United States for illegal

drugs, funded with our dollar bills and enforced with U.S. guns, that creates and maintains a lot of the instability and chaos that drives people from their homes to America. Yet almost every budget that is considered in this Congress cuts mental health and drug counseling, addiction treatment and prevention, and does little to address our role in fueling instability.

With specific regard to immigration and asylum, in this Congress, we are debating laws to make it harder for children to apply for asylum and laws to make it easier to deport children or to put families into lengthy and expensive detention.

To add insult to injury, the Judiciary Committee just approved a measure to allow those who want to homeschool their children but who are prevented from doing so by their own government to be considered as a special class of oppressed victims to be considered eligible to apply for political asylum in the U.S. For the people from Germany and Sweden who want to homeschool their children, that is the kind of oppression that Congress responds to—people from Central America whose governments are unwilling or unable to protect children from murder and sexual assault, not so much.

The reality is that we need to do more to engage and strengthen our neighbors; we need to do much more to make sure that the actions, trade, and consumption of our people are helping, not hurting; and we need to do much more to make sure that we have secure borders by also remembering to put doors on those borders so that people can come with visas in a controlled way and not risking their lives with smugglers.

First and foremost, we must remember the message that Pope Francis reminded us of when he said of those who drowned in the ocean: "They are men and women like us, our brothers seeking a better life, starving, persecuted, wounded, exploited, victims of war. They were looking for a better life."

Let us not forget that migrants are human beings.

#### HONORING FORMER BRAZOS COUNTY JUDGE RANDY SIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Brazos County Judge Randy Sims, who passed away on April 2 of this year.

Judge Sims served the Brazos Valley community for decades. He served as the Brazos County commissioner of precinct 3 from 1972 to 1976 and again from 1989 to 2001. He also served on the Bryan City Council from 1987 to 1988. Lastly, he served as the Brazos County judge from 2003 to 2010.

Arthur Randolph Sims was born in Houston on July 31, 1939. He graduated

from Stephen F. Austin High School. During his high school days, he was quite an athlete, playing both baseball and football. He passed up a chance to play professional baseball to get a college education. Legendary coach Bear Bryant recruited Randy to play football for Texas A&M University. Not only was Randy a top running back for Texas A&M, but he also held a long-standing record in the Southwest Conference for kicking a 52-yard field goal.

Following graduation from A&M, Randy remained in Brazos Valley. In May of 1960, he married Brenda Bryan. They were married for nearly 55 years. Randy and Brenda have one son and one daughter, and they are blessed with nine grandchildren.

In the mid-1960s, Randy opened a restaurant called Randy Sims Barbecue, which operated for 27 years. Randy was a great cook, and his restaurant carried recipes from Brenda's dad and from Brenda's brother, Red Bryan and Sonny Bryan.

Randy was a loving father, and he cherished his family time. He quickly learned how to balance his career in order to spend quality time with his family. Last year, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce named Randy and Brenda as its Citizens of the Year. This award was bestowed on them for their long and dedicated service to our community.

As an active community leader, Randy Sims served tirelessly on various boards and organizations, including on the State of Texas Regional Review Committee, the Presidential Library Committee, the Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation, the Bear Bryant Scholarship Foundation, the Brazos Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, the Brazos Beautiful Initiative, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, the Grace Bible Church Deacon Board, and the Brazos County 911 Board.

His service to the Brazos Valley also included serving as a Bryan ISD host volunteer, as vice president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, as chair of the Brazos County Health Board District, and as the chair of the Brazos County Juvenile Board.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Sims was a great leader, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding family man. His selfless devotion to our community will be greatly missed. He will long be remembered as a great public servant to our community and as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to his family and friends.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest sympathy and our heartfelt condolences to Brenda Sims and to her family. We also lift up Randy Sims' family and friends in our prayers.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our

country during these difficult times, for the men and women in uniform, who protect it from external threats, and for our first responders, who protect us from threats here at home.

#### NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

After working 18 years as a 911 dispatcher, I know firsthand the challenges our public safety dispatchers face, the stress that they are put under, and the critical importance of their work. This is why, last week, I was proud to introduce a resolution commemorating National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

I remember working the graveyard shift four floors below ground and taking calls from people from all walks of life, often during their most vulnerable moments. 911 dispatchers hear it all. They are the first point of contact for public safety, and no matter the crisis, losing control is simply not an option.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week also provides us with the opportunity to remind our constituents of the importance of keeping emergency lines open for just that—emergencies. 911 isn't an information line, and local governments have limited resources.

□ 1015

They can't afford to have 911 lines tied up with non-life-threatening emergencies. Simply put, there is no excuse for 911 abuse.

I encourage people to familiarize themselves with their local police and fire departments' nonemergency phone numbers, have them readily available or refer to 311 or their local info line where available. Keeping 911 lines clear is crucial to ensuring dispatchers are readily available during an emergency.

Every day public safety dispatchers help save lives. They provide comfort and reassurance, and they are an integral part of our law enforcement teams. Yet, too often, their work goes unrecognized.

When you need a calming voice to guide you through a crisis, when law enforcement, fire safety, and rescue personnel are in need of seamless coordination at a moment's notice, when every second counts, 911 dispatchers are on the other end of the line. They are the unsung heroes of the first responder community.

This National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, let's recognize and honor the hundreds of thousands of public safety telecommunicators working round the clock to keep our communities safe.

# NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize April as National Financial Literacy Month and highlight the key role that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or the AICPA, and State CPA societies and CPAs across the country play in educating all Americans about their personal finances.

National Financial Literacy Month is a yearly reminder of the importance of working to improve Americans' understanding of their personal finances. For over 10 years, the AICPA, its members, and State CPA societies have been the leaders in the financial literacy campaign by providing free programs, tools, and resources for all consumers. Thousands of CPAs across 55 States and jurisdictions are volunteering their time to educate consumers to understand their personal finances and their financial goals.

The AICPA, along with the State CPA societies and like-minded financial educational institutions, plays an essential role in educating all Americans so that they will have the knowledge to make decisions for a lifetime of financial well-being. By focusing on financial education as a lifelong endeavor, CPAs are encouraging children to learn about the value of money and teaching adults the importance of saving for a secure retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we have thousands of college students who are unfamiliar with the impact their student loan debt will have on their early career. A financially literate college student will understand those implications and ramifications and would be better served and be better suited or be better able to make better decisions with respect to whether or not to take on that debt as they pursue their college education.

All Americans, from high school students to older adults, need the tools and resources to make educated decisions about their personal finances. Through the AICPA's flagship 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program, CPAs across the country are volunteering to help all Americans understand their personal finances through every stage of life. The program combines grassroots advocacy with free public resources and tools for CPAs to educate Americans of all ages.

There is an urgent need to improve the financial literacy of all Americans. A recent survey showed that 47 percent of American households are not saving any of their current income for retirement. This means almost half of all Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and without any savings plan for financial hardships or retirement. Providing all Americans with the informa-

tion necessary to make educated decisions will help households understand the value of savings for retirement and lead to a lifetime of financial well-being.

Again, I would like to congratulate the AICPA and State societies for this effort in helping Americans become more financially literate.

## PHMSA IS ACTUALLY A TOOTHLESS KITTEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, last week before the Transportation and Infrastructure committee on pipeline safety, I called the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, known as PHMSA, "a toothless tiger that has overdone on quaaludes and is passed out on the job."

Today I stand before you to say I was wrong. I was wrong to call PHMSA a toothless tiger. PHMSA is actually a toothless kitten, a fluffy industry pet that frightens absolutely no one. This has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt by yesterday's excellent Politico investigation of PHMSA's ineffectual "can't do" attitude, written by Elana Schor and Andrew Restuccia. Allow me to highlight some of the shocking incompetence brought to light by this article.

All rules made by PHMSA undergo peer review by two advisory committees: one on oil and one on gas. In theory, the committee is made up of five members each from industry, government, and public. Sounds good, right? Well, that might be true except the committee's current rosters are missing seven members on the government and public sides. This means the industry is calling the shots and voting for their own initiatives. On these committees there is almost no formal resistance to doing the industry's bidding.

That is what Deborah Hersman, former head of the National Transportation Safety Board, meant when she said: "For the regulator to delegate too much authority to the regulated to assess their own system risks and correct them is tantamount to the fox guarding the henhouse."

As we have seen in my district and in so many others, the fox has very little incentive to prevent oil or gas from spoiling the henhouse or to prevent the hens from blowing up. Of course, everyone is very sorry about the fact, but the will to prevent these accidents in the first place is simply not there. That is what happened in Mayflower, Arkansas, in 2013 when PHMSA let ExxonMobil operate an oil pipeline that was known to be faulty for 7 years, and then it blew up.

Nowhere is this more obvious than PHMSA's pitiful fines. Fines are supposed to be a deterrent, and yet the

fines that PHMSA levies are so pathetic compared to the cost of pipeline leaks and explosions that they can't even be seen on this graph. Here you see that over the last 12 years PHMSA has issued just \$44.2 million in fines for incidents that cost over \$5 billion. Look at these tiny red lines. You can't even see them. You can see these other graph points that show how much damage was actually done, but the fines are next to nothing.

Take the Mayflower, Arkansas, example where dumping 200,000 gallons of heavy crude into a neighborhood cost ExxonMobil \$2.7 million, or 0.008 percent of that year's profits. To industry, this measly fine is just the cost of doing business. No need to fix a pipeline. Fines are so small, it is cheaper to just pay them.

But, of course, damage from pipeline leaks and explosions can't be reduced to just gray bars. In my district, the city of San Bruno, where eight people were killed by a pipeline explosion in 2010, the public remains traumatized by the idea that their entire neighborhood could be wiped out by one carelessly inspected or uninspected pipeline. Life has risks, but one of them shouldn't be coming home to find your husband and son and mother-in-law dead and your house obliterated, as happened to one of the families in my district.

That is why I find PHMSA's utter failure to implement more rigorous safety regulations so disgusting. PHMSA's reasoning that such regulations are "too costly for the pipeline industry compared with the expected benefits" is the reasoning of movie villains, not well-intentioned safety professionals who are supposed to be taking care of the public interest. Whose side is PHMSA on?

Now, one could argue that the low penalties are Congress' fault, not PHMSA's. After all, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has power to impose civil penalties of a million dollars per day. Compare that to PHMSA's relatively paltry \$200,000 a day. But that doesn't explain PHMSA's failure to even start civil penalty cases.

Even as pipeline incidents increase, PHMSA started fewer civil penalty cases in 2014 than in the past 10 years and proposed 73 percent fewer fines. For the few fines that are proposed, PHMSA does that behind closed doors where the public is not welcome.

ExxonMobil dumped 63,000 gallons of oil into Yellowstone River in 2011 but managed to argue that the original \$1.7 million fine should be put down to \$1 million. Why did PHMSA allow this? Nobody knows.

Though I've talked about San Bruno, I want to emphasize that the lack of adequate pipeline safety measures is a nationwide problem, not a Bay Area or California problem. In 2011, a leak from an 83-year-old cast-iron main in Allentown, Pennsylvania, caused a blast that

killed 5 people. In 2012, a gas pipeline explosion outside of Charleston, West Virginia, destroyed several properties. In 2014, a leak in a 127-year-old pipeline in Harlem, New York, killed 8 and injured 50 more. In each incident, we see the same, recurring problems—aging infrastructure and inadequate inspection. How many more of these tragedies do we need before we get serious about pipeline safety?

The saddest part about this whole situation is that we know how to prevent pipeline leaks and explosions. The National Transportation Safety Board has been saying the same thing for years, after so many deaths and the destruction of property and the environment. We need automatic or remote control shutoff valves. We need existing pipelines to accommodate internal inspection tools. We need PHMSA to be a strong voice for safety for the public and we need industry to cease being apologists for lethal incompetence.

Like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I'm tired of PHMSA's excuses and prevarications. I'm frustrated that Congress seems powerless to induce PHMSA to take its job seriously. That's why I'm looking into legislation that will provide PHMSA with the proper encouragement to do its job. It's time for the toothless kitten to wake up, smell the leaking gas, and take decisive action.

#### SAVE OUR WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, California is now in the fourth year of the worst drought on record. Hydrologists estimate it is the worst drought in 1,200 years. The Sierra snowpack today is just 5 percent of normal. One of our largest reservoirs, the New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River, is at just 22 percent of its capacity, with the rainy season now officially over.

Water rationing is in effect in many communities. Many Californians face \$500 fines if they take too long in the shower or spill a gallon of water on their sidewalks. And yet in the last several weeks, the Bureau of Reclamation has released about 10 billion gallons of what precious little water remains behind the New Melones Dam in order to nudge a handful of steelhead trout toward the ocean. That is enough water to meet the annual residential needs of a human population of about 300,000 for the whole year.

How many fish are affected? Well, biologists estimate that it will affect the offspring of about 29 steelhead trout on the Stanislaus River, a few hundred smolts, almost all of which will be eaten by predators long before they reach the ocean; and that assumes that they won't swim toward the ocean on their own, as they have been doing without our helpful assistance since time immemorial.

Put in financial terms, with water selling for \$700 per acre-foot, the cost

of this ridiculous exercise is about \$21 million. But the real cost will be felt in the fall if the rains don't return. At that point, these releases guarantee there will be no water left for human beings or for fish.

All this occurs after a compromise without which Lake Tulloch, below New Melones, would have been drained below the water intake pipes that serve a population of nearly 10,000 human beings.

When are we going to wake up to the lunacy of these current environmental laws and the ideological zealots who are administering them? Who in his right mind would dump enough water to meet the annual residential needs of a population of 300,000 human beings in order to nudge toward the ocean the offspring of maybe 29 steelhead trout—it could be as few as 6—in the worst drought in 12 centuries? Yet that is precisely the policy of this administration.

President Obama has authority under the existing Endangered Species Act to convene a process to suspend these laws during the drought. Governor Brown also has the authority to request the President to act, yet despite repeated calls to do so, neither has responded. Ironically, before we built these dams, in a drought like this, there would be no rivers and there would be no fish.

Nor is this waste limited to just one reservoir and one river. The Bureau of Reclamation is ordering pulse flows throughout the State, completely uncaring of the impact on the rapidly endangered species called homo sapiens.

Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago I introduced H.R. 1668, the Save Our Water Act. It simply provides that during an extreme drought the requirements of massive environmental pulse flows are suspended. I want to urge speedy consideration and passage of this act, but I fear it will not come in time to prevent the exhaustion of our remaining water supply.

I warned of this practice last year, and I appealed to State and Federal water managers to suspend these water releases during the drought. Sadly, I was unable to rally much public interest. I think in large part because few people actually believed that our water policy could possibly be so foolish.

Well, they believe now. We are now reaching a crisis that can no longer be ignored, and Californians are now starting to realize that our environmental laws long ago passed from the realm of reason to the realm of ideological extremism.

Droughts are nature's fault. Water shortages are our fault. We once built dams to store water from wet years so that we would have it in dry ones, but the same radical environmental laws that are squandering our existing water supply have also obstructed the

construction of any major new storage since 1979, while the State's population has nearly doubled.

Dr. Johnson once said that when a man is to be hanged in the morning, it concentrates his attention remarkably. Well, if any good comes out of this drought, it may be that the American people finally have awakened to the damage these laws have done and are ready to change them and change the zealots in government who are responsible for them.

□ 1030

#### AN UPDATE ON THE PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD ADMISSION PROCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, for the sixth time this year, I rise to discuss Puerto Rico's political status.

I am an optimist about Puerto Rico's future. The island is blessed with natural beauty, a rich history, a vibrant culture, a sophisticated and diverse private sector, and talented and hard-working professionals who can compete with anyone, anywhere.

But my optimism is tempered by realism. Because to change the world for the better, you must first see the world as it is. And the reality is that Puerto Rico's potential is being squandered. Puerto Rico should be a blooming flower, but instead it is withering on the vine.

Puerto Rico is ensnared in the worst economic crisis in its history. The island's healthcare system is in a precarious state, the territory's homicide rate—despite recent improvements—still far exceeds that of any U.S. State, and residents of Puerto Rico are relocating to the States in record numbers.

I have heard it argued that leaders in Puerto Rico should concentrate solely on the immediate problems at hand and set aside the issue of political status until those problems are resolved or their severity is reduced. This argument has superficial appeal, but it is completely wrong. All of Puerto Rico's major problems are directly linked to our status. They are rooted in the unequal treatment that Puerto Rico receives because it is a territory.

If you want to understand why Puerto Rico has always had higher unemployment and poverty than any State, you must recognize that the territory is excluded from the earned income tax program, partially excluded from the child tax credit program, excluded from the Supplemental Security Income program, and treated unequally under the Federal nutrition assistance program.

If you want to understand why Puerto Rico has high debt, you must realize



that the territory government has borrowed so heavily in the bond market in order to compensate for its disparate treatment under Federal programs.

If you want to understand why patients in Puerto Rico received inadequate care, why physicians and hospitals are not fairly compensated, and why the cost of providing health care is disproportionately borne by the Puerto Rico Government rather than shared equitably with the Federal Government, you must grasp that Puerto Rico is treated in a discriminatory fashion under Medicaid, traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and the Affordable Care Act.

If you want to understand why drug-related violence is pervasive in Puerto Rico, then you must come to terms with the fact that Federal law enforcement agencies have dedicated insufficient personnel and equipment to Puerto Rico because States invariably take priority over territories when it comes to the allocation of finite resources.

To solve its deeply entrenched problems and to reach its enormous potential, Puerto Rico must receive equal treatment. And to receive equal treatment, Puerto Rico must become a State. To pretend otherwise is just that: to pretend.

That is why less than 3 months ago I introduced H.R. 727, the most forceful statehood admission bill for Puerto Rico in history.

I am proud to report that the bill is likely to obtain its 100th cosponsor as early as today. Cosponsors come from 31 States, the District of Columbia, and the four other territories. They are both Democrats and Republicans. Indeed, about 1,900 bills have been introduced so far in this Congress, and H.R. 727 has more bipartisan support than over 99 percent of them.

Every Member who cosponsors this bill is standing up for a powerful principle, which is this: the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens who have enriched the life of this Nation for generations.

My constituents have fought—and many have died—for a flag that contains 50 stars, but no star that represents them. If they reaffirm their desire in a federally sponsored vote to become a full and equal member of the American family, they have earned the right to be first-class citizens.

#### SHEPHERD'S MEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REED). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, 13 men, 911 miles, and 1 week to make a difference.

A group of brave warriors known as the Shepherd's Men set out on a journey that will take them from the Freedom Tower in New York City to the Shepherd's Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Every day, servicemen and -women from across our country return from the fields of combat only to fight another battle at home. While this battle may not include heavy artillery or enemy combatants, it is just as devastating.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries are disorders that take years—and sometimes a lifetime—to heal. These enemies invade the mind and cause unspeakable pain for those suffering and for their families.

For this reason, 13 brave men, whose mission is to raise awareness and funding for those with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries, have accepted the arduous task of running from the Big Apple to the Peach State.

With each step forward, the Shepherd's Men are one step closer to reaching their goal of raising \$250,000 for the Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program that provides assistance and support for servicemen and -women who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injury and PTSD from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While the wounds may have been inflicted years ago, the scars still remain, and that is why the Shepherd's Men run 911 miles with 22-pound packs strapped to their chests.

These courageous men do not run for their own glory, but for their fellow servicemembers whose lives may be forever changed by the effects of these conditions.

Today, one out of five servicemembers returning home from Iraq or Afghanistan have been diagnosed with one of these debilitating conditions. If left unchecked, these injuries could be life threatening. As our servicemembers return home from Active Duty, it is important for them to know that they do not suffer alone.

This morning, the Shepherd's Men are a few steps closer to reaching their final destination. As the Sun rose gently against the backdrop of the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Shepherd's Men arrived in our Nation's Capital. It was here—at the place that memorialized one of the most historic moments in our history—where I joined the Shepherd's Men for a short 1-mile run out of their 911-mile journey.

As I stood in the shadow, Mr. Speaker, of the Iwo Jima Memorial, one of the Shepherd's Men following our run came up to me and said: When we go into combat, we know that we may not come back out. And I lost many of my men in combat, and I can accept that, but what is hard is when these men survive combat, and they come back home and lose their life to these debilitating conditions. That is hard to swallow.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I am extremely grateful to the unwavering commitment the Shep-

herd's Men have shown to defend their fellow servicemen and ensure that they have the resources they need to begin their road to recovery.

Although the road may be long and fraught with setbacks, people across this Nation are going the extra mile to ensure our servicemembers are given the help they deserve.

To the Shepherd's Men, Godspeed on the rest of your journey, and thank you for your commitment to our Nation's military.

#### HONORING BISHOP WALTER SCOTT THOMAS, SR., AND HIS FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor, admiration, and respect that I take this time to honor one of this Nation's most distinguished citizens, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., in recognition of his 40 years of service to God as a pastor, mentor, and community leader.

I am honored to rise today to share with my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the accomplishments of this remarkable man.

For the last 40 years, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., has faithfully served as the pastor of the New Psalmist Baptist Church located in the Seventh Congressional District in Baltimore, Maryland. Bishop Thomas is a Baltimore native who was called to proclaim God's Word to the world.

He received a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Maryland in economics, a master's of divinity degree from Howard University School of Religion, and a doctor of ministry degree from St. Mary's Seminary and the University of Baltimore.

In 1975, Bishop Thomas was called to pastor the New Psalmist Baptist Church. He is a devoted leader who cares about the needs of his congregation, the community, and the world.

Under his dynamic leadership over the last four decades, New Psalmist Baptist Church has grown to serve several thousand members. His vision and message of "empowering disciples" has inspired thousands to make a positive impact in their personal lives, communities, the State of Maryland, the country, and the world.

He is an influential leader who graciously uses his gifts to serve clergy and religious leaders. From 1999 to 2002, Bishop Thomas served as the president of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference. He has coached and mentored pastors, church leaders, staff, and ministry teams all over the country.

On July 20, 2005, Bishop Thomas was elevated to the office of bishop and presiding prelate of the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors by ministers from across this great Nation.

Bishop Thomas has led multiple outreach initiatives to provide services and resources to the community. These initiatives include assisting economically disadvantaged families and homeless persons, providing employment assistance for job seekers, and partnering with school principals to provide school resources.

In 2013, Bishop Thomas and the New Psalmist Baptist Church donated \$40,000 to the Baltimore City Northwestern Police District to renovate the station entrance and lobby for our police officers and community members.

In addition to his leadership in the local community, Bishop Thomas has been a global leader, supporting projects to improve the quality of life for the world's underserved citizens. Bishop Thomas and New Psalmist Baptist Church support a school in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as clean water and sanitation projects in Africa.

Bishop Thomas has also been the guest of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to represent the United States and the Christian faith in the Many Heavens, One Planet faith and conservation event in Windsor, England.

In 2009, Bishop Thomas had the honor of delivering the invocation during President Barack Obama's whistlestop tour at Baltimore's War Memorial Building. In 1998, Bishop Thomas hosted President William Jefferson Clinton at the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Bishop Thomas is a devoted husband, father, and friend. He is the loving husband to first lady Patricia Thomas and the proud father of three very successful children: Joi; Walter, Jr.; and Joshua.

Bishop Thomas is a source of wisdom and encouragement to his family and friends. Bishop Thomas is a great friend who has inspired me through his faithful leadership of his family and the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

I am honored that God allowed our lives to eclipse, and today I wish to thank him on behalf of Baltimore, Maryland, and indeed the Nation and the world for his dedication, commitment to God, his church, his family, and his community.

#### ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined the gentleman from North Carolina, Con-

gressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, to introduce H.R. 1906, the bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015.

Coordinated medical rehabilitation provided in an inpatient setting is crucial to Medicare beneficiaries with injuries, disease, disabilities, or chronic conditions.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began placing limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary could receive, despite the professional judgment of the treating physician.

Mr. Speaker, these limitations restrict recreational therapy from being prescribed, despite it being medically necessary in many cases.

The bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015 that I have introduced with Congressman BUTTERFIELD will undo these unnecessary barriers imposed by CMS that place limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary may receive.

□ 1045

This legislation will not cost the American taxpayer any money; will help facilitate access to the appropriate mix of services in an inpatient rehabilitation facility; and will benefit patients with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and those who have sustained strokes, amputations, individuals living with neurological disorders, and a wide range of other conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today and strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get behind this commonsense bipartisan legislation.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the Speaker and acknowledge that 1965 is a very unique and special year. It is the commemoration of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, which symbolized to the world the cry and passion to have your voices heard through the vote.

I stand here today asking this body and its leadership to put on the floor of the House the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a bill that was reauthorized in 2006, 2007, under the leadership of President George W. Bush and the Members of the United States Congress, in a bipartisan manner. The vote in the Senate was 98-0, and we had an equally impressive vote here in the United States House of Representatives.

The question would be why, a simple task of updating this legislation to ensure that thousands, maybe millions, are not denied the right to vote.

I start with that because the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge was

particularly brutal, and I want to give credit to all those who marched, many names that I know, our own colleague JOHN LEWIS, Hosea Williams, and many that we have met over the years in Selma. They marched and stood non-violently against violence and, might I say, under the auspices of the misinterpretation of the law, those law enforcement officers—misguided, of course—that stopped those individuals from expressing their rights.

Today, I come to match the need for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act to the enormous need, in a bipartisan manner, to reform our criminal justice system.

Over the news airwaves of the last 24 hours, right here in Washington, D.C., there was a statement about a young father who stood on his doorsteps in Fairfax, Virginia, that, finally, his two beautiful daughters had a settlement from that law enforcement department. He was shot on his doorsteps. The facts are such that I won't discuss today, but one can almost assume that that father did not need to lose his life.

Yesterday, the #marchtojustice, the Justice League of New York City, came to the west lawn to petition the government to end racial profiling and to begin to address the question of how do we have a criminal justice system that meets the equality and justice of America.

Sadly, just a few miles away, in Baltimore, we understand that a young man was picked up and, ultimately, went into a coma and died. What happened in the midst of the time where his spinal cord was nearly severed in the custody of law enforcement officers?

Let me be very clear. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, my commitment is that law enforcement officers go home to their families. In a few days, we will be honoring those who fell in the line of duty. We will be standing and respecting the fact that they provide a protection for this Nation and they serve us. We thank them for that.

But we must come to a point where we hold the Constitution dear and that citizens of the United States have the right to access and speech and protest and that protesters are not dangerous outsiders.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced two initiatives that I would ask my colleagues to join me on, initiatives that should draw bipartisan support. One is the Build TRUST legislation that simply indicates that there should be a process by which local jurisdictions use various citations and nuisance citations and stopping people on the street as a source of revenue, the same kind of issue that confronted Eric Garner—who, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was a large man who everybody knew, who was simply trying to support his family, maybe selling a few cigarettes.

No one has suggested that, dealing with the laws of New York, that that wasn't against the law. What we are saying is that Eric Garner did not need to, in essence, lose his life, nor did Walter Scott in South Carolina, shot five times in the back because he ran.

We are legislators. We know the law. We understand that there is a framework for dealing with police officers, and we need to get there.

The Build TRUST bill says, however, that you cannot heavily burden a particular community, and you must report where all your revenue is coming from in terms of, if it is overly excessive, then you will lose Federal funds because we know that you are going into certain communities.

The other is the CADET Act, which I hope will draw bipartisan support. It does what South Carolina is doing. It codifies the collection of data of lethal force by law enforcement and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now to use the CADET bill for the science of criminal justice reform and the Build TRUST bill to rebuild trust and have police accountability.

I believe that this 50th year of Selma, Mr. Speaker, pushes us to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act and move toward a just criminal justice reform.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, again, April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up and raise awareness across this country that sexual assault and domestic violence can no longer be allowed to exist in our country. We must be proactive on raising awareness on this issue. That is why I come to this floor today to do just that.

Each Member—Democrat, Republican, East, West, North, South—has an opportunity, and I hope they join me to do this throughout April, to say “no more” to sexual assault in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted, every 2 minutes. That is 237,868 victims—our fellow citizens—a year that are impacted by this heinous crime and assault and violence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that we need to do, on top of raising awareness, is change our culture in America. Earlier this month, a graphic video was shown across this Nation and across this world of a gang rape that took place in broad daylight on the beaches of Panama City, Florida. The victim was clearly incapacitated and was clearly assaulted by several men on that beach.

Mr. Speaker, those perpetrators should and will be held accountable. Justice will be done; but what culture exists in America to allow the hundreds of people that were standing nearby who witnessed this assault and did nothing? Bystanders need to understand that, in America today, we stand up and say “no more” to this heinous crime.

Mr. Speaker, because this victim was unconscious and incapacitated, it would have been likely, absent this video, that this crime would have gone unreported. That is the norm in America. Sixty-eight percent of the assaults in the last 5 years were not reported. We need to change our culture, and we need to say “no more.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been on this floor numerous times; and, as many of you have seen before, I have shared my personal story from our family situation with this issue. I will tell you, just as I said the first time I came here and shared that story with the Nation, I say it again: there are no excuses for sexual assault and domestic violence in America.

It is time for us to come together as a nation and say “no more” to sexual assault and domestic violence on our fellow citizens.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Boyd Thomas Tucker, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

With praise and thanksgiving we bow before You, Father. We thank You for Your love and guidance in each person's life who serves in this room. Grant to the Members of this body wisdom to take up their duties today. James said, “If any man lack wisdom, it shall be given him.”

So we pray for wisdom and discernment in their decisions, understanding in their thinking, mercy in their judgments.

We know that without You, Your guidance, we can do nothing, but with You, we can do all things. May we not be frightened by the problems that confront us as a nation, but give thanks that You are with us in this hour.

May Your Word be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Guide us this day, I pray in my Lord and Savior's name, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUINTA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND BOYD THOMAS TUCKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I introduce to the Chamber today Reverend Tom Tucker. Tom is the senior pastor at Sisk Memorial Baptist Church in Fort Mill, which is just down the street from my house.

I was talking to Reverend Tucker beforehand, and he said he was called to ministry, Mr. Speaker, when he was 18, but he fought it until he was 30. I think it is a wonderful story.

He has been the president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Pastors Conference; he is currently the first vice president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; he is a featured devotional speaker for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; and he has ministered, literally, all over the world.

He is married to Brenda. They have two children who are here today, one of whom, Krystal, is married to Jared Ribble, the son of my good friend, Congressman REID RIBBLE from Wisconsin.

So it is an honor and a privilege to have, today, as our guest chaplain, Reverend Tom Tucker.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last summer's border crisis was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants. And then last November, Obama granted amnesty to even more illegal immigrants—millions more. To make matters worse for American taxpayers, these illegal immigrants can now get work permits. This enables them to get Social Security numbers and government benefits.

Make no mistake; what Obama is doing is bilking hard-working American taxpayers. That is why I am reintroducing my bill, the No Social Security Numbers and Benefits for Illegal Aliens Act. America is a country of laws, not men. I am fully committed to stopping the President's illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid improper references to the President.

### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Armenian community to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the events that led to the Armenian genocide.

One hundred years ago, on April 24, more than 300 Armenian leaders were taken from their homes, arrested, and systematically executed. They were the first massacred in a genocide that resulted in the deaths of 1½ million innocent men, women, and children.

The children, grandchildren, and younger descendants of the genocide's victims have worked hard to remember and honor those who suffered. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and to cosponsor H. Res. 154, the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution.

I praise the Armenian American community throughout Los Angeles County and elsewhere in California and the United States for making sure that the history of that tragic period is known and urging our government to officially recognize the genocide.

### SUPPORT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 1.5 million rural South

Carolínians receive their power through local electric cooperatives, who work to keep costs low and maintain high energy standards. Unfortunately, President Obama established new regulations for electric water heaters 5 years ago, destroying jobs. These regulations went into effect last week and have negatively impacted the cooperatives by limiting their ability to manage water heaters during peak time, making consumers pay for an inefficient use of resources.

I am grateful to support the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015. This legislation reduces new regulations for grid-enabled water heaters, which benefit consumers by keeping costs low. Local businesses like the electric cooperatives are the backbone of America's economy, the forefront of new innovations, and are leaders in providing affordable, reliable energy, creating jobs for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

### SOLAR READY VETS PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Solar Ready Vets program, the recently announced Federal initiative to train veterans for jobs in the solar industry.

Solar power accounted for 32 percent of electricity-generating capacity that came online in the United States last year, creating 31,000 American jobs. The energy company, SolarCity, will soon open one of the largest solar panel manufacturing plants in the world in my home community of Buffalo, New York, creating 3,500 jobs in our region. The solar industry employs 174,000 Americans, a number that is quickly increasing. We should seize the opportunity to ensure that our veterans can participate in this growth.

The Solar Ready Vets program trains veterans for jobs in the solar industry at 10 military bases across the country. We are calling for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to be one of those sites. This program creates jobs, fights climate change, and provides economic opportunity to returning veterans.

I call on Congress to support our veterans, support clean energy, and support American jobs by supporting the Solar Ready Vets program.

### HONORING JEFF INGALLS

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Ingalls, a Granite Stater, American hero, and former

prisoner of war. This week he is being rightfully recognized during the Prisoner of War Medal ceremony this Friday.

Master Chief Jeff Ingalls grew up in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, and enlisted in the United States Navy in July of 1978, where he served as a member of an elite unit of highly technical divers. Ingalls served in missions that were not only incredibly complex and challenging, but also extremely dangerous.

In June of 1985, Ingalls was aboard TWA flight 847 when it was hijacked by terrorists. The six-man detachment, including five U.S. Navy divers, was held in captivity by terrorists, during which time one bravely lost his life.

These six men showed bravery, courage, and dedication in the face of an enemy. We will never forget your sacrifices, your fight in the name of freedom and democracy.

American heroes like Jeff Ingalls are the reason our country remains the "land of the free and the home of the brave." For that we are forever grateful.

### 100 DAYS OF REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Republicans marked 100 days of Republican control of both bodies of Congress: 100 days spent working for the wealthy special interests against the hard-working American families, 100 days where we saw our national security threatened when we came dangerously close to shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, 100 days where we saw Republicans vote to end the Medicare guarantee and turn it into a voucher program.

Now, today, we are seeing House Republicans attempt to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an entity designed to protect American consumers, by taking what was a bipartisan bill that came out of committee with nearly unanimous support and using it as a vehicle through the Committee on Rules to slash funding for this important Federal program.

We had a bipartisan bill that could have been an important piece of legislation that we all could get behind, and it had to be used as a way to undermine this really important and essential government function of protecting the American consumer. We have just gone too far with this. We need to get back to doing the work that the American people sent us here to do.

### PUTTING DECISIONMAKING BACK IN THE DISTRICTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, while we are all hard-working Americans dedicated to the freedom and future of our country, our districts and States are vastly different. House Republicans reject the notion that Washington knows best, and our policies reflect that. By putting power back into the hands of the States, we can ensure the decisions made best reflect the Americans we represent.

In the people's House, we understand this more than any other branch. We understand that a top-down approach to government is unrealistic and unfair. We hear the voices of those we represent. Parents don't need bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., to tell them where to send their children to school or what doctor they should see. Our approach gives families the flexibility they need to make these essential decisions.

What works for one district may not for another, and we understand that. In the people's House, we are so proud of the individual districts we come from, like mine in the great State of North Carolina, and we are going to advance policies that let the people there thrive.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 1½ million victims of the Armenian genocide, which began 100 years ago on April 24. I join with the Armenian National Committee of the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts and Armenian communities across the country and throughout the world in mourning those lost and honoring the survivors and their descendants as we recognize this centennial commemoration.

As a member of the Armenian Congressional Caucus, I strongly support H. Res. 154, the Armenian Genocide Resolution. The systematic, premeditated mass murder committed by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians was genocide. Other countries have formally acknowledged dark and painful chapters in their past, and it is time for Turkey to do the same. The Armenians and the descendants of those who were victimized deserve justice.

On this somber anniversary, we have a responsibility to acknowledge the truth about this horrific event. It is a necessary step to building a more just future for all Armenians.

#### IRAN IS A TERRORIST STATE

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as we meet today shortly after noon here, it is evening in the Persian Gulf. It is evening off the coast of Yemen. As we speak, Iran is supplying the rebels, the Houthi rebels, with weapons. Their ships are heading toward them.

Iran is, in fact, our enemy; and Iran is, in fact, in an active war to destabilize many of the Arab countries, as we speak. Iran is a terrorist state, but we are pretending it isn't. The Houthis have been determined by the United Nations to be stopped as rebels, and yet the *Theodore Roosevelt* is circling rather than, in fact, sinking that ship or stopping it.

We, America, are negotiating a nuclear deal that may or may not work—that remains to be seen—but we are negotiating with a terrorist state, a terrorist state that will, I guarantee it, continue going forward to destabilize the region and cause American lives to continue to be lost.

This is the peril that we have. We have had it since 1979. If we do not stop Iran far beyond its nuclear ambitions, we, in fact, will lose American lives every day for the rest of my life.

□ 1215

#### CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, in a modern society, all of us deal with a thousand issues, but there is only one issue that can kill humanity as a species, and that is climate change. Rising sea levels, more extreme weather events, and hotter temperatures are not partisan issues.

Last month, President Reagan's former Secretary of State George Shultz wrote a column in *The Washington Post* asking for action on climate change. Today, on Earth Day, I am introducing the Climate Solutions Act, which will tackle climate change by focusing on three areas: slashing carbon pollution, implementing bold renewable portfolio standards, and setting high energy efficiency standards.

In the future, our history books will write that America led the world on climate change and saved the planet—or there will be no more history books.

#### NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern over the Obama administration's ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran. I also rise

in support of the efforts of our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that any agreement made with Iran has the consent of our constituents' elected officials here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen, in regions across the world, the Obama administration's limited ability to enforce its international agreements and promote our country's interests. The recent horrific chemical weapon attacks in Syria, the growth of ISIS, and Moscow's continued dominance in Ukraine all call into question the strength and resolve needed by this administration to enforce an agreement with one of our Nation's most dangerous foes: Iran.

As these negotiations continue, I strongly urge my colleagues to carefully consider the ability of the administration to uphold and enforce the terms decided on with Iran and the impact that this will have on our security and the security of one of our Nation's closest allies: Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a critical moment for our Nation and for the world and for future generations. We must be determined to make sure that enemies do not get a hold of weapons that could destroy our friends and allies.

#### RIGHT-TO-WORK ZONES

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend the communities in my district that have rejected the Governor of Illinois' efforts to create so-called right-to-work zones.

Rather than lifting Illinois up to make life better for working families, the Governor's divisive plan would drag down all corners of the State into a race to the bottom. These zones are a gimmick to pit communities against each other, to deprive workers of their rights, and to weaken unions.

Rather than creating good-paying jobs for Illinois workers, these zones will depress wages across the State by incentivizing companies to move to whatever town offers them the possibility of paying lower wages and offering fewer benefits.

We shouldn't be asking hard-working men and women to work for poverty-level wages to make up for the fiscal deficit Illinois faces, a deficit which is caused, in large part, by laws that we pass right here on the floor of Congress that cause the citizens of Illinois to pay \$20 billion more each year in taxes than we get back in Federal spending.

Unions did not cause the problems that Illinois faces, and cutting workers' pay will not solve them. So I commend those in Naperville, Aurora Township, Oswego, and communities throughout Illinois fighting against this bad policy. I am proud to stand with you.

### CONGRATULATING DUKE BASKETBALL

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of Duke University's Graduate School, I rise today to honor the Duke men's basketball team and their coach, Mike Krzyzewski, who recently won the NCAA title.

The 2015 Duke men's basketball team was led by veteran senior guard Quinn Cook and freshman Chicagoan Jahlil Okafor, who was named ACC Player of the Year and was a unanimous All-American selection. Coach K led the team to a 35-4 record and the national title with a hard-fought victory over Wisconsin in the title game.

Coach K, a Polish American from Chicago, has won more men's college basketball games than any other coach in history—over 1,000, including 945 wins and five NCAA titles at Duke. And, as all college basketball fans know, there is no place to see a game like Cameron.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the outstanding achievement of the 2015 Duke University men's basketball team and Coach Mike Krzyzewski on winning the 2015 NCAA Tournament championship.

### DEBT-FREE COLLEGE

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, a college education should be accessible to all Americans.

Currently, 40 million Americans have student loans, with an average balance of \$29,000. This impacts our entire economy, as it prevents young people from buying homes, starting a family, and even buying a car.

Mr. Speaker, we provide a high school education for all students because we recognize the advantages for our children and our society of having a good education.

But a high school education is no longer enough if you want to get a good-paying job. A college education is necessary and essential in today's society in order to move ahead. It is an essential step to getting a good-paying job and joining the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, we are stacking the deck against our young people. The cost of higher education is through the roof, and student loans are weighing on our youth at one of the most vulnerable points in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, our parents and grandparents didn't have to take on this level of debt just to get an education. It is our responsibility to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that our parents and grandparents had to access higher education

without the burdensome student loan debt that we now carry.

### VACCINATE YOUR CHILDREN

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there was a story in today's Washington Post about the Salk vaccine being approved for usage in this country 50 years ago, on April 12, 1955. There was a picture of a second-grade student getting a shot as a test case in 1954. It brought back memories to me that I wanted to relate here.

My father was a physician. In 1954, he gave shots to second-grade children as part of the testing of the Salk vaccine. I had a brother in the second grade. My father gave him the shot that he gave all other second-graders.

I was in kindergarten. My father's mission was not to give shots beyond the second grade. So while the vaccine was in my home, he thought about giving it to me but didn't.

In the spring of 1954, I came down with polio. My father never forgave himself for not giving me that vaccination. I have suffered for it ever since and will continue for the rest of my life.

I relate this story to tell the American people: Vaccinate your children. Don't listen to the hysteria. Science has given us ways to stop children from getting diseases that have threatened society for generations. Do vaccinate. It is safe.

### ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the genocide of over 1 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The Armenian genocide began April 24, 1915, when 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders were arrested. By 1918, between 800,000 and 1.5 million Armenians had disappeared, been killed through massacres, or subjected to forced labor and death marches in the desert.

The Armenian genocide joins other great human tragedies of the 20th century, including the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany against Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, Christians, and political opponents; the massacre of the Tutsis in the Rwandan genocide; the Khmer Rouge; and Joseph Stalin's mass murders.

I rise today to remember those whose lives perished in the Armenian genocide and to recognize the Armenian Americans in their ongoing quest to

ensure that those who perished are remembered for their loss of life in one of the most tragic genocides of the 20th century.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1560, PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1731, NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 212 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 212

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to

clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-12. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 1560 the Clerk shall—

(1) add the text of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1560;

(2) conform the title of H.R. 1560 to reflect the addition of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(3) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(4) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, to the engrossment of H.R. 1560, H.R. 1731 shall be laid on the table.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS),

pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 212, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee. It is a rule that respects the legislative process and reflects the responsibility of Congress to address a critical deficit in the infrastructure of our Nation.

This rule provides for consideration of both cybersecurity measures under a structured amendment process. As a result of a thorough and deliberative committee hearing yesterday evening, there are five amendments to H.R. 1560 and 11 amendments to H.R. 1731 that this body will have the opportunity to debate and ultimately vote for or against.

The bipartisan nature of these bills speaks to the critical need for this legislation. Both bills passed their respective committees with bipartisan support, and I am hopeful this rule will enjoy similar overwhelming support.

For each bill, amendments offered by Democrats exceeded those offered by Republicans. I would like to thank Chairman NUNES and also Chairman MCCAUL for their work, both within our conference and across the aisle, to ultimately bring forward two bills that reflect compromise, consistency, and a deep understanding of the dangers that cyber attacks pose every day.

If both bills are adopted, this rule combines the bills and sends them to the Senate as a package in an effort to work with the other Chamber, go to conference, and to produce a product that will be signed into law. This is a fair rule that respects this body, the importance of this issue, and the legislative process as a whole.

The world has changed greatly since this body last discussed cybersecurity. The “Internet of Things” has created unforeseen risks and exposed vulnerabilities and defects in the ability of companies to even simply talk to each other without fear of frivolous litigation.

Our enemy is adapting, growing bolder and more sophisticated. North Korea, Iran, Russia, and China seek to exploit and devastate our economic security as a nation and our data security as individuals through cyber attacks that we cannot adequately anticipate, respond, or even communicate about.

Foreign governments aren’t the only ones who wish to do Americans harm.

Terrorists and criminal enterprises have also recognized that American companies are crippled by the ambiguity in our law as it relates to sharing cyber threat information.

The cyber attack surface has expanded. Wearables, connected vehicles, and embedded devices have made it possible for cyber attacks to literally be driven into the parking lot or walked through doors.

The traditional ways of responding to cyber threats and recovering from them are not sufficient to safeguard the data privacy of Americans and the economic security of our Nation. The scope of these attacks and devastating damages are increasing as rapidly as the attackers are themselves.

These bills are not a magic pill. They will not render inoperable the scores of foreign countries and enterprises that want to see American exceptionalism brought to its knees; but they do give clear, positive legal authority to American companies to allow them to protect their own and to appropriately share cyber threats with other countries and, in certain cases, Federal agencies.

Let me be clear. These are not surveillance bills. These are not data collection bills. This is not the PATRIOT Act or FISA. This body will debate intelligence gathering, collecting, sharing, and using at some point in the future, but today is not that day.

I know those rightly concerned with government surveillance, like myself, would like to use this rule for that purpose and the underlying measures as a platform to debate that, but I urge them to refrain. We will have that debate.

Today’s focus is on the perpetrating of the thousands of cyber threats American businesses face every single day. Let the attention be on North Korea. Let it be on Iran. Let it be on the countless enemies of the United States who want to destroy this Nation. For today, we speak with a united voice that they will fail.

We declare with one voice that American companies have the right to protect their own, to protect and defend their own networks, to share technical information with the appropriate agencies on a voluntary basis if they so choose.

I thank the Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees and their staff for their tireless work they have done to ensure that we can protect our economy, our infrastructure, and our private information.

I know detractors of the legislation may attempt to paint this rule and underlying measures in a different light, so let’s allow the facts to speak for themselves.

These bills have three key components. First, they provide for completely voluntary participation by private companies in a program with positive legal authority. This program allows three kinds of sharing—private



company to private company, government to private company, and private company to government—but this sharing of information is limited only to cyber threat indicators.

Second, they require the removal of all unrelated personal information. It is the technical cyber threat information that is being shared, zeros and ones. In fact, there is a requirement that both the government and the private entity remove personally identifiable information when the information is shared and also when it is received.

Third, the legislation expressly prohibits the cyber threat indicators from being used for surveillance.

These bills will benefit all Americans by helping businesses better protect sensitive information. Attacks against our network often seek to steal Americans' personal information. This can include credit and debit card information, medical records, or even Social Security numbers.

Many of the recent attacks that we have all read about in the news were specifically aimed at stealing the personal information of Americans. Cyber attackers are also increasingly targeting small businesses. In fact, in 2014, 60 percent of all targeted attacks struck at small- and medium-sized businesses.

The underlying legislation will also help protect American jobs by protecting the intellectual property of American businesses. It is estimated that cyber attacks cost Americans roughly 500,000 jobs a year. Foreign companies often use cyber attacks to target the trade secrets of U.S. companies and then use the information to produce their own competing product.

The threat is real, both to our economic security as a nation and our personal information as individuals. If we fail to act and pass this rule and the underlying bills, our Nation and our personal privacy is more at risk than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying legislation.

Today, the House is convening to debate a matter that we all agree is critical for our national security, our economic competitiveness, our prosperity, and the success of our private sector.

The recent cyber attacks on Sony and Anthem are but two prominent examples of cases in which American businesses or government entities have come under attack by hackers, among many other instances that haven't even been reported.

I want to recognize the work that the House Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees did on these pieces of

legislation and their attempts to address these issues. Unfortunately, in spite of their hard work and the work of those that went into crafting these two bills, I regret that they fall short of their goals and would likely do more harm than good.

Not only do both bills, particularly the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, raise enormous concerns about inappropriate sharing of personal information and surveillance on Americans' private lives, but they are built on the premise that many security experts have warned is fundamentally flawed, that sharing information with the Federal Government should be the central focus of our efforts to protect American cyber networks, rather than simply one aspect to a multipronged strategy to defeat hackers, foreign and domestic.

Now, before I address the substance of these two bills, I want to discuss this unusual rule before us and how it treats two bills which contradict each other in significant ways.

Ordinarily, when two committees share jurisdiction over a matter—in this case, the Homeland Security Committee and the Intelligence Committee—they collaborate. One committee handles one portion of the bill, reports it out; the other committee handles the other portion, reports it out, and they work together to bring a single piece of legislation to the floor for Members to debate, amend, and vote for or against.

This is what happened, for example, with the recent SGR repeal legislation, which had components under the jurisdiction of no less than six different committees in this body, but was presented before us as a single bill.

In this case, however, because there seems to be some kind of turf war between the Intelligence Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, we are actually voting on two overlapping bills that, in several respects, contradict one another.

For instance, the bills have drastically different determinations of what kind of information may be shared, what purposes the government may use the information for, and what hacking countermeasures companies are allowed to take to protect their networks.

Instead of having a meaningful debate on the merits of each bill's approach, this body, if this rule passes, would forego that, and we would simply debate and vote on each bill separately, and if they both pass, the rule directs the Clerk to mesh them together through something called conforming amendments.

Not only would this leave businesses to wade their way through two separate, contradictory regulatory schemes, but it leaves it unclear which bill's provisions would actually prevail in practice and under which cir-

cumstances. It actually would create more uncertainty in the marketplace, rather than less.

I don't think anybody could reasonably call this an open process. We shouldn't be depriving our constituents of an open debate on important issues. The major amendments of this bill that would have restored privacy, many of which I was a cosponsor, are not even allowed to be debated on the floor of the House, not for 10 minutes, not for 5 minutes, not even for 1 minute.

My colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle are being denied a vote on the very amendments that we feel could address the concerns we have with the cybersecurity legislation and make sure that we keep American networks safe.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2 years since the NSA's shockingly broad data collection program PRISM came to light, we have heard from many of our constituents. The American people want an end to unwarranted surveillance. They want Congress to restore desperately needed accountability and transparency to our Nation's often out-of-control intelligence-gathering apparatus.

It is bewildering to many people that, at the very time the American people have spoken out that we want more safeguards, instead, we are bringing forward two bills whose central objective is to facilitate the flow of more personal information to the Federal Government, when we continue to put off the question of surveillance reform and bringing an end to the NSA's bulk data collection without warrants.

It is especially disappointing in light of the fact that several PATRIOT Act provisions will sunset at the end of next month, giving Congress a crucial opportunity to reexamine and rein in Federal surveillance programs.

By putting off that issue and bringing mass information sharing to the floor, Congress is asking the American people for a blank check. Congress is saying: Trust the President. No President would allow this information sharing to infringe on your civil liberties, even though we have utterly failed to pass a single piece of legislation to end the privacy abuses that we know have occurred under this administration and the prior administration.

The problem with these bills is that they go far beyond, and they open up additional loopholes and potential abuses with regard to privacy abuses, particularly H.R. 1560, the so-called Protecting Cyber Networks Act. Both bills open up Americans' private information to inappropriate scrutiny by the Federal Government.

Now, I expect we will hear proponents of both bills argue at length that the protections against sharing personal information are sufficiently robust.

For instance, under both bills, they will cite that cyber threat data is

scrubbed twice for personal information, once by private entities before they transmit it to the government and once by government entities before they store the information or share it with anybody else.

Now, that sounds good, but, unfortunately, the devil is in the details, and a close reading of the bill shows that there is an enormous loophole in the information-scrubbing component and that it fails to offer Americans safeguards for the personal information.

□ 1245

Under both bills, any Federal entity in receipt of cyber data threat information may store and share personal information it receives—unscrubbed information—if they believe that it is related to a cybersecurity threat.

Now, this standard isn't too vague, considering that information "related" to a cybersecurity threat could be interpreted to mean just about anything, but it is also incredibly broad. It includes an implicit assumption that Americans' personal information should be shared, unless Federal officials have information that it is not related to a cybersecurity threat. In many cases, the burden is to show that the personal information is not related to a cybersecurity threat for it to be scrubbed, rather than the other way around.

So, yes, companies and Federal entities are required to scrub the data for information that can be used to identify a specific person. But the loophole then calls on them not to remove any personally identifiable information unless they can show that it is not related to cybersecurity. Even if there is an off chance that something at some point might be pertinent to some kind of investigation, it puts Americans' personal information—without warrants, without due process, including information about patterns of Internet use, location, content of online communications—at great risk.

We have seen before that the Federal Government has a poor track record of safeguarding our personal information when they are entrusted with it. The last thing we should be doing is empowering Federal agencies even more with a broad discretion to look at personal information unless there is clear evidence that doing so would combat a cybersecurity threat.

I introduced, along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, a number of amendments to both bills—one with the gentlewoman from California, Representative ZOE LOFGREN, and one with Representative ZOE LOFGREN and the gentleman from Michigan, Representative JUSTIN AMASH—to impose a higher standard on Federal entities who are entrusted with this personal information. Our proposal would simply require the Federal Government to remove personally identifiable

information unless it is directly necessary to identify or mitigate a cybersecurity threat—the purported purpose of this bill.

These amendments would have imposed no additional burdens on private companies, but they would have given our Nation's technology companies and the customers who keep them globally competitive more confidence that private information shared under these bills would not be subjected to inappropriate mass scrutiny by the government.

Sadly, our amendments met the same fate as nearly two dozen others put forth to add in important privacy safeguards.

The potential for abuse of private information under H.R. 1560 is even more far-reaching. The Homeland Security bill at least makes clear that the information companies transmit to DHS should be shared specifically with other agencies that need it to protect critical infrastructure. But the circumstances under which information can be shared under the Intelligence bill—and who it can be shared with—are fuzzier and broader.

Under the approach taken by H.R. 1560, every cyber threat indicator shared with a civilian agency of the Federal Government is immediately shared with a host of other government agencies, including the NSA. This increases the threat to cybersecurity by having repositories of information replicated across numerous government agencies, creating additional avenues for attack by malicious hackers. That means that private sector companies will not be able to participate in the program and promise their users they will not share information with NSA or other government agencies unless required by law.

Furthermore, it is true that the Homeland Security bill includes some troubling provisions that allow the government to use cybersecurity threat information for criminal investigations unrelated to cybersecurity. Fortunately, the Rules Committee made in order an amendment by Representatives JOHN KATKO, ZOE LOFGREN, and ANNA ESHOO that would address this problem in the Homeland Security bill. I hope that my colleagues adopt this amendment.

Unfortunately, no such amendment is being considered to address this issue within the Intelligence bill, H.R. 1560, where the problem actually runs much deeper. H.R. 1560 permits cyber threat data, including Americans' private information, that is shared with the Federal Government to be stored and used for a raft of unrelated purposes, unconstrained by congressional directive, including investigations and potential prosecution of crimes completely unrelated to cybersecurity.

Obviously, all of us want law enforcement agencies to be equipped to pre-

vent and prosecute violent crime, but the inclusion of these matters completely unrelated to cybersecurity broadens the scope of the measure far beyond what it is purported to be: a cybersecurity bill. In fact, it reduces the focus of our efforts on combating cybersecurity when you open it up to everything under the sun.

By including a vast array of other reasons the government can invoke to store and share personal information, the authors of the bill essentially transformed the information-sharing initiative into a broad new surveillance program.

Yes. Rather than a cybersecurity measure, effectively, these bills are a stalking horse for broad new surveillance authority by multiple agencies of the Federal Government without warrants, without oversight.

H.R. 1560 empowers Federal entities to hold onto any information about an individual that may be "related to" any of the many law enforcement purposes lumped into the bill. That gives the Federal Government enormous incentive to retain and scrutinize personal information, even if it is unrelated to a cybersecurity threat.

The scope of the use authorizations also undermines due process protections that exist to protect Americans against unwarranted search and seizure. Private information about a person that was transmitted warrantlessly to the NSA under a program that was purportedly designed to combat hackers should not be admissible or used in court against them on an unrelated offense—not related to cybersecurity, not related to hacking. It would render all of our due process protections invalid simply because of the medium of the information that is used with regard to these matters in this case: Internet and cyber-related mediums and communications through them.

I joined Representatives ZOE LOFGREN, DARRELL ISSA, and BLAKE FARENTHOLD on an amendment to make clear that information sharing may only be used for the purpose of mitigating cybersecurity threats, again, the purported purpose of this bill. If the proponents of this bill are serious about combating cybersecurity, why did the Rules Committee deny Members the opportunity to limit the provisions of this bill to cybersecurity rather than a whole host of unrelated offenses?

I also joined the gentleman from Kansas, Representative KEVIN YODER, to sponsor an amendment to address a longstanding due process issue that has plagued our Nation's legal system and our privacy rights.

While the government is required to get a warrant if it wants to search through a person's physical mail, it is not required to get a warrant to search through somebody's old emails, provided the emails are older than 6

months. That contradiction and loophole was based on a 1986 law that was written before most people knew what email was.

Representative YODER and I sponsor a bipartisan bill that has 261 cosponsors, and yet when we offered a provision on this bill, we were not given a chance to vote on it and pass it in spite of the grave due process implications that the underlying legislation has.

In addition to these privacy and due process concerns, I am alarmed by the prospect that H.R. 1560 will actually invite attempts by both private and public entities to deliberately weaken the integrity of software systems in the name of cybersecurity.

H.R. 1560, for instance, authorizes companies to deploy countermeasures that are called defensive measures in the form of hack backs that would otherwise be illegal. A countermeasure operated on one network should never cause harm to another that is prohibited by the Federal anti-hacking statute, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. But that is precisely what can happen when a company places malware on its own network, because if that data gets stolen along with other valuable data, it can harm or lead to unauthorized or backdoor access of other proprietary networks or information.

The gentleman from Virginia, Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, put forward two amendments to address this issue in a very thoughtful manner. Regrettably, neither one will be allowed to be debated or receive a vote on the floor of the House unless we can defeat this rule.

Furthermore, both bills present the risk that Federal entities will use the threat information they receive from private companies to circumvent the security protections safeguarding those same private companies' information systems, effectively creating their own back doors which could later be exploited by malicious hackers.

As a matter of routine, our intelligence apparatus already demands that private companies include defects in their encryption system for the purported purpose of conducting backdoor surveillance. Today's legislation only makes it easier for the NSA to find and exploit more of these back doors and, therefore, easier—not harder—for hackers to find and exploit these very same security weaknesses.

Once again, Representative LOFGREN put forward an amendment that would actually improve cybersecurity by making it clear that Federal entities could not use data obtained through information sharing to demand that private entities create new encryption weaknesses to enable backdoor hacking. Sadly, once again, her amendment will not be heard on the floor of the House, and this bill will encourage and allow additional venues for the illicit hacking it purports to combat.

Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt the intentions and the goals of my colleagues on the Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees, but these bills simply represent a step backwards rather than a step forward, present risks on too many fronts, from privacy, to due process, to the threats that they add to the integrity of the very networks that these bills are designed to safeguard.

In addition, the bills' focus on information sharing negates an important conversation about more important mechanisms Congress should be looking at to protect cyber systems, mechanisms that are not as fraught with risks to our civil liberties and are more effective at protecting our networks. We should be doing more, for instance, to educate businesses and governments about basic network security.

Even here in Congress, we have seen evidence of how woefully lacking even elementary knowledge about cyber threats is. Helping businesses prevent cyber attacks doesn't have to mean that the government vacuums up endless amounts of personal data about how individual Americans are using the Internet and their personal communications.

In fact, if we stop allowing the NSA to demand that U.S. businesses deliberately weaken their own networks for the purpose of government surveillance, that, in itself, would be a big step forward to strengthening our national cybersecurity.

Sadly, today's rule doesn't even allow for a debate or for a vote on the most significant concerns surrounding this legislation and denies Members the opportunity to consider changes that would address the issues that we have raised and improve cybersecurity under this bill. For these reasons, I hope my colleagues join me in opposing the rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to focus this debate. There are many things my friend from Colorado brought up that will be debated, that are coming up, I think, as early, frankly, as tomorrow in some committees and will be debated on this floor. This is about sharing. This is about information protection.

And with that, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), who is a member of both the Homeland Security and the Intelligence Committees. He is the chairman of the Homeland Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, and he is also the former chairman of the full committee.

Mr. KING of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and also of the underlying bills, H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1560.

As was pointed out, I am the only Member of Congress who is on the Homeland Security Committee and the

Intelligence Committee; and I was able to both take part and also to observe closely the extent to which the gentleman from Texas, Chairman McCaul, and the gentleman from California, Chairman NUNES, worked with Members on both sides of the aisle, worked with privacy groups, worked with Federal officials, government officials, and administration officials to try to make this as bipartisan a bill as possible, to ensure that privacy would be protected, but also to ensure that everything possible can be done to protect our Nation against cyber intrusions.

Now, every day there are attacks upon our infrastructure. The critical infrastructure—mostly in private hands—is being targeted; and Federal networks, databases that are vital to our national security, are under assault every second of every day.

Cyberterrorism, whether it is carried out by a nation-state, such as Iran or Russia or China, or carried out by terrorist organizations, such as ISIS or al Qaeda, is extremely damaging and threatening to our national security; and it is essential that we, especially since so much of our critical infrastructure is in the hands of the private sector, allow for sharing, that we allow companies to share information with the government, that there is mutual sharing with the government, with the private sector, so that these companies can do it without fear of being sued, without fear of liability—they act in good faith; they do what has to be done.

Every measure that was put in there—I know the gentleman from Colorado disagrees, but every measure is in there to ensure that individual rights will not be violated, that privacy will not be violated. And again, we have to look at, for instance, if the gentleman from Colorado is wrong, what this could mean to our country, how this could devastate—devastate—our infrastructure, devastate our national security, devastate our financial system.

So again, this was not something that was rushed into. And when you have both bills passing out of committee with, as far as I recall, not one dissenting vote—not that everyone was in full agreement with the bills. But the fact is this is probably as close to a consensus as you can come in the Halls of Congress on such a critical and, in some ways, such a controversial issue, to find that type of unanimity on the two committees that deal with this most significantly.

□ 1300

H.R. 1731 is the Homeland Security Committee bill that allows this information to be shared. The port will be the Department of Homeland Security, and that was done, again, working with privacy groups and working with those who are concerned with civil liberties,

at the same time working with those who realize how absolutely essential to our security passage of this legislation is and how we have to have this type of cooperation, this type of sharing, this information sharing, and being done with the government and with the private sector working together to combat these enemies which can come at us from all directions. Again, every second of every day these attacks are being attempted and carried out.

That is the crisis that faces us as a nation. It is not as obvious as a bomb going off in Times Square, and it is not as obvious as a bomb going off at the Boston Marathon, but it is just as critical.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KING of New York. It is just as critical and just as vital, in some ways more so, in that the ultimate result could be so devastating to our Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask, again, passage of the rule, which I believe is obviously essential, but also passage of the underlying bills because, again, our Congress has been criticized, with some validity, for not being able to work together and for not being able to get things done. But to have such a vital, controversial issue as this, to have both committees who deal with it most closely, to have them come together, all the effort and work that went into it, to have them come together to come up with this package of legislation, this shows Congress works. It shows we take this issue seriously, and it means we are going to go forward in all we can to combat terrorism in all its forms. Right now, probably the most lethal are the cybersecurity attacks being made on us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would just add that demanding that private companies deliberately include defects in their own encryption systems for the purpose of allowing the NSA to conduct backdoor surveillance only increases the risk of our cybersecurity networks rather than decreases it, which is exactly what the bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, though I support H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, as approved by voice vote in my committee, I rise to express my disappointment with the rule.

Yesterday the White House announced support for House passage of

H.R. 1731 but said that "improvements to the bill are needed to ensure that its liability protections are appropriately targeted to encourage responsible cybersecurity practices." The White House was referring to the language that was inserted at the direction of the Judiciary majority.

Instead of providing a targeted safe harbor for companies to share timely cyber threat information, it establishes an unduly complicated legal framework that runs the risk of providing liability relief to companies that act negligently. Moreover, it explicitly immunizes companies from not acting on timely cyber information. This language runs counter to the fundamental goal of the legislation: to get companies timely, actionable information to use to protect their networks.

Yet when H.R. 1731 is considered tomorrow, Members will not be allowed to vote on a single amendment to fix the liability provision that the White House has called "sweeping" and said may weaken cybersecurity overall. Remarkably, none of the seven amendments that were filed to fix it are being allowed.

I would also like to register my disappointment that the rule calls for H.R. 1731, upon passage, to be attached to the Intelligence Committee bill. From my conversation with Members, I know that there is a great deal of support for authorizing cyber information sharing with the Federal civilian lead, the Department of Homeland Security. As such, I would argue that the rule should have called for H.R. 1560 to be folded into our bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the rule, but not without trepidation. I will be opposing the underlying bill, but not without regret. The underlying bill could have done what we wanted it to do. It could have allowed for the exchange of information while protecting individuals' privacy. It could have limited that information to preventing a cyberterrorist attack. But, in fact, amendments that were offered on a bipartisan basis, a number of them, that could have limited this would have, in fact, allowed us to have the confidence that this information would be used only for what it was intended.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, the government has begun to know more and more about what we are doing, who we are, where we live, where we sleep, whom we love, whom we do business with, and where we travel. And we have known less and less. Just a few days ago, the Ninth Circuit in northern Cali-

fornia had to rule that the government had to turn over information in a usable format. It took a Federal court order to do so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ISSA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this bill should mandate our knowing more and the government not knowing. It should have ensured that the government only had what it needed. It should have protected private companies who wanted to exchange appropriate information between each other. It should not have created a vast treasure trove here in Washington or somewhere in the hinterland where the government now and in the future can dig in for any purpose—criminal background investigations or perhaps simply checking to see if you paid your taxes. The fact is, this is a data vault that is not narrowly construed, and, therefore, sadly, without the amendments that were not allowed, I am not in a position to vote for this bill. I thank the chairman, and I thank Mr. POLIS for his kind remarks also.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, we will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to consider the Department of Veterans Affairs Cybersecurity Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) to discuss our proposal.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for giving me a couple of minutes to talk about the importance of protecting our veterans from cyber attack.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1128, the Department of Veterans Affairs Cyber Security Protection Act. My bill will protect veterans' personal and sensitive information from cyber attacks without compromising the VA's ability to provide the health care, benefits, and services our veterans have earned.

This legislation will do primarily three things. First, it will require the VA to develop an information security strategic plan that protects current veterans' information and anticipates future cybersecurity threats. Second, it mandates a report on VA actions to hold employees accountable for data breaches. Third, it requires the VA to propose a reorganization of the VA's information-security infrastructure to protect veterans and provide greater levels of accountability and responsibility in the VA.

My bill will also require the VA to report employee violations of its policy and report any incidents involving the compromise of veterans' personal information by the VA or from outside cyber attacks.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one common-sense way that we can hold the VA accountable and protect veterans' private and personal information from cyber threats, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1128.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a member of the Homeland Security Committee and a colleague of mine from Georgia.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, national cybersecurity will be an issue this House will have to constantly address for the foreseeable future. To achieve a system that will protect our Nation's citizens and its infrastructure, we must create a public-private partnership between Federal agencies and American businesses. This partnership will allow Federal agencies and American businesses to share cyber threat information, vulnerabilities within our cyber network, and the creation of new systems to protect consumer information. However, private businesses need to be provided protections and incentives to ensure they are protected from government abuse and private legal proceedings meant to gain access to private security information.

Mr. Speaker, one of our top priorities with these two bills should be to clearly acknowledge protections given to companies that engage in penetration testing and clearly state that company proprietary information is protected from nefarious legal proceedings and exempted from Freedom of Information Act requests. It is reasonable to think that individuals would actively pursue this sort of proprietary information for the sole purpose of accessing the vulnerabilities of private cyber networks if we do not clearly state that this information is protected and exempt from those actions.

I believe we should consider these possibilities and ensure that protections are provided so our country and its citizens can fully benefit from these laws.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I want to thank my colleague from Georgia who sits on the Homeland Security Committee for his passion and his commitment to addressing these critical defects in the laws governing this voluntary sharing of cyber threat information. The legislation before us today is good policy reflective of the hard work of the committees on which you sit, Homeland Security and the Intelligence Committee, as well as input from a vast array of stakeholders. It is important to know that the legislation is supported by every sector of the economy.

As my friend so eloquently noted, the legislative process will rightly continue after these bills are considered by the full House this week and for years to come as we revisit and reassess the needs of Americans' privacy and also the laws governing cybersecurity.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend that if there is a conference committee on this bill, we should encourage them to seek additional clarification language as needed to ensure that companies are appropriately incentivized to share cyber threat information.

I just want to say personally that I appreciate all the hard work that you have done on this issue bringing this forward and continuing to work for not only the companies in Georgia but across this Nation who depend on a safe and secure cyber network.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that on this very day, leaders on the Judiciary Committee will introduce legislation designed to reform and rein in the Federal Government's surveillance programs. I haven't had the opportunity to review those bills yet, so I can't speak to their merits. But I hope that if it is a strong bill, it will make its way through both Chambers and become law.

But, today, this body is considering a rule that would take us in the wrong direction. Recent history has shown that this body shares the American people's concerns that we don't take the threat of unwarranted surveillance seriously enough and that Congress needs to pass meaningful reforms that balance our liberties, our freedoms, and our privacy with the need to keep America safe.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL introduced legislation yesterday that would extend the NSA's surveillance program without any of the reforms that many of us on both sides of the aisle have advocated to rein them in. This is despite the national outcry and, indeed, international embarrassment that has been counterproductive to the very American security goals that these provisions are designed to advance.

This makes me fear that Congress is not learning from the mistakes of the past, mistakes of overly broad surveillance authorities, but instead is about to repeat them. So before we approve faster, broader, and easier sharing of vast amounts of personal information from innocent Americans with the Federal Government, Congress should be taking up legislation to prove that we have the ability to curb abuse and the Federal Government's penchant for abusing its access to this kind of data.

So far Congress has not shown its aptitude for preventing this kind of abuse. Yet today we ask the American people to trust us, to trust the President, yet again, by opening up even

more information to the NSA and other surveillance agencies.

Our experience with the NSA has shown us that to protect American civil liberties from an overzealous surveillance apparatus, the authorities to review and share Americans' personal information need to be construed as narrowly, as unambiguously, and as specifically as possible by the United States Congress. We need to limit very specifically to a specific set of circumstances under which sharing data and information is necessary for mitigating a security threat.

We offered to do that through bipartisan amendments, working with Representative LOFGREN, Representative ISSA, and others, but none of those amendments are allowed to be discussed or debated under this rule.

Both the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act fall well short of the standard—and in the case of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act can even be counterproductive and falls woefully short.

□ 1315

These pieces of legislation would enable Federal agencies to store and share Americans' private information, such as Internet usage patterns, even the content of online communications, based on a vague or broad standard that doing so is not unrelated to a cybersecurity threat.

Again, not affirmatively, they don't have to prove that it is related to a cybersecurity threat; the burden of proof is to show that it is not unrelated to a cybersecurity threat. How can you demonstrably show that about anything?

It would make it easier for government agencies to deliberately weaken software systems for the purpose of creating new surveillance back doors that foreign nation-states and hackers can presumably also exploit.

It would leave the door wide open to more NSA surveillance by allowing the sharing of personal information for a raft of purposes unrelated to cybersecurity. We can do better.

By rejecting this rule, Members of Congress will show that, yes, we take cybersecurity seriously, so seriously that we want to take the time to get it right. Whether that takes another week or 2 weeks or 3 weeks, getting it right means allowing Members of this body input into the formulation of the final bill meaningfully through the kinds of amendments that have been rejected outright under this rule without discussion, without debate, without a vote.

Unfortunately, the rule before us today denies us the ability to consider amendments that would have addressed many of the concerns with the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “no” and defeat the previous question.

I urge a “no” vote on this bizarre rule that combines two, at times, contradictory bills and rejects bipartisan amendments that would have addressed the concerns that many of us have with the underlying legislation.

I urge a “no” vote on the previous question and the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we move forward, I think one of the things—and there are many things that are going to be discussed, and I encourage all Members to vote for this rule. As we move into general debate, there will be a lot of discussion that talks about what we are moving forward; but, also, I want to bring forward that we are—as is seemingly not discussed bringing forth, there are amendments being brought forth on both of these bills.

There also were 20-something amendments in Homeland Security; there was also an amendment in Intelligence. These are vetted bills. This is a proper role with what we are doing in Congress in bringing these to the floor.

Are there times that someone may want others? Yes; but, at this point, we are going to have that debate here on the floor. That is why voting for this rule and moving this forward is the proper thing to do.

Before we also move back from this, I want to talk about this need and why we are here even to start with. Most Americans recognize and understand that the growing attacks against our cyber networks and critical infrastructure and our laws fail to provide proper legal authority for information regarding cyber threats to be shared.

In fact, when I am back home in the Ninth District of Georgia discussing this, most people don't realize there is this barrier, and especially everything that is going on, they don't understand why some of these impediments were put into place that keeps companies from protecting their own, but also protecting their own personal information.

One of the things that is missing in this debate is the discussion of what has actually happened and the personal information that is shared by these hackers who are getting into our system.

Some of the latest attacks perpetrated by North Korea and other criminal enterprises on Sony Pictures and health insurance providers Anthem and Blue Cross Blue Shield speak to

the type of attacks that occur on a daily basis that target the backbone of American business and the privacy of America's most sensitive data.

As we look to constrain this, as we look to put in proper safeguards, we have to realize that doing nothing exposes more and more of our American citizens to personal information being shared. If we don't believe it, just read the headlines from Sony, Anthem, and these others that have come out recently.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, in 2014 alone, they received almost 100,000 cyber incident reports and detected 64,000 cyber vulnerabilities, and these numbers are just based on information given to DHS and does not reflect the full scope of the attacks on our Nation.

When we look at this and we talk about the personal information, the FBI Director James Comey said:

There are two kinds of big companies in the United States. There are those who have been hacked . . . and those who don't know they have been hacked.

A recent survey by the Ponemon Institute showed an average cost of a cyber crime for U.S. retail stores more than doubled from 2013 to an annual average of 8.6 million per company in 2014.

The annual average cost for a company of a successful cyber attack in 2014 increased to 20.8 million in financial services, 14.5 million in the technology sector, and 12.7 million in the communications industry.

The scope of many attacks are not fully known. For example, in July of 2014, the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team issued an advisory that more than 1,000 U.S. businesses have been affected by the Backoff malware, which targets point-of-sale systems used by most retail industries. These attacks targeted administrative and customer data and, in many cases, financial data. Most companies encounter multiple cyber attacks every day, many unknown to the public and many unknown to the companies themselves even.

Again, as we look back over the attacks of just the past year, Target announced an additional 70 million individual contact information was taken during the December 2013 breach in which 40 million customers' credit and debit information was stolen.

Between May 2013 and January 2014, the payment cards of 2.6 million Michaels customers were affected. Attackers targeted the Michaels POS system to gain access to their systems.

The email service Yahoo! Mail was reportedly hacked in for 273 million users, although the specific number of accounts affected was not released.

For 2 weeks, AT&T was hacked from the inside by personnel who accessed user information, including Social Security information.

Foreign nationals from China have been indicted for computer hacking and economic espionage. We have seen these attacks all over the board.

Looking at this, the real issue that comes to mind is if we sit back and are not productive and not proactive as the Intelligence Committee and the Homeland Security Committee have been here, we are putting in danger more personal information being exposed in ways that no American needs to have their personal information exposed and are being targeted in the process.

This is good legislation that needs to stay on the floor, and that is why we are here today to support this rule and to look forward to that debate that has already happened and will continue to happen.

I appreciate the discussion we have had over the past hour. Although we may have some differences, our unity should be clear against the cyber attacks and our resolve to prevent them and show their success is strong.

This rule provides for ample debate on the floor, the opportunity to debate and to vote on 16 amendments, and a smooth and deliberative process for sending one bill to the Senate. These bills will help protect American consumers, jobs, and small businesses.

Allowing companies, again, to voluntarily share cyber threat indicators with other companies and government agencies will help bring awareness to new threats and vulnerabilities.

If businesses can learn about a new threat from another business or from the government before they are targeted themselves, they can better act to protect their customers' personal information from a similar attack.

I would like to thank Intel, Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Rules Committee members and staff for the thoughtful and involved processes that have brought us to this point.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and these two cybersecurity bills.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Rule governing debate on H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1560.

H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1569: 1. provides for consideration of important improvements to both bills; 2. makes clear the role of the Department of Homeland Security in securing civil government networks; and 3. the responsibilities of DHS in assist private sector entities in improving overall cybersecurity for themselves and their customers.

The bipartisan process that the Homeland Security Committee followed through the leadership of Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON is an example of what can be accomplished when partisanship is removed from the policymaking equation.

I would also like to thank Chairman SESSIONS and Ranking Member SLAUGHTER as well as members of the Rules Committee for making 4 of my amendments in order.

I join my colleagues in the work to secure our nation's cybersecurity, while preserving the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens.

The road to today began in 2011, when President Obama took several steps to move the issue of cybersecurity to the forefront by: 1. releasing a cybersecurity legislative proposal; 2. calling on Congress to take urgent action to give the private sector and government the tools needed to combat cyber threats at home and abroad; and 3. issuing the International Strategy for Cyberspace to make clear to nations abroad that the United States was firmly committed to improving cybersecurity and combating cyber terrorism.

I will be offering several amendments as the two bills are considered.

The Jackson Lee amendments are simple and will improve the privacy protections already in the bills and allow the Department of Homeland Security to become a better partner with the private sector in its work to improve domestic cybersecurity.

One of the Jackson Lee amendments that will be offered to the both bills will improve privacy and civil liberties by providing the public with a report from the Government Accountability Office that their privacy and civil liberties are not being compromised by the programs established by this bill.

Other Jackson Lee Amendments to H.R. 1731 will include an assurance that DHS's remains current on innovations: 1. on data security that can improve privacy and civil liberties protections; 2. in industrial control systems to keep pace with industry adoption of new technologies; and industry best practices; and 3. that can aid DHS in aligning federally funded cybersecurity research and development with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties.

These amendments will make sure that technology and equipment purchased with taxpayer dollars provided to ensure cybersecurity will remain current and focused on real-world applications that reflect constitutional values and how businesses and industry function.

An important building block for improving the Nation's cybersecurity is ensuring that private entities can collaborate to share timely cyber threat information with each other and the Federal Government.

The Administration is expressing concerns with H.R. 1560's broad liability protections offered to companies that sharing information with federal government programs established under this bill.

Appropriate liability protections should be established that incentivize good cybersecurity practices and would not grant immunity to a private company for failing to act on information it receives about the security of its networks.

The important component of cybersecurity is that computer network owners and managers will act to improve cyber defense of their systems when provided with information that vulnerabilities in their computer networks exist.

Legislation should not provide incentives for companies not to act when presented with evidence of network cyber security vulnerabilities.

Electronic data breaches involving Sony, Target, Home Depot, Neiman Marcus, JPMorgan Chase, and Athens are only a few of the cyber incidents that have plagued private sector networks.

These data breaches also are a reminder that the Internet is not yet what it must be-

come to continue to meet the remote communication needs of a global marketplace.

As with other threats this nation has faced in the past and overcome we must create the resources and the institutional responses to protect our nation while preserving our liberties and freedoms.

We cannot accomplish the task of better cybersecurity without the cooperation and full support of citizens; the private sector; local state and federal government; computing research community; and academia.

This level of cooperation requires the trust and confidence of the American people that the actions taken by government to combat cyber threats will not threaten our way of life nor our hard fought Constitutional rights.

H.R. 1731 makes clear that the Department of Homeland Security will be the federal government agency responsible for securing civilian government networks and supporting voluntary efforts by private sector companies and institutions to improve coordination and response to cyber security threats.

The issues regarding liability protection related to cybersecurity must be addressed in order for H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731 to have any chance of succeeding.

It is my understanding that Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON have reached agreement on language that addresses concerns that have been raised regarding liability.

There are talented and resourceful people outside and inside of government who can inform Congress on approaches to information sharing that will yield the desired results without compromising privacy or civil liberties.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule for H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731. Members from both parties have a shared goal of bolstering cybersecurity and improving the quality of information that the private sector receives about timely cyber threats so that they can protect their systems. I am greatly disappointed that the Rules Committee failed to make in order any of the several amendments submitted by both Democrats and Republicans to refine what the White House has called "sweeping" liability protections, as they appear in both cyber information sharing bills to be considered this week.

Extending liability protection to a company that "fails to act" on timely threat information could encourage companies to simply do nothing despite receiving information critical to the security of its systems. Appropriate liability protection does not grant immunity to companies for failing to act on such cybersecurity threat information, but rather incentivizes sound cybersecurity practices. The provision also effectively preempts state laws—including those in California, Massachusetts, and Maryland—that hold businesses liable for failing to maintain reasonable security of their systems, thereby undermining important protections for consumers and their sensitive data.

Instead, my Democratic colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee and I support President Obama's straightforward, tailored approach to addressing what some in industry have identified as a major barrier to the sharing of cyber threat information—the risk that sharing such information would expose com-

panies to legal liability. Unfortunately, the liability protection provision included in the bill puts in place an unduly complicated structure that runs the risk of providing liability relief to companies that fail to act on timely cyber information. I submitted two amendments to address the liability protection problems that exist in both information sharing bills to be considered this week. The first would have struck the provision immunizing companies that fail to act on timely threat information and clarified that the Act has no impact on a duty to act on shared cybersecurity threat information. The second would have removed all potential liability exemptions for willful misconduct by government actors.

These provisions would have improved both bills greatly, and at a minimum they deserved to be debated on the House floor today. The effectiveness of information sharing legislation and efforts to improve the security of companies' systems depends on getting liability protection right. I look forward to continuing the discussion on liability protection with Members from both sides of the aisle as the bill moves forward.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, House Report 114–88, the report to accompany H. Res. 212, the special rule governing consideration of H.R. 1731, does not reflect a request by Mr. MULVANEY of South Carolina to add Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi as a cosponsor of his amendment, number 8 printed in part B of the report.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 212 OFFERED BY  
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1128) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1128.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not



merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 179, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—237

Abraham	Granger	Mulvaney
Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Murphy (PA)
Allen	Graves (LA)	Neugebauer
Amash	Griffith	Newhouse
Amodei	Grothman	Noem
Babin	Guinta	Nugent
Barletta	Guthrie	Nunes
Barr	Hanna	Palazzo
Barton	Hardy	Palmer
Benishek	Harper	Paulsen
Billrakis	Harris	Pearce
Bishop (MI)	Hartzler	Perry
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Pittenger
Black	Hensarling	Pitts
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Poliquin
Blum	Hice, Jody B.	Pompeo
Bost	Hill	Posey
Boustany	Holding	Price, Tom
Brat	Hudson	Ratcliffe
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Reed
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Renacci
Buchanan	Hunter	Ribble
Buck	Hurt (TX)	Rice (SC)
Bucshon	Hurt (VA)	Rigell
Burgess	Issa	Roby
Byrne	Jenkins (KS)	Roe (TN)
Calvert	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (AL)
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Carter (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Chabot	Jolly	Rokita
Chaffetz	Jones	Rooney (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Coffman	Joyce	Roskam
Cole	Katko	Ross
Collins (GA)	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Collins (NY)	King (IA)	Rouzer
Comstock	King (NY)	Royce
Conaway	Kinzinger (IL)	Russell
Cook	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Costello (PA)	Knight	Salmon
Cramer	Labrador	Sanford
Crawford	LaMalfa	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Schweikert
Culberson	Lance	Scott, Austin
Davis, Rodney	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Denham	LoBiondo	Sessions
Dent	Long	Shimkus
DeSantis	Loudermilk	Shuster
Diaz-Balart	Love	Simpson
Dold	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (TN)	MacArthur	Smith (TX)
Ellmers (NC)	Marchant	Stefanik
Emmer (MN)	Marino	Stewart
Farenthold	Massie	Stivers
Fincher	McCarthy	Stutzman
Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Fleischmann	McClintock	Thornberry
Fleming	McHenry	Tiberi
Flores	McKinley	Tipton
Forbes	McMorris	Trott
Fortenberry	Rodgers	Turner
Fox	McSally	Upton
Franks (AZ)	Meadows	Valadao
Frelinghuysen	Meehan	Wagner
Garrett	Messer	Walberg
Gibbs	Mica	Walden
Gibson	Miller (FL)	Walker
Gohmert	Miller (MI)	Walorski
Goodlatte	Moolenaar	Walters, Mimi
Gosar	Mooney (WV)	Weber (TX)
Gowdy	Mullin	Webster (FL)

Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)

Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)

Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—179

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Moulton
Aguilar	Fudge	Nadler
Ashford	Gabbard	Napolitano
Bass	Gallego	Nolan
Beatty	Garamendi	Norcross
Becerra	Graham	O'Rourke
Bera	Grayson	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Al	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Hahn	Peterson
F.	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Himes	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Bustos	Honda	Quigley
Butterfield	Hoyer	Rangel
Capps	Huffman	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Israel	Richmond
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jeffries	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	T.
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kind	Schiff
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Scott (VA)
Clayburn	Kuster	Scott, David
Cohen	Langevin	Serrano
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cooper	Lawrence	Sinema
Courtney	Lee	Sires
Crowley	Levin	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lewis	Speier
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Swaiwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Takai
Davis, Danny	Loebach	Takano
DeFazio	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lowe	Titus
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
DelBene	(NM)	Torres
DeSaulnier	Lujan, Ben Ray	Tsongas
Dingell	(NM)	Van Hollen
Doggett	Lynch	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	Maloney,	Veasey
F.	Carolyn	Vela
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
Edwards	Matsui	Visclosky
Ellison	McCollum	Walz
Engel	McDermott	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McGovern	Watson Coleman
Esty	McNerney	Welch
Farr	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Fattah	Meng	Yarmuth
Foster	Moore	

NOT VOTING—15

Brady (TX)	Hastings	Schrader
Costa	Murphy (FL)	Smith (WA)
Curbelo (FL)	Neal	Wasserman
DesJarlais	Olson	Schultz
Deutch	Payne	
Graves (MO)	Poe (TX)	

□ 1349

Messrs. CLEAVER and GENE GREEN of Texas changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. NEUGEBAUER, HUDSON, and STIVERS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 163, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

# RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 182, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

# AYES—238

Abraham	Goodlatte	Mullin
Aderholt	Gosar	Mulvaney
Allen	Growdy	Murphy (PA)
Amodei	Granger	Neugebauer
Ashford	Graves (GA)	Newhouse
Babin	Graves (LA)	Noem
Barletta	Griffith	Nugent
Barr	Grothman	Nunes
Barton	Guinta	Palazzo
Benishkek	Guthrie	Palmer
Bilirakis	Hanna	Paulsen
Bishop (MI)	Hardy	Pearce
Bishop (UT)	Harper	Perry
Black	Harris	Pittenger
Blackburn	Hartzler	Pitts
Blum	Heck (NV)	Poe (TX)
Bost	Hensarling	Poliquin
Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Pompeo
Brat	Hice, Jody B.	Posey
Bridenstine	Hill	Price, Tom
Brooks (AL)	Holding	Ratcliffe
Brooks (IN)	Hudson	Reed
Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Buck	Hultgren	Renacci
Bucshon	Hunter	Ribble
Burgess	Hurd (TX)	Rice (SC)
Byrne	Hurt (VA)	Rigell
Calvert	Issa	Roby
Carter (GA)	Jenkins (KS)	Roe (TN)
Carter (TX)	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Clawson (FL)	Jolly	Rokita
Coffman	Jordan	Rooney (FL)
Cole	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen
Collins (GA)	Katko	Roskam
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Ross
Comstock	King (IA)	Rothfus
Conaway	King (NY)	Rouzer
Cook	Kinzinger (IL)	Royce
Costa	Kline	Russell
Costello (PA)	Knight	Ryan (WI)
Cramer	Labrador	Salmon
Crawford	LaMalfa	Sanford
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Scalise
Culberson	Lance	Schweikert
Davis, Rodney	Latta	Scott, Austin
Denham	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Dent	Long	Sessions
DeSantis	Loudermilk	Shimkus
Diaz-Balart	Love	Shuster
Dold	Lucas	Simpson
Duckworth	Luetkemeyer	Sinema
Duffy	Lummis	Smith (MO)
Duncan (SC)	MacArthur	Smith (NE)
Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Smith (NJ)
Ellmers (NC)	Marino	Smith (TX)
Emmer (MN)	McCarthy	Stefanik
Farenthold	McCaul	Stewart
Fincher	McClintock	Stivers
Fitzpatrick	McHenry	Stutzman
Fleischmann	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Fleming	McMorris	Thornberry
Flores	Rodgers	Tiberi
Forbes	McSally	Tipton
Fortenberry	Meadows	Trott
Fox	Meehan	Turner
Franks (AZ)	Messer	Upton
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Valadao
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Wagner
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	Walberg
Gibson	Moolenaar	Walden
Gohmert	Mooney (WV)	Walker

Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland

Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder

Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

# NOES—182

Adams	Fudge
Aguilar	Gabbard
Amash	Gallego
Bass	Garamendi
Beatty	Graham
Becerra	Grayson
Bera	Green, Al
Beyer	Green, Gene
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez
Bonamici	Hahn
Boyle, Brendan F.	Heck (WA)
Brady (PA)	Higgins
Brown (FL)	Himes
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa
Bustos	Honda
Butterfield	Hoyer
Capps	Huelskamp
Capuano	Huffman
Cárdenas	Israel
Carney	Jackson Lee
Carson (IN)	Jeffries
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.
Castro (TX)	Jones
Chu, Judy	Kaptur
Ciilline	Keating
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy
Clay	Kildee
Cleaver	Kilmer
Clyburn	Kind
Cohen	Kirkpatrick
Connolly	Kuster
Conyers	Langevin
Cooper	Larsen (WA)
Courtney	Larson (CT)
Crowley	Lawrence
Cuellar	Lee
Cummings	Levin
Davis (CA)	Lewis
Davis, Danny	Lieu, Ted
DeFazio	Lipinski
DeGette	Loeb
Delaney	Loeb
DeLauro	Lowey
DeBene	Lujan Grisham
DeSaulnier	(NM)
Deutsch	Lujan, Ben Ray
Dingell	(NM)
Doggett	Lynch
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney
Edwards	Carolyn
Ellison	Maloney, Sean
Engel	Massie
Eshoo	Matsui
Esty	McCollum
Farr	McDermott
Fattah	McGovern
Foster	McNerney
Frankel (FL)	Meeks
	Meng

Brady (TX)  
Curbelo (FL)  
DesJarlais  
Graves (MO)

# NOT VOTING—11

Hastings  
Murphy (FL)  
Neal  
Olson

Payne  
Smith (WA)  
Wasserman  
Schultz

# □ 1356

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the

following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 971. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

S. 984. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

# BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1195.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) kindly take the chair.

# □ 1358

# IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, with Mr. YODER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, amendment No. 2 printed in part D of House Report 114-74 offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) had been disposed of.

# AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part D of House Report 114-74 offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

# RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 173, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

# AYES—244

Adams	Ashford	Barton
Aguilar	Barletta	Bass

Beatty  
Becerra  
Benishkek  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Dent  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Duncan (TN)  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farenthold  
Farr  
Fattah  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleming  
Flores  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Galego  
Garamendi

Gibson  
Graham  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hanna  
Heck (WA)  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Hurd (TX)  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jolly  
Jones  
Joyce  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeback  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney  
Maloney, Sean  
Marino  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Moolenaar  
Moore  
Moulton  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Nolan  
Norcross

Nugent  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarella  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Reed  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stivers  
Swellwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiberi  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth  
Yoder

Culberson  
Denham  
DeSantis  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Fincher  
Fleischmann  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurt (VA)  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
King (IA)  
King (NY)

Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
Marchant  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
Meadows  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nunes  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reichert  
Rice (SC)  
Roby

Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (TX)  
Stewart  
Stutzman  
Thornberry  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walker  
Walorski  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

## NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt  
Brady (TX)  
Curbelo (FL)  
DesJarlais  
Graves (MO)

Hastings  
McGovern  
Murphy (FL)  
Neal  
Olson

Payne  
Rothfus  
Smith (WA)  
Wasserman  
Schultz

□ 1405

Mr. LATTI changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

No the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chair, on rolcall No. 165 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. YODER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 200, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

## MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1195 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. 4. PROHIBITION AGAINST PARTICIPATION BY PERSONS EMPLOYED BY COMPANIES ENGAGED IN PREDATORY PRACTICES RELATED TO SERVICEMEMBERS.**

No person shall be eligible to be a member of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council who has, in the last ten years, been employed by or acted as an agent of a company that has been subject to a State or Federal enforcement action, including a consent order, settlement or deferred prosecution agreement, for:

(1) Unfair, abusive, or deceptive acts or practices in relation to the provision of consumer credit products to veterans or servicemembers.

(2) Unfair, abusive, or deceptive acts or practices in relation to the provision of consumer credit products within 50 miles of a United States military installation, or that has targeted or harmed veterans, servicemembers, or their families who live on or are deployed to such installation.

(3) Any violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Ms. KUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend Congressman PITTENGER and Congressman HECK for their tireless work on this bill. The three of us arrived in Congress at the same time,

## NOES—173

Abraham  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodel  
Babin  
Barr  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum

Bost  
Boustany  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)

Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Conaway  
Cook  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw

just over 2 years ago, as part of a very large freshman class.

Republicans and Democrats alike, we were all sent here by constituents frustrated with the gridlock and partisanship who want their Representatives to work together to solve problems.

In that spirit, I appreciate the bipartisan work that went into this bill, which addresses a noble goal: ensuring that the voices of small businesses are heard by Federal regulators making important decisions across our entire economy.

I share that goal. Indeed, I have worked across the aisle to bring regulators like the FDA and the SBA to my district in New Hampshire to ensure that they listen to our small businesses and family farmers.

Unfortunately, this bill before us today falls short of what our constituents expect and deserve, and contains a last-minute, partisan amendment to undermine funding for consumer protection.

Regardless of one's position on the bill, however, I believe we should all work together to improve it. Thus, I offer this amendment to help protect veterans and military servicemembers from unscrupulous business practices.

This bill authorizes several advisory boards to ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau consults with small businesses and community financial institutions.

My amendment is straightforward, simply stating that no person shall be eligible to serve on a CFPB advisory board if they or their company has committed unfair, abusive, or deceptive business practices against veterans or military families.

We can all agree that men and women in uniform should not have their homes foreclosed, their cars repossessed, or their families evicted when they are fighting overseas to protect our freedom. Likewise, military families should not be targeted by predatory interest rates and other abusive lending practices. That is not just wrong; it is illegal.

My amendment is straightforward. If a business violates protections for military families, they should not have a seat at the table when new rules are being written for the financial services industry.

This amendment is pro-veteran. It supports our military families. And it makes sense.

So, I ask all of us, Republicans and Democrats, to support this amendment. Send a message to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I just want the House to, again, focus upon what this underlying bill is all about, a most modest and bipartisan effort to simply ensure that the CFPB, perhaps the single most powerful and unaccountable agency in the history of the Federal Government, has some people to represent the voices of our small-business people, those that are being so harmed as we are losing a community financial institution a day in America, a community financial institution that helped fund our small mom-and-pop restaurants, our automobile transmission repair shops, a farmer, a rancher, all of our small businesses.

All we are asking is that we have that council available, and what started out as a bill that came out of our committee 53-5, unfortunately, yet again, there were some of my friends on the other side of the aisle who were for it before they were against it.

We will have very substantive debates on the issues dealing with the CFPB, but this one is a very modest one to have small business council, one that the Congressional Budget Office says will not cost trillions, will not cost billions, will not cost millions, but actually a figure we rarely hear around here, Mr. Speaker, thousands, on an annual basis, thousands.

We should reject the motion to recommit. There is no reason to include it. Already, veterans' voices will be represented, and if there is any group that deserves representation in all of the forms of council of government, it is our men and women who serve this Nation honorably in uniform—and our veterans, already assured.

It is time to get on to the larger business of the House. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose the motion to recommit and to approve the underlying bill from the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTSINGER), and let's get small business council at the table of the CFPB.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recom-

mit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 234, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

AYES—184

Adams	Foster	Moulton
Aguilar	Frankel (FL)	Nadler
Ashford	Fudge	Napolitano
Bass	Gabbard	Nolan
Beatty	Gallego	Norcross
Becerra	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Bera	Graham	Pallone
Beyer	Grayson	Pascarella
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Grijalva	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Peterson
F.	Hahn	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Price (NC)
Bustos	Hinojosa	Quigley
Butterfield	Honda	Rangel
Capps	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Huffman	Richmond
Cárdenas	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Jones	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kaptur	T.
Ciциlline	Keating	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Clay	Kildee	Schiff
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schrader
Clyburn	Kind	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Kirkpatrick	Scott, David
Connolly	Kuster	Serrano
Conyers	Langevin	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Costa	Larson (CT)	Sinema
Courtney	Lawrence	Sires
Crowley	Lee	Slaughter
Cuellar	Levin	Speier
Cummings	Lewis	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Takai
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Takano
DeFazio	Loeb	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lofgren	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lowenthal	Titus
DeLauro	Lowe	Tonko
DelBene	Lujan Grisham	Torres
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tsongas
Deutch	Luján, Ben Ray	Van Hollen
Dingell	(NM)	Vargas
Doggett	Lynch	Veasey
Doyle, Michael	Maloney,	Vela
F.	Carolyn	Velázquez
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Visclosky
Duncan (TN)	Matsui	Walz
Edwards	McCollum	Waters, Maxine
Ellison	McDermott	Watson Coleman
Engel	McGovern	Welch
Eshoo	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Esty	Meeks	Yarmuth
Farr	Meng	
Fattah	Moore	

NOES—234

Abraham	Brooks (AL)	Costello (PA)
Aderholt	Brooks (IN)	Cramer
Allen	Buchanan	Crawford
Amash	Buck	Crenshaw
Amodei	Bucshon	Davis, Rodney
Babin	Burgess	Denham
Barletta	Byrne	Dent
Barr	Calvert	DeSantis
Barton	Carter (GA)	Diaz-Balart
Benishek	Carter (TX)	Dold
Billirakis	Chabot	Duffy
Bishop (MI)	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (UT)	Clawson (FL)	Ellmers (NC)
Black	Coffman	Emmer (MN)
Blackburn	Cole	Farenthold
Blum	Collins (GA)	Fincher
Bost	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Boustany	Comstock	Fleischmann
Brat	Conaway	Fleming
Bridenstine	Cook	Flores

Forbes	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen	Barletta	Harris	Poe (TX)	DeLauro	Kilmer	Polis
Fortenberry	Love	Roskam	Barr	Hartzler	Poliquin	DelBene	Kind	Price (NC)
Fox	Lucas	Ross	Barton	Heck (NV)	Pompeo	DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	Quigley
Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus	Benishhek	Hensarling	Posey	Deutch	Kuster	Rangel
Frelinghuysen	Lummis	Rouzer	Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Price, Tom	Dingell	Langevin	Rice (NY)
Garrett	MacArthur	Royce	Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Ratcliffe	Doggett	Larsen (WA)	Richmond
Gibbs	Marchant	Russell	Bishop (UT)	Hill	Reed	Doyle, Michael	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard
Gibson	Marino	Ryan (WI)	Black	Holding	Reichert	F.	Lawrence	Ruiz
Gohmert	Massie	Salmon	Blackburn	Hudson	Renacci	Duckworth	Lee	Ruppersberger
Goodlatte	McCarthy	Blum	Huelskamp	Ribble	Edwards	Edwards	Levin	Rush
Gosar	McCaul	Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Rice (SC)	Ellison	Engel	Lewis	Ryan (OH)
Gowdy	McClintock	Boustany	Hultgren	Rigell	Engel	Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Sánchez, Linda
Granger	McHenry	Brat	Hunter	Robby	Esty	Farr	Lipinski	T.
Graves (GA)	McKinley	Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Roe (TN)	Farr	Fattah	Loeb	Sanchez, Loretta
Graves (LA)	McMorris	Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rogers (AL)	Foster	Fudge	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Griffith	Rodgers	Buchanan	Issa	Rogers (KY)	Frankel (FL)	Grayson	Lujan Grisham	Schakowsky
Grothman	McSally	Bucshon	Jenkins (KS)	Rohrabacher	Rokita	Green, Al	(NM)	Schiff
Guinta	Meadows	Burgess	Jenkins (WV)	Rooney (FL)	Rooney (FL)	Green, Gene	Luján, Ben Ray	Schrader
Guthrie	Meehan	Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen	Ross	Grijalva	(NM)	Scott (VA)
Hanna	Messer	Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Roskam	Rothfus	Gutiérrez	Lynch	Scott, David
Hardy	Mica	Carter (GA)	Jolly	Rouzer	Rouzer	Hahn	Maloney,	Serrano
Harper	Miller (FL)	Carter (TX)	Jordan	Russell	Rouzer	Heck (WA)	Carolyn	Sewell (AL)
Harris	Miller (MI)	Chabot	Joyce	Ryan (WI)	Russell	Higgins	McGovern	Sherman
Hartzler	Moolenaar	Chaffetz	Katko	Salmon	Ryan (WI)	Himes	McNerney	Sires
Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)	Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Sanford	Scott, Austin	Hinojosa	Meeks	Slaughter
Hensarling	Mullin	Coffman	King (IA)	Sessions	Sensenbrenner	Hond	Meng	Speier
Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney	Cole	King (NY)	Shimkus	Sessions	Hoyer	Moore	Swalwell (CA)
Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)	Collins (GA)	Kinzing (IL)	Shuster	Sessions	Huffman	Moulton	Takai
Hill	Neugebauer	Collins (NY)	Kline	Simpson	Shuster	Israel	Nadler	Takano
Holding	Newhouse	Comstock	Knight	Sinema	Sinema	Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)
Hudson	Noem	Conaway	Labrador	Smith (MO)	Smith (MO)	Jeffries	Nolan	Thompson (MS)
Huelskamp	Nugent	Cook	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)	Smith (NE)	Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Titus
Huizenga (MI)	Nunes	Costello (PA)	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)	Smith (NJ)	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Tonko
Hultgren	Palazzo	Lance	Latta	Stefanik	Stefanik	Jones	Pallone	Torres
Hunter	Palmer	Cramer	LoBiondo	Stewart	Stewart	Kaptur	Pascarella	Tsongas
Hurd (TX)	Paulsen	Crawford	Long	Stivers	Stivers	Keating	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Hurt (VA)	Pearce	Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Thompson (PA)	Thompson (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Vargas
Issa	Perry	Cuellar	Love	Thornberry	Thornberry	Kennedy	Peters	Veasey
Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger	Culberson	Smith (MO)	Tiberi	Tiberi	Kildee	Pingree	Vela
Jenkins (WV)	Pitts	Davis, Rodney	Smith (NE)	Tipton	Tipton	Brady (TX)	Smith (WA)	Vela
Johnson (OH)	Pollquin	Denham	Smith (NJ)	Trott	Trott	Curbelo (FL)	Neal	Velázquez
Johnson, Sam	Pompeo	Dent	Smith (TX)	Turner	Turner	DesJarlais	Olson	Visclosky
Jolly	Posey	DeSantis	Stefanik	Upton	Upton	Graves (MO)	Payne	Walz
Jordan	Price, Tom	Diaz-Balart	Stewart	Valadao	Valadao	Hastings	Smith (WA)	Waters, Maxine
Joyce	Ratcliffe	Dold	Stivers	Walberg	Walberg			Watson Coleman
Katko	Reed	Duffy	Thompson (PA)	Walden	Walden			Welch
Kelly (PA)	Reichert	Duncan (SC)	Thornberry	Walker	Walker			Wilson (FL)
King (IA)	Renacci	Duncan (TN)	Tiberi	Walorski	Walorski			Yarmuth
King (NY)	Ribble	Ellmers (NC)	Tipton	Walters, Mimi	Walters, Mimi			
Kinzing (IL)	Rice (SC)	Emmer (MN)	DesJarlais	Webster (FL)	Webster (FL)			
Kline	Rigell	Farenthold	Graves (MO)	Westerman	Westerman			
Knight	Robby	Fincher	Hastings	Whitfield	Whitfield			
Labrador	Roe (TN)	Fitzpatrick		Williams	Williams			
LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)	Fleischmann		Wilson (SC)	Wilson (SC)			
Lamborn	Rogers (KY)	Flores		Wittman	Wittman			
Lance	Rohrabacher	Forbes		Womack	Womack			
Latta	Rokita	Fortenberry		Woodall	Woodall			
LoBiondo	Rooney (FL)	Fox		Yoder	Yoder			
Long		Franks (AZ)		Young (AK)	Young (AK)			
		Frelinghuysen		Young (IA)	Young (IA)			
		Garrett		Young (IN)	Young (IN)			
		Gibbs		Zeldin	Zeldin			
		Gohmert		Zinke	Zinke			
		Goodlatte						
		Gosar						
		Gowdy						
		Granger						
		Graves (GA)						
		Graves (LA)						
		Griffith						
		Grothman						
		Guinta						
		Guthrie						
		Hanna						
		Hardy						
		Harper						

## NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)	Hastings	Smith (WA)
Culberson	Murphy (FL)	Stivers
Curbelo (FL)	Neal	Wasserman
DesJarlais	Olson	Schultz
Graves (MO)	Payne	

□ 1424

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 183, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—235

Abraham	Allen	Ashford
Aderholt	Amodei	Babin

Adams	Brownley (CA)	Clay
Aguilar	Buck	Cleaver
Amash	Bustos	Clyburn
Bass	Butterfield	Cohen
Beatty	Capps	Connolly
Becerra	Capuano	Conyers
Bera	Cárdenas	Cooper
Beyer	Carney	Costa
Bishop (GA)	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Crowley
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Cummings
Boyle, Brendan	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)
F.	Chu, Judy	Davis, Danny
Brady (PA)	Cicilline	DeFazio
Brooks (AL)	Clark (MA)	DeGette
Brown (FL)	Clarke (NY)	Delaney

## NAYS—183

## NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman
Curbelo (FL)	Neal	Schultz
DesJarlais	Olson	Wenstrup
Graves (MO)	Payne	Yoho
Hastings	Smith (WA)	

□ 1432

So the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: This letter serves as my official resignation from the House Committee on Natural Resources. It has been my pleasure serving on this Committee since being elected to Congress. Thank you and I will continue working on important priorities relating to my new appointment on the House Committee on Small Business.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKAI,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

#### ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 219

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Takai.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 212 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1560.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1436

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, with Mr. MARCHANT in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Over the last several years, cyber attacks have become a pressing concern for the United States. Anthem, Home Depot, Sony, Target, JPMorgan Chase,

and other companies have been subject to major attacks, resulting in the compromise of personal information of employees and customers alike.

Cyber thieves, whether hostile foreign agents or money-seeking criminals, have stolen credit card numbers, accessed medical records, leaked proprietary information, and published confidential emails affecting tens of millions of Americans. This situation cannot continue.

The House has passed cybersecurity information-sharing legislation with strong majorities in the past two Congresses. The gentleman from California, Ranking Member SCHIFF, and I have continued this bipartisan tradition, working closely together to draft a bill that will increase the security of our networks while protecting users' privacy.

I see the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) is here. He sponsored this legislation last time, along with the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman Rogers, who is now retired, but I do want to give them a special thanks and gratitude.

I hope that we can get this bill across the floor this year.

We have also worked closely with leadership—the gentleman from Texas, Chairman McCaul; the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman GOODLATTE—and the Senate Intelligence Committee to ensure that our bills complement each other.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act addresses a core problem in our digital security infrastructure. Because of legal ambiguities, many companies are afraid to share information about cyber threats with each other or with the government. If a company sees some threat or attack, this bill will allow the company to quickly report information about the problem without fearing a lawsuit so that other companies can take measures to protect themselves.

The bill encourages three kinds of sharing: private-to-private, government-to-private, and private-to-government. In that third scenario, the bill allows companies to share cyber threat information with a variety of government agencies. If banks are comfortable sharing with the Treasury Department, they can share with Treasury. If utilities prefer sharing with the Department of Energy, they can share with Energy. If companies want to share with the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, or the Commerce Department, they can share with them.

The only sharing that this bill does not encourage is direct sharing to the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency. Companies can still share with DOD and NSA, but they will not receive any new liability protections.

This bill does not provide the government with any new surveillance au-

thorities. To the contrary, it includes robust privacy protections. It only authorizes the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures: technical information like malware signatures and malicious code.

Before companies share with the Federal Government, they must remove all personal information. If companies don't follow those requirements, there is no liability protection. Furthermore, a government agency that receives the information must scrub it a second time. This will ensure all personal information has been removed. Only then can the information be forwarded to other Federal agencies.

Finally, the bill provides for strong public and congressional oversight by requiring a detailed biennial inspectors general report relating to the government's receipt, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators. The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board must also submit a biennial report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the bill.

The increasing pace and scope of cyber attacks cannot be ignored. This bill will strengthen our digital defenses so that American consumers and businesses will not be put at the mercy of cyber criminals. I look forward to passing this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. At some point, we need to stop just hearing about cyber attacks that steal our most valuable trade secrets and our most private information and actually do something to stop it. At some point, we need to stop talking about the next Sony, the next Anthem, the next Target, the next JPMorgan Chase, and the next State Department hack and actually pass a bill that will help ensure that there will be no next cyber attack.

A few weeks back, the House Intelligence Committee held an open hearing on the cyber threat to America's private sector. We heard from our witnesses that their businesses are cyber attacked billions of times a day—not thousands, not millions, but billions.

The threat to our economy, our jobs, and our privacy from not acting is massive, and it is certain. We see it happening all around us. So we must act now. That is why I am proud to support this bill.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act provides for voluntary information sharing of cyber threats between and among the private and public sectors. It does what no executive order can do: it incentivizes cyber threat information sharing by providing limited liability protection. Now companies can pool their resources and say to one another: I found this malicious code or this virus in my system; you need to protect yourself against it as well. And

now the government can better warn companies of an impending cyber attack, just as it can for an approaching hurricane or an impending flu outbreak.

But let me be very clear about this: to get the liability protection, a company that chooses to participate must remove any unrelated private information prior to sharing. This is something privacy advocates and I called for when previous information-sharing bills came before the House.

Unlike prior bills, this measure requires the private sector to strip out private information. In fact, the bill has two, not one, privacy scrubs. The first happens when a company shares with another company or the Federal Government, and the second happens when the Federal Government shares the information further. This bill even holds the government directly liable if it doesn't do what it is required to do.

Second, to get the liability protection, a private company wishing to share with the Federal Government must go through a civilian portal. To be clear: a company can't go directly to the DOD or NSA and get the bill's liability protection.

The lack of a civilian portal in previous bills was another key privacy group criticism, and this bill has resolved that issue, too. In fact, of the five main criticisms of prior cyber bills, this bill has resolved each of them. It has private sector privacy stripping of information. It has a civilian portal. It also has narrow restrictions on what the government can use that shared cyber threat information for. Gone is a national security use provision. Gone is a vague terrorism use provision. And what is left is only the most narrow of uses: to prevent cyber attacks, to prevent the loss of life, to prevent serious harm to a child, and to prevent other serious felonies.

□ 1445

Gone, too, is any question of whether offensive countermeasures or hack back is authorized. This bill makes clear that you cannot take anything but defensive actions to protect your networks and data.

And, lest anyone be confused, Mr. Chairman, this bill makes clear in black-and-white legislative text that nothing in the bill authorizes government surveillance in this act—nothing.

What this bill does is authorize voluntary, private sector sharing of cyber threat information, and it allows the government to be able to quickly share threat information with the private sector, just as we need a CDC to put out timely warnings and advice on how to counteract this year's flu strain or how to prevent a local disease from becoming an epidemic. In addition, the bill requires strong privacy and civil liberties guidelines and intense reporting requirements.

The bill before us today strikes the right balance between securing our networks and protecting our privacy, and addresses the privacy concerns that I, among others, raised last session. However, there are still some improvements that are yet to be made as the bill moves forward. In particular, we need to further clarify that our liability protection only extends to those who act, or fail to act, reasonably.

Before closing, I want to thank Chairman NUNES for his leadership and for working so hard on this bill. It has been a great pleasure to work with you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for all of the hours, energy, and talent that you and your staff have put in to making this bill successful. I want to thank all the members of HPSCI as well as the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee for working together on this. We had many differences in opinion, and we still have some, but we kept our eyes firmly on what is best for the American people as a whole. With that, we found ways to come together and produce a stronger bill.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can continue to work together as well with the Senate and with the White House and all the stakeholders to produce an even stronger bill for the President to sign into law.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of our predecessors, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER and former HPSCI Chairman Mike Rogers. We have come this far in part because of the good work they did in the last couple of sessions. I also want to thank all those who came in to speak with us and provide their input in making this a better bill.

Every day we delay more privacy is stolen, more jobs are lost, and more economic harm is done. Let's stop sitting by and watching all of this happen. Let's do something. Let's do what this administration has urged us to do and pass this bill. Let's do it now. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), who also is the chairman of the Subcommittee on NSA and Cybersecurity for the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Chairman NUNES.

Madam Chairman, today I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. The bill encourages and protects information sharing on cyber threats between private companies and the government and private companies. The bill safeguards personally identifiable information from being exchanged during the process by requiring private companies and the government to both make sure that no private information is exchanged.

My home State of Georgia is home to many companies that deal with and se-

cure sensitive data on a daily basis, and they are constantly looking for better ways to protect their networks.

After recent cyber attacks against American businesses, I have spoken to industry leaders from Georgia and across the Nation about how we can make information sharing between the industries and the government stronger to better protect our Nation.

Cyberterrorism is the new battlefield, and adapting to this warfare is crucial to eliminating these threats. By allowing American businesses to alert other companies and the government of specific threats, and only the threats, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act can help shut down the cybercriminals from stealing sensitive information or causing devastating damage to our networks.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act is a bipartisan step forward in protecting businesses and citizens from being the next victim of a cyber attack. This bill helps devastating cyber attacks from going unnoticed or only being shared months after the attack.

Madam Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman NUNES; Ranking Member SCHIFF; the ranking member on the subcommittee, Mr. HIMES; and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER for all the work that he has put into this, as well as former Chairman Rogers. I ask for a "yea" vote on this.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, it is a pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER), the former ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the bipartisan Protecting Cyber Networks Act and want to thank the members of the House Intelligence Committee for continuing to prioritize our Nation's security over partisan rhetoric. I do want to say this: I want to thank Chairman NUNES and also Ranking Member SCHIFF for acknowledging Chairman Rogers and me, but I want to remind you that it was a team approach, and you two were very active in helping to bring this bill here today as we did before. So thank you for your leadership. It is well worth it, and it is refreshing to see this bipartisanship.

Mr. NUNES. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. NUNES. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thanked you in my opening statement, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, but without your leadership and former Chairman Rogers' leadership on this bill, we would not be here today. I am encouraged not only by your past support, but then your taking the time to come down here to speak on this bill I think says a lot about you and your commitment to our national security and the security of our cyber networks. So thank you.



Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Thank you, again, and thank you for your leadership. Now, this legislation is very similar to the bill that Chairman Rogers and I introduced to promote information sharing between the private and public sectors, which is the single most important thing we can do to combat increasingly aggressive cyber attacks.

Experts believe these attacks are costing American corporations billions of dollars each year. Target, Home Depot, and CareFirst are only the beginning. With Sony, we saw the first destructive attack in our country. It is only a matter of time before our critical infrastructure is targeted. What would happen if someone were to take out our electrical grid or 911 call centers or air traffic control? It goes on and on.

Voluntary information sharing among companies helps our companies defend themselves. Voluntary, two-way information sharing with the Federal Government helps improve our ability to protect America against foreign cyber threats by getting out more and better information faster.

There are some concerns I have, as anyone has in any bill, between the bill and the bill Chairman Rogers and I introduced which passed the House.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. Foxx). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCHIFF. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. However, I feel it is important to reach consensus and move this issue forward now. Our country continues to be cyber attacked. We are under attack as I speak. To do nothing is not an option.

I want to thank again the leadership of Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for their leadership and for the entire committee coming together for this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, who, without his strong leadership and support, we wouldn't be at this juncture today getting a bill passed today and tomorrow that will hopefully become law.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. I would like to first thank Chairman NUNES for his great leadership and collaboration with my committee and Judiciary on this bill, and also the ranking member, ADAM SCHIFF, a good friend as well, for his great work in the direction that this bill has gone. I think it has gone in the right direction. Also I know former Ranking Member DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER was here. I want to thank him for his leadership over the many years on this important issue of cybersecurity.

Madam Chair, this legislation comes at a critical time of rising cyber

threats and attacks on our digital networks. Cyber breaches and attacks are affecting Americans' privacy, security, and prosperity. Individuals are having their most private information compromised. Businesses are seeing their intellectual property stolen and their networks damaged.

The Federal Government's sensitive information is being targeted. The country's critical infrastructure is being probed by foreign enemies.

Detecting and defending against these digital assaults requires timely and robust information sharing between the public and private sectors. This exchange of data is crucial to connecting the dots, identifying cyber attacks, and shutting them down.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act will enable private companies to share cyber threat information on a voluntary basis with the Federal Government. This bill provides essential liability protection for sharing cyber threat indicators through trusted civilian agency portals.

Again, Madam Chair, I commend Chairman NUNES for his important work on this bill and thank him for his great partnership in working together to have these two complementary bills, as tomorrow I will bring to the floor a pro-security, pro-privacy bill, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015, which further reinforces the role of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center as the hub for cyber threat information sharing.

Chairman NUNES and I have worked in lockstep to remove obstacles preventing greater cyber threat information sharing across the private and public sectors. I commend the staff on both sides of the aisle, who have operated in tandem as we crafted these cybersecurity bills. I would also like to acknowledge Chairman GOODLATTE for devising the House's standard liability exemption language for this week's cybersecurity bill.

These bills represent a unified front in the House for strengthening cybersecurity while ensuring Americans' privacy, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, it gives me great pleasure to yield 3 minutes to Mr. HIMES, one of our subcommittee ranking members on the Intelligence Committee and the Representative from Connecticut.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Chairwoman, I would like to thank my friend from California for yielding time and start by saying that I am thrilled to be standing here to urge support for the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. I would like to thank and congratulate Chairman NUNES, Ranking Member SCHIFF, and the chairman of the subcommittee on which I serve as ranking member, Mr. WESTMORELAND, for com-

ing together at a time when this Congress is accused, often rightly so, of being dysfunctional to take a very substantial step to secure the networks on which so much of our lives today depend.

As ranking member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee, my daily travels every single day expose me to people who say the single most important thing we as a Congress can do today to advance the security of our networks, to protect Americans, their financial records, their health records and, of course, even more ominously, to protect them against potential attack against our utilities and any sort of thing that our antagonists around the world would seek to do to us, the single most important thing we can do is to do what we are doing today, which is to set up a rubric whereby the very good people within the private sector who focus on this day in and day out can communicate threats to each other and communicate with the experts within the United States Government to work as a team to counter very, very serious threats. This rubric has been set up with ample attention and good attention to the very legitimate privacy claims and the liberties that we all take so seriously.

The stakes are high. We saw what happened at Sony. We saw what happened at Anthem. We know all the attacks that have been leveled internationally that destroyed computers. This is the reality that we live with, and this is a very big step, an information-sharing protocol that will counter those who wish us ill.

I would note that the privacy protections in this bill are considerably better, as the chairman and ranking member have pointed out, than those that were in the bill of the last Congress. The objections of those who are focused on privacy have been dealt with point by point. And while I won't say that the bill is perfect, this bill does what it needs to do to protect the privacy of the American people by obligating everyone to work hard to scrub personally identifiable information from any code, any information that is exchanged.

I have learned in my 6 years here that we don't produce perfection, and it is my hope that as this bill proceeds through the legislative path that we will work even harder to make sure we are very clear about definitions and, in fact, are protecting the privacy rights of Americans as best as we can. But in the meantime we have taken a very big step forward in a bipartisan fashion in a way that will make America, its people, and its networks more secure. For that, I am grateful to the leadership and urge support of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), another of our ranking members on the Intelligence Committee.

□ 1500

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Chair, I want to thank our ranking member and also the chair for bringing forward this bipartisan and necessary legislation.

As we speak right now, Americans are under attack, and these attacks are not coming in the form of anything that we have been used to before. People are not kicking down front doors of homes and businesses; instead, they are attacking us through our networks. Our bank accounts, our health care records, our social media accounts, our cell phones, all are being hacked every day.

CNN reported that, in 2014, half of the Nation's adults were hacked. The examples are voluminous: 70 million Target customers were hacked; 56 million Home Depot customers were hacked; 4.6 million Snapchat users were hacked. This is Snapchat, which is supposed to be an impenetrable account that allows data to come in and disappear. They were hacked. Hackings are happening every day. Our privacy is under attack.

The problem, today, there is virtually zero relationship between private industry and government—private industry, which has about 85 percent of the networks, and government, which has about 15 percent of the networks but has vast resources that can help protect individuals against attacks.

Our government has a duty, a responsibility, to protect the American people, and that is what this bill seeks to do. It does it in a number of ways.

First and foremost, this is a voluntary program that is being created. No business is required to turn over their breach or hack information to the government; instead, there is a format, a procedure, that is now in place that will incentivize them to work with the government to identify in a way that strips out, through a number of protections, personal identifying information.

The first way that it is stripped out is, when the business that has been hacked reports to a civilian agency, they must scrub the personal identifying information; but that is not the only way that that information is scrubbed.

Once the government agency receives this personal identifying information, again, before it can be used or forwarded anywhere else in the government, it, again, must be scrubbed—two protections against personal identifying information being used.

Now, should any personal identifying information be passed along to the government, this bill provides a right of

action, civil recourse for any individual who is wronged to sue the government. There is also an oversight committee, a biannual inspector general report that must be presented to Congress that would report on any privacy violations that occur.

Madam Chair, the American people, day after day, are either learning that they have been hacked or someone they know has been hacked. This will continue to have a devastating effect on our economy and, as my colleague from Connecticut alluded to, perhaps our public utilities if we do not act.

I urge support of this for my colleagues, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the hard work they have done.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), another one of the ranking members on the Intelligence Committee and a great Member.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Chair, I would like to thank Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF, as well as our chair, Chairman NUNES, for your leadership on this matter.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, a bill that I am proud to be an original cosponsor, a bill that was unanimously voted out of our committee, the Intel Committee.

Again, I want to commend both the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership. It is an honor to serve on that committee where we really try, on a daily basis, to be bipartisan in our efforts to protect the homeland and to secure our national security.

This critical bill is bipartisan legislation, which encourages the private sector to share cyber threat information, which will ultimately help prevent future attacks. It seems like we are always hearing about another company being hit with cyber attacks.

These attacks cost our economy billions of dollars each year, and it threatens our national security and jeopardizes every American's sensitive, personal, and financial information.

This bill takes a very important step towards addressing this emerging national security threat without compromising the privacy of American citizens.

Fostering an environment where companies can voluntarily share information with each other helps American businesses defend themselves against harmful cyber attacks and helps them protect consumer information and privacy.

Additionally, two-way information sharing with the Federal Government helps improve the Federal Government's ability to protect all Americans against foreign cyber threats by disseminating vital information in a more timely and efficient manner.

I know some continue to criticize this cyber bill and all cyber bills as violating privacy, but I must assure you, Madam Chair, that this bill is a vast improvement over the CISPA bill that was entered and passed this House last term.

This bill includes many more privacy protections that weren't in the original bill, the most important of which is the requirement for two scrubs of private information, one by the private sector before sharing that information and one by the government before sharing it further.

There is also now a civilian portal—no direct sharing with NSA—a very narrow set of government use provisions, and a clear and legislative prohibition against such surveillance. Let me repeat: no provision of this bill provides any surveillance authorities.

I am encouraged by the strong showing of bipartisanship as we work together to address the emerging threats to our national security. I urge my colleagues to join those of us who are members of the Intel Committee, as well as this administration has said that it also encourages a vote in support of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts and vote "yes" on H.R. 1560.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT).

Mr. TROTT. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to speak in support of this bill.

Today, I rise concerned about the need for stronger cybersecurity efforts in our country. We live in a world where personal data flows through the Internet with great speed and data about people is gathered in an instant. The use of social media has opened up our lives to anyone with a computing device, and this is the same world where hackers steal millions of personal records from people in our districts.

I would venture to guess that most Members of Congress have been affected by hackers. Internet criminals pose dire threats to our governments on the local, State, and Federal level. The Federal Government has extensive resources to put up a fight, but our local governments and municipalities do not.

In response, five southeast Michigan counties—Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne—and the State of Michigan came together to build the Cyber Security Assessment for Everyone. CySAFE, as it is known, provides a strong point for governments to begin assessing their cybersecurity needs and taking steps to respond to attacks. The assessment is a simple Excel download located at [www.g2gmarket.com](http://www.g2gmarket.com).

Madam Chair, I commend these local Michigan governments for committing

the resources to develop such a tool. I encourage all of my colleagues to promote the use of CySAFE and to work together to find the right solutions to fight cyber crime, starting with passing H.R. 1560.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who is a former member of the Intelligence Committee and one of the Congress' leading experts on cyber matters.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, this has been a long time in coming. When I served on the Intelligence Committee the past two Congresses, I worked very closely with Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER on CISPA, and their legacy is very evident in this fine bill.

I would, however, like to commend Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for rising to the challenge as the new leaders of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and producing an even better product, particularly with regard to privacy protections.

PCNA, as it is known, also provides statutory authorization for the CTIIC, an important new center the President has created to provide comprehensive assessments of cyber threats.

This bill before us certainly isn't perfect. The liability protections, while generally narrow, could still be construed to project a company's failure to act on threat indicators. It is important that my friends in this Chamber understand that information sharing is not a silver bullet.

There will still be important work to be done to improve our Nation's cyber defenses, but I can say, with great confidence, passing an information-sharing bill will get us significantly closer to being much more secure in cyberspace than where we are right now, particularly when it comes to protecting critical infrastructure.

However, after studying this issue for the better part of a decade, I can firmly say that this bill marks a meaningful step forward.

Let me, again, congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for continuing with this bipartisan spirit that has long animated the Intelligence Committee's cybersecurity work.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every moment we wait equals another Social Security number stolen, another checking account hacked, another invaluable trade secret pilfered, and another job lost. This is certain. We see it every day.

Many of us and our constituents, both individuals and businesses, have

been the victim of a cyber crime. Whether it is identity theft, the hacking of our email or Facebook accounts, or the loss of our privacy, when our health insurance company is breached, we have our privacy invaded.

All of us are certainly paying higher fees to compensate for the billions of dollars our businesses lose to cyber hacking and to the costs of preventing future cyber attacks. The problem is only getting worse. As our cars, our phones, our home security systems, our Internet banking, our electronic health records, our web-based baby monitors all get smarter, they also get more vulnerable.

This isn't speculation. This is happening today. It is happening right now. On the time that we have been on the floor discussing this cyber bill, billions of additional hacking attempts have been made.

Here, we have the opportunity to help stop this scourge of cyber hacking. We need to encourage cyber threat information sharing by passing the Protecting Cyber Networks Act today and then not resting until it improves on its way to the President's desk for signature.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important measure. It is a bill that will help protect America's most valuable and private information, while itself protecting privacy and civil liberties to a degree far in advance of where prior legislation has gone. I and my colleagues have made sure of that, and we will continue to do so as the bill advances.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will close by just taking a few moments to thank my ranking member and colleague from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for his fine work on this product.

I also would be remiss not to thank, on both sides of the aisle, the staff that have worked hours and hours and hours to make the legislation from last Congress even better and then, as Mr. MCCAUL said, to work with the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee so that we have a product that I think is much better than the product that we have had in the past.

We have been in consultations with the United States Senate. They have passed their bill out of committee. We look forward to, hopefully, their passing a bill off the Senate floor so that we can get to a conference.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today to oppose to H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Network Act (PCNA). While I commend Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for crafting a bill that improves upon the cybersecurity legislation this body has previously

voted on, I cannot support it in its current form.

Despite addressing many of the reservations I had when we voted on the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) last Congress, I have concerns about the ambiguous liability provisions in this legislation. While companies should have some legal protection, this bill gives liability protections to companies so long as they share or receive information "in accordance with the Act." It would grant immunity to companies for simply putting forth a "good faith" effort when reporting security threats and sharing consumer data with the government and other companies. For example, companies would receive liability protection even if they fail to act on threat information in a timely manner. The unintended effect of these murky liability provisions is that companies would not have the same incentive to report security threats and protect their consumers' privacy. I was disappointed that Republicans did not allow a vote on two amendments offered by Rep. RICHMOND that would have addressed these overbroad liability provisions.

Our country faces cyber-network attacks each day which threaten our national security and our economy. I strongly believe that we must take steps to protect against these cyber threats while not sacrificing our privacy and civil liberties. Should this bill pass the House, I hope that many of the loopholes can be resolved with the Senate, but as it stands today I cannot support it.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters regarding H.R. 1560:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, April 7, 2015.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,  
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN NUNES: I am writing concerning H.R. 1560, the "Protecting Cyber Networks Act," which your Committee ordered reported on March 26, 2015.

As you know, H.R. 1560 contains provisions within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 1560, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert a jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, April 10, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. As you noted, certain provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. As you also noted, the language of those provisions was the result of consultations with you in advance of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's consideration of the bill. I agree that your letter in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in our Committee's report on H.R. 1560 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,  
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 26, 2015, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ordered H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act reported to the House. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with regard to H.R. 1560 on those matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of the bill.

The bill contains provisions that fall within the Rule X subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee has purview over the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552), which H.R. 1560 directly amends. Section 10 of the bill directly amends 5 U.S.C. 552 to create a new 5 U.S.C. 552(b) provision that exempts the entire Act from FOIA, including any subsequent amendments. Prior to floor consideration, we will work together to remove section 10 and consider improvements to other sections of the bill referencing 5 U.S.C. 552.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 1560, I will not request a sequential referral of the bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my Committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I

also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 1560 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, April 13, 2015.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,  
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. As you noted, certain provisions of the bill related to 5 U.S.C. § 552 fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As you also noted, we have agreed to continue to work with you on these provisions. I agree that your letter in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in our Committee's report on H.R. 1560 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,  
Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1560

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Cyber Networks Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government with non-Federal entities.

Sec. 3. Authorizations for preventing, detecting, analyzing, and mitigating cybersecurity threats.

Sec. 4. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with appropriate Federal entities other than the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency.

Sec. 5. Federal Government liability for violations of privacy or civil liberties.

Sec. 6. Protection from liability.

Sec. 7. Oversight of Government activities.

Sec. 8. Report on cybersecurity threats.

Sec. 9. Construction and preemption.

Sec. 10. Conforming amendments.

Sec. 11. Definitions.

#### SEC. 2. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 110 (50 U.S.C. 3045) the following new section:

#### “SEC. 111. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

“(a) **SHARING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with the protection of classified information, intelligence sources and methods, and privacy and civil liberties, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall develop and promulgate procedures to facilitate and promote—

“(A) the timely sharing of classified cyber threat indicators in the possession of the Federal Government with representatives of relevant non-Federal entities with appropriate security clearances;

“(B) the timely sharing with relevant non-Federal entities of cyber threat indicators in the possession of the Federal Government that may be declassified and shared at an unclassified level; and

“(C) the sharing with non-Federal entities, if appropriate, of information in the possession of the Federal Government about imminent or ongoing cybersecurity threats to such entities to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts from such cybersecurity threats.

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES.**—The procedures developed and promulgated under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) ensure the Federal Government has and maintains the capability to share cyber threat indicators in real time consistent with the protection of classified information;

“(B) incorporate, to the greatest extent practicable, existing processes and existing roles and responsibilities of Federal and non-Federal entities for information sharing by the Federal Government, including sector-specific information sharing and analysis centers;

“(C) include procedures for notifying non-Federal entities that have received a cyber threat indicator from a Federal entity in accordance with this Act that is known or determined to be in error or in contravention of the requirements of this section, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, or the amendments made by such Act or another provision of Federal law or policy of such error or contravention;

“(D) include requirements for Federal entities receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to implement appropriate security controls to protect against unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure;

“(E) include procedures that require Federal entities, prior to the sharing of a cyber threat indicator, to—

“(i) review such cyber threat indicator to assess whether such cyber threat indicator, in contravention of the requirement under section 3(d)(2) of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, contains any information that such Federal entity knows at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and remove such information; or

“(ii) implement a technical capability configured to remove or exclude any personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat; and

“(F) include procedures to promote the efficient granting of security clearances to appropriate representatives of non-Federal entities.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘appropriate Federal entities’, ‘cyber threat indicator’, ‘defensive measure’, ‘Federal entity’, and ‘non-Federal entity’ have the meaning given such terms in section 11 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.”.

(b) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall submit to Congress the procedures required by section 111(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following new item:

“Sec. 111. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government with non-Federal entities.”.

### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PREVENTING, DETECTING, ANALYZING, AND MITIGATING CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR PRIVATE-SECTOR DEFENSIVE MONITORING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose, monitor—

(A) an information system of such private entity;

(B) an information system of a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity, upon the written authorization of such non-Federal entity or such Federal entity; and

(C) information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system monitored by the private entity under this paragraph.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

(A) authorize the monitoring of an information system, or the use of any information obtained through such monitoring, other than as provided in this Act;

(B) authorize the Federal Government to conduct surveillance of any person; or

(C) limit otherwise lawful activity.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR OPERATION OF DEFENSIVE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose, operate a defensive measure that is operated on and is limited to—

(A) an information system of such private entity to protect the rights or property of the private entity; and

(B) an information system of a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity upon written authorization of such non-Federal entity or such Federal entity for operation of such defensive measure to protect the rights or property of such private entity, such non-Federal entity, or such Federal entity.

(2) LIMITATION.—The authority provided in paragraph (1) does not include the intentional or reckless operation of any defensive measure that destroys, renders unusable or inaccessible (in whole or in part), substantially harms, or initiates a new action, process, or procedure on an information system or information stored on, processed by, or transiting such information system not owned by—

(A) the private entity operating such defensive measure; or

(B) a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity that has provided written authorization to that private entity for operation of such defensive measure on the information system or information of the entity in accordance with this subsection.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

(A) to authorize the use of a defensive measure other than as provided in this subsection; or

(B) to limit otherwise lawful activity.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR SHARING OR RECEIVING CYBER THREAT INDICATORS OR DEFENSIVE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a non-Federal entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose and consistent with the requirement under subsection (d)(2) to remove personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and the protection of classified information—

(A) share a lawfully obtained cyber threat indicator or defensive measure with any other non-Federal entity or an appropriate Federal entity (other than the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency); and

(B) receive a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure from any other non-Federal entity or an appropriate Federal entity.

(2) LAWFUL RESTRICTION.—A non-Federal entity receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure from another non-Federal entity or a Federal entity shall comply with otherwise lawful restrictions placed on the sharing or use of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure by the sharing non-Federal entity or Federal entity.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

(A) authorize the sharing or receiving of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure other than as provided in this subsection;

(B) authorize the sharing or receiving of classified information by or with any person not authorized to access such classified information;

(C) prohibit any Federal entity from engaging in formal or informal technical discussion regarding cyber threat indicators or defensive measures with a non-Federal entity or from providing technical assistance to address vulnerabilities or mitigate threats at the request of such an entity;

(D) limit otherwise lawful activity;

(E) prohibit a non-Federal entity, if authorized by applicable law or regulation other than this Act, from sharing a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure with the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency; or

(F) authorize the Federal Government to conduct surveillance of any person.

(d) PROTECTION AND USE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) SECURITY OF INFORMATION.—A non-Federal entity monitoring an information system, operating a defensive measure, or providing or receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure under this section shall implement an appropriate security control to protect against unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure.

(2) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION.—A non-Federal entity sharing a cyber threat indicator pursuant to this Act shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to—

(A) review such cyber threat indicator to assess whether such cyber threat indicator contains any information that the non-Federal entity reasonably believes at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and remove such information; or

(B) implement a technical capability configured to remove any information contained within such indicator that the non-Federal entity reasonably believes at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat.

(3) USE OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—A non-Federal entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose—

(A) use a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure shared or received under this section to monitor or operate a defensive measure on—

(i) an information system of such non-Federal entity; or

(ii) an information system of another non-Federal entity or a Federal entity upon the written authorization of that other non-Federal entity or that Federal entity; and

(B) otherwise use, retain, and further share such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure subject to—

(i) an otherwise lawful restriction placed by the sharing non-Federal entity or Federal entity on such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure; or

(ii) an otherwise applicable provision of law.

(4) USE OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS BY STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

(A) LAW ENFORCEMENT USE.—A State, tribal, or local government may use a cyber threat indicator shared with such State, tribal, or local government for the purposes described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of section 4(d)(5)(A).

(B) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—A cyber threat indicator shared with a State, tribal, or local government under this section shall be—

(i) deemed voluntarily shared information; and

(ii) exempt from disclosure under any State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure of information or records, except as otherwise required by applicable State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure in any criminal prosecution.

(e) NO RIGHT OR BENEFIT.—The sharing of a cyber threat indicator with a non-Federal entity under this Act shall not create a right or benefit to similar information by such non-Federal entity or any other non-Federal entity.

### SEC. 4. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES WITH APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SHARING WITH THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall develop and submit to Congress policies and procedures relating to the receipt of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The policies and procedures required under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be developed in accordance with the privacy and civil liberties guidelines required under section 4(b) of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act;

“(B) ensure that—

“(i) a cyber threat indicator shared by a non-Federal entity with an appropriate Federal entity (other than the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency) pursuant to section 3 of such Act is shared in real-time with all of the appropriate Federal entities (including all relevant components thereof);

“(ii) the sharing of such cyber threat indicator with appropriate Federal entities is not subject to any delay, modification, or any other action without good cause that could impede receipt by all of the appropriate Federal entities; and

“(iii) such cyber threat indicator is provided to each other Federal entity to which such cyber threat indicator is relevant; and

“(C) ensure there—

“(i) is an audit capability; and

“(ii) are appropriate sanctions in place for officers, employees, or agents of a Federal entity who knowingly and willfully use a cyber threat indicator or defense measure shared with the Federal Government by a non-Federal entity under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act other than in accordance with this section and such Act.”.

(2) **SUBMISSION.**—The President shall submit to Congress—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, interim policies and procedures required under section 111(b)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by paragraph (1) of this section; and

(B) not later than 180 days after such date, final policies and procedures required under such section 111(b)(1).

(b) **PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.**—

(1) **GUIDELINES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal agencies and with officers designated under section 1062 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee-1), shall develop and periodically review guidelines relating to privacy and civil liberties that govern the receipt, retention, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators by a Federal entity obtained in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(2) **CONTENT.**—The guidelines developed and reviewed under paragraph (1) shall, consistent with the need to protect information systems from cybersecurity threats and mitigate cybersecurity threats—

(A) limit the impact on privacy and civil liberties of activities by the Federal Government under this Act, including guidelines to ensure that personal information of or information identifying specific persons is properly removed from information received, retained, used, or disseminated by a Federal entity in accordance with this Act or the amendments made by this Act;

(B) limit the receipt, retention, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators containing personal information of or information identifying specific persons, including by establishing—

(i) a process for the prompt destruction of such information that is known not to be directly related to a use for a cybersecurity purpose;

(ii) specific limitations on the length of any period in which a cyber threat indicator may be retained; and

(iii) a process to inform recipients that such indicators may only be used for a cybersecurity purpose;

(C) include requirements to safeguard cyber threat indicators containing personal information of or identifying specific persons from unauthorized access or acquisition, including appropriate sanctions for activities by officers, em-

ployees, or agents of the Federal Government in contravention of such guidelines;

(D) include procedures for notifying non-Federal entities and Federal entities if information received pursuant to this section is known or determined by a Federal entity receiving such information not to constitute a cyber threat indicator;

(E) be consistent with any other applicable provisions of law and the fair information practice principles set forth in appendix A of the document entitled “National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace” and published by the President in April, 2011; and

(F) include steps that may be needed so that dissemination of cyber threat indicators is consistent with the protection of classified information and other sensitive national security information.

(3) **SUBMISSION.**—The Attorney General shall submit to Congress—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, interim guidelines required under paragraph (1); and

(B) not later than 180 days after such date, final guidelines required under such paragraph.

(c) **NATIONAL CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION CENTER.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Title 1 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended—

(A) by redesignating section 119B as section 119C; and

(B) by inserting after section 119A the following new section:

**“SEC. 119B. CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION CENTER.**

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence a Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

“(b) **DIRECTOR.**—There is a Director of the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, who shall be the head of the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, and who shall be appointed by the Director of National Intelligence.

“(c) **PRIMARY MISSIONS.**—The Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center shall—

“(1) serve as the primary organization within the Federal Government for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the United States pertaining to cyber threats;

“(2) ensure that appropriate departments and agencies have full access to and receive all-source intelligence support needed to execute the cyber threat intelligence activities of such agencies and to perform independent, alternative analyses;

“(3) disseminate cyber threat analysis to the President, the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the appropriate committees of Congress;

“(4) coordinate cyber threat intelligence activities of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government; and

“(5) conduct strategic cyber threat intelligence planning for the Federal Government.

“(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—The Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center shall—

“(1) have not more than 50 permanent positions;

“(2) in carrying out the primary missions of the Center described in subsection (c), may not augment staffing through detailees, assignees, or core contractor personnel or enter into any personal services contracts to exceed the limitation under paragraph (1); and

“(3) be located in a building owned or operated by an element of the intelligence community as of the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(2) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended by sec-

tion 2 of this Act, is further amended by striking the item relating to section 119B and inserting the following new items:

“Sec. 119B. Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

“Sec. 119C. National intelligence centers.”.

(d) **INFORMATION SHARED WITH OR PROVIDED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—

(1) **NO WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION.**—The provision of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to the Federal Government under this Act shall not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege or protection provided by law, including trade secret protection.

(2) **PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.**—Consistent with section 3(c)(2), a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided by a non-Federal entity to the Federal Government under this Act shall be considered the commercial, financial, and proprietary information of the non-Federal entity that is the originator of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure when so designated by such non-Federal entity or a non-Federal entity acting in accordance with the written authorization of the non-Federal entity that is the originator of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure.

(3) **EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.**—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall be—

(A) deemed voluntarily shared information and exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure of information or records; and

(B) withheld, without discretion, from the public under section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local provision of law requiring disclosure of information or records, except as otherwise required by applicable Federal, State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure in any criminal prosecution.

(4) **EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.**—The provision of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to the Federal Government under this Act shall not be subject to a rule of any Federal department or agency or any judicial doctrine regarding ex parte communications with a decision-making official.

(5) **DISCLOSURE, RETENTION, AND USE.**—

(A) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act may be disclosed to, retained by, and used by, consistent with otherwise applicable provisions of Federal law, any department, agency, component, officer, employee, or agent of the Federal Government solely for—

(i) a cybersecurity purpose;

(ii) the purpose of responding to, prosecuting, or otherwise preventing or mitigating a threat of death or serious bodily harm or an offense arising out of such a threat;

(iii) the purpose of responding to, or otherwise preventing or mitigating, a serious threat to a minor, including sexual exploitation and threats to physical safety; or

(iv) the purpose of preventing, investigating, disrupting, or prosecuting any of the offenses listed in sections 1028, 1029, 1030, and 3559(c)(2)(F) and chapters 37 and 90 of title 18, United States Code.

(B) **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.**—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall not be disclosed to, retained by, or used by any Federal department or agency for any use not permitted under subparagraph (A).

(C) **PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.**—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall be retained, used, and disseminated by the Federal Government in accordance with—



(i) the policies and procedures relating to the receipt of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government required by subsection (b) of section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) the privacy and civil liberties guidelines required by subsection (b).

#### SEC. 5. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PRIVACY OR CIVIL LIBERTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a department or agency of the Federal Government intentionally or willfully violates the privacy and civil liberties guidelines issued by the Attorney General under section 4(b), the United States shall be liable to a person injured by such violation in an amount equal to the sum of—

(1) the actual damages sustained by the person as a result of the violation or \$1,000, whichever is greater; and

(2) reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this subsection in which the complainant has substantially prevailed.

(b) VENUE.—An action to enforce liability created under this section may be brought in the district court of the United States in—

(1) the district in which the complainant resides;

(2) the district in which the principal place of business of the complainant is located;

(3) the district in which the department or agency of the Federal Government that violated such privacy and civil liberties guidelines is located; or

(4) the District of Columbia.

(c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No action shall lie under this subsection unless such action is commenced not later than two years after the date of the violation of the privacy and civil liberties guidelines issued by the Attorney General under section 4(b) that is the basis for the action.

(d) EXCLUSIVE CAUSE OF ACTION.—A cause of action under this subsection shall be the exclusive means available to a complainant seeking a remedy for a violation by a department or agency of the Federal Government under this Act.

#### SEC. 6. PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.

(a) MONITORING OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any private entity, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for the monitoring of an information system and information under section 3(a) that is conducted in good faith in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) SHARING OR RECEIPT OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any non-Federal entity, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for the sharing or receipt of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure under section 3(c), or a good faith failure to act based on such sharing or receipt, if such sharing or receipt is conducted in good faith in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—

(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(A) to require dismissal of a cause of action against a non-Federal entity (including a private entity) that has engaged in willful misconduct in the course of conducting activities authorized by this Act or the amendments made by this Act; or

(B) to undermine or limit the availability of otherwise applicable common law or statutory defenses.

(2) PROOF OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—In any action claiming that subsection (a) or (b) does

not apply due to willful misconduct described in paragraph (1), the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the willful misconduct by each non-Federal entity subject to such claim and that such willful misconduct proximately caused injury to the plaintiff.

(3) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “willful misconduct” means an act or omission that is taken—

(A) intentionally to achieve a wrongful purpose;

(B) knowingly without legal or factual justification; and

(C) in disregard of a known or obvious risk that is so great as to make it highly probable that the harm will outweigh the benefit.

#### SEC. 7. OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) BIENNIAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 2(a) and amended by section 4(a) of this Act, is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) (as redesignated by such section 4(a)) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) (as inserted by such section 4(a)) the following new subsection:

“(c) BIENNIAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every two years, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall submit to Congress a report concerning the implementation of this section and the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of the sufficiency of the policies, procedures, and guidelines required by this section and section 4 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act in ensuring that cyber threat indicators are shared effectively and responsibly within the Federal Government.

“(B) An assessment of whether the procedures developed under section 3 of such Act comply with the goals described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(1).

“(C) An assessment of whether cyber threat indicators have been properly classified and an accounting of the number of security clearances authorized by the Federal Government for the purposes of this section and such Act.

“(D) A review of the type of cyber threat indicators shared with the Federal Government under this section and such Act, including the following:

“(i) The degree to which such information may impact the privacy and civil liberties of specific persons.

“(ii) A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the impact of the sharing of such cyber threat indicators with the Federal Government on privacy and civil liberties of specific persons.

“(iii) The adequacy of any steps taken by the Federal Government to reduce such impact.

“(E) A review of actions taken by the Federal Government based on cyber threat indicators shared with the Federal Government under this section or such Act, including the appropriateness of any subsequent use or dissemination of such cyber threat indicators by a Federal entity under this section or section 4 of such Act.

“(F) A description of any significant violations of the requirements of this section or such Act by the Federal Government—

“(i) an assessment of all reports of officers, employees, and agents of the Federal Government misusing information provided to the Federal Government under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or this section, without regard to whether the misuse was knowing or willful; and

“(ii) an assessment of all disciplinary actions taken against such officers, employees, and agents.

“(G) A summary of the number and type of non-Federal entities that received classified cyber threat indicators from the Federal Government under this section or such Act and an evaluation of the risks and benefits of sharing such cyber threat indicators.

“(H) An assessment of any personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat that—

“(i) was shared by a non-Federal entity with the Federal Government under this Act in contravention of section 3(d)(2); or

“(ii) was shared within the Federal Government under this Act in contravention of the guidelines required by section 4(b).

“(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) may include such recommendations as the heads of the appropriate Federal entities may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities and processes under this section or such Act.

“(4) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required by paragraph (1).”.

(2) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (c) of section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTS ON PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.—

(1) BIENNIAL REPORT FROM PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1061(e) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) BIENNIAL REPORT ON CERTAIN CYBER ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board shall biennially submit to Congress and the President a report containing—

“(i) an assessment of the privacy and civil liberties impact of the activities carried out under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the amendments made by such Act; and

“(ii) an assessment of the sufficiency of the policies, procedures, and guidelines established pursuant to section 4 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the amendments made by such section 4 in addressing privacy and civil liberties concerns.

“(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report submitted under this paragraph may include such recommendations as the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or the amendments made by such Act.

“(C) FORM.—Each report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(D) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required by subparagraph (A).”.

(B) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under paragraph (3) of section 1061(e) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(e)), as added by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, shall be submitted not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) BIENNIAL REPORT OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not



less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, in consultation with the Council of Inspectors General on Financial Oversight, shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the receipt, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures that have been shared with Federal entities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A review of the types of cyber threat indicators shared with Federal entities.

(ii) A review of the actions taken by Federal entities as a result of the receipt of such cyber threat indicators.

(iii) A list of Federal entities receiving such cyber threat indicators.

(iv) A review of the sharing of such cyber threat indicators among Federal entities to identify inappropriate barriers to sharing information.

(C) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Each report submitted under this paragraph may include such recommendations as the Inspectors General referred to in subparagraph (A) may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(D) **FORM.**—Each report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(E) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.**—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required under subparagraph (A).

#### **SEC. 8. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY THREATS.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate elements of the intelligence community, shall submit to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report on cybersecurity threats, including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of—

(A) the current intelligence sharing and cooperation relationships of the United States with other countries regarding cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches) directed against the United States that threaten the United States national security interests, economy, and intellectual property; and

(B) the relative utility of such relationships, which elements of the intelligence community participate in such relationships, and whether and how such relationships could be improved.

(2) A list and an assessment of the countries and non-state actors that are the primary threats of carrying out a cybersecurity threat (including a cyber attack, theft, or data breach) against the United States and that threaten the United States national security, economy, and intellectual property.

(3) A description of the extent to which the capabilities of the United States Government to respond to or prevent cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, or data breaches) directed against the United States private sector are degraded by a delay in the prompt notification by private entities of such threats or cyber attacks, theft, and breaches.

(4) An assessment of additional technologies or capabilities that would enhance the ability of the United States to prevent and to respond to cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches).

(5) An assessment of any technologies or practices utilized by the private sector that could be rapidly fielded to assist the intelligence community in preventing and responding to cybersecurity threats.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of the report required by subsection (a).

(e) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

#### **SEC. 9. CONSTRUCTION AND PREEMPTION.**

(a) **PROHIBITION OF SURVEILLANCE.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to authorize the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency or any other element of the intelligence community to target a person for surveillance.

(b) **OTHERWISE LAWFUL DISCLOSURES.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to limit or prohibit—

(1) otherwise lawful disclosures of communications, records, or other information, including reporting of known or suspected criminal activity, by a non-Federal entity to any other non-Federal entity or the Federal Government; or

(2) any otherwise lawful use of such disclosures by any entity of the Federal government, without regard to whether such otherwise lawful disclosures duplicate or replicate disclosures made under this Act.

(c) **WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTIONS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or limit the disclosure of information protected under section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures of illegality, waste, fraud, abuse, or public health or safety threats), section 7211 of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures to Congress), section 1034 of title 10, United States Code (governing disclosure to Congress by members of the military), or any similar provision of Federal or State law.

(d) **PROTECTION OF SOURCES AND METHODS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) as creating any immunity against, or otherwise affecting, any action brought by the Federal Government, or any department or agency thereof, to enforce any law, executive order, or procedure governing the appropriate handling, disclosure, or use of classified information;

(2) to affect the conduct of authorized law enforcement or intelligence activities; or

(3) to modify the authority of the President or a department or agency of the Federal Government to protect and control the dissemination of classified information, intelligence sources and methods, and the national security of the United States.

(e) **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect any requirement under any other provision of law for a non-Federal entity to provide information to the Federal Government.

(f) **INFORMATION SHARING RELATIONSHIPS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to limit or modify an existing information-sharing relationship;

(2) to prohibit a new information-sharing relationship; or

(3) to require a new information-sharing relationship between any non-Federal entity and the Federal Government.

(g) **PRESERVATION OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to amend, repeal, or supersede any current or future contractual agreement, terms of service agreement, or other contractual relationship between any non-Federal entities, or between any non-Federal entity and a Federal entity; or

(2) to abrogate trade secret or intellectual property rights of any non-Federal entity or Federal entity.

(h) **ANTI-TASKING RESTRICTION.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to permit the Federal Government—

(1) to require a non-Federal entity to provide information to the Federal Government;

(2) to condition the sharing of a cyber threat indicator with a non-Federal entity on such non-Federal entity's provision of a cyber threat indicator to the Federal Government; or

(3) to condition the award of any Federal grant, contract, or purchase on the provision of a cyber threat indicator to a Federal entity.

(i) **NO LIABILITY FOR NON-PARTICIPATION.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to subject any non-Federal entity to liability for choosing not to engage in a voluntary activity authorized in this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(j) **USE AND RETENTION OF INFORMATION.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to authorize, or to modify any existing authority of, a department or agency of the Federal Government to retain or use any information shared under this Act or the amendments made by this Act for any use other than permitted in this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(k) **FEDERAL PREEMPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act and the amendments made by this Act supersede any statute or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State that restricts or otherwise expressly regulates an activity authorized under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(2) **STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede any statute or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State concerning the use of authorized law enforcement practices and procedures.

(l) **REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to authorize the promulgation of any regulations not specifically authorized by this Act or the amendments made by this Act;

(2) to establish any regulatory authority not specifically established under this Act or the amendments made by this Act; or

(3) to authorize regulatory actions that would duplicate or conflict with regulatory requirements, mandatory standards, or related processes under another provision of Federal law.

#### **SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

Section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking “wells.” and inserting “wells; or”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) information shared with or provided to the Federal Government pursuant to the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or the amendments made by such Act.”

#### **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) **APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES.**—The term “appropriate Federal entities” means the following:

- (A) The Department of Commerce.
- (B) The Department of Defense.
- (C) The Department of Energy.
- (D) The Department of Homeland Security.
- (E) The Department of Justice.
- (F) The Department of the Treasury.
- (G) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(3) **CYBERSECURITY PURPOSE.**—The term “cybersecurity purpose” means the purpose of protecting (including through the use of a defensive measure) an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system from a cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability or identifying the source of a cybersecurity threat.

(4) **CYBERSECURITY THREAT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “cybersecurity threat” means an action, not protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, on or through an information system that may result in an unauthorized effort to adversely impact the security, confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “cybersecurity threat” does not include any action that solely involves a violation of a consumer term of service or a consumer licensing agreement.

(5) **CYBER THREAT INDICATOR.**—The term “cyber threat indicator” means information or a physical object that is necessary to describe or identify—

(A) malicious reconnaissance, including anomalous patterns of communications that appear to be transmitted for the purpose of gathering technical information related to a cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability;

(B) a method of defeating a security control or exploitation of a security vulnerability;

(C) a security vulnerability, including anomalous data that appears to indicate the existence of a security vulnerability;

(D) a method of causing a user with legitimate access to an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system to unwittingly enable the defeat of a security control or exploitation of a security vulnerability;

(E) malicious cyber command and control;

(F) the actual or potential harm caused by an incident, including a description of the information exfiltrated as a result of a particular cybersecurity threat; or

(G) any other attribute of a cybersecurity threat, if disclosure of such attribute is not otherwise prohibited by law.

(6) **DEFENSIVE MEASURE.**—The term “defensive measure” means an action, device, procedure, technique, or other measure executed on an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system that prevents or mitigates a known or suspected cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability.

(7) **FEDERAL ENTITY.**—The term “Federal entity” means a department or agency of the United States or any component of such department or agency.

(8) **INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—The term “information system” —

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) includes industrial control systems, such as supervisory control and data acquisition systems, distributed control systems, and programmable logic controllers.

(9) **LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “local government” means any borough, city, county, parish, town, township, village, or other political subdivision of a State.

(10) **MALICIOUS CYBER COMMAND AND CONTROL.**—The term “malicious cyber command and control” means a method for unauthorized remote identification of, access to, or use of, an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(11) **MALICIOUS RECONNAISSANCE.**—The term “malicious reconnaissance” means a method for actively probing or passively monitoring an information system for the purpose of discerning security vulnerabilities of the information system, if such method is associated with a known or suspected cybersecurity threat.

(12) **MONITOR.**—The term “monitor” means to acquire, identify, scan, or otherwise possess information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(13) **NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term “non-Federal entity” means any private entity, non-Federal government department or agency, or State, tribal, or local government (including a political subdivision, department, officer, employee, or agent thereof).

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “non-Federal entity” includes a government department or agency (including an officer, employee, or agent thereof) of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(C) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “non-Federal entity” does not include a foreign power or known agent of a foreign power, as both terms are defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(14) **PRIVATE ENTITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term “private entity” means any person or private group, organization, proprietorship, partnership, trust, cooperative, corporation, or other commercial or nonprofit entity, including an officer, employee, or agent thereof.

(B) **INCLUSION.**—The term “private entity” includes a component of a State, tribal, or local government performing electric utility services.

(C) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “private entity” does not include a foreign power as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(15) **REAL TIME; REAL-TIME.**—The terms “real time” and “real-time” mean a process by which an automated, machine-to-machine system processes cyber threat indicators such that the time in which the occurrence of an event and the reporting or recording of it are as simultaneous as technologically and operationally practicable.

(16) **SECURITY CONTROL.**—The term “security control” means the management, operational, and technical controls used to protect against an unauthorized effort to adversely impact the security, confidentiality, integrity, and availability of an information system or its information.

(17) **SECURITY VULNERABILITY.**—The term “security vulnerability” means any attribute of hardware, software, process, or procedure that could enable or facilitate the defeat of a security control.

(18) **TRIBAL.**—The term “tribal” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order

except those printed in part A of House Report 114–88. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1515

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUNES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, beginning line 16, strike “in accordance with” and insert “under”.

Page 9, line 2, strike “and is limited to”.

Page 9, beginning line 14, strike “the intentional or reckless operation of any” and insert “a”.

Page 9, beginning line 17, strike “substantially harms, or initiates a new action, process, or procedure on” and insert “, or substantially harms”.

Page 12, beginning line 2, strike “a non-Federal entity, if authorized by applicable law or regulation other than this Act, from sharing” and insert “otherwise lawful sharing by a non-Federal entity of”.

Page 14, line 18, insert “or defensive measure” before “shared”.

Page 23, line 19, strike “section 3(c)(2)” and insert “this Act”.

Page 24, line 15, strike “section 552(b)(3)(B)” and insert “section 552(b)(3)”.

Page 25, line 13, insert “investigating,” after “to,”.

Page 25, line 18, insert “investigating, prosecuting,” after “to,”.

Page 27, line 23, strike “subsection” and insert “section”.

Page 27, beginning line 24, strike “of the violation” and all that follows through the period on page 28, line 2, and insert the following: “on which the cause of action arises.”

Page 28, line 4, strike “subsection” and insert “section”.

Page 28, line 14, strike “in good faith”.

Page 28, beginning line 22, strike “in good faith”.

Page 33, line 16, insert “of such Act” before the semicolon.

Page 33, line 19, insert “of such Act” before the period.

Page 38, line 20, strike “threats,” and insert the following: “threats to the national security and economy of the United States.”

Page 44, line 2, strike “activiy” and insert “activity”.

Page 44, after line 23, insert the following:

(3) **STATE REGULATION OF UTILITIES.**—Except as provided by section 3(d)(4)(B), nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede any statute, regulation, or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State relating to the regulation of a private entity performing utility services, except to the extent such statute, regulation, or other provision of law restricts activity authorized

under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

Strike section 10.

Page 51, line 13, strike "electric".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I offer this amendment to make certain technical changes to the bill. These changes will align several sections of the bill, including the authorization for the use of defensive measures and the liability protections, with the Committee on Homeland Security's bill, H.R. 1731.

The amendment also removes a direct amendment to the Freedom of Information Act because the bill already contains a strong exemption of cyber threat information and defensive measures from disclosure. The change does not have a substantive effect on the exemption of cyber threat information from disclosure laws.

The changes also reflect feedback we have received from our minority, from the executive branch, from outside groups, and from other committees of Congress. We want to make sure that the bill establishes a workable system for companies and the government to share cyber threat information and defensive measures.

I urge Members to support this technical and clarifying amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, the manager's amendment makes mostly technical edits to the bill which advanced out of the Intelligence Committee unanimously. These strong edits came from our close and continuing consultations with outside groups and with the White House.

There is still work that remains to be done. In particular, we are going to work, as the bill moves forward, on the liability section. In order to benefit from the liability protection under the current language, it is necessary for companies to strictly comply with the act, which means sharing information only for a cybersecurity purpose and taking reasonable efforts to remove private information before sharing it.

I would support making further changes to the bill to make this requirement even more clear. In particular, I think it would be advantageous to strike what is, in my view, an unnecessary section on the rule of construction pertaining to willful misconduct.

Striking the rule of construction will help further clarify the intent of the bill, which is that liability protection is only available if a company or other non-Federal entity shares cyber threat information, for a cybersecurity purpose, and only after it takes reasonable steps to remove private information not directly related to the cybersecurity threat.

That is the intention of the bill, and I think striking that section will make it more clear. If a company acts unreasonably—let alone recklessly or willfully—in following these requirements, it does not get liability protection, nor should it.

That is the right result, and we have to be careful not to create any confusion about there being any immunity for people or for companies acting willfully, recklessly, or even unreasonably in disregarding private information or the requirement that it be extricated.

The manager's amendment makes positive technical changes. There are further changes that I would like to see as the bill moves forward. Confusion in any section of the bill, particularly as it pertains to liability, means litigation, and litigation means costs, so I think there is further work for us to do to make it even more clear.

In sum, I support the technical and substantive changes made in the manager's amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I join the chairman in urging support for the manager's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, as I have no other speakers, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CÁRDENAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 114-88.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Chair, I am here to present my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, after line 7, insert the following:

(F) SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION.—

(1) ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall provide assistance to small businesses and small financial institutions to monitor information and information systems, operate defensive measures, and share and receive cyber threat indicators and defensive measures under this section.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the President a report on the degree to which small businesses and small financial institutions are able to engage in cyber threat information sharing under this section. Such report shall include the recommendations of the Administrator

for improving the ability of such businesses and institutions to engage in cyber threat information sharing and to use shared information to defend their networks.

(3) OUTREACH.—The Federal Government shall conduct outreach to small businesses and small financial institutions to encourage such businesses and institutions to exercise their authority under this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Chair, I rise today to speak in support of my amendment to H.R. 1560.

I applaud the managers of this legislation for all of their hard work. I understand the difficult balance that must be struck in this important debate, and I thank the committee for the opportunity to have my amendment considered today.

Madam Chair, this amendment will protect national security by starting from the ground up in protecting our smallest of businesses.

Cyber attacks are a real threat to our economy and national security. Hackers will look for the most vulnerable in the supply chain to exploit their security. This is why we must make sure any legislation related to cybersecurity places small businesses at the forefront of our security planning.

By doing this, we will be protecting customers and businesses up and down the supply chain, which will defend our economy, as a whole, from being attacked.

The amendment will ensure that the SBA will assist small businesses and small financial institutions in participating in the programs under this bill, and it will make sure the Federal Government performs outreach to small businesses and to small financial institutions.

This is a commonsense provision that addresses the issues that are critical to ensuring the security of our cyberspace and of our economic well-being now and into the future.

Small businesses are increasingly becoming the target of cyber criminals as larger companies increase their protections, so we need to arm them with the information and technical assistance they need to create effective plans to thwart these attacks and intrusions.

On a personal note, I once owned a small business myself. I left my bigger, corporate job to start a small business in my local community and employ people I grew up with. Washington is a faraway place for many small businesses in our country. The laws here can seem disconnected. The issues can be brushed off as someone else's problem.

That is why it is essential that, today and moving forward on all of

these cybersecurity debates, that we make sure we have programs in place to work with and to educate our small businesses and that we understand that, every time one of these small businesses is successfully attacked and breached, it is a possibility that it could go under, losing those local jobs. I think this is a commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from California for bringing forward this thoughtful amendment. He worked closely with the committee to ensure that the language did not disrupt the intent of the bill. I am prepared to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman, my colleague, for yielding.

Madam Chair, for a large business, a cyber attack can be costly and damaging. For a small business, a cyber attack can be fatal, wiping out a family's dream or a lifetime of work in a few clicks of a mouse.

Small businesses and small financial institutions also don't have the large legal shops that are sometimes necessary to keep up with the latest changes or regulations coming from Washington.

That is why I am so pleased that my California colleague offered this important amendment. While I don't expect that any sharing mechanism will ultimately be costly to maintain or to access, there will be some costs, especially in the early stages of implementation, and there will be some new procedures to navigate.

This amendment will help put the reach and authority of the Small Business Administration in the service of cybersecurity by having the agency assist in the rollout of cyber threat information sharing.

It is an important addition to the bill. I thank the gentleman for raising the issue, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CARDENAS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDENAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CARSON OF INDIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 114-88.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 37, after line 16, insert the following new clause:

(v) A review of the current procedures pertaining to the sharing of information, removal procedures for personal information or information identifying a specific person, and any incidents pertaining to the improper treatment of such information.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I proudly supported this bill when we marked it in the Intelligence Committee. I am only bringing up this amendment today to address a basic transparency concern raised by my constituents after the markup, that the cybersecurity threat posed to our government, to our businesses, and to our personal information is massive and is growing every day.

This bill provides important tools to ensure that the lessons learned from a breach of one company can help strengthen the security of others. As a result, your Social Security and credit card numbers will be better protected.

Madam Chair, as someone who opposed CISPA last year, I feel like this iteration is a major first step forward in privacy protection and transparency. I am particularly happy with the robust protections of personally identifiable information.

Unlike past iterations, this bill mandates that cyber threat information is scanned and that personal information is removed not once, but twice, before it can be transmitted to other Federal agencies.

I am pleased, Madam Chair, that companies will share their cyber threat information with a civilian agency and not directly with the intelligence community. I am also happy that additional limitations are placed on the ways that cyber threat information can be utilized.

For all of the benefits of this bill, the American people still—rightfully so—expect oversight that is consistent and comprehensive. That is what this amendment is all about. It strengthens the oversight of the inspector general's monitoring of this kind of information sharing.

Now, with this amendment, the inspector general will oversee and report on the process for information-sharing procedures, for removing personal information, and any incidence in which this information was treated improperly.

It will ensure Congress and the public that sharing is happening properly and

that the public is being protected. I hope that my good Republican colleagues will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman. He is a member of the Intelligence Committee and has played a very productive and constructive role. As he said, his constituents have brought these concerns to him. He worked with the ranking member and me, and we are prepared to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), my good friend.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, this is Mr. CARSON's first year on the committee, and I appreciate his dedicated service and the interest he has taken in oversight of the intelligence community. He brings a background in law enforcement, which is a very welcome addition to our committee, and joins other colleagues with a very similar background.

He has worked closely with us to make privacy improvements throughout the process. I support his efforts here again to make a good bill even better. Mr. CARSON's amendment would include a requirement to make sure the critical dual privacy scrub is working the way it should. This is very important. It is at the core of our bill and at the core of our efforts to protect privacy. So we must monitor how these requirements are working and support transparent reporting to make sure that they are working as intended.

I support the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I thank Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF once again for their support in helping to keep our communities safer, but I still want to thank my Republican colleagues for supporting this amendment, and I thank them for their friendship. As a new member of the committee, Madam Chair, I have greatly appreciated the guidance—bipartisan guidance, if you will.

Every Member of this House, Madam Chair, has heard from constituents who are concerned about government surveillance and overreach. After everything we have heard about bulk collection over the last few years, the American people are right to be concerned about new authorities to collect data.

As the text plainly and repeatedly states, this is not a surveillance bill.

We have protections in place to ensure that the intelligence community cannot collect and utilize your personal data. This amendment simply ensures that Congress and the public get to see this sharing process and see how it works if these protections happen to fail. I urge support for this amendment and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, Madam Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 114-88.

Mr. MULVANEY. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following new section:

**SEC. 12. SUNSET.**

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman of the committee for the opportunity to present the amendment here today.

Very briefly, I will talk about the genesis of this amendment, which is very simple, by the way. It adds a 7-year sunset to all the provisions of the bill.

Madam Chair, in going through the review of this bill, it occurred to me that this was a really close call. There were folks whom I respect with a great deal of credibility who reached out to me and said: Look, here are the difficulties with this bill and why we should defeat this bill. At the same time, there are a lot of folks for whom I have a great deal of respect and have a great deal of credibility in the industry who also reached out to me and said: Look, this is a very serious problem. Here are the good things in the bill, and here is why you should support it.

It is probably not unusual that we have that circumstance before us where it is a close call. We are balancing two very critical things: security—specifically, cybersecurity—on one hand, and privacy, liberty interests, on the other. It is a balancing act that we are called on to do many, many times here in Washington, D.C.

As I was going through the bill, taking input from both sides of the argument, it occurred to me: All right,

what if we have got it wrong? What if we have the balancing act wrong? Sure, we can go back in and fix it at some point in the future, some indeterminate time in the future; but face it, this is a busy place, with a lot of bills demanding attention on any given day in Congress.

Wouldn't it be nice to have something hardwired into the bill that would force Congress at some point in the future to come back and say: Okay. A couple years back, here is what we did on cybersecurity. Is it working? Did we get it right? Is the balance between security and privacy one that is serving both of those very important interests correctly?

We sat down to talk amongst some of my colleagues about the amount of time that was necessary. Madam Chair, 7 years is a long time to have a sunset provision in a bill. It came to my attention, though, given the complexities, the complexities of the systems necessary to be put in place in order to implement the programs in the bill, that 7 years was the appropriate level of time.

I am glad that we have sunset provisions in other pieces of legislation. I doubt very seriously we would be having serious discussions right now about things as important as the PATRIOT Act if a sunset provision was not hardwired into the bill. Maybe we should consider adding these to every single piece of legislation for just the same reason: to force us from time to time to see if what we thought we were doing several years ago was really as good an idea as we thought it was several years ago. So that was the intention.

That is the genesis of this amendment—again, very simple, a 7-year sunset provision. I hope my colleagues will see fit to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, although I appreciate my colleague's concern.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, my friend from South Carolina, I think, is very thoughtful in his approach in wanting sunset provisions in many laws that pass this body, and I think that is correct on major pieces of legislation, especially involving government bureaucracies, the creation of government bureaucracies, and the implementation of regulation.

I would just make a few important points that I think this bill is very different because this is a voluntary bill. It is also legislation that, because of the liability protections that are in this bill, if you have a sunset clause in it—and part of the reason why the other amendments that were made out of order and this one was made in

order, because it was the longest time, with the 7 years, as the gentleman said—it is tough for a company to design, build, get in the process of preparing how they are going to share this information company to company, and I am afraid that even though this is 7 years, will companies make the investment terms of being willing to actually share? Then, if this expires, what happens with the trial lawyers that would then come after the fact when the Congress doesn't act with information that is sitting out there that no longer has the protections?

This is actually why, back when the last version of this legislation was up last Congress, we made several changes since then, and we have many more supporters since that time because of the changes we have made to make sure that we have scrubbed private data, to make sure this doesn't go to any government agency, to make sure that it is voluntary, all of the steps that we have taken. But because of the trial lawyer component and the liability being left open, this is why groups like Heritage, in the last Congress, opposed an amendment just like this.

We would like to work with the gentleman and his colleagues on this, but I would ask if he would be willing to maybe work with us in a potential conference or possibly down the road, if it might be appropriate. I hate to oppose this amendment because he is my good friend, but I want to try to see if he might be willing to withdraw and work with us when we get to a conference on a reasonable solution to this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I will respond in a couple of different ways.

Under ordinary circumstances, Madam Chair, I might consider withdrawing the amendment, but I think we are here today under a somewhat extraordinary rule. I do appreciate the chairman's genuineness in his request because we have worked very closely together on other matters in the past. I look forward to working with him on other matters in the future. I consider him to be a good friend and colleague. But because of the nature of the joint rule, if this bill passes and the bill that is being offered by the Homeland Security Committee tomorrow passes as well, my understanding is those two bills will then be merged. I have a similar amendment, Madam Chair, tomorrow to Mr. MCCAUL's bill, so I am not really sure if even withdrawing at this point would accomplish the necessary end that you seek. I will politely decline your request, and respectfully so.

I will point out, my good friend does mention an interesting part of my history here in Washington, D.C. When I offered a similar amendment to, I believe, the PATRIOT Act a couple years back, The Heritage Foundation did oppose it. It always makes me smile, Madam Chair, when I remember going

through that conversation with my friends over at The Heritage Foundation, and I had to send them a copy of Ed Feulner's own book. Ed, of course, is one of the founding members of The Heritage Foundation, and the last chapter is an exhortation to please include a sunset provision in every single piece of Federal legislation. Again, that just sort of makes me smile.

With all due respect due to the chairman, both as the chair of the committee and a Member of this body and a friend of mine, I will politely decline his request.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I appreciate the chairman yielding time to me, even though I am in support of this amendment.

Madam Chair, we need this legislation because our companies, our industries, our government, and even our individual citizens are under attack by foreign cyber hackers, under attack from criminals. We need the cooperation between the government and the private sector, but unfortunately we have seen that well-meaning folks in the government sometimes get a little overzealous in their data collection we don't always see.

For instance, section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, we saw in the Snowden revelations that every bit of metadata on phones was being collected. We didn't know that when we passed the PATRIOT Act. Now we have an opportunity to put a backstop in place where we can take a look a few years down the road and make sure this isn't being misinterpreted, not in line with congressional intent, and not in line with the Constitution. This backstop, this sunset, is a critical piece of the bill. The bill is not perfect, but this makes it a whole lot better and gives us a second bite at the apple should things be going wrong.

I appreciate your yielding.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close.

I would just say that I hate to have to oppose this amendment because I think my colleagues are offering it in good faith, with good intentions. However, it is a voluntary program. As I said, cybersecurity is going to continue to be an ever-increasing problem and challenge, and the last thing we want to do is put a backstop in to where companies or private citizens are afraid to share the information with each other because they are afraid of being sued by some trial lawyer down the road.

Like I said, I hate to oppose the amendment, but I will have to oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 114-88.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 12. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON REMOVAL OF PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from cyber threat indicators pursuant to section 4(b).

(b) FORM.—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

□ 1545

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the manager and the chairman and ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee for their service and leadership.

I offer this amendment that I believe will answer a question that has been raised by many Members but really has bipartisan support.

This amendment is offered as a Jackson Lee-Polis amendment, and the specifics of it say:

"Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from cyber threat indicators pursuant to section 4(b)."

Again, this relates to the concern that many of us will hear over and over again from our constituents.

In the world of hacking and mistakes and misdirection and unfairness and terrorism, it is important to secure this Nation and to be able to have the right information.

As I serve as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I believe we

have to have information to thwart terrorist acts and protect the homeland.

But there is a public benefit to my amendment. This amendment will provide the public assurance from a reliable and trustworthy source that their privacy and civil liberties are not being compromised.

We are a State and a Nation born out of the existence of the Bill of Rights. Along with the Constitution, it has framed a democracy, but it has also framed the preciousness of individual rights and privacy. I offer this amendment, again, to emphasize the importance of privacy that is so very important.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment provides, again, for a Government Accountability Act report to Congress on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from data shared through the programs established by this statute.

The intent of the report, as indicated, is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

Again, this amendment would result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the programs created under this bill.

Privacy is of great concern to the American people. I know that because, as we were doing the Patriot Act in the shadow of the heinous acts of 9/11, I will tell you that large voices were raised, particularly out of the Judiciary Committee and in working with the Intelligence Committee, about the issues of privacy. Americans understand that.

Privacy is of great concern to the American public. Privacy involves the handling and protection of personal information. And as well, when personal information is improperly accessed, used, or abused, it can cause financial and personal harm to those whose data is involved.

Madam Chair, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the distinguished ranking member.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from Colorado for their amendment, and I am happy to support it.

We create a lot of law in this body, and it is absolutely necessary that we establish reporting mechanisms that allow us to measure the effectiveness of the work that we do here. This is an amendment that will do just that.

By requiring regular reports on the operation of the sharing mechanism that we are creating today, we can determine whether it is working as intended or whether it needs to be



tweaked or changed to be more effective. We must always ensure that the government is fulfilling its obligation under this bill to remove personal information.

Again, I want to thank SHEILA JACKSON LEE, as well as the gentleman from Colorado, for their efforts. I support the amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 45 seconds remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Let me quickly say that a report on consumer views on the privacy issue published by the Pew Center found that a majority of adults surveyed felt that their privacy is being challenged along such core dimensions as the security of their personal information and their ability to retain confidentiality.

It is for this reason that I believe the Jackson Lee amendment, in conjunction with the underlying legislation, H.R. 1560, will be an added asset to ensure that the personal data, privacy, and civil liberties of Americans are protected.

Madam Chair, I offer my thanks to Chairman NUNES, and Ranking Member SCHIFF for their leadership and work on H.R. 1560.

The bipartisan work done by the House Select Committee on Intelligence resulted in H.R. 1560 being brought before the House for consideration.

I offer acknowledgement to Congressman POLIS in joining me in sponsoring this amendment.

The Jackson Lee-Polis Amendment to H.R. 1560 is simple and would improve the bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment designated #5 on the list of amendments approved for H.R. 1560:

The Jackson Lee-Polis Amendment provides for a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to Congress on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from data shared through the programs established by this statute.

The intent of the report is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

This amendment would result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the programs created under this bill.

Privacy is of great concern to the American public.

Privacy involves the handling and protection of personal information that individuals provide in the course of everyday commercial transactions.

When personal information is improperly accessed, used, or abused it can cause financial and personal harm to the people whose data is involved.

A report on consumer views on their privacy published by the Pew Center found that a majority of adults surveyed felt that their privacy is being challenged along such core dimensions as the security of their personal information and their ability to retain confidentiality.

For this reason, the Jackson Lee amendment providing an independent report to the

public on how their privacy and civil liberties are treated under the implementation of this bill is important.

I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this amendment.

I ask that the amendment be supported, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 313, noes 110, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

AYES—313

Adams	Clawson (FL)	Fortenberry	Johnson (GA)	Miller (FL)	Scalise
Aguilar	Clay	Foster	Johnson (OH)	Mooney (WV)	Schakowsky
Allen	Cleaver	Fox	Johnson, E. B.	Moore	Schiff
Amash	Clyburn	Frankel (FL)	Jolly	Moulton	Schrader
Ashford	Cohen	Franks (AZ)	Jones	Mullin	Schweikert
Babin	Cole	Fudge	Jordan	Mulvaney	Scott (VA)
Barton	Collins (GA)	Gabbard	Joyce	Nadler	Scott, Austin
Bass	Connolly	Gallego	Kaptur	Napolitano	Scott, David
Beatty	Conyers	Garamendi	Keating	Neal	Serrano
Becerra	Cooper	Garrett	Kelly (IL)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Bera	Costa	Gibbs	Kennedy	Noem	Sewell (AL)
Beyer	Courtney	Gibson	Kildee	Nolan	Sherman
Bilirakis	Cramer	Gohmert	Kilmer	Norcross	Sires
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Goodlatte	Kind	Nugent	Slaughter
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Gosar	King (IA)	O'Rourke	Smith (MO)
Black	Davis (CA)	Govdy	Kline	Palazzo	Smith (NE)
Blum	DeFazio	Graham	Kuster	Pallone	Smith (NJ)
Blumenauer	DeGette	Granger	Labrador	Palmer	Smith (TX)
Bonamici	Delaney	Graves (GA)	LaMalfa	Pascarell	Speier
Bost	DeLauro	Graves (LA)	Lamborn	Paulsen	Stefanik
Boyle, Brendan F.	DelBene	Grayson	Langevin	Payne	Stutzman
Brady (PA)	Denham	Green, Al	Larsen (WA)	Pearce	Swalwell (CA)
Brat	DeSantis	Green, Gene	Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Takai
Bridenstine	DesJarlais	Griffith	Latta	Perlmutter	Takano
Brooks (AL)	Deutch	Grijalva	Lawrence	Perry	Thompson (CA)
Brooks (IN)	Dingell	Grothman	Lee	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Guinta	Levin	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Brownley (CA)	Doyle, Michael F.	Gutiérrez	Lewis	Pingree	Tipton
Buchanan	Duffy	Hahn	Lieu, Ted	Pitts	Titus
Buck	Duncan (SC)	Hanna	Lipinski	Pocan	Tonko
Burgess	Duncan (TN)	Harris	Loeb	Poe (TX)	Torres
Bustos	Edwards	Heck (WA)	Loesack	Polis	Tsongas
Butterfield	Ellison	Hensarling	Lofgren	Posey	Van Hollen
Byrne	Ellmers (NC)	Herrera Beutler	Loudermilk	Price (NC)	Vargas
Capps	Emmer (MN)	Hice, Jody B.	Love	Price, Tom	Veasey
Capuano	Engel	Higgins	Lowenthal	Quigley	Vela
Cárdenas	Eshoo	Himes	Lowe	Rangel	Velázquez
Carney	Esty	Hinojosa	Lucas	Ribble	Vislosky
Carson (IN)	Farr	Honda	Luetkemeyer	Rice (NY)	Walker
Carter (GA)	Fattah	Hoyer	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Cartwright	Fitzpatrick	Huelskamp	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Richmond	Walz
Castor (FL)	Fleischmann	Hurt (VA)	Lummis	Rigell	Waters, Maxine
Castro (TX)	Fleming	Hurt	Lynch	Roe (TN)	Watson Coleman
Chabot	Flores	Issa	Maloney, Sean	Rohrabacher	Weber (TX)
Chaffetz	Forbes	Jackson Lee	Marchant	Rokita	Webster (FL)
Chu, Judy		Jeffries	Massie	Ross	Welch
Cicilline			Matsui	Rothfus	Westerman
Clark (MA)			McClintock	Rouzer	Williams
Clarke (NY)			Roybal-Allard	Rush	Wilson (FL)
			Ruiz	Russell	Wilson (SC)
			Salmon	Salmon	Wittman
			Sánchez, Linda T.	Sánchez, Loretta	Yarmuth
			Sanford	Sanford	Yoder
			Sarbanes	Sarbanes	Yoho
					Zeldin
					Zinke

#### NOES—110

Abraham	Hill	Poliquin
Aderholt	Holding	Pompeo
Amodei	Hudson	Ratcliffe
Barletta	Hurd (TX)	Reed
Barr	Israel	Reichert
Benishek	Jenkins (KS)	Renacci
Bishop (MI)	Jenkins (WV)	Roby
Blackburn	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Boustany	Katko	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Kelly (PA)	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Calvert	Kinzinger (IL)	Roskam
Carter (TX)	Kirkpatrick	Royce
Coffman	Knight	Ruppersberger
Collins (NY)	Lance	Ryan (OH)
Comstock	LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	Long	Sensenbrenner
Cook	MacArthur	Shimkus
Costello (PA)	Maloney,	Shuster
Crawford	Carolyn	Simpson
Crenshaw	Marino	Sinema
Cuellar	McCarthy	Stewart
Culberson	McCaul	Stivers
Davis, Danny	McHenry	Thornberry
Davis, Rodney	McKinley	Tiberi
Dent	McSally	Trott
Diaz-Balart	Meehan	Turner
Dold	Messer	Upton
Fincher	Mica	Valadao
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Wagner
Guthrie	Moolenaar	Walberg
Hardy	Murphy (PA)	Walden
Harper	Newhouse	Walters, Mimi
Hartzler	Nunes	Wenstrup
Heck (NV)	Pittenger	Westmoreland



Whitfield  
Womack

Woodall  
Young (AK)

Young (IA)  
Young (IN)

## NOT VOTING—8

Brady (TX)  
Curbelo (FL)  
Graves (MO)

Hastings  
Murphy (FL)  
Olson

Smith (WA)  
Wasserman  
Schultz

□ 1620

Messrs. ISRAEL, FINCHER, CALVERT, RYAN of Wisconsin, TURNER, SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. ABRAHAM, and RUPPERSBERGER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mses. EDWARDS, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. ROHRBACHER, CARNEY, ZELDIN, ROSS, RICHMOND, Mses. MATSUI, STEFANIK, Messrs. SIREN, CROWLEY, Mses. SCHAKOWSKY, DeGETTE, TITUS, Messrs. JOYCE, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, VEASEY, Mses. BROWNLEY of California, LEE, and Mr. PETERSON changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 212, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

## MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Miss RICE of New York. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Miss Rice of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1560 to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select) with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 22, line 14, strike “and”.

Page 22, line 16, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 22, after line 16, insert the following:

“(6) to prevent a terrorist attack against the United States, ensure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding known terrorist organizations (including the Islamic State, al Qaeda, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Boko Haram) with respect to—

“(A) cyberattacks;

“(B) the recruitment of homegrown terrorists by such terrorist organizations; and

“(C) travel by persons to and from foreign countries in which such terrorist organizations are based or provide training (including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Nigeria); and

“(7) to prevent the intelligence and military capability of the United States from being improperly transferred to any foreign country, terrorist organization, or state sponsor of terrorism, ensure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding attempts to steal the military technology of the United States by state-sponsored computer hackers from the People's Republic of China and other foreign countries.”.

Mr. NUNES (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, the most important job we have is to protect the American homeland and the American people. The threats against our country are ceaseless and constantly evolving, and we too must evolve and adapt in our efforts to maintain the domestic security that the American people have entrusted us to uphold.

Passing H.R. 1560 will be a significant step forward in that effort. Our Nation's cyber infrastructure is under attack every single day from hackers, from foreign nations, and from terrorists. I believe H.R. 1560 will strengthen our government's ability to coordinate with companies in the private sector, share intelligence, and respond to these

threats, but I also believe the legislation should be stronger.

We know that foreign nations and terrorist organizations are actively seeking to steal American military intelligence and technology, and we know that terrorists are using the Internet to spread their poisonous ideology, recruit American citizens to join their ranks, and encourage attacks here in America. Just this week, six Minnesota men were arrested after trying to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State. Last week, authorities arrested an Ohio man who actually trained with a terrorist group in Syria and returned to the U.S., intent on carrying out an attack on our soil. Earlier this month, two women in my home State of New York were arrested for planning to detonate a bomb in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment will help prevent a domestic terror attack by allowing Federal agencies to coordinate and prioritize the sharing of cyber threat intelligence regarding known terrorist organizations like the Islamic State, Boko Haram, al Shabaab, and al Qaeda and its affiliates, groups that use the Internet and social media as a weapon in their efforts to attack the United States and the American people. Likewise, this amendment will direct Federal agencies to prioritize the sharing of intelligence regarding attempts by terrorists and foreign nations to steal American military technology.

This amendment will help protect our Nation and the people we serve. I have no doubt that that is the highest priority for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, so we must also make it a priority to neutralize these threats and do all that we can to thwart the violent ambitions of those who want to do us harm.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe H.R. 1560 is important legislation that deserves bipartisan support, but I believe this amendment deserves the same. It will make the legislation stronger, make the American people safer, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give it their full support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit is nothing more than a poison pill designed to destroy the years of work that have gone into crafting this legislation.

The bill already does exactly what the motion to recommit purposes. It helps the American people defend themselves against hackers from countries like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other terrorist groups.

While we stand here and continue to debate this problem, our country is

under attack from hackers who steal our intellectual property, pilfer our personal information, and target our national security interests.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the motion to recommit and “yes” on final passage.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 239, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 169]

#### AYES—183

Adams	Duckworth	Lujan Grisham
Aguilar	Edwards	(NM)
Ashford	Ellison	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bass	Engel	(NM)
Beatty	Eshoo	Lynch
Becerra	Esty	Maloney,
Bera	Farr	Carolyn
Beyer	Fattah	Maloney, Sean
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Matsui
Blumenauer	Frankel (FL)	McCollum
Bonamici	Fudge	McDermott
Boyle, Brendan	Gabbard	McGovern
F.	Gallego	McNerney
Brady (PA)	Garamendi	Meeks
Brown (FL)	Graham	Meng
Brownley (CA)	Grayson	Moore
Bustos	Green, Al	Moulton
Butterfield	Green, Gene	Nadler
Cappers	Grijalva	Napolitano
Capuano	Gutiérrez	Neal
Cárdenas	Hahn	Nolan
Carney	Heck (WA)	Norcross
Carson (IN)	Higgins	O'Rourke
Cartwright	Himes	Pallone
Castor (FL)	Hinojosa	Pascarell
Castro (TX)	Honda	Payne
Chu, Judy	Hoyer	Pelosi
Cicilline	Huffman	Perlmutter
Clark (MA)	Israel	Peters
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Pingree
Clay	Jeffries	Pocan
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Polis
Clyburn	Johnson, E. B.	Price (NC)
Cohen	Kaptur	Quigley
Connolly	Keating	Rangel
Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Rice (NY)
Cooper	Kennedy	Richmond
Costa	Kildee	Roybal-Allard
Courtney	Kilmer	Ruiz
Crowley	Kind	Ruppersberger
Cuellar	Kirkpatrick	Rush
Cummings	Kuster	Ryan (OH)
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Sánchez, Linda
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	T.
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Sanchez, Loretta
DeGette	Lawrence	Sarbanes
Delaney	Lee	Schakowsky
DeLauro	Levin	Schiff
DelBene	Lewis	Schrader
DeSaulnier	Lieu, Ted	Scott (VA)
Deutch	Lipinski	Scott, David
Dingell	Loeb sack	Serrano
Doggett	Lofgren	Sewell (AL)
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Sherman
F.	Lowey	Sinema

Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)

Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela

Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

#### NOT VOTING—9

Brady (TX)	LaMalfa	Wasserman
Curbelo (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Schultz
Graves (MO)	Olson	
Hastings	Smith (WA)	

□ 1635

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 307, noes 116, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

#### AYES—307

Abraham	Crawford	Huizenga (MI)
Adams	Crenshaw	Hultgren
Aderholt	Crowley	Hunter
Aguilar	Cuellar	Hurd (TX)
Allen	Culberson	Hurt (VA)
Amodei	Davis (CA)	Israel
Ashford	Davis, Rodney	Jackson Lee
Babin	Delaney	Jeffries
Barletta	Denham	Jenkins (KS)
Barr	Dent	Jenkins (WV)
Beatty	DeSantis	Johnson (OH)
Benishkek	DeSaulnier	Johnson, Sam
Bera	Diaz-Balart	Jolly
Beyer	Dingell	Joyce
Bilirakis	Dold	Kaptur
Bishop (GA)	Duckworth	Katko
Bishop (MI)	Duffy	Keating
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (IL)
Black	Ellmers (NC)	Kelly (PA)
Blackburn	Emmer (MN)	Kennedy
Blum	Engel	Kilmer
Bost	Farenthold	Kind
Boustany	Farr	King (IA)
Boyle, Brendan	Fincher	King (NY)
F.	Fitzpatrick	Kinzinger (IL)
Brooks (AL)	Fleischmann	Kirkpatrick
Brooks (IN)	Flores	Kline
Brown (FL)	Forbes	Knight
Brownley (CA)	Fortenberry	Kuster
Buck	Foster	LaMalfa
Bucshon	Fox	Lamborn
Burgess	Frankel (FL)	Lance
Bustos	Franks (AZ)	Langevin
Butterfield	Frelinghuysen	Larsen (WA)
Byrne	Fudge	Latta
Calvert	Gallego	Lawrence
Cárdenas	Garamendi	Levin
Carney	Gibbs	Lipinski
Carson (IN)	Goodlatte	LoBiondo
Carter (GA)	Gowdy	Loeb sack
Carter (TX)	Graham	Long
Castor (FL)	Granger	Love
Castro (TX)	Graves (GA)	Lowey
Chabot	Green, Gene	Lucas
Chaffetz	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Clarke (NY)	Gutiérrez	Lujan Grisham
Clay	Hanna	(NM)
Cleaver	Hardy	Lujan, Ben Ray
Clyburn	Harper	(NM)
Coffman	Hartzler	MacArthur
Cole	Heck (NV)	Maloney,
Collins (GA)	Heck (WA)	Carolyn
Collins (NY)	Hensarling	Maloney, Sean
Comstock	Herrera Beutler	Marchant
Conaway	Higgins	Marino
Connolly	Hill	McCarthy
Cook	Himes	McCaul
Cooper	Hinojosa	McHenry
Costa	Holding	McKinley
Costello (PA)	Hoyer	McMorris
Cramer	Hudson	Rodgers

#### NOES—239

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishkek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry

Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry

Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pascarella  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert

Renacci  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Scalise  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Sewell (AL)  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart

Stivers  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Torres  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

## NOES—116

Amash  
Barton  
Bass  
Becerra  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Brady (PA)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Buchanan  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cartwright  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clawson (FL)  
Cohen  
Conyers  
Courtney  
Cummings  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duncan (SC)  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Fattah  
Fleming  
Gabbard  
Garrett

## NOT VOTING—8

Brady (TX)  
Curbelo (FL)  
Graves (MO)

Hastings  
Murphy (FL)  
Olson

Napolitano  
Nolan  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Perry  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Poe (TX)  
Polis  
Posey  
Rangel  
Ribble  
Hice, Jody B.  
Honda  
Huelskamp  
Huffman  
Issa  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Jordan  
Kildee  
Labrador  
Larson (CT)  
Lee  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lummis  
Lynch  
Massie  
Matsui  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
Mooney (WV)  
Nadler

Smith (WA)  
Wasserman  
Schultz

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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**HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW**

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST USE OF POISON GAS**

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today represents the 100-year anniversary of the first use of poison gas on Earth. On April 22, 1915, chlorine gas was sent crawling in favorable winds over Flanders Fields from German positions into positions held by the French. This sowed terror and agony for the first time.

I would like for everyone present and everyone listening to pause for a moment to think of everyone who has died in the last 100 years from poison gas, including everyone who is dying today in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, many people in America were horrified at the "60 Minutes" presentation of the sarin attacks and the footage that that included. It is horrifying to think that chlorine is also being used in that war today.

There is a reason that we put chemical weapons in a separate category, never to be used by any nation in any war. Let us just pause and think for a moment and rededicate ourselves to ridding the entire world of chemical weapons forever.

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□ 1645

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**TRIBUTE TO ED MEAD**

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, our world bid farewell to Ed Mead, a former president, copublisher, editor, columnist, and all-around legend of the Erie Times-News in Erie, Pennsylvania, a paper founded by his grandfather in 1888.

Mr. Mead leaves behind an extraordinary legacy in the newspaper business and in the community of Erie, the city where he was born and spent so much of his life devoted to connecting with people.

Mr. Mead was often referred to as "the voice of Erie," leading a long and distinguished career that included more than 14,000 features for his "Odds

and Ends" column, one that appealed to so many people throughout our region.

Mr. Mead was so committed to serving his family's newspaper that, after graduating from Princeton University in 1949, he turned down a contract to play professional football in the National Football League's Detroit Lions club; instead, he decided to return to work in Erie for the next 63 years at the Erie Times.

Although Mr. Mead's passing will long be felt at the Erie Times Publishing Company and in the entire city of Erie and in the entire community, we know he now rests in heaven.

As is true of all legends, Ed Mead may be gone, but he will surely never be forgotten.

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**PINELLAS PARK POLICE CHIEF DORENE THOMAS**

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has been described as a trailblazer, a pioneer, and a woman of firsts: Pinellas Park Police Chief Dorene Thomas who, on this Friday, will retire after four decades of public service.

Thomas became the first sworn female police officer at the Pinellas Park Police Department in 1980. In fact, when she started, the evidence room was located in the men's locker room, something she would eventually change.

In 2000, Thomas became the department's first female police chief, but she often said she would simply prefer to be known as a good police chief rather than a female police chief.

Five years ago, she was elected president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, another first for women. She has also started intensive crisis intervention training, which teaches officers how to work with people with behavioral or mental health challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize a person who has helped keep our citizens safe, to honor a person who has led with courage, kindness, grace, and understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Thomas for her selfless years of service. Thank you for making Pinellas County a safer place, and thank you to all the men and women who, today, serve on the front lines of law enforcement.

Chief Thomas, enjoy your retirement. You have very well earned it.

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**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S REQUEST TO WRITE RULES FOR THE WORLD'S ECONOMY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the

□ 1642

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, at his State of the Union Address, President Obama asked us in Congress to grant us fast-track Trade Promotion Authority, so he can "write rules for the world's economy."

I sat alarmed for America's future should we expand this President's authority, given how he has extended executive overreach, fumbled our foreign policy, debilitated our defense, and diminished our domestic tranquility. At least this time, the President asked to bypass Congress.

Regardless of the merits of trade partnership or the tactics of their negotiation, two fundamental questions loom: Why do we trust this President, given his track record in foreign affairs? And what serious harm would come to the Nation by waiting 21 months?

Trade Promotion Authority, or TPA, would prevent Congress from amending as much as one word of the rules he writes, a sweeping agreement the White House has been working toward for the past 6 years. Even if parameters were set beforehand, violations would be subject to an up-or-down vote with no amending permitted. Unlike a treaty, a simple majority is all that would be needed to pass.

For Congress to cede oversight on such a sweeping agreement could have grave implications. The American people must be at the table, and they can be, through their elected representatives in Congress.

In a balanced process, the full range of congressional committees would hold hearings with experts, establish clear objectives, set the terms of negotiation, and be regularly informed throughout the negotiating process.

This would ensure trade deals are in the best national interest for the long haul, not designed to please some small groups of well-connected insiders for some tempting short-term benefit.

While trade is vital in securing economic freedom and in strengthening our values and friendships, we must approach any partnership with a comprehensive view of its strategic impact. Advocates have stated that a Trans-Pacific Partnership will open trade involving 40 percent of global economic activity.

This is a misrepresentation when one considers that 6 of the 11 nations proposed for the partnership already have strong trade agreements with the United States and many of the remainder enjoy excellent trade relations, such as with Japan.

The President also claims a trade surplus without delineating this improvement will come from services such as financial, insurance, and computing, not from manufacturing, as he purports. Given Obama's scathing

treatment of financial and insurance investment overseas, one wonders if there is not some other hidden motivation.

Alarming, Mr. Obama uses containment language with regard to China as a major premise for obtaining fast-track authority. While we employ economic instruments of our national power with regard to an ascendant China, we must ensure in tandem efforts with diplomatic and informational instruments as well. Strategically, these are lacking.

Further, should a trade dispute result in an impasse, nations historically have lashed back with their last remaining option, their military. I have been on the receiving end of many of those strategic implications. Ours must be prepared—our military—as we explore these new frontiers.

I have heard no serious discussion from anyone in Congress or the White House thinking comprehensively and strategically in this manner, that our military and our diplomatic efforts must also be resourced and reinforced as we move economically in this pivot to Asia.

When John Hay opened trade with China more than a century ago as a hedge on an ascendant Japan to balance European concerns, the achievement was widely heralded. Japanese society had rapidly embraced Western science and technology since the days of Commodore Perry. A vibrant economy blossomed. Western ideas in manufacturing, banking, business, and even military doctrine quickly transformed Japan into a formidable power. This was not without political consequence.

Japan had transformed her society, fought as an ally in a world war with the West, imported goods to a demanding public, built ships together with the West, and signed treaties. Their rapid transformation alarmed the Japanese Diet hardliners, who used this anti-Western sentiment to wedge political power.

Within a 15-year span, the lengthy embrace of the West gave way to competition for resources, distrust, the fall of Japanese Government, and the doctrine of their Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

In only a couple of more years, what was embraced in the West was now widely disrespected in Japan. Despised, they were deliberately attacked; few ever saw it coming. That Japan and the United States are such strong allies and friends today is a testament of our mutual commitment to the repairing of human diplomatic and economic tragedies.

We cannot allow President Obama to rush willy-nilly into a fast-track Chinese hegemony without regard to strategic thinking. Given his dismal foreign policy record, it comes as no revelation, but it does come with consequences. What serious harm will

come to our Nation by waiting 21 months when we have an administration that actually could achieve foreign policy successes, instead of one foreign policy defeat after another?

A dog may lap up antifreeze because it seems good to the taste and pleasant to the eye, but it does so with consequence. We should not be lured by the appeal to our natural senses for trade and economic growth.

Patience now may prevent horrific consequences in a major war in the future. We do that by advancing our national instruments of power with diplomatic effort, military readiness, and preparedness in tandem with our economic effort.

What serious harm can come by waiting 21 months? As Abraham Lincoln famously said:

Nothing good can be frustrated by time.

We do not need to give the President this authority. We need to wait, have the patience, lay the strategic foundation so that we can do what is best for our country, and move into a trade agreement that will have a long-lasting foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. 100 years ago, 1.5 million Armenians, along with the Syrians and Greeks, were slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire in the first genocide of the 20th century.

The sheer scale of genocide thwarts our capacity to comprehend it: 1.5 million Armenians killed, 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, 1 million Tutsis. The numbers become abstractions sanitized by their enormity. It is only when we consider each of those lives individually that the full horror comes into focus.

□ 1700

The victims of genocide are more than victims—they are human beings. The Armenians massacred from 1915 to 1923 were men, women, and children who were targeted in what was then an unprecedented campaign to wipe out an entire people.

It is our duty in the modern day to remember those lost and to bear witness that the campaign to destroy the Armenian people failed. We do so by speaking the truth, and we do so by speaking the names of those 1.5 million and by keeping both the way they lived and the way they died alive in our memory.

Earlier this month, I asked my thousands of Armenian constituents and millions of Armenians around the country and the world to submit the names and stories of their family members who were killed 100 years ago. The response was overwhelming. Thousands of people sent the names and stories of ancestors killed in the genocide—the names of infants and toddlers ripped from their mother's arms, the names of children and the elderly dying of exhaustion and starvation on a forced march to Deir ez-Zor, the names of women and girls raped and brutalized and killed, the names of clergy tortured and burned alive in their own churches, the names of men robbed of their possessions, of their homes, and of their lives.

Each victim has a name and a story. From Glendale, to Yerevan, to Jordan, and every corner of the world where Armenian diaspora lives, families sent me those names and those stories. It is my honor to read some of those names this hour, knowing that it would take more than 1,000 hours, more than 50 days, to read all of them.

Turkey may deny the genocide. Our administration may lack the courage to recognize the genocide. Our Congress may lack the courage to recognize the genocide. But no one can deny the humanity of its victims, and no one can deny our right to speak the truth.

One hundred years ago, 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the Armenian genocide. These are their names:

George Tutunjian  
Harutsun Minasian  
Samuel Kadiyan  
Dikran Karakashian  
Manoug Tenkerian  
Mary Tenkerian  
Hagop Artinian  
Makrouhie Tenkerian  
Mihran Tenkerian  
Sarkis Tenkerian  
Tagouhi Hounanian  
Gevork Vasilyan  
Hovnan Hounanian  
Siranush Tatulyan  
Shooshan Hounanian  
Lusadzin Boghikian  
Karapet Orudzhyan  
Zorig Hounanian  
Elias Hovsepiyan  
Grace Totigian-Klanian  
Simon Klanian  
Azniv Totigian  
Mariam Minasian  
Tamam Kouyoumjian  
Hovhannes Kouyoumjian  
Isgouhi Kademian  
Khachig Kademian  
Arakel Gayserian  
Karapet Orudzhyan  
Vahan Avetikyan  
Hakop Semerdjian  
Hagop Yeniguveiyian  
Hagop Yeniguveiyian  
Garabed Kulhanjian  
Vahan Jihanian  
Assadour Shekherdmian

Khachik Danelian  
Gadarineh Danelian  
Makrouhi Chavdarian  
Garabed Jihanian  
Hovsep Sarkissian  
Matteos Sarkissian  
Bedros Torosian  
Aram Achekbashian  
Kegham Vanigian  
Mourad Zakarian  
Yervant Topuzian  
Hagop Basmajian  
Smpat Kelejian  
Roupen Garabedian  
Armenag Hampartsoumian  
Apraham Mouradian  
Hrand Yegavian  
Karnig Boyajian  
Hovhannes Ghazarian  
Mgrdich Yeretsian  
Yeremia Manoukian  
Tovmas Tovmasian  
Karekin Boghosian  
Minas Keshishian  
Boghos Boghosian  
Hampartsum Boyajian  
Janet Tufenkjioglu  
Daniel Mkitharian  
Takouhi Tufenkjioglu  
Ripsime Bedoian and Margaret Bedoian were sisters, aged 8 and 10. They were taken forcefully by Turkish soldiers from their home in Harpoot. Ransom was demanded, but the family was poor and could not pay. They were never seen again.

Dikran Kalousdian  
Khatun Kalousdian  
Mardiros Gevoglianian  
Adrineh Ghazelian  
Abraham Bilalian  
Nazareth Torosyan  
Agavne Jurukian  
Avak Giurlakian  
Harout Avagyan  
Lilit Abrahamyan  
Avag Avagyan  
Bagdasar Jurukian  
Vahan Eloyan  
Hambardzoum Avagyan  
Khachatour Avagyan  
Hovsep Sarkissian  
Khatchadour Jingirian  
Alex Petrosyan  
Sarkis Jingirian  
Khachadur Petrosyan  
Petros Petrosyan  
Hovhanes Petrosyan  
Hagop Chaghastpanian  
Garabet Petrosyan  
Shushat Petrosyan  
Megerdich Saakian  
Yeranui Shurjyan  
Panos Shurjyan  
Hovhannes Hovhannisyan  
Garabet Hovhannisyan  
Hovsep Hadjyan  
Sarkis Hadjyan  
Ohan Hadjyan  
Khachadur Petrosyan  
Petros Petrosyan  
Sylva Portoian  
Hagop Karanfilian  
Gadar Karanfilian  
Dikran Vartanyan

Kerop Vartanyan  
Manuel Tanielian  
Robert Vartanyan  
Barkev Vartanyan  
Haykaz Vartanyan  
Levon Vartanyan  
Alice Malconian  
Yervand Margaryan  
Manoushag Chakalian  
Mgrdich Salian  
Gulsima Polatian  
Kevork Der Markarian  
Dilber Der Markarian  
Araksiya Nadjarian  
Ohanes Kahkejian  
Bertha Tanielian  
Harout Aydinian  
Khachig Kerbabian  
Sarkis Dadoyan  
Siragan Abrahamian  
Bishop Ignatius Maloyan  
Nerses Zeytoonian  
Karnig Seferian  
Garabed Amirkhanian  
Ohan Khodzhbashian  
Mariam Amirkhanian  
Victoria Sergenian drowned her two children and herself to end their suffering as they were forced to march hundreds of miles through the desert.

Iskandar Ohanissian  
Touren Krikorian  
Apraham Krikorian  
Touren Krikorian  
Bedo Seremjian  
Hachik Madilian  
Zakar Pstikyan  
Sirvart Dembekjian  
Mariam Donikian  
Andon Donikian  
Sedrak Barighyan  
Mihran Chookaszian  
Aznif Gulazian  
Simpad Gulazian  
Vahan Manusadjian  
Souren Azirian  
Matyos Karachayirlian  
Mihran Khayan  
Levon Karachayirlian  
Abraham Kasparian  
Artin Benlian  
Voski Ghazarian  
Lucie Mahserejian  
Hagop Mahserejian  
Solomon Khachaturian  
Almakdisi Jubrail Chad  
Hairabed Hairabedian  
Hripsime Hairabedian  
Hripsime Semizian  
Hagop Semizian  
Yervant Semizian  
Hovaness Arslanian  
Nevart Arslanian  
Manual Arslanian  
Khosrof Arslanian  
Garabed Jihanian  
Hovsep Sarkissian  
Souren Azirian  
Mihran Khayan  
Archpriest Hoosik Kachouni  
Nishan Nishanian  
Toros Balian  
Bayzar Balian  
Garabed Mekjian  
Sarkis Sevan

Hagop Sevia  
 Prapion Sagherian  
 Hovhannes Sagherian  
 Nazaret Chalian  
 Garabed Kulhanjian  
 Bedros Der Sarkissian  
 Haroutune Der Bedrossian  
 Nahabed Kasabian  
 Thadeus Derdarian  
 Agavne Pamboukian  
 Hourig Barsoumian  
 Sarkis Barsoumian  
 Khachadur Higobian  
 Hitoon Higobian  
 Ohin Higobian  
 Ani Arkelian  
 Sarkis Arkelian  
 Higop Arkelian  
 Ohines Arkelian  
 Movses Kochgerian  
 Arsidakes Varjabedian tried to prevent Turkish soldiers from raping his 15-year-old sister in Nevsehir. He was shot to death.

Mariam Kochgerian  
 Mari Iskandarian  
 Asadoor Daghlia  
 Elizabeth Daghlia  
 Gabriel Khalaf  
 Simon Issa  
 Astghik Doola  
 Manel Jamgotchian  
 Moushegh Jamgotchian  
 Gernelios Jamgotchian  
 Vahan Jamgotchian  
 Levon Jamgotchian  
 Kegham Djemdjemian

□ 1715

Mesrob Djemdjemian  
 Chouhar Djemdjemian  
 Mariam Jamgotchian  
 Dikranouhi Jamgotchian  
 Anna Jamgotchian  
 Karekin Hekimian  
 Zabel Hekimian  
 Avedis Hachadourian  
 Zabel Hachadourian  
 Khatchadour Hachadourian  
 Zarouhi Paghtikian  
 Levon Yapoujian  
 Mary Yapoujian  
 Artin Budakian  
 Daniel Varten Kondakjian  
 Markar Zoornajian  
 Sarkis Krikorian  
 Hagop Kinadjian  
 Lucia Chaderchian  
 Ashod Kinadjian  
 Khoren Kinadjian  
 Shahmihram Kinadjian  
 Vahharam Kinadjian  
 Kaspar Santourian  
 Maretzhza Hamalian  
 Victoria Kotchakian  
 Giragos Kotchakian  
 Hambartzum Nersesian  
 Nubar Nersesian  
 Rehan Nersesian  
 Abraham Ghazarian  
 Mooshegh Ghazarian  
 Samson Ghazarian  
 Peprone Ghazarian  
 Nounig Hotoian  
 Mariam Torisyan

Nazig Torisyan  
 Nersess Der Babian  
 Toros Mekhsian  
 Rahel Mekhsian  
 Apraham Mekhsian  
 Hrant Mekhsian  
 Mariam Kulekesayan  
 Haig Arakelian  
 Armenak Garabedian  
 Dikran Garabed  
 Nevart Najarian  
 Grikor Surenian  
 Dareh Surenian  
 Garegin Surenian  
 Aghavni Surenian  
 Faris Surenian  
 Mardiros Fermanian  
 Kaspar Jeboghlian  
 Hagop Jamgotchian  
 Hovhaness Jamgotchian  
 Hrant Shenlooguian  
 Dikran Shenlooguian  
 Krikor Shenlooguian  
 Nishon Jivelegian  
 Surpoohi Jivelegian  
 Byzar Jivelegian  
 Lusintak Amirkhanian  
 Simon Sheshetian  
 Sarkis Mouradian  
 Eva Mahseredjian was 10 years old. Her village was occupied by Turkish troops. Two soldiers fought over her to settle their dispute. Their commanding officer cut Eva in half with a sword.

Elize Mouradian  
 Garabed Kljian  
 Hagop Madaghjian  
 Khachig Kasabian  
 Kohar Kasabian  
 Garabed Kasabian  
 Osanna Keulian  
 Movses Keulian  
 Ghazar Jivalagian  
 Elizabeth Arakelian  
 Kaloost Meldonian  
 Sarkis Meldonian  
 Hovagheem Hovsepian  
 Elbis Hovsepian  
 Hagopig Hovsepian  
 Elizabeth Yaghdjian  
 Sarkis Yaghdjian  
 Krikor Yaghdjian  
 Hajno Jardarabed Haji Martros  
 Mardiros Deovletian  
 Asniv Yaghdjian  
 Sara Yaghdjian  
 Mourad Sarkissian  
 Zemroukht Sarkissian  
 Artin Boyamian  
 Avedis Boyamian  
 Kevork Mkhitarian  
 Lucine Mkhitarian  
 Arousiag Shirinian  
 Garabed Shirinian  
 Yaghut Markosyants  
 Martiros Markosyants  
 Nikoghos Zarobyan  
 Bedros Bedrosian  
 Khachadour Buchaklian  
 Levon Maxoudian  
 Hagop Yeramian  
 Skandare Kalousdian  
 Elizabeth Sirounian  
 Reverend Father Kevork Nalbandian  
 Kevork Belekian

Vartan Belekian  
 Nerses Belekian  
 Yosef Belekian  
 Hagob Belekian  
 Vartish Belekian  
 George Vartarian  
 Tigran Nargizian  
 Zarouhi Zeitounzian Nargizian  
 Avedis Ainilian  
 Hovhannes Mugrdichian  
 Hornig Mugrdichian  
 Roupen Kapikian  
 Haiganoush Kapikian  
 Veronica Elmasian  
 Apik Elmasian  
 Satenig Kapikian  
 Vartouhe Kaimian  
 Toumass Kaimian  
 Lucine Manougian  
 Ohanness Avedis Jalakian  
 David Muradian  
 Sara Muradian  
 Loucine Zarougian  
 Bedros Zarougian  
 Tateos Der Avedisian  
 Maritza Kurkjian Der Avedisian  
 Arshavir Der Avedisian  
 Hrant Der Avedisian  
 Maritza Basmajian  
 Vartouhi Basmajian  
 Hagop Chavooshian  
 Boghos Zarougian  
 Bishop Kevork Nalbandian  
 Dickronouhi Nigoghossian  
 Armenouhi Nigoghossian  
 Barooyr Nigoghossian  
 Sarkis Nigoghossian  
 Vartivar Berberian  
 Anna Berberian  
 Iskouhi Kalfayan  
 Jivan Kalfayan  
 Parsekh Balian  
 Valentine Balian  
 Garabed Berberian  
 Panos Berberian  
 Migirdich Salian  
 Haroutioun Apkarian  
 Sara Apkarian  
 Hripsime Apkarian

Mariam Kouyoumjian was taken by the Turks in April 1915 and never seen again. Her daughter was orphaned as an 11-year-old, but she was rescued by the Near East Relief Foundation, an unprecedented humanitarian effort undertaken by the U.S. Government and concerned Americans with support worldwide.

Guiragos Kojakian  
 Hagopjan Kojakian  
 Levon Kojakian  
 Harutian Ansurian  
 Artashes Solakian  
 Hovhaness Kussajukian  
 Hagopig Kussajukian  
 Maria Kussajukian  
 Makrouhi Kussajukian  
 Anoush Sarmanian  
 Anna Sarmanian  
 Yurapet Karapetyan  
 Ephrem Karapetyan  
 Hamparsum Borzakian  
 Aghajan Tepoyan  
 Haiganoush Kilerciyan  
 Yeranig Alexanyan

Artin DerSimonian  
 Rebecca DerSimonian  
 Hovnan Doursounian  
 Shoushan Doursounian  
 Simon DerSimonian  
 Nargiz DerSimonian  
 Avedis Kevorkian  
 Hampartsoom Belejian  
 Roupen Racoubian  
 Sarkis Gureghian  
 Aram Demerjian  
 Michael Frengulian  
 Kevork Dashebeukian  
 Nishan Avedikian  
 Toros Kurkjian  
 Senecherin Kalionjian  
 Tomas Khanzedian  
 Mihran Chamian  
 Mergerios Tashjian  
 Antranig Beshgeturian  
 Yervant Gabashian  
 Levon Racoubian  
 Barour Kapigian  
 Yervant Frengulian  
 Musbeg Demirjian  
 Kaprial Chordikian  
 Serop Srabian  
 Movses Avedikian  
 Mourad Abrahamian  
 Siran Khachigian  
 Souren Yavruian  
 Levon Gevorgian  
 Garabed Tahmizian  
 Magaros Dabanian  
 Khoren Tossounian  
 Charles Atamian  
 Rose Atamian  
 Varduhi Hayzavakyan  
 Grikor Xazaryan  
 Trtat Podrumyan  
 Abraham Ashikyan  
 Mariam Ashikyan  
 Sahak Ashikyan  
 Manuk Ashikyan  
 Sarah Ashikyan  
 Haykuhi Ashikyan  
 Heripsime Ashikyan  
 Gevorg Ashikyan

Hovannes Knajian was a well-known and respected doctor. Turkish soldiers came to his door at 3 a.m. and told him his help was needed for a 9-year-old girl. He went with them and was never seen again.

Byuzant Ashikyan  
 Harutyun Arabyan  
 Abraham Arabyan  
 Karapet Arabyan  
 Shnavon Arabyan  
 Setrak Arabyan  
 Merkset Arabyan  
 Haji Arabyan  
 Lucine Arabyan  
 Yervand Arabyan  
 Mariam Arabyan  
 Sargis Hambartsumyan  
 Hambar Djxalyan  
 Arak Djxalyan  
 Manor Djxalyan  
 Hagop Gulyunyan  
 Gulyustan Gulyunyan  
 Gabriel Gulyunyan  
 Avetis Gulyunyan  
 Zakar Gulyunyan

□ 1730

Aghajan Tepoyan

Ossana Kalajian  
 Penyamin Vartivarian  
 Marta Kehyaian  
 Avedis Vosbikian  
 Haroutoun Tcholakian  
 Mariam Tcholakian  
 Krikor Dakessian  
 Dirouhi Dakessian  
 Maritza Achihsian  
 Araxi Barsamian  
 Donik Chilingirian  
 Yuhaper Chilingirian  
 Ovanes Chilingirian  
 Hazaros Bandoian  
 Harutyun Minasyan  
 Iskuhi Minasyan  
 Reverend Father Nerces Nercesian  
 Yeretsgin Alpessa Der Nercesian  
 Haroutun Haroutunian  
 Luso Melkonyan  
 Sanam Melkonyan  
 Levon Hakhoyan  
 Mayo Hakhoyan  
 Sedrak Avedissyan  
 Zumrogh Mikaelian  
 Dikran Mekhtarentz  
 Afram Hadouband  
 Kegham Mardikian  
 Megerdich Saroyan  
 Harutyun Parlakyan  
 Hagob Simonian  
 Thaguhi Ashchyan  
 Gohar Parlakyan  
 Manouk Pahlevan Keoseyan  
 Martiros Keoseyan  
 Onnig Khachaduryan  
 Knel Tourajikian  
 Sirarpy Tourajikian  
 Arusiag Tourajikian  
 Papken Tourajikian  
 Levon Tourajikian  
 Hermig Tourajikian  
 Ossanna Basmajian  
 Mihran Barzakyan  
 Anna Barzagyan  
 Awanes Kramian  
 Aslan Kadoyan  
 Tatos Kadoyan  
 Harry Dalalian  
 Aram Chamkertian  
 Garabet Chobanian  
 Serpouhi Adjemian Momjian  
 Kalousd Daghlarian  
 Serob Qosyan  
 Hossep Melkisetian  
 Khatchig Doudaklian  
 Avedis Mikaelian  
 Mesrob Der Mesrobian was burned alive in his church with his wife and his daughter.  
 Yeva Kevorkian  
 Stepan Khachigian  
 Garabeth Havoudjian  
 Sima Havoudjian  
 Sarkis Mahseredjian  
 Nishan Mahakian  
 Hagop Donikian  
 Garabed Daghlarian  
 Armenag Bilezikjian  
 Hovhaness Khrlakian  
 Eugenie Daghlarian  
 Macrouhie Lepejian  
 Azniv Lepejian  
 Mirzo Melkon Kalostyan  
 Hagop Alemian

Hovhannes Alemian  
 Manoug Kelerjian  
 Hovanes Derstepanian  
 Balasan Elbakyan  
 Sahak Elbakyan  
 Anush Elbakyan  
 Tokhman Hagop  
 Sirvart Tufenjioglu  
 Ovsanna Jamgotsian  
 Hovsep Chatoian  
 Kaspar Jamgotsian  
 Setrag Sahakian  
 Kevork Roumian  
 Nigoghos Tertsakian  
 Marie Tertsakian  
 Hovsep Vehuni  
 Avedis Giragosian  
 Garabed Sohigian  
 Hampardzum Khanamerian  
 Mariam Tatoian  
 Panos Cobanoglu  
 Kohar Cobanoglu  
 Panos Arslanoglu  
 Margrit Arslanoglu  
 Neshan Stepanian  
 Marie Mesrobian Kalpakian  
 Sarkis Postallian  
 Mary Postallian  
 Turfanda Minasian  
 Marian Minasian  
 Minas Minasian  
 Zaruhi Artin Nidelian  
 Tanzouf Artin Nidilian  
 Azaduhi Artin Nidelian  
 Apraham Koumruian  
 Khatchik Khacherian  
 Haiguhi Hagopian

Yetvart Jamgochian was 4 years old. He was with his sisters, hiding from shelling outside his village, when they were found by Turkish soldiers. They cut a cross into his face, and they killed him.

Eghiazar Melkonian  
 Sarkis Melikyan  
 Garabed Kulhanjian  
 Margaret Baronian  
 Hovaness Baronian  
 Marta Bilazarian  
 Sarkis Bilazarian  
 Bedros Der Sarkisian  
 Bedros Papazian  
 Haroutioun Ayadabirian  
 Gabriel Handjian  
 Hagop Kouyoumdjian  
 Kevork Keshishian  
 Mariam Keshishian  
 Sarkis Ourfalian  
 Nevart Ourfalian  
 Salome Proodian  
 Raffi Proodian  
 Vartkes Proodian  
 Khatoon Proodian  
 Mugurditch Gulazian  
 Marderos Dadourian  
 Dr. Onnig Mardirossian  
 Artin Der-Azarian  
 Vartuhi Der-Azarian  
 Sarkis Samsatlian  
 Kevork Samsatlian  
 Kevork Adiyamanian  
 Vartivar Kourouyan  
 Mariam Kourouyan  
 Sarkis Dadoyan  
 Tamar Gulbankian



Zakary Mooradian  
Antranig Agopian  
Andreas Kelekian  
Armenak Malkhasyan  
Vartouhi Topian  
Ardashes Topian  
Hovannes Topian  
Aristakes Topian  
Madiam Topian  
Nazanee Topian  
Mariam Topian  
Mikael Topian  
Arshalouis Topian  
Mary Vezirian  
Hagop Havatian  
Taniel Muftikian  
Krikor Muftikian  
Zacharia Melkonian  
Shookry Grigoryan  
Vartouhi Chakmanian

Armenouhi Toutikian was 7 years old. She died of dehydration and hunger on a march through the desert. Her father had to leave her body there in the sand.

Krikor Krikorian  
Hovannes Krikorian  
Vartanush Krikorian  
Araksi Krikorian  
Sarkis Muradian  
Aris Krikorian  
Hakop Alemian  
Manouk Keshishian  
Agapi Dardakhanian  
Columbus Keshishian  
Arakel Boghossian  
Takvor Andonian  
Siragan Andonian  
Filor Atanesyan  
Parsegh Gumushian  
Haroutiun Gumushian  
Veronica Gumushian  
Haroutioun Andonian  
Garabed Soovajian  
Sisag Arpajian  
Misak Arpajian  
Krikor Orchanian  
Anna Khoulian  
Harutyun Pogossyan  
Pogos Sahakyan-Mirzayan  
Eva Kevorkian  
Garabed Kevorkian  
Hovanes Aprahamian  
Ashod Nishanian  
Manvel Manukian  
Khachig Khanzorian  
Haroutyoun Bronozian  
Mariam Zeibari  
Boghos Avedian  
Nazenik Avedian  
Knarig Avedian  
Shoushanig Avedian  
Hagop Jomlekian  
Azniv Jomlekian  
Onnig Jomlekian  
Aghavni Jomlekian  
Megerditch Ayvazian  
Markar Der Hovanesian  
Hamparsoum Garabed Shehranian  
Nishan Atamian  
Nazaret DerTavitian  
Zarouhi Andonian  
Khachadour Palouljian  
Sahag (Hagopian) Chakheyan  
Hagop (Avedissian) Chakheyan

Chakhe (Avedissian) Chakheyan  
Serop Dzeroun Kizirian  
Sarkis Amirkhanian was thrown into a well with his family and burned alive. The only survivor was his 13-year-old brother, who would recall unto his death many years later the smell of smoke.

Arpineh Kizirian  
Avedis Kabaklian  
Paylak Sarkisants  
Aramig Kitabjian  
Siranush Kitabgian  
Garabed Kitabjian  
Setrak Kitabjian  
Mariam Ter-Mkrtychyan  
Movses Abajian  
Alexan Keishian  
Sahag Momdjian  
Beatrice Momdjian  
Garabed Momdjian  
Armenag Momdjian  
Joe Kahraman  
Zaghi Seradarian  
Megerdich Seradarian  
Ohan Ohanian  
Sirpouhi Ohanian  
Sarkiss Mushetsi Baloian  
Smbat Sargisi Sargsyan  
Hranoosh Nalbandian Berberian  
Asatur Soghomonian  
Martiros and Aghavni Kotikian  
Armenak Bahadorian  
Hovannes Ananian  
Nazareth Boujoulian  
Harutiun Ansurian  
Artashes Solakhian  
Igit Nurbekyants  
Miriam Sarkissian  
Margarita Kaphian  
Siroun Jilizian  
Serop Jilizian  
Minas Jilizian  
Khatoun Jilizian  
Hampartsum Torian  
Hagop Torian  
Dikran Torian  
Dikran Dikranian  
Araxi Dikranian

□ 1745

Lucine Torian  
Abraham Dikranian  
Vartuhi Dikranian  
Ohanes Ohanian  
Mihran Mozian  
Haygazouhi Mozian  
Juhar Ohanian  
Juhar Ohanian  
Hambarcum Chekichyan  
Andranik Chekichyan  
Hakop Chekichyan  
Mariam Mardayan  
Khachadour Vartanian  
Zabelle Vartanian  
Karabet Garsevanian  
Simon Garsevanian  
Sima Pamboukian  
Shukri Pamboukian  
Gevork Chilian  
Margaret Pamboukian  
Zarouhie Mekjian  
Kevork Mekjian  
Kirakos Lazarian  
Pambock Lazarian

Haygaz Mitilian froze to his death on his father's shoulders in a snowstorm as they fled during the French retreat from Marash in 1920. He was 8 years old.

Garabed Baghamian  
Aram Baghamian  
Vahan Baghamian  
Tzaghi Baghamian  
Salpi Yengibaryan  
Mary Manuelian  
Sarkis Doudakian  
Asadour Najarian  
Terfanda Najarian  
Garabed Tashjian  
Hampartsum Kenderian  
Takouhy Kenderian  
Mariam Boghossian  
Hripsime Kechichian  
Sarkis Keshishian  
Haroutioun Kourbanjian  
Martiros Hovhannisyan  
Nemzur Koubandjian  
Grigor Mouradyan  
Sahag Karajaian  
Nemzur Karajaian  
Harutune Dadourian  
Hunazant Alexanian  
Hovanes Azatyan  
Mariam Azatyan  
Hakop Laxoyan  
Mari Laxoyan  
Aharon Piloyan  
Hagop Piloyan  
Khachadour Piloyan  
Hagop Kepenekian  
Zarouhi Chitjian Khatunagian  
Marinos Chitjian  
Mardiros Chitjian  
Vartouhi Chitjian  
Yeranouhi Chitjian  
Nishan Chitjian  
Ludwig Madenlian  
Vergeen Madenlian  
Melkon Medzikian  
Elmasd Medzikian  
Hagop DerBedrossian  
Yester DerBedrossian  
Hambardzum Khulyan  
Karapet Khulyan  
Khachadour Boyajian  
Ipek Momdjian  
Abraham Hayrikian  
Sahak Abrahamyan  
Zarouhi Abrahamyan  
Loosaper Balian  
Avedis Nahabedian  
Haig Nahabedian  
Haigouhi Sare-Kechichian  
Vahram DerManuelian  
Chukajian Nurijan  
Mariam Moughamian  
Krikor Moughamian  
Hovhannes Keshishian  
Azniv Keshishian  
Galust Avetisian  
Andon Ahmaranian  
Vartouhi Sarajian  
Mariam Sarajian  
Mardiros Kachian

Azatouhi Trdatyan was 3 years old. She was murdered, along with her parents, in front of her 13-year-old brother. Her brother survived but would never forget the trauma.

Petros Trdatyan  
 Dikran Menayan  
 Mariam Trdatyan  
 Anania Nalbandian  
 Sema Nalbandian  
 Nishan Totigian  
 Makrouhi Totigian  
 Sahag Karajian  
 Nemzur Koubandjian  
 Haroutioun Kourbanjian  
 Yeghishe Bargamian  
 Jirair Bargamian  
 Agavni Norigian  
 Kohar Jokhajian  
 Zartoohe Karapiloian  
 Nshan DerBedrossian  
 Yeghisapet DerBedrossian  
 Aghajan DerBedrossian  
 Krikor DerBedrossian  
 Khanem DerBedrossian  
 Mariam DerBedrossian  
 Kevork DerBedrossian  
 Kayane DerBedrossian  
 Azniv DerBedrossian  
 Dickran Akmakjian  
 Maghak DerBedrossian  
 Hovsep DerBedrossian  
 Elise DerBedrossian  
 Zarouhi DerBedrossian  
 Noyemzar DerBedrossian  
 Vartouhi DerBedrossian  
 Aram Baghamian  
 Vahan Baghamian  
 Ara Aroian  
 Tzaghigh Baghamian  
 Mariam Roubinian  
 Sylva Roubinian  
 Armenag Hokhikian  
 Martiros Mirakhorian  
 Zaghik Mardirosian  
 Andranik Tsarukyan  
 Margret Saroyan  
 Hovsep Saroyan  
 Akchan Mkhitarian  
 Grigor Mkhitarian  
 Nahabit Epikian  
 Yeghisabet Demirdjian  
 Haroution Demirdjian  
 Khachadour Cholakian  
 Mariam Agajanian  
 Hagop Der Nikoghossian  
 Der Ashot Avedian  
 Dikran Khanjian  
 Armenag Diradourian  
 Garabed Kenoian  
 Moushegh Boyajian  
 Easaya Kenoian  
 Elizabeth Boyajian Kenoian  
 Peter Boyajian  
 Garabed Baghamian  
 Sarkis Elmassian  
 Tzagheeg Baghamian  
 Adam Baghamian  
 Vahan Baghamian  
 Mugerditch Ohnikian  
 Malaka Soghomonian died from a forced march through the Der Zor Desert while she was pregnant. She left behind four living children, the oldest of whom was only 9.  
 Aghavnee Ohnikian  
 Haratyun Ohnikian  
 Ludwig Ohnikian  
 Hovsep Ohnikian  
 Annig Ohnikian

Mardig Kebabjian  
 Avedis Mardiros Gertmenian  
 Miriam Gertmenian Rejabian  
 Toros Chaglassian  
 Jivan Dedian  
 Armenag Baghdassarian  
 Kevork Aslanian  
 Nvard Ter-Stepanyan  
 Tzaghigh Baghamian  
 Manush Pananian  
 Taguhi Doganyan  
 Hayrapet Doganyan  
 Hakop Karoyan  
 Petros Keheyan  
 Nazeli Keheyan  
 Abraham Hairbedian  
 Khanem DerTavitian  
 Levon Hissarian  
 Myram Kazarian  
 Siranoush Arakelian  
 Kazar Arakelian  
 Armenag Metchikian  
 Garabed Varjabedian  
 Boghos Asharjian  
 Boghos Asharjian  
 Mena Ashajian  
 Barkev Asharjian  
 Dikran Asharjian  
 Vartan Demoorjian  
 Aharon Der Melkon  
 Nazley Sarookeshian  
 Fedan Shokeyian  
 Krikor Shalelengian  
 Manoog Shokeyian  
 Sarkis Sarookeshishian  
 Markarid Ounanian Shalelengian  
 Osgehan Shalelengian  
 Sirma Shalalengian  
 Avedis Shalelengian  
 Bedros Tekian  
 Krikor Dulgarian  
 Pilbos Der Avedisian  
 Anahid Oundjian  
 Vardui Gasparian  
 Yeghiasar Yaylayian  
 Hagop Yaylayian  
 Vosgan Topalian  
 Antranig Hayrabad  
 Maritza Onnigian  
 Nerses Shabaglian  
 Maritza Onnigian  
 Lucie Ayvazian  
 Takouhi khardalian  
 Sarkis Mavilian  
 Nunia Mavilian  
 Nazely Sarookeshian  
 Fedan Shokeyian  
 Levon Hissarian  
 Zarouhi Tchekrekhhjian  
 Nazaret Magarian  
 Zarouhi Magarian  
 Rahel Demirjian  
 Raffael Der-Tovmasyan  
 Levon Aharonian  
 Aharon Aharonian  
 Altoon Aharonian  
 Haygaz Simonian  
 Hagop Beloian  
 Hagop Beloian  
 Yetvart Jamgochian  
 Vergeen Tashjian  
 Verone Bedrosian  
 Smbat Byurat DerGhazarian  
 Zumgroot DerGhazarian  
 Zartar Arakelian

Maryam Kazarian  
 Hovanness Yeretzian  
 Marian Shekerdeman  
 Vartan Yeretzian  
 Kevork Vichabian  
 Simon Simonyan  
 Zmrookht Simonyan  
 Mariam Simonyan  
 Haroutyun Papazian  
 Zakaria Minassian  
 Garabed Jingoian  
 Zakaria Minassian  
 Krikor Papazian  
 Baghdassar Karibian  
 Mary Meuguerditchian-Apelian  
 Zakar Ovoian  
 Hambardzum Khulyan  
 Suren Hakobyan  
 Azatuhi Hakobyan  
 Vostan Baghallian  
 Simon Hovhannesi Achikgiozian  
 Hripsime Aghvinian  
 Hovhanes Aghvinian  
 Ester Maghakian  
 Boghos Maghakian  
 Maghak Maghakian  
 Mkhoyan Asatur  
 Hripsime Maghakian  
 Srpuhi Mkrtchyan  
 Assadour Assadourian  
 Yeva Hovhannessian  
 Ghazaros Medzoian  
 Sargsian Tigran  
 Loosatsin Medzoian  
 Araxi Fundukian  
 Zaven Fundukian  
 Mariam Aroushian  
 Sarkis Aroushian  
 Gadarine Fundukian  
 Anahid Fundukian  
 Elmast Medzigian  
 Khachig Fundukian  
 Hagop Fundukian  
 Khassig Fundukian  
 Eva Fundukian  
 Melkon Medzigian  
 Ludwig Medzigian  
 Verjin Medzigian  
 Ara Medzigian  
 Hovannes Altibarmakian  
 Horop Anoushian  
 Zakaryan Nerses  
 Grigor Zohrap  
 Movses Deirmendjian  
 Hovanness Toutikian  
 Maritsa Kyulehyan  
 Tadevos Karapetyan  
 Khatchador Boyajian  
 Shimavon Donoyan  
 Anna Donoyan  
 Avedis Chaparian  
 Sirak Keshishian  
 Mardiros Toutikian  
 Abraham Toutikian  
 Hovannes Knajian  
 Armenouhi Toutikian  
 Harout Knajian  
 Lucya Knajian  
 Christeen Ter Stepanian  
 Avak Mouradian  
 Papken Toumaian  
 Hagop Kalbakian  
 Aram Jermakyan  
 Garabed Kaloustian  
 Sarkis Dadoyan

Elisabeth Partamian	Boghos Grikorian	Samson Khachatryan
Nazareth Partamian	Hovanes Minasyan	Mariam Khachatryan
Ovsanna Kayayan	Gevorg Minasyan	Asadur Arabyan
Marna Banerian	Matevos Matilyan	Arax Arabyan
Onnig Khachigian	Simon Kelian	Zvart Kureghian
Elmonig Khachigian	Hovannes Terterian	Deradour Harmandayan
Onnig Khachaturian	Haji Teyrekian	Kveh Gasparian
Stepan Khachigian	Ahavni Biricikyan	Gohar Kirakosian
Elize Avakian	Avetis Martirosyan	Vasilika Kirakosyan
Zabel Avakian	Ocean Movsesian	Zabel Kirakosian
Arousiag Avakian	Krikor Gureghian	Karapet Gasparian
Setrag Avakian	Paul DerBoghossian	Mariam Yeritsyan
Mgrditch Tashjian	Sahag DerBoghossian	Arakel Arakelyan
Boghos Mkhitarian	Tigran Trchunyan	Makartich Ter-Hakopian
Iskouhi Gabrielian	Tirhouhi Kara-Sarkissian	Nicholas Chavshudian
Aregnaz Markaryan	Gevork Kara-Sarkissian	Mary Chavshudian
Missak Mozian	Armen Kara-Sarkissian	Avedis Kilisian
Haroutyun Sarkissian	Aram Kara-Sarkissian	Mari Shirinian
Santoukht Mozian Ansoorian	Alexan Tavitian	Arsen Pashgian
Mikael Ansoorian	Armine Pagoumian	Haiganoush Mandjikian
Yeghia Sarkissian	Vartan Balikian	Krikor Kaakedjian
Khazaros Charchian	Margaret Madoian	Gadar Chaparian
Mihran Berberian	Miriam Madoian	Takouhi Baghoyan
Haganoush Tarpinian	Hatchig Madoian	Ani Hidirsah
Megerdich Sarafian	Pusant Madoian	Haygaz Baghoyan
George Chelabian	Maghta Gevorgian	Parsegh Baghoyan
Hakop Ter-Saakyan	Barsegh Karapetyan	Hagop Zilifian
Tatos Moloian	Osanna Madoian	Helen Manoyan
Mikael Khachetoorian	Atoyan Maria-Magdalena	Boghos Manoyan
Hamparsoum Borzakian	Stepan Arvanyan	Krikor Zilifian
Mesrob Der Mesrobian	Haroutune Bozghouradian	Jovannes Kabbendjian
Marta Avakian	Ghazaros Baldjian	Vahan Hakobyan
Karnig Tomassian	Sanasar Hovhannisyan	Haykaz Sarkissyan
Gayane Kazarian	Eriya Amirian	Lucia Baghdasaryan
Dikran Kazarian	Armenag Zeytounian	Sara Galtakian
Ararat Kazarian	Toros Agha Chaghllassian	Arutyun Gelejian
Shoushanig Donegian	Hovsep Najarian	Tagvor Dadurian
Haroutune Oknayan	Stephen Minasian	Araxsi Dadurian
Hagop Parsaghian	Haykandukht Mheryan	Alina Dadurian
Niko Zakarian	Hagop Melkonian	Hmiyak Dadurian
Mariam Kouyoumjian	Christaphor Mheryhan	Nishan Chaderjian
Kevork Mardirossian	Nerses Mheryhan	Nishan Chaderjian
Hripsime Mardirossian	Serop Manjikian	Maritza Chaderjian
Kevork Mardirossian	Sarkis Kurkdjian Senior	Martha Margosian
Makrouhie Oknayan	Tigran Zarookian	Gulenia Havounjian
Khachik Oknayan	Zarouhi Alachanian	Tonapet Yeritsyan
Hagop Oknayan	Mardiros Djambazian	Hovsep Sarkissian
Mihran Oknayan	Anahid Der Parseghian	Armenuhi Balian
Manuk Oknayan	Zaruhi Caroglanian	Vahram Ghiragossian
Asvazdadour Oknayan	Asadour Daldabanian	Hagop Kouyoumdjian
Marie Oknayan	Krikor Daldabanian	Mary Kouyoumdjian
Mousheg Khodjhumyan	Arshagul Artinian	Vartivar Berberian
Jovannes Kabbendjian	Krikor Artinian	Yaghsapet Berberian
Krakow Ouzounian	Vaxho Simonyan	Hagop Pessayan
Edward Bozajian	Haroutyun Tatikyan	Mary Pessayan
Manouk Gasparian	Kurken Parseghian	Armen Dedeyan
Gazaros Tombulyan	Mihran Sabonjian	Simon Terzian
Sarkis Gasparian	Vahan Kazezian	Satenik Lusparian
Ibrahim Louseian	Mariam Kazezian	Hripsime Lusparian
Ann Gasparian	Yebrakseh Kazezian	Artavazd Tumanyan
Ibrahim Lousean	Krikor Sabonjian	Nikolaj Safrazbekyan
Davit Gezalian	Nazar Guyujyan	Levon Safrazbekyan
Yeghisabet Gezalian	Razmik Palandjyan	Rebecca Margossian
Hrand Mikoyan	Mari Guyujyan	Toros Margossianmy
Minas Chatalian	Krikor Gokpanossian	Sarkis Panpalian
Mariam Chatalian	Panos Trashian	Vartan Vartanian
Yestare Bedrossian	Goar Akopova	Hanna Gulian
Rosa Jeboghlian	Anoush Kulafian	Haroutioun Kapralian
Marie Balian	Vartouhy Kulafian	Ana Kapralian
Mikael Tarkanian	Ohannes Hagopian	Flore Kapralian
Alton Derderian	Hagop Hagopian	Baghdassar Avedikian
Eksa. Derderian	Jirair Demirjian	Ohaness Aslanian
Mihran Tarkanian	Suqias Nuroyan	Isgouhi Zhamgochian Derounian
Vartan Dakessian	Matevos Sachyan	Hagop Terzian
Levon Guevoghlian	Hnazand Sachyan	Nishan Chaderjian

Maritza Chaderjian  
 Hagop Chaparian  
 Artin Chaparian  
 Hampartsoum Piligian  
 Hovaness Piligian  
 Haroutune Piligian  
 Pilig Piligian  
 Kevork Chaparian  
 Movses Kavarian  
 Megerdich Kavarian  
 Khatoon Kavarian  
 Joseph Hanna  
 Danho Kavarian  
 Hagop Kradjian  
 Deekran Kradjian  
 Nazaret Oglou  
 Dikran Svazlian  
 Hagop Bodoorian  
 Garabed Chilingirian  
 Toukhman Zoroghlian  
 Touma Zoroghlian  
 Garabed Zoroghlian  
 Hovhanness Zoroghlian  
 Loucine Zoroghlian  
 Garabed Zoroghlian  
 Nshan Ter-Saakyan  
 Hovhannes Tngoian  
 Karapet Grigoryan  
 Parantzem Garavanian  
 Abkar Badalian  
 Karapet Grigoryan  
 Parantzem Garavanian  
 Abkar Badalian  
 Jeyran Badalian  
 Manuk Hamamchyan  
 Sarhad Kocharian  
 John Hovig Yeressian  
 Kerop Tsaxikyan  
 Tatos Ghazazian  
 Yervand Urghatbashian  
 Margaret Urghatbashian  
 Caspar Mardirossian  
 Sinam Yeranossian  
 Hovakim Ahramjian  
 Beghekia Ahramjian  
 Arsen Avedikian  
 Acabi Avedikian  
 Zarmandought Ahramjian  
 Yevkiné Ahramjian  
 Arousiag Ahramjian  
 Khoren Aharonian  
 Raphael Bahde  
 Joseph Moukhtar  
 George Moukhtar  
 Francis Moukhtar  
 George Farra  
 Milcon Movsessian  
 Mécon Movsessian  
 Dr. Ovsia Hekimian  
 Tavit Tavitian  
 Antaram Hovanesian  
 Sarkis Hovanesian  
 Galust Jermakyan  
 Hamardzum Jermakyan  
 Vrej Jermakyan  
 Toros Jermakyan  
 Mania Jermakyan  
 Levon Jermakyan  
 Aram Jermakyan  
 Siranush Alexanian  
 Grigo Alexanian  
 Maqruhi Alexanian  
 Maqruhi Alexanian  
 Avak Der-Avakian  
 Hana Soghomonian

Malaka Soghomonian  
 Isahak Ekshian  
 Mariam Ekshian  
 Arsen Kostanyan  
 Yegish Grigoryan  
 Krikor Shahinian  
 Khanum Nalbanian Shahinian  
 Anna Garabedian  
 Airapet Tumanyan  
 Lucine Maghakian Adanalian  
 Stepan Boyajian  
 Stepan Boyajian  
 Hossep Melkisetian  
 Parségh Shahbaz  
 Ardashes Haroutunian  
 Jack Sayabalian (Paylag)  
 Krikor Torosian  
 Kégham Parséghian  
 Dikran Cheogurian  
 Shavarsh Kürsian  
 Krikor Yésayan  
 Aris Israyélian  
 Mihran Tabakian  
 Hagop Térzian  
 Arisdagés Kasbarian  
 Haroutiun G. Jangulian  
 Bédros Kalfayan  
 Haroutiun Kalfayan  
 Edwar Béyazian  
 Yénovk Shahén  
 Nérsés Papazian  
 Nérsés Zakarian  
 Dr. Sdépan Miskjian  
 Dr. Lévon Bardizbanian  
 Vramshabooh Arabian  
 Nérsés Shahnoor  
 Sérovpe Noradoongian  
 Karékin Husian  
 Mardiros H. Koondakjian  
 Krikor Armoonian  
 Boghos Tanielian  
 Megerdich Garabédian  
 Apraham Hayrigian  
 Levon Aghababian  
 Kevork Terjimanian  
 Dikran Ashkharooni  
 Kevork Diratsooyan  
 Mihrtad Haygazn  
 Rosdom Rosdomian  
 Vramshabooh Samuelian  
 Arshag Khazkhazian  
 Mrgrdich Sdepanian  
 Levon Shashian  
 Paroonag Feroukhan  
 Onnig Maghazajian  
 Teodor Mendzigian  
 Varteres Atanasian  
 Apig Jambaz  
 Vahram Altoonian  
 Yerchanig Aram  
 Nerses D. Kevorkian  
 Onnig Srabian  
 Partogh Zorian  
 Akrig Kerestegian  
 Melkon Piosian  
 Pilibbos Chilinguirian  
 Haroutiun Konalian  
 Vahan Jamjian  
 Haroutiun Kalfaian  
 Hovhannes Kelejian  
 Sdepan Kurkjian  
 Dikran Sarkisian  
 Barooyr Arzoomanian  
 Haig Derderian  
 Mirijan Artinian

Hampartsum Balasan  
 Vahan Kehiaian  
 Ardashes Ferahian  
 Artin Meserlian  
 Armenag Arakelian  
 Mihran Pasdúrmajian  
 Neshan Nahabedian  
 Yeghia Suzigian  
 Bedros Kurdian  
 Diran Yerganian  
 Asadoor Madteosian  
 Yervant Chavooshian  
 Hagop Shahbaz  
 Sarkis Kaligian  
 Garabed Reyisian  
 Kevork Kopooshian  
 Krikor Ohnigian  
 Aram Ohnigian  
 Karekin Ohnigian  
 Hovhannes Keoleian  
 Dikran Baghdigian  
 Hovhannes Cheogurian  
 Dr. Bénne Torosian  
 Aram Achúkbashian  
 Kegham Vanigian  
 Yervant Topoozian  
 Roupen Garabedian  
 Hovhannes Der Ghazarian  
 Tovmas Tovmasian  
 Hagop Basmajian  
 Moorad Zakarian  
 Megerdich Yeretsian  
 Karekin Boghosian  
 Armenag Hampartsoumian  
 Yeremia Manoogian  
 Apraham Mooradian  
 Minas Keshishian  
 Sumpad Kúlújian  
 Karnig Boyajian  
 Herand Yegavian  
 Boghos Boghosian  
 Herand Aghajanian  
 Garabed Patoogian  
 Khoren Khorenian  
 Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian  
 Vramian Onnig Tertsagian  
 Ardashes Solakian  
 A. Proodian  
 Garabed Dantlian  
 Haygag Yeremishian  
 Túlga dintsi  
 Prof. Garabed Soghigian  
 Prof. Megerdich Vorperian  
 Prof. Hovhannes Boujikianian  
 Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian  
 Prof. Khachadour Nahigian  
 Prof. Donabed Lulejian  
 Jirair Hagopian  
 Hovhannes Dingilian  
 Hovhannes Aghanigian  
 Aram Srabian  
 Armen Onanian  
 Hovsep Malemezian  
 Kegham Samuelian  
 Kapriel Tanielian  
 Karnig Gosdanian  
 Hagop Dinjian  
 Armen Hovagimian  
 Asadour Jamgochian  
 Hovhannes Zartarian  
 Kevork Keleshian  
 Hagop Shoushanian  
 Setrag Dulgerian  
 Aram Dabaghian  
 Haroutiun Semerjian

Sarkis Eljanian  
 Mihran Isbirian  
 Senekerim Kalyonjian  
 Moorad Derderian  
 Garabed Barsamian  
 Karnig Toughlajian  
 Manuel Dedeian  
 Levon Kantarian  
 Aram Hagopian  
 Khachadour Grdodian  
 Michael Frengulian  
 Roupen Rakoubian  
 Hampartsoum Blejian  
 Vahan Husisian  
 Nazaret Husisian  
 Hemayag Karageozian  
 Israel Ozanian  
 Dajad Chebookjian  
 Levon Karageozian  
 Hmayag Margosian  
 Hmaia Karibian  
 Ardashig Boornazian  
 Hagop Boornazian  
 Arshag Kizirian  
 Hovhannes Boghosian  
 Antranig Bozajian  
 Aram Adrouni  
 Aram Shesheian  
 Hürach Loosparonian  
 Megerdich Asdourian  
 Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed  
 Partogh Odabashian  
 Kaloosd Garabedian  
 Vahan Kasbarian

This evening I have had only 1 hour to pay tribute to those who were killed 100 years ago. I had hoped to get through 1,500 names, and I have still so many more to go. I will be entering all of the names that I received into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It would take me at least another 1,000 hours, if I could, to speak the names of all 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were lost. In their memory, we think of those who went before. We cherish their memory, and we have the courage to speak aloud that they perished in the first genocide of the last century. We will never forget, and we will never succumb to the coercion of complicity in silence on genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend my friend from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for what he is doing. I think it is a very noble thing to do when people are killed. Whether you want to call it a genocide or not, I just appreciate very much my friend ADAM SCHIFF calling those names and giving them recognition after the hell on Earth they went through. It was a very noble endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, what I came to the floor to talk about is the so-called deal that the administration is trying in every way they can to get Iran to even just say that they are okay with. Unfortunately, the Iranians have been dragging this out for years now. I read that Valerie Jarrett had been talking before with the Iranians before the deal—the negotiations, at least—ever surfaced. And we have reports that there was an informal negotiation taking place. It was denied back originally, and it turns out there were negotiations.

So what this has done to Israel—our ally, our friends in Israel, the people that are actually our forward observers out there in the middle of the chaotic Middle East that this administration has helped make more chaotic—they are out there, and they are kind of like, as some people have referred to them, the miner's canary. When they are under attack, when they are struggling because of other countries, then we can anticipate the United States will be shortly behind it.

Here is an article from The Wall Street Journal dated April 17, entitled, "U.S. Suggests Compromise on Iran Sanctions," the byline, "President Obama said Tehran could receive significant economic relief immediately after concluding a deal to curb its nuclear program."

Isn't that great, though? We are now using the word "curb" their nuclear deal. At one time, it was to "dismantle" their nuclear efforts. At one time, it was going to be totally unacceptable for Iran—probably the biggest supporter of terrorism in the world. Certainly they have supported plenty of terrorism that has killed Americans. They have built and used and furnished IEDs that have killed and maimed so many thousands of Americans. But now we are down, at this point, to just curbing. If we can just curb them, apparently that will be satisfactory.

And after the last so-called mutual agreement was announced, we had the leaders of Iran saying, We didn't agree to any of that.

Now having been a former judge, having tried no telling how many cases, I know that if you have one side saying "we have an agreement" and the other side saying "we never agreed to anything," and that is before any of the terms of the agreement are ever undertaken by either side, then you don't have an agreement. They teach you it is basic contracts.

I know the President, in Chicago, was concentrating on the Constitution, but the fact is, under contract law, one of the contract 101 things they teach you is, you have to have a mutual meeting of the minds. If one side says, "We haven't agreed to anything," and you don't have a document they signed, and you don't have a tape recording even of them saying, "Yes, we agree to those things," you don't have a deal. You

don't have an agreement. There is absolutely nothing enforceable. And the interesting thing about international law is, basically, if the most powerful country in the world is not willing to enforce something that it says is an agreement, then it doesn't matter whether you have got an agreement or not.

I was very fortunate to have had, for a semester at Baylor Law School, a visiting dean of a Japanese law school who taught an international law course that I took. I did as well as you can do in that course. Our professor, the visiting dean, was such a brilliant guy. I did a paper on law of the sea and did very well with that.

I loved to sit down and visit with the dean from Japan. After the conclusion of the course, I had my grade. I said: You know, Dean, I hope this is not inappropriate to say; but having taken your course, having studied diligently for your course, it seems to me that the bottom line with international law is that, really, international law is whatever the biggest, most powerful country says it is, if they are willing to use their power. And the dean said: Well, Mr. GOHMERT, you did learn something in my course. Yes, you have got it.

In international law, if nobody is willing to stand behind a deal and force another country to abide by the deal, you don't have a deal. You might as well not even have a written agreement in international law if somebody is not willing to enforce it.

Under most people's definition of an act of war, if you would attack an embassy, then for purposes of most people's international law, you have committed an act of war. That embassy is considered to be sovereign. If you attack that embassy, you have attacked that country—it is an act of war—which is what happened in 1979 in a place called Tehran, Iran.

I was in the Army, stationed at Fort Benning at the time, so we obviously were paying close attention to an act of war against the United States. I think most people at Benning were put on alert, but nothing happened.

An act of war was committed against the United States, but our failure to do anything but basically beg the Iranians to let our hostages come home was deemed as weakness and, as I understand, still is used from time to time today as part of the recruiting effort to show that Americans have no backbone. They are not going to stand up to radical Islamists. Radical Islamists can have their will because America is a toothless tiger, unwilling to enforce anything.

Oh, sure. Somebody, to want to look tough, may send a boat to tag along behind a convoy, and we may send planes to blow up a tent or, like President Clinton did, blow up a camel from time to time. It seemed like there may have

been an aspirin factory or something. Maybe there was something more serious, but that is not shock and awe, as we have shown some places before.

So when they are recruiting, of course they use the toothless, feckless United States examples. Like after the USS *Cole*, I had a servicemember that told me recently he was there and they couldn't believe that anybody could attack a United States naval ship and basically we don't do anything.

I understood from somebody in the Reagan administration that one of President Reagan's great regrets was after, I think it was, probably Iran behind the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut where we lost about 300 precious Marine lives, Congress made clear we are not funding anything else, and we pulled out. Another recruiting tool for radical Islamists.

And even that example from Beirut, under such a great American President as Ronald Reagan, going back to 1979 when radical Islam first committed an act of war against the United States, that was in response to President Carter—at least, it followed his pronouncement that the Ayatollah Khomeini was a man of peace. They hit our Embassy.

I know at first they were saying: Oh, the college students attacked. The college students have the hostages. And it seemed to me, as a member of the United States Army watching the news carefully from Fort Benning, that it seemed like they kept saying, you know, the students have the hostages. And I kept thinking if President Carter will just say: Okay. The students have the hostages. Then you get them back to us within 48 hours or even 72 hours; otherwise, you are going to see the entire power of the United States military coming at Iran. And heaven help you, if you harm our hostages at all, we may just wipe Tehran off the map if you do, and you as part of it.

I really felt like they would probably release the hostages and say: See? See? The students had them. We talked them into releasing them.

But rather quickly, they figured out that the Carter administration was not going to use the U.S. power and that all it was going to do was basically beg for the hostages to be released until they scaled back an effort to rescue the hostages that ended up being inadequate because the Carter administration didn't authorize enough helicopters. They needed six. General Boykin confirmed what I was told at Fort Benning, that they needed six to get to the staging area, crossing 500 miles or so of desert. Their helicopters had turbine engines. They expected that they might lose as many as 50 percent of their choppers. But they had to have six get to the staging area, meet the C-130 there and the other aircraft and get ready and then launch, because they knew where the hostages were.

The Carter administration didn't allow enough helicopters so they could

get there with six. They got there with five. And as General Boykin confirmed what I had heard before, when they got there with five, then they had to abort because they had to have a minimum of six to make it work. Perhaps the helicopter pilot got disoriented. The chopper leaned, the blades went through the C-130, and the people on the C-130 and the helicopter were killed.

But it goes back to having a Commander in Chief that is not willing to do everything he can to use our power to save American lives and to send a message around the world: Don't mess with the United States. Don't mess with our Embassy. Don't mess with our Embassy workers, because if you do, there will be a powerful price to pay.

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, the message instead was: We got the power, but we don't have the backbone to use it. And that is being carried out. Of course, President Reagan used American power to send a message. President George H. W. Bush, after Kuwait was invaded by Iraq—I love the fact, as a former military member, that President George H. W. Bush was a former military member, and instead of trying to micromanage the freeing of Kuwait, instead of micromanaging, President Bush told the military leaders that the goal is to liberate Kuwait; you tell me what we've got to do. They told him how many people we would need in theater before we attack. You hit them hard with bombing, loosen them up, and the mission went incredibly well until Democrats in Congress started yelling, in essence, figuratively speaking, that President Bush needed to stop, stop, stop. Many in the media, stop, stop, stop, they are not fighting, they can't stand up against us, oh, please stop, you are being too brutal.

So President Bush, because of the left, was persuaded not to go all the way to Baghdad at that time. Then later he was beat up by the left in 1992 for not going ahead and taking out Saddam when he had the chance.

So it is an interesting place to work here.

Mr. Speaker, I go through that history so we understand where we stand historically with radical Islam in the Middle East. They don't see us with the kind of fear that they should.

Now, this article from The Wall Street Journal, dated April 27, by Carol E. Lee and Jay Solomon, says:

"President Barack Obama suggested on Friday that Iran could receive significant economic relief immediately after concluding a deal to curb its nuclear program, a gesture towards one of Tehran's key demands."

It is really great. Tehran makes demands, the President follows right in line, and Secretary Kerry follows right in line as if he is going to be throwing

medals over the White House fence that belonged to somebody else. It is great. They just follow right in line. Okay, Iran, please, we beg you. Do a deal with us. At least come out and announce with us we have a deal, and we will do anything you want.

That is the way it is appearing not only to the radical Islamists of the world. It sure seems that they have our President wrapped around their little finger and that they can get anything they want.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what should they think after the Taliban in Afghanistan was begged by the Obama administration to, gee, just sit down with us, we will buy you wonderful offices in Qatar, and we will give you international prominence. Heck, if you sit down, we will let murderers go of your Taliban leaders. Just sit down with us. That is all we are asking.

It sent a pretty clear message. That gets around. They understand who they are dealing with.

On page 3 of the 4-page article from The Wall Street Journal it says this:

"The Obama administration estimates Iran has between \$100 billion and \$140 billion of its oil revenue frozen in offshore accounts as a result of sanctions. U.S. officials said they expect Tehran to gain access to these funds in phases as part of a final deal. Iran could receive somewhere between \$30 billion and \$50 billion upon signing the agreement, said congressional officials briefed by the administration."

So, Mr. Speaker, that is from The Wall Street Journal. Then 2 days later, April 19, in an article by Jennifer Rubin, it says: "Washington Post: Obama is prepared to give anything and everything for a deal." Then it goes on to say:

"Just days after releasing the Iran framework, Secretary of State John F. Kerry reaffirmed that the United States would insist on phased-in sanctions relief. Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei publicly rebuked that suggestion and declared he would insist on sanctions relief up front. On Friday, the President cleared up matters by hanging Kerry out to dry, pulling the rug out from under his dwindling band of supporters and telling the world that phased negotiations were up for grabs."

"The President declared:

"With respect to the issue of sanctions coming down—I don't want to get out ahead of John Kerry and my negotiators in terms of how to craft this. I would just make a general observation and that is that how sanctions are lessened, how we snap back sanctions if there's a violation—there are a lot of different mechanisms and ways to do that. Part of John's job and part of the Iranian negotiators' job and part of the P5+1's job is to sometimes find formulas that get to our main concerns while allowing the other side to make a presentation to their body politic that is more acceptable."

So going down the article, it said:

"This is a dramatic change in the administration's position and a foolish one. We know, as former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George P. Schultz have warned, snap-back sanctions are cumbersome and hugely ineffective. Sanctions once lifted are enormously difficult to reinstate after Western powers have commenced doing business. Inspections (not even of the go everywhere/anytime variety) are never foolproof and the parties contemplate a system designed for endless wrangling about whether violations have occurred.

"But wait. It gets worse. The Wall Street Journal reports: 'The Obama administration estimates Iran has between \$100 billion and \$140 billion of its oil revenue frozen in offshore accounts as a result of sanctions'." . . . "The monies of course will be instantly available to fund terrorist activities."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess that wouldn't be President Obama saying that because apparently he hadn't recognized that, but, okay.

The article says:

"That would be a huge boost to Iran's economy, given up front and with no evidence of compliance. The monies of course will be instantly available to fund terrorist activities and Iranian surrogates in Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere.

"Obama is willing to grant Iran access to funds that equate to about 10 percent of its GDP"—Iran's GDP—"just for signing a deal. That percentage boost is equivalent to a \$1.7 trillion injection into the U.S. economy today (which is twice the dollar amount of the 2009 stimulus package)."

That was explained by JINSA CEO Michael Makovsky.

"This was a terrific present to Iran for its Army Day celebration on Saturday, when the regime showed off some of its weapons to slogans of 'Death to America,' and 'Death to Israel.'" He adds, 'Equally dismaying was Obama's minimization in the same press conference of Russia's announcement to sell S-300 surface-to-air missile batteries to Iran, which will make a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities much harder. Perhaps Obama was trying to save face by this Russian move, and/or perhaps he no longer opposes the Russian sale because it will make it harder for Israel to spoil the nuclear deal through military action.'

"If Israelis are expressing 'shock and amazement Friday night at U.S. President Barack Obama's stated openness to Iran's demand for the immediate lifting of all economic sanctions, and his defense of Russia's agreement to supply a sophisticated air defense system to Iran,' they should not be. The President will give the Iranians anything and everything to get his deal. 'It's deeply troubling that President Obama declined to publicly reject Ira-

nian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's demand that all economic sanctions against Iran be lifted upon concluding a final nuclear agreement,' Senator MARK KIRK told Right Turn. 'The President is clearly leaving open the door for significant sanctions relief to Iran up front to secure a controversial deal that will neither significantly nor permanently dismantle Iran's vast capabilities to make nuclear weapons.'

"The President who once declared the framework a 'historic' deal has been forced to concede there is no deal. Now he is signaling the final deal will be much worse than he or his defenders ever suggested was possible. He promised to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program; now he is locking it in. He once insisted on robust inspections and gradual lifting of sanctions. Those will go by the wayside too. Ultimately, Congress, the 2016 Presidential candidates, our allies and the American people will need to explain that total appeasement—which is where this is leading—will not be acceptable. They will then have to devise the means for stopping Obama or immediately reversing his 'diplomacy,' which is more like promising to make a ransom payment. Unfortunately for the Saudis, that likely means beginning an arms race as they seek a bomb of their own. It will be quite a legacy if Obama gets his way."

Mr. Speaker, this President's foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa has created chaos.

Then April 20, there is this article from the Washington Free Beacon:

"The State Department on Monday would not rule out giving Iran up to \$50 billion as a so-called 'signing bonus.'" . . . "Experts have said this multi-million dollar 'signing bonus' option, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, could be the largest cash infusion to a terror-backing regime in recent memory."

So they are getting access to money, the article points out.

So then, Mr. Speaker, I want to take us back to March 2 from The Blaze, where they report on President Obama saying Netanyahu has been wrong on Iran. And they have this quote in the article, and it quotes from Reuters, this is a quote from Obama, reported by Reuters:

"Netanyahu made all sorts of claims. This was going to be a terrible deal. This was going to result in Iran getting \$50 billion worth of relief,' Obama told Reuters in an interview Monday. 'Iran would not abide by the agreement. None of that has come true.'"

That was March 2. Now here we are on April 22, and it turns out everything Prime Minister Netanyahu said has been true. So far, Mr. Speaker, everything that he has said that we have been able to get evidence on has been true. President Obama was wrong,

Prime Minister Netanyahu was right, and knowing President Obama to be the big, courteous, and wonderful man he is, I am sure he will be sending an apology to Prime Minister Netanyahu very soon since he does owe him one. On March 2 he tells Reuters that Netanyahu was wrong on everything, and now just over a month later we find out he was right about everything. So I think that will be good news when the President admits to Israel they were right, I was wrong.

By the way, what could we do with that \$50 billion that they may let Iran have access to after all the damage, all the Americans Iran has funded killing and maiming. We could use some of that money. Wow, \$50 billion.

But one final article dated today from John Sexton, "Iran Says It Will Refuse Access to IAEA Inspectors 'Anywhere' Nationwide."

"A spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency has once again rejected calls to grant IAEA access to military sites, continuing a war of words on the issue that began Sunday."

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, this President is putting the world in jeopardy. He is putting Israel in jeopardy. He is putting us in jeopardy. He is putting all of Israel's neighbors in jeopardy. It is time he woke up and smelled the baklava.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1830

#### FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to report back to the Congress on the progress of the House Democratic Caucus' newest group, Future Forum.

Future Forum is made up of 14 Members of Congress who are going across the country to talk about issues facing young Americans. We launched just last Thursday. We have gone to New York, Boston, and San Francisco, and we are just warming up.

Our goal is to listen to—not talk to—young Americans about issues ranging from student loan debt, climate change, access to entrepreneurship, and anything that is on their mind or standing in their way of achieving their dreams, hopes, and aspirations.

I encourage anyone watching tonight across America to tweet at me and to tweet at Future Forum under #futureforum, so that we can address your concerns right here on the House floor and across the country.

We started Thursday evening in New York City. I was joined by Democratic



Policy and Communications chair STEVE ISRAEL; Congresswoman GRACE MENG, who represents the Queens area; and Congressman SETH MOULTON, who represents the greater Boston area.

Our first stop was at the District Cowork space in Manhattan in the Flatiron District. You see here in this photo, this was not just any rigid, stuffy townhall. We invited young entrepreneurs across Manhattan and asked them at District Cowork: What stands in your way from achieving your startup success?

You have in this room these young, energetic entrepreneurs. They are ready to risk it all for their big idea. They are all millennials, aged anywhere from 18 to 35; and it was a very informal, fluid session.

What we heard was not surprising, but it was very striking. For too many of them, when we asked, How many of you have student loan debt, their hands went up. For too many of them, when we asked, How much is your student loan debt, their hands stayed up when I said, Is it above \$25,000 or \$50,000 or \$100,000?

Then I asked and my colleagues asked: What would you do with that money? What would you spend it on if you weren't spending it every month on your student loan debt?

These young, business-minded people, they didn't say: I would go on a vacation, or I would buy a new toy or a boat or have fun for myself.

They said: I would invest it in my company. I would invest it in my company.

What do we know happens when entrepreneurs invest money in their companies? They create jobs. They create growth around their industries that put more and more Americans to work.

Future Forum members learned a lot at this visit, and what we learned was that student loan debt is a barrier—not just a barrier, it is a tall brick wall that is standing in the way of an entire generation realizing their entrepreneurial dreams.

What we heard at District Cowork in New York was not unique. In San Francisco, we went to Hive, and we visited their Impact Hub. Hive looked just like District Cowork. You have tall ceilings, nothing on the walls—they are barely painted—no carpet on the floor, just a building filled with a lot of energy, a lot of good ideas, but a lot of challenges standing in their way.

At Hive, these young entrepreneurs, just like other entrepreneurs across the country, they told us student loan debt is standing in their way. Forty-one million young Americans have a collective amount of \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt.

We heard from people at Hive that their debt was not just standing in the way of them starting their own business, but we asked the room—and at this event, I was joined by Congress-

man RUBEN GALLEGO of the Phoenix area and Congressman PETE AGUILAR of the San Bernardino area in California and Congressman DEREK KILMER of the Tacoma, Washington, area—we asked the room, about 100 people: How many of you own a home? Crickets, dead silent.

How many of you have parents who own a home? Most of their hands went up.

How many of you are renters now? Most of their hands stayed up.

How many of you fear that you will not be able to ever own a home in your life? Again, these young people, full of energy, great ideas, great educations, their hands stayed up.

We asked: What is standing in the way? The hundreds of dollars a month they are paying in student loan debt.

Homeownership, one of the bedrocks of the American Dream, to have something to call your own, something that we fought during our independence as a country, that right for property, to chart your own course, have your own piece of land, now, an entire generation of millennial Americans, 80 million of them, have mounting student loan debt that is going to delay their ability to buy a home, that is going to delay their ability to start and have a family, that is going to delay their opportunity to chase their dreams.

While we were in California, we also visited Chabot College in Hayward, California, in the 15th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent. At Chabot College, we assembled over 100 community college students, and we asked them: How much student debt do you think you will have by the time you take your first postcollege job?

What we learned there, again, was very, very bewildering. Most anticipated that they would have \$25,000 to \$50,000 in student loan debt.

We did it in a very interactive way. We used text polling, so we asked the students to text in their answers. We polled the group and said: Are you able to take a full load of courses so that you can get out of community college as fast as possible and move on to a 4-year university and move on into your career field?

Most of them said that they couldn't. One student told us he worked three jobs. The jobs, they were all mostly the same. They weren't jobs that were going to put them into the area of industry they would hope and aspire to be in. They were retail and restaurant jobs.

The members of Future Forum could identify with this. Congressman KILMER talked about washing dishes in college, and Congressman GALLEGO talked about working as a restaurant server, and I harkened back to my days in this town in Washington, D.C., as an unpaid intern and working at Tortilla Coast at the end of the day to make it work.

Things are different now. Tuition continues to go up. These students told us, during our Future Forum visit, that they are taking a number of odd jobs just to pay for the rising cost of community college.

We talked about the President's plan during the State of the Union in this very Chamber to offer free community college to anyone who was qualified and able and willing. The students were hopeful but not too optimistic. They see too many barriers and walls here in Washington to get anything done that could help them.

We also asked the students to participate in a word cloud. A word cloud is you text in an answer, and, on the screen behind us, it put different words in response to different answers. We asked the students: What would you do if you didn't have student debt every month? What would your payment money go to?

Again, no one said they were going to buy a bunch of toys or go on a bunch of fancy vacations. They said that they would probably buy a car so they didn't have to take the bus or take the BART to class; they would hope to buy their first home; they would invest—which would help the economy.

Future Forum was also at San Francisco State University, and a young girl at San Francisco State University, as we talked about solutions we could offer to address rising tuition rates for current students and the debt burden that 41 million Americans carry, one San Francisco State student told us that she had a dual challenge in her house.

She was trying to pay for her own education, make it by not qualifying for many student loans, while her mother also had \$200,000 of her own student debt. This is a family matter—this is a family matter—not just for that young San Francisco State student, but for millions of young people across the country. This debt is beginning to pile up and affect multiple generations.

We had the honor of going to Boston, where we were hosted by Congressmen JOE KENNEDY and SETH MOULTON. We visited Thermo Fisher Scientific, and we met with young scientists, people who invested in their own future by taking student loans and going to college and getting, in many cases, graduate degrees to work in the field of science, to work in the field of therapies and devices, hoping that they could play a critical role in helping people, making the world a better place.

At Thermo Fisher, these young scientists told us exactly what we heard in San Francisco and in New York City. Their student loan debt weighs on them. It holds them down like an anchor.

Something happened at the Thermo Fisher visit that we didn't expect—because you have a room full of young

entrepreneurs, young scientists, but there was a mother who showed up. She kind of confessed: Well, you know, I know this event was billed as a millennial event.

She told us she was worried about her daughter. Her daughter had gone to college, just as we had, as a society, told young people you have to do. Her daughter took out a number of student loans, and her daughter lives at home and can't find a job.

□ 1845

What we are seeing for our millennial generation and what was expressed by this mother is that we are at risk of becoming a permanent boomerang generation. We go out, and we study, and we attain a degree or training or technical skills; but because of the rising costs of tuition and the debt that our generation is saddled with, we boomerang back home. This mother told us it doesn't just weigh on her daughter, who has a college degree and is trying to find a job, but that it weighs on the entire household.

With 41 million young people across our country with \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt, imagine how many families are affected by this. These are typically your parents who are just starting to realize their golden years.

They worked so hard; paid into Social Security; hopefully had a pension; and they want to retire, maybe travel, maybe take up a hobby, maybe join a local club; but their hopes and dreams—their golden retirements—are being affected by children who are returning to the home and need their support. We heard this all across America on this tour. This is a family matter, the student loan debt crisis in our country.

Finally, in the Boston area, we also went to Greentown Labs, a clean tech incubator I visited with Congressmen MOULTON and KENNEDY in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Here, we heard, again, about student loan debt, but we also were asked by a number of people at this event: What is standing in the way of fixing this problem?

We actually asked the audience: What do you think? From your perspective, what do you think is standing in the way?

So many of them told us campaign finance laws—a smart, young crowd in Somerville at Greentown Labs—campaign finance laws, people in the audience told us—young entrepreneurs—and I thought they were just focused like a laser on their ideas and on raising money for their first and second rounds of funding and on trying to scale up and getting their ideas off the ground. No. These young people, they get it.

They told us exactly what the problem was. Because of unlimited amounts of money that can be spent in elections

today, there is less courage in the Congress to do big things, to tackle big problems, and to help a whole country of people who need it.

They asked us about climate change. Now, this was the first laboratory we had visited on the tour, and we had met with a number of young scientists who were working in the clean tech and clean energy areas. They asked us about climate change and what we were doing in Congress to address it. I want to just go to some of the people who have tweeted in to us about Future Forum this evening and what their thoughts are.

I will first mention Hive, who has tweeted at us in San Francisco that they are excited about the ideas presented and the issues raised and “let's get to work.”

I want to tell you how we are getting to work. This was not just a one-way talking-to with millennials. Through #futureforum, through medium.com, through the article we wrote and posted there, and through the information we have collected across the country, we are actually putting the ball in the court of the young entrepreneurs and students who are charting this new economy. We told them to help us crowdsource ideas that can move America forward, and they gave us some at these visits.

With student loan debt being, probably, the biggest, most pressing issue, there was a general consensus that there are two groups affected by this. The first group is of the students who are enrolled right now and paying tuition and accruing debt. The second group is of the 41 million young Americans who already have student loan debt.

The solutions that were thrown at us for the students who are in school now or who will be in school was, one, treat public education as a public good. Find a way to make sure that any qualified, capable person who wants to go to college can do so, and keep the costs as low or as next to zero as you can.

We had people who were so excited about the Future Forum who had graduated college 30, 40 years ago who came out and talked to us, and they harkened back to a time in California when, in the UC and Cal State systems, tuition was essentially free—they even threw in the yearbook—yet the return on investment was a whole generation of educated individuals who would contribute to the greatest economy in the United States: California.

Their eyes popped out when they saw how much it costs today to go to UC Berkeley: \$33,000 today is what it costs a year for a student to go to UC Berkeley. People who had attended 20, 30 years ago talked about when it was almost next to nothing. It is \$33,000 a year.

Congressman GALLEGOS looked at that number—and he went to Harvard. Har-

vard is the Berkeley of the East. Congressman GALLEGOS looked at that number, and he said: That is about what I paid when I graduated from Harvard in the early 2000s, \$33,000 a year.

Treat education as a public good. Keep interest rates as low as possible. The consensus among people who met with us—these current students and entrepreneurs—was that the government should make no money on interest rates on loans that it gives to students.

What about the 41 million young Americans who have the \$1.3 trillion in debt? There was a general consensus that those debtholders should be able to refinance their student loans. You can refinance an auto loan. You can refinance your home loan, but for the 86 percent of loans that are the Federal loans of those 41 million Americans, you can't refinance them.

Congressman JOE COURTNEY, a colleague of mine from Connecticut, has a bill that would allow just that. Our Future Forum members are on that bill, and we are hoping that it gets a vote in this Congress because this should be a bipartisan issue.

Those 41 million Americans are not Democrats—they are not all Democrats, and they are not all Republicans. They are hopeful, aspirational young people who should benefit from the same refinancing laws that you can use with your home mortgage or with your auto loan.

There were other big ideas, and no idea was too big or small for this crowd. There was the proposal to have a jubilee for all of the federally funded student loans—to take every borrower, return that money to those borrowers, to put them at zero, and watch where the money would go.

The hypothesis was, if these students did not have to pay anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000 every month, they are not going to pocket the money; they are going to put the money back in the economy, and it would essentially be a stimulus.

I encourage everyone across the country—every young person, every parent of a young person, every grandparent of a young person—to give us your ideas. Future Forum is just getting started. We already are working with our colleague Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who is excited and eager to host us in Michigan, and with other colleagues who want to bring us to their States to talk to young people.

Give us your ideas. You can tweet them at #futureforum. Put it on Instagram. You can find us on Facebook. Tweet. Facebook. Instagram. Use social media, #futureforum. Give us your ideas because the goal is for us to listen to you and then to work here in a bipartisan way to act on your behalf.

This conversation will continue. Our work will go on until we have lifted the burden that stands in the way of young, aspirational entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

# INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS DESTROYING THE PATENT RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the American people and my colleagues to an issue that is rapidly coming to the floor of the House, and it is an issue that is coming so rapidly that some people might not notice the overwhelming magnitude of this issue.

In fact, it is an issue that most people are bored with. They don't like to discuss it. They think it is so complicated that they don't pay any attention. Unfortunately, the fact that little attention is being paid to this issue may result in there being major damage to the well-being of the American people.

What I am trying to say is there is legislation that will cause great harm to the American people, to our security, and to our prosperity. It is something that is coming to a vote, and we could well lose unless the American people mobilize and the people in this Hall pay attention to the interests of the American people as a whole and not to major international corporations that have been manipulating this issue.

What am I talking about? I am talking about an issue that has over the years been taken for granted, that America would be the preeminent technology power in the world. In fact, it has been our technology superiority that has led to the prosperity of average Americans, to the standard of living that we have, and also to our safety and security as a nation.

It isn't that Americans have worked so hard—and we have worked hard—but we have coupled work with technology. In fact, people work hard all over the world, but they have not had the patent protection, the protection for the intellectual rights of ownership in the development of new technology. The people around the world haven't had this; thus, they have had standards of living very low for ordinary people and then, of course, the rich at the top.

What we have had in our country is a protection of intellectual property rights by inventors. It is actually written into our Constitution. In fact, the word "right" is only used once in the body of the Constitution. There are the Bill of Rights in the latter part, but the word "right" is only related to the right that the Constitution declares for those who are writers and inventors who have created something, and they

have the right to control it and to own it for a given period of time.

This has worked so well for the United States. We have made sure that our people were competitive with the overseas populations, that our people produced the wealth that was necessary for high-paying jobs, produced the wealth that was necessary for standards of living. It comes back to the fact that we have recognized, as a right of ownership, the creativity genius of our own people.

Over the last two decades, most people have not understood that there has been a concealed effort to destroy the patent rights of the American people.

Let me repeat that. For the last two decades, we have been fighting quietly—people haven't even noticed it—against large international corporations, multinationals, who would destroy the patent rights of the American people.

□ 1900

Why did they want to do that? Because they want to steal the creation of our own inventors without having to pay for that right. This is the ultimate little guy versus big guy, David and Goliath fight that I have ever seen in Washington, D.C., but it is also one of the quietest and one that people have tried their best to keep out of the public eye.

So how is it that Congress could even conceive of this, where you have big corporations coming to say let's neuter the rights of the little guy or of little Americans? How would this happen? How could anyone imagine that a representative body like the House of Representatives would do anything like that?

Well, of course, they are not coming to this body—and they are not going to the committee of jurisdiction, which is the Committee on the Judiciary—claiming that they want to steal from little guys and that they want to take people's ideas and use them without paying compensation for them. No, they don't say that.

They have had to create what I call the straw man argument. Now, that is a traditional way of debate. It is in the debate books. If you can't beat your opponent in a debate, create a straw man, create an image that you are actually attacking this guy, the straw man, when in reality you are attacking somebody else. Somebody else is going to suffer the pain.

So this man's arguments, the straw man arguments, you can handle them. You can say how horrible that straw man is and his arguments mean nothing, well, because that is not really the guy who is being attacked. It is the other man and woman down there, the small inventors. They are the ones who are going to feel it. But yet you don't hear that from those proponents of the legislation that, as I am warning people, is on the way to the House floor.

This straw man argumentation was first used 20 years ago when I got here. They were trying to suggest that we have to make major changes in our patent law because there are these heinous submarine patents. Over and over and over again, the submarine patents were having such a horrible impact on business because they would come up and charge people for patents that the business didn't even know existed.

Well, submarine patents, that went away. They no longer talk about submarine patents. Now the boogeyman that is helping them create a straw man argument that will result in the massive theft of intellectual property rights from America's most creative people, the boogeyman now is called the patent troll. That is it: the patent troll. These huge corporations have spent millions—tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions—of dollars over these last few years trying to promote this image that there is a patent troll out there—that sounds sinister, doesn't it?—that has to be defeated. They have proposed legislation in the name of defeating a patent troll, because that sounds very sinister, rather than legislation that permits large corporations to get away with stealing the patent rights from small inventors in the United States.

Well, how did this "troll" word come about? It is a relatively new word. As I say, when I first got here, they were calling them "submarine patents," that is the evil force. Well, "troll" came about—I had a businessman who was an executive of a major company who has actually now changed sides, and he has decided, my gosh, no, he can't go along with this destruction of Americans' rights to own what they have created. He told me about how it was decided.

He was in a room with senior executives, mainly from the electronics industry. They went around the room saying, now, what is the most sinister-sounding word that we can come up with in order to divert the attention of the people away from the fact that our real target is these small inventors, because everybody has a soft spot in their heart for small inventors, so they are going to create a false image some way. What can we do? What word can we use to fool the American people into thinking that this is an evil force that we are trying to stop when, in reality, they are trying to beat down small inventors?

Well, they went around the room, the guy was telling me, and he said: I actually suggested that they use the word "patent pirate," the "patent pirate." That is how horrible it is. But, no, by the time they got around to the end of the group, to the last part of the group, they had all heard "patent troll," which is even worse than "patent pirate." So they all agreed that this would be the word that we will use to

deceive the American people. That is what it was all about. This businessman was very upfront with me about the cynical nature of this type of manipulation.

Well, obviously no one could come here and say, "We want to eliminate the rights of the American people to sue for damages," and we can't eliminate the rights of small inventors to actually try to get their money for something that they have invented and spent their whole lifetime trying to create, but what they can do is try to get legislation that will eliminate the ability of patent trolls to function.

Well, unfortunately, every single item that is being presented as a means to control patent trolls actually does what? It hurts every single one of them, does damage to little guys trying to protect their patent rights.

By the way, everything they are presenting in this legislation would be the equivalent if someone says: Well, we have got this horrible thing about frivolous lawsuits. Because, in fact, what the businessmen often are complaining about and claiming that trolls are being the ones who are doing this, what they are really talking about are frivolous lawsuits.

Well, there are frivolous lawsuits throughout our entire justice system and court system. Would we then say that because there are some lawyers who are willing to scam the system or that we know that there are some people who will file frivolous lawsuits that we should eliminate the rights of the American people to sue for damages when they have been damaged by someone or sue to protect their rights when their rights have been violated? No. But that is what is going on here.

In the name of stopping the trolls, which they made up the term, we are being asked to support legislation that dramatically eliminates the rights and protections of honest inventors, although that is not what is being said every time there is a debate—"We are for the small inventor; we are for the small inventor," when every single one of the provisions hurts the small inventor.

What is happening, basically, is we are seeing that the legislation being pushed forward now is under a bill, which is H.R. 9. It is already in the committee. It was a bill that went through last year. What happened is, yes, it went through last year with the same sort of, "Oh, we are not really trying to hurt the little guy," but knowing that is what it was doing because what happened is, yeah, the legislation passed this body. The legislation passed this body.

To show you how bad it was, I managed to lead the fight and have one amendment that got one of the bad provisions out. You know what that provision was? The provision was, if a small inventor feels that the Patent

Office has not been dealing with him on a legal basis, on a legitimate basis, that he no longer has the right to take his case to court. They were eliminating the right of our inventors to take their case to court when their government isn't operating legally.

Now, we managed to push that one back. Unfortunately, the other provisions of the bill moved forward. But guess what. Even though it would hurt small inventors and technology investors and universities, that bill went forward out of this body, but it was stopped in the Senate. It was stopped in the Senate because some of these technology laboratories and some small inventors as well, but mainly the universities, stepped forward and said: Wait a minute. You are trying to supposedly get patent trolls, but what you are doing is going to undercut us. It was analyzed that the result of that legislation, if signed into law and passed through the Senate, would have decreased the value of patents owned by our universities.

Now, that is a major source of their income is their patents because they have laboratories and research centers. That would have negated about half the value of the patents that they own. This would have been a disaster. Luckily, the universities spoke up, and they need to speak up in the House this time because it is the same bill they are trying to put through the House, and they are trying to ship it over to the Senate again. We need to make sure that we mobilize and let those people in elected office, whether they are a Congressman or a Senator, know that they have to pay attention to what the effects of this will be on our universities, what it will be on—yes, and on the small inventors. It is unconscionable that we have these huge multinational corporations in a power grab like this.

Why is it that they are able to do this, this attack on little guys, on average Americans who have dedicated their life to developing a new technological idea? Why? Why is that? Well, because they are able to give major campaign contributions. I am not talking about anybody's vote being bought. I don't believe that that happens here. I know that a lot of people claim that, but I don't claim that. What I do know is that contributors get the attention of the Member of Congress or the Senator. That is what happens.

These big megacorporations—and they are multinational corporations by and large—have bought the attention of these people and have made their argument. So we have 90 percent of the Members of Congress and the Senate who are yawning and nobody is talking to them about the bill, but they have got these other 10 percent with their best friends who have donated to their campaigns actually are able to make the argument.

If we are to protect our prosperity, if we are to protect our security, we have

got to move forward and interact with those people who are elected to represent us in the Congress and the United States Senate. That is the only thing that will thwart these multinationals and their ability to buy the attention of a certain number of Members of Congress.

The Congress will not pay attention unless the universities, unless the average working people, the voters in their district come and see them and talk to them and say: We do not want our rights to be diminished. We don't want any of our rights, but especially our patent rights, which are the rights that protect our jobs because it makes us competitive with overseas. It produces wealth enough for average people to live well in our country.

Well, we need to make sure that these huge corporations don't run roughshod over the rest of us because they, themselves, now, as I say, they haven't bought votes; they bought attention. We need to call attention to this issue, and it is up before the Committee on the Judiciary. We are talking about H.R. 9, a piece of legislation that will do a tremendous damage to the American people by cutting off the very constitutional right that our Founding Fathers knew was so important, and that is the right to own, for a given period of time, any type of technology creation and creative genius that you have as a writer or an inventor.

This is the little guys versus the big guys. This is David versus Goliath. I will tell you, we little guys need to stick together. If we do, we will win. That is what America is all about. We can and will win. We will not let cynical, powerful forces like those who sit around the room and say: What is the bad word that we can come up with that will scare everybody into supporting our restrictions and our diminishing of patent rights? The cynical people came up with the word "troll."

Well, what is wrong with this, by the way? Let me just note that this bill, H.R. 9, will greatly diminish patent protection, but, for example, it destroys the right of discovery. It means that if people actually invest in a small inventor—let's say someone, a small inventor needs an investor. Of course they do. They are not like these huge corporations. They need someone to invest. But later on, the big corporation does what? Steals that invention. In order to what? These big corporations are sued all the time for infringement.

□ 1915

What infringement means is they are arrogantly taking something that belongs to somebody else, something that has been patented, and ignoring the patent, putting it into their product, and then say, "Well, sue me," knowing that the little guys have trouble suing because they don't have the money.

Well, if anybody has invested in that inventor and the investor sues for infringement—let's say his lawyers aren't as good and he loses that case—well, now, they are changing the rules here. All of a sudden, all of the expenses of that big company, the legal expenses, will have to be picked up by that small inventor.

Oh, my gosh, what happens when that happens? You will never get anybody to invest in that small inventor because the law not only says the inventor will pay for the cost of asking for the infringement case, but anybody who has invested in his invention will also have to bear that burden. Who is going to want to become liable if a big company starts stealing and they can't prove it in court?

The bill destroys treble damages. Right now, if a big company decides to steal from a little guy—well, if the little guy can prove this guy knew that that was my patent and he is stealing my intellectual property, if he can prove that, he will get treble damages. That is triple damages.

Well, that has been what we have had all along. That permits the little guy to have legal counsel because, if it is just simply getting the money back that he has lost, this is damages, because he gets a certain amount because he has been violated.

Well, if you eliminate that, how will these little guys get a lawyer? Now, these big guys are trying to eliminate triple damages so the little guys can't get lawyers. By doing these things, H.R. 9 will dramatically decrease the value of patents held by our major universities, held by retirement accounts, held by our laboratories—the people who own these patents.

Now, by the way, let me tell you what they claim a patent troll to be and how they claim that this is bad. A patent troll, according to these huge corporate interests, is someone who didn't invest in something but now has the rights to sue them because that investor—the “troll”—has purchased the patent rights to certain technologies.

Let me note that a patent sometimes runs around 10 to 20 years that a patent owner can own his patent. An inventor gets granted the patent, and for 17 years, they own that patent.

Well, many of them don't have any money, and they can't even develop it, so they have to have investors. Some of them face the theft of their technology, and they don't have the money to put out, and they, themselves, challenge in court that their rights have been violated.

It is like a piece of property. If somebody comes and builds a railroad track across your property and refuses to give you any compensation for it, well, you have a right to sue; but some of the little guys don't have enough money to sue.

Well, in this case, what we have got is legal entities that are not involved

with actually the invention, but they will come in and say, I will invest in your patent so you will have enough money to sue these big guys because they are stealing from you—or they just buy the patent outright, and then they own that property for a given period of time, and then they sue.

There is nothing wrong, I believe, with someone stepping forward and buying the property rights of an inventor and then enforcing it through our court system. There is nothing wrong with that, but we have been told that these are all frivolous lawsuits by the trolls.

Well, they are not. Some of them are like this, a troll—supposedly, by that name—is nothing more than an investor who has bought the property rights of an inventor, of the person who owned the property in the first place.

What we have is these multinational corporations trying to vilify someone who comes in and buys patent rights from small inventors and then using that person to destroy all of the patent rights of the small inventor.

Luckily, we have a bill in the Senate, which is S. 632. It is CHRIS COONS from Delaware who actually has a piece of legislation to try to strengthen people's patent rights, and it eliminates some of the—you might say—bad tactics that were used by people who were involved with frivolous lawsuits in the technology area. He takes care of that without greatly diminishing the patent rights of real inventors.

We also have a bill with Representative JOHN CONYERS here in the House, and that bill protects the small guy while trying to improve the Patent Office. By the way, what his bill does is ensure that all the patent fees that go into the Patent Office stay there and, thus, improve the quality of the patents that our people have.

Over a billion dollars has been taken from the Patent Office in the last 10 years and goes into the general fund when it should be spent trying to protect—and trying to make the system work—intellectual property ownership by inventors.

That is the last I have on that piece of legislation, which is H.R. 9, which deserves the attention of the American people.

I would like to end my time tonight talking about one other issue very quickly. Today, I introduced legislation, H.R. 1940, which basically says that the Federal Government shall not interfere in those States that have eliminated the penalties on marijuana use and sales or have allowed the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries.

This legislation, H.R. 1940, would basically leave it up to the States as to whether or not people should be permitted to use marijuana, especially medical marijuana.

I don't see any reason why the people of the United States should face the

type of controls and the type of police state activity that impacts their lives by people—whether they are well meaning or not—who have set up, basically, a bureaucratic law enforcement state that activates and prevents people from living their own lives.

If, indeed, someone is using marijuana—for medical purposes especially, but also even for recreational use—if someone is in their backyard, smoking some marijuana, we should not spend limited dollars.

We have limited tax dollars here. We are cutting off veterans' benefits, cutting down on people who need help, but then we are spending it on trying to put in jail someone who is smoking marijuana in their backyard or trying to supply someone with the marijuana to smoke in their backyard. That is absolutely absurd.

My bill, H.R. 1940, will insist that, if a State has legalized the use of marijuana or the medical use of marijuana, the Federal Government cannot infringe upon that.

It is sort of like you see a guy over in the corner of a park, and he is surrounded by policemen, and they throw him to the ground, and they handcuff him and put him in jail, and they go through the court procedures with the judges and all these expenses for smoking marijuana, versus the other end of the park, where some lady is getting raped, but there is no policeman there, and they spend all of their money focusing on the people who are smoking marijuana. That makes no sense.

When you have limited dollars, we should especially respect people's right to live their own lives; and, if they make mistakes, which they do, they will have to live with those mistakes.

I would ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1940, which is consistent with criminal law should be made at the State and local level and not at the Federal level. We should not have a Federal police force knocking in doors, going into people's homes, and spending huge amounts of money in order to prevent people from personal consumption behavior.

I would ask my colleagues, if you believe in liberty, believe what our Founding Fathers believed in, support a strong patent system and oppose H.R. 9 and support my legislation, H.R. 1940, which will restore to the American people and to the States therein the right to control criminal law and their own personal behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a Presidential visit to the Everglades National Park in his district.

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 21 through April 23.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the first series of votes today on account of medical appointment regarding foot surgery.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 971. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 984. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; in addition, to the Committee on Ways and Means for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1239. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-39, "Public Charter School Priority Enrollment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1240. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-40, "Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools Salary Adjustment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1241. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

D.C. Act 21-41, "Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1242. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-42, "Educator Evaluation Data Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1243. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-38, "Wage Theft Prevention Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1244. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-43, "At-Risk Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1245. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-37, "H Street, N.E., Retail Priority Area Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1246. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 20-492, "Student Nutrition on Winter Weather Days Act of 2014", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1247. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-48, "Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1248. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-49, "Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1249. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-44, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1250. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 20-596, "Limitations on the Use of Restraints Amendment Act of 2014", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1251. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-47, "Testing Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 1926. A bill to improve compliance with mine safety and health laws, empower miners to raise safety concerns, prevent future mine tragedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1927. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 1928. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the coverage of qualified tuition programs and increase the limitation on contributions to Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1929. A bill to restrict United States nationals from traveling to countries in which foreign governments or anti-government forces allow foreign terrorist organizations to engage in armed conflict for purposes of participating in such armed conflict or from providing material support to entities that are engaged in such armed conflict, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1930. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Appropriations, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 1931. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain Federal land, to direct that the proceeds of such sales be applied to reduce the Federal budget deficit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1932. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to allow employers a grace period to abate certain occupational health and safety violations before being subject to a penalty under such Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms.

CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1933. A bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 1934. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1935. A bill to protect 10th Amendment rights by providing special standing for State government officials to challenge proposed regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. REED, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 1936. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exclude certain medical sources of evidence in making disability determinations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. STEWART, Mr. COOK, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. HARDY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DUNCAN of

South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 1937. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 1938. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to increase transparency of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1939. A bill to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to establish prohibitions to prevent the use of an unmanned aircraft system as a weapon while operating in the national airspace system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. AMASH, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1940. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BARR, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HILL, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1941. A bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANCE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. FARR, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr.

SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DENT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. STEFANK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. LEE, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 1942. A bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1943. A bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 1944. A bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 1945. A bill to amend the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act to provide for trade sanctions against countries involved in illegal trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 1946. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize the United States Trade Representative to take discretionary action if a foreign country is engaging in unreasonable acts, policies, or practices relating to the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 1947. A bill to establish the Trade Agreements Enforcement Trust Fund to take actions to enforce free trade agreements to



which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KUSTER, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 1948. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1949. A bill to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 1950. A bill to abolish certain executive agencies unless Congress disapproves of such abolishment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAPPs:

H.R. 1951. A bill to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing or acid well stimulation treatment in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Region until the Secretary of the Interior prepares an environmental impact statement and conducts a study with respect to such practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPPs (for herself, Mr. FARR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1952. A bill to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. BLUM, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. MULVANEY):

H.R. 1953. A bill to require members of Congress and congressional staff to abide by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with respect to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1954. A bill to align exemptions for general solicitation of investment in commodity pools similar to the exemption provided for general solicitation of securities under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1955. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for nutrient removal technologies to States in the Great Lakes System; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1956. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1957. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1958. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1959. A bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PIN-GREE, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1960. A bill to establish national goals for the reduction and recycling of municipal solid waste, to address the growing problem of marine debris, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations to attain those goals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1961. A bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1962. A bill to establish State infrastructure banks for education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 1963. A bill to provide for the upgrade of the vehicle fleet of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SALMON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. ROTHFUS):

H.R. 1964. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1965. A bill to exempt smaller public companies from requirements relating to the use of Extensible Business Reporting Language for periodic reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 1966. A bill to authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 1967. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to ocean acidification; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1968. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit Federal court jurisdiction and funding over questions concerning the issue of marriage with respect to the Defense of Marriage Act and the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 1969. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1970. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for manufacturing job training expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1971. A bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 1972. A bill to provide certain requirements for the licensing of commercial nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1973. A bill to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to retain and redistribute certain amounts collected as fines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 1974. A bill to expand access to health care services, including sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services, for immigrant women, men, and families by removing legal barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1975. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities Exchange Commission to refund or credit excess payments made to the Commission; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1976. A bill to provide for nuclear weapons abolition and economic conversion in accordance with District of Columbia Initiative Measure Number 37 of 1992, while ensuring environmental restoration and clean-energy conversion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 1977. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. WALZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MURPHY of

Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 1978. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans conservation corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1979. A bill to strengthen the protections from levy by the Internal Revenue Service for taxpayers in economic hardship; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1980. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 219. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1926.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1927.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 9; Article III, Section 1, Clause 1; and Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 1928.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which states "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which empowers Congress to "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 1929.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following.

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests in the preamble of the Constitution providing for the "common defense" and in the powers governing national security in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1930.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States, which states: "The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution on the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1931.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1932.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1933.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress shall have the power to enact appropriate laws protecting the civil rights of all Americans.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 1934.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Medicare program under Title 18 if the Social Security Act.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 1935.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section 2, Clause 1 & the Tenth Amendment.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1936.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 1937.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached language falls within Congress' delegated authority to legislate interstate commerce, found in Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. Further, Congress' authority to authorize the FAA to regulate airspace within the U.S. has been found to be within its authority under the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, clause 1.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER:

H.R. 1940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to, among other things, regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 1941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have power to regulate the Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 1942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power . . . To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 1944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 1945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 1948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 1949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 1950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 1953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 1955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1960.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1961.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1962.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8, Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1963.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 8, Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 1964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1965.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, with specific power to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to regulate commerce among the several states, and with the Indian tribes of the Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 1967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 1968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section 2, Clause 2

"In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9

"To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court . . ."

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 1971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:  
H.R. 1972.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mrs. LOWEY:  
H.R. 1973.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
of New Mexico:  
H.R. 1974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MEEKS:  
H.R. 1975.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:  
H.R. 1976.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clauses 1 and 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PALLONE:  
H.R. 1977.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. POLIS:  
H.R. 1978.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 & Clause 18 of the Constitution, Congress, has the power "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper" for carrying out power including the power "To raise and support Armies"

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:  
H.R. 1979.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. WELCH:  
H.R. 1980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 140: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 169: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 178: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 209: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 210: Mr. GOODLATTE.  
H.R. 282: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 287: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.R. 310: Mr. CRAWFORD.  
H.R. 317: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 353: Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 381: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 393: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 402: Mr. SCHRADER.  
H.R. 424: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 425: Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 430: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 432: Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 450: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 456: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KATKO, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 465: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 467: Mr. PETERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 501: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 524: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 532: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 540: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 546: Mr. POMPEO.  
H.R. 566: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 591: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 592: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 605: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 624: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 662: Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 670: Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 672: Mrs. NOEM.  
H.R. 702: Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 712: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 717: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 721: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 727: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 756: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 771: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 803: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 812: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.  
H.R. 815: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 825: Ms. TITUS, Mr. LATTI, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 836: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 842: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 845: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 846: Mr. KIND, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 868: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 885: Mr. COLE and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 891: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 902: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 907: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 916: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 920: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 921: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 935: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 972: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 980: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 985: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 986: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 994: Ms. BORDALLO.  
H.R. 996: Mrs. MCCOLLUM and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 997: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1062: Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1086: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. BUCSHON.  
H.R. 1087: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 1117: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1128: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1141: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1143: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1147: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1151: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1170: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1178: Mr. PETERS and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 1194: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1202: Mr. PETERSON and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1206: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1211: Mr. CARDENAS and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1215: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 1220: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LEE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1229: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1233: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1234: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1247: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1258: Mr. TAKAI.

H.R. 1271: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1284: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1288: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1309: Mr. VELA and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1310: Mr. DOLD, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1312: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. SIREs, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1365: Mr. BOST and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1383: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1384: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1388: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1392: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1404: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1435: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1443: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1453: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1461: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1477: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1478: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1493: Mr. SIREs.

H.R. 1516: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1528: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1538: Mr. JONES and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1559: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1567: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1568: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1572: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 1594: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1610: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1612: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1613: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. LONG.

- H.R. 1614: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1623: Mr. RUSSELL.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. HARPER and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 1634: Mr. RUSSELL.  
H.R. 1650: Mr. HANNA.  
H.R. 1651: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.  
H.R. 1652: Mr. BENISHEK.  
H.R. 1666: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. HARPER.  
H.R. 1669: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LONG, and Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 1671: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. RUSSELL.  
H.R. 1674: Mr. WELCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 1675: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. SINEMA.  
H.R. 1677: Mr. PETERSON.  
H.R. 1684: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 1700: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 1732: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROSS, and Mrs. ROBY.  
H.R. 1736: Mr. PETERSON.  
H.R. 1737: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LATTA, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GUTHRIE.  
H.R. 1739: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 1752: Mr. YODER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.  
H.R. 1769: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
H.R. 1784: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LONG, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 1786: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 1800: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.  
H.R. 1807: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.  
H.R. 1832: Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 1844: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1869: Mr. BUCK and Mr. TIPTON.  
H.R. 1876: Mr. LONG.  
H.R. 1885: Mr. FORTENBERRY.  
H.R. 1907: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. BOUSTANY.  
H.R. 1925: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.J. Res. 42: Mr. GOSAR.  
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. AMASH, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HARRIS, and Mrs. NOEM.  
H.J. Res. 44: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BYRNE.  
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TROTT, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HENSARLING.  
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SIRES.  
H. Res. 56: Mr. WALZ.  
H. Res. 181: Mr. SALMON.  
H. Res. 188: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H. Res. 194: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. TROTT.  
H. Res. 207: Mr. COSTA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. KATKO.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FROM THE SECOND DISTRICT

## HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, with March Madness behind us, I rise today to congratulate five high school basketball teams from my District that won Louisiana State Championships.

The first team I would like to recognize is the Madison Preparatory Academy Chargers from Baton Rouge, winners of the Class 1A Final this year. I would especially like to acknowledge Mr. Brandon Sampson, a senior guard who was named Most Outstanding Player and capped his high school career with an efficient 19-point game in which he shot 7-for-9 from the field. Mr. Joshua Anderson, a sophomore player added 18 points, four rebounds and three steals.

Next, I would like to congratulate Riverside Academy Rebels from Reserve, LA, who captured their third straight state championship with an 85-60 win in the Class 2A Championship. Mr. Jordan Andrews, named Most Outstanding Player, led Riverside (30-6) with a game-high 19 points. Mr. Herb McGee and Mr. Charvon Julien each added 17 points. Riverside is the first Louisiana boys squad to capture at least three consecutive titles since 2009.

Third are the L.B. Landry-O.P. Walker (Landry-Walker) College and Career Preparatory Charging Buccaneers from New Orleans. They have captured the boys' 4A championship title for the second consecutive season. The Charging Buccaneers also had a pair of players selected for the All-State team, including Mr. Lamar Peters, who was voted the Most Outstanding Player on the 4A boys squad. Mr. Peters averaged 19.7 points per game with 5.0 assists and was joined on the All-State list by teammate Mr. Keytaon Thompson, who scored the game-winning shot as time expired in the state title game.

The Scotlandville Hornets from Baton Rouge have reclaimed the Class 5A Championship title. Mr. Ja'Vonte Smart, a Hornet freshman earned the MVP honors after ending the night with a game-high 18 points and nine rebounds. Mr. Jordan Adebute scored 11 points in the win, including a pair of free throws which ultimately put the game away. With this victory, the Hornets wrapped up their third state title in the past four years.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the Warren Easton Eagles from New Orleans, who captured the Class 4A state championship with a 46-42 victory. In addition to this being the first girls basketball state championship in the school's history, Easton also became the first

public school from Orleans Parish to win a title in girls basketball. Warren Easton was one win away from an undefeated regular season, earning their No. 1 slot in The New Orleans Advocate's season-ending Super 10 rankings. I also would like to acknowledge Miss Kechell Figueroa and Miss Sabrina Banks for their selection onto the Girls All-State team.

## RECOGNIZING MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" BOGAARD ON HIS RETIREMENT

## HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community leader, William "Bill" Bogaard, on his retirement as the Mayor of the City of Pasadena. After nearly four decades in public service including his 16 years as Mayor, Bill Bogaard leaves behind a legacy of respected leadership and dedicated public service.

Bill graduated from Loyola Marymount University and then heeded his first call to public service when he bravely served to protect our country as a U.S. Air Force Captain. He went on to Michigan Law School, and in 1971, Bill and his wife Claire moved to Pasadena, where they began a lovely family with their four children.

From 1978 to 1986, Bill served on the Pasadena City Council, including a rotation into the mayoral position for a two-year term from 1984 to 1986. The City Council changed its charter and in 1999, Bill became the City's first directly-elected Mayor. He served as Mayor for the opening of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line Light rail system and advocated for its expansion east as a Board member of the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority. Bill also had a vision to revitalize neighborhoods surrounding the Gold Line stations, and through the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, he encouraged transit-oriented and affordable housing developments. These initiatives opened access to public transportation for thousands of residents in Pasadena and modernized several neighborhoods throughout the City.

In addition, Bill's efforts successfully kept Pasadena on the nation's map. He helped facilitate a new convention center that has attracted a wide variety of conferences to the City, exposing different industries to Pasadena and the resources of our local communities. He brought improvements such as an updated electrical system and additional aisles and accommodations to the nationally recognized Rose Bowl, which is home to the University of California-Los Angeles football team and the Rose Bowl Game. His work kept this stadium as a viable venue for so many historic games

and events that have brought nationwide attention to the City each year.

In 2012, Bill's exceptional leadership abilities were recognized throughout the state, and he was elected by his fellow local elected officials as President of the League of California Cities. The City of Pasadena and the State of California are grateful to have had such a passionate and engaged public servant. We will continue to honor his legacy of community investment and revitalization, and we are thankful for his many years of strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

## ISAAC HULL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

## HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the Isaac Hull Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Isaac Hull Chapter was organized on July 17, 1915, and will celebrate its centennial anniversary on July 17, 2015. Locally, the Chapter sponsors Good Citizenship Awards, the American History Essay contests, as well as many school, community, and veteran programs.

At this anniversary date, the Isaac Hull Chapter Officers are: Carolyn Baker Stubblefield, Regent; Julie Wood Barnes, Vice-Regent; Sarah Jane McClellan Gaston, Chaplain; Lael Nesmith Snyder, Secretary; Susan Hayes Burgess, Treasurer; Sharen Lawson Harvey, Assistant Treasurer; Carol Simcox Wood, Registrar; and Ada Joyce Quick White, Historian.

I look forward to the continued success of the Isaac Hull Chapter and I extend my best wishes on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

## RECOGNIZING LEXMARK AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY

## HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Earth Day, to recognize the great accomplishments of the largest company headquartered in my District, Lexmark International, in the field of sustainability. Lexmark, one of the world's leaders in creating innovative document management solutions for the public and private sectors, has committed itself from its

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

inception over 20 years ago to being an unsurpassed steward of the environment.

Conserving scarce resources has been the hallmark of Lexmark's approach to business. They have been leaders in driving more corporations toward better sustainability practices. They help organizations find solutions to conserve more and increase efficiency. These efforts include developing document management solutions that create less demand for paper and award-winning programs for the remanufacturing and recycling of used toner cartridges.

For these bold business plans, Lexmark has received a wide range of environmental awards. These honors are an excellent reflection of the deep-seated commitment to environmental stewardship that permeates Lexmark, from the CEO to the salesman on the front lines. Corporate Responsibility Magazine, for example, has ranked Lexmark 35th in its listing of top U.S. corporate performers on a range of indicators including environmental protection and corporate governance.

Kentucky is rightly proud of its environmental heritage. We come by the nickname the "Bluegrass State" quite honestly. It is a land of diverse environments and lush, abundant natural resources. To partner with companies like Lexmark, which do so much to conserve our environment while being a source of employment to thousands of Kentuckians, is a source of great pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to be able to recognize the outstanding civic and environmental record compiled by my friends at Lexmark. I offer my congratulations for your tremendous successes and offer my encouragement to continue to lead in this area.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS FUND

#### HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund and its dedicated service to Michigan veterans and their families.

Founded in 2006, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund was created to support Michigan-based servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve in defense of their nation. The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, an all-volunteer effort, has served the immediate needs of the men and women of the armed forces, by helping injured American vets pay their living expenses, granting assistance to the families of the fallen, and providing other necessities these courageous individuals, and their families, may need.

This organization has been a vital resource for the veteran community throughout the state of Michigan. Since its inception nearly a decade ago, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund has raised over \$4M through annual events and corporate and personal donations. An astounding 95 percent of all proceeds end up going directly to Michigan vet-

erans. For these reasons and many others, I am proud to have been a supporter of the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund since its founding.

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund is just one of many wonderful organizations that assist American veterans across our nation. We will continue to count on the tireless and selfless organizations, such as The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, for years to come, to ensure that when our service members return home they are properly and respectfully cared for.

#### RECOGNIZING ROYAL STUDIOS AS THE RECORDING HOME OF THE BILLBOARD HOT 100 #1 HIT, UP- TOWN FUNK

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royal Studios in Memphis, Tennessee for recording Uptown Funk, which has topped the Billboard Hot 100 for fourteen weeks and counting, marking the single as the longest-leading Billboard Hot 100 of the 2010s. Additionally, Uptown Funk's fourteenth week makes it only the Billboard's eighth single since the chart began in 1958 to hold the top spot for at least as long and places it in a seven-way tie for the second longest #1 hit in the history of the Chart. The only single among this elite group of eight to surpass Uptown Funk has held the #1 spot for sixteen weeks. The single also leads the Hot 100's Digital Songs, Radio Songs and Streaming Songs charts. In a raving endorsement of Uptown Funk's popularity, First Lady Michelle Obama with cast from the show "So You Think You Can Dance" performed a choreographed dance to the song as part of her "Let's Move!" initiative on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and at this year's White House Easter Egg Roll. The collaboration between Uptown Funk writer Mark Ronson, singer Bruno Mars and Royal Studios has swept the music scene in America and abroad, and has given listeners around the world a taste of the soulful sound that is unique to Memphis.

Uptown Funk is an example of born-and-bred Memphis musical talent. Ronson, a Grammy-winning artist and a noted producer for talents such as Adele and the late Amy Winehouse, traveled to Memphis in February 2014 looking to recruit singers for his music project. It was then that he visited Royal Studios and met owner Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell, the son of Memphis music legend and producer, Willie Mitchell, and decided to record at the iconic studio. Ronson enlisted Philip Lawrence and notable Royal Studios familiars Steve Jordan, Willie Weeks, Kevin Parker, Trombone Shorty, Mystikal and Michael Chabon to work on the single. Uptown Funk also features Bruno Mars's band member and Memphian, Kameron Whalum, who is the son of Pastor Kenneth Whalum of Olivet Baptist Church in Memphis and the nephew of Grammy-winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum.

The success of Uptown Funk is the latest chapter in the long and storied history of

Royal Studios, one of the oldest music recording studios in the world. Housed originally in a movie theater built in 1915, Royal Studios was founded in 1957 and became the home of Hi Records and the Hi Rhythm Section. Since that time, numerous acclaimed artists have recorded there, including Willie Mitchell, Al Green, Ann Peebles, Bobby Blue Bland, Elton John, Robert Plant, Snoop Dogg and many others. The studio has also recorded for Hollywood films including Opportunity Knocks, Pulp Fiction, Good Will Hunting, The Book of Eli, Love Jones, Six Feet Under and other films and television shows. Uptown Funk marks Royal Studios' first #1 hit since Al Green's 1972 Let's Stay Together and the first Billboard 100 Hit out of Memphis since the 1976 hit Disco Duck by Rick Dees.

Uptown Funk continues Royal Studios' long tradition of musical excellence and showing the world what Memphis has to offer. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Memphis' Royal Studios as the recording home for the Billboard-chart topping single, Uptown Funk, and the dedicated work of Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, Kameron Whalum, Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell and the entire Royal Studios family in producing a single with such a soulful Memphis sound that has reached listeners worldwide. Many people have noted that Uptown Funk will be one of the hottest hits this summer. If you don't believe them, just watch.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

#### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Job Corps. For five decades, Job Corps has helped millions of disadvantaged youths complete their high school education and transition into successful careers or higher education.

Since the 1960s, Job Corps has brought public agencies and private sector businesses together to help nearly 60,000 of our nation's poor and unemployed young people gain the skills necessary to build successful careers. More than 80 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education or enter the military.

In the 11th District, the Cleveland Job Corps Center has been an integral part of the community for over 40 years. The first Job Corps women's center opened in Cleveland on April 9, 1965. The center's new campus opened in 2007 and now serves nearly 400 students each year, providing them with a safe and secure environment in which to further their education and gain valuable technical career skills.

Congratulations to Job Corps on 50 years of success. Its dedicated employees provide the continuity and quality training our students need to achieve their goals. The value of Job Corps is clear. Graduates are providing critical services for our economy and communities, and it is important to maintain our commitment to this exceptional program. I am excited to



see the impact Job Corps will make in my district and our country in the years to come.

REMEMBERING PAUL TIPPS, OHIO  
LEADER

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Paul Tipps of Ohio who passed away yesterday afternoon.

Paul Tipps was a great leader when political giants dominated Ohio. Paul stepped down as Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party in 1983, and Democrats with his help held the top five statewide offices, both houses of the state legislature, a majority of the state Supreme Court, and both U.S. Senate seats.

Originally from Cincinnati, Paul graduated from the University of Dayton and served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He helped C.J. McLin of Dayton begin his long time career in the state legislature, ran for Congress himself in 1968, and served six years as Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. C.J.'s daughter Rhine McLin remembers that "Paul understood people and he understood politics."

Paul considered C.J. one of his political mentors along with legendary state House Speaker Vern Riffe and U.S. Senator John Glenn. John Glenn remarked that Paul "did great work as a civic activist through so many years" and that he and Annie Glenn had no better friend.

Paul served as Trustee of Wright State University and on the Board of Advisors at Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Few have had as many successes as Paul and the secret to Paul's success was his ability to bring people together. I ask my colleagues to share in the memories of the extraordinary service of Paul Tipps and extend our most sincere condolences to all of Paul's family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFFORD  
BELL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Clifford Bell, my friend and former colleague and a beloved member of the Buffalo community. A public servant, Mr. Bell served for twelve years as a member of the Buffalo Common Council and chaired the Economic Development Committee.

A model citizen, Mr. Bell worked for 50 years in the dry cleaning business and then joined the Small business Development Center for the Buffalo State College. His commitment to local business does not end there, however, as he also personally led a delegation to France for the Mayor of Buffalo where he discussed international trade while representing five local businesses.

Mr. Bell's dedication to the community extends far beyond his political and economic endeavors as he also was an active member of various community groups. Mr. Bell has been a member of The Luther Church of Our Savior for over sixty years where he has held a number of various positions.

Mr. Bell has also chaired the Martin Luther King Celebration for 30 years, delivering incredible performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, and has been the recipient of over one hundred awards including the New York State Governor's Martin Luther King Senior's Award for his advocacy of civil rights and community work.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Clifford Bell. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. Bell's outstanding history of service to the City of Buffalo and the people of the Western New York community.

HONORING RAY HACKETT ON HIS  
RETIREMENT FROM THE NOR-  
WICH BULLETIN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary journalist in eastern Connecticut, Ray Hackett. After 40 years in journalism, the past 27 years at the Norwich Bulletin in Connecticut, Ray is retiring this month from the profession he has loved.

Ray's life journey included completing two tours for the United States Army in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and being awarded the Bronze Star when he was 19. Ray does not talk about his military service often, but his experiences have helped shape his reporting and influenced our region's conscience on the treatment of veterans returning home from war. Ray's account of the first time he visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, accompanied by his daughter, to see the names of his fallen comrades is moving and unforgettable.

Ray's first experience in journalism was spending ten years on radio, including time with Armed Forces Radio and Television. He joined the Norwich Bulletin in 1988, covering the city hall beat. Ray was promoted to serve as City Editor from 1994 to 2000 and moved to the opinion page in 2000, serving as Editorial Page Editor and focusing on politics.

As the influence of his political punditry grew, Ray became increasingly tapped as a moderator for political debates for races up and down the ticket. As a debate moderator, he became known for asking tough, thoughtful questions which gave the voters of eastern Connecticut much needed answers. He also connected candidates directly with the public by broadcasting editorial board meetings with all candidates during election cycles.

Ray's numerous honors include being named the three time GateHouse Media Editorial Writer of the Year in 2009, 2011, and 2013. He won awards in 2008, 2012, and 2013 from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalism for editorial excellence. Ad-

ditionally, Ray was awarded First Place for the Dear Governor project in 2010 from both the New England Newspaper & Press Association and the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

In my view, one of Ray's accomplishments outshines even these honors bestowed by his colleagues—the dedicated push he made to bring U.S. Army Captain and Waterford native Arnold "Arnie" Holm's remains home to Connecticut. Captain Holm was killed in action in Vietnam in 1972, and his body never recovered. Working with Holm's friend Bill Cavalieri and his widow Margarete Holm, Ray kept up the drumbeat in the media to find Holm's remains and return them for proper burial. Decades after their passing, Holm's remains were discovered in 2011 at a helicopter crash site in the central highlands of Vietnam. In a fitting final chapter to this story, my office was notified this week that the headstone marking the grave of Holm and his two comrades was installed at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ray has said that his inspiration as a journalist has always been to "think like a reader" and "never forget, they all don't think like you." This approach has earned Ray access to readers of all stripes in eastern Connecticut and garnered their respect, even if disagreeing with his reporting or his opinions.

When Ray Hackett steps down this month from the Norwich Bulletin, eastern Connecticut will lose an irreplaceable asset—a reporter and editor who embraced the coverage of all 64 towns in the Second Congressional District, the diversity of our urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the politics and policy issues that animate discussions in our diners and at our kitchen tables across our region. Ray leaves a significant journalistic footprint in eastern Connecticut that will not be matched for a long time. Even in an era of a 24 hour news cycle, he represents a journalistic ethos marked by integrity in pursuit of impartial truth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ray Hackett on an illustrious career and wishing him the best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE  
DAY

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 67 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 67, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that

principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSIE WILSON

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues the Honorable ANNA ESHOO and the Honorable MICHAEL HONDA, to honor the life and achievements of a distinguished member of our community, Susanne ("Susie") Wilson. She has been a long-standing leader in the Santa Clara Valley as both a public official and a community advocate. Susie served as a member of the San Jose City Council from 1973–1978. She also served as Vice-Mayor of San Jose from 1976–1978, she was a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for District 1 from 1979–1991; serving as Chairperson in 1982, 1986, and 1990.

Susie also served as Chair of the Valley Transit District Board, and was the first woman to become President of the Association of Bay Area Governments. She was a founding member in 1974 of California Elected Women for Education and Research (CEWEAR), as well as past President and life member. In 1990, she became a member of the Valley Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, and has also served as its President. Susie has been a champion of social justice, and one of her important accomplishments was her success as Chair of the YWCA Villa Nueva Capital Campaign. Villa Nueva is a 63-family residential housing unit for low-income families, which houses transitional and affordable housing, mostly for single mothers and their kids. To honor Susie, the building was named in her honor when it opened in 1993.

As a long-time distinguished volunteer of the YWCA, a scholarship has also been named in her honor, the "Susanne B. Wilson Scholarship Award," which is given each year to a young woman from one of the YWCA programs. For almost 40 years, Susie Wilson has been the driving force behind the YWCA of Silicon Valley. Susie's belief in the YWCA's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism makes her a fearless and tireless advocate to raise support, both morally and financially, for the YWCA. Since 1999 she has been CEO of WKW Mechanical Contractors, Inc. and a sole proprietor of a governmental consulting firm called, Solutions by Wilson, which she started in 1991 after she retired from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Susie Wilson has a superb record of community service as well as service to San Jose

State University. Susie served as a lecturer during the 1980's; and in 1994, she was the first visiting professor for the "Leader in Residence" program at San Jose State University, teaching a senior seminar in the ethical issues of politics.

Susie also served as the Alumni Steering Committee for the Political Science Department, and has been a member of the Spartan Foundation since 1982, and was the Foundation's past President from 2004–2006. She has also lent regular support to the Don Edwards lecture series. Susie was one of the founders and participants of the "Walk for Women of Sparta," the largest fundraiser by women for women athletes, which raised over \$1 million for women athletic scholarships. She has also been active in the Spartan Foundation, a key fundraising organization of San Jose State University, and also served on the executive committee and board of directors. Susie also received the prestigious Tower Award from the university for the 1995–96 academic year.

Susie has also done work for numerous organizations, such as: the United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, and Cambrian Park United Methodist Church, the church she has attended for more than 30 years.

Susie was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus, a multipartisan, multicultural grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political field, designed to achieve equality for all women. Susie is also a member of the American Association of University Women, a leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

It is evident by the many roles that Susie has taken on, that she is a vital member of the Silicon Valley community and an inspiration for women and men alike. Thus, it is our privilege to honor her as a significant person in the 19th Congressional District. We would like to take this occasion to thank Susie for her many gifts and contributions to the community of San Jose.

CONGRATULATING DR. RITA RICE  
MORRIS

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her twelve years of service to Shawnee State University.

Dr. Morris, the longest-serving president in the storied history of Shawnee State University, is leaving behind a distinguished record of invaluable contributions to the institution, the community, and most importantly the students.

During her tenure, Dr. Morris led the university through a period of unprecedented growth in enrollment, academic programming, and student services. Not constrained by the walls of Shawnee State, she oversaw the growth in partnerships and community support in Portsmouth and the region.

Importantly, Dr. Morris touched the lives of young people by improving access to higher education at Shawnee State University. Her twelve-year presidency shepherded in a period of record-breaking growth in both enrollment and degree attainment.

As Dr. Morris departs, Shawnee State University is a pioneering institution in new and innovative programs, including game design and digital simulation.

We are all grateful for Dr. Morris' strong leadership at Shawnee State and in southern Ohio. Again, I congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her presidency, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

THE STRONGER ACT OF 2015

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as trade agreements have evolved to more accurately reflect international commerce, they've become more complex. This complexity limits U.S. ability to simultaneously oversee, implement, and enforce these agreements. For instance, in 2001, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Nearly 15 years later, as outlined in the 2014 Special 301 Report, Chinese laws still call for mandatory intellectual property transfers from U.S. firms to Chinese parties—laws that are inconsistent with their WTO commitments. Similarly in Peru, the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 2009 and contained some of the strongest environmental protection and conservation provisions ever included in a trade pact. Implementation, however, has faced constant efforts to roll back progress.

These two examples do not necessarily demonstrate a lack of commitment to enforcing our trade agreements. They do, however, demonstrate that enforcement resources have not kept pace with the scope and complexity of our trade agreements. As a result, we have not been able to extract the full value of our agreements to the disadvantage of our businesses and workers. Looking ahead, some Trans-Pacific Partnership countries will need significant capacity building and technical assistance if they are to meet their new commercial, environmental, and labor obligations.

The STRONGER (Supplemental Trade Review, Oversight, Noncompliance and General Enforcement Resources) Act of 2015 would create an Enforcement Fund to support trade and development agencies for a narrow set of uses relating to the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements. This fund would follow the precedents of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund, and others that rely on a small portion of related tariff revenue to fund a multi-agency effort.

During the last five fiscal years, the United States has averaged \$442 million in anti-dumping and countervailing duties (AD/CVD) that go to Treasury's General Fund. The Enforcement Fund would receive a small fraction of our annual AD/CVDs—never to exceed \$30

million with a maximum transfer of \$15 million annually—for the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements.

Under the legislation, certain U.S. agencies would be authorized to use Enforcement Fund resources for the enforcement of current and future FTAs, the implementation and enforcement of WTO obligations to which the U.S. is a party, capacity building focused on effective implementation and compliance with FTA commitments (with priority given to environmental and labor commitments), and the monitoring and evaluation of U.S. capacity building efforts to ensure investments are spent wisely. Importantly, none of the funds could be used for negotiating new trade agreements. The STRONGER Act would also establish a set of requirements enabling continuous oversight and improvement in our trade capacity building investments.

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### SAN JACINTO DAY

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history. Yesterday, on April 21, Texans celebrated the 179th anniversary of San Jacinto Day.

On that day in 1836, approximately 900 Texian and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers, after defeats at the Battles of Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting against tyranny and for their homeland. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos and Texians sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the Battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics, it was a struggle between all Texans and the unjust military dictatorship of Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana in Mexico City. Texians and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice.

Texas culture places high honors on heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for a better life for their fellow man, and Texans are known around the world as an honorable people who respond to the call of duty. While our young people are answering today's calls of duty, we should not forget those who have bravely answered that call in the past.

With an understanding of where they came from, future Texans will continue to respond to calls to service, and Texans will continue to be respected and admired around the world.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN HOCHFELD

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Benjamin Hochfield, who tragically passed away on November 24, 2014 at the young age of 43. A passionate family man and public servant, Mr. Hochfield was a prominent member of the Western New York community.

Mr. Hochfield touched many lives of various groups in Western New York. While working for Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the County Attorney's office, he earned the respect and became close with many public officials and employees. He was a prominent figure in Buffalo's music community and an advocate for beautifying the Elmwood Village. His reach to members of the community was many and varied.

Mr. Hochfield had many passions in his life, but his first love was of music. From a young age Mr. Hochfield began studying piano and guitar. His passions led him to attend The Berkley College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where he further developed his craft. When he returned home to Buffalo, he continued his passion and played with several local bands, most notably with "Necktie Tour-niquet."

Mr. Hochfield's passions continued with his endearment for gardening. Influenced by his loving wife Tracey, he spent hours beautifying the garden by her side. Their prized garden was featured during Buffalo's famous Garden Walk of 2014. Mr. Hochfield hand crafted a stone fountain at the center of their garden that helped attract individuals from all over the country to view their garden. Here is an account written for the Buffalo Rising paper by a neighbor of Mr. Hochfield.

When I first purchased my house on Norwood Avenue, almost 20 years ago, people told me that I was nuts. Upon moving in, the first thing that I noticed in the back "yard" of my house was a number of discarded purses (from purse snatchings) and gang graffiti tags.

Over the years my neighborhood has seen a drastic turnaround. It started with Elmwood Avenue rebounding, which in turn made the intertwined residential neighborhoods more desirable. Avenues and streets such as Norwood truly began to shine when home owners started to plant gardens, paint houses, and replace their front porches. Organizations such as Garden Walk contributed to the movement. Slowly but surely a healthy community began to take hold.

RECOGNIZING DR. BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA AS SHE IS INSTALLED AS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FOR HER COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Walker-Griffiea, President of Mott Community College, for her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success.

Dr. Walker-Griffiea is the first female and first African American president in Mott Community College's history. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Walker-Griffiea holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Child Development from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Broadcasting from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Dr. Walker-Griffiea has demonstrated a passion for ensuring all students have access to quality, affordable, and effective learning experiences. As a long-time advocate for collegiate student success, Dr. Walker-Griffiea has served community college students in various capacities for twenty years. Her long history in education includes serving as Vice President of Student Affairs at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Virginia; Dean of Student Development at Houston Community College-Central Campus; and Interim Dean of Health and Environmental Sciences at Spokane Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea for her strong leadership and unyielding commitment to academic success and our community.

HONORING MRS. JENNIFER VIDLER AND THE 2015 WISE HONOREES

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Mrs. Jennifer Vidler, who is a shining example of a committed community advocate and servant. I would also like to recognize honorees Beth Gaddis, Debbie Jacobson, and Linda Pimentel for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Jennifer Vidler has lived in Mesquite most of her life. She is a graduate of North Mesquite

High School and proudly served in the United States Air Force as a Specialist. Afterwards, she studied cosmetology and graduated with a perfect score through the state board of exam. Her salon has been a Chamber of Commerce member for 15 years, and voted best salon several times. Jennifer has been a member and chairwoman for the Board of Adjustments for six years and now she is a Planning and Zoning Commissioner. She has been Vice President and then President of Old Town Mesquite/Community Heart of Mesquite. For the last nine years Jennifer has worked very hard with the fundraising, planning, and implementing of Kid Fish and Pumpkin Fest. For many years Jennifer led the decorations for Christmas on the Square by herself, before a few people came to help. She has worked hard to bring a Farmers Market to Mesquite, and this year will be the 2nd Annual Farmers Market on the Square. Jennifer says, "I truly love Mesquite and think it can only be even better."

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community, state, and country a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Colorado's most respected and valued organizations, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on its 60th anniversary. Through collaborative cooperation, DRCOG speaks and leads with one voice while serving nine counties and 47 municipalities, and it stands as one of the three oldest Councils of Government in the country. DRCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Denver metropolitan region, skillfully serving nearly three million citizens in three broad-based areas: Regional Growth and Development, Transportation & Personal Mobility, and Aging & Disability Resources.

Currently, local governments are represented in a cooperative and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning process for the entire region while incorporating state and federal practices and regulations. The Denver Regional Council's Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) ensures people with mobility challenges have access to the community by increasing, enhancing, sharing, and coordinating regional transportation services and resources with a vision of mobility and access for all.

DRCOG's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) has worked with the Department of

Housing and Urban Development while leveraging the multi-billion dollar FasTracks transit system expansion already in place. The SCI just concluded its collaborative partnership of governmental, public and private-sector organizations to support the planning and implementation of its ideas to foster greater access to more economically diverse, multi-modal communities that will put less strain on our natural resources.

Now in its 40th year as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DRCOG helps people live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities. DRCOG contracts with community-based agencies to provide a broad continuum of services addressing the needs of the region's booming population of older adults and those living with disabilities. In coordination with other stakeholders, the AAA helps ensure that community leaders are aware of the needs of older adults, the benefits of community-based services, and the costs to taxpayers of failing to address needs of seniors in the region.

DRCOG has a long list of accomplishments shaping the region in a way that benefits us all. From helping transition the Valley Highway to what we know today as I-25, including the T-Rex project, to the discussion about where to relocate Stapleton Airport—which we know now as Denver International Airport. DRCOG helped establish the Mile High Compact to help shape growth in the metro area in an intelligent manner and designed mechanisms to protect the region's air quality through the oversight of the Regional Air Quality Council. From funding major highway and transit projects in the region to helping with the formation of RTD, DRCOG has been involved with seemingly every major regional issue and project.

Please join me in commending DRCOG. As their motto says, they make life better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID SANES RODRIGUEZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 19th, marked the anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez. He was a civilian security guard, employed by the U.S. Navy, who died 16 years ago when two errant bombs were dropped from a fighter jet near his observation post on Vieques, Puerto Rico.

His tragic death spurred protests throughout Puerto Rico and the United States, and ultimately led to the halting of bombing on the island where countless shells and chemicals were dropped.

It is unconscionable that the American government could wreak such havoc on such pristine lands for so long. It is unimaginable that it would ignore the pleas of its own citizens for decades as they called for an end to the bombing of their land.

We must ensure that Sanes Rodriguez is not forgotten, and neither is the unnecessary destruction of vast parts of Vieques during the more than 60 years of live-fire bombing practice on the island.

As we also celebrate Earth Day this week, we must acknowledge another grim reality: decades of destructive shelling turned Vieques into one of the most toxic places on the planet. In the 16 years since Sanes Rodriguez was killed, lingering environmental and health concerns due to the bombings are still not being fully addressed.

Tens of thousands of bombs and toxic chemicals were dropped on Vieques during U.S. Navy training exercises. Some of those munitions contained depleted uranium and napalm. Contamination concerns led the Environmental Protection Agency to list the former Vieques training area as a Superfund site—basically designating it as a toxic dump.

I have grilled the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) about the alarming rate of cancer and other serious health conditions experienced by Viequesens as a result of the environmental damage caused by decades of military bombing. Amazingly, the agency has reported that it could not find "credible scientific evidence" to support a link between a generation of military pollutants and Vieques residents' poor health trends.

In March of 2013, I visited Vieques to witness for myself the consequences of decades of shelling and the impact it has had on the island. I met with citizens whose health has been harmed by living near the former bombing range. The people of Vieques live everyday with the legacy of the environmental destruction that was wreaked upon their land.

Sanes Rodriguez's death, while tragic and unnecessary, was not meaningless. It opened the eyes of millions of Americans to the harm being inflicted upon Vieques. Our annual remembrance of his tragic death now serves another noble cause: environmental justice for Vieques.

On this important date for the people of Vieques, and as the world celebrates Earth Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in making sure this beautiful island is restored. I urge my colleagues to join me in addressing the health problems that six decades of bombings have imposed upon the residents who still call Vieques home.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD T. "FITZY" FITZPATRICK OF BOSTON, MA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward T. "Fitzzy" Fitzpatrick, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2222 of Boston, MA, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to the working men and women of this community.

The son of Joseph and Ann Fitzpatrick of Mattapan, Edward was born in Boston and lived in Mattapan. Edward attended St. Margaret's School in Dorchester, MA and graduated from Hyde Park High School. During high school and after graduation, Ed began his career at New England Telephone.

His career at New England Telephone was put on hold while he honorably and bravely served in Vietnam.

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, Ed continued working for New England Telephone and began to gain the respect and admiration of his co-workers while fighting for their rights on the job. His leadership skills were evident and he was instrumental in the achievements of the IBTW and helped form the foundation for the move from the independent IBTW to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the charter of Local 2222. Local 2222 became well-known in the local labor movement and in political circles in Boston's working-class neighborhoods.

Ed held many positions in Local 2222 for many years including shop steward, chief steward, vice president and business agent. He became president of the Local in 1991 and held that position for 24 years until his retirement in March of 2015.

He is well-known for fiercely leading Local 2222 and 60,000 workers through a four month strike in 1989 that was one of the largest and most contentious union/management battles in decades. From the back of a pick-up truck with a loudspeaker, Ed motivated thousands to stand strong on the picket line and to battle for their rights and their families through one of the most successful strikes in U.S. history with his hallmark saying "Hang Tough." The striking workers in 1989 successfully resisted management demands and won health care coverage for all telephone workers in Boston.

Aside from being a fierce union leader, Ed is mostly known for his incredible dedication to those afflicted by drug and alcohol addiction. A legendary figure in Local 2222's "Membership Assistance" program, Ed's personal interventions and time has saved the lives, marriages, and phone company careers of countless workers caught in the grip of substance abuse. He has devoted his own personal time, day and night, to families and individuals struggling with addiction. He believes the most valuable thing you can give to another human being is your time and Fitzy makes the time for anyone in need. He not only works with the members of his union and their families but also spends three nights a week visiting and bringing the message of hope to the incarcerated in three local prisons.

Mr. Speaker, Fitzy is known for his diligent service to others from all walks of life. Ed was a recipient of the Caring Hearts Award from The Gavin Foundation in South Boston. He was also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Correction at the State House for his tireless years of service to incarcerated individuals.

Ed has had the good fortune to be married to his wife, Joanne for 45 years; they are the proud parents of three children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Edward T. "Fitzy" Fitzpatrick's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his country, his community and to the working men and women of the Greater Boston area.

#### RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUT TROOP 6

##### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Boy Scout Troop 6 as they achieve the distinguished Centennial celebration in the storied history of scouting in America. Formed in 1915, Troop 6 is the oldest continuously operating scout troop in the Dan Beard Council, and now marks its 100th year.

Over those 100 years, scouting values have played an important role in our nation's history, contributing to the character development of millions of youth.

Leading boys from the first steps of Tenderfoot through the rank of Eagle Scout, through merit badges, summer camps, and service projects, Troop 6 has instilled character and moral compass in countless young men over its 100 years.

America and Ohio benefit from skills and values that scouting instills in our young men including self-reliance, a duty to God and country, appreciation of the outdoors, and committed citizenship. Our nation could benefit from more people taking the Scout Law to heart.

Troop 6 has shown a dedicated commitment to our community and nation, leading numerous service projects and supporting our military members.

Southwest Ohio is privileged to have such a distinguished scout troop. I look forward to Troop 6's next 100 years as they continue their legacy of service.

#### RECOGNIZING BILL AND DOROTHY BIZZINI

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Dorothy Bizzini as the recipients of the Merced College Foundation's 2015 President's Medallion Award. Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have served their community with distinction, volunteering their time and donating to a wide range of causes and organizations in and around Merced County, California.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini will have been married for 60 years in June and are the proud parents of four successful children. Bill and Dorothy graduated from Gustine High School. Dorothy earned a Registered Nursing Diploma from Sacramento Junior College and a B.A. in Nursing Education from CSU Sacramento. Bill majored in Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Bill and Dorothy were the first in their families to earn college degrees. They have owned and operated the Atwater Veterinary Clinic, providing quality medical care for both large and small animals, thus serving the needs of the area's farmers, ranchers, and community members since 1960.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have contributed their volunteer time by serving on many local,

state, and national professional organizations and boards. Among these organizations are the Merced College Board of Trustees, the UC Merced Foundation, CSU Stanislaus Foundation, Atwater Chamber of Commerce, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, California Veterinary Medical Association, Atwater Methodist Church, Soroptimist Club of Atwater, Castle Air Force Base Community Council and Bloss Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

The Bizzini's have always promoted education throughout their lives. In 2004 the Classroom Building at California State University Stanislaus was renamed Dorothy and Bill Bizzini Hall after a pledge of \$1.35 million. Dorothy is currently on the University of California Merced Foundation's Board of Trustees and Bill served until 2012. Bill and Dorothy went to college on scholarships and they clearly understand how important it is to help others achieve a higher education.

Bill and Dorothy have inspired many others to follow their example of service above self, being active members of Rotary International and have attended 14 Rotary International Conventions. They have made numerous humanitarian trips to foreign countries, providing health services to families and children in Guatemala, Ghana, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Thailand and many other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the lifetime of commitment that Bill and Dorothy have given to the Merced County community. They are richly deserving of all honor and praise associated with the Merced College Foundation's President's Medallion.

#### STRENGTHENING TRADE-RELATED PROTECTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when foreign countries selectively enforce their environmental rules to advantage their own companies, it undercuts U.S. companies and it harms the environment. Our trade negotiators should have the tools they need to adequately enforce environmental commitments.

The problem is proliferating. A survey conducted this year by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found that 57 percent—a multi-point increase from last year—of U.S. companies operating in China believed they were being unfairly targeted compared to their local competition. The U.S. should have the tools to correct such disadvantages. The Green 301 Act would be an important tool in this regard.

The Green 301 Act strengthens Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to strengthen the U.S. Trade Representative's ability to ensure that the law is applied equally, that bad actors are held accountable, and that good actors are not penalized for following the rules. By making sure U.S. companies aren't forced to play by a different and more costly set of rules abroad, we can bolster environmental protections and best practices, as well as U.S. exports. The selective enforcement of environmental laws damages both trade and our environment.

Specifically, the Green 301 Act would allow the U.S. to impose penalties on countries that fail to effectively enforce their environmental laws, that waived or otherwise derogated from their environmental laws, that fail to provide for judicial proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of their environmental laws, that fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of their environmental laws, or that fail to effectively implement environmental commitments they agreed to with the United States.

Additionally, Section 301 enables outside groups to petition USTR to take action. Any outside organization may file a Section 301 request with USTR, which must then consult with the petitioners, and report back within 45 days on whether they will or won't act on the petition and why or why not. The Green 301 Act would ensure this process is expanded to environmental violations.

U.S. trade agreements attempt to limit these unfair double standards. Dozens of countries, however, fall outside our trade commitments. To level the playing field in these countries, and to stop a race to the bottom, Congress included Section 301 in the Trade Act of 1974. This section authorizes the U.S. to take action to remove "any act, policy, or practice of a foreign government that . . . is unjustified, unreasonable, or discriminatory, and that burdens or restricts U.S. commerce." Congress later expanded Section 301 to deal specifically with IP issues, and later amended it to address labor standards. It is time that Congress expand it again to meet environmental challenges.

IN HONOR OF DR. NORMAN C.  
FRANCIS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed educator and outstanding civic leader, Dr. Norman C. Francis. As the nation's longest-serving university president, Dr. Francis will be retiring after 47 remarkable years as president of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. A reception hosted by the Honorable Mary Landrieu and the Honorable Alexis Herman will be held in his honor on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Washington, DC.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Dr. Francis, the son of a barber and a homemaker, first set foot on the campus of Xavier University as a student in 1948 and immediately stood out among his peers as a leader in all areas of academic excellence. Fore-shadowing the legacy he would later build on this very campus, his fellow classmates elected him class president each year of his undergraduate study and student body president his senior year. When he graduated with honors in 1952, Dr. Francis left Xavier knowing that he would return someday.

Later that year, Dr. Francis became the first African American to attend Loyola Law School in New Orleans. After graduating in 1955, he

served our country with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army's Third Armored Division. After his honorable discharge, Dr. Francis worked on special assignment with the U.S. Attorney General to help desegregate federal agencies.

Following his completion of this assignment, Dr. Francis found himself at a crossroads. He had a promising legal career ahead of him yet he yearned to be of service in higher education. Choosing the latter, where he thought his talents could be of greater use, Dr. Francis returned to his alma mater, becoming dean of men in 1957. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became the first African American and first layman to serve as president of Xavier University in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Francis has revolutionized Xavier University in countless ways during his 47-year tenure as president. Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has more than doubled, its endowment has grown eight-fold, and its campus has expanded from only five buildings to sixteen buildings on more than sixty acres.

These changes are also reflected in the young leaders and model graduates that Xavier continues to produce. Xavier University is recognized as the leading producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete medical school and one of the top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients. Xavier ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology and life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy.

Dr. Francis' sphere of influence has not been confined to the campus limits of Xavier University. A nationally recognized figure, Dr. Francis has served in advisory roles to eight U.S. presidents on education and civil rights issues. He has also served on 54 boards and commissions. He has received 42 honorary degrees from other universities and numerous awards and commendations in recognition of his leadership in higher education as well as his selfless service to his community and to our nation. In 2006, then-President George W. Bush honored Dr. Francis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Norman C. Francis for his significant contributions to our nation and for his 47 outstanding years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana. His visionary leadership has helped transform this university for the better to provide students with a fulfilling college experience, a quality education focusing on academic excellence, and the necessary tools with which to live successful and productive lives.

HONORING CHIEF THOMAS LAWS

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Thomas Laws, the Fire Chief of Granite Falls, North Carolina. On May 1,

2015, Chief Laws will retire after thirty-two years of successful, dedicated service.

Chief Laws began his service in Granite Falls in 1982 as a firefighter. Just three years later, he was promoted to Chief. During his tenure, Chief Laws maintained a standard of excellence in firefighting equipment, tactics, and training. He was also instrumental in obtaining several program grants that have made the department what it is today. Thanks in large part to Chief Laws' dedication, the local fire department in Granite Falls consistently handled emergencies in a timely and efficient manner.

The exemplary leadership of Chief Laws is something that all of us can admire and respect. As such, I am proud to honor Fire Chief Thomas Laws for his faithful service to the people of Granite Falls and congratulate him on his retirement.

CELEBRATING ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. GREAT LAKES REGION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 95 years of service by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and to wish them well as they begin their 81st Annual Great Lakes Regional Leadership Conference tomorrow in Rosemont, Illinois.

The conference, led by Great Lakes Regional Director Michelle Porter Norman, will capture the essence of all that Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated embodies . . . to be "A Community Conscious, Action Oriented Organization". Their National Programs, including Z-HOPE, Stork's Nest and Elder Care, provide necessary assistance to members of our communities across the globe, to address societal ills, poverty, and health concerns of the day. It is expected to draw more than 700 members from across seven states—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 at Howard University in Washington, DC, in the belief that the social nature of Sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations. The international organization's more than 100,000 initiated members and affiliates have given millions of volunteer hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Zeta Phi Beta has more than 800 chapters in the United States, Japan, Germany, England, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, the Caribbean and most recently Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

I send a sincere "thank you" to Zeta Phi Beta for your dedication to promoting academic excellence and instilling in your members a lifelong commitment to service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAUNDRA H.  
GLOVER

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sandra H. Glover on the occasion of her retirement from the University of South Carolina. Serving as Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice of the Arnold School of Public Health and Director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD), Dr. Glover has devoted her life to fighting inequity in health status and health care.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said at the 1966 National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." I profoundly agree with that view. While many bemoan the poor health status of many Americans and their lack of access to care, Dr. Glover spent decades working to correct this shocking and inhumane injustice.

In her fight to eliminate health disparities, Dr. Glover has brought to bear a plethora of weapons. She has conducted research, winning millions of dollars in grants and leading efforts to create the Health Disparities Research Network. She has been a prolific author, publishing dozens of articles in academic journals. She has been an educator, working to address the dearth of minority public health professionals and earning the South Carolina Rural Health Association's Excellence in Education Award. She has been a community leader, serving on the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) commissioner's health disparities advisory board and partnering with DHEC's Office of Minority Health on a number of statewide initiatives. In 2010, she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute 21st Century Council, leading the health policy subcommittee.

In all of these endeavors, Dr. Glover has attacked the complicated problem of health disparities from a wide array of angles. Her publications have covered topics as diverse as HIV, mental health, diabetes, asthma, access to care, and health services delivery. IPEHD, under her directorship, has been engaged in research and community activities that address HIV, cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, prostate cancer, obesity, mental health, autoimmune diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, and environmental health. In all of her work, Dr. Glover has focused on identifying and developing partnerships, engaging vulnerable and underserved communities in research, prevention and intervention activities, and training underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Glover's role in organizing the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture Series. She has taken the lead in developing this annual lecture series to bring together academicians, clinicians, and community partners to share research and best practices on promoting health equity. Recognizing the importance of turning knowl-

edge into action, Dr. Glover has ensured that this lecture series include follow-up dialogue sessions to identify community-level action steps to address racial, ethnic, and residence-based disparities in HIV and cancer in South Carolina and across the country. The success and growth of these programs would not have been possible without Dr. Glover's leadership.

With all of these accomplishments, it is no surprise that Dr. Glover has garnered numerous honors and awards over the years. The University of South Carolina honored her with the Outstanding Black Alumni Award in 2004 and the Martin Luther King Faculty Social Justice Award for Exemplary Teaching, Research, and Service in 2010. She has also received national acclaim, winning the National Council of Negro Women's Living the Legacy Award in 2011, the Urban League's 2012 Tower Award for contributions to the betterment of humanity, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's MLK Community Service Award in 2013. We in South Carolina have been fortunate to have such a distinguished figure serving our community for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Glover on her well-deserved retirement. I wish her good health and Godspeed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2015

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2015, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation represents a comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. This legislation is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice of profiling.

This legislation can be traced back to the data collection efforts of the late 1990's that were designed to determine whether racial profiling was a fact rather than an urban legend. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice.

Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have also acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

During our 112th Congress Judiciary Committee hearing on racial profiling, we approached the issue from the perspective of "smart policing" and what makes sense in a time of austerity for protecting public safety. I believe that it became clear during the hearing

that enough agreement exists to allow us to re-open the bipartisan dialogue on racial profiling commenced by President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft.

Despite the fact that the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias—and we value their service highly—the specter of racial profiling has contaminated the relationship between the police and minority communities to such a degree that federal action is justified to begin addressing the issue. While the Department of Justice reissued a series of guidelines in December 2014 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, these measures still do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies.

Further, the guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate the well documented problem of racial, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin profiling. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Recent events in the wake of Ferguson, Missouri demonstrate that racial profiling remains a divisive issue in communities across the nation that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. The deaths of Walter L. Scott—arising from a traffic stop—Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Antonio Zambrano-Montes—all at the hands of police officers—highlight the links between the issues of race and reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct. Ultimately, these men are tragic examples of the risk of being victimized by a perception of criminality simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin. These individuals were denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American.

Decades ago, in the face of shocking violence, the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation made it clear that race should not affect the treatment of an individual American under the law. I believe that thousands of pedestrian and traffic stops of innocent minorities and needless killings or use of excessive force by the police call for a similar federal response. The practice of using race or other characteristics as a proxy for criminality by law enforcement seriously undermines the



progress we have made toward achieving equality under the law. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps Program. With Westover Job Corps Center in Chicopee, Massachusetts within my district, I would like to say a few words on the successes that Job Corps have had over their distinguished history.

The Job Corps Program was created as a collaboration between the public and private sectors to help poor and unemployed young people gain the skills to enter the job market. Job Corps' educational model allows academic and vocational professionals to create self-paced work plans for their students. With their residential campuses, counselors, instructors, and advisors work with their students on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis to develop the life skills, financial literacy, and responsible citizenship that students require for the future. 80 percent of all Job Corps graduates are able to find employment, move onto higher education, or serve their nation in the Armed Forces. Over their 50 year history, more than 3 million jobless and underemployed people have benefitted from the unique opportunity that Job Corps offers.

Mr. Speaker, Job Corps remains a life-changing resource for thousands of at-risk, jobless, and disenfranchised youths around the country. I have personally seen the improvements that have been made to students' lives at Westover Job Corps Center over my tenure in Congress. I wish them continued success as they continue their great work in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITGO CORPUS CHRISTI REFINERY

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery. Since 1935, CITGO has been a dedicated leader to the City of Corpus Christi and to the people of Texas.

Driven by commitment to its core values of integrity, respect, and fairness, CITGO has been a shining steward and model example of the community. As a good corporate neighbor who has provided thousands of jobs and innumerable charitable contributions and volunteer work to the people of Corpus Christi, I am very proud to have CITGO here in the 27th District of Texas.

As a company rightly focused on people and opportunity, I encourage us all to take time today on April 15, 2015 to celebrate eight decades of CITGO's commitment to our community and to wish the Corpus Christi Refinery nothing but the best in the upcoming century.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND JAMES CALVIN HARRIS, SR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the Columbus, Georgia community, the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. After sixty-four remarkable years of serving as Pastor of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Rev. Harris will be retiring this month. A celebration of his well-deserved retirement will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

James Calvin Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia on April 7, 1925 to Elijah and Viola Harris as one of seven children. In 1944, at the age of 18, he began serving our country with courage and distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, Mr. Harris moved to Chicago and worked as a baker and dishwasher but later returned to Georgia to pursue his education. He attended Albany State University and then studied at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.

His first church membership was St. Mathew Baptist Church in Lee County, which was pastored at the time by the late Reverend Allen A. Green. It was by this same pastor that Rev. Harris was licensed to the ministry on July 9, 1939 and ordained as a minister on August 10, 1949.

Early on in his career, he pastored at several churches across Georgia, sharing his passion for the teachings of Christ. Following the path that God set out for him, Rev. Harris eventually came to call Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus his home. When he began preaching at the church, it was a small wooden building with only 100 members. Thanks to his dedication and enthusiasm, Rev. Harris has been able to build the Church's membership to over 1,000 and make several extensive renovations and additions.

Rev. Harris has always been popular with churchgoers because of the energy he brings to his sermons. Known by many as the "singing and preaching" pastor, Rev. Harris even authored and recorded an original song, "God is a Battle Axe." During the Civil Rights Movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often asked him to perform the song to offer encouragement at mass meetings. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, Rev. Harris' spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian

ministry and discipleship, Rev. Harris has worked tirelessly to promote Christian values and put them into action in his community. Throughout his career, Rev. Harris has played a leading role in many religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. He has also been honored with various awards and commendations too numerous to list here.

Rev. Harris has accomplished many things in his life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, Maggie, who met her eternal reward in 2012 after sixty-seven years of marriage; their seven children, one of whom is deceased; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. On a personal note, I have truly been blessed by Rev. Harris' sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. for sixty-four wonderful years of leadership of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, over seventy-five remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church, and to humankind.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS 2015

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, crime victims are not statistics.

They are real people with real stories who have had something bad happen to them.

As a former judge, I used to see victims in my courtroom every day.

Unfortunately, too often victims are left out of the criminal justice process.

They are also many times overlooked and forgotten in the legislative process.

When I came to Congress, victims did not have an advocate group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

That is why Congressman JIM COSTA, a Democrat from California, and I, a Republican from Texas, founded the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Supporting crime victims is a bipartisan issue.

This week is National Crime Victims' Rights week, and the Victims' Rights Caucus will recognize those tenacious groups and individuals whose life work is to support victims.

I was proud to nominate Truckers Against Trafficking for the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness.

Much like the award's namesake, Truckers Against Trafficking has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

Truckers Against Trafficking is a traveling nonprofit group that works to educate and raise awareness for trafficking in the trucking industry.

These truckers know what signs to look for in a trafficking victim and are proactive in their efforts to rescue these victims from their trafficker.

Congressman JIM COSTA (CA-16) recognized community leader Sergeant Jeff Kertson for the Allied Professional Award.

Sergeant Kertson oversees several units for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This includes the domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, sex offender registration, missing persons/runaways units, as well as a predator program and task force.

Sergeant Kertson really goes above and beyond to make victim services a priority to ensure a safer Fresno community.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award honors the legacy of the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the Nation's oldest three victims' assistance organizations.

Ms. Mary Travers Murphy, nominated by Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), has been a champion for domestic violence victims in her community.

Her work as the Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJCEC) raising funds for domestic violence victims has resulted in the opening of two suburban satellite FJCEC centers in Erie County.

Her efforts have strengthened her Erie community.

Another community leader that deserves recognition is Ms. Kerri True-Funk.

She was nominated for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation by Congressman RODNEY DAVIS (IL-13).

Kerri is the Executive Director of Rape Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services (RACES).

Kerri has championed efforts of prevention and education, which makes her the perfect candidate for the Lois Haight Award, working to prevent crime before it happens.

Kerri deserves to be honored for her work with RACES—reducing the occurrence of sexual assault among individuals with disabilities through empowerment education.

Victim advocates are wonderful people.

Many of them I have met over the years are even more special because they have used their personal experience to help others.

That is what the recipient of the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award did.

William Kellibrew, nominated by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (DC), had a traumatic past but he chose to fight back.

He is the founder of the William Kellibrew Foundation (WKF), a community-driven partnership that advocates on breaking the cycles of violence and poverty.

The WKF provides support networks for victims while they rebuild their lives.

People like William are living examples of how survivors can use their experiences to empower others.

The Victims' Rights Caucus is also recognizing Robin Smith, the founder of Video Action.

Video Action produces training instructional videos to educate victim advocates.

Robin reaches a vast audience through her videos which has spread awareness about victims issues to victim advocates.

Every single one of these recipients are warriors fighting to protect innocent victims and prevent further crimes.

We thank them for what they do for not only their communities, but for our nation.

Restoring the lives of victims is not easy work, but it's the Lord's work, saving people one at a time.

And that is just the way it is.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, I was at home in Wisconsin due to an unexpected family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: on roll call no. 162 (H. Con. Res. 25)—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition—Yea.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS JOONDEPH, DUNCAN YOST, GARRETT KRAL, AND MITCHELL MONREAL

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Spring 2015 session of Congress.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their service this spring.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE D'AGOSTINO RODRIGUEZ

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today in my home town of Winter Park, Florida, we will lay to rest a Central Florida community leader and American Patriot, Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez.

It has been my privilege to know Jeanne and her family for more than four decades, and it has been my honor to call her my friend. She was a Republican stalwart, and a successful businesswoman with an untiring record of community service. We shared mutual passions for good government, family and

faith and an appreciation of our Italian heritage.

The Rodriguez and D'Agostino families have been leading restaurateurs in Central Florida, beginning with their restaurant, La Cantina, which they sold and created the renowned Villa Nova restaurant which, over the years, received numerous culinary awards and was a Winter Park landmark.

Jeanne, who was preceded in death by her beloved husband John, and two brothers, was a respected business woman and community activist. In Central Florida politics, Jeanne was the Grand Dame of the Republican Party. She worked tirelessly to build the GOP in its lean beginning years in Florida and served in county and state Republican leadership positions. She was an early champion behind successful campaigns of Republican leaders including United States Senator Paula Hawkins and President Ronald Reagan. Some of Jeanne's many charitable endeavors were highlighted by her support for the Morning Star School and Bishop Grady Villas.

Jeanne is survived by her family who she loved so dearly, including her children: Mark Rodriguez and wife Kim; John Rodriguez and wife Vicki; her sisters, Florence Ross and Anna Belitz Powers; her grandchildren: Jordan, Jared, Jenna, Jillian, Rebecca and Elizabeth and by her great granddaughter Aylin.

Most of all, my friend Jeanne Rodriguez was an American Patriot. She loved our country and her family and was devoted in her Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a great Central Floridian and American. I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeanne's memory as she is laid to rest today in Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Florida.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2015

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, to this day we, as a country, are still working through the devastating effects of the foreclosure crisis. This avoidable tragedy was caused in part by predatory lenders taking advantage of homebuyers who had little or no understanding of the purchases they were making. That is why, in recognition of Financial Literacy Month, I introduced legislation entitled, "the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015." This bill would give first-time homebuyers who complete a Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD-certified housing counseling course a discount on their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points (or 0.25 percent).

For many Americans, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream. Homeownership not only benefits the homeowner's family and surrounding community, it is also linked to improved health and school performance for children. Additionally, FHA provides the gateway to affordable housing for these individuals and families. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the

process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would motivate first-time homebuyers to seek vital pre-purchase housing counseling to alleviate the confusion and fears associated with purchasing real estate. These housing counseling programs help prospective homebuyers understand their financing and down-payment options, evaluate their readiness for a home purchase and navigate what sometimes may be a confusing and difficult process. In fact, studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans.

These programs are so important that just last week, HUD awarded more than \$36 million in housing counseling grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations to help families and individuals with their housing needs and to prevent future foreclosures. Consequently, an additional benefit of housing counseling is a reduction in delinquencies or default by better-informed first-time homebuyers. The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would encourage first-time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that first-time homebuyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. I would like to thank the Members of Congress who signed on as original co-sponsors of this bipartisan bill, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus, and urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by adding their names to the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECONOMIC AND ENERGY CONVERSION ACT OF 2015

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2015, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative passed by D.C. voters in 1993. This version of the bill now requires the United States to immediately begin negotiating an international agreement to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste, and to use nuclear-free energy.

The bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redi-

rected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment, and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. This conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely as countries of the world meet at the United Nations to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the possibility of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back burner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses the largest nuclear weapons arsenal, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish our moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons for urgent domestic needs.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 145–147. Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on Roll Call Votes No. 145 and 146. I would have voted “yea” on 147.

Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 148–153. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call Votes No. 150 and 153. I would have voted “nay” on Roll Call Votes No. 148, 149, 151 and 152.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,967,217,887.84. We've added \$7,525,090,168,974.76 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Com-

mittee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED APRIL 28

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine United States security policy in Europe. SD-G50
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the state of the insurance industry and insurance regulation. SD-538
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard  
To hold hearings to examine the resources and priorities of the U.S. Coast Guard. SR-253
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review. SD-366
- Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine creating a more efficient and level playing field, focusing on audit and appeals issues in Medicare. SD-215
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the future of medical innovation for patients. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management  
To hold hearings to examine the proper role of judicial review in the federal regulatory process. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security  
To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on aviation safety and general aviation. SR-253
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on biometric entry and exit at our ports of entry. SD-342

APRIL 29

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
 Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine opportunities for private investment in public infrastructure.

SD-538

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the King vs. Burwell Supreme Court case and congressional action that can be taken to protect small businesses and their employees.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
 Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

SD-628

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration.

SR-418

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States European Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the National Institutes of Health.

SD-124

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

MAY 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wild-fire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.

SD-366

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 23, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 23, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Reverend Terry Ribble, Grace Bible Church, Dunmore, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence today acknowledging that You alone are God and worthy of all worship.

We declare that You are the Creator and Sustainer of all things and the one who provides the means of forgiveness to all mankind.

We recognize Your sovereign rule over Heaven and Earth and that we, Your created beings, are Your stewards.

Father, we thank You that You allow us to live in a nation where everyone has freedom to worship You according to the dictates of their own hearts.

We pray for wisdom for our elected officials. Give them the ability to discern the times in which we live and to see the consequences of their actions. Guide them in making decisions that will serve our Nation best.

May Your spirit move across our land, bringing a new spiritual awakening.

Father, cause Your face to shine upon our Nation and give us peace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) come forward

and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### WELCOMING REVEREND TERRY RIBBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, as much as I am tempted to tell stories about my brother this morning, I will digress. It is my honor this morning to welcome as our guest chaplain my brother, Pastor Terry Ribble.

It is no surprise to me to find Terry in the full-time ministry. For as long as I can remember, he possessed the heart of a pastor. Terry left home at the age of 18 to go into foreign missions. Years later, he returned to the United States with his wife, Madeline, and has spent his entire life in full-time pastoral service. No one who knows my family is taken aback by his chosen work. Today, Terry is the senior pastor at Grace Bible Church in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. He possesses the acumen, compassion, and intellect uniquely suited for this purpose.

The work that churches like his do in our communities changes and affects the lives of thousands of Americans as they reach out to the less fortunate, the sick, and the hungry, improving the lives of whom they touch. They enrich our communities.

I have watched Terry do all of these things. I am proud of him and of his work, and I thank him for his service today.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am so thrilled we are beginning our

day talking about doing good things for other people. Today, I rise to recognize and to pay tribute to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Tomorrow, April 24, is recognized as Federation Day, and it is the 125th anniversary of the Women's Club Federation. This organization has such an interesting beginning.

Jane Croly, who was a journalist, was denied attendance at a dinner in New York to honor Charles Dickens, and she was denied because of her gender. So she got busy with that, and she organized a women's club convention. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs from around the country came together to form the Federation to focus on helping our communities. They have over 90,000 members, and, last year, they did 100,000 different community service projects with 4.5 million volunteer hours.

They are coming to Tennessee in June for their convention. We look forward to welcoming them and to celebrating doing good for other people.

### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Senate's action yesterday on the passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and I urge the House leadership to bring this legislation up for final passage.

The measures included in this trafficking package will provide survivors of human trafficking the desperately needed resources and services to recover and rebuild their lives and to put traffickers and buyers behind bars.

I am thrilled this package of bills also includes three pieces of legislation I am proud to be leading in the House, including the HERO Act, which trains wounded military veterans to aid law enforcement in investigating child exploitation; the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, which encourages States to allow a woman to terminate the parental rights of a rapist; and my friend Representative RENEE ELLMERS' bill, which I am proud to colead, to train health care providers in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking.

Survivors of child exploitation, rape, and trafficking have waited long enough. They need health, housing, and legal services now. They need legal and

civil protections now. I urge the House to bring the Senate's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act up for a vote without delay.

#### PETE WHEELER AND JAY SHAW

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember two great civil servants from the great State of Georgia who passed away this week: Pete Wheeler, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, and former State representative and transportation board member Jay Shaw.

Mr. Wheeler served in the Army infantry and in the Georgia Army National Guard, retiring as a brigadier general and receiving several awards for his service, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars Silver and Gold Medals of Merit. He was a longtime attorney who used his past military service to advocate on behalf of veterans in Georgia. Mr. Wheeler served as VA commissioner for 61 years. If you couldn't get it done any other way, you just called Pete.

Mr. Shaw began his public service as mayor of Lakeland for 10 years. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives, supporting improvements to the transportation system in Georgia. Mr. Shaw was an active member of the Georgia State Transportation Board and served as its chairman in the past.

These two Georgians did so much for our great State, and I offer my condolences to their families and friends, and I would like to thank them for their service.

#### IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, we will be addressing the issue of cybersecurity, one of the responsibilities of the Homeland Security Department and of the Homeland Security Committee.

In a briefing, many of us had the opportunity to hear a number of challenging and difficult representations regarding the gyrocopter. Let me simply say that the responsibility of this Nation and of this government is to protect its citizens, and I am appalled at what seems to be the inability or the inaction of certain agencies.

I stand today on the floor of the House to say that it is intolerable and unacceptable when tourists and Americans come to their capital. I want them to expect the highest grade of security

for their families, for their peace of mind. The Commander in Chief resides in Washington, D.C. That Commander in Chief has the right to have the highest degree of security.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that we immediately demand a response from the appropriate agencies so that nothing of this kind happens ever again.

#### CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. MASSIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate the students from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

These hard-working students in my district recently won the We the People State-level competition and will represent the State of Kentucky in the national competition this weekend in Washington, D.C.

The We the People program is a project of the Center for Civic Education. It works to further students' knowledge of constitutional history and government, and it gives students a foundation in civics education that will prepare them to be effective future leaders. The program sponsors student debates and discussions of issues, such as the similarities between the United States Congress and the British Parliament, the differences between the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation, and the merits of the anti-Federalist arguments versus those of the Federalists.

I am proud of these students' hard work and dedication. I wish them all the best in their competition this weekend and in all of their future endeavors.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you today, it is with a heavy heart that I think back to the events and to the atrocities that began 100 years ago.

This week, millions of us will gather around the world to mark the centennial of the Armenian genocide. Today, I stand to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who perished from 1915 to 1923.

As a crime against all humanity, the Armenian genocide has left an indelible mark on all of us. Unfortunately, Turkey, the successor to the Ottoman Empire, has never accepted responsibility for these atrocities. Instead, Turkey continues to hide behind the bullying tactics that conceal violations of human rights.

As a world leader and as a country that stands for freedom and justice for

all, we must recognize the events that occurred and work to change the policies that ignore the actions of the Ottoman Empire against the people of Armenia. The continued campaign of denial sets a dangerous precedent that makes future atrocities and genocides more likely. As the greatest force for human dignity in the world, the United States is long overdue to stand with the Armenian people. We cannot continue to play politics with something that is this important.

For me, it is incredibly disappointing that the administration will not follow in the footsteps of many world leaders, most recently those of Germany, Austria, and the Vatican, who have recognized this genocide on its 100th anniversary.

#### CYBERSECURITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during a time when our digital world is so insecure, new policies are needed to help defend against cyber attacks. The attacks against Sony Pictures, Target, and Anthem are just a few of the most recent examples.

According to a report released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, cyber crimes in 2013 cost more than \$100 billion in the United States and, roughly, half a trillion dollars globally.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to resolve these problems by working together to improve our Nation's cyber defenses rather than having President Obama try to solve the problem one executive order at a time, and that is exactly what the House is doing this week. Determined to protect the American people from future cyber attacks, last night, the House passed one bipartisan bill—and it will vote on another today—which seeks to balance security while protecting privacy.

Mr. Speaker, after years of inaction, the White House has indicated it is willing to work with Congress on this issue, signaling that we may finally put the policies in place that are necessary to protect our digital world in the 21st century.

□ 0915

#### NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 1731.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 212 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1731.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to bring to the floor H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, a privacy, prosecutry bill that we desperately need to safeguard our digital networks.

I would like to commend the subcommittee chairman, Mr. RATCLIFFE, for his work on this bill as well as our minority counterparts, including Ranking Member THOMPSON and subcommittee Ranking Member RICHMOND for their joint work on this bill. This has been a noteworthy, bipartisan effort. I would also like to thank House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman DEVIN NUNES and Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF for their input and collaboration. Lastly, I would like to thank Committee on the Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS for their contribution.

Make no mistake, we are in the middle of a silent crisis. At this very moment, our Nation's businesses are being robbed, and sensitive government information is being stolen. We are under siege by a faceless enemy whose tracks are covered in cyberspace.

Sophisticated breaches at companies like Anthem, Target, Neiman Marcus, Home Depot, and JPMorgan have compromised the personal information of millions of private citizens. Nation-states like Iran and North Korea have launched digital bombs to get revenge

at U.S.-based companies, while others like China are stealing intellectual property. We recently witnessed brazen cyber assaults against the White House and the State Department, which put sensitive government information at risk.

In the meantime, our adversaries have been developing the tools to shut down everything from power grids to water systems so they can cripple our economy and weaken our ability to defend the United States.

This bill will allow us to turn the tide against our enemies and ramp up our defenses by allowing for greater cyber threat information sharing. This bill will strengthen the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, or NCCIC. The NCCIC is a primary civilian interface for exchanging cyber threat information, and for good reason. It is not a cyber regulator. It is not looking to prosecute anyone, and it is not military or a spy agency. Its sole purpose, Mr. Chairman, is to prevent and respond to cyber attacks against our public and private networks while aggressively protecting Americans' privacy.

Right now we are in a pre-9/11 moment in cyberspace. In the same way legal barriers and turf wars kept us from connecting the dots before 9/11, the lack of cyber threat information sharing makes us vulnerable to an attack. Companies are afraid to share because they do not feel they have the adequate legal protection to do so.

H.R. 1731 removes those legal barriers and creates a safe harbor, which will encourage companies to voluntarily exchange information about attacks against their networks. This will allow both the government and private sector to spot digital attacks earlier and keep malicious actors outside of our networks and away from information that Americans expect to be defended.

This bill also puts privacy and civil liberties first. It requires that personal information of our citizens be protected before it changes hands—whether it is provided to the government or exchanged between companies—so private citizens do not have their sensitive data exposed.

Significantly, both industry and privacy groups have announced their support for this legislation because they recognize that we need to work together urgently to combat the cyber threat to this country.

Today, we have a dangerously incomplete picture of the online war being waged against us, and it is costing Americans their time, money, and jobs. It is time for us to safeguard our digital frontier. This legislation is a necessary and vital step to do exactly that.

Mr. Chairman, before I reserve the balance of my time, I would like to enter into the RECORD an exchange of

letters between the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. GOODLATTE, and myself, recognizing the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 1731.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing with respect to H.R. 1731, the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 1731 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1731 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 1731.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1731, the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Judiciary will not seek a sequential referral on the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing a sequential referral of this bill at this time, the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Judiciary represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. With that, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.



I rise in support of H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015.

Mr. Chairman, every day U.S. networks face hundreds of millions of cyber hacking attempts and attacks. Many of these attacks target large corporations and negatively impact consumers. They are launched by common hackers as well as nation-states. As the Sony attack last year demonstrated, they have a great potential for harm and put our economy and homeland security at risk.

Last week, it was reported that attacks against SCADA industrial control systems rose 100 percent between 2013 and 2014. Given that SCADA systems are essential to running our power plants, factories, and refineries, this is a very troubling trend.

Just yesterday, we learned about an advanced persistent threat that has targeted high-profile individuals at the White House and State Department since last year. According to an industry expert, this cyber threat—nicknamed CozyDuke—includes malware, information-stealing programs, and antivirus back doors that bear the hallmarks of Russian cyber espionage tools.

Mr. Chairman, cyber terrorists and cyber criminals are constantly innovating. Their success is dependent on their victims not being vigilant and protecting their systems. Cyber terrorists and cyber criminals exploit bad practices, like opening attachments and clicking links from unknown senders. That is why I am pleased that H.R. 1731 includes a provision authored by Representative WATSON COLEMAN to authorize a national cyber public awareness campaign to promote greater cyber hygiene.

Another key element of cybersecurity is, of course, information sharing about cyber threats. We have seen that when companies come forward and share their knowledge about imminent cyber threats, timely actions can be taken to prevent damage to vital IT networks. Thus, cybersecurity is one of those places where the old adage “knowledge is power” applies.

That is why I am pleased H.R. 1731 authorizes private companies to voluntarily share timely cyber threat information and malware with DHS or other impacted companies. Under H.R. 1731, companies may voluntarily choose to share threat information to prevent future attacks to other systems.

I am also pleased that the bill authorizes companies to monitor their own IT networks to identify penetrations and take steps to protect their networks from cyber threats. H.R. 1731 builds on bipartisan legislation enacted last year that authorized the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, commonly referred to as NCCIC.

H.R. 1731 was unanimously approved by the committee last week and represents months of outreach to a diverse array of stakeholders from the private sector and the privacy community. Importantly, H.R. 1731 requires participating companies to make reasonable efforts prior to sharing to scrub the data to remove information that could identify a person when that person is not believed to be related to the threat.

H.R. 1731 also directs DHS to scrub the data it receives and add an additional layer of privacy protection. Additionally, it requires the NCCIC to have strong procedures for protecting privacy, and calls for robust oversight by the Department's chief privacy officer, its chief civil rights and civil liberties officer, and inspector general, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1731, but as the White House observed earlier this week, improvements are needed to ensure that its liability protections are appropriately targeted. In its current form, it would potentially protect companies that are negligent in how they carry out authorized activities under the act.

Mr. Chairman, before reserving the balance of my time, I wish to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) regarding the liability protection provisions of H.R. 1731.

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation for the gentleman's willingness to work with me and the other Democrats on the committee to develop this bipartisan legislation. We have a shared goal of bolstering cybersecurity and improving the quality of information that the private sector receives about timely cyber threats so that they can act to protect their networks and the valuable data stored on them.

Therefore, it is concerning that the liability protection provision appears to undermine this shared goal insofar as it includes language that on its face incentivizes companies to do nothing about actionable cyber information. Specifically, I am speaking of the language on page 36, line 18, that extends liability protections to a company that fails to act on timely threat information provided by DHS or another impacted company.

I would ask the gentleman from Texas to work with me to clarify the language as it moves through the legislative process to underscore that it is not Congress' intent to promote inaction by companies who have timely threat information.

Mr. MCCAUL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his question and would say that I do not

completely share your view of that clause. I assure you that incentivizing companies to do nothing with timely threat information is certainly not the intent of this provision, as the author of this bill.

On the contrary, I believe it is important that we provide companies with legal safe harbors to encourage sharing of cyber threat information and also believe that every company that participates in this information-sharing process, especially small- and medium-sized businesses, cannot be required to act upon every piece of cyber threat information they receive.

As such, I support looking for ways to clarify that point with you, Mr. THOMPSON. I commit to working with you as this bill moves forward to look for ways to refine the language to ensure that it is consistent with our shared policy goal of getting timely information into the hands of businesses so that they can protect their networks and their data.

□ 0930

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, my close ally and colleague on this legislation.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Chairman MCCAUL in crafting the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act. I would also like to thank Ranking Members RICHMOND and THOMPSON for their hard work on this issue; and a special thank you to the Homeland Security staff, who worked incredibly hard to bring this important bill to the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, for years now, the private sector has been on the front lines in trying to guard against potentially devastating cyber attacks.

Just 2 months ago, one of the Nation's largest health insurance providers, Anthem, suffered a devastating cyber attack that compromised the personal information and health records of more than 80 million Americans.

The consequences of that breach hit home for many of those Americans just a week ago, on tax day, when thousands of them tried to file their tax returns, only to see them be rejected because cyber criminals had used their information to file false tax returns.

Mr. Chairman, attacks like these serve as a wake-up call to all Americans and provide clear evidence that our cyber adversaries have the upper hand. The consequences will get even worse if we fail to tackle this issue head on because even greater and more

frightening threats exist, ones that extend to the critical infrastructure that support our very way of life.

I am talking about cyber attacks against the networks which control our bridges, our dams, our power grids, rails, and even our water supply. Attacks on this critical infrastructure have the potential to produce sustained blackouts, halt air traffic, shut off fuel supplies, or, even worse, contaminate the air, food, and water that we need to survive.

These scenarios paint a picture of economic crisis and physical chaos that are, unfortunately, all too real and all too possible right now.

Mr. Chairman, 85 percent of our Nation's critical infrastructure is controlled by the private sector, not by the government, a fact which underscores the reality that America's security, when it comes to defending against cyber attacks, largely depends on the security of our private networks.

The simple truth is that many in the private sector can't defend their networks or our critical infrastructure against these threats.

H.R. 1731 provides a solution for the rapid sharing of important cyber threat information to minimize or, in some cases, prevent the cyber attacks from being successful.

Through the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Communication and Integration Center, or NCCIC, this bill will facilitate the sharing of cyber threat indicators between the private sector entities and between the private sector and the Federal Government.

With carefully crafted liability protections, private entities would finally be able to share cyber threat indicators with their private sector counterparts through the NCCIC without fear of liability.

The sharing of these cyber threat indicators, or, more specifically, the tools, techniques, and tactics used by cyber intruders, will arm those who protect our networks with the valuable information they need to fortify our defenses against future cyber attacks.

Because some have said that prior proposals didn't go far enough in safeguarding personal privacy, this bill addresses those concerns with robust privacy measures that ensure the protection of Americans' personal information and private data.

H.R. 1731 will provide protection only for sharing that is done voluntarily with the Department of Homeland Security's NCCIC, which is a civilian entity. It does not provide for or allow sharing with the NSA or the Department of Defense. In fact, this bill expressly prohibits information from being used for surveillance purposes.

This bill also limits the type of information that can be shared, and it requires the removal of all personally

identifiable information, which is scrubbed out before the cyber threat indicators can be shared.

In short, this bill improves and increases protection for the personal privacy of Americans, which currently remains so vulnerable to malicious attacks from our cyber adversaries.

Mr. Chairman, the status quo isn't working when it comes to defending against cyber threats. The need to better secure Americans' personal information and better protect and safeguard our critical infrastructure is precisely what compels congressional action right now.

I strongly endorse the passage of this vital legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it as well. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his leadership.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be back on the floor today to support the House's second major piece of cybersecurity legislation in less than 24 hours.

As I said yesterday afternoon, it has been a long time coming, for sure. Cybersecurity has been a passion of mine for nearly a decade, and I am absolutely thrilled that, after years of hard work, the House, the Senate, and the President finally are beginning to see eye-to-eye.

The National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act has at its core three basic authorizations. First, it authorizes private entities and the DHS's NCCIC to share, for cybersecurity purposes only, cyber threat indicators that have been stripped of personal information and details. Second, it allows businesses to monitor their networks in search of cybersecurity risks. And third, it authorizes companies to deploy limited defensive measures to protect their systems from malicious actors.

Those three authorizations perfectly describe the information-sharing regime we so desperately need. Under the act, companies would collect information on threats, share it with their peers and with a civilian portal, and then use the indicators they have received to defend themselves.

Data are scrubbed of personal identifiable information before they are shared and after they are received by the NCCIC. Companies are offered limited liability protections for sharing information they gather in accordance with this bill.

This legislation also provides for the deployment of rapid automated sharing protocols—something DHS has been hard at work on with the STIX/TAXII program—and it expands last year's NCCIC authorization.

Mr. Chairman, I do believe that the liability protections contained in this bill may prove overly broad, and I certainly hope that we can address that point as the legislative process continues, particularly, hopefully, when we get to a conference committee on this issue.

Overall, though, it is a fine piece of legislation, and I wholeheartedly congratulate Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Subcommittee Chairman RATCLIFFE, and Ranking Member RICHMOND, as well as the other members of the committee and especially committee staff, for a job well done.

Information-sharing legislation, Mr. Chairman, is not a silver bullet by any means, but it will substantially improve our Nation's cyber defenses and get us to a place where our Nation is much more secure in cyberspace than where we are today.

Protecting critical infrastructure, of course, is among our chief concerns. That will allow for the type of information sharing that will get us to a much more secure place.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I hope that the Senate will quickly follow suit.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), the vice chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank the distinguished chairman for yielding the time.

I think you can see by the comments that have been made thus far that we have a very bipartisan bill and a bipartisan approach. That is, through our committee, in no short measure because of the leadership that Chairman MCCAUL and, quite frankly, our ranking member have exhibited with the vision that they have had, these two gentlemen working together, and both the chair and the ranking member on our Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. RICHMOND as well.

This really has been a tremendous effort, and so important for our country. This particular issue, obviously, is certainly a bipartisan issue.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, because our Constitution makes the first and foremost responsibility of the Federal Government to provide for the common defense. That is actually in the preamble of our Constitution.

In our modern world, those who are seeking harm to our Nation, to our citizens, to our companies, can use many different means, including attacks over the Internet to attack our Nation.

Recent cyber attacks on U.S. companies like Sony, Target, and Home Depot not only harm these companies, Mr. Chairman, but they harm the

American citizens who do business with them, putting their most personal private information at risk.

These threats, as are well known, are coming from nation-states like North Korea, Russia, Iran, China, as well as cyber criminals seeking to steal not only personal information but also intellectual property and sensitive government information.

In today's digital world, we have a duty to defend ourselves against cyber espionage, and the best way to combat these threats is to first recognize the threat and combine private and government resources and intelligence. Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Chairman, I think this bill will help to facilitate greater cooperation and efforts to protect our Nation's digital infrastructure, including power grids and other utilities and other services that everyday Americans rely on each and every day.

By removing barriers, which will allow private companies to voluntarily share their cybersecurity threat information with the Department of Homeland Security and/or other companies, I think we will in a very large way improve earlier detection and mitigation of potential threats.

Additionally, this legislation that we are debating on the floor today ensures that personal identification information is removed prior to sharing information related to cyber threats and that very strong safeguards are in place to protect personal privacy and civil liberties.

Mr. Chairman, I point that out because that was something that was discussed a lot by practically every member of the Homeland Security Committee. We were all very, very united on that issue. And I think that is an important critical component, a point to make, and it is reflected in this legislation.

As Mr. RATCLIFFE mentioned just earlier, 85 percent of America's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector—think about that, 85 percent—which means that cyber threats pose as much of an economic threat to the United States as they do to our security, and we have a constitutional responsibility, as I pointed out in the beginning, to protect ourselves, to protect our Nation, to protect our American citizens from this ever-evolving threat.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would urge that all of my colleagues join me, join all of us on our committee, in voting in favor of this important legislation that will provide an additional line, and a very important line, of defense against cyber attacks.

The CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) assumed the chair.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 178. An act to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my dear friend from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), and I commend him and the distinguished chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for their wonderful work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot wait. America cannot wait for a cyber Pearl Harbor. This issue—cybersecurity—may be the most complex and difficult challenge we confront long term as a nation.

In the wired 21st century, the line between our physical world and cyberspace continues to blur with every aspect of our lives, from social interaction to commerce. Yet the remarkable gains that have accompanied an increasingly digital and connected society also have opened up new, unprecedented vulnerabilities that threaten to undermine this progress and cause great harm to our country's national security, critical infrastructure, and economy.

□ 0945

It is long overdue for Congress to modernize our cyber laws to address those vulnerabilities present in both public and private networks. The bills before us this week are a step in the right direction, and I am glad to support them, but they are a first step.

Information sharing alone does not inoculate or even defend us from cyber attacks. Indeed, in the critical three P's of enhancing cybersecurity—people, policies, and practices—the measures before us make improvements primarily to policy.

I commend the two committees for working in a bipartisan fashion to improve privacy and transparency protections. More is still needed to safeguard the civil liberties of our constituents.

Further, I hope that the broad liability protections provided by these bills will, in fact, be narrowed upon further consultation with the Senate. Cybersecurity must be a shared public-private responsibility, and that includes the expectation and requirement that our partners will, in fact, take reasonable actions.

Moving forward, I hope Congress will build on this effort to address the security of critical infrastructure, the vast majority of which, as has been already pointed out, is owned and operated by the private sector.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CONNOLLY. We also need to strengthen our Nation's cyber workforce, devise effective data breach notification policies, and bring about a wholesale cultural revolution so that society fully understands the critical importance of good cyber hygiene.

The bottom line is that our vulnerability in cyberspace demands that we take decisive action and take it now, but much like the tactics used in effective cybersecurity, we must recognize that enhancing our cyber defenses is an iterative process that requires continuous effort.

I congratulate the staffs and the leadership of the committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), a member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Chairman, over the past 40 years, we have experienced advancements in information technology that literally have transformed business, education, government; it has even transformed our culture.

Information research that only a couple of decades ago would take days, months, maybe even years to accomplish is available, quite literally, at our fingertips and instantaneously.

Other aspects of our lives have also been shaped by this immediate access to information. Shopping, you can go shopping without ever going to a store. You can conduct financial transactions without ever going to a bank. You can even have access to entertainment without ever going to a theater.

These advancements in technology have not only transformed the way we access and store information, but it has also transformed the way we communicate.

No longer is instantaneous voice-to-voice communication only available through a phone call, but people around the world instantly connect with one another with a variety of methods, from email, instant text messaging, even video conferencing, and this can be all down while you are on the move. You don't even have to be chained to a desk or in your business office.

Really, every aspect of our culture has been affected by the advancements in information technology, and, for the most part, our lives have been improved by these advancements.

As an IT professional, with 30-plus years' experience in both the military

and private sector, I know firsthand the benefits of this instant access to endless amounts of information, but, on the other hand, I know all too well the vulnerabilities of these systems.

For the past 20 years, I have assisted businesses and governments to automate their operations and ensure they can access their networks anytime and from anywhere.

However, this global access to information requires a global interconnection of these systems. At almost any time during the day, Americans are connected to this global network through their phones, tablets, health monitors, and car navigation systems. Even home security systems are now connected to the Internet.

We have become dependent on this interconnection and so have the businesses and government entities that provide crucial services that we rely on, but as our dependence on technology has grown, so have our vulnerabilities.

Cyberspace is the new battleground, a battleground for a multitude of adversaries. Foreign nations, international terrorist organizations, and organized crime regularly target our citizens, businesses, and government.

Unlike traditional combat operations, cyber attackers don't require sophisticated weaponry to carry out their warfare. On the cyber battlefield, a single individual with a laptop computer can wreak havoc on business, the economy, even our critical infrastructure.

In the past several months, we have seen an increasing number of cyber attacks on national security systems and private company networks, breaching critical information. Earlier this year, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield's IT system was hacked by a highly sophisticated cyber attacker, obtaining personal employee and consumer data, including names, Social Security numbers, and mailing addresses.

An old adage among IT professionals states: There are two types of computer users, those who have been hacked and those who don't know that they have been hacked.

Today, this is truer than ever before. The incredible advancements made by the IT industry over the past three decades have been predominantly due to the competitive nature of the free market.

Without the overbearing constraints of government bureaucracy, oversight, and regulation, technology entrepreneurs have had the freedom to bring new innovations to the market with little cost and in record amount of time.

It is clear that our greatest advancements in technology have come from the private sector. That is why it is imperative that the government partner with the private sector to combat cyber attacks against our Nation.

The bill being debated in this House today, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, puts in place a framework for voluntary partnership between government and the private sector to share information to protect against and combat against cyber attacks.

Through this voluntary sharing of critical information, businesses and government will voluntarily work together to respond to attacks and to prevent our enemies from corrupting networks, attacking our highly sensitive data systems, and compromising our personal privacy information.

While protecting individual privacy, this legislation also includes liability protections for the sharing of cyber threat information and thereby promotes information sharing that enhances the national cybersecurity posture.

We are no longer solely dealing with groups of hackers and terrorists, but individuals who target large networks, corrupt our database, and get hold of private material.

With today's evolving technology, we must make sure we are affirming individual privacy rights and safeguarding both government and private sector databases from cyberterrorism.

Protecting the civil liberties of the citizens of the United States is a top priority for me, and it should be for this Congress.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCCAUL. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. That is why I do support H.R. 1731, because it provides that framework of cooperation between the government and the private industry, and it provides the protections and liability protections our industries need.

We must have this bill. I do stand in support of it, and I thank you for allowing me this time to speak.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional requests for time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), a member of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have spent almost 9 years, or a little bit over 9 years, as an undercover officer in the CIA. I chased al Qaeda, Taliban. Towards the end of my career, we started spending a lot more time focusing on cyber criminals, Russian organized crime, state sponsors of terror like Iran.

What this bill does is it helps in the protection of our digital infrastructure, both public and private, against this increasing threat.

I had the opportunity to help build a cybersecurity company, and seeing the

threats to our infrastructure is great. This bill, which I rise in support of, is going to create that framework in order for the public and the private sector to work together against these threats.

When I was doing this for a living, you give me enough time, I am going to get in your network. We have to change our mindset and begin with the presumption of breach. How do we stop someone? How do we detect someone getting in our system? How do we corral them? And how do we kick them off? H.R. 1731 is a great start in doing this and making sure that we have the right protections.

We also are helping small- and medium-sized businesses with this bill, making sure that a lot of them have the resources that some larger businesses do and making sure that the Department of Homeland Security is providing as much information to them so that they can keep their company and their customers safe.

I would like to commend everyone on both sides of the aisle that is working to make this bill happen, and I look forward to seeing this get past this House and our colleagues in the Senate.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close if the gentleman from Mississippi is prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As someone involved in this issue for many years, I am not surprised by the overwhelming support that H.R. 1731 has garnered. Today, the House has the opportunity to join with the President and stakeholders from across our critical infrastructure sectors to make our Nation more secure.

By casting a vote in favor of H.R. 1731, you will be putting the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal civilian lead for cyber information sharing, on a path to fully partnering with the private sector to protect the U.S. networks.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are at a pivotal moment today and face a stark reality. The cyber threats to America have gone from bad to severe, and in many ways, we are flying blind.

The current level of cyber threat information sharing won't cut it. In the same way that we failed to stop terrorist attacks in the past, we are not connecting the dots well enough to prevent digital assaults against our Nation's networks.

The information we need to stop destructive breaches is held in silos, rather than being shared, preventing us

from mounting an aggressive defense. In fact, the majority of cyber intrusions go unreported, leaving our networks vulnerable to the same attacks. When sharing does happen, it is often too little and too late.

If we don't pass this legislation to enhance cyber threat information sharing, we will be failing the American people and ceding more ground to our adversaries.

I hope, today, that we have the momentum to reverse the tide and to do what the American people expect of us, pass cybersecurity, privacy legislation to better safeguard our public and private networks. Our inaction would be a permission slip for criminals, hackers, terrorists, and nation-states to continue to steal our data and to do our people harm.

I appreciate the collaboration from Members across the aisle and from other committees in developing this legislation. I would like to specifically commend, again, subcommittee Chairman RATCLIFFE for his work on this bill, as well as our minority counterparts, including Ranking Member THOMPSON and subcommittee Ranking Member RICHMOND for their joint work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1731.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015. I commend Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for crafting a cybersecurity bill that improves upon legislation this body has previously voted on, but ultimately I cannot support it in its current form.

As was the case with yesterday's bill, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act (H.R. 1560), I continue to have concerns about the ambiguous liability provisions in this legislation. Specifically, H.R. 1731 would grant immunity to companies for simply putting forth a "good faith" effort when reporting security threats to the Department of Homeland Security. Like H.R. 1560, companies would receive liability protection even if they fail to act on threat information in a timely manner. I was disappointed that Republicans did not allow a vote on any of the seven amendments offered to improve the liability provisions in this bill.

I strongly believe that we must take steps to protect against these cyber threats while not sacrificing our privacy and civil liberties. It is my hope that many of these murky liability provisions can be resolved in the Senate, but I cannot support this bill as it stands today.

THE CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill, for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-12. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1731

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015".*

## SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.

### (a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (a) of the second section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148; relating to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(5) the term 'cyber threat indicator' means technical information that is necessary to describe or identify—

"(A) a method for probing, monitoring, maintaining, or establishing network awareness of an information system for the purpose of discerning technical vulnerabilities of such information system, if such method is known or reasonably suspected of being associated with a known or suspected cybersecurity risk, including communications that reasonably appear to be transmitted for the purpose of gathering technical information related to a cybersecurity risk;

"(B) a method for defeating a technical or security control of an information system;

"(C) a technical vulnerability, including anomalous technical behavior that may become a vulnerability;

"(D) a method of causing a user with legitimate access to an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system to inadvertently enable the defeat of a technical or operational control;

"(E) a method for unauthorized remote identification of, access to, or use of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system that is known or reasonably suspected of being associated with a known or suspected cybersecurity risk;

"(F) the actual or potential harm caused by a cybersecurity risk, including a description of the information exfiltrated as a result of a particular cybersecurity risk;

"(G) any other attribute of a cybersecurity risk that cannot be used to identify specific persons reasonably believed to be unrelated to such cybersecurity risk, if disclosure of such attribute is not otherwise prohibited by law; or

"(H) any combination of subparagraphs (A) through (G);

"(6) the term 'cybersecurity purpose' means the purpose of protecting an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system from a cybersecurity risk or incident;

"(7)(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'defensive measure' means an action, device, procedure, signature, technique, or other measure applied to an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system that detects, prevents, or mitigates a known or suspected cybersecurity risk or incident, or any attribute of hardware, software, process, or procedure that could enable or facilitate the defeat of a security control;

"(B) such term does not include a measure that destroys, renders unusable, or substantially

harms an information system or data on an information system not belonging to—

"(i) the non-Federal entity, not including a State, local, or tribal government, operating such measure; or

"(ii) another Federal entity or non-Federal entity that is authorized to provide consent and has provided such consent to the non-Federal entity referred to in clause (i);

"(8) the term 'network awareness' means to scan, identify, acquire, monitor, log, or analyze information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system;

"(9)(A) the term 'private entity' means a non-Federal entity that is an individual or private group, organization, proprietorship, partnership, trust, cooperative, corporation, or other commercial or non-profit entity, including an officer, employee, or agent thereof;

"(B) such term includes a component of a State, local, or tribal government performing electric utility services;

"(10) the term 'security control' means the management, operational, and technical controls used to protect against an unauthorized effort to adversely affect the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system; and

"(11) the term 'sharing' means providing, receiving, and disseminating."

(b) *AMENDMENT.*—Subparagraph (B) of subsection (d)(1) of such second section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking "and local" and inserting "local, and tribal";

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by inserting "including information sharing and analysis centers" before the semicolon; and

(B) by striking "and" at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iv) private entities."

## SEC. 3. INFORMATION SHARING STRUCTURE AND PROCESSES.

The second section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148; relating to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "a Federal civilian interface" and inserting "the lead Federal civilian interface"; and

(ii) by striking "cybersecurity risks," and inserting "cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,";

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "cybersecurity risks" and inserting "cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,";

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking "cybersecurity risks" and inserting "cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,";

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking "cybersecurity risks" and inserting "cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,"; and

(ii) by striking "and" at the end;

(E) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) sharing cyber threat indicators and defensive measures,"; and

(F) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs

"(8) engaging with international partners, in consultation with other appropriate agencies, to—

“(A) collaborate on cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents; and

“(B) enhance the security and resilience of global cybersecurity;

“(9) sharing cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and other information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents with Federal and non-Federal entities, including across sectors of critical infrastructure and with State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate;

“(10) promptly notifying the Secretary and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of any significant violations of the policies and procedures specified in subsection (i)(6)(A);

“(11) promptly notifying non-Federal entities that have shared cyber threat indicators or defensive measures that are known or determined to be in error or in contravention of the requirements of this section; and

“(12) participating, as appropriate, in exercises run by the Department’s National Exercise Program.”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (J); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) an entity that collaborates with State and local governments on cybersecurity risks and incidents, and has entered into a voluntary information sharing relationship with the Center;

“(F) a United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team that coordinates information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents, proactively and collaboratively addresses cybersecurity risks and incidents to the United States, collaboratively responds to cybersecurity risks and incidents, provides technical assistance, upon request, to information system owners and operators, and shares cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, analysis, or information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents in a timely manner;

“(G) the Industrial Control System Cyber Emergency Response Team that—

“(i) coordinates with industrial control systems owners and operators;

“(ii) provides training, upon request, to Federal entities and non-Federal entities on industrial control systems cybersecurity;

“(iii) collaboratively addresses cybersecurity risks and incidents to industrial control systems;

“(iv) provides technical assistance, upon request, to Federal entities and non-Federal entities relating to industrial control systems cybersecurity; and

“(v) shares cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, or information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents of industrial control systems in a timely fashion;

“(H) a National Coordinating Center for Communications that coordinates the protection, response, and recovery of emergency communications;

“(I) an entity that coordinates with small and medium-sized businesses; and”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and” before “information”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and” before “information”;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “cybersecurity risks” and inserting “cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(v) in subparagraph (G), by striking “cybersecurity risks” and inserting “cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,”; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) the Center ensures that it shares information relating to cybersecurity risks and incidents with small and medium-sized businesses, as appropriate; and

“(I) the Center designates an agency contact for non-Federal entities.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “cybersecurity risks” and inserting “cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks,”; and

(ii) by inserting “or disclosure” before the semicolon at the end; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including by working with the Chief Privacy Officer appointed under section 222 to ensure that the Center follows the policies and procedures specified in subsection (i)(6)(A)”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(g) RAPID AUTOMATED SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, in coordination with industry and other stakeholders, shall develop capabilities making use of existing information technology industry standards and best practices, as appropriate, that support and rapidly advance the development, adoption, and implementation of automated mechanisms for the timely sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures to and from the Center and with each Federal agency designated as the ‘Sector Specific Agency’ for each critical infrastructure sector in accordance with subsection (h).

“(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a biennial report on the status and progress of the development of the capability described in paragraph (1). Such reports shall be required until such capability is fully implemented.

“(h) SECTOR SPECIFIC AGENCIES.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the relevant critical infrastructure sector and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall recognize the Federal agency designated as of March 25, 2015, as the ‘Sector Specific Agency’ for each critical infrastructure sector designated in the Department’s National Infrastructure Protection Plan. If the designated Sector Specific Agency for a particular critical infrastructure sector is the Department, for purposes of this section, the Secretary is deemed to be the head of such Sector Specific Agency and shall carry out this section. The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of each such Sector Specific Agency, shall—

“(1) support the security and resilience activities of the relevant critical infrastructure sector in accordance with this section;

“(2) provide institutional knowledge, specialized expertise, and technical assistance upon request to the relevant critical infrastructure sector; and

“(3) support the timely sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with the relevant critical infrastructure sector with the Center in accordance with this section.

“(i) VOLUNTARY INFORMATION SHARING PROCEDURES.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center may enter into a voluntary information sharing relationship

with any consenting non-Federal entity for the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures for cybersecurity purposes in accordance with this section. Nothing in this section may be construed to require any non-Federal entity to enter into any such information sharing relationship with the Center or any other entity. The Center may terminate a voluntary information sharing relationship under this subsection if the Center determines that the non-Federal entity with which the Center has entered into such a relationship has, after repeated notice, repeatedly violated the terms of this subsection.

“(B) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary may decline to enter into a voluntary information sharing relationship under this subsection if the Secretary determines that such is appropriate for national security.

“(2) VOLUNTARY INFORMATION SHARING RELATIONSHIPS.—A voluntary information sharing relationship under this subsection may be characterized as an agreement described in this paragraph.

“(A) STANDARD AGREEMENT.—For the use of a non-Federal entity, the Center shall make available a standard agreement, consistent with this section, on the Department’s website.

“(B) NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.—At the request of a non-Federal entity, and if determined appropriate by the Center, the Department shall negotiate a non-standard agreement, consistent with this section.

“(C) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—An agreement between the Center and a non-Federal entity that is entered into before the date of the enactment of this section, or such an agreement that is in effect before such date, shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements of this subsection, notwithstanding any other provision or requirement of this subsection. An agreement under this subsection shall include the relevant privacy protections as in effect under the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement for Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Collaboration, as of December 31, 2014. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require a non-Federal entity to enter into either a standard or negotiated agreement to be in compliance with this subsection.

“(3) INFORMATION SHARING AUTHORIZATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a non-Federal entity may, for cybersecurity purposes, share cyber threat indicators or defensive measures obtained on its own information system, or on an information system of another Federal entity or non-Federal entity, upon written consent of such other Federal entity or non-Federal entity or an authorized representative of such other Federal entity or non-Federal entity in accordance with this section with—

“(i) another non-Federal entity; or

“(ii) the Center, as provided in this section.

“(B) LAWFUL RESTRICTION.—A non-Federal entity receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure from another Federal entity or non-Federal entity shall comply with otherwise lawful restrictions placed on the sharing or use of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure by the sharing Federal entity or non-Federal entity.

“(C) REMOVAL OF INFORMATION UNRELATED TO CYBERSECURITY RISKS OR INCIDENTS.—Federal entities and non-Federal entities shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to remove information that can be used to identify specific persons and is reasonably believed at the time of sharing to be unrelated to a cybersecurity risks or incident and to safeguard information that can be used to identify specific persons from unintended disclosure or unauthorized access or acquisition.



“(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to—

“(i) limit or modify an existing information sharing relationship;

“(ii) prohibit a new information sharing relationship;

“(iii) require a new information sharing relationship between any non-Federal entity and a Federal entity;

“(iv) limit otherwise lawful activity; or

“(v) in any manner impact or modify procedures in existence as of the date of the enactment of this section for reporting known or suspected criminal activity to appropriate law enforcement authorities or for participating voluntarily or under legal requirement in an investigation.

“(E) **COORDINATED VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE.**—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, in coordination with industry and other stakeholders, shall develop, publish, and adhere to policies and procedures for coordinating vulnerability disclosures, to the extent practicable, consistent with international standards in the information technology industry.

“(4) **NETWORK AWARENESS AUTHORIZATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a non-Federal entity, not including a State, local, or tribal government, may, for cybersecurity purposes, conduct network awareness of—

“(i) an information system of such non-Federal entity to protect the rights or property of such non-Federal entity;

“(ii) an information system of another non-Federal entity, upon written consent of such other non-Federal entity for conducting such network awareness to protect the rights or property of such other non-Federal entity;

“(iii) an information system of a Federal entity, upon written consent of an authorized representative of such Federal entity for conducting such network awareness to protect the rights or property of such Federal entity; or

“(iv) information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system described in this subparagraph.

“(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to—

“(i) authorize conducting network awareness of an information system, or the use of any information obtained through such conducting of network awareness, other than as provided in this section; or

“(ii) limit otherwise lawful activity.

“(5) **DEFENSIVE MEASURE AUTHORIZATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a non-Federal entity, not including a State, local, or tribal government, may, for cybersecurity purposes, operate a defensive measure that is applied to—

“(i) an information system of such non-Federal entity to protect the rights or property of such non-Federal entity;

“(ii) an information system of another non-Federal entity upon written consent of such other non-Federal entity for operation of such defensive measure to protect the rights or property of such other non-Federal entity;

“(iii) an information system of a Federal entity upon written consent of an authorized representative of such Federal entity for operation of such defensive measure to protect the rights or property of such Federal entity; or

“(iv) information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system described in this subparagraph.

“(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to—

“(i) authorize the use of a defensive measure other than as provided in this section; or

“(ii) limit otherwise lawful activity.

“(6) **PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.**—

“(A) **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall, in coordination with the Chief Privacy Officer and the Chief Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department, establish and annually review policies and procedures governing the receipt, retention, use, and disclosure of cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents shared with the Center in accordance with this section. Such policies and procedures shall apply only to the Department, consistent with the need to protect information systems from cybersecurity risks and incidents and mitigate cybersecurity risks and incidents in a timely manner, and shall—

“(I) be consistent with the Department's Fair Information Practice Principles developed pursuant to section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’ or the ‘Privacy Act’), and subject to the Secretary's authority under subsection (a)(2) of section 222 of this Act;

“(II) reasonably limit, to the greatest extent practicable, the receipt, retention, use, and disclosure of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures associated with specific persons that is not necessary, for cybersecurity purposes, to protect a network or information system from cybersecurity risks or mitigate cybersecurity risks and incidents in a timely manner;

“(III) minimize any impact on privacy and civil liberties;

“(IV) provide data integrity through the prompt removal and destruction of obsolete or erroneous names and personal information that is unrelated to the cybersecurity risk or incident information shared and retained by the Center in accordance with this section;

“(V) include requirements to safeguard cyber threat indicators and defensive measures retained by the Center, including information that is proprietary or business-sensitive that may be used to identify specific persons from unauthorized access or acquisition;

“(VI) protect the confidentiality of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures associated with specific persons to the greatest extent practicable; and

“(VII) ensure all relevant constitutional, legal, and privacy protections are observed.

“(ii) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Chief Privacy Officer and the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department, in consultation with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (established pursuant to section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee)), shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the policies and procedures governing the sharing of cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents described in clause (i) of subparagraph (A).

“(iii) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND ACCESS.**—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, in consultation with the Chief Privacy Officer and the Chief Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (established pursuant to section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee)), shall ensure there is public notice of, and access to, the policies and procedures governing the sharing of cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and infor-

mation related to cybersecurity risks and incidents.

“(iv) **CONSULTATION.**—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection when establishing policies and procedures to support privacy and civil liberties may consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

“(B) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, on an ongoing basis, shall—

“(i) monitor the implementation of the policies and procedures governing the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures established pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (A);

“(ii) regularly review and update privacy impact assessments, as appropriate, to ensure all relevant constitutional, legal, and privacy protections are being followed;

“(iii) work with the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection to carry out paragraphs (10) and (11) of subsection (c);

“(iv) annually submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains a review of the effectiveness of such policies and procedures to protect privacy and civil liberties; and

“(v) ensure there are appropriate sanctions in place for officers, employees, or agents of the Department who intentionally or willfully conduct activities under this section in an unauthorized manner.

“(C) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.**—The Inspector General of the Department, in consultation with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and the Inspector General of each Federal agency that receives cyber threat indicators or defensive measures shared with the Center under this section, shall, not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this subsection and periodically thereafter submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a review of the use of cybersecurity risk information shared with the Center, including the following:

“(i) A report on the receipt, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures that have been shared with Federal entities under this section.

“(ii) Information on the use by the Center of such information for a purpose other than a cybersecurity purpose.

“(iii) A review of the type of information shared with the Center under this section.

“(iv) A review of the actions taken by the Center based on such information.

“(v) The appropriate metrics that exist to determine the impact, if any, on privacy and civil liberties as a result of the sharing of such information with the Center.

“(vi) A list of other Federal agencies receiving such information.

“(vii) A review of the sharing of such information within the Federal Government to identify inappropriate stove piping of such information.

“(viii) Any recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department for improvements or modifications to information sharing under this section.

“(D) **PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICERS REPORT.**—The Chief Privacy Officer and the Chief Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department, in consultation with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the Inspector General of the Department, and the senior privacy and civil liberties officer of each Federal agency that receives cyber threat indicators and defensive measures shared with the



Center under this section, shall biennially submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the privacy and civil liberties impact of the activities under this paragraph. Each such report shall include any recommendations the Chief Privacy Officer and the Chief Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department consider appropriate to minimize or mitigate the privacy and civil liberties impact of the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures under this section.

“(E) FORM.—Each report required under paragraphs (C) and (D) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(7) USES AND PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—

“(A) NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—A non-Federal entity, not including a State, local, or tribal government, that shares cyber threat indicators or defensive measures through the Center or otherwise under this section—

“(i) may use, retain, or further disclose such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures solely for cybersecurity purposes;

“(ii) shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to remove information that can be used to identify specific persons and is reasonably believed at the time of sharing to be unrelated to a cybersecurity risk or incident, and to safeguard information that can be used to identify specific persons from unintended disclosure or unauthorized access or acquisition;

“(iii) shall comply with appropriate restrictions that a Federal entity or non-Federal entity places on the subsequent disclosure or retention of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures that it discloses to other Federal entities or non-Federal entities;

“(iv) shall be deemed to have voluntarily shared such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures;

“(v) shall implement and utilize a security control to protect against unauthorized access to or acquisition of such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures; and

“(vi) may not use such information to gain an unfair competitive advantage to the detriment of any non-Federal entity.

“(B) FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(i) USES OF INFORMATION.—A Federal entity that receives cyber threat indicators or defensive measures shared through the Center or otherwise under this section from another Federal entity or a non-Federal entity—

“(I) may use, retain, or further disclose such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures solely for cybersecurity purposes;

“(II) shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to remove information that can be used to identify specific persons and is reasonably believed at the time of sharing to be unrelated to a cybersecurity risk or incident, and to safeguard information that can be used to identify specific persons from unintended disclosure or unauthorized access or acquisition;

“(III) shall be deemed to have voluntarily shared such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures;

“(IV) shall implement and utilize a security control to protect against unauthorized access to or acquisition of such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures; and

“(V) may not use such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures to engage in surveillance or other collection activities for the purpose of tracking an individual's personally identifiable information.

“(ii) PROTECTIONS FOR INFORMATION.—The cyber threat indicators and defensive measures referred to in clause (i)—

“(I) are exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and withheld, without discretion, from the public under subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section;

“(II) may not be used by the Federal Government for regulatory purposes;

“(III) may not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege or protection provided by law, including trade secret protection;

“(IV) shall be considered the commercial, financial, and proprietary information of the non-Federal entity referred to in clause (i) when so designated by such non-Federal entity; and

“(V) may not be subject to a rule of any Federal entity or any judicial doctrine regarding *ex parte* communications with a decisionmaking official.

“(C) STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(i) USES OF INFORMATION.—A State, local, or tribal government that receives cyber threat indicators or defensive measures from the Center from a Federal entity or a non-Federal entity—

“(I) may use, retain, or further disclose such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures solely for cybersecurity purposes;

“(II) shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to remove information that can be used to identify specific persons and is reasonably believed at the time of sharing to be unrelated to a cybersecurity risk or incident, and to safeguard information that can be used to identify specific persons from unintended disclosure or unauthorized access or acquisition;

“(III) shall consider such information the commercial, financial, and proprietary information of such Federal entity or non-Federal entity if so designated by such Federal entity or non-Federal entity;

“(IV) shall be deemed to have voluntarily shared such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures; and

“(V) shall implement and utilize a security control to protect against unauthorized access to or acquisition of such cyber threat indicators or defensive measures.

“(ii) PROTECTIONS FOR INFORMATION.—The cyber threat indicators and defensive measures referred to in clause (i)—

“(I) shall be exempt from disclosure under any State, local, or tribal law or regulation that requires public disclosure of information or records by a public or quasi-public entity; and

“(II) may not be used by any State, local, or tribal government to regulate a lawful activity of a non-Federal entity.

“(8) LIABILITY EXEMPTIONS.—

“(A) NETWORK AWARENESS.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, against any non-Federal entity that, for cybersecurity purposes, conducts network awareness under paragraph (4), if such network awareness is conducted in accordance with such paragraph and this section.

“(B) INFORMATION SHARING.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, against any non-Federal entity that, for cybersecurity purposes, shares cyber threat indicators or defensive measures under paragraph (3), or fails to act based on such sharing, if such sharing is conducted in accordance with such paragraph and this section.

“(C) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

“(I) require dismissal of a cause of action against a non-Federal entity that has engaged in willful misconduct in the course of conducting activities authorized by this section; or

“(II) undermine or limit the availability of otherwise applicable common law or statutory defenses.

“(ii) PROOF OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—In any action claiming that subparagraph (A) or (B) does not apply due to willful misconduct described in clause (i), the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evi-

dence the willful misconduct by each non-Federal entity subject to such claim and that such willful misconduct proximately caused injury to the plaintiff.

“(iii) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘willful misconduct’ means an act or omission that is taken—

“(I) intentionally to achieve a wrongful purpose;

“(II) knowingly without legal or factual justification; and

“(III) in disregard of a known or obvious risk that is so great as to make it highly probable that the harm will outweigh the benefit.

“(D) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘non-Federal entity’ as used in this paragraph shall not include a State, local, or tribal government.

“(9) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE AND PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARILY SHARED INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a department or agency of the Federal Government intentionally or willfully violates the restrictions specified in paragraph (3), (6), or (7)(B) on the use and protection of voluntarily shared cyber threat indicators or defensive measures, or any other provision of this section, the Federal Government shall be liable to a person injured by such violation in an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the actual damages sustained by such person as a result of such violation or \$1,000, whichever is greater; and

“(ii) reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court and other litigation costs reasonably occurred in any case under this subsection in which the complainant has substantially prevailed.

“(B) VENUE.—An action to enforce liability under this subsection may be brought in the district court of the United States in—

“(i) the district in which the complainant resides;

“(ii) the district in which the principal place of business of the complainant is located;

“(iii) the district in which the department or agency of the Federal Government that disclosed the information is located; or

“(iv) the District of Columbia.

“(C) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No action shall lie under this subsection unless such action is commenced not later than two years after the date of the violation of any restriction specified in paragraph (3), (6), or (7)(B), or any other provision of this section, that is the basis for such action.

“(D) EXCLUSIVE CAUSE OF ACTION.—A cause of action under this subsection shall be the exclusive means available to a complainant seeking a remedy for a violation of any restriction specified in paragraph (3), (6), or (7)(B) or any other provision of this section.

“(10) ANTI-TRUST EXEMPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), it shall not be considered a violation of any provision of antitrust laws for two or more non-Federal entities to share a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure, or assistance relating to the prevention, investigation, or mitigation of a cybersecurity risk or incident, for cybersecurity purposes under this Act.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only to information that is shared or assistance that is provided in order to assist with—

“(i) facilitating the prevention, investigation, or mitigation of a cybersecurity risk or incident to an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system; or

“(ii) communicating or disclosing a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to help prevent, investigate, or mitigate the effect of a cybersecurity risk or incident to an information

system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transmitting an information system.

“(C) PROHIBITED CONDUCT.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit price-fixing, allocating a market between competitors, monopolizing or attempting to monopolize a market, or exchanges of price or cost information, customer lists, or information regarding future competitive planning.

“(11) CONSTRUCTION AND PREEMPTION.—

“(A) OTHERWISE LAWFUL DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or prohibit otherwise lawful disclosures of communications, records, or other information, including reporting of known or suspected criminal activity or participating voluntarily or under legal requirement in an investigation, by a non-Federal to any other non-Federal entity or Federal entity under this section.

“(B) WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTIONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or limit the disclosure of information protected under section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures of illegality, waste, fraud, abuse, or public health or safety threats), section 7211 of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures to Congress), section 1034 of title 10, United States Code (governing disclosure to Congress by members of the military), section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) (governing disclosure by employees of elements of the intelligence community), or any similar provision of Federal or State law.

“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any requirement under any other provision of law for a non-Federal entity to provide information to a Federal entity.

“(D) PRESERVATION OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

“(i) amend, repeal, or supersede any current or future contractual agreement, terms of service agreement, or other contractual relationship between any non-Federal entities, or between any non-Federal entity and a Federal entity; or

“(ii) abrogate trade secret or intellectual property rights of any non-Federal entity or Federal entity.

“(E) ANTI-TASKING RESTRICTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit a Federal entity to—

“(i) require a non-Federal entity to provide information to a Federal entity;

“(ii) condition the sharing of cyber threat indicators or defensive measures with a non-Federal entity on such non-Federal entity's provision of cyber threat indicators or defensive measures to a Federal entity; or

“(iii) condition the award of any Federal grant, contract, or purchase on the sharing of cyber threat indicators or defensive measures with a Federal entity.

“(F) NO LIABILITY FOR NON-PARTICIPATION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to subject any non-Federal entity to liability for choosing to not engage in the voluntary activities authorized under this section.

“(G) USE AND RETENTION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize, or to modify any existing authority of, a department or agency of the Federal Government to retain or use any information shared under this section for any use other than permitted in this section.

“(H) VOLUNTARY SHARING.—Nothing in this section may be construed to restrict or condition a non-Federal entity from sharing, for cybersecurity purposes, cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, or information related to cybersecurity risks or incidents with any other non-Federal entity, and nothing in this section may be construed as requiring any non-Federal entity

to share cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, or information related to cybersecurity risks or incidents with the Center.

“(I) FEDERAL PREEMPTION.—This section supersedes any statute or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State that restricts or otherwise expressly regulates an activity authorized under this section.

“(j) DIRECT REPORTING.—The Secretary shall develop policies and procedures for direct reporting to the Secretary by the Director of the Center regarding significant cybersecurity risks and incidents.

“(k) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary shall build upon existing mechanisms to promote a national awareness effort to educate the general public on the importance of securing information systems.

“(l) REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and periodically thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the range of efforts underway to bolster cybersecurity collaboration with relevant international partners in accordance with subsection (c)(8).

“(m) OUTREACH.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, shall—

“(1) disseminate to the public information about how to voluntarily share cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with the Center; and

“(2) enhance outreach to critical infrastructure owners and operators for purposes of such sharing.”.

#### SEC. 4. INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 212 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 131) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents and” after “critical infrastructure information”; and

(ii) by striking “related to critical infrastructure” and inserting “related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, critical infrastructure, and”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “disclosing critical infrastructure information” and inserting “disclosing cybersecurity risks, incidents, and critical infrastructure information”; and

(ii) by striking “related to critical infrastructure or” and inserting “related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, critical infrastructure, or” and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “disseminating critical infrastructure information” and inserting “disseminating cybersecurity risks, incidents, and critical infrastructure information”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) CYBERSECURITY RISK; INCIDENT.—The terms ‘cybersecurity risk’ and ‘incident’ have the meanings given such terms in the second section 226 (relating to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center).”.

#### SEC. 5. STREAMLINING OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ORGANIZATION.

(a) CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.—The National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection”. Any reference to the National Protection

and Programs Directorate of the Department in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection of the Department.

(b) SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as follows:

“(H) An Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection.”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(K) A Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity.

“(L) A Deputy Under Secretary for Infrastructure Protection.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES.—The Deputy Under Secretaries referred to in subparagraphs (K) and (L) of paragraph (1) shall be appointed by the President without the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(2) CONTINUATION IN OFFICE.—The individuals who hold the positions referred in subparagraphs (H), (K), and (L) of paragraph (1) of section 103(a) the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended and added by paragraph (1) of this subsection) as of the date of the enactment of this Act may continue to hold such positions.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the feasibility of becoming an operational component, including an analysis of alternatives, and if a determination is rendered that becoming an operational component is the best option for achieving the mission of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, a legislative proposal and implementation plan for becoming such an operational component. Such report shall also include plans to more effectively carry out the cybersecurity mission of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, including expediting information sharing agreements.

#### SEC. 6. CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 149) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “PLAN” and inserting “PLANS”;

(2) by striking “The Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) shall” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) UPDATES TO THE CYBER INCIDENT ANNEX TO THE NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, and in accordance with the National Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan required under subsection (a), shall regularly update, maintain, and exercise the Cyber Incident Annex to the National Response Framework of the Department.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by amending the item relating to section 227 to read as follows:

“Sec. 227. Cyber incident response plans.”.

**SEC. 7. SECURITY AND RESILIENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS; CYBER-SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

**“SEC. 230. SECURITY AND RESILIENCY OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.**

“The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Communications of the Department, shall assess and evaluate consequence, vulnerability, and threat information regarding cyber incidents to public safety communications to help facilitate continuous improvements to the security and resiliency of such communications.

**“SEC. 231. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall develop and implement an ongoing and comprehensive cybersecurity awareness campaign regarding cybersecurity risks and voluntary best practices for mitigating and responding to such risks. Such campaign shall, at a minimum, publish and disseminate, on an ongoing basis, the following:

“(1) Public service announcements targeted at improving awareness among State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, academia, and stakeholders in specific audiences, including the elderly, students, small businesses, members of the Armed Forces, and veterans.

“(2) Vendor and technology-neutral voluntary best practices information.

“(b) *CONSULTATION.*—The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall consult with a wide range of stakeholders in government, industry, academia, and the non-profit community in carrying out this section.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 (relating to cybersecurity recruitment and retention) the following new items:

“Sec. 230. Security and resiliency of public safety communications.

“Sec. 231. Cybersecurity awareness campaign.”.

**SEC. 8. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

(a) *STRATEGIC PLAN; PUBLIC-PRIVATE CONSORTIUMS.*—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 318. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.**

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall submit to Congress a strategic plan to guide the overall direction of Federal physical security and cybersecurity technology research and development efforts for protecting critical infrastructure, including against all threats. Such plan shall be updated and submitted to Congress every two years.

“(b) *CONTENTS OF PLAN.*—The strategic plan, including biennial updates, required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) An identification of critical infrastructure security risks and any associated security technology gaps, that are developed following—

“(A) consultation with stakeholders, including critical infrastructure Sector Coordinating Councils; and

“(B) performance by the Department of a risk and gap analysis that considers information received in such consultations.

“(2) A set of critical infrastructure security technology needs that—

“(A) is prioritized based on the risks and gaps identified under paragraph (1);

“(B) emphasizes research and development of technologies that need to be accelerated due to rapidly evolving threats or rapidly advancing infrastructure technology; and

“(C) includes research, development, and acquisition roadmaps with clearly defined objectives, goals, and measures.

“(3) An identification of laboratories, facilities, modeling, and simulation capabilities that will be required to support the research, development, demonstration, testing, evaluation, and acquisition of the security technologies described in paragraph (2).

“(4) An identification of current and planned programmatic initiatives for fostering the rapid advancement and deployment of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection, including a consideration of opportunities for public-private partnerships, intragovernment collaboration, university centers of excellence, and national laboratory technology transfer.

“(5) A description of progress made with respect to each critical infrastructure security risk, associated security technology gap, and critical infrastructure technology need identified in the preceding strategic plan required under subsection (a).

“(c) *COORDINATION.*—In carrying out this section, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall coordinate with the Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

“(d) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out this section, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall consult with—

“(1) critical infrastructure Sector Coordinating Councils;

“(2) to the extent practicable, subject matter experts on critical infrastructure protection from universities, colleges, national laboratories, and private industry;

“(3) the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies that conduct research and development relating to critical infrastructure protection; and

“(4) State, local, and tribal governments, as appropriate.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new item:

“Sec. 318. Research and development strategy for critical infrastructure protection.”.

**SEC. 9. REPORT ON REDUCING CYBERSECURITY RISKS IN DHS DATA CENTERS.**

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the feasibility of the Department of Homeland Security creating an environment for the reduction in cybersecurity risks in Department data centers, including by increasing compartmentalization between systems, and providing a mix of security controls between such compartments.

**SEC. 10. ASSESSMENT.**

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains an assessment of the implementation by the Secretary of Homeland Security of this Act and the amendments made by this Act and, to the extent practicable,

findings regarding increases in the sharing of cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, and information relating to cybersecurity risks and incidents at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center and throughout the United States.

**SEC. 11. CONSULTATION.**

The Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection shall produce a report on the feasibility of creating a risk-informed prioritization plan should multiple critical infrastructures experience cyber incidents simultaneously.

**SEC. 12. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall review the operations of the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and the Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) to assess the capacity to provide technical assistance to non-Federal entities and to adequately respond to potential increases in requests for technical assistance.

**SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to grant the Secretary of Homeland Security any authority to promulgate regulations or set standards relating to the cybersecurity of non-Federal entities, not including State, local, and tribal governments, that was not in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14. SUNSET.**

Any requirements for reports required by this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 15. PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.**

No funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act. This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for such purposes.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 114–88. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114–88.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2, strike the following:

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (a) of the second section 226

In section 2, insert before subsection (b), the following:

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (a) of the second section 226

In section 2(a), redesignate proposed subparagraphs (A) through (C) as proposed paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively, and move such provisions two ems to the left.

Page 3, line 23, insert “, or the purpose of identifying the source of a cybersecurity risk or incident” before the semicolon at the end.

Page 5, beginning line 6, strike “electric utility services” and insert “utility services or an entity performing utility services”.

Page 5, line 15, insert “(including all conjugations thereof)” before “means”.

Page 5, line 16, insert “(including all conjugations of each of such terms)” before the first period.

Page 6, beginning line 2, strike “striking the period at the end and inserting ‘; and’” and insert “inserting ‘and’ after the semicolon at the end”.

Page 6, line 6, strike the first period and insert a semicolon.

Page 7, line 20, insert a colon after “paragraphs”.

Page 8, line 23, strike “(d)” and insert “(d)(1)”.

Page 11, line 6, insert “the first place it appears” before the semicolon.

Page 14, line 25, insert “, at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection,” after “subsection”.

Page 15, line 8, insert “, at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection,” after “section”.

Page 15, line 21, insert “at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection,” after “Center”.

Page 17, line 20, insert “or exclude” after “remove”.

Page 17, line 23, strike “risks” and insert “risk”.

Page 23, line 23, insert “, or,” before “that”.

Page 29, line 25, strike “paragraphs” and insert “subparagraphs”.

Page 30, line 15, insert “or exclude” after “remove”.

Page 32, line 4, insert “or exclude” after “remove”.

Page 33, line 2, insert “, except for purposes authorized in this section” before the period at the end.

Page 34, line 16, insert “or exclude” after “remove”.

Page 36, line 18, insert “in good faith” before “fails”.

Page 39, beginning line 19, strike “of the violation of any restriction specified in paragraph (3), (6), or 7(B), or any other provision of this section, that is the basis for such action” and insert “on which the cause of action arises”.

Page 41, strike lines 5 through 11.

Page 44, line 19, strike “(I)” and insert “(J)”.

Page 44, beginning line 19, insert the following:

“(I) PROHIBITED CONDUCT.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit price-fixing, allocating a market between competitors, monopolizing or attempting to monopolize a market, or exchanges of price or cost information, customer lists, or information regarding future competitive planning.”

Page 46, line 7, insert “and” before “information”.

Page 48, lines 9 through 10, move the proposed subparagraph (H) two ems to the left.

Page 48, lines 13 through 16, move the proposed subparagraphs (K) and (L) two ems to the left.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The manager’s amendment to H.R. 1731 further clarifies the intent of several important provisions of the bill. These modifications were made in consultation with privacy groups, industry leaders, and both the House Intelligence Committee and House Judiciary Committee.

Among the more notable changes made are: the expansion of protections for personally identifiable information to include the “exclusion” of information and not just the “removal” of information, a modification to clarify that the use of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures is limited to the purposes authorized in the bill only, and clarifying language to say that identifying the origin of a cybersecurity threat is a valid “cybersecurity purpose.”

Each of these changes, along with the others made in the manager’s amendment, strengthen the bill and further support the committee’s mission to help protect America’s networks and systems from cyber attacks while, at the same time, ensuring that an individual’s private information enjoys robust protection as well.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, the McCaul amendment makes several technical and clarifying changes to H.R. 1731 to reflect feedback from committee Democrats, Department of Homeland Security, and stakeholders.

Last week during committee consideration, the gentleman from Louisiana, Representative RICHMOND, offered an amendment to refine the 2-year statute of limitations on citizen suits against the Federal Government for privacy violations. The underlying bill requires the clock to toll from the date when the government violated the citizen’s privacy. The likelihood that a citizen will know the exact date when the personal information was mishandled is pretty remote. As such, Democrats argue that the provision was tantamount to giving the Federal Government a free pass to violate the privacy protections under this act.

I am pleased to see that the gentleman from Texas, Chairman McCAUL, has listened to Democrats’ concerns and has the amendment adjust the language, though it could use further refinement.

I am also pleased that the amendment clarifies that all public utilities—

not just electric utilities—are covered under this bill.

The changes to the underlying bill that this amendment would make are in line with our shared goals of bolstering cybersecurity and improving the quality of information that the private sector receives about timely cyber threats. Accordingly, I support the McCaul amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. RATCLIFFE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) to offer amendment No. 2.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 12, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent subparagraphs accordingly):

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) the term ‘incident’ means an occurrence that actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system, or actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, an information system.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of amendment No. 2. This is a bipartisan amendment that will help clarify language in both the Homeland Security Act and this bill.

This amendment narrows the definition of the word “incident” to ensure that a cybersecurity incident is limited to actions taken against an information system or information stored on that system. This amendment, Mr. Chairman, ensures that information shared with the NCCIC or other private entities is limited to threats and actions against information systems and information stored on that system.

Mr. McCAUL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support this bipartisan language that will help clarify language in both the Homeland Security Act and this bill by narrowing the definition of the word “incident” to ensure that a cybersecurity incident is limited to actions taken against an information system or information stored on that system.

This amendment ensures that information shared with the NCCIC or other

private entities is limited to threats to and actions against information systems and information stored on that system.

I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for being a leader on this issue and for calling this loophole, if you will, to the attention of the committee to make this a stronger bill on this floor.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment to make an important change to a definition in the act and the law.

A strength of this bill acknowledged by some in the privacy community are the limitations that the bill places on the authorizations for sharing and network monitoring. These activities can only be carried out for a "cybersecurity purpose." Among other things, this limitation is intended to ensure that information is not shared for surveillance or law enforcement purposes and the authorization for network monitoring is not exploited by an overzealous employer who wants to track his employees' every move on the Internet.

However, because of the broadness of a term within the definition of "cybersecurity purpose," it came to light that the language could be interpreted far more expansively than intended.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE), who is now offering the amendment, for tightening up the definition of "incident" in this bill and the underlying law.

We use our smartphones, tablets, and computers for all manner of things, from setting up doctor appointments to buying groceries or ordering books. It is important that, even as we seek to bolster cybersecurity, we do not lose sight of the need to protect the privacy interest of ordinary Americans. That is why I support the Ratcliffe amendment. It will ensure that, in practice, the activities undertaken in this bill are limited to protecting networks and the data on them.

I urge an "aye" vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 2(a)(1), redesignate subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

In section 2(a)(1), insert before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1)(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'cybersecurity risk' means threats to and vulnerabilities of information or information systems and any related consequences caused by or resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, degradation, disruption, modification, or destruction of such information or information systems, including such related consequences caused by an act of terrorism;

"(B) such term does not include any action that solely involves a violation of a consumer term of service or a consumer licensing agreement;".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I am offering makes a fine bill even better. It clarifies that the definition of "cybersecurity risk"—and, by extension, the definition of "cybersecurity purpose"—does not apply to actions that solely involve the violation of consumer terms of service or consumer licensing agreements.

This is a small but important change that will protect Americans' privacy and ensure that white hat security researchers are not inadvertently monitored. The cyber threat data that will help turn the tide against malicious actors are security vulnerabilities, attack vectors, and indicators of compromise. What will not help is knowing that a consumer has violated a Byzantine terms of service agreement or that a researcher is testing software for exploitable bugs that he or she will then share with the security community.

While not every terms of service violation is well-meaning or born of ignorance, there is no doubt in my mind that the existing body of contract law is more than capable of facilitating dispute resolution in these cases.

The exclusion my amendment proposes is not new to this floor. Both the 2012 and the 2013 versions of CISPA, which I worked on very closely while a member of the House Intelligence Committee, contained similar exclusions, and the Protecting Cyber Networks Act that passed the House yesterday also includes this language. The amendment also makes clear that the exclusion applies only for actions that solely violate terms of service. An action that disrupted an information system in addition to being a violation of terms of service would still constitute a cybersecurity risk.

Trust is the fundamental element of any information-sharing regime. The

bill that we are considering is designed to build that trust by limiting the use of information shared to cybersecurity purposes and ensuring that indicators are scrubbed of any personal information before sharing. My amendment strengthens that trust by making it clear that our focus is on the many real cyber threats out there, not on consumers and researchers.

I would like to again express my deep thanks to the chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his steadfast dedication on the issue of cybersecurity, and I would like to particularly thank his staff for working with us on this amendment.

The chairman and the Democratic ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, have done this body proud, and I certainly urge the adoption of my amendment and the underlying bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, which would clarify that the term "cybersecurity risk" does not apply to actions solely involving violations of consumer terms of service or consumer licensing agreements.

This amendment will protect consumers from having information shared with the government due to a minor or unwitting violation of the terms of service, such as a violation of one's Apple iTunes agreement, which my teenage daughters would appreciate.

This amendment and this bill are meant to enhance the sharing of cybersecurity information within the government and the public. In order to promote voluntary sharing, the public needs to feel confident that the sole act of violating a terms of service or licensing agreement won't be shared with the NCCIC and that this bill is not a tool to enforce violations regarding terms of service or licensing agreements. These violations have robust legal remedies in place and should be handled through those channels.

I think this strengthens the bill, and I appreciate the gentleman's amendment to do so. I support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the chairman for his kind words of support.

As many in this Chamber know, Chairman MCCAUL and I have a long history on the issue of cybersecurity, from our time as co-chairs of the Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency to our current roles as the cofounders and co-chairs of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, along

with a variety of other collaborations that he and I have engaged in.

□ 1015

Mr. McCAUL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCAUL. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would just like to highlight for all my colleagues the great work that we do in the Cybersecurity Caucus with my good friend and colleague from Rhode Island. The briefings we host every few weeks bring some of the brightest minds in both government and the private sector to the Hill to educate Members and staff on this national security issue.

When we first started the caucus in 2008, cyber was a topic very few Members knew anything about. It wasn't really cool to know about cybersecurity. We have made great progress, I believe, the gentleman and I, since that time in raising the level of debate, engagement, awareness, and education with the Members on this critical subject.

I hope that the Members and the staff will continue to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by our caucus as our lives become even more interconnected in cyberspace. I think this issue has never been more relevant and more of a threat, quite frankly, than it is today.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the chairman.

I am fond of saying that cybersecurity is not a problem to be solved but a challenge to be managed. I thank the chairman for his collaboration and his leadership on this issue, along with Ranking Member THOMPSON. I certainly look forward to the caucus' continuing contributions to the discussion.

Ms. LOFGREN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just like to thank him for his amendment. It prevents this bill from becoming like the CFAA, which treats noncriminal activity as something wrong. This and the Katko-Lofgren amendment that preceded it narrow the bill, and both deserve support. I thank the gentleman for yielding and his amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentleman for her comments and for her support.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 10, line 11, strike "and" at the end.

Page 10, line 16, insert "and" after the semicolon.

Page 10, beginning line 17, insert the following:

"(vi) remains current on industrial control system innovation; industry adoption of new technologies, and industry best practices;"

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me express my appreciation to the chairman and ranking member of the full committee. Again, they have shown the kind of leadership that the Nation needs on dealing with homeland security. My particular appreciation to the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, as they have worked together and presented legislation that provided a very vigorous debate in the subcommittee and the full committee.

We believe that we are making enormous leaps and bounds. We are not where we need to be, but we are making leaps and bounds on the whole question of cybersecurity.

Over the last couple of years, Mr. Chairman, even someone just reaching kindergarten understands hacking, understands the collapse that we have seen in the variety of major retail entities and banking entities, and they recognize that we have a new lingo but a new problem.

Frankly, almost maybe 10 years ago, or maybe somewhere around 7 years ago, as the infrastructure of the United States was under transportation security, we made the note that 85 percent of the Nation's cyber is in the private sector. This legislation is a real approach. The National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015 clearly puts the Department of Homeland Security where it needs to be and provides the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center as the anchor of the information coming into the Federal Government and the vetting entity where Americans can feel that their data can be protected and our civil liberties are protected.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment deals with the industrial control systems. All of us know them. I have been to water systems and seen the impact that a cyber attack could have; the

electric grid, all of these are in the eye of the storm, and they are in private hands. Attacks against industrial control systems doubled last year, according to a new report from Dell.

"We have over a million firewalls sending data to us on a minute-by-minute basis," said John Gordineer, director of product marketing for network security at Dell.

Gordineer said:

We anonymize the data and see interesting trends. In particular, attacks specifically targeting SCADA industrial control systems rose 100 percent in 2014 compared to the previous year—2014.

Countries most affected were Finland, the U.K., and, yes, the United States of America. The most common attack vector against these systems were buffer overflow attacks.

The underlying premise of my amendment, the public benefit of this amendment, is that taxpayer dollars provided to ensure cybersecurity of public and private computer networks will focus on real-world applications that reflect how businesses and industries function.

So I thank both my colleagues for it. This amendment, in particular, will be an important addition to the legislation, which I believe can be supported by every Member. The amendment states that the Department of Homeland Security, in carrying out the functions authorized under this bill, remain current on industrial control system innovation, industry adoption of new technologies, and industry best practices.

Industrial control systems are rarely thought of as long as they work as designed. Industrial control systems are used to deliver utility services to homes and businesses, add precision and speed to manufacturing, and process our foods into finished products. Industrial control systems are responsible for the lights that brighten our cities; for the clean drinking water, which I indicated many of us visited these systems; of the sewage; of automobiles that travel our highways; and the rows upon rows of foods that fill our shelves at grocery stores.

We only need to look recently at a contamination of ice cream across the Nation to know that industrial control systems are extremely important. They are also used in large-scale manufacturing. A day does not pass in this country when citizens' lives are not impacted.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am asking my colleagues to recognize that we are in control, but the industrial control systems may, in fact, control our daily lives. My amendment is asking that the Department of Homeland Security, in carrying out its function authorized under this bill, remain current on industrial control system innovation, industry adoption of new technologies, and industry best practices.



I ask my colleagues, as I ask to put my entire statement into the RECORD—it lists a whole litany of the private sector infrastructure dealing with industrial control. I am hoping that my amendment will be passed in order to ensure that all aspects of our cyber world are protected for the American people.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Thompson for their bipartisanship in bringing H.R. 1731, the “National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015” before the House for consideration.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am dedicated to protecting our nation from threats posed by terrorists or others who would wish to do our Nation harm.

This is the first of 3 Jackson Lee amendments that will be considered for H.R. 1731, the “National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015.”

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 4 is simple and will be an important addition to the legislation, which I believe can be supported by every Member of the House.

The Jackson Lee amendment states that the Department of Homeland Security, in carrying out the functions authorized under this bill, will remain current on industrial control system innovation, industry adoption of new technologies, and industry best practices.

Industrial control systems are rarely thought of as long as they work as designed.

Industrial control systems are used to: deliver utility services to homes and businesses; add precision and speed to manufacturing; and process raw foods into finished products.

Industrial control systems are responsible for the lights that brighten our cities at night; the clean drinking water that flows from faucets in our homes; automobiles that travel our highways; and the rows upon rows of foods that fill the shelves of grocery stores.

Industrial control systems are also used in large-scale manufacturing of home appliances, medicines, and products large and small that are found in our homes and offices.

A day does not pass in this country when citizens' lives are not touched by the output of industrial control systems.

The critical importance electricity; water, natural gas, and other utility services are all provided by industrial control systems.

Industrial control systems help keep the cost of everyday consumer products low, and they are essential to meeting consumer demand for goods and services.

Industrial control systems undergo constant improvements as owners and operators work to address vulnerabilities and improve efficiency.

Innovation is occurring rapidly in industrial control systems.

All industrial control systems have one thing in common—they require computer software, firmware, and hardware.

In its wisdom, the Committee on Homeland Security incorporated industrial control systems in its cybersecurity legislation, because industrial control systems are vulnerable to computer errors, accidents, and cybersecurity threats.

Coupled with the cybersecurity challenges of industrial control systems is the rapid pace of innovation.

For example, a new innovation being adopted by industrial control systems involves 3-Dimensional or 3-D printing.

3-D printing involves scanning a physical object with a printer made of a high-power laser that fuses small particles of plastic, metal, ceramic, or glass powders into the object's size and shape.

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers, the 3-D printing of jet engine parts to coffee mugs is possible.

3-D printing has the potential to shrink supply chains, save product development times, and increase customization of products.

3-D printing is not the only innovation that will impact industrial control systems.

Electricity delivery depends on industrial control systems.

The biggest innovation in electricity delivery is the smart grid, which is quickly replacing old electricity delivery and metering technology in cities across the Nation.

The term “smart grid” encompasses a host of inter-related technologies rapidly moving into public use to reduce or better manage electricity consumption.

Smart grid systems can aid electricity service providers, users, or third-party electricity usage management service providers to monitor and control electricity use.

The smart grid is also making it possible to more efficiently manage the flow of electricity to residential and industrial consumers.

Electric utility meters that were once read once a month are being replaced by smart meters that can be read remotely using smart grid communication systems every 15 minutes or less.

The smart grid is capable of monitoring the consumption of electricity down to the individual residential or commercial property.

DHS should remain current as innovations like 3-D printing and smart grid technologies are introduced to industrial control systems.

This Jackson Lee amendment is a good contribution to H.R. 1731.

I request support of this amendment by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, which will modify the Information Sharing Structure and Processes section of the bill relating to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center's, or NCCIC's, Industrial Control System.

The Cyber Emergency Response Team, ICS-CERT. This amendment directs the ICS-CERT to remain current on ICS innovation, industry adoption of new technologies, and industry best practices. This amendment directs the ICS-CERT to keep abreast of new, innovative technologies. This will enable the ICS-CERT to respond, when re-

quested, with the latest and most current technologies and practices.

It is a good amendment. I thank the gentlewoman for bringing it. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. Castro of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, line 22, insert before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and, to the extent practicable, make self-assessment tools available to such businesses to determine their levels of prevention of cybersecurity risks”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Castro) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Castro of Texas. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to thank my colleague and fellow Texan, Chairman McCaul, and Ranking Member Bennie Thompson of the House Homeland Security Committee for bringing up my amendment for consideration to H.R. 1731.

This amendment supports small businesses across the Nation at no cost to taxpayers. My amendment would make self-assessment tools available to small- and medium-sized businesses so they can determine their level of cybersecurity readiness. Oftentimes, medium-sized and small businesses don't have the framework or capability in place to protect against cybersecurity threats. In 2014, for example, 31 percent of all cyber attacks were directed not at large businesses but at businesses with less than 250 employees. This is a 4 percent increase from 2013.

As the chairman knows, Texas is home to many small companies in so many critical industries: biomed and pharmaceuticals, energy, manufacturing, and many more. Some of these businesses employ as few as 5 to 10 people, and their technology is unprotected, vulnerable to cyber attacks.

Today most small businesses use the Internet, collect customers' information, and store sensitive information on business computers. Yet many of these same companies don't have the readily available information to self-assess their ability to defend their digital assets. They lack the tools necessary for determining cybersecurity readiness.



This pro-small business amendment fills that void and provides the information and tools needed to secure and empower small businesses across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND).

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO). Over the course of the past year, cyber breaches at Target, Sony, eBay, and Anthem have consumed headlines and brought awareness to the vulnerability of large corporations to cyber threats.

Although cyber attacks against small businesses are not well-publicized, they are a dangerous threat that we cannot afford to ignore. In fact, in 2012 alone, the National Cyber Security Alliance found that 60 percent of small businesses shut down within 6 months of a data breach. Small businesses are attractive prey for hackers because they often lack the resources necessary to identify cyber vulnerabilities and harden their cyber infrastructure.

Mr. CASTRO's amendment builds upon language I inserted into the underlying bill that is aimed at improving cybersecurity capabilities of small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to help protect small businesses from cyber threats by supporting this important amendment.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congressman RICHMOND, for reminding us that the big businesses that get attacked by hacks make the big headlines, but we can't forget about small businesses and medium-sized businesses who day in and day out are vulnerable to the same kind of cybersecurity threats.

So, with that, I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment. The gentleman is correct. Small- and medium-sized businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, yet they often cannot dedicate the resources to address cybersecurity issues. Making self-assessment tools available to these businesses will allow them to determine their levels of cyber risk and manage the risk through appropriate prevention.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 52, beginning line 12, insert the following:

**"SEC. 232. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.**

**"(a) IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may establish a consortium to be known as the 'National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium' (in this section referred to as the 'Consortium').

**"(b) FUNCTIONS.**—The Consortium may—

**"(1)** provide training to State and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing and responding to cyber attacks;

**"(2)** develop and update a curriculum utilizing the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department sponsored Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM) for State and local first responders and officials;

**"(3)** provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of cybersecurity preparedness and response;

**"(4)** conduct cybersecurity training and simulation exercises to defend from and respond to cyber-attacks;

**"(5)** coordinate with the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center to help States and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs; and

**"(6)** coordinate with the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium to incorporate cybersecurity emergency responses into existing State and local emergency management functions.

**"(c) MEMBERS.**—The Consortium shall consist of academic, nonprofit, and government partners that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training in support of homeland security. Members shall have prior experience conducting cybersecurity training and exercises for State and local entities."

Page 52, before line 17, insert the following: **"Sec. 232. National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium."**

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, first, I am very honored to be joined by my fellow colleagues and Members of Congress from both parties from San Antonio, Texas—Congressmen SMITH, DOGGETT, CUELLAR, and HURD—who each represent a portion of Bexar County and have joined me on this amendment.

My amendment would give the Secretary of Homeland Security authority to establish the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, or NCPC,

within the Department of Homeland Security. Doing so would formally allow this consortium, which already exists outside of the government, to assist State and local entities in developing their own viable and sustainable cybersecurity programs, and it would be at no cost to taxpayers.

The NCPC consists of five university partners. The University of Texas at San Antonio leads the effort, along with Texas A&M University in College Station, the University of Arkansas, the University of Memphis, and Norwich University in Vermont.

□ 1030

These schools proactively came together to coordinate their work, helping State and local officials prepare for cyber attacks. The consortium also develops and carries out trainings and exercises to increase cybersecurity knowledge.

Additionally, the NCPC uses competitions and workshops to encourage more people to pursue careers in cybersecurity and grow the industry's workforce.

States and communities need the ability to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from cyber events as they would any other disaster or emergency situation, and they need to be aware of the fact that cyber events could impede emergency responders' ability to do their jobs.

This amendment helps address those State and local needs by codifying this valuable consortium.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, which establishes the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, consisting of university partners and other stakeholders who proactively coordinate to assist State and local officials in cybersecurity preparation and the prevention of cyber attacks.

The amendment directs the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Directorate to update curriculum for first responders, provide technical assistance where possible, and conduct simulations and other training to help State and local officials be better prepared for cyber attacks.

The amendment directs the consortium to consist of academic, nonprofit, and government partners to deliver the best training possible, which will further advance the overall goal of H.R. 1731, to strengthen the resiliency of Federal and private networks and,

thus, protect the data of the American people more effectively.

I am a strong proponent of this type of consortium. I am pleased that the gentleman from Texas brought this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his work in making this amendment happen. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to H.R. 1731.

Cybersecurity is not just a buzzword. Oftentimes, large governments and governments have plans in place to mitigate and respond to cyber threats, but many smaller State and local entities do not. This is why I cosponsored and stand in support of Representative CASTRO's amendment to H.R. 1731.

Five leading universities across the Nation have teamed up to face these cyber issues head on, including the University of Texas at San Antonio and my alma mater, Texas A&M University.

The proposed consortium would provide valuable training to local and first responders in the event of a catastrophic cyber attack. It would also provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of cybersecurity preparedness and response, and it would coordinate with other crucial entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center and NCCIC.

It is clear that we must focus on cyber preparedness not only at the Federal level, but the local level as well.

Again, this is why I urge my colleagues to support this.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. HURD OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROTECTION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 233. AVAILABLE PROTECTION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deploy and operate, to make available for use

by any Federal agency, with or without reimbursement, capabilities to protect Federal agency information and information systems, including technologies to continuously diagnose, detect, prevent, and mitigate against cybersecurity risks (as such term is defined in the second section 226) involving Federal agency information or information systems.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

“(1) access, and Federal agency heads may disclose to the Secretary or a private entity providing assistance to the Secretary under paragraph (2), information traveling to or from or stored on a Federal agency information system, regardless of from where the Secretary or a private entity providing assistance to the Secretary under paragraph (2) accesses such information, notwithstanding any other provision of law that would otherwise restrict or prevent Federal agency heads from disclosing such information to the Secretary or a private entity providing assistance to the Secretary under paragraph (2);

“(2) enter into contracts or other agreements, or otherwise request and obtain the assistance of, private entities to deploy and operate technologies in accordance with subsection (a); and

“(3) retain, use, and disclose information obtained through the conduct of activities authorized under this section only to protect Federal agency information and information systems from cybersecurity risks, or, with the approval of the Attorney General and if disclosure of such information is not otherwise prohibited by law, to law enforcement only to investigate, prosecute, disrupt, or otherwise respond to—

“(A) a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code;

“(B) an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm;

“(C) a serious threat to a minor, including sexual exploitation or threats to physical safety; or

“(D) an attempt, or conspiracy, to commit an offense described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (C).

“(c) CONDITIONS.—Contracts or other agreements under subsection (b)(2) shall include appropriate provisions barring—

“(1) the disclosure of information to any entity other than the Department or the Federal agency disclosing information in accordance with subsection (b)(1) that can be used to identify specific persons and is reasonably believed to be unrelated to a cybersecurity risk; and

“(2) the use of any information to which such private entity gains access in accordance with this section for any purpose other than to protect Federal agency information and information systems against cybersecurity risks or to administer any such contract or other agreement.

“(d) LIMITATION.—No cause of action shall lie against a private entity for assistance provided to the Secretary in accordance with this section and a contract or agreement under subsection (b)(2).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 (relating to cybersecurity recruitment and retention) the following new item:

“Sec. 233. Available protection of Federal information systems.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. HURD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, every day and every hour, hackers and state actors are attempting to breach U.S. Government systems.

This is an ongoing problem I dealt with during my time at the CIA, and, since I have left, it has only gotten worse. They are attempting to steal valuable information that could be used against us.

The EINSTEIN Program is a valuable tool that the U.S. Government can deploy to respond to and mitigate cyber threats. The EINSTEIN Program was intended to provide DHS a situational awareness snapshot of the health of the Federal Government's cyberspace.

Based upon agreements with participating Federal agencies, DHS installed systems at their Internet access points to collect network flow data.

EINSTEIN 3A is the third and newest version of the program. This groundbreaking technology uses classified and unclassified information to block cyber espionage and attacks. E3A is allowing the Department of Homeland Security to paint a wider and more intelligent picture of the overall cyber threat landscape within the Federal Government, enabling strong correlation of events and the ability to provide early warning and greater context about emerging risks.

Cutting-edge programs such as EINSTEIN can serve as a groundbreaking tool to stop criminals, hackers, and nation-states from harming the American public and government.

I urge my colleagues to support codifying the E3A program and vote in favor of this amendment.

Mr. MCCAUL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HURD of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. MCCAUL. I support this amendment, which would authorize and codify the current EINSTEIN Program operated in the Department of Homeland Security.

The EINSTEIN Program, as deployed, makes available the capability to protect Federal agency information and information systems. The Einstein Program includes technologies to diagnose, detect, prevent, and mitigate cybersecurity risks involving Federal information systems.

I would also like to thank my colleague and fellow chairman, Mr. CHAFFETZ, of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for working with the Committee on Homeland Security on this important issue.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would authorize the Department of Homeland Security's program to provide web-based security services to U.S. Federal civilian agencies.

The program is known as EINSTEIN. When fully implemented, it is expected to provide all participating Federal agencies with the ability to know the cyber threats they face and protect their systems from insider and outsider threats.

To fully implement EINSTEIN to protect Federal civilian networks, there are complex interagency privacy and coordination issues that still need to be settled.

This authorization should help the Department of Homeland Security's efforts at closing out those issues as it confers specific statutory authority to the Department to pursue EINSTEIN.

I support the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following new section: SEC. \_\_\_\_ SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for the opportunity to present this amendment, very similar, Mr. Chairman, to the amendment that I presented yesterday that was approved by a majority of both Republicans and Democrats. It is a 7-year sunset provision to the bill.

Here again, today, we are dealing with two very real and very serious concerns, security of our people and the freedoms and liberties of our people. We are called upon to do that very often here in Congress. Sometimes, we get those balances exactly right, and sometimes, we don't.

Sometimes, we err too much on the side of safety and protection and security to the expense of our individual liberties. Other times, we err on the other side and do not provide the requisite level of safety and security that the citizens rightly demand of Congress.

All this bill does is force us to make sure that we keep an eye on this piece of legislation to make sure that we got the balance exactly right. I know that many folks will say: Well, you know, Mr. MULVANEY, we have the opportunity at any time to go back in and fix the bill.

I know that, and we have done that from time to time, but, by the same token, this is a very busy place, and a lot of bills tend to fall between the cracks.

Putting in a hardwired 7-year sunset into this piece of legislation will force us not only to keep an eye on this on an ongoing basis, but to come here 7 years from now and make sure that we have done it precisely correctly.

I think it is the exact right approach. In fact, I have often wished that we put sunset provisions, Mr. Chairman, in every single piece of legislation that we have, but we don't have that opportunity here today.

We do have the opportunity to put a sunset into this very important piece of legislation, and I hope that the House does the same thing today as it did yesterday and approve this amendment by an overwhelming margin.

Mr. McCAUL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MULVANEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCAUL. As an advocate for civil liberties and privacy rights, I did not oppose the inclusion of his amendment here today on the floor, and that was for good reason.

I believe that we need an open and fair debate on this measure, this amendment. We need transparency in the process here on the floor. My committee has undertaken that since day one as we assembled this bill in a bipartisan fashion.

While, normally, I do support sunset provisions, I think, in this case, submitting a sunset provision to this vital national security program would not be in our best interest.

I have heard, time and time again, from industry and other stakeholders that a sunset would stifle the sharing of this valuable cyber threat information. It would undermine everything that we are trying to do here today as we try to incentivize participation and investment in this voluntary program.

While I do have tremendous respect for the gentleman and his point of view on this, I will vote "no" and oppose this amendment.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I applaud the chairman for doing something that doesn't happen nearly

enough in this Chamber. He is allowing an amendment to come to the floor that he opposes.

I think that doesn't happen nearly enough here. I think it speaks volumes to some of the recent steps we have taken to improve Member participation in the process, and I think we will be better as an institution for it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate, as I said, the maker of this amendment.

Let me be clear, I offered the very same amendment in markup. It failed on a party-line vote, and this is democracy; but a little thing that concerns me is that, when we went to the Rules Committee, my chairman gave an indication that he really didn't have a problem with the 7-year sunset.

Mr. McCAUL. Will the gentleman yield on that point?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from Texas, my chairman.

Mr. McCAUL. Again, I just want to clarify what I believe to be the record, and that was I was not opposed to this amendment going to the floor for a full and fair debate.

I respect the gentleman's interpretation of that. I simply was not opposed to this going to the floor, and I think it deserves a full debate, as we saw yesterday as well.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I will read for the RECORD the statement my chairman made in Rules. Mr. McCAUL said:

There is an amendment that has a 7-year sunset provision, and I will be honest, I will not oppose that. I think 7 years is ample time to advance those relationships and while, at the same time, giving Congress the authority to reauthorize after a 7-year period.

Mr. McCAUL. Will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCAUL. I must say that, obviously, since the time the Rules Committee discharged the amendment, there has been tremendous opposition from industry, which concerns me, about the participation in this program and the success of this program if the sunset provision is allowed to go forward, just to clarify my point of view.

□ 1045

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I accept the gentleman's reinterpretation of the statement, and we will go forward.

Let me just say that, yesterday, on a 7-year sunset on an Intelligence bill, the House resoundingly voted for this very same amendment, 313-110. It is clear that the congressional intent is, within 7 years, that it should have been ample time for this bill to be law and now set a record for us to come back as Members of Congress and do our oversight responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, I am in strong support of Mr. MULVANEY's amendment. It is common sense.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. HAHN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . **REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES OF UNITED STATES PORTS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate a report on cybersecurity vulnerabilities for the ten United States ports that the Secretary determines are at greatest risk of a cybersecurity incident and provide recommendations to mitigate such vulnerabilities.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for allowing me to offer this amendment.

I rise to offer a National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act amendment, one to increase cybersecurity at our Nation's most at-risk ports.

This amendment will direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress assessing risks and providing recommendations regarding cybersecurity at America's most at-risk ports, such as Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, New York, Houston.

According to the American Association of Port Authorities, our ports contribute \$4.6 trillion to the U.S. economy, making their security critical to our Nation.

In order to remain efficient and globally competitive, our ports have be-

come increasingly reliant on complex computer networks for everyday management. However, The Brookings Institution has found that there is a cybersecurity gap at our Nation's ports. Currently, we do not have cybersecurity standards for our ports to give Federal agencies the authority to address cybersecurity issues.

This is completely unacceptable. The threat of cyber attack on the networks that manage the flow of U.S. commerce at our ports is real.

As the Representative of the Nation's busiest port complex and as cofounder of the Congressional Ports Caucus, I know that a significant disruption at our ports cripples our economy. An estimated \$1 billion a day was lost during the lockout at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach back in 2002. Imagine the possible damage of a more severe disruption. For example, if our ports were targeted and hacked and unable to operate, it could cost our Nation billions and billions of dollars.

While the Port of Los Angeles is a participant in the FBI's Cyberhood Watch program and has an award-winning cybersecurity operations center, we need to ensure that all of our ports have the same ability to protect themselves from cyber attacks. This is why I have offered this amendment that addresses the lack of cybersecurity standards and safeguards at our ports.

We have ignored the cybersecurity of the networks managing our ports long enough, and it is pointless and ironic for government to continue awarding funds that are spent on the installation of new technologies if the networks they are on remain vulnerable to cyber attacks. This amendment adds no new cost to this legislation, but it will offer great security to our Nation's movement of goods.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to our Nation's seaports. It requires the Secretary to identify the 10 ports with the highest vulnerability to cybersecurity incidents and to fully evaluate and establish procedures to mitigate relevant cyber vulnerabilities.

America's seaports are critical infrastructure, and 95 percent of America's foreign trade travels through these seaports. A cybersecurity incident which impacts a major U.S. port could have profound effects on the global econ-

omy. The Department of Homeland Security must take immediate, proactive measures to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats in America's most vulnerable ports.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAHN. I thank you for your support, and I applaud you and the committee for working in this bipartisan manner. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . **GAO REPORT ON IMPACT PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.**

Not later than 60 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment on the impact on privacy and civil liberties limited to the work of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. MCCAUL for their leadership and Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. RICHMOND for their leadership and for the importance of this legislation on the floor today and—this is something that I have often said—for the importance of the Department of Homeland Security's being the front armor, if you will, for domestic security, and this is a very important component of domestic security.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment states that not later than 60 months after the date of this act the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment on the impact of privacy and civil liberties, limited to the work of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

The public benefit of this amendment is that it will provide public assurance

from a reliable and trustworthy source that their privacy and civil liberties are not being compromised. Whether it is the PATRIOT Act or the USA FREEDOM Act that is now proposed, the American people understand their security, but they understand their privacy and their civil liberties. The intent of this report is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

We have gone through too much—we have been through too much hacking, and we have lost too much personal data from a number of retail entities and elsewhere—for the American people not to be protected. This amendment will result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties' impact of the programs created under this bill.

I ask that my colleagues support the Jackson Lee-Polis amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment.

The report required by this amendment would provide a quantifiable tool for the transparency, accountability, and oversight of Americans' civil liberties, and it will address privacy concerns.

Privacy is a hallmark of H.R. 1731, and any opportunity to highlight to the American people how well DHS is protecting their civil liberties, while strengthening the cyber resilience of our Federal and non-Federal networks, is a welcome endeavor.

The report will provide data on how well the program is working, and it will potentially identify any areas of improvement, which will further strengthen the robustness of DHS' cyber information-sharing practices.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the chair for his comments.

Mr. Chairman, privacy is of great concern to the American public in a digital economy where personal information is one of the most valuable assets of successful online business. Again, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee-Polis amendment.

Mr. Chair, I offer my thanks to Chairman McCAUL, and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership and work on H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015 to the floor for consideration.

The bipartisan work done by the House Committee on Homeland Security brought before the House this opportunity to defend our Nation against cyber threats.

I thank Congressman POLIS for joining me in sponsoring this amendment.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment to H.R. 1731 is simple and would improve the bill.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment states that, not later than 60 months after the date of this act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment on the impact of privacy and civil liberties limited to the work of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

The intent of the report is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

This amendment would result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties' impact of the programs created under this bill.

Privacy is of great concern to the American public in a digital economy where personal information is one of the most valuable assets of successful online businesses.

Having detailed information on consumers allows companies to better tailor services and products to meet the needs of consumers.

Instead of relying on surveys to try to determine what consumers want, companies know what they want through their online and increasingly offline activities that are recorded and analyzed.

In 2014, a report on consumers' views of their privacy published by the Pew Center found that a majority of adults surveyed felt that their privacy is being challenged along such core dimensions as the security of their personal information and their ability to retain confidentiality.

91% of adults in the survey believe that consumers have lost control over how personal information is collected and used by companies.

88% of adults believe that it would be very difficult to remove inaccurate information about them online.

80% of those who use social networking sites believe they are concerned about third parties accessing their data.

70% of social networking site users have some concerns about the government accessing some of the information they share on social networking sites without their knowledge.

For this reason, the Jackson Lee amendment providing an independent report to the public on how their privacy and civil liberties are treated under the implementation of this bill is important.

I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 114-88.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. —. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

The Secretary of Homeland Security may consult with sector specific agencies, businesses, and stakeholders to produce and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how best to align federally-funded cybersecurity research and development activities with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties while assuring security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure, including—

(1) promoting research and development to enable the secure and resilient design and construction of critical infrastructure and more secure accompanying cyber technology;

(2) enhancing modeling capabilities to determine potential impacts on critical infrastructure of incidents or threat scenarios, and cascading effects on other sectors; and

(3) facilitating initiatives to incentivize cybersecurity investments and the adoption of critical infrastructure design features that strengthen cyberseesecurity and resilience.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This is a comprehensive approach, Mr. Chairman, to the issue of cybersecurity and national cybersecurity protection.

The amendment that I am offering now states that the Secretary of Homeland Security may consult with sector-specific agencies, businesses, and stakeholders to produce and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how best to align federally funded cybersecurity research and development activities with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties while assuring the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

Again, I can recount the incidences that have brought this issue to the attention of the American people. Certainly, one of the most striking were the actions of Mr. Snowden's, so it is important that we develop research that really blocks those who would intend to do wrong, or ill, to the American people.

The amendment includes a cybersecurity research and development objective to enable the secure and resilient

design and construction of critical infrastructure and more secure accompanying cyber technology. We want it to be impenetrable. We want to have a firewall that stands as a firewall. I believe that we have the capacity to have the R&D to do so.

The public benefit of this amendment is that it will make sure, as innovations occur in the private sector that can improve privacy and civil liberties protections, that they will be adopted by DHS for its programs established by this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I support this enhancement that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to consult with stakeholders and to submit a report on how best to align federally funded cybersecurity research and development activities with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties, while assuring the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

The promotion of research and development activities to design resilient critical infrastructure that includes cyber threat infrastructure and that also includes cyber threat consideration in its plan is important as we build the fences against the cascading effect of cyber attacks on critical infrastructures.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Chairman, again, the American people deserve the kind of investigatory work that results in R&D that provides the kind of armor against the attacks that we have noted are possible and have occurred. With that, I ask for the support of the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, I offer my thanks to Chairman McCAUL, and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership and work on H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015.

This is the final of three Jackson Lee amendments offered to this legislation.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment to H.R. 1731 is simple and would improve the bill.

The amendment states that the Secretary of Homeland Security may consult with sector-specific agencies, businesses, and stakeholders to produce and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-

land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how best to align federally funded cybersecurity research and development activities with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties, while assuring the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

The amendment includes a cybersecurity research and development objective to enable the secure and resilient design and construction of critical infrastructure and more secure accompanying cyber technology.

Finally, this Jackson Lee amendment would support investigation into enhanced computer-aided modeling capabilities to determine potential impacts on critical infrastructure of incidents or threat scenarios and cascading effects on other sectors and facilitating initiatives to incentivize cybersecurity investments and the adoption of critical infrastructure design features that strengthen cybersecurity and resilience.

The ability to stay current and at the leading edge of innovation in the fast-moving world of computing technology will be a challenge, but one that the Department of Homeland Security can meet.

The Jackson Lee amendment lays the foundation for an array of collaborative efforts centered on learning as much as possible about critical infrastructure operations and technologies, then using that knowledge to discover how best to defend against cyber-based threats.

I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 405, noes 8, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 171]

AYES—405

Abraham	Barton	Black	Brown (FL)	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Adams	Bass	Blackburn	Brownley (CA)	Garrett	Lujan Grisham
Aderholt	Beatty	Blum	Buchanan	Gibbs	(NM)
Aguilar	Becerra	Blumenauer	Buck	Gibson	Luján, Ben Ray
Allen	Benishek	Bonamici	Bucshon	Gohmert	(NM)
Amash	Berra	Bost	Burgess	Goodlatte	Lummis
Amodei	Beyer	Brady (PA)	Bustos	Gosar	Lynch
Ashford	Bilirakis	Brat	Byrne	Gowdy	MacArthur
Babin	Bishop (GA)	Bridenstine	Calvert	Graham	Maloney
Barletta	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (AL)	Capps	Granger	Carolyn
Barr	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (IN)	Capuano	Graves (GA)	Maloney, Sean
			Cárdenas	Graves (LA)	Marino
			Carney	Grayson	Massie
			Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Matsui
			Carter (GA)	Green, Gene	McCarthy
			Cartwright	Griffith	McCaul
			Castor (FL)	Grijalva	McClintock
			Castro (TX)	Grothman	McCollum
			Chabot	Guinta	McDermott
			Chaffetz	Guthrie	McGovern
			Chu, Judy	Gutiérrez	McHenry
			Cicilline	Hahn	McKinley
			Clark (MA)	Hanna	McMorris
			Clarke (NY)	Hardy	Rodgers
			Clawson (FL)	Harper	McNerney
			Clay	Harris	McSally
			Cleaver	Hartzler	Meadows
			Coffman	Heck (NV)	Meehan
			Cohen	Heck (WA)	Meng
			Cole	Hensarling	Messer
			Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Mica
			Collins (NY)	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (FL)
			Comstock	Higgins	Miller (MI)
			Conaway	Hill	Moolenaar
			Connolly	Himes	Mooney (WV)
			Conyers	Hinojosa	Moulton
			Cook	Holding	Mullin
			Cooper	Honda	Mulvaney
			Costa	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
			Costello (PA)	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
			Courtney	Huelskamp	Nadler
			Cramer	Huffman	Napolitano
			Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Neal
			Crenshaw	Hultgren	Neugebauer
			Crowley	Hunter	Newhouse
			Cuellar	Hurd (TX)	Noem
			Culberson	Hurt (VA)	Nolan
			Cummings	Israel	Norcross
			Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Nugent
			Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee	Nunes
			Davis, Danny	Jeffries	O'Rourke
			DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo
			DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	Palmer
			Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Pascarell
			DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen
			DelBene	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
			Denham	Jolly	Pelosi
			Dent	Jones	Perlmutter
			DeSantis	Jordan	Perry
			DeSaulnier	Joyce	Peters
			DesJarlais	Katko	Peterson
			Deutch	Keating	Pingree
			Diaz-Balart	Kelly (IL)	Pittenger
			Dingell	Kelly (PA)	Pitts
			Doggett	Kennedy	Pocan
			Dold	Kildee	Poe (TX)
			Doyle, Michael	Kilmer	Poliquin
			F.	Kind	Polis
			Duckworth	King (IA)	Pompeo
			Duffy	King (NY)	Posey
			Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Price (NC)
			Duncan (TN)	Kirkpatrick	Price, Tom
			Edwards	Kline	Quigley
			Ellison	Knight	Rangel
			Ellmers (NC)	Kuster	Ratcliffe
			Emmer (MN)	Labrador	Reed
			Engel	Lamborn	Reichert
			Esty	Lance	Renacci
			Farenthold	Langevin	Ribble
			Farr	Larsen (WA)	Rice (NY)
			Fattah	Larson (CT)	Rice (SC)
			Fincher	Latta	Richmond
			Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Rigell
			Fleischmann	Lee	Roby
			Fleming	Levin	Roe (TN)
			Flores	Lewis	Rogers (AL)
			Forbes	Lieu, Ted	Rogers (KY)
			Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
			Foster	Loeb sack	Rokita
			Fox	Lofgren	Rooney (FL)
			Frankel (FL)	Long	Ros-Lehtinen
			Franks (AZ)	Loudermilk	Roskam
			Frelinghuysen	Love	Ross
			Fudge	Lowenthal	Rothfus
			Gabbard	Lowey	Rouzer
			Gallego	Lucas	Roybal-Allard



Royce	Slaughter	Wagner
Ruiz	Smith (MO)	Walberg
Ruppersberger	Smith (NE)	Walden
Rush	Smith (NJ)	Walker
Russell	Smith (TX)	Walorski
Ryan (OH)	Stefanik	Walters, Mimi
Ryan (WI)	Stewart	Walz
Salmon	Stivers	Wasserman
Sánchez, Linda	Stutzman	Schultz
T.	Swalwell (CA)	Waters, Maxine
Sanchez, Loretta	Takai	Watson Coleman
Sanford	Takano	Webster (FL)
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Scalise	Thompson (MS)	Wenstrup
Schakowsky	Thompson (PA)	Westerman
Schiff	Thornberry	Whitfield
Schrader	Tipton	Williams
Schweikert	Titus	Wilson (FL)
Scott (VA)	Tonko	Wilson (SC)
Scott, Austin	Torres	Wittman
Scott, David	Tsongas	Womack
Sensenbrenner	Turner	Woodall
Serrano	Upton	Yarmuth
Sessions	Valadao	Yoder
Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen	Yoho
Sherman	Vargas	Young (IA)
Shimkus	Veasey	Young (IN)
Shuster	Vela	Zeldin
Simpson	Velázquez	Zinke
Sinema	Visclosky	
Sires		

## NOES—8

Boustany	LaMalfa	Westmoreland
Brady (TX)	Marchant	Young (AK)
Carter (TX)	Weber (TX)	

## NOT VOTING—18

Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Pallone
F.	Johnson, E. B.	Payne
Butterfield	Kaptur	Smith (WA)
Clyburn	Lipinski	Speier
Davis, Rodney	Meeks	Trott
Eshoo	Moore	
Graves (MO)	Olson	

□ 1130

Messrs. BUCSHON, POSEY, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Messrs. BRIDENSTINE, COFFMAN, TIPTON, CRAWFORD, GIBBS, MILLER of Florida, and GOHMERT changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HARPER). The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. HARPER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 212, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

## MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ISRAEL. I am, in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Israel moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1731 to the Committee on Homeland Security with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AMERICAN JOBS, AND HEALTH INFORMATION FROM CYBERATTACKS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 232. PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AMERICAN JOBS, AND HEALTH INFORMATION FROM CYBERATTACKS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall undertake on-going risk-informed outreach, including the provision of technical assistance, to the owners and operators of at-risk critical infrastructure to promote the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures (as such terms are defined in the second section 226 (relating to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center). In carrying out this outreach, the Secretary shall prioritize the protection of at-risk Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) industrial control systems, which are critical to the operation of the United States economy.

“(b) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out outreach under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the protection and welfare of the American people and economy and give special attention to protecting the following:

“(1) United States critical infrastructure, including the electrical grid, nuclear power plants, oil and gas pipelines, financial services, and transportation systems, from cyberattacks, as attacks on SCADA industrial control systems increased by 100 percent in 2014 over the previous year.

“(2) The intellectual property of United States corporations, particularly the intellectual property of at-risk small and medium-sized businesses, in order to maintain United States competitiveness and job growth.

“(3) The privacy and property rights of at-risk Americans, including Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and employment information, and health records, insofar as the

health records of more than 29,000,000 Americans were compromised in data breaches between 2010 and 2013, and, in 2015, the information of 80,000,000 Americans was compromised by the attack on Anthem Health Insurance.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 231 the following new item:

“Sec. 232. Protecting critical infrastructure, American jobs, and health information from cyberattacks.”.

Mr. McCAUL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment. It will not kill the bill. It will not send the bill back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, D.C. went dark. The lights went out, the power stopped near the White House, lights out, no power at the Department of State. Federal agencies were plunged into darkness, small businesses plunged into darkness. Business stopped. The business of government stopped because there was a blackout.

Now, in this case, Mr. Speaker, this loss of energy was because of a blown transformer, and there was no indication that this was a result of a cyber attack on our energy sources or systems.

There are indications, Mr. Speaker, every day, of attempted attacks on our critical energy infrastructure, and this amendment simply strengthens the response of the Department of Homeland Security to protect our constituents, our government, our infrastructure, and our country from this attack.

Mr. Speaker, in the first 6 months of 2012, we know that there was a sustained and persistent cyber attack on critical gas pipeline control systems. Now, the good news is that we successfully defended against those attacks.

The bad news is, as we all know, the very nature of cyber war means that every time you defend against an attack, you are transmitting to your attackers what your defenses are.

The DHS reports that, of roughly 200 cases of major cyber attacks handled by DHS' cybersecurity team in 2013, 40 percent were in the energy sector. There have been attacks on supervisory control and data acquisitions, SCADA. Those attacks doubled between 2013 and 2014, so we know these attacks are being attempted. We know how serious it is.

We learned, 2 weeks ago, what happens when we plunge into the darkness.



We know the economic devastation, the social devastation, the military devastation that will occur when an attack is successful, when a cyber attack against our energy systems succeeds.

We know it is coming, and we cannot wait until the day after, when we ask ourselves, in the dark: Why didn't we do more yesterday?

This is like being told that Pearl Harbor is coming, that 9/11 is coming, knowing it is coming, and deciding: Are you going to do something about it? Or are you going to continue to bury your head in the sand?

Now, this amendment is very simple, Mr. Speaker. It simply directs the Department of Homeland Security to organize a strong, concerted, focused partnership with energy companies throughout this country. Those partnerships would provide technical assistance from DHS to energy companies and information sharing. These partnerships would be focused on critical infrastructure, the electrical grid, oil and gas pipelines, and nuclear power plants.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in Washington, D.C., on April 7 of this year can happen in any congressional district in this body. Instead of a blown transformer, it will be a cyber attack against energy systems in any one of the districts represented here today, Mr. Speaker.

When that happens, our constituents will ask us, from that place in the dark: What did you do to prevent it? And what did you do to protect me from it?

This vote on this motion to recommit will be your answer.

Let's put the protection of our businesses, our government, our military, and our constituents ahead of partisanship and vote "yes" on this motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCAUL. The gentleman from New York is correct regarding the nature of the threat. However, the activities he has discussed were authorized by Congress last Congress with a bill that I sponsored. In addition, the bill currently before the House strengthens those provisions.

This bipartisan bill passed out of committee unanimously. This motion is nothing more than an eleventh hour attempt to bring down the bill that we worked so hard on to get to this point where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, people always ask me what keeps me up at night. In addition to the kinetic threats posed by al Qaeda and ISIS, it is a cyber attack against our Nation that concerns me the most.

This legislation is necessary to protect Americans. Every day, America is under attack. Our offensive capabilities are strong, but our defensive capabilities are weak. The attacks on Target and Home Depot stole the personal information and credit cards of millions of Americans.

The cyber breach at Anthem compromised the healthcare accounts of 80 million individuals, impacting one out of every four Americans in the most private way. North Korea's destructive attack on Sony attempted to chill our freedom of speech. Russia and China continue to steal our intellectual property and conduct espionage against our Nation.

General Alexander described this as "the greatest transfer of wealth in history."

At the same time, Iran attacks our financial sector on a daily basis in response to the sanctions. We also face a growing threat from cyberterrorists, like the ISIS sympathizers who hacked into USCENCOM's social media account.

Terrorists and state sponsors of terror, like Iran, want nothing more than to carry out a destructive cyber attack to bring things down in the United States, including our power grids.

This bill protects our Nation's networks, both public and private, by removing legal barriers to the sharing of threat information.

□ 1145

The bill is voluntary. It is both proprivacy and prosecurity and has widespread support from industry. It allows us to obtain the keys for information sharing, to lock the door, and to keep these nation-states and criminals out. We cannot send a signal of weakness to our adversaries.

Many, Mr. Speaker, refer to the threat of a cyber Pearl Harbor. My father, part of the Greatest Generation, was a bombardier in a B-17 during World War II. He participated in the air campaign in advance of the D-day invasion against the Nazis.

Today a new generation faces different threats to our national security, and we must protect America in this new frontier. We now live in a new threat environment where digital bombs can go undetected and cause massive devastation. This bill will defend America from these attacks.

Inaction today, Mr. Speaker, would be nothing short of reckless. It is urgent that we pass this bill today, for if Congress fails to act and the United States is attacked, then Congress will have that on its hands.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the motion to recommit and support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 180, noes 238, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 172]

#### AYES—180

Adams	Fudge	Napolitano
Aguilar	Gabbard	Neal
Ashford	Gallego	Nolan
Bass	Garamendi	Norcross
Beatty	Graham	O'Rourke
Becerra	Grayson	Pascarell
Bera	Green, Al	Payne
Beyer	Green, Gene	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Peters
Bonamici	Hahn	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Polis
Bustos	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Honda	Quigley
Capps	Hoyer	Rangel
Capuano	Huffman	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Israel	Richmond
Carney	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castro (TX)	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Ciçilline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clay	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kind	Schiff
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Cohen	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Langevin	Scott, David
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Costa	Lawrence	Sherman
Courtney	Lee	Sinema
Crowley	Levin	Sires
Cuellar	Lewis	Slaughter
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Loebach	Takai
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Takano
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowey	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeLauro	(NM)	Tonko
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Tsongas
Deutch	Lynch	Van Hollen
Dingell	Maloney,	Vargas
Doggett	Carolyn	Veasey
Doyle, Michael	Maloney, Sean	Vela
F.	Matsui	Velázquez
Duckworth	McCollum	Visclosky
Edwards	McDermott	Walz
Ellison	McGovern	Wasserman
Engel	McNerney	Schultz
Esty	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Farr	Meng	Watson Coleman
Fattah	Moulton	Welch
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Yarmuth

## NOES—238

Abraham Grothman  
Aderholt Quintana  
Allen Guthrie  
Amash Hanna  
Amodei Hardy  
Babin Harper  
Barletta Harris  
Barr Hartzler  
Barton Heck (NV)  
Benishek Hensarling  
Bilirakis Herrera Beutler  
Bishop (MI) Hice, Jody B.  
Bishop (UT) Hill  
Black Holding  
Blackburn Hudson  
Blum Huelskamp  
Bost Huizenga (MI)  
Boustany Hultgren  
Brady (TX) Hunter  
Brat Hurd (TX)  
Bridenstine Hurt (VA)  
Brooks (AL) Issa  
Brooks (IN) Jenkins (KS)  
Buchanan Jenkins (WV)  
Buck Johnson (OH)  
Bucshon Johnson, Sam  
Burgess Jolly  
Byrne Jordan  
Calvert Joyce  
Carter (GA) Katko  
Carter (TX) Kelly (PA)  
Chabot King (IA)  
Chaffetz King (NY)  
Clawson (FL) Kingzinger (IL)  
Coffman Kline  
Cole Knight  
Collins (GA) Labrador  
Collins (NY) LaMalfa  
Comstock Lamborn  
Conaway Lance  
Cook Latta  
Costello (PA) LoBiondo  
Cramer Long  
Crawford Loudermilk  
Crenshaw Love  
Culberson Lucas  
Curbelo (FL) Luetkemeyer  
Denham Lummis  
Dent MacArthur  
DeSantis Marchant  
DesJarlais Marino  
Diaz-Balart Massie  
Dold McCarthy  
Duffy McCaul  
Duncan (SC) McClintock  
Duncan (TN) McHenry  
Ellmers (NC) McKinley  
Emmer (MN) McMorris  
Farenthold Rodgers  
Fincher McSally  
Fitzpatrick Meadows  
Fleischmann Meehan  
Fleming Messer  
Flores Mica  
Forbes Miller (FL)  
Fortenberry Miller (MI)  
Foss Moolenaar  
Franks (AZ) Mooney (WV)  
Frelinghuysen Mullin  
Garrett Mulvaney  
Gibbs Murphy (PA)  
Gibson Neugebauer  
Gohmert Newhouse  
Goodlatte Noem  
Gosar Nugent  
Gowdy Nunes  
Granger Palazzo  
Graves (GA) Palmer  
Graves (LA) Paulsen  
Griffith Pearce

## NOT VOTING—13

Boyle, Brendan F.  
Davis, Rodney  
Eshoo  
Graves (MO)

Hastings  
Kaptur  
Lipinski  
Moore  
Olson

Pallone  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Trott

## □ 1153

Mr. RICHMOND changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

## RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 355, noes 63, not voting 13, as follows:

## [Roll No. 173]

## AYES—355

Abraham  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguliar  
Allen  
Amodei  
Ashford  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Beatty  
Benishek  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Capps  
Cardenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Chaffetz  
Clarke (NY)  
Clawson (FL)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coffman  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cook  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson

Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeBene  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DeSaulnier  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold  
Duckworth  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Engel  
Farenthold  
Farr  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foss  
Frankel (FL)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallo  
Garamendi  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Goodlatte  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guthrie  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Holding  
Honda  
Hoyer

Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Joyce  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Levin  
Lewis  
LoBiondo  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lummis  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McHenry  
McKinley

McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pascarella  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed

Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)

Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Titus  
Torres  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

## NOES—63

Amash  
Bass  
Becerra  
Blumenauer  
Brady (PA)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Capuano  
Cartwright  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Conyers  
Courtney  
DeLauro  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Esty

Fattah  
Fleming  
Garrett  
Gohmert  
Gosar  
Graves (LA)  
Grayson  
Grijalva  
Guinta  
Huelskamp  
Issa  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Jordan  
Labrador  
Larson (CT)  
Lee  
Lieu, Ted  
Lowenthal  
Massie  
McGovern  
Mooney (WV)

Nadler  
Nolan  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Ryan (OH)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Serrano  
Slaughter  
Takano  
Tonko  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Welch  
Yarmuth

## NOT VOTING—13

Boyle, Brendan F.  
Davis, Rodney  
Eshoo  
Graves (MO)

Hastings  
Kaptur  
Lipinski  
Moore  
Olson

Pallone  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Trott

## □ 1203

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 212, the text of H.R. 1731 was appended to the engrossment of H.R. 1560, and H.R. 1731 was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE  
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR  
OF H.R. 637

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 637, a bill originally introduced by Representative Schock of Illinois, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PAY RE-  
SPECTS TO THE YOUNG WOMEN  
WHO DIED SUDDENLY IN SAVAN-  
NAH, GEORGIA, APRIL 22, 2015

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to the young women who died suddenly in Savannah, Georgia, yesterday. On Wednesday morning just before 6 a.m., three tractor-trailers, two pickup trucks, and two cars were involved in a chain-reaction car accident.

Abbie Deloach of Savannah, Emily Clark of Powder Springs, Morgan Bass of Leesburg, Catherine McKay Pittman of Alpharetta, and Caitlyn Baggett of Millen were killed.

I ask that a moment of silence be given to these young women and their families in the Eagle Nation.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule of the week to come.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, no votes are expected in the House. On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will begin the annual appropriation process. The House will consider the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill sponsored by Representative CHARLIE DENT. This important bill

provides funding to house and train our military and ensures that we can meet the growing health care needs of our Nation's veterans.

The House will also consider the Energy and Water appropriations bill sponsored by Representative MIKE SIMPSON. This bill ensures that we safely maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile and provide for critical infrastructure projects through the Army Corps of Engineers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House is expected to consider the budget conference report. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. He indicates that the appropriations process has started. First I want to say, as a Member who served on the Appropriations Committee for 23 years, I always thought we ought to start the appropriations process early, i.e., in May, but starting it, I think, is good news. We have had trouble on both sides getting all 12 appropriations bills—it used to be 13—12 appropriations bills done. So I congratulate the committee for initiating its work in a timely fashion.

Hopefully, Mr. Leader, that will lead to, hopefully, passing 12 bills in the regular order, which, as I pointed out last week with respect to some other legislation, will require the kind of bipartisanship that we saw displayed ultimately on the DHS bill, but certainly on the SGR bill, and then this week we had two bills pass with a bipartisan—both sides—majority voting for it. Hopefully, we will be able to do that on the appropriations bill.

I ask my friend on the MILCON, Military Construction bill, VA funding bill and on the Energy and Water bill, does the gentleman expect to follow what the gentleman and his party have indicated would be the process for appropriation bills under an open rule?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The answer to your question is “yes.” The gentleman does know, having been a part for many years of the appropriation process, that this is actually the earliest in the history of Congress we have ever started appropriations. It is our goal—I know it is your goal as well—to get all bills done through the House in regular order. It is something that we strive towards, and I thank the gentleman for his help.

Mr. HOYER. I congratulate the gentleman and his party on bringing these bills to the floor early.

He also says we are going to be considering a conference report. I don't obviously know what that conference report is. The budget itself, though—which of course sets the parameters for the appropriations bills in terms of caps on spending—was, as the gentleman knows, not a bipartisan bill. There were party differences on that bill. I would hope that in the con-

ference report we can reach an agreement.

My own view is, Mr. Majority Leader, that if we stay at sequester levels we will not be able to pass bills and the President will not sign them. The reason being that our side, and I think the President, perceives, and many in your party perceive at least as it relates to some aspects of the sequester, that the sequester numbers are not workable.

As you know, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee has called the sequester numbers, which are reflected in the budget that passed the House, ill-conceived, unworkable, and unrealistic. In that context it will be difficult for us to get, no matter how early we start, these bills completed. I would hope that we could come together at some point in time as was done in Ryan-Murray. I know there are Members on your side, including I think the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who believe that if we don't come together on an agreed figure that will allow the Appropriations Committee to meet its responsibilities, then we will have great difficulty getting appropriations bills done.

I don't know whether the gentleman has any thoughts on that, but if he does, I would be glad to yield to him on that.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate his comments, and we will continue to work together to get our appropriations process finished.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I don't know whether the gentleman had an opportunity to read an article—it may have been an op-ed, I have got the clip—but I am not sure where it appeared in the paper. But the former Speaker, Newt Gingrich, wrote an article that essentially stood for the proposition that Republicans and Democrats about a decade or a little over a decade ago were able to come together and to take advantage of the research opportunities that Speaker Gingrich, former Speaker Gingrich, said were apparent and possible in today's day. I share that view.

Many people, including your predecessor, Mr. Cantor, were concerned and have recently said that we need to increase substantially the investments and the resources that we have at NIH. Unfortunately, as the gentleman may know, in the allocations to subcommittees that were adopted yesterday in the Appropriations Committee, as I understand it, there was \$3 billion cut from the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, which covers NIH, which will make it very difficult to do what Speaker Gingrich, former Speaker Gingrich, suggested we do in The New York Times today.

□ 1215

The gentleman, if he hasn't read the article, doesn't need to comment on it,

but I want to call to his attention that we are very concerned, but people on your side and your former Speaker are very concerned that we are not investing sufficient sums to take advantage of the opportunities, and it is costing us.

He particularly mentioned Alzheimer's and the extraordinary costs related to Alzheimer's disease and that, if we can either delay the onset of Alzheimer's or prevent Alzheimer's, that we will, in effect, save tens of billions of dollars.

I bring that up simply in the context of we really do need to get the resources into the Appropriations Committee that Mr. ROGERS, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, a senior Republican in this House, says are necessary to meet our responsibility.

I would hope that the majority leader would be looking at that and would, hopefully, work towards that end.

Let me ask you two more questions, Mr. Leader. The highway bill, as the gentleman knows, expires in terms of its authorization for funding on the 31st of May. It is not on the schedule, obviously, this month, but can the gentleman tell me—we are very concerned, and, as you know, every Governor, every county executive, every mayor—you have talked to them; I have talked to them—are very concerned about the resources that they are going to have available to do bridges and highways maintenance, infrastructure investment.

Can the gentleman tell me when we might, in the 2 weeks that we will have in May, be able to consider the highway bill?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman is correct about the highway funding. We look forward to making sure we get that done on time in a bipartisan manner. We will be continuing to work with you as we move forward.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the fact that we can work on a bipartisan manner. I look forward to doing that. I know that Mr. DEFAZIO looks forward to doing that; I know Mr. SHUSTER looks forward to doing it—both very, very positive Members of this body.

I will tell the gentleman, I am somewhat concerned, however, about rumors that I have heard that we are looking at, perhaps, a short-term patch. The problem, as the gentleman so well knows, with a short-term patch is it does not allow for the kind of planning that is necessary in terms of significant infrastructure projects, which require some significant lead time.

Does the gentleman know whether or not we might be considering at least a 5-year or at least a longer term, maybe even as long as a 7-year authorization?

Or are you contemplating that we, in May, would do another short-term patch?

As you know, we Democrats opposed May 31. We wanted a longer extension. The House and the Senate agreed on a short-term patch—or short-term May 31 deadline.

Does the gentleman have any expectations that we have the possibility of doing a 5-year or longer, so that the States and communities can plan on a long-term basis, as opposed to a very short-term basis?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

No decisions have been made at this point. This could be a prime example, just like our work on SGR.

As a personal note, I would like to solve these problems in the long term. There is no reason to come back to it.

If we have to get in a situation that is short-term, hopefully, that that would be short to fix a long-term, much like the issue that we had with SGR. I am hopeful that we can get that done in a very long-term manner.

Mr. HOYER. Well, I thank the gentleman for that comment. I think it is a very positive comment.

I will tell the gentleman, next week, perhaps you and I can talk about this towards that end because I think, if we talk about creation of jobs, we talk about giving confidence and stability to the economy, I think that is one way we could do it, and, hopefully, we can work together.

The last issue I would bring up, Mr. Leader, as you know, I worked with your predecessor, Mr. Cantor, very successfully on the reauthorization of Export-Import Bank. That issue is coming up, and it will be expiring at the end of June, on June 30. We need to reauthorize that.

I am someone who believes that that is critical in terms of our exports. I know there is some disagreement on that issue, maybe between the two of us and between our caucuses; but, as you know, there are 60 Members in your caucus who have written a letter to the Speaker indicating their support and urging that that be brought to the floor.

Very frankly, with 185-plus Members, I think we will be unanimous on it, as we were last time. That makes somewhere in the neighborhood of 240 to 250 votes on this floor for the reauthorization of Export-Import Bank.

Does the gentleman see any prospect of that bill coming to the floor any time in the near future? As I say, as you know, the authorization expires on June 30.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman is correct, the authority for the Export-Import Bank does expire at the end of June.

I know the respect the gentleman has, as I do, for regular order and working through committees. The committee of jurisdiction has had a few hearings, and I know they have some hearings scheduled in the future continuing.

Nothing is scheduled at this point, but, if anything comes forward, I will notify.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I will just say this: we know that the chairman of the authorizing committee is opposed to Export-Import Bank. He was opposed to TRIA as well. He is opposed to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. As the gentleman knows, those, nevertheless, enjoy broad-based support in this House to a greater or lesser degree.

TRIA, we passed, notwithstanding the chairman's opposition to TRIA, on a bipartisan basis with overwhelming big numbers. I think that was the right thing to do.

I would urge the majority leader to urge the chairman, who I think does not enjoy the support of the majority of this House, on his position. I know you may share that position, but I really do believe the House has a position that we ought to pass the Export-Import Bank, and we need to do it sooner rather than later, to make sure that we continue the confidence that purchasers of U.S. goods, whether they be airplanes or widgets, will continue to keep doing so with the thought that we have in place what almost every country in the world has in place, a facilitating of that export ability of our country.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I do want to correct one part of history here. You referred to our chairman. Our chairman did move a TRIA bill through his committee. We did move it off this floor. The chairman you speak of, Chairman HENSARLING, managed the bill, got it through the House. We got it over to the Senate, and unfortunately, the Senate didn't take it up in the last hours, and then we got it done and signed into law this year.

I believe our chairman works very hard on these issues and did an excellent job in the TRIA.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I have no disrespect for Mr. HENSARLING. I think he is a very able Member of this body, and I have great respect for him. I disagree with him both on the Export-Import Bank, and I think I correctly characterize his view on whether we ought to do TRIA, but I do respect the fact, yes, he did bring it to the floor, and when he brought it to the floor, it passed overwhelmingly.

I won't pursue that further, but I don't expect Mr. HENSARLING—because I think he honestly believes that we ought not to have an Export-Import

Bank involvement, but having said that, I think that is not the position of the majority of this House.

When we last voted on it, it wasn't the position of the majority of your party or of mine. Now, that may have changed; I agree with that, but I think I am pretty confident in saying the majority of this House believes, in order to make sure that we stay competitive with worldwide competitors, that the Export-Import Bank is a critical component of that competitive ability. I simply hope that we will be considering it.

If it fails, it fails, but I think the American public, on this and so many other issues, deserves a vote on this floor. As the Speaker, and I have repeated this time and again, said at the beginning in the last election that his objective was to let the House work its will on this matter, as well as some others that I will discuss in the future, I would hope we could do that.

Unless the gentleman wants any more time, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY,  
APRIL 23, 2015, TO MONDAY,  
APRIL 27, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 8 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Michigan). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAN  
MISSION RESCUE

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, since 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been responsible for the deaths of many, many Americans.

This Saturday, April 25, 2015, we will observe the 35th anniversary on the day on which eight of those Americans gave their last full measure of devotion during a failure to rescue 52 fellow Americans being held hostage by radical extremists in Tehran.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for their friends.

Since America never forgets, I come to the floor today to read their names and to remind us to keep their families in our prayers: Marine Sergeant John Harvey; Marine Corporal George Holmes, Jr.; Marine Staff Sergeant Dewey Johnson; Air Force Major Richard Bakke; Air Force Tech Sergeant Joel Mayo; Air Force Captain Lynn McIntosh; and Air Force Captain Charles McMillan.

#### HONORING ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise to recognize Israel, our partner in peace and prosperity, for its 67 years of independence.

On April 14, 1948, just hours before the British mandate was due to end, Israel's founding fathers and mothers, led by David Ben-Gurion, declared the birth of the State of Israel in Tel Aviv.

On that day, 67 years ago, the population of Israel was 806,000. Today, 67 years later, after many difficulties and hardships, a strong, resolute Israel has a population of over 8 million.

Many of the Jews who lived in Israel in 1948 were survivors of the Second World War and the Holocaust, which pushed international opinion for the need for a homeland for the Jewish people where they could be free from persecution and free to build a better life.

Since that fateful day in Tel Aviv, Israel and its people have worked tirelessly to build a thriving democracy that is economically prosperous and at peace with neighboring nations.

The first nation to recognize Israel's independence, I am proud to say, was the United States, when Democratic President Harry Truman welcomed Israel into the community of nations just hours after its declaration. The bonds between our two great nations, bound together by common interests and shared values, have only grown with time.

Mr. Speaker, I hope, on this joyous day, that we reflect on the need to redouble our efforts to bring peace to the region and continue to support our friend and ally in its quest for peace.

#### FARC DEMANDS IMMUNITY

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in a direct violation of a cease-

fire, attacked a resting army unit in Cauca, killing 11 Colombian soldiers and injuring 20. I mourn with the Colombian people for this senseless loss of life.

Just this past weekend, reports from Colombia claim that a naval convoy delivering medical and humanitarian care to remote communities in Colombia's Amazon region twice came under attack by FARC forces. Attacking medical personnel is considered a war crime by international law.

Colombian President Santos continues to demonstrate a dangerous naivete in his negotiations with the terrorist organization. The FARC demands immunity and political legitimacy, but it is not an honest partner in the peace process.

Immunity for the FARC would constitute an affront to the memory of thousands murdered by that terrorist organization, innocent victims whose spirits demand justice.

Mr. Speaker, peace is always achieved through strength, never through weakness and appeasement.

□ 1230

#### A NEW TRADE MODEL FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Congress spent this past week trying to fast-track Trade Promotion Authority and the new Trans-Pacific Partnership proposal for trade agreements with several nations in the Pacific; but why rush such a significant piece of legislation that cedes Congress' constitutional authority to the executive branch?

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and President Obama are scheduled to meet on April 28 to further fast-track this agreement.

Rushing this process is an easy tactic to try to silence a reasonable opposition, but, based on our country's history of making trade deals that drive up our trade deficit and outsource millions of U.S. jobs, the American people should be alarmed. I and many others are sounding that alarm.

Japan is one of the most significant partners in this agreement, and it is the world's second largest currency manipulator and is one of the leading protectionist markets in the Pacific. They have much to gain from a weak trade agreement.

Japan is the world's third largest automobile market, but 96 percent of that market belongs only to Japanese automobiles. Since 2000, we have been able to sell 183,000 cars there, but guess how many they sold here—16.3 million. That is 89,000 to 1.

There is something wrong with trying to work a deal that rewards a country whose markets are closed. We need

a new trade model that creates jobs in America again and that does not reward currency manipulators and protectionist markets.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. POWERS

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a significant Hoosier, Mr. Donald S. Powers, who passed away on April 21, 2015.

I would like to express my gratitude for his community service and economic development efforts in my hometown of Munster, Indiana. Most importantly to me, he was a friend and a mentor who was always ready to provide some guidance. More than that, those who claim northwest Indiana as their home can also rightfully claim the same kind of relationship with Don Powers.

Mr. Powers proudly fought for our Nation during World War II as a Navy fighter pilot and then again in the Korean war. He was a graduate of Indiana's beloved Purdue University where he spent several years as president of the board of trustees.

Mr. Powers went on to develop much of Munster's residential neighborhoods; and, in 1973, Mr. Powers took part in the creation of Community Hospital, which was voted as one of America's 50 best hospitals 7 years in a row. In 1989, he developed the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, home to the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and South Shore Arts.

His efforts in developing Munster led to nationwide accolades for the community, even having the town make *Forbes Magazine's* 25 top suburbs for retirement. Mr. Powers was highly regarded in the community and throughout Indiana for his philanthropic and business endeavors.

Indiana and, indeed, the Nation, Mr. Speaker, lost one of its best leaders this week, but his legacy will certainly endure in the many lives he positively affected.

#### ENLIST ACT

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, I, once again, introduced the ENLIST Act.

The ENLIST Act would give young adults who came here through no fault of their own, who have graduated from our high schools, who can pass a background check, who can speak English, and whom the military is asking for to protect and defend the Nation that they know and love the opportunity to actually sign up for the military, to

wear the cloth of our Nation, and put their lives on the line.

At the end of an honorable term, they would be eligible for permanent residence in the United States of America.

This is an act of patriotism. This is an opportunity to create a greater national defense and an opportunity for those kids who know of no other country to call home to actually pledge allegiance and be patriots of this great Nation.

#### FAST TRACK AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, in just a few months in Washington, I have learned that there is always something going on, and this week is no exception to that rule. In the coming days, two very important actions may change life for many of my constituents and Americans across the country.

Last week, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RYAN, introduced the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, legislation that would allow the President to negotiate and to sign trade agreements with limited congressional oversight. The Committee on Ways and Means has reported that legislation out, and I imagine we will be considering it on the floor in short order.

Next week, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which is a case that has the potential to decide once and for all whether every American, regardless of sexual orientation, should have the right to marry and should have access to all of the legal rights and benefits we afford married couples.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I plan to address both of these important issues on the floor of the people's House this afternoon. I want to start by talking about the legislation that was reported out by the Ways and Means Committee this week.

If Congress authorizes TPA's fast-track authority, this President and every President elected after him will have the unprecedented authority to

negotiate and sign sweeping trade agreements with little opportunity for Congress to intercede on behalf of the many Americans those deals inevitably impact.

In the past, those agreements haven't turned out great for American workers here at home, which is all the more important reason that Congress should be able to retain the ability to fight for what is in the best interests of our constituents. After 6 years of secretive negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, we haven't been given much motivation to release any of this oversight.

Offering fast-track authority for the TPP means that we press fast-forward on policies that put American families' health at risk on policies that are challenging our chemical safeguards, on policies allowing unregulated and potentially contaminated food products into the United States.

We lose our chance to question policies that would allow foreign corporations to skirt our courts and demand taxpayer compensation when they feel they have been violated by U.S. laws.

Our constituents are relying on us to stand up for their interests on TPP and on every future trade agreement to come down the line. We cannot pass the buck on this, and I know that our first speaker today agrees with me.

I want to talk a little bit about the State of New Jersey because the State of New Jersey has seen what can happen when trade deals go bad: factories close, employees are laid off, and cities that have previously made things that have been bought by consumers around the world are suddenly faced with stunted economies and surges in unemployment.

My capital district—"Trenton makes, the World Takes"—is an illustration of what was a great economy in that locale. That is why it is so important that this body ensures we only sign these agreements when we are sure they will help, not hurt, working families.

I yield now to another Member who is deeply familiar with the issues in New Jersey, my friend and my fellow freshman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of what is being called fast-track authority.

The legislation would allow a deal, a deal that, regardless of its impact on American jobs, would go into effect with just a simple up-or-down vote. We have no other avenue for input, and I think we are seriously misguided. The best indication of that is history, where we have been.

I started my career as an electrician, working up and down the Delaware River, in different plants that manufactured products for not only the United States, but around the world. Now, I go through what is now my congressional district, and I can see the

empty boxes which used to be manufacturing, which used to put men and women to work.

Since NAFTA, I have been involved in trying to educate the people of not only my area, but, certainly, of the rest of the country, that this is seriously misguided and that the rhetoric that we heard at the time ended up being the exact opposite.

In my district alone, there have been 19,500 jobs lost and 59 employers who are no longer there. Those empty buildings that we used to call home, that used to pay for college educations, those are dreams erased. I was sent to Congress to create a climate for jobs here in America, and that is my focus. That is why I am so passionate about this issue.

When we look around the country, we are just now coming out of the worst economic times since I have been alive—the worst times. Now, what we are seeing and what we are being asked to do is to grant authority to take those jobs—the ones that will take care of our families—and ship them overseas.

They did it before, and it is going to happen again. Our job is to help create jobs here in America for all of the people, not just for the few who make and own the companies.

I urge my colleagues in the strongest way I can to say “no” to fast track and to say “yes” to American jobs.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, our constituents are really relying upon us here to stand up for their interests on TPP because every future trade agreement that comes down the line has an impact on our quality of life and on our opportunities.

I know that the speaker that we are getting ready to hear from knows very well how this trade agreement and how these negotiations are going to impact the communities and the economy of our United States of America. It is my honor to yield to someone who has been fighting furiously for her constituents, who has been adamant about giving a voice to the voiceless, and who has been educating our Caucus on a routine basis.

I yield now to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Let me say thank you to my colleague from New Jersey. I appreciate her kind words, but it is also true that she has been a strong, strong supporter of what this trade agreement might do to working families in the United States because where her heart and soul and where her values are, are going to strengthen the middle class in this country, not take the jobs away, not lower their wages, but make sure they can take care of themselves and their families.

I was so pleased to see another colleague from New Jersey here as well, and I am proud to join this effort.

□ 1245

On Monday, the beginning of this week, I went to Ansonia, Connecticut, which is in my district. I went to a place called the Ansonia Copper and Brass Company. There I was with the gentleman, John Barto, who was formerly the vice president of Ansonia Copper and Brass. John used to work there alongside of hundreds of others. He made specialty metal products, products that were used by U.S. industry and our military. Not so long ago the company employed thousands. Today this site lies vacant. All of those jobs have gone. What closed this plant? Unfair competition from overseas, exacerbated by bad trade deals.

Just don't listen to me on this. These are the words of a gentleman that I stood with in a hollowed-out building where the rain was coming through the roof on Monday because it is vacant and it is becoming just derelict. They are now taking the steel out of there to see what they can do to sell it in order to see what kind of revenue can be raised.

This is what he says: “These trade agreements are always promised to bring money and jobs and prosperity to our country, but they've done the exact opposite. We were a supplier to the United States Navy for over 70 years for a very critical part. Now that part is no longer made in this country, and that's terrible.”

Further: “I think we already know that this is going to be like NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement). There's something undeniably suspicious about an agreement when you're not able to see it”—to read it, to understand what is in it.

Finally, I will just say that his words and he did strike a chord when he talked about:

We've long understood that currency manipulation is the driving force behind jobs existing in this country. It hasn't changed. That's an issue. We talk about NAFTA, we talk about CAFTA, most recently the Korea free trade agreement, and they are going to change things, bring jobs, help manufacturing. It has done nothing short of the exact opposite. I am living, breathing proof . . . This was a vibrant company. There were 300 people-plus working here . . . Now there are zero jobs, zero revenues . . . Hundreds upon hundreds of employees, thousands worked here over time . . . generations of families were supported by this company, and it's with great sadness that we find ourselves here today. The fact is the enemy is ourselves . . . We have got to get our Senators and all of our elected representatives to understand what we're up against is currency manipulation. I don't for a second believe that we need to take this deal, negotiate it in the back room. Our elected officials cannot see it. That squashes democracy. It reeks of impropriety. What is going on here where we cannot see this agreement?

These are not my words. I didn't work at Ansonia Copper and Brass. But today, John Barto, a former vice president, is trying to find another job for

himself and for his family. That is the story that this free trade agreement is all about.

What has gone on here and what is happening in our manufacturing sector is that problems are leaving people struggling to find middle class jobs. American manufacturing jobs are being lost; foreign products are being subsidized, and those are coming in, and it is about these bad trade agreements.

The United States is poised to sign the biggest trade agreement of them all, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and it is a very dangerous prospect for our economy, for our working families. It forces Americans to compete with low-paid workers in developing countries like Vietnam, where the minimum wage is 56 cents an hour. It hazards the health of our families by opening up our borders still wider to dangerous, unregulated food, toxic seafood from Malaysia and from Vietnam. It empowers foreign companies to challenge all kinds of U.S. laws, without ever stepping foot inside an American courtroom. It promotes corporate special interests. It relegates labor rights and environmental protections to the sidelines. It does nothing to confront the currency cheats whose abuses have already cost Connecticut over 32,000 jobs.

Now the administration wants us to give it a rubberstamp to say: You go ahead and complete the negotiations that they have been engaged in for the last 5 years without any congressional input so that they can complete the deal without us knowing what is in this Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

What is fast track? What does it mean? No public scrutiny; limited debate in the House of Representatives; and no ability by Members of Congress, who have the constitutional authority to review free trade agreements, it gives us no opportunity to amend the process. If we wanted to change it, we can't change it once you have given fast track.

We have been here before. The administration sought fast-track authority last year. It failed. They produced another bill that came out of a committee in the United States Senate; and in the House it is exactly the same, almost exactly the same as it was last year. Our view is it is dead on arrival this time as well.

On that issue of currency which Mr. Barto spoke so poignantly about, which, currency manipulation, when a country devalues its currency, it makes their goods cheaper than our goods. The administration has refused to put a currency chapter in the free trade agreement, and they have said that. They wrote a letter to the United States Senators. That is the biggest link in losing jobs and depressing wages.

I will finish up on this. What is the economic challenge that we face today? People in our country are in



jobs that just don't pay them enough money to pay their bills. Middle class families are struggling. Wages are stagnant today. Why would we want to support a free trade agreement that will only exacerbate this problem? It will not create jobs and, further, it will depress wages.

We counter, say "no" to fast track and that we are not going to stand by. We are going to exercise our constitutional authority as Members of the House of Representatives. Read this piece of legislation, and it has to reflect not our ideas, but what our constituents believe is the right thing to do on their behalf.

I can't thank you enough for organizing this effort today. You can be sure that every single day we are going to be up on our feet and finding the votes to say "no" to fast track and "yes" to the American people and to working families in this country. I thank the gentlelady.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlelady for having taken this issue and just gone forward with it and having been such an educator of us, of the ones that are new and the ones that have been here and that have taken the time to really speak to the constituents about the impact of this trade agreement and the potential that it has a negative impact on our economy, our safety, our security, our worker protections. I thank you very much.

I think it is quite illuminating for people to understand that no one is opposed to trade. We are just opposed to unequal trade. No one is opposed to exporting or importing. We are opposed to not knowing what is in this trade agreement. We are opposed to not having a say in this trade agreement, and we are opposed to anything that creates greater unequal opportunities for the workers of this country to have decent jobs and good wages that are being paid. So I thank you very much.

The notion of giving this President, whom we love, and any President that we are going to love in the future the authority to do that without our involvement is not what was expected by creating these three coequal branches of government.

As I said to you in the beginning, there are two very important issues that our constituents are concerned about, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to speak out today because they are occupying the minds of many of our colleagues over the next few weeks. It is not only this major issue that will be on the minds of American people, but next week, just next week, the U.S. Supreme Court will take up a case that has the potential to fulfill the principles of equality and justice that this country stands for. When the court hears arguments in this case, they will have the opportunity to ensure that every American, regardless of whom they love, has access to the legal rights

and benefits we give on the Federal and State level to married couples.

More than 60 percent of Americans already agree that same-sex couples deserve the same recognition that we give heterosexual couples; and just as public opposition has crumbled, so have many of the arguments we have made against giving these couples the same protections we give their heterosexual peers. I am proud to be a member of the LGBT Caucus and to join my colleagues today on the floor this evening as we urge the court to rule in support of equal rights and in favor of marriage equality.

It is my pleasure now to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), a leader in the fight for marriage equality and equality in general for all people. I now ask Mr. TAKANO from the great State of California to share his remarks with us.

Mr. TAKANO. Well, I thank the gentlelady from New Jersey for yielding to me during this Special Order, and I want to give time for us to get set up with our graphics.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is on the cusp of correcting a longstanding injustice, an injustice that has been embedded into our national psyche and, frankly, our laws for more than 200 years. It is an injustice that says LGBT Americans shouldn't receive the same rights as everyone else. It is an injustice that the law in many States still says it doesn't matter how committed LGBT relationships are or how much in love they are. It is an injustice in the law that says LGBT Americans cannot and should not be able to get married.

The law could not be more wrong, Mr. Speaker. Our Constitution says that no person shall be denied equal protection of the laws, and that should include LGBT Americans. To say that it doesn't matter how committed same-sex relationships are is an insult to the thousands of same-sex relationships that have been going strong for 30, 40, even 50 years. Gender and sexual orientation should not matter when it comes to the right to marry. What should matter is what is in one's heart.

Now the Supreme Court can correct this injustice next week, as it is set to hear oral arguments in a case that could make marriage equality the law of the land. Now, I have never been one to count my chickens before they hatch, but I believe that the Supreme Court will rule on the right side of history.

Our Nation has been moving toward marriage equality at a breakneck speed. Ten years ago, only one State had marriage equality; and as you can see here, things have changed, as 36 States and the District of Columbia now have marriage equality.

As we prepare for the Court's ruling, let us not forget that there are more battles to be fought. As it stands in 28 States, someone can be fired because of

their sexual orientation or gender identity. This puts individuals who live in certain States in a difficult position. I just want to take a moment to point out, this here is a map of where those 28 States are in our country with employment discrimination in the United States.

I want to tell you the story of Lonnie Billard of South Carolina, a high school teacher for more than a decade. Lonnie couldn't wait to marry his long-time partner when marriage equality came to South Carolina in late 2014. Like so many Americans do, he posted the news of his marriage on Facebook.

□ 1300

Several days later, he received a call from his assistant principal, and he was fired from his job.

Marriage equality is coming, Mr. Speaker, but what does it say about our Nation when people cannot share the happiest day of their life for fear of losing their job?

For Americans who live in States with marriage equality and legalized discrimination, we are telling them that they can have the same rights as everyone else, but it is best that they don't tell anyone about it.

What we have is an incomplete patchwork map of rights for LGBT Americans. If you look at the marriage equality map, there are 36 States with marriage equality. But if you look at the employment discrimination map, LGBT Americans can be fired in 28 States simply for being who they are.

That means that in 14 States—like Indiana, Alabama, and Pennsylvania—an LGBT American can get married to their partner, but then get fired because of it.

That is not what our Nation is about. Every American is granted a certain set of rights, and they should be able to exercise them as freely and openly as they wish.

Our Nation is becoming a more perfect Union. But until we recognize that LGBT Americans are entitled to all of the same rights and protections as anyone else, full legal equality for LGBT Americans will be incomplete.

There will be a day when both of these maps are combined and show that LGBT Americans are receiving full and equal protection under the law. Until then, we fail to live up to our own Constitution. But even when we reach full legal equality, it may take years until we receive equality in the hearts of all Americans.

I know I will continue the fight for equality in the hearts of all Americans, and I know the gentlewoman from New Jersey will fight as well.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much to the gentleman from California.

I have to tell you that I am very happy to be able to work with you on

this issue. As a State legislator, this was important to us in the State of New Jersey. And as we grappled with all kinds of configurations of equality in relationships, we recognized that everything but absolute marriage equality was giving individuals stumbling blocks over very important things like simply being able to visit your loved one in the hospital and making medical decisions for them, or being able to enjoy the financial rights that a heterosexual couple can enjoy.

Any area in which there is inequality is a threatened area to every one of us who at one point has been discriminated against or has been identified as part of a protected class.

So I thank you for the work that you are doing here, and I am your partner in this effort.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our leader in our Caucus on this and so many other issues, a person who stands up each and every day for the rights of the citizens of this great country.

Mr. HOYER. I thank Congresswoman COLEMAN for yielding time, and I thank her for organizing this Special Order and for her leadership on this issue. She is a new Member, but not a new person to public service, not a new person to leadership, not a new person to fighting for the rights of every American, and I thank her very much for her leadership, her commitment, and her courage.

I also want to thank, Mr. Speaker, the LGBT Equality Caucus for its powerful advocacy on this issue.

The Supreme Court next week is hearing more than just an argument about same sex marriage. It is considering a question fundamental to what it means to be an American.

Our Nation, as we say so proudly, was founded on the premise that all people are created equal—not the same, but equal—irrespective of the differences. Our Declaration of Independence, as all of us quote so often, says:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men”—of course, if Jefferson were writing today, it would be either all people or all humankind—“are created equal, that they are endowed by”—not a Congress, not by a Constitution, not by a will of the majority—“their Creator”—by God—“with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

That, of course, has not always been America's performance, notwithstanding it has been its promise.

Next week, the highest Court in our land will be asked to consider whether these words apply to same-sex couples who love one another. Many courts have already said that it does.

Marriage equality provides same-sex households vital legal protections and economic security that we would ask for ourselves. Marriage equality would

mean that approximately 250,000 children in America who are being raised in same-sex households will see their parents receive equal treatment.

One of those families is led by—or perhaps his partner would say he leads it—SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, with three beautiful, loving and loved children. I have seen them all together. They are a happy, healthy family.

Study after study has shown that children of same-sex households are doing as well as their peers from opposite sex households academically, psychologically, and socially.

Marriage equality also means spousal benefits for those who share their lives with and care for their same-sex partners. Marriage equality will mean that same-sex couples, Mr. Speaker, can make medical and end-of-life decisions for their loved one.

These are tangible benefits. These, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, are the pursuit of happiness. They are tangible benefits and ought to be treated equally under the law in every State of our Union—not in 28, not in 48, but in all 50 and the District of Columbia.

Thanks to the extraordinary courage of millions who have come out to their friends and families, which took a lot of courage, and spoken with their neighbors and coworkers, a majority of Americans now agree that every loving couple ought to be treated equally and have their right to marry recognized.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have three daughters. I have three grandchildren. One of my grandchildren is an adult. All four of those women would say to me: Dad, why is it any of our business who somebody else loves, who somebody else wants to commit to? Why is that our business? Why does it make a difference to us?

What makes a difference to us is how they treat us, whether they obey the law, whether, as Dr. Martin Luther King would say, the content of their character is such that we ought to respect them, not because of the difference of the color of their skin, their gender, their nationality, their religion, or their choice of whom they want to love.

Born equal, endowed by God with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Is there a happier time in one's life than when one pledges themselves to another? We all gather, we all celebrate, we all wish them well.

LGBT Americans now have the right to marry and have their families treated equally in 37 States and the District of Columbia. In the remaining States, however, LGBT residents are watching the Supreme Court with great anticipation.

Hopefully, the Court will do as Earl Warren's Court did in *Brown v. Board of Education*, saying that separate is not equal. Treating people here differently than people here—who love one another—is not equal.

Tens of millions of Americans stand with our friends in the LGBT community in support of marriage equality and believe, as I do, in a ruling in support of the lower courts that have again and again sided with same-sex couples and have said that the law requires, the Constitution requires, that we do in fact live out our promise of treatment on an equal basis.

We need to bring those words of the Declaration of Independence closer to their full realization, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, the Court will do that.

Mr. Speaker, I am from the State of Maryland. I was proud to join in sending an amicus brief to the Court in March, arguing that the State bans are unconstitutional.

In my State of Maryland, our legislature carried out what MRS. COLEMAN and I have said: equality means equality. We passed marriage equality.

Mr. Speaker, some folks didn't agree with that and petitioned it to a referendum. I am very proud of the citizens of Maryland. They were the first State to say in a referendum at the polls, We believe equality means equality, and passed this resolution and confirmed that law.

I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey, a leader in that State, a leader in our Nation, for leading this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will be able to return to this floor over the summer to praise a ruling by the Court that I anticipate will be historic and accurate and one that our Nation can be proud of for generations, indeed, centuries to come.

Our Nation made a promise in our Declaration of Independence. Our Nation has not always met that promise. Indeed, we have struggled to realize the reality of that promise.

In my lifetime, Martin Luther King, Jr., brought that compellingly to America's attention. In his lifetime, the President whom the majority leader in this House just last week heralded as one of the great figures, great giants in American history, Abraham Lincoln, called the attention of his generation to the gulf between the promise and the practice in America.

It resulted in a war in which we lost more lives in America than any other war in which we have been involved: the Civil War. It is sad that we had to fight. It is sad that we lost lives. But we have redeemed, to some degree, the promise of treating people based upon the content of their character.

□ 1315

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentleman from Maryland, and I appreciate the passions with which you have taken on this issue of right and wrong and equality, as you have taken on other issues. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these may seem to have been very diverse issues

to bring before the floor at the same time, but they are connected in so many different ways, particularly because our constituents care deeply about both of these issues.

If we allow the fast-track authority to move forward, we risk signing up for a trade deal that risks our environment, the health of American families, while excusing the reprehensible conduct of many of the governments who would become our new partners, all while putting in the same compromise for future agreements.

Meanwhile, if the Supreme Court upholds the tenets of justice and equality that our Nation has always valued, LGBT couples across the country will gain the access to the same rights and protections that heterosexual couples expect and enjoy, and the children of those couples will have the confidence and the security of their family's relationship. I look forward to continuing my work with that.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 19 minutes remaining.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HONOR THEIR MEMORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, the arc of the moral universe will intersect with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Many will bear witness to that intersection, but sadly, official recognition of the genocide by the United States Government will be conspicuously absent.

Let us review the facts. In 1915, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically annihilated by Ottoman-era Turkish authorities. Men, women, and children were massacred, deported, and condemned to death marches into the Syrian Desert, where they died of thirst and starvation—no final rights, no burial, an assault on the dignity of a dignified and proud people.

This indisputable tragedy of history has been acknowledged by innumerable scholars and historians, including the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, and no less than 53 Nobel laureates. The European Parliament and Pope Francis recently joined the chorus that honestly labels this horrific chapter of Turkey's history a genocide.

Hopelessly infected by the disease of denial, modern-day Turkish authorities have now made it clear they were never going to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the genocide with anything

approaching candor, honesty, or the most minimal degree of self-reflection.

It heaps insult upon injury that they have chosen the genocide anniversary of April 24 to commemorate something wholly different, the 100th anniversary of the landing of British imperial forces at Gallipoli, a landing that actually occurred the next day, on April 25, 1915.

Turkey's treatment of the Armenian genocide is no surprise. It is a conditioned reflex that has been codified into the laws of the state. In Turkey, anyone who uses the word "genocide" to describe the massacre of the Armenians is subject to criminal punishment under article 301 of the Turkish penal code.

Obviously, we should have dramatically higher expectations for our own country. That is the reason that, as a Member of Congress who has long supported a resolution to recognize the Armenian genocide, I have dreaded the prospect that the 100th anniversary would come and go without official recognition from either the United States Congress or the President of the United States.

I share the deep disappointment and sense of betrayal felt by the Armenian people and all who support their cause. It is lamentable that, on Capitol Hill, advocacy for recognition is being undermined every day by Turkey's intense lobbying campaign to block passage of the Armenian genocide resolution.

In the face of this, it is easy to be cynical and angry, but we should remind ourselves and be inspired that, on April 24, hundreds of thousands of Americans will defy the lack of official recognition with their own personal and heartfelt acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide.

In Turkey, there are brave citizens who, at great personal risk, condemn state authorities for their tragic silence. Ultimately, the voices of individual citizens have a special power to move the heart, in this instance, to bless the unmarked graves of 1.5 million Armenians whose own voices and spirits were trampled into the ground 100 years ago.

This year, I will resist the temptation to mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide with anger and frustration at the lack of official recognition from those who should know better; rather, I will draw strength from the conviction that the arc of the moral universe will ultimately bend toward justice, toward the eternal memory of those who perished in this undeniable tragedy of history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### STOP THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the gentleman for this Special Order on an important subject, the Export-Import Bank. I was just going to start with retelling a story I told at an event not too long ago that I think is important.

The scenario that is going to play out, I think, all across the country later this afternoon, there is going to be a guy who works second shift at the local manufacturing facility. He is going to go out, get in his truck to drive to work.

Now, remember, he is working second shift, which means he has got to miss some of his kids' Little League games, miss some of his children's afterschool activities.

He goes out to get in his truck to go to work, and he looks a couple of houses down, and he sees a guy sitting on the front porch, drinking a cup of coffee, reading the newspaper. He knows the guy can work, but won't work, and is getting his tax dollars.

He gets in his truck to drive to work, and he happens to turn the radio on. It happens to be the news hour. A reporter comes on and talks about the Federal Government's got an \$18 trillion national debt.

They have got this program that gives money to favored and connected corporations. One of these companies went bankrupt and cost the taxpayers a ton of money.

He hears all that, and he remembers what he saw on the front porch of his neighbor's house. Guess what, this guy is ticked off, and he has every right to be.

At the same time he is driving to work, there is a lady driving home from work. She teaches second grade at the local elementary school, and she has busted her tail all day long helping her students.

She views her job as a teacher as a mission field, trying to help her students get the skill set they need to start on their path to achieving the American Dream. She has worked hard all day long.

She is driving home, happens to have her radio on, happens to be tuned in to the same station where the same reporter comes on and talks about the Federal Government with an \$18 trillion national debt, this program that gives money to favored corporations, connected corporations. This one company went bankrupt, cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

She hears all that as she pulls into her driveway on the same street, sees the same guy sitting on his front porch, drinking coffee, reading the paper. She knows he can work but won't work, and he is getting her tax

dollars. Guess what, she is just as mad as the second-shift worker, and she has every right to be.

Now, our job, as Members of Congress, is to remember people like the second-grade teacher and the second-shift worker and fight for things they care about. Here is one: they care about this concept that goes on in this town, where connected companies get special deals with their tax money, and they want that to stop.

We now have a chance to do that, to start the process of stopping the corporate welfare, and that is what Mr. BUCK's Special Order hour is all about, stopping the Export-Import Bank from continuing the corporate connectedness, the corporate cronyism, and the corporate welfare.

Our job is real simple. All we have to do is nothing, something Congress is usually pretty good at doing. All we have to do is not reauthorize this Bank, which loans out billions of taxpayer dollars, puts billions of taxpayer dollars at risk, and helps connected corporate entities who got every lobbyist in this town hired to fight for their cause, at the expense of second-grade teachers and second-shift workers.

Let's not reauthorize this thing. Let's show those people we are actually fighting for them. Then once we do that, then we can actually also get into the social safety net, reform that, require work for able-bodied adults, treat taxpayers with respect, help people trapped in our social safety net system get to a better life.

We can reform it all, but let's start with those connected companies with the high-paid lobbyists getting the special deals.

One other thing I will add before turning it back over to the gentleman from Colorado, who is doing such a great job on this issue, and my good friend from Virginia, who is going to speak as well on this issue and doing a great job, this thing is not only bad because it loans out money, puts taxpayer money at risk, it is corrupt.

Just last week, Mr. Gutierrez, a long-term employee at the Ex-Im Bank, was indicted on bribery and fraud charges, bribery and fraud charges that go clear back to 2006.

For 7 years, he was scamming people, taking taxpayer money, helping himself, taking bribes from companies benefiting from the Export-Import Bank.

Last week, at the first hearing we have had on this issue this Congress, we had the inspector general at the Export-Import Bank say this—and I will close here. He said there may be more indictments in the Gutierrez case. More importantly, he said there may be indictments in the 31—that is right—31 open fraud investigations that the Ex-Im Bank and the Department of Justice are currently investigating.

Now, if that is not enough reason to get rid of this thing, I don't know what is. It puts taxpayer money at risk—corruption, fraud, 31 open fraud investigation cases. Everyone knows it is bad.

All Congress has to do to end it is not a darn thing. For goodness sake, maybe even Congress can accomplish that.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from Ohio, and I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT).

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to follow my fellow Congressman from the great State of Ohio and follow our leader, KEN BUCK.

I am an economist who has been working on international trade policy and economics for more than two decades. I support free trade and equal treatment under the law. I oppose special privileges.

Everyone likes free money, and that gets to the crux of this issue, and I want to go real slowly over this issue because everyone knows there is no such thing as free money or a free lunch. Every economics student learns that in their first course in economics.

Let's just be real clear on that one point and take our time. If you get free money, right, if a corporation gets free money or you get free money, that is good for you, and you are going to hear a lot of people up here saying: Hey, this hurts business, this hurts my company because I am getting free money.

The flip side of that free money is someone is paying the tab for that. Guess who that is, that is you. That is the public. That is the taxpayer. You are footing the bill for this free money that falls out of heaven up here, working through special interests and corporate cronies.

□ 1330

The Export-Import Bank provides cheap, below-market credit to certain exporters. "Below market," that means the market system is not working, and something has jumped in to distort free markets. Below market is just a fancy way of saying "disguised subsidies."

Subsidized exporters and their foreign customers like the goodies. For example, Boeing and its airline customers in the United Arab Emirates, India, South Korea, Chile, China, Ethiopia, and Turkey, among others, appreciate U.S. taxpayers helping to subsidize their planes, or any other good you want to name.

So at first, the Export-Import Bank just looks like a bank that is helping our firms export. But then go and look at the size and the bottom line of the foreign firms who are offering these products more cheaply to their customers, the folks we export to. That is the issue.

Banks in this country also like this program since they get lighter regulation on U.S. Government-backed loans and related products. That is a good

thing. But, again, the backstop is you, the taxpayer. If this system ever fails—and we have just seen failure of a massive order with the financial crisis of 2008. And who paid the bill at the end of that failure? The taxpayer. You are the backstop for any failure.

Whenever you hear someone say, Hey, I am getting low interest rates—what a great deal. The low interest rates are being paid for by you; and the risk, which is just as important and is easy to hide, is also being borne by you, the taxpayer.

So the Export-Import Bank does not advance the public interest. Export-Import imposes real costs on you, the American consumer, taxpayers, and other businesses through risk, market distortions, and misallocation of resources.

Let me bring a little economics into this. Export subsidies don't—do not—increase net exports, and there is plenty of economic literature to support this claim. Sure, subsidized exports increase. Of course they do. But unsubsidized exports—the folks without the deal—drop, and imports increase in response. So someone is getting a benefit, but there is always someone else that is not receiving the benefit, that is being harmed by this free money out of heaven.

As the Government Accountability Office noted in a study on Ex-Im's jobs claims: "Additional exports may result in jobs shifting from one firm to another, without an increase in total employment."

Let me read that again. The study claims: "Additional exports may result in jobs"—that is what we care about up here—"jobs shifting from one firm"—who loses them—"to another"—who has the free money—but "without an increase in total employment."

I think that is what Americans care about. I think you care about increasing total employment, and this program does not accomplish that goal.

What is true for employment is also true for production in general and for net exports, which are all part of our GDP.

These economic outcomes are driven by major macroeconomic factors. These are the things we should care about. These are the things that really do improve our economy: worker productivity, United States capital stock, our business climate, and how much we save or borrow. Those are the fundamentals that we need to improve if we want to do better in the rest of the world. And we should also include the United States education system in the mix as well. The Export-Import Bank doesn't change any of these fundamental market drivers. It just benefits some at the expense of the rest of us.

America is supposed to embody free enterprise and equal opportunity for all people—equal opportunity. "Equal"

means equal, no special deals for anyone. Getting ahead shouldn't require having friends in Washington, D.C.

Besides, how can we address the entitlement crisis and the legitimate welfare issues we have on the domestic front, as the gentleman from Ohio, JIM JORDAN, just noted, and other domestic reforms if we can't even tackle a narrow corporate welfare program?

I will just close by drawing another comparison with the great financial crisis we had in '07-'08. Fannie and Freddie had a network across 50 States. It was almost a shadow Congress of power that even Members of Congress didn't want to go up against because they were so powerful.

And what happened as Fannie and Freddie helped to generate mortgages to people who could not pay their mortgages; right? Subsidized rates—is it sounding familiar? Subsidized rates to folks who didn't have incomes, liar loans, and utter financial collapse starting in the housing sector, spreading over to the financial sector, all too good to be true, all free money falling from heaven, just like I am describing here with the Export-Import Bank. And at the end of the day, who paid the bill? You did, the American taxpayer.

So the Export-Import Bank is building the same infrastructure throughout the country. They are going State by State by State, Member by Member by Member, saying: Hey, you have companies who really need this special deal. They like the deal.

We have shown, I have shown: it is good for them, but it is not good for you.

These special interest subsidies need to end, starting with the end of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for the opportunity to rise and speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have some serious concerns about the future of the Export-Import Bank, particularly with this administration.

In the past, the Bank has been used to push extreme environmental policies from the President to guide how it awards their loans. We all know that the President has declared a war on coal; and through his administration, he is doing everything he can to prosecute that war on coal. We have seen the EPA and other departments in this administration, through regulation—not through Congress, but through regulation—attempt to shut down the coal industry and bankrupt the coal industry. The President, himself, said his goal was to bankrupt the coal industry. This, of course, along with the Export-Import Bank, is hurting coal companies and costing American jobs as they try to compete in the global market.

I know that American coal has been hurt because the Export-Import Bank has awarded loans in countries that do not have to adhere to President Obama's leftwing environmental regulations. They don't have an EPA in many of these countries, yet we are financing deals there. Our current President has proven time and again he will use any means necessary to circumvent Congress and the Constitution to promote an agenda the American people just don't want.

So let me give you some specifics on the Export-Import Bank and some of their investments:

For example, in 2013, the Export-Import Bank approved a loan in the amount of \$694 million in financing for U.S. equipment to develop an open-pit iron ore mine in Australia. The mine is owned by the wealthiest woman in the country of Australia. Do you really think she needs U.S. tax dollar support for this project?

According to public officials, unions, and the Iron Mining Association, these subsidies threaten to displace nearly \$600 million worth of U.S. iron ore exports and cause a reduction of approximately \$1.2 billion in U.S. domestic sales.

The Wall Street Journal recently highlighted a \$641 million deal the Export-Import Bank made with a Turkish company to build a new fuel-producing plant. According to the CEO of Valero, a company that exports American diesel and gasoline to foreign countries, "The new Turkish refinery will be a direct competitor of U.S. refineries in the global market." "It takes away potential export markets."

Valero, I might mention, has operations in my district, in my State, and in many other States throughout the country.

Lastly, according to The Heritage Foundation, the Export-Import Bank made a \$500 million deal with a copper mine in Mongolia that competes with excavations in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Montana.

The American people elect Congress to write the laws and make the laws, not the President. The President is the executive branch. He needs to figure this out. The executive branch enforces laws. They don't make the laws. That is what we do here in the legislative branch. The American people gave Republicans majorities in both Chambers to put a stop to the President's radical agenda.

One other concern I would like to point out is I don't believe the government should be in the business of picking the winners and the losers. Private investors, you, when you choose to shop, individuals, can pick who you want to support.

We have a vibrant and highly functioning private banking system. We should let them determine which loans are made to which companies. When

the Federal Government inserts itself into the process, you end up with a system where Washington special interests drive decisionmaking, not free market principles. The Export-Import Bank has become the competitor to this private capital and investment.

And I am a conservative. I believe I support Federal policies that encourage free enterprise and entrepreneurship, not to enter the arena as a competitor to the private sector. The Federal Government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. Let's let the marketplace decide who wins and loses. This is the way free markets are supposed to work.

What has made America great are the traditional values, hard work, and free markets. The ability to create jobs in this country, that is what has made America great.

We support businesses. Those businesses that create jobs, they have raised more people out of poverty—the businesses and the jobs they create have raised more people out of poverty than any other government program can or ever will.

So I wanted to bring these concerns to the attention of the American people and this body. This is a serious issue that may or may not come before Congress. If we don't act at all, the Bank expires; and it is clear from what I have detailed here, there are serious concerns with moving forward with the Export-Import Bank.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue.

Mr. BUCK. I thank the gentleman from West Virginia.

Bribery, corruption, and fraud, throughout my tenure as a State and Federal prosecutor, I saw all of these evils and more. I am disappointed to say that the words I once used to describe white-collar criminals can now be used to define a federally funded entity.

The Export-Import Bank, or, as some know it, the Ex-Im Bank, has taken advantage of our free market system. An institution that once stood for economic growth, prosperity, and global expansion now stands as a symbol of greed, a pillar of crony capitalism.

It does not take a trained eye to see that the Ex-Im Bank is exactly what is wrong with Washington today. This 80-year-old institution we once trusted to expand our "Made in America" brand to every corner of the globe has failed to live up to its charter and has, instead, morphed into something else.

The Bank does not maintain or create jobs. It does not support small businesses as much as its supporters would like you to think. It does not level the playing field for U.S. exporters. It is not even a good deal for taxpayers. The Ex-Im Bank has become more like a train with no conductor at the helm, running faster and faster, heading straight off the tracks. As so often happens when accountability is slim and

punishment is nonexistent, the Ex-Im Bank has become a breeding ground for corruption, cronyism, and fraud.

If you think I am wrong, even President Obama agreed with me back in 2008. Before he ascended to the White House, Mr. Obama said that the Ex-Im Bank was “little more than corporate welfare.” The President is also on record saying:

There should be a level playing field for U.S. exporters, allowing them to compete based on the quality and price of their goods and services, rather than on the quality of any officially supported financing.

You know, Mr. President, the great thing about the Internet is those words never go away, no matter how much you change your tune.

At best, the Bank is handpicking winners and losers. At worst, Ex-Im Bank is corruptly accepting bribes, crookedly steering funds to favored foreign companies, and chilling the market for our homegrown companies.

Take, for instance, Delta Air Lines. Delta is suing Ex-Im Bank because it feels that it is being cheated out of many of its former routes. The airline is on record saying that foreign competitors aided by American taxpayer-funded loans from the Ex-Im Bank can now charge less per flight because they have purchased Boeing aircraft at cheaper prices than our own American companies can.

□ 1345

The American taxpayer is subsidizing foreign airlines that compete with other American airlines.

Speaking of Boeing and the Ex-Im Bank's corrupt practices, following Delta's suit, Congress mandated that the Bank perform economic impact reviews on all large deals. Take one guess who helped Ex-Im craft these rules. Boeing. This company received 65.4 percent of the bank's taxpayer-backed financing to help sell their jets to foreign companies, putting domestic airlines like Delta in a bind. How can Ex-Im justify its claims of leveling the playing field and supporting small businesses with these practices?

It only takes a quick glance at Ex-Im's leadership to see how we got to this point. The Daily Caller found that fully half of Ex-Im's own advisory committee members led businesses that directly benefited from Ex-Im financing during their term. Five more members had Ex-Im funding reach their organizations before joining the advisory committee. And most disturbing of all, if we can have something more disturbing, is that the current advisory committee chair is former Democratic Governor Christine Gregoire of Washington State—Washington State, which receives 43.6 percent of the bank's total funding. I invite you once again to take one guess at what company is headquartered in Washington State. Yes, you guessed it: Boeing.

Mr. Speaker, if this is not bad enough, between October 2007 and March 2014, there were 124 investigations linked to corruption surrounding the Ex-Im Bank. This includes some 792 separate claims involving more than \$500 million. The Ex-Im inspector general also revealed last week that 31 other Ex-Im Bank employees are currently being investigated for fraud. That brings us to nearly 40 Ex-Im employees who have already been investigated or are currently being investigated for fraud.

During an Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing during the week of April 15, the Export-Import Bank's inspector general revealed that four senior-level Ex-Im employees were relieved of their duties last summer. These employees were allegedly steering taxpayer-funded loans to favored companies in exchange for cash payments and other kickbacks. A former Congressman is sitting now in Federal prison until 2023 on bribery charges linked to Bank practices. Another former Ex-Im employee was indicted in the same scheme for soliciting and accepting \$173,500 in bribes. The list goes on and on. How can we justify allowing a Federal agency to continue to operate in flagrant disregard of the law?

Mr. Speaker, the most recent of these cases features a former Ex-Im loan officer, Johnny Gutierrez. You may remember Mr. Gutierrez as one of the four Ex-Im employees I mentioned before. He has the dubious honor of being the first of these four to be formally charged with bribery by the Department of Justice. He allegedly accepted cash bribes 19 times between 2006 and 2013 to help direct taxpayer-backed loans to a Florida-based construction equipment exporter, Impex Association. Mr. Gutierrez was apparently very good at his job. He secured between \$1 million and \$5 million to finance Impex Association projects in both Mexico and the Dominican Republic in June 2007. Similar guarantees were also promised to Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos. It is clear this is, unfortunately, not an isolated incident.

It only gets worse, Mr. Speaker. In 2009, former Democratic Congressman William J. Jefferson from Louisiana was convicted of accepting bribes from U.S. telecom company IGATE and a Nigerian company in exchange for selling access to Ex-Im Bank employees. Jefferson was even videotaped receiving \$100,000 at the Ritz-Carlton hotel right across the river in Arlington. When Federal investigators raided Jefferson's house, they discovered over \$90,000 in cash stashed away in his freezer. This does not even take into account the former Ex-Im employee, Maureen Scurry, who was indicted for accepting \$173,500 worth of bribes to help the Nigerian company.

I don't know about you, but when an internal poll shows that only 42.1 per-

cent of your employees think the organization's leaders maintain a high standard of honesty and integrity, and only 50.2 percent of employees believe they can disclose violations of the law without fearing for their jobs, there is something terribly wrong.

It is time for a change here in Washington. The Ex-Im Bank is the perfect example of what happens when a single agency is allowed to pick winners and losers. For too long, Ex-Im employees have been accepting falsified documents, failing to record applicants' eligibility, and forging mandatory checks on applicants' financial integrity. There is a systemic sickness poisoning this agency with greed and corruption. It must be stopped, and it must be stopped now.

This battle may be hard. But it is one I feel deep down that we must fight. We cannot allow this corrupt agency to continue picking winners and losers, laughing in the face of our laws and degrading our free market principles. The Ex-Im Bank is a portrait of exactly what is wrong with Washington today, and it is finally time for a change. That is why I ask you to join me on June 30 in allowing this pillar of crony capitalism to expire once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM UPON WINNING ITS 13TH CONSECUTIVE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of students, teachers, and parents of the Bell Street Middle School Science Olympiad Team, which just won their 13th consecutive Science Olympiad State championship. Let me repeat that: the 13th straight Science Olympiad State championship, a remarkable group of parents, teachers, and students.

The Science Olympiad program is one of the premier science competition programs in the Nation, which for the past 31 years has been dedicated to interscholastic academic competition that provides a series of individual and team events requiring the knowledge of scientific facts, concepts, processes, skills, and science applications. They provide constantly changing challenges to nearly 7,000 teams across all 50 States that allow for students to be exposed to a variety of career choices while meeting practicing scientists and life-changing mentors.

The Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, South Carolina, began competing in this competition in 1986. The

Science Olympiad team here was founded by three exceptional teachers: Dr. Rosemary Wicker, Dr. David O'Shields, and Michael Mack. Mr. Mack and Dr. David O'Shields still work in the school district today, and Dr. O'Shields is the superintendent of Laurens County School District 56. He continues to be a part of the team and coaches the Bell Street Middle School Science Olympiad.

Many of the Bell Street Science Olympiad alumni have gone on to be extremely successful in the fields of science and technology. One example is Elizabeth Humbert, who went on to obtain a master's degree in geology at the University of Tennessee and later went on to help manage mastodon excavation at the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York. She also participated in the Hyde Park Mastodon Project, which was the discovery of the most complete mastodon to date. She has spent countless hours working in outreach to students through helping to build the Museum of the Earth and through an outreach position at Cornell University for NASA, through which she helped build the STEM internships across the State of New York for underrepresented students.

Today Elizabeth is living on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, developing a class for upper elementary school students on their regional ecology and geology. When asked about her love for science, Elizabeth states: My building block, my love for learning, my discovery that I could do what I found interesting, dates specifically back to Bell Street Middle School and to our Challenge classes, to enjoying the freedom and the open-ended research it offered and to Science Olympiad and the connections it created.

Of her experience participating in Science Olympiad, she states it provided her with "the feeling that being different might not be a burden, but a great blessing and an exciting path to follow. Science for me has always been that exciting path and perhaps an unusual one in 1994. I have been so glad to see more women in the field in these last 20 years. I know Science Olympiad fosters that in all students and creates visions of possibilities that really exist," she said.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that her statement sums up how valuable this organization has been and continues to be to our Nation's youth.

This year's students are continuing this history of success and innovation with their first-place finishes in 11 of the State competition's 20 events. One event in particular required students to create a wheeled vehicle that could travel a specific distance in the shortest amount of time. This year the length of the track was longer than in previous years, and there was a coffee can placed in the middle of the track.

I have got a graphic here to kind of show you what that is. Students lost points if the car went over the finish line or didn't stop close enough to it.

In order to be successful in this event, Dillon Snead created a formula based on what he is learning in his geometry class. He created a triangle with a square ruler which he accurred with his car and then used a formula to calculate the distance from the starting point—starting point being here—to the ending point. This allowed him to create an arch with a point 1/12th of the total distance.

Using this formula, Dillon and his partner, Alyssa Shiflet, were able to create a car that stopped 2 centimeters away from the finish line, winning the team first place. This victory helped the team achieve the overall first place award at the State competition.

You can look at this Web site and actually watch a video. They had to take a motorized vehicle that they created, calculate the distance, the energy, and the radius to go around an obstacle in the middle of the path, and they stopped it at the other end within 1 centimeter of the finish line. This is an eighth-grade student that did this, helping his class win the first place. I think Dillon Snead's mathematic abilities are tremendous. I would like to congratulate him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to finally take this opportunity to congratulate all the coaches and members of this year's Science Olympiad team from School District 56's Bell Street Middle School on their 13th consecutive State championship. I will try to read their names without stumbling. If I do, students, I apologize:

Sydney Argoe, Victor Barcenas, Jordan Barker, Sean Bell, Jonathan Braswell, Sienna Brent, Jakiya Campbell, Erin Caughman, Justin Easter, Mason Gibbs, Cole Gresham, Karl Gustafson, Anjela Gutierrez, Grace Johnson, Matthew Lane, Dequan Lindsay, Patrick Nelson, Toni Parenti, Jakob Pountain, Tytajha Robinson, Alyssa Shiflet, Dillon Snead, Destiny Spooone, Bailey Stephens, Maren Vondergeest, Nathan Vondergeest, Gary Walsh, Caitlyn Watson, David Wilkie, and Kari Young.

These are all the students on that team, Mr. Speaker, and while I don't have all the names of their parents and the teachers, I want to congratulate them as well and thank them for their efforts in helping create our future scientists and innovators, and for challenging these middle school students to be the very best they can be. You see, these things don't happen overnight. These Science Olympiad teams train weekend after weekend, spending Saturdays and sometimes Sunday afternoons with the teachers and the parents involved, figuring all these mathematic formulas out and figuring out this science.

I also want to wish the best of luck to all of you as you make your way to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the national competition, which is in May.

I would like to end by saying: May God continue to bless these students, their teachers, and their parents; may God put a hedge of protection over them as they travel; may God continue to bless Bell Street Middle School; and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

□ 1400

HONORING JOHN T. DUNCAN, SR.

I would also like to take this opportunity to finish my comments here today talking about one of my heroes. My dad passed away Tuesday, a week ago, from complications with Alzheimer's. It is a terrible disease. The Alzheimer's Association and others are working hard to come up with a cure for that.

My dad was an amazing man. He was a 1961 graduate of Clemson University, the first in his family to finish college. He went on to send my brother and me to Clemson as well. My brother has one son that has graduated from Clemson, one that is attending, and I have one that is attending. That is because of my father.

We have a saying at Clemson that our "blood runneth orange." When they prepared my dad's body, I believe they found his blood to truly runneth orange because of his love for our alma mater, and that is Clemson University.

My dad studied industrial management, textiles emphasis. He went on to be a plant manager and supervisor and, ultimately, vice president at Arkwright Mills in textiles.

He used to carry a marble in his pocket. I think that was the philosophy that helped him succeed not only in life as a general manager or a plant manager or supervisor in the textile industry, not as a member of the community, not as a father, but just as a human being. That is a marble that had a saying on it that was given to us by Jesus Christ, and that is:

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Let us treat others the way that we would want to be treated. I think my dad used that philosophy as he walked the plant floor in the textile mills that he oversaw. I think he treated the people that were pushing the brooms or working on the looms or the spinning frames or actually weaving and spinning or actually the supervisors, I think he treated them all the same.

I think my dad treated them the way that he would want to be treated if he was pushing that broom or if he was working on that spinning frame or if he was actually a weaver and supervisor.

Treat others the way you want to be treated. I think if we are able to do that in life, I think we will go far. I think it is a great motto. It is inspiration to me, so I will try to treat others as well.



My dad was one of my heroes. I lost him on April 14 of this year, Tuesday, a week ago. I am going to miss him. He was proud of what I did, proud of what I have been able to accomplish, proud of me serving this great country that he loved so much, the United States of America.

If he was at home, he would be sitting in front of the TV, watching C-SPAN, watching me give this speech; and he would be proud.

Thank you. God bless you. May God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Armenian genocide, the first genocide of the 20th century.

Now, I know a number of other Members were planning to join me—there has been some confusion as to the schedule—but I hope that Members interested in this issue would come to the floor and join me during the next 30 minutes.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Long Beach, California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, for being at the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, of which I am the ranking member, so that I can be here on the floor at this important time.

Mr. Speaker, today, it is the afternoon of April 23 here in our Nation's Capital; but in Istanbul, it is night. It is about to be midnight, bringing in the 24th of April. As we are here, at this very hour, 100 years ago, agents of the Ottoman Government, the government ruling the Ottoman Empire, went out into the night to arrest the leadership of the Armenian community there in Istanbul, then the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

Soon the rest of the plan went into effect. Having arrested and killed the leadership of the Armenian community, agents of the Ottoman Empire felt free to go into the ancient Armenian lands of Eastern Anatolia and begin a process of ethnic cleansing, to begin a process of mass murder, to begin a process of sending people into the desert to die or simply annihilating them on the spot, to begin a well-thought-out plan of genocide, the first genocide of the 20th century.

Now, I am asked: Why is it so important that we remember this genocide? Well, first, genocide denial is the last step of the genocide itself. When I say genocide denial, you might think that, in recounting history of 100 years ago, that I was simply here to commemorate and to mourn.

Unfortunately, the government of modern Turkey has begun and continued a multimillion dollar plan of threats, of lobbying, of secret money, all designed to deny the Armenian genocide. That genocide denial is the last stage of the genocide that began 100 years ago this hour.

First, in a genocide, a people is destroyed, and then we see the destruction of the memory of their annihilation; but worse than genocide denial being the last step of a genocide, it is the first step of the next genocide.

When Adolf Hitler was talking to his henchmen and they wondered whether they could get away with the total destruction of the Jewish people, he was able to turn to them, as he did, and said:

Who remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?

This genocide denial creates the expectation among other evil men that they can get away with genocide. Why do we here, in the United States, kowtow to Turkey's demand that we fail to recognize the Armenian genocide?

Last week, the European Union overwhelmingly passed a recognition recognizing not only the murders and atrocities that took place in Eastern Anatolia, but also using, as was appropriate, the word "genocide."

A few days before, Pope Francis used the word "genocide" for the first time in the history of the Vatican to commemorate this 100th anniversary of massacres. Over 40 State legislatures in our own country and 20 foreign governments have recognized that the acts of the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians in the early 20th century constituted a genocide.

It is time for this Congress to do what then-Senator Barack Obama did and acknowledge that what happened 100 years ago today, what began 100 years ago today, was, indeed, a genocide.

I see that we are joined by the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I yield now to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California, and I also rise today on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Speaker, that period of time represented a generation of Armenians, a generation lost to assassination, to deprivation, to assault, to starvation, 1.5 million souls, a half a million others left homeless, decades of Armenian culture and history and religion erased from the landscape of Anatolia; and, on this significant anniversary, 100 years, we cannot remain silent.

Pope Francis said it clearly when he called on the world leaders to "oppose such crimes with a firm sense of duty, without ceding to ambiguity or compromise."

Our National Archives is filled with thousands of pages documenting the

premeditated extermination of the Armenian people. Our own Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, recalled in his memoirs that that Ottoman Empire "never had the slightest idea of reestablishing the Armenians in a new country," knowing that "the great majority of those would . . . either die of thirst and starvation, or be murdered by the wild . . . desert tribes."

Growing up in Anaheim, I knew an elderly Armenian who had survived the genocide only because of a compassionate Turkish family that hid him from sight, and he was the only one in his village—the only Armenian in his village—that survived.

The U.S. has long been a global leader in promoting human rights around the world. The issue of the Armenian genocide is taught in our textbooks. The French, Swiss, Swedish, German Governments, the Russian Government, they recognized the Armenian genocide, as does the EU. As a global leader in human rights, it is important for the U.S. to stand on principle and recognize the annihilation of the Armenians as genocide.

While the Armenian genocide was the first of the 20th century, the blind eye cast to the slaughter of Armenians at the time was a point used by Hitler when he said to his officer corps: "Who . . . speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

My friends, history is a continuum. Yesterday impacts today, which impacts tomorrow. It is much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong. The world's strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability for actions present but also past. It is weakened by denial of accountability of past acts. Not recognizing the Armenian genocide, as such, weakens us.

I wanted to say a bit about the Near East Relief, which was the name of the American charity specifically organized in response to the Armenian genocide. I quoted our Ambassador at the time, Henry Morgenthau, and he very much urged support for this effort.

Through public rallies and church collections and with the assistance of charitable organizations and foundations, that committee raised millions in his campaign to save the starving Armenians as the campaign went across the country with that theme.

Between 1915 and 1930, when it ended operations, Near East Relief administered an amazing \$117 million in assistance. It delivered food, clothing, and materials for shelter by the shipload from America. It set up refugee camps in clinics and hospitals, orphanages, and centers for vocational training.

Near East Relief is credited for having cared for 130,000 Armenian orphans scattered across a region that stretched from Tbilisi to Yerevan to

Istanbul, Beirut, Damascus, and Jerusalem. Where they could find those orphans, they cared for those orphans.

Near East Relief was an act which quite literally kept a people, a nation, alive. Unfortunately, since 1950, hundreds of Armenian religious, historic, and cultural sites have been confiscated. They have been destroyed. They have been vandalized.

Turkish leaders must act now to prevent losing any more. The United States must keep pressing Turkish leaders until they commit to protecting these sites and to return all confiscated church properties to their rightful owners.

In addition, we must work to protect those Armenians who are living under the threat of violence today.

□ 1415

Armenians in Syria are increasingly targeted for violence by Islamist terrorists due to their religious beliefs, and, in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenians have suffered under the greatest escalation of violence along the line of conflict in 20 years.

As we remember the victims of the first genocide of the 20th century, let us also commit to working for the safety and freedom of their descendants. Such efforts would be a fitting and needed tribute to the innocent victims of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I want to associate myself with his comments and particularly thank him for focusing our attention on the struggles of the people of Artsakh.

Mr. Speaker, one should remember that, with the support of the Government of Turkey, the Government of Azerbaijan has threatened to shoot down civilian airplanes headed to the Stepanakert Airport. Those are the kinds of threats and intimidation that the people of Armenia and of Nagorno-Karabakh face today.

I yield to the gentleman also from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) if he requests.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Let me thank my colleagues from California for taking the time and effort to come here and to put these very important expressions of outrage into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we are outraged that people today would even consider not acknowledging the fact that there was a genocide that took place 100 years ago.

I am a friend of Turkey's. I believe that the Turkish people and the people of the United States need to be close. We were in the cold war, and I am grateful to their contributions to our security over the years; but this doesn't mean that we should not be totally honest with each other and with them as friends in that all of us have

made mistakes. Certainly, the United States has committed errors in its past that we should agree to acknowledge.

In this demonstration today, we are putting ourselves in solidarity with the families of those who were victimized 100 years ago by the Armenian genocide. We also express ourselves to our friends in Turkey that this is the time to just acknowledge that, in the past, mistakes were made and that, indeed, it is time to move on and to make sure that people today in Turkey are treated with greater respect for their rights and in continued cooperation with the United States and with other free people in the world.

I thank my friend Mr. BRAD SHERMAN, who has been a leader on this issue, for acknowledging and being here today to make sure that this gets into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this very important day.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I am here on the House floor where we, today, should be voting on a resolution to recognize the Armenian genocide. Several of us, I believe including the gentleman from California, introduced the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution, but that resolution is not on the floor today because of the pressures, arguments, and an incredibly expensive lobbying campaign by the Turkish Government.

It was 100 years ago today, as I pointed out in the beginning, that 650 writers, lawyers, poets, doctors, priests, and politicians were rounded up, deported, and murdered by the Ottoman Government. No one should give any credence to the argument that somehow these were a few individuals who were acting alone, that this was not a coordinated governmental campaign. There were 1 million to 1.5 million people who died, and it was because of a premeditated and carefully planned effort by the Ottoman Government.

Now, we are told that Turkey is an ally of the United States and that, therefore, we dare not recognize the genocide here on the House floor.

First, I believe that there is nothing that we could do that is more important for the people of Turkey than to recognize the genocide and to urge them to do so as well. How will Turkey be a great country in the future if it is so focused on lying about its past? What relationship would we have with the government in Berlin if it were engaged in a Holocaust denial? Who in the world would trust American leadership if the government here in Washington were lying or denying slavery? Every nation has a past. Every nation ought to honestly come to grips with that past.

Then we are told that we cannot recognize the genocide because of threats from the Turkish Government.

Never have I been more ashamed of this Congress than in its kowtowing to

threats that turn out to be not only outrageous but illusory. Turkey threatened harsh retribution for those countries that recognized the genocide and then took only token steps against Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Argentina, and 10 other countries. Some 40 American State legislatures have recognized the Armenian genocide and have not lost a single dollar of exports to Turkey. The greatest attempt by the Turkish Government to muzzle a national legislature was their effort, roughly a decade ago, to prevent France from recognizing the genocide. They threatened an economic boycott. In the 6 years that followed France's courageous recognition of the genocide, exports from France to Turkey increased fourfold.

The only thing worse than kowtowing to ridiculous and outrageous threats is kowtowing to ridiculous and outrageous threats that turn out to be illusory paper tigers.

Finally, I have to comment on just how outrageous it is for Turkey to be threatening the United States, because look at what we have done for Turkey.

In the years since World War II, we have saved them from communism and the Soviet Union. We disbursed over \$23 billion in aid. We prevented the creation of a fully sovereign and independent Kurdish state. We helped build the pipeline that brings them oil today, and we have been the loudest voice in urging that Turkey be admitted to the European Union. After we have done all of that, they say it is not enough and that we have to be accomplices with them in denying and in hiding the first genocide of the 20th century.

This is outrageous. It is time for this Congress to show that America is worthy of world leadership, not only because of our values of freedom and democracy, but because we have the courage to acknowledge the facts that actually occurred, and we are not tempted to gain some sort of illusory alliance advantage by denying the greatest crime that a nation can commit.

I think, as we see the last persons who survived the genocide—or the nieces and nephews of those who died—come to the end of their days, that America should recognize this great genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### DEMOCRACY IS IN GREAT DANGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, let us note in this great hall of freedom that this is the culmination of over 200 years of sacrifice and hard work and commitment by generations of Americans who started back in the 1700s to

build a country that was based on freedom, liberty, and a democratic ideal of which all people's rights are respected and laws are made by the consent of the governed and that, indeed, we could have established a government at the Federal level which had its areas of authority but where other authority was vested in the States and in the people, themselves. This great, wondrous experiment of democracy is in great danger today from a number of areas.

Overseas, of course, we see radical Islam on the rise, and they would like to terrorize the population of Western civilization, especially those of us in America. We also have people who fear forces within our own society. Ironically, one of the things most our people fear is that our own government is out of control and that we have a government today that in no way matches the model that our Founding Fathers had in mind for the United States of America and for the people of this country at this time.

They looked forward to a shining city on a hill, and what we have instead is an evermore control-centered government that is not democratically oriented but is, instead, run for special interests, run by crony capitalists, run by bureaucrats in the Nation's Capital themselves, run by rogue elements within our own government, run by a too decentralized system that has emerged over these last several decades.

The United States was created by individuals who proclaimed a commitment to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness and life. Even as the Declaration of Independence declared our independence from Great Britain, we declared we were, instead, not just a country that was free of Great Britain but that we were going to be a special country in which people's rights were respected.

Even as we did declare our independence in that same document, what did we do?

We listed the horror stories that were going on of the great oppression that our Founding Fathers were experiencing by the British, who were trying to suppress their desire for liberty and independence—many of those items that were declared in our own Declaration of Independence that were reason enough for us to declare independence and to declare ourselves revolutionaries and patriots. Instead, we see many of those same items now being part and parcel of our own government. Our own bureaucracy claims the right to do some of the things that our Founding Fathers felt should have been left to the people and should not be permitted by any government.

Today, I would like to mention two significant issues that are at play in Washington, D.C., that will play a prominent role in the degree of freedom that is enjoyed by our people. The

second issue that I will mention gets a lot more publicity than the first, but the first issue that I would like to talk about today, which is a dramatic diminishing of the freedom and liberty of our people, is a bill that is designed to dramatically change our patent system. All of a sudden, there are yawns. "Oh, the patent system. Who can understand that?" No. It is very easy to understand.

□ 1430

Our Founding Fathers wrote into the Constitution that Americans would have the right to own and control the product of their own creative genius for a period of time, that way we would encourage people to innovate, to come up with new ideas. And, in fact, that patent concept was so revolutionary that it was what catapulted America into a major power in the world.

It was a power in which the security and the prosperity of the average person and the rights of the average person were respected. Much of this can be traced back, yes, to the Constitution, to rights, and especially the patent rights because people had a right to own for a period of time the product of their own creative genius.

We developed the technology that uplifted America's middle class. We have a working group in this country who have always had a higher standard of living than other countries in the world. Now, why is that? People all over the world and in the United States work very hard. There are hard-working people all over the world, but it was here where hard-working people were able to prosper; people were able to live in dignity, to have families, to look forward to owning things of their own that they could then possess and enrich their own lives. There was nothing wrong with that, and, in fact, it was our technology that permitted that to happen.

Well, that technology was based on a legal foundation, as I say, in our own Constitution. Benjamin Franklin saw to it, that wise man, and our other Founding Fathers who listened to him and were captured by the idea. Thomas Jefferson, another man who believed in technology, Benjamin Franklin, these were people who knew that with freedom and technology there is no limit to what America can accomplish, and they set out to build the most creative, the freest, the most prosperous land of all, and they succeeded.

But today they are taking elements away from our freedom every day. This attack on the patent system, while it is stealth and not many people are seeing it, is a huge attack on the well-being, the prosperity, the security of the American people.

Now, what we have got—and who is trying to bring about these changes in our patent law that will hurt the little guys, hurt the individual inventors,

make sure that the American people don't see this as an individual right but look at it as something that corporations do? No, no. What we have are huge multinational corporations that are trying to do their best to undermine the patent rights that we have enjoyed as Americans for over 200 years.

Yes, it is a sinister attack on the rights of the American people, and we are talking about crony capitalism at its worst in that these are huge corporations having their say in the Nation's Capital and in Congress because they have influence here.

Now, I am not saying that people are being bought off in their votes. I am not saying that at all. But as this system works, every Member of Congress and every person here, just like most Americans, is busy with their lives and busy with specific responsibilities; and what we have are these huge multinational corporations that have basically given campaign donations, not to buy a vote, but to buy someone's attention.

So only about 10 percent of the people here know anything about these patent proposals that are now working their way to the floor of the House. These 10 percent, unfortunately, they know. Over the years, they have been given donations by major multinational corporations who explained their point of view. It is just that the other side has never gotten explained, and nobody knows about the other side.

So, thus, what we have is coming to the floor a bill, H.R. 9, that will greatly diminish the patent rights of average Americans, of the little guy in a way that it will help these great multinational corporations steal the technology that they did not create. This is the big guys versus the little guys; and I will tell you that the little guys don't always win, and the big guys don't always win. But if the little guys become active and they make sure that their Representative in Washington knows what is going on and knows that they stand for a strong patent protection of the American citizens, of patent rights for the American people, the little guys will win; otherwise, the crony capitalists, these major, huge multinational corporations who don't care about the American people. They care about their profit at the end of the year, which may or may not go into America's warehouse or America's banks. It may go overseas, because these are multinational corporations who know no allegiance to the United States.

So what we have got is a bill coming before the House, H.R. 9. Every one of the provisions in this bill has been designed to weaken the ability of American inventors to be able to defend their patent rights in court against major corporations that are trying to steal from them.

Now, how did it get this way? How did we get to this point where a bill

may come to the floor—and it passed last year. We stopped it in the Senate. But how is that possible? Well, it is possible not because these multinational corporations said: Oh, we want to weaken the patent protection of America's inventors. No. They said: We have got a problem with trolls.

Trolls, yes. "Trolls," what a sinister-sounding word.

By the way, when I came here 20 years ago, they weren't talking about trolls. They were talking about submarine patents. There is always some sinister-sounding threat that is being used in order to try to diminish the actual patent protection of our average inventor. Today it is "trolls."

Now, by the way, what does a troll mean? A troll, according to these corporations, is someone who did not invent something but has purchased the patent rights from the inventor mainly because that inventor maybe doesn't have the money to actually go and to enforce his or her own patent rights upon some huge corporation. So you have some people who come along who have got resources and say, "I will be your partner;" or, "Hey, I will just buy these rights from you."

This has played an important part in our whole process. You take that away—which is what these big corporations want to say: Unless you invented it, you can't make a profit from it. No, no, no. This is a property right, and if they take that away, individual inventors will never be able to raise the money for their own research, individual inventors won't be able to sell their product. Thus, the number of people who can buy it from them will be so greatly diminished that the value of their patents will be dramatically cut by this bill.

But of course these huge corporations don't care. They just want to use other people's ideas and creations for their own profit. They don't care what happens to these little guys; although we know that it is the small inventor that comes up with the genius that changes the lives of people. But of course these huge multinational corporations are only interested in a profit at the end of the fiscal year.

Well, this is a huge threat, and people are being told that the trolls—these are people who didn't invent, and thus, again, they are going to benefit anyway by bringing the lawsuit. Well, what they describe and try to claim are that the lawsuits brought on are mainly frivolous lawsuits. Well, let me just note, we have a problem with frivolous lawsuits throughout our system.

Throughout our government, we have frivolous lawsuits in every area of our economy. Yes, there are frivolous lawsuits, but this is the equivalent of saying, because some lawyers have frivolous lawsuits, we are going to totally decimate the rights of the American people to sue anyone who has caused

them damage. No, no. We don't want to eliminate the rights of the American people because someone has frivolous lawsuits.

Let me note that the frivolous lawsuit end of this equation has already been corrected in the courts, but they continue to press for H.R. 9 because their real goal is to diminish the rights of American inventors to sue huge multinational corporations who are stealing their technology.

Let's just note the trolls. The trolls, where did this come from? To show how cynical this debate is, the word "troll" has actually been created as a PR device to trick the American people into believing that the changes they are bringing about are going to hurt some scurrilous person, a troll, when in fact every provision we are talking about hurts the honest little guy who is struggling to develop new technology or the fact that, if he develops something important but doesn't have the ability to enforce it, he can at least enforce it by selling it to someone who will give him a price for his property. By the way, it is only for about 15 years or so that someone is going to own that, but he has a right to do that. But we are going to eliminate that right for the little guy so that he and nobody else can sue a multinational corporation that is stealing from him.

Well, how did that word "troll" come about? I talked to a business executive who was in the room with various business executives from major corporations trying to decide: How will we deceive the American people? What we can do is build up a straw man and make it sound like, oh, this is a horrible person, this straw man; thus, we are going to pass laws against that straw man when, in reality, they are trying to get the little inventor over here.

So what were the names? They went around: What really scurrilous name can we think of? My friend told me: Well, I actually put into the hopper that we should call them patent pirates. Well, that wasn't scurrilous enough. That wasn't sinister enough because one of them came up with trolls, patent trolls. Well, okay, patent trolls. That is just how cynical this is, that we have businessmen who are sitting in a room trying to decide what word can be used to fool the American people into acquiescence into letting their inventors have their patent rights decimated.

One big problem is it is not just the small inventors that are hurt by this change of patent law. Our universities, which now have many patents, our laboratories, which come up with so many new innovations, they are hit dramatically by this. This would probably decrease the value of our patents and people who have whole collections of patents as part of their economic package; it decreases their value perhaps by 50 percent.

The major universities stepped forward and stopped it in the Senate, this bill, last time. Well, H.R. 9 is coming up again. We need to stop it here, and we need to stop it in the Senate. Whether you are someone who depends on a job that is a technology-related job, whether you work at a university or a technology laboratory, we need to make sure that the freedom of technology development is maintained in our country. This is necessary for my colleagues and the American people to become active. The little guys can win as long as we are active. We can beat the crony capitalists who try to diminish our freedom.

The second bill I would like to mention today is H.R. 1940. H.R. 1940 was submitted by me yesterday. Basically, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues and the American people to the importance of H.R. 1940. What it does is sets a policy concerning the Federal Government that if a State government has legalized the medical use of marijuana last year—now, we are going to include whatever marijuana laws are on the books of various States—that the State law should be what is respected and not the Federal Government coming in to States and local communities where people have decided that they don't believe that the police and Federal action and court action should be used against people who use marijuana.

Last year I had a bill that became part of our appropriations process and for DOJ and basically said, for medical marijuana, if a State has a law that legalizes medical marijuana, the Federal Government cannot come in and supersede that State law. In H.R. 1940 I extend that. It will be the same as it was before, only this will also include States that have basically made marijuana for personal use legal.

What this bill says is let's respect the 10th Amendment to the Constitution. Let's respect states' rights. Let's respect local communities' rights to control what is going on in their communities. Let us not have an aggressive Federal law enforcement bureaucracy making decisions for us and superseding what local people want to do with criminal justice in their own neighborhoods.

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H.R. 1940 has been submitted. I would hope my colleagues read this and take this into consideration, perhaps coming on board to support this effort.

Last year, we passed a bill just for medical marijuana and put it in as an amendment that said that the Federal Government can't use any of those resources to supersede State law. We got that in last year. And there were 50 Republicans that signed onto the argument that the States have a right to make their determination on these types of things.

Our Founding Fathers didn't mean the Federal Government to have criminal justice control over this country. That was supposed to be left at the local level and at the State level. Our Founding Fathers did not want there to be a Federal police force.

But yet what we have done is create a militaristic Federal police force that comes into people's neighborhood and now is insisting that even if a State and local community doesn't want something illegal, we are going to enforce a Federal law on them that is a criminal justice law that the local people don't even want.

That is not what our Founding Fathers had in mind. Our Founding Fathers wanted local people to control their communities and wanted criminal justice to be a State issue. They didn't want to have the Federal Government to have such control over our lives.

And to show you how heinous this is, we passed that law here in this Congress—it won by a solid majority—that we would not supersede State law when it came to medical marijuana. Yet we have prosecutors in the United States who are still moving forward, filing charges, bringing people to court, even though the States in which they are in have agreed to legalize the medical use of marijuana. These rogue prosecutors are thumbing their noses at the law.

This is what happens when government gets out of line, gets away from the Constitution. The Constitution want us to control our lives at the local level and the State level. They want the Federal Government to handle things that are international and across State borders and are important for trade, et cetera, and our national security. They did not have in mind that we would have Federal prosecutors coming in and stepping on local authority and stepping on local prosecutors and insisting on people being prosecuted, even when the United States Congress is telling them not to do it.

To say that this is arrogance and a threat to our freedom is an understatement. We need to pay attention to this because we have built up in the name of protecting people from themselves a law enforcement drug policy that is a dramatic threat to the freedom and well-being of the American people.

We don't need a militarized police force. Policemen used to be known as peace officers. When I was a kid, they were peace officers. "I am a peace officer." That means they were there to protect us from each other.

Now, we have over the years evolved into the police being called law enforcers. Well, think about what that does. You change the relationship between the law, between the police, and between the citizenry. We have created animosity, we have created fear, we have created violence where there wasn't violence.

When someone breaks into a home because they have a baggy of marijuana, that is unconscionable. Breaking into their home with guns drawn—and this happened. And, of course, we have an Attorney General who is insisting not only are we going to supersede states' rights, but we are going to have asset forfeiture. So if someone is providing medical marijuana for one of our veterans or for some people who are suffering, we are not going to give the parents the choice, or someone whose older father or mother is in agony, the chance to try medical marijuana. No, no. What we are going to do if somebody does that is seize their property. We are going to seize the property of the person that sold them the marijuana to alleviate their suffering.

This is contrary to everything our Founding Fathers had in mind. This is contrary to the ideal of American freedom and respect for individual rights.

I was one of Ronald Reagan's speech writers, as everyone knows, and I have been a Republican all my life, and here I am with my fellow Republicans, and we talk about getting the government off our backs. We talk about states' rights. We talk about individual responsibility all the time. And we talked lately about the doctor-patient relationship as being so important to us.

And then we turn around and a majority of my colleagues on the Republican side vote to have the Federal Government come in and step all over state's rights, step all over the rights of the individual to control his life and consume for himself, make his own determinations.

Individual freedom, limited government—these are things that we supposedly believe in, but when it comes to the drug issue, no, no; we think the Federal Government has to come in and make that determination for people in their own lives.

This is a threat to our freedom. My legislation will take a long step forward to making this a public issue. We should be debating this.

I have been sponsoring legislation. My first legislation that was successful was last term in Congress, the one that these arrogant prosecutors are ignoring now that has actually been put into law that they can't use their own resources, meaning their pay, their time, and their office in order to prosecute medical marijuana, but yet several of them are doing exactly that. That shows you how the law and how our constitutional rights are being threatened.

I didn't know what reaction my friends who are more conservative would have. I did not know that. I didn't know that maybe some of them would just say: Well, that is a lot of baloney, and just go on using the clichés about the states' rights and individual

freedom and not really confront my argument. That is what I thought most of them would do.

But I asked a conservative friend of mine just to see what he would say. He is a retired naval officer—a pilot—and he is a typical conservative voter in my district, or in our area in southern California.

I asked him: What is your reaction to the fact that the guy you supported these years is now the point person in legalizing medical marijuana? And this officer said to me: You know, you don't know me very well, do you?

I said: Well, I know you supported me. You are a retired military officer, and you are now engaged in the aviation business. And he said: Yes, but what you don't know is I have three sons. The day after 9/11, they all enlisted.

I said: Yeah. And he said: Let me tell you what happened. Two of my sons came home whole. One son came home having seizure after seizure after seizure every day.

Think of that. Your child, your hero marches off to war, and there he is, and you can't control the situation. He is having seizures.

They took him to the veterans hospital, and the veterans hospital couldn't do anything to help him. And then one veterans doctor pulled him aside and said: Come and see me off campus. I have got to tell you something. He said: Here is a prescription for medical marijuana. That is what your son needs. I am not permitted to tell you that at the VA hospital.

They did it. And this supporter of mine said: My son hasn't had a seizure since. I saw him just a while ago, and he said: It has been 4 years, and my son is still not having seizures. How do I feel about you being the point man on legalizing medical marijuana? I want to give you a big hug.

Well, guess what? There are people whose parents are dying or their family, their children, are going through seizures. My child recently had a problem with leukemia. Why would I think that, if she was having a seizure and that would help stop it, that the Federal Government should step in and prevent that?

That is what we are doing. The American people need to wake up. My bill will take us a step in the right direction.

I am asking my colleagues to support H.R. 1940. Do it because we believe in freedom. Do it because we believe in the well-being of the American people, and we believe in the system that our Founding Fathers decided of ultimate individual responsibility and freedom. That is what we are deciding, as well as the issue of whether or not some poor suffering soul shall be prevented from getting something that might alleviate their suffering.

That is not the job of the Federal Government. We need to stand tall on

this. My colleagues need to be honest and open with their own constituents, and they will find that they are more supportive than they think.

With that said, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LIPINSKI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 27, 2015, at 8 p.m.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 172. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse" (Rept. 114-89). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1690. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse" (Rept. 114-90). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 1981. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide that an employee's 'regular rate' for purposes of calculating overtime compensation will not be affected by certain additional payments; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself, Mr.

DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LANCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr.

GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 1982. A bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1983. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to ensure that the receipts and disbursements of the Social Security trust funds are not included in a unified Federal budget and to provide that Social Security contributions are used to protect Social Security solvency by mandating that Trust Fund monies cannot be diverted to create private accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 1984. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the cap on compensation subject to the payroll tax, to reallocate payroll tax revenue to the Social Security Trust Funds, to apply the CPI-E to Social Security cost-of-living increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 1985. A bill to prohibit treatment of gray wolves in Washington, Oregon, and Utah as endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Mr. SEN-SENRENNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. WALKER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1986. A bill to repeal the Environmental Protection Agency's most recent rule for new residential wood heaters; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 1987. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1988. A bill to provide for the waiver of the Medicaid IMD limitation in order to permit Medicaid coverage for substance use disorder treatment services furnished to certain individuals in a community-based institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DOLD, Mr. NUNES, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BARTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois,

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. WALZ, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1989. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the enlistment in the Armed Forces of certain aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States and were younger than 15 years of age when they initially entered the United States, but who are otherwise qualified for enlistment, and to provide a mechanism by which such aliens, by reason of their honorable service in the Armed Forces, may be lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1990. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit certain discharges of dredged material into the Great Lakes System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1991. A bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOK (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California):

H.R. 1992. A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 1993. A bill to permit the chief executive of a State to create an exemption from certain requirements of Federal environmental laws for producers of agricultural commodities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1994. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas,

Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. FINCHER):

H.R. 1995. A bill to prohibit the Department of Housing and Urban Development from implementing certain regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1996. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the assignment of social security account numbers to certain individuals seeking employment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HARDY, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 1997. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MENG, Ms. BASS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 1998. A bill to continue operation of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps, a Cyber Crimes Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, a Computer Forensics Unit, and a Cyber Crimes Unit to support the mission of the Homeland Security Investigations directorate of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to combat the exploitation of children; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 1999. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to deny the right to grant retransmission consent to a television broadcast station if an AM or FM radio broadcast station licensed to the same licensee transmits a sound recording without providing compensation for programming and to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from imposing radio tuner mandates for mobile devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 2000. A bill to provide for a competitive grant program for apprenticeship and internship programs through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 2001. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. DELAUNO):

H.R. 2002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expensing of environmental remediation costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VELA, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. GRAHAM, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KIND, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 2003. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 2004. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for more effective online education verification metrics; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 2005. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2006. A bill to amend SAFETEA-LU to ensure that projects that assist the establishment of aerotropolis transportation systems are eligible for certain grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2007. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to assist the development of aerotropolis transportation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.R. 2008. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for clarification regarding the children to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2009. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 2010. A bill to require the periodic review and automatic termination of Federal regulations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 2011. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the authority of the Secretaries of the military departments to revoke combat valor awards; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 2012. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize competitive grants to support programs that address needs of fishing communities; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 2013. A bill to strengthen and extend the authorization of appropriations for the Carol M. White Physical Education Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 2014. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs and activities that connect Americans, especially children, youth, and families, with the outdoors; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 2015. A bill to establish educational seminars at United States ports of entry to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel to classify and appraise articles that are imported into the United States in accordance with the customs laws of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 2016. A bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 2017. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2018. A bill to ensure that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority complies with auditing standards; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2019. A bill to prevent the reclassification of certain ammunition as armor piercing ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 2020. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include foreign terrorist organizations as enemies of the United States for purposes of treason, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 2021. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds to Amtrak; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2022. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to create a demonstration project to fund additional secondary school counselors in troubled title I schools to reduce the dropout rate; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 2023. A bill to reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 2024. A bill to require mobile service providers and smartphone manufacturers to give consumers the ability to remotely delete data from smartphones and render smartphones inoperable; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2025. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for equal treatment of individuals in same-sex marriages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 2026. A bill to enhance the sexual assault prevention and response program of the

Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2027. A bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northeast Nigeria and areas affected by Boko Haram through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by Boko Haram, to support efforts to rescue female students abducted in Nigeria on April 14, 2014, as well as other kidnapping victims of Boko Haram, and to provide funds for humanitarian relief, development programs, transitional justice, and victim support, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LANCE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. STEWART, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.J. Res. 47. A joint resolution supporting the establishment of a Presidential Youth Council; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. FARR):

H. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the people of the United States have the Constitutional right to record law enforcement authorities, and they have the full protection of the law to the possession of the recording devices, and full protection of the law regarding data saved on the recording devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOLD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 220. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. VELA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BASS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE, Mr. FARR, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SWALLOW of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. KUSTER,

Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. TORRES, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H. Res. 221. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2015 as "National Stress Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 1981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 1982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 ("The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"), 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"), and 18 ("To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof").

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 1983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 1984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 1985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, commonly referred to as the "Commerce Clause" of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 1986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 1987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 1988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 and Clause 18.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 1989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional Authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 1990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 1991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 1992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 1993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among several States, and with Indian Tribes.

The Tenth Amendment—The powers not Delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 affords Congress the power to legislate on this matter. The executive branch, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has misinterpreted its authority under the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as demonstrated in its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. Two cases before the United States Supreme Court—*Magner v. Gallagher and Mount Holly v. Mount Holly Gardens Citizens in Action*—were settled less than a month before the Court entertained oral arguments. The plaintiffs were concerned that their challenges would not be affirmed by the Court. The Court is currently considering a case, *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project*, which may set a precedent for the issue of "disparate impact." Regardless, Congress has the legislative authority to address the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule head on and prevent that rule, or any substantially similar successor rule.

Section 3 of the bill promotes a core component of our republic known as federalism. It requires the executive branch, through HUD, to consult with State and local officials to further the purposes and policies of the Fair Housing Act.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 allows Congress "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 1998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8—"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 2000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States;

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 2001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of The Constitution of the United States

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 2002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 2003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 2004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 2005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 2010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 3—Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and the Indian tribes.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 2011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution, which allows Congress "to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces", and "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof".

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 2012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to

pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 2017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 2021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 2022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 2023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under:

U.S. Const. art. 1, §1; and

U.S. Const. art. 1, §6

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 2024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is introduced pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, which states that "The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." In addition, this legislation is introduced pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states that Congress shall have the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof"

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 2025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Military Regulation: Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14 and 18

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.J. Res. 47.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 91: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. LONG, and Mr. LATTA.  
H.R. 94: Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 118: Mr. HENSARLING.  
H.R. 119: Mr. SANFORD.  
H.R. 121: Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.R. 123: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 125: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 201: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 237: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. ROYCE.  
H.R. 238: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 251: Mr. CONYERS and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 263: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 266: Mr. MARCHANT.  
H.R. 268: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H.R. 282: Mr. LANCE.  
H.R. 372: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 448: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 449: Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 472: Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 473: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 500: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 539: Mr. HANNA and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 578: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 592: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 594: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 611: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 619: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 642: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 653: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 654: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 662: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 664: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 670: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 680: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 702: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 706: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 711: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 721: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 745: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 842: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 855: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 879: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 880: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. TROTT, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 893: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FARR, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DOLD, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 907: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 942: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 969: Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 980: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 999: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1016: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1059: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1096: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1142: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1170: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1174: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1194: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1206: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 1233: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1258: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1266: Mr. STIVERS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 1269: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1274: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1283: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1287: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 1300: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 1308: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1309: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DOLD, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. GRAHAM.

- H.R. 1319: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 1331: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 1336: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 1342: Mr. LATTA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SIREs, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 1349: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 1369: Mr. GUTHRIE.  
H.R. 1384: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 1387: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1399: Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RUSH, and Mrs. BUSTOS.  
H.R. 1404: Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 1431: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1432: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1434: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.  
H.R. 1441: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
H.R. 1462: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 1464: Mr. NOLAN.  
H.R. 1475: Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 1478: Mr. FINCHER.  
H.R. 1493: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 1496: Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1519: Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.R. 1523: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.  
H.R. 1541: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. VELA, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. McNERNEY.  
H.R. 1557: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H.R. 1559: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 1567: Mr. POE of Texas.  
H.R. 1571: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. DENT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. REED, and Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 1572: Mr. LANCE, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
H.R. 1598: Mr. DOLD and Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 1599: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. BYRNE.  
H.R. 1600: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 1604: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. KNIGHT.  
H.R. 1607: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SIREs, and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 1608: Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. POCAN, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. MEEHAN.  
H.R. 1618: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 1635: Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 1654: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. SIREs.  
H.R. 1689: Mr. TROTT.  
H.R. 1701: Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1718: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 1732: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MICA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 1734: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 1782: Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 1801: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 1814: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 1833: Mr. VELA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. McNERNEY.  
H.R. 1834: Mr. ROSS and Mr. COOK.  
H.R. 1842: Mr. HONDA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 1845: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 1854: Mr. REICHERT.  
H.R. 1857: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. TIBERI.  
H.R. 1858: Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 1886: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. MARCHANT.  
H.R. 1898: Mr. HOYER.  
H.R. 1900: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 1901: Mr. BARTON.  
H.R. 1902: Ms. LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1904: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1905: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1908: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 1923: Ms. FUDGE.  
H.R. 1924: Ms. VELAQUEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. McNERNEY.  
H.R. 1926: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 1928: Mr. WALKER.  
H.R. 1936: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.  
H.R. 1937: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 1967: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 1968: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. WALBERG.  
H.R. 1969: Ms. BROWN of Florida.  
H.J. Res. 42: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H.J. Res. 43: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H. Con. Res. 17: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. MEADOWS.  
H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. POCAN.  
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H. Res. 26: Mr. ROYCE.  
H. Res. 28: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H. Res. 50: Mr. SIREs and Mr. SHERMAN.  
H. Res. 54: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LEWIS.  
H. Res. 56: Mr. ADERHOLT.  
H. Res. 82: Mr. BARLETTA.  
H. Res. 95: Mr. HONDA and Mr. PETERS.  
H. Res. 128: Mr. JONES and Mr. ROUZER.  
H. Res. 130: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. DELANEY.  
H. Res. 147: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Ms. BASS.  
H. Res. 154: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H. Res. 176: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.  
H. Res. 181: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. DESANTIS.  
H. Res. 188: Mr. DESANTIS.  
H. Res. 207: Mr. COOPER and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H. Res. 211: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H. Res. 216: Mr. RANGEL.

**SENATE—Thursday, April 23, 2015**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our visiting Chaplain this day is the Reverend Ralph E. Williamson, senior pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Las Vegas, NV. He will lead us in prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most gracious Master and our God, who has safely brought us to another day, grant these elected men and women in the United States Senate wisdom and Your divine guidance as they seek to take care of the business of this Nation. May Your invisible presence watch over and refresh their minds, encourage their thoughts, and invigorate their spirits to find the peaceful solutions and excellence for which they were elected. Allow every moment to serve as an opportunity to resolve their differences and move our great Nation forward.

We pray in the Name of God, the Creator and Sustainer of us all. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**LYNCH NOMINATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we will be considering the President's nominee for Attorney General, Loretta Lynch. Last month I said the Senate would consider this nominee as soon as we passed an all-important antislavery bill, and today we will consider the nominee. We could not have been more pleased to see the legislation, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act pass by an overwhelming majority of 99 to 0, yesterday.

Senator CORNYN and the entire Republican conference made this antislavery bill a priority because the suffering of these victims is simply unconscionable. As the new majority, we de-

cided these victims had waited long enough. We wanted to make it an early legislative priority. It was time to act and finally to give the victims of modern slavery the help and hope they have long waited for.

Now, we can finally say that help is on the way. Victims, advocates, and all the Members of this body who negotiated in good faith, and Senator CORNYN in particular, who never gave up, should take heart in yesterday's outcome. I would urge the House and the President to enact this bill quickly.

**TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, last night we saw the latest example of committees getting back to work in a new Congress—getting back to work for the American people. The Finance Committee passed an important bipartisan bill, trade promotion authority, with broad support from both parties, 20 to 6—20 to 6. The chairman and ranking member of that committee, Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN, worked hard to achieve the result we saw last night.

Along with Chairman RYAN in the House, they put together an agreement that reflects the kind of honest compromise they can take pride in. It protects and enhances the role of Congress in the trade negotiating process, while ensuring that Presidents of either party—and I would remind our colleagues that this is a 6-year trade promotion authority bill. It will give to the next President the opportunity to negotiate additional trade agreements and send them to Congress for approval.

These agreements can boost our economy and support more high-quality American jobs. Now, this bipartisan bill will move to the Senate floor. It is my hope to pass it during the current work period.

**IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on the topic of committees getting back to work in the new Congress, we witnessed more evidence of that last week when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. It is a bipartisan bill with many Republican and Democratic cosponsors. It will ensure the American people are given a voice on one of the most important issues of our time.

Chairman CORKER worked closely with Members of both parties both to

craft a compromise bill and to advance it. Many have admired not just his hard work on this issue but his determination as well. After all, who would have imagined that the White House, after trying to kill this bipartisan bill for months, would find itself forced to pull a near-total about-face. It is no wonder, though, because the core principle that has always underlined the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—that Congress and the American people deserve a say in any nuclear deal that the President tries to cut with Iran—is more than just common sense. It is really a no-brainer.

After all, preventing the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism from gaining access to nuclear weapons should be the goal of every Senator and every American, regardless of party. It is not a partisan issue. It is one of the greatest challenges to regional stability, and the stakes are very high.

Iran's support of Hezbollah, the Assad regime, Shia militias in Iraq, and the Houthi insurgents in Yemen, coupled with its determination to expand not just its nuclear capabilities but also its ballistic missile and conventional military capabilities, represents an aggressive effort to expand the Iranian sphere of influence throughout the greater Middle East.

Iran's belligerent quest for nuclear weapons capabilities, its fierce determination to undermine America's standing in the region, and its violent pursuit of regional hegemony represent a grave, grave threat—not just to nearby nations in the Middle East, not just to our own country, but for that matter to the entire world. So the stakes are indeed high. As we know, President Obama has been engaged in negotiations with the Iranians for some time now. Initially, we were led to believe that the point of these negotiations was to prevent—prevent—Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

But the administration's focus appears to have shifted from reaching an agreement that would end Iran's nuclear program to reaching an agreement for agreement's sake. That is the only way to interpret the interim agreement we saw recently. It would effectively bestow an international blessing for Iran to become a nuclear threshold state forever—forever on the edge of obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The direction these negotiations have taken should be very worrying for Americans of every political stripe. What that simply underlines is the need for a measure such as the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

Here is what it would do. First, it would require that any final agreement reached with Iran be submitted to Congress for review. Second, it would require that Congress be given time to hold hearings and, ultimately, take a vote to approve or disapprove any Iran agreement before congressional sanctions are lifted.

Third, if a final deal ultimately does go forward, it would require the President to certify back to Congress every 90 days that Iran remains in compliance with the agreement. And if the President is unable to do so, it would empower Congress to rapidly reimpose sanctions. In short, passing this bipartisan bill would give Congress and the American people important tools to assess any agreement reached by the administration before congressional sanctions can be lifted.

Remember, it was due in no small measure to the congressional sanctions offered by Senator MARK KIRK, which passed this Chamber 100 to 0, 4 years ago, that Iran was forced to the negotiating table in the first place. The Obama administration fiercely opposed those bipartisan sanctions back then, just as it opposed the bipartisan bill before us soon until very recently. But those sanctions have been so effective that even the administration has had to embrace them. Congress was right then, and Congress is right now.

We should not be negotiating away the leverage previous sanctions have given our country for a bad deal especially agreed to for agreement's sake. Look, no piece of legislation is perfect. Senators who would like to see this bill strengthened, as I would, will have that chance during a robust amendment process that we will soon have right here on this floor. This bill will be open for amendment. Those who seek to improve it will have an opportunity to do that. But what we do know is that this bipartisan bill is underlined by a very solid principle and a lot of hard work. It represents a real opportunity to give the American people more of a say on this important issue. We look forward to a vigorous debate on it next week.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Dr. Ralph Williamson, of Las Vegas, NV, who opened the Senate today with such a beautiful prayer. For a dozen years, Dr. Williamson has served as senior pastor at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Las Vegas.

During that time, Reverend Williamson has helped shepherd the First African American Episcopal Church through an expansion that includes a beautiful new sanctuary. It is brand new. He is a devoted pastor, and he is beloved by a growing congregation, which includes Senator CORY BOOKER's mother.

CORY's mom and aunt live in Las Vegas. It was there that his good dad died. I had the opportunity to meet his father before he passed away. They are so proud of their son, CORY—as well they should be—as they are proud of having worshiped in this church.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Reverend Williamson has heeded this admonition, doing good for the members of his flock and the people of all southern Nevada. Through Reverend Williamson's leadership, the First African American Episcopal Church has become a source of faith and vital support for the community. Reverend Williamson's tireless efforts have produced programs for youth, seniors, and the underprivileged. He has pioneered food banks, summer lunch programs, tutoring programs, and health ministries. Just about everything that deals with helping people, he has done it.

I appreciate his joining us today. I did not have the chance to tell him. We met earlier today. We had a "Welcome to Washington" with 60 or 70 people today. He gave the presentation to them and offered a prayer for those assembled. It was very warm and nice. But what I did not get a chance to tell him is that I believe the first leader of the flock, of this church in southern Nevada, was a man by the name of Albert Dunn. He was responsible for starting this first congregation. He was my friend, Reverend Dunn. He was a very, very devoutly religious man. To show you how far he went to help people in the community, this was a conversation with his wife one day. She said: "You know, I wish you had talked to Reverend Dunn, because, oftentimes, we would get up in the morning and he had given away all the food to people who needed it."

So I have a warm remembrance of this church and Reverend Dunn.

Dr. Williamson, thank you very much for your leadership. I appreciate it very much.

#### IRAN LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I look forward to returning to the debate on the situation dealing with Iran. It is a very difficult issue. It is so important for the country and the world.

I hope there can be some further negotiations when they finish these negotiations in June, at least something

that will be received with popularity in the Senate. Democrats and Republicans will say: That is great. We are finally able to get something done. Iran now can no longer use nuclear weapons because we have stopped them from doing so. I hope we arrive at that point, but we are not there yet. I wish so fervently that the negotiators can arrive at some agreement in the next couple of months.

We are going to move to this bill as soon as we can. I hope we can do it sooner rather than later.

The debate on these amendments that the Republican leader talked about are very significant. As the Republican leader said, there should be amendments offered. If people think they can improve the bill, there can be amendments offered. If people think there is stuff in the bill they simply don't like and they don't like all of this process, let them offer an amendment. We need robust debate. We have to make sure that attention is focused on this issue and nothing else.

I look forward to seeing what I can work out with my friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, the majority leader of the Senate, to see when we can move to this bill.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Wall Street Journal had a great editorial today. To show you how senseless it was, I will read the headline: "The GOP uses its advice and consent power to beat Harry Reid."

Think about that, a major newspaper in this country has the audacity to say: "The GOP [Republicans] uses its advice and consent power to beat Harry Reid."

Reading the editorial, what they are talking about is that the Republicans were very smart in delaying Loretta Lynch to be confirmed. The reason she was delayed is because a very vital issue came up with the trafficking bill. It dealt with women's reproductive rights, and it took a long time to work that out. In fact, it took a long enough time to work it out until the Republicans capitulated to what we wanted.

We protected the women's right to choose. The Hyde language no longer allows, as was in the underlying legislation, the Hyde language to apply to nontaxpayer money. So for them to say they beat HARRY REID, they didn't beat HARRY REID. What they did was beat up on themselves.

To think that they beat HARRY REID, I repeat, all they did was beat up on themselves.

Later today, the Senate will do something it should have done months ago, confirm Loretta Lynch as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States.

She is as qualified a candidate as I have ever seen in this Senate, which is more than three decades—so qualified,

in fact, today will mark the third time she has been confirmed by the Senate.

Twice before, Loretta Lynch was unanimously confirmed as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. By all accounts, Loretta Lynch's confirmation this time around should have sailed through the Senate. For a while, it seemed it would. We had Senators, Republican Senators, saying what a wonderful woman she is. She is great. They were very vocal in their support. The senior Senator from Utah, the senior Senator from South Carolina, the junior Senator from Arizona—but it soon became apparent the Republican leadership pressed these people a little bit, and suddenly they weren't as interested in moving the Lynch confirmation along, even though that is what they said they should do. Her nomination has dragged on for months.

In fact, I repeat, she has waited longer to be confirmed than the first 54 Attorneys General combined, longer than Attorneys General nominated by every President from George Washington to Woodrow Wilson.

What should have been a quick confirmation would be anything but that. Instead, Ms. Lynch became the first Attorney General nominee in history to be filibustered.

The editorial from the newspaper is very insulting. They said: "Mr. Reid accused Republicans of racism and sexism."

I dare—I dare anyone to find a single word that I said dealing with race or sex. I didn't do that, but maybe that is something the Republicans hoped I would do, but I didn't do that.

There was even a hunger strike. Now, listen to this, the depth of this editorial from the Wall Street Journal:

Al Sharpton's activist group vowed a hunger strike until Ms. Lynch received a vote. (Al, please go through with it.)

I guess I was naive in thinking my Republican colleagues would treat Loretta Lynch with the dignity she and her office deserved. Perhaps my mistake was forgetting that for Republicans, this isn't about Loretta Lynch, it is about President Obama because Republicans will do everything, anything they can to make President Obama's life more difficult. They said they would do that when he was elected, and they have stuck with it.

President Obama's Cabinet officials have been treated worse than any President in history. Today's vote on Loretta Lynch marks the seventh cloture vote the Republicans have forced on a Cabinet official during the Obama administration.

Forcing cloture, that is terminating the filibuster, was something that was rare in the entire history of this country. It used to be Cabinet officials were filibustered only in the most extreme circumstances, but once Ms. Lynch is confirmed, five sitting members of the

President's Cabinet will have been filibustered by Senate Republicans.

To put that in contrast, it rarely happened before, rarely. Unlike today's Senate Republicans, Democrats showed restraint in our disagreements with the President's appointments. We showed great deference to his choices for the President, and by that I am talking about the last President, George W. Bush.

Some may say that is water under the bridge. There will be those Republicans who, after confirming Loretta Lynch today, will say all's well that ends well. They are wrong.

While I am pleased she will be confirmed as Attorney General, her nomination process is proof of all that is wrong with Republican Senate leadership. Senate Republicans made Loretta Lynch's nomination linger more than 10 times longer than the average Attorney General—and you have heard what I said before about that—just to spite Barack Obama.

The viciousness with which the majority leader's party has treated the President is unconscionable and is bad for our country. Republicans have become so blinded by their nastiness that they have even made filibusters of Cabinet officials the norm around here. The first time we had a Defense Secretary filibustered, they did it. The first time for an Attorney General, they did it.

How sad that in the future we can expect delayed and filibustered nominations such as Loretta Lynch to no longer be the exception but the rule. This is so unfortunate that this is how Republicans portend to govern.

Mr. President, what is the order of the day?

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF LORETTA E. LYNCH TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I didn't realize the time in the quorum call would be equally divided, so I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we will be voting soon on confirmation of Ms. Lynch to be the Attorney General of the United States of America. That office is a part of the President's Cabinet, but it also is the office of the chief law officer for America. The Attorney General is the top official in our government who is required to adhere to the law, even to the point of telling the President 'no' if he gets it in his head, as Presidents sometimes do, to do something that violates the law—just as corporate lawyers sometimes do for the CEO of corporations. 'Mr. President, you can't do this. This is wrong. Don't do this.'

Some Attorneys General have been known to resign before they would carry out policies that violate the law. We are deeply concerned in this country about the President's Executive amnesty—the unlawfulness of it, the breadth of it, and the arrogance of it to the point that it is a direct assault on congressional power and legitimacy, a direct attack on laws passed by the People's representatives; we have a big problem. Ms. Lynch has said flat-out that she supports those policies and is committed to defending them in court against any complaint about them.

I think Congress has a real role here. We do not have to confirm someone to the highest law enforcement position in America if that person is publicly committed to denigrating Congress, violating the laws of Congress, or violating even the wishes of Congress and the American people. We do not have to confirm anybody. It is a power Congress is given. The President is asserting powers he has never been given anywhere in the Constitution or by the American people, but if we don't confirm Ms. Lynch, we will be doing what we have a right to do, and what I think we should do.

I am pleased that Mr. Andrew McCarthy, who prosecuted some of the top



terrorist cases in America as a former U.S. attorney or as an assistant U.S. attorney, is very critical and is very strongly of the belief that Ms. Lynch should not be confirmed. He says this:

A vote against Ms. Lynch's confirmation is not an assessment that she has performed incompetently or unethically in her prior government positions. It is a vote against the President's blatantly unconstitutional policy and against Ms. Lynch's support of that policy. Senators are bound by oath to uphold the Constitution; Ms. Lynch's prior, laudable record as a federal prosecutor cannot overcome her commitment to violating the Constitution.

We have a right to assert that. We are paid to make decisions about that. I think that Mr. McCarthy is correct. Congress was given certain powers as a coequal branch of government, not only to protect the Congress as an institution but to restrain other government branches from overreaching. One of those powers is the Senate's power to confirm or not confirm, and this check on Executive powers can be used as Congress sees fit. But it should not be abused, just as the President should not use his nominees to abuse the Constitution or to advance an unlawful agenda. The Attorney General is the top law enforcement officer in the country. This is not traditionally a political position. It is a law position. Anyone who occupies the office must serve the American people under the laws and the Constitution of the United States. They are not above the law.

The Supreme Court has clearly held that the President is subjected to the laws. It has always been the case and always has been a part of the law of the land. The Senate must never confirm an individual to an office such as this who will support and advance a scheme that violates our Constitution and eviscerates established law and Congressional authority. No person who would do that should be confirmed. We do not need to be apologetic about it.

Ms. Lynch has announced that she supports and, if confirmed, would advance the President's unlawful Executive amnesty scheme—a scheme that would provide work permits, trillions in Social Security and Medicare benefits, tax credits of up to \$35,000 a year—according to the Congressional Research Service—and even the possibility of chain migration and citizenship to those who have entered our country illegally or overstayed their lawful period of admission. The President has done this even though Congress has repeatedly rejected legislation he supports that would allow this scheme to be implemented. He asked for it, Congress considered it, and Congress said 'no.'

President Obama's unlawful and unconstitutional Executive action nullifies current immigration law to a degree most people have not fully grasped. The Immigration and Nation-

ality Act is the law of the land, and his actions replace it with the very measures Congress refused to adopt. Even King George III didn't have the power to legislate without Parliament.

During her confirmation hearing in the Judiciary Committee, I asked Ms. Lynch plainly whether she supported the President's unilateral decision to make his own immigration laws.

Here is the relevant portion of the transcript:

Mr. SESSIONS: I have to have a clear answer to this question—Ms. Lynch, do you believe the executive action announced by President Obama on November 20 is legal and Constitutional? Yes or no?

Ms. Lynch: As I've read the opinion,—

That is, the opinion of the Department of Justice, which would be under her supervision—

I do believe it is, Senator.

Of course, the lawful duty of the Attorney General is to enforce the law that exists, not one that she or the President wish existed. One of the most stunning elements of the President's scheme is the grant of work permits to up to 5 million illegal immigrants—taking jobs directly from citizens and legal immigrants in our country at a time of high unemployment and low wages.

Peter Kirsanow, Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, has written at length about how this undermines the rights of U.S. workers, especially African-American workers, and other minorities suffering from high unemployment. He says: Those citizens who are suffering from high unemployment and low wages have their rights undermined when the President ignores plain law that protects them from an excessive surge of illegal workers.

So at her confirmation hearing, I asked Ms. Lynch about what she might do to protect the rights of U.S. workers. By the way, Attorney General Holder, our current Attorney General, astoundingly, in comments he made some months ago, declared that there is a civil right to citizenship in America for people who enter the country unlawfully. How can this possibly be, that the Attorney General can get so removed from his responsibility to enforce the law that he says that if someone comes into the country unlawfully, they have a civil right to citizenship?

That was part of the reason I asked her this question:

Mr. SESSIONS: Who has more right to a job in this country? A lawful immigrant who's here or a citizen—or a person who entered the country unlawfully?

Ms. Lynch: I believe that the right and the obligation to work is one that's shared by everyone in this country regardless of how they came here. And certainly, if someone is here, regardless of status, I would prefer that they would be participating in the workplace than not participating in the workplace.

So this individual would be the chief law enforcement of our country, and I

believe that is a fundamentally flawed statement and comment. It is unprecedented for someone who is seeking the highest law enforcement office in America to declare that someone in the country illegally has a right to a job when the law says if you are here illegally, you cannot work.

This Nation is—as George Washington University law Professor Jonathan Turley, who has testified a number of times here, often called by a number of our Democratic colleagues, put it—at “a constitutional tipping point.” Professor Turley, who is a nationally recognized constitutional scholar and self-described supporter of President Obama, testified before the House of Representatives in February 2014, nine months before the President announced his unprecedented executive action, and said:

The current passivity of Congress represents a crisis of faith for members willing to see a president assume legislative powers in exchange for insular policy gains. The short-term, insular victories achieved by this President will come at a prohibitive cost if the current imbalance is not corrected. Constitutional authority is easy to lose in the transient shift of politics. It is far more difficult to regain. If a passion for the Constitution does not motivate members, perhaps a sense of self-preservation will be enough to unify members. President Obama will not be our last president. However, these acquired powers will be passed to his successors. When that occurs, members may loathe the day that they remained silent as the power of government shifted so radically to the Chief Executive. The powerful personality that engendered this loyalty will be gone, but the powers will remain. We are now at the constitutional tipping point of our system. If balance is to be reestablished, it must begin before this President leaves office and that will likely require every possible means to reassert legislative authority.

One of those means is the advice and consent power to approve or disapprove nominees for high office. It was created for just such a time as this. It is a legitimate constitutional power of Congress. It is not only appropriate but necessary that the Senate refuse to confirm a President's nominee when that President has overreached and assumed the legislative powers of Congress. It is particularly necessary when the President's nominee is being appointed specifically for the improper purpose of advancing the President's unconstitutional overreach—all through powers of the office to which they have been nominated.

Mr. President, we have a number of problems with regard to executive branch overreach and executive branch failure to be responsive to Congress. When Members of Congress ask legitimate questions, we often don't get answers from the people who are paid by the taxpayers and who are authorized by us. I believe that is another matter we need to consider before we confirm people. The Department of Justice has been recalcitrant too often in producing information it should produce.

I wish to go a little bit further because some of this goes to the core of the issues before us. Is this just a policy dispute between Congress and the President? No, it goes much deeper than that. The actions of the President are stunning—beginning with his so-called Morton memos. He had an underling carry out orders to achieve what he wanted done, which is often how he has proceeded with these unlawful activities. I will point out some of them.

Beginning with the Morton memos in 2011—under the guise of prosecutorial discretion based on limited resources—the Administration began to flaunt clearly written provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, such as section 235, which requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to place illegal aliens into removal proceedings to be deported once they are found. Section 235 requires DHS to do that, they do not have any discretion there.

In direct contradiction of clearly written law, the Morton memos generally directed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel to refuse to initiate removal proceedings against certain aliens, and to administratively close or terminate such proceedings if they had been initiated. Thus began the opening salvo in the Administration's assault on our immigration laws. This is huge. Officers respond to the President's leadership.

The following year, June 2012, the Administration created, through Executive fiat, a program that Congress consistently refused to enact into law—the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA. This program not only shielded certain illegal aliens from the threat of removal, but it also provided them with work authorization, the ability to travel outside of the United States without fear of being refused reentry through grants of advanced parole. It gave them a Social Security number and a photo ID.

By the way, colleagues, this resulted in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers being so concerned at this radical reversal of the laws of the United States that they filed a lawsuit against their supervisors asserting that they were being required to violate the law of the United States rather than being allowed to carry out their sworn duty, which was to enforce the laws of the United States.

The judge was sympathetic to the matter, but for technical and legal reasons, concluded that the case would not go forward, but I believe it is still on appeal now.

This is remarkable. There are law officers—many of them have been in law enforcement for 10, 20, 30 years—who sued their supervisors because they were being ordered to violate the law instead of enforce the law. We ought to listen to them. They have repeatedly told us that what is happening is out-

rageous and they pleaded with Congress to stop it.

But then in November of last year, after Congress refused to pass the Administration's preferred legislation providing amnesty to illegal aliens, the Administration created, through Executive fiat, a number of other programs that further eroded enforcement of our immigration laws. Notably, the two most visible programs are the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, the so-called DAPA Program, and an expanded version of DACA, both of which were blessed by the Department of Justice, the Office of Legal Counsel, and the Attorney General—wrong, unlawful actions blessed by the chief law enforcement officer in the country.

Less visible are policies that prevent the enforcement of immigration laws against certain criminal aliens, such as the November 20, 2014 memorandum from Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, entitled "Policies for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants." That memo excludes from enforcement priority categories whole categories of criminal offenses defined in sections 2(a)(2) and 237(a)(2) of the INA.

We have observed a decimation of law enforcement in this country involving immigration as a direct result of the President's determination to create an immigration system that he believes is right, but the People, through their elected Congress, have refused to make law. This is a direct threat to who we are.

Professor Turley is so insightful about this issue. This is not some rightwing extremist. In testimony before the House committee, he said:

I believe the President has exceeded his brief. The President is required to faithfully execute the laws.

He goes on to say:

This goes to the very heart of what is the Madisonian system. If a president can unilaterally change the meaning of laws in substantial ways or refuse to enforce them, it takes offline that very thing that stabilizes our system. I believe the members will loathe the day that they allow that to happen. There will be more presidents who will claim the same authority.

When I teach constitutional law, I often ask my students, what is the limiting principle of your argument? When that question is presented to this White House, too often it's answered in the first person, that the President is the limiting principle or at least the limiting person. We can't rely on that type of assurance in our system.

Madison knew no one can be given total power without limits.

Professor Turley goes on to say:

The problem of what the President is doing is that he is not simply posing a danger to the constitutional system; he is becoming the very danger the Constitution was designed to avoid: that is, the concentration of power in any single branch. This Newtonian orbit that the three branches exist in is a

delicate one, but it is designed to prevent this type of concentration.

When asked explicitly if he believed the President violated the Constitution, he said, as I quoted before, "The center of gravity is shifting, and that makes it unstable. And within that system you have the rise of an uber presidency. There could be no greater danger for individual liberty, and I really think that the framers would be horrified by that shift because everything they've dedicated themselves to was creating this orbital balance, and we've lost it. . . ."

He goes on to say to Congress as a challenge to us:

I believe that [Congress] is facing a critical crossroads in terms of continued relevance in this process. What this body cannot become is a debating society where it can issue rules and laws that are either complied with or not complied with by the president. I think that's where we are . . . [A] president cannot ignore an express statement on policy grounds . . . [In] terms of the institutional issue . . . look around you. Is this truly the body that existed when it was formed?

So he was sitting there in the House of Representatives and he was talking to Members of Congress and said:

. . . look around you. Is this truly the body that existed when it was formed? Does it have the same gravitational pull and authority that was given to it by its framers? You're the keepers of this authority. You took an oath to uphold it. And the framers assumed that you would have the institutional wherewithal and, frankly, ambition to defend the turf that is the legislative branch.

I think we need to—without apology—defend the law, and I think this is in the Congress' interest. Congress should not confirm someone to lead the U.S. Department of Justice who will advance this unconstitutional policy. Congress has a limited number of powers to defend the rule of law and itself as an institution and to stop the executive branch from overreaching. It is unthinkable that we would ignore one of those powers in the face of such a direct threat to our constitutional order—an escalating pattern of overreach by the President.

Every day that we allow the President to erode the powers of the Congress, we are allowing the President to erode the sacred constitutional rights of the citizens we serve. We have a duty to this institution and to the American people not to confirm someone who is not committed to those principles but rather who will continue to violate them.

I will oppose this nomination and urge my colleagues to do so. I think we should see a bipartisan vote rejecting this nomination, and in doing so, Congress will send a clear message that we expect the President to abide by the law passed by Congress, not to violate it.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. For almost 2 months, I have been returning to the Senate floor to urge the majority leader to schedule the confirmation vote for our next Attorney General. Yesterday afternoon, we were finally able to get an agreement that was long overdue. But even now, this morning, we are not voting to confirm Loretta Lynch to be the next Attorney General of the United States; we are going to vote on whether to invoke cloture in regard to this top law enforcement position.

For those not familiar with the rules of the Senate, cloture is a rule that allows the Senate to end a filibuster.

The fact that Senate Republicans are requiring a cloture vote on her nomination acknowledges what we have known all along: Republicans have been engaged in an unprecedented filibuster of this nomination.

When we do vote to confirm Loretta Lynch this afternoon, she will be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General. She is a historic nominee, but it is Senate Republicans who are making history—and I would say for the wrong reasons. We have had 82 Attorneys General in our Nation's history. Until now, not one of those 82 has had to overcome a cloture vote. But this one, Loretta Lynch, as I said, the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General, became the first and only to have to overcome a cloture vote.

I would have opposed any filibuster on any President. I have been here with President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush, President Clinton, another President Bush, and President Obama. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have seen this.

President Obama first announced Ms. Lynch's nomination more than 5 months ago. At the time, Senate Democrats acceded to the request of Senate Republicans not to move her nomination during the lame duck period. Republicans promised that she would be treated fairly.

In fact, last fall, the now-majority leader promised that "Ms. Lynch will receive fair consideration by the Senate. And her nomination should be considered in the new Congress through regular order." But she hasn't been treated fairly. There hasn't been regular order.

The nomination of Ms. Lynch has been pending in the Senate awaiting confirmation for 56 days. I went back over the last seven Attorneys General. I added up the number of days they waited for confirmation on the floor. She has waited longer than all seven of them put together twice over, so twice as long as the seven preceding Republican and Democratic Attorneys General combined: Richard Thornburgh, 1 day; William Barr, 5 days; Janet Reno, 1 day; John Ashcroft, 2 days, Alberto Gonzales, 8 days; Michael Mukasey, 2

days; and Eric Holder, 5 days. I have said it repeatedly, but it bears repeating again: this historic delay is an embarrassment for the United States Senate.

As the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Ms. Lynch brought terrorists and cyber criminals to justice. She obtained convictions against corrupt public officials from both political parties. She fought tirelessly against violent crime and financial fraud. Ms. Lynch has protected the rights of victims. She has a proven record prosecuting human traffickers and protecting children.

I am glad that yesterday the Senate was finally able to overcome an impasse on trafficking legislation which, unfortunately, those on the other side of the aisle caused by injecting partisan politics into the debate. That Republican leaders tied a vote on the confirmation of Ms. Lynch to human trafficking legislation never made sense at all, especially given her strong record of prosecuting human traffickers.

In a recent article, the *Guardian* rightly pointed out that the Republican leadership's use of her nomination as a negotiating chip was "painfully wrongheaded—tantamount to holding the sheriff back until crime goes away." I could not agree more. I ask unanimous consent that the *Guardian* article be printed in the *RECORD* at the conclusion of my remarks.

We all know that Loretta Lynch is eminently qualified to be our next Attorney General. She should not have been delayed for so many months by the Senate majority. And we should not be forced to vote to cut off debate on this nomination, especially when no other Attorney General nominee has ever needed such a vote. This is the complete opposite of the fair treatment that Senate Republicans promised last November. After this extended delay on the Lynch nomination, I can only hope Senate Republicans will show her more respect as Attorney General of the United States than she has received as a nominee. She deserves our respect and gratitude for being willing to continue to serve our Nation. She has earned this respect.

Ms. Lynch's story is one of perseverance, grace, and grit and I believe this process will only make her stronger. She was born and raised in North Carolina. She is the daughter of a fourth-generation Baptist preacher and a school librarian. Her proud mother and father instilled in her the American values of fairness and equality, even though as a child those around them were not living up to these values.

I must say that meeting Reverend Lynch at these hearings and then meeting him at the time of the markup—I was so impressed with the strength that man showed and his sense of faith in goodness. This is a

pastor and a preacher we can all look up to. In fact, Ms. Lynch recalls riding on Reverend Lynch's shoulders to their church, where students organized peaceful protests against racial segregation. The freedom songs and the church music that went hand in hand with those protests undoubtedly made up the sound track of her childhood. As Attorney General, I am sure she will draw upon those childhood experiences and the struggles of her parents, her grandparents, and her great-grandparents when addressing the current protests over too many young lives lost on our streets.

As I said, the Judiciary Committee was honored to have her father, the Reverend Lorenzo Lynch, with us on both days of her hearing in January, as well as at the committee markup when her nomination was favorably reported with bipartisan support. He is here to watch these proceedings today. It is clear this undoubtedly proud father instilled in his daughter the great resilience she has shown over the past 6 months.

As a Senator, as have other Senators, I have gotten to meet wonderful people from all walks of life, up to and including Presidents, but I have said many times before and I will say again that meeting Reverend Lynch was really a very special moment in this Senator's life.

Throughout Loretta Lynch's life, those who encountered her intelligence and her tenacity have not all been prepared to accept her and her impressive accomplishments. But at every point, the content of her character has shone through and led her to even greater heights.

In elementary school, administrators did not believe that Loretta Lynch could score as high as she did on a standardized test. They demanded that she retake the test. How could this young African-American girl score so high? She took the test again and her second score was even higher.

In high school, she rose to the very top of her class but had to share the title of valedictorian with two other students, one of whom was White, because school administrators feared an African-American valedictorian was too controversial. But that didn't hold her back, either. She kept going forward. She went on to graduate with honors from Harvard College, and then she went on and earned her law degree from Harvard Law School.

This has been the story of Loretta Lynch's life. While some are not ready to embrace her distinction, she marches forward with grace to prove she is even stronger and more qualified than her detractors can imagine. She has dedicated the majority of her remarkable career to public service, and we are fortunate as a nation that she wants to continue to serve.

Ms. Lynch's record of accomplishments makes me confident she will be

able to lead the Justice Department through the complex challenges it faces today.

One issue the outgoing Attorney General prioritized was the protection of Americans' right to vote. After the Supreme Court's disastrous ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*, Republican governors and State legislatures exploited the decision and implemented sweeping voter suppression laws that disproportionately affect African Americans and other minorities. Ms. Lynch will have to continue the commitment to fighting voting rights for all Americans.

At a time of severe budget cuts for too many vital programs that help victims and support public safety, something must be done about the massive financial burden that is the Bureau of Prisons. One-third of DOJ's budget goes to BOP. This imbalance has largely been driven by our reliance on drug mandatory minimum sentences, which do not make us safer but are costing us plenty. These sentences explain why the United States has the largest prison population in the world. We must work together on more thoughtful solutions to address our mass incarceration problem.

Few issues affect communities and families as intimately as addiction. Vermont, like many parts of the country, has seen a recent surge in the abuse of heroin and other opioids. The Department must work with States to find solutions to support communities struggling with heroin and other opioids, and help them break the cycle of addiction.

The Attorney General will also be called upon to build on the sometimes strained relationship between law enforcement and communities of color, which has been exacerbated by the recent tragic events in Ferguson, New York, and South Carolina. Restoring that trust will be as great a responsibility as she will have while in office.

Nor are these issues of trust limited to local law enforcement. Just the other day, a Washington Post article detailed the fact that the Justice Department and the FBI acknowledged numerous instances of flawed testimony by FBI examiners over a two-decade period in connection with hair analysis evidence. This included dozens of cases involving defendants who were sentenced to death row. This troubling revelation means that the FBI must conduct a comprehensive analysis to prevent future breakdowns such as this.

The Justice Department must also keep up with the rapid development of technology. We must stay ahead of the curve to prevent and fight threats to cybersecurity and data privacy. The growing threat of cyber crime is very real but so is the specter of unchecked government intrusion into our private lives—particularly dragnet surveil-

lance programs directed at American citizens. The intelligence community faces a critical deadline this June when three sections of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act are set to expire. We must protect our national security and our civil liberties. We must work together to reform our Nation's surveillance laws so we can achieve both goals and restore the public's trust.

When President Obama announced his intention to nominate Ms. Lynch last November, I had the privilege of attending the White House ceremony. At that event, Ms. Lynch noted with admiration that "the Department of Justice is the only cabinet department named for an ideal." Just think of that. The Department of Justice is named for an ideal—the ideal of justice. And having served as a State prosecutor, although not with the complexity she has encountered, I always felt that was an ideal to uphold, and she has. I believe that when Loretta Lynch is sworn in as our next Attorney General, she will work tirelessly to make that ideal a reality for all Americans.

As I said, I am sorry that for the first time, after 82 Attorneys General, we have to have a cloture vote. I have great respect for my friends in the Republican leadership, but I must say they sent an awful signal to America in saying that for the first time in 82 Attorneys General, we require a cloture vote for this highly qualified woman.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Guardian, Apr. 21, 2015]

LORETTA LYNCH 'LED THE NATION' ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING DESPITE REPUBLICAN STANDOFF

(By Tom McCarthy)

Republican leaders say they'll hold up Lynch's confirmation until trafficking bill passes—and yet Lynch has been one of America's boldest pursuers of sex traffickers, Guardian review reveals.

After almost six months, the Republican blockade on the confirmation of Loretta Lynch as the next US attorney general—once a grand fight over immigration, then banking prosecutions, then abortion—appears headed for a final legislative showdown over protecting victims of sex trafficking.

But the biggest Congressional headache of the year—a single cabinet nomination effectively hijacking the legislative calendar—has culminated in "a very sad irony": Lynch has been one of the country's premier guardians of victims of sex trafficking, and a tireless scourge of sex traffickers, a review of her record and conversations with current and former colleagues reveal.

Lynch—according to prosecutors, officials and victims' advocates familiar with her tenure as US attorney for the eastern district of New York—has a prodigious history of throwing sex traffickers in prison, breaking up prostitution rings, rescuing underage victims forced to work as prostitutes and reuniting mothers held captive by the rings with their long-lost children.

Heading into what could be the final day of protracted negotiations over her job as the

nation's highest law enforcement officer, Lynch's supporters spoke at length with the Guardian about what they say is one of the most powerful legacies of her tenure.

Republicans have not challenged Lynch's record as a prosecutor of sex trafficking—or any other part of her record. But Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell has clung to an announcement that he would hold up her nomination until the Senate completed work on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which would create a compensation fund for victims. Republican and Democratic senators are squabbling over abortion language in the bill.

"I had hoped to turn to her next week, but if we can't finish the trafficking bill, she will be put off again," McConnell said. More than a month later, that hold is still in place, although Republicans aides on Friday signaled potential new movement on the nomination, after President Obama called the delay "embarrassing".

To those with close knowledge of Lynch's record on human trafficking, the hold-up has not been embarrassing, so much as painfully wrong-headed—tantamount to holding the sheriff back until crime goes away.

Carol Robles-Román, who in 12 years as deputy mayor of New York City worked closely with Lynch's office to stop young girls from falling victim to sex traffickers, said Lynch had made "protecting the most vulnerable members of our society a hallmark of her tenure".

"The irony that it's a trafficking bill that's holding everything up is just . . . it's a very sad irony," said Robles-Román, who now runs the nonprofit Legal Momentum. "The fact of the matter is, with this record, she has been one of the top leaders in the country around the fight against human trafficking."

"This is such a difficult area for prosecutors to wrap their hands around. And her office, the eastern district, has really distinguished itself in the cases that they have brought, and the fearlessness that they have shown in prosecuting these cases."

#### 'HEINOUS' CASES WITH REAL RESOLUTIONS

Lori Cohen, director of the anti-trafficking initiative at New York-based Sanctuary for Families, has worked closely with Lynch's office, including to reunite victims of sex trafficking with their children, who in multiple cases have been held in Mexico by members of the trafficking organization.

"The eastern district prosecutors have been exceptional in terms of their willingness to listen to the clients," Cohen said. "And I think that, frankly, that came from the top, that came from the attorney general nominee. I think she has always had a very high degree of professionalism, but also a very strong sense of compassion for victims. And a strong sense of justice, that people who are exploiting these vulnerable immigrant women and children in the commercial sex industry need to be held accountable."

In the typical sex trafficking case prosecuted under Lynch, a community services organization might tip off law enforcement to the presence of a prostitution ring based in Brooklyn or Queens, New York. Investigators would discover many girls and young women living under the control of men who forced them to work in brothels or who drove them around the city, sometimes to as many as 20 assignments a day.

Anne Milgram, a former prosecutor on human trafficking cases in the eastern district, who went on to serve as attorney general of New Jersey and is now a senior fellow at the New York University school of law,

said one after another of the trafficking cases were prosecuted because Lynch made them a “personal priority”.

“Under her leadership, the eastern district has really led the nation in this area,” Milgram said. “I really couldn’t say enough good things about both the office and Loretta Lynch’s record on human trafficking. If you look nationally to find a US attorney who was as thoughtful and progressive in prosecuting human trafficking cases, I don’t think you could find one.”

Lynch’s office has specialized in breaking up rings that share a remarkable similarity. Members of family-based crime syndicates in Mexico, in a repeated pattern, would seek out young girls in poor, rural areas and make them promises of love and a better life in the United States. Sometimes a marriage would follow. And then the girls would be introduced to a new life, in which they were coerced to work as prostitutes. Obedience was enforced with rape, beatings, imprisonment, and, in some cases, by threatening the lives of children born of the corrupt “love” affairs.

“Any trafficking victim is going to be suffering in a tremendous physical and emotional harm, and pretty extensive sexual abuse,” Cohen said. “But these particular Mexican trafficking cases are so difficult for our victims because usually the trafficker is an intimate partner. So it could be a man who held himself out to be a boyfriend, or a fiancé, and in at least one case it’s been a husband. Who courted a client, who won her trust, and her love, and in a number of cases had children with her.”

“You just pull the facts of one of these cases, and they’re heinous,” Robles-Román said. “They almost don’t sound real.”

#### THE MOST ACTIVE RECORD IN THE COUNTRY

Lynch’s office has specialized in breaking up these rings. The eastern district of New York has delivered more than 55 indictments in human trafficking cases and rescued more than 110 victims, including at least 20 minors, in the past 10 years.

Under Lynch, the eastern district is currently prosecuting at least five cases relating to the prostitution of US minors or sex trafficking—more active prosecutions than any other US attorney’s office in the country, according to knowledgeable observers.

In 2012, Lynch’s office reunited a child and mother who had been separated for more than 10 years when the woman was taken from Mexico to New York and forced to work as a prostitute. It was one of 18 such mother-and-child reunions completed by the eastern district.

Cohen worked with a client who was reunited with her child after a conviction by Lynch’s office.

“It was really very moving,” Cohen said. “My client had been separated from her child for a number of years and was really frantic about her child’s safety. Frankly it’s terrifying for a victim to come forward and report the abuse, when she is afraid that if word of her cooperation gets back to her traffickers, there’s very little protection available for her child back in Mexico.”

“These clients, when they have children, they are mothers first. And they’ll do anything to protect their children. In fact some of them continue to be trafficked because they were afraid that if they stopped or refused, that their children would be harmed.”

In December 2012, Lynch announced the extradition and arraignment of four suspects from Mexico in two separate sex trafficking cases. In 2013, Lynch sent a New York bar owner and two co-defendants to prison for

dozens of years each for running a sex-trafficking ring between Central America, Mexico and two bars on Long Island. In 2014, three brothers convicted of sex trafficking were sentenced to double-digit prison terms for enticing victims as young as 14 to be transported illegally into the United States and forced to work as prostitutes in New York City and elsewhere.

“It’s horrible to think that children in the United States are being exploited sexually,” said Robles-Román. “They are. [But Lynch’s] office has shown that they have the courage, the know-how, and the expertise to prosecute these people—some of them involving international criminal enterprises.”

“From my perspective, somebody who has that vision, and that eye, to protect our most vulnerable, can protect us all. It is a fearlessness that we need in our attorney general.”

As of Monday, after what minority leader Harry Reid called “164 very long days”, there was still no Senate deal over the abortion language in the trafficking legislation, although signs emerged that a deal may be close.

If Republicans stick to their promise, it will then be Lynch’s turn. And if she is confirmed, to hear Lynch’s former colleagues tell it, the Senate will have made a difference on behalf of society’s most vulnerable.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO).** The Senator from Texas.

**Mr. CRUZ.** Mr. President, today I rise to talk about what has come to define the Obama administration, which is a consistent pattern of lawlessness that disrespects the Constitution, that disrespects the Congress, and that disrespects the people of the United States.

In any administration, under any President, the person charged with being the chief law enforcement officer is the Attorney General. I have been blessed to work in the U.S. Department of Justice, and there is a long, bipartisan tradition of Attorneys General remaining faithful to the law and to the Constitution and setting aside partisan considerations and politics. Unfortunately, that tradition has not been honored during the Obama Presidency.

Attorney General Eric Holder has been the most partisan Attorney General the United States has ever seen. The Attorney General has systematically refused to do anything to seriously investigate or prosecute the IRS for targeting citizens for expressing their First Amendment rights. Indeed, he has assigned the investigation to a major Democratic donor and partisan Democrat who has given over \$6,000 to President Obama and the Democrats. Eric Holder has abused the office and has turned it, in many respects, into a partisan arm of the Democratic Party. He is the only Attorney General in the history of the United States to be held in contempt of Congress.

So there are many, including me, who would very much like to see Eric Holder replaced. There are many, including me, who would very much like to see an Attorney General who will re-

turn to the bipartisan traditions of the Department of Justice of fidelity to law, and that includes most importantly the willingness to stand up to the President who appointed you even if he or she is from the same political party as are you.

During the confirmation hearings, I very much wanted to support Loretta Lynch’s nomination. Bringing in a new Attorney General should be turning a positive page in this country. But, unfortunately, the answers Ms. Lynch gave in the confirmation hearing, in my opinion, rendered her unsuitable for confirmation as Attorney General of the United States. That was a shame.

Ms. Lynch’s record as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York had earned her a reputation as a relatively no-nonsense prosecutor, so it was my hope that we would see a similar approach and similar answers from Ms. Lynch at the confirmation hearing. Instead, she chose to embrace the lawlessness of the Holder Justice Department.

When she was asked whether she would defend President Obama’s illegal Executive amnesty, which President Obama has acknowledged no fewer than 22 times that he had no constitutional authority to undertake and which a Federal court has now enjoined as unlawful, she responded affirmatively, saying she thought the administration’s contrived legal justification was “reasonable.”

The nominee went on to say that she sees nothing wrong with the President’s decision to unilaterally grant lawful status and work authorizations that are explicitly barred by Federal law to nearly 5 million people who are here in this country illegally.

When asked further who has “more a right to a job, a United States citizen or a person who came to this country illegally?” she responded, “I believe that the right and obligation to work is one that is shared by everyone in this country, regardless of how they came here.” Well, a very large majority of American citizens would beg to differ. Rule of law matters.

When she was asked about the limits of prosecutorial discretion—the dubious theory President Obama has put forth to justify his illegal executive amnesty—she could give no limits to that theory.

When asked if a subsequent President could use prosecutorial discretion to order the Treasury Secretary not to enforce the tax laws and to collect no more income taxes in excess of 25 percent, she refused to answer.

When asked if a subsequent President could use that same theory to exempt the State of Texas—all 27 million people—from every single Federal labor law and environmental law, she refused to answer.

When asked if she agreed with the Holder Justice Department that the

government could place a GPS sensor on the car of every single American without probable cause, she refused to answer. That extreme view was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously.

When asked if she agreed with the Holder Justice Department that the First Amendment gives no religious liberty protection whatsoever to a church's or synagogue's choice of their own pastor or their own rabbi, she again refused to answer. Likewise, that extreme view was rejected unanimously by the U.S. Supreme Court. Indeed, Justice Elena Kagan—appointed by President Obama—said at the oral argument that the Holder Justice Department's position that the First Amendment says nothing about the religious liberty of a church or a synagogue—Justice Kagan said, “I find your position amazing.” Well, I am sorry to say that Ms. Lynch was unwilling to answer whether she holds that same amazing position, that the First Amendment does not protect the religious liberty of people of faith in this country.

When asked in her hearing if she believes the Federal Government could employ a drone to kill a U.S. citizen on U.S. soil if that individual posed no imminent threat, she refused to answer.

When asked if she would be willing to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the IRS's targeting of citizens and citizen groups for their political views—something which President Obama said he was “angry about and the American people had a right to be angry about”—and when asked if she would appoint a prosecutor who was at a minimum not a major Obama donor, she refused to answer.

This nominee has given every indication that she will continue the Holder Justice Department's lawlessness. That was her testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I wanted to support this nomination. I wanted to see a new Attorney General who would be faithful to law. But her answers made that impossible.

I would note that there is a difference. Eric Holder began disregarding the Constitution and laws after he was confirmed as Attorney General. Ms. Lynch has told the Senate that is what she is going to do. That means each and every one of us bears responsibility. In my view, no Senator can vote for this confirmation consistent with her or her oath given the answers that were given.

I would note that a particular onus falls on the new Republican majority. For several months, I have called on the Republican majority to block the confirmation of President Obama's executive and judicial nominees other than vital national security positions unless and until the President rescinds his lawless amnesty. I am sorry to say the majority leadership has been unwilling to do so.

The Republican majority, if it so chose, could defeat this nomination, but the Republican majority has chosen to go forward and allow Loretta Lynch to be confirmed.

I would note that there are more than a few voters back home who are asking: What exactly is the difference between a Democratic and Republican majority when the exact same individual gets confirmed as Attorney General promising the exact same lawlessness? What is the difference? That is a question each of us will have to answer to our constituents when we go home.

In my view, the obligation of every Senator to defend the Constitution is front and center why we are here. We have a nominee who has told the Senate she is unwilling to impose any limits whatsoever on the authority of the President of the United States for the next 20 months. We are sadly going to see more and more lawlessness, more regulatory abuse, more abuse of power, more Executive lawlessness.

Now more than ever, we need an Attorney General with the integrity and faithfulness of law to stand up to the President. Attorneys General in both parties, Republican and Democratic, have done so. When credible allegations of wrongdoing by Richard Nixon were raised, his Attorney General, Elliot Richardson, appointed a special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, to investigate regardless of partisan politics. Likewise, when credible allegations by Bill Clinton arose, his Attorney General, Janet Reno—a Democrat—appointed Robert Fisk as the independent counsel to investigate those allegations. Eric Holder has been unwilling to demonstrate that same faithfulness to law, and unfortunately Ms. Lynch has told us that she, too, is unwilling to do so. For that reason, I urge all of my colleagues to vote no on cloture and to insist on an Attorney General who will uphold her oath to the Constitution and to the people of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come before the Senate today to vote and to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of confirming Loretta Lynch as Attorney General.

I disagree with my colleague from Texas. I serve on the Judiciary Committee, as does the Senator from Texas. I listened to her questions. I asked her questions. I listened to her answers. In my view, she passed her senatorial interview. She has picked up support from several Republicans. She answered questions for 8 hours during her confirmation hearing and submitted detailed responses to 900 written questions.

What I would like to focus on today are the claims I just heard from the Senator from Texas that she is somehow lawless.

Let's look through the facts. She has earned the support of Members of both parties. Do the Republicans who support her for this position think she is lawless? I don't think so. She has earned the support of top law enforcement groups and 25 former U.S. attorneys from both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Now let's start with the obvious. She is supremely qualified for Attorney General. She has a world-class legal mind, an unwavering commitment to justice, an unimpeachable character, and an extraordinary record of achievement.

During her time as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, she tackled some of our Nation's hardest cases, from public corruption, to civil rights violations, to massive crime rings. She currently leads the U.S. attorney's office that has been charged with prosecuting more terrorism cases since 9/11 than any other office in the country, including trying the Al Qaeda operative who plotted to attack New York City's subway system. Would you hand this over to a lawless person? No. You would hand this over—this important job of going after terrorists—to someone who respects the law, who enforces the law, not, as my colleague from Texas said, to someone who is lawless.

This is a concern in my State. Just this week, our U.S. attorney, Andy Luger, indicted six people—six people—in the Twin Cities area who were plotting to go back to assist ISIS, to assist a terrorist group. So I care a lot about having an Attorney General in place who actually knows how to handle these terrorism cases, who is going to lead the Justice Department and understands the importance of going after these cases. Loretta Lynch is exactly the type of tough and tested leader we need at the Justice Department to lead the effort.

She has been endorsed by leaders ranging from the New York police commissioner—I don't know if my colleague from Texas considers him lawless—to the president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, to the president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police. Alberto Gonzales says it is time to vote on Ms. Lynch. Rudy Giuliani says it is time to confirm her. These are not people my colleagues on the other side of the aisle normally say are lawless.

This is the story of Loretta Lynch and why I think she has been able to wait out this long process. Loretta Lynch has a lot of patience. When she was a little girl, she took a test and did incredibly well on that test. She did so well that they didn't believe she took that test. They asked her to take that test again, and she scored even higher. When she was valedictorian of the class, the principal came up to her and said: You know, this is a little awkward. You are African American, and



we might want another White student to share the honor. That is what happened to her. She said: All right. That is a woman who has been through something and can wait this out. She will wait no longer after today.

The other thing I heard from our friends on the other side of the aisle—from Senator CRUZ—was that somehow she is lawless because she supported something that every President since Dwight Eisenhower has supported, has asked their Attorney General to do. The Attorney General has looked at the legal issues surrounding the issuance of an Executive order regarding immigration. Every Attorney General since Eisenhower's administration has advised their President on these issues. The first George Bush, the second George Bush, Ronald Reagan—with every single one of these Presidents, there was some kind of Executive order issued involving immigrants.

I know because we have Liberians in Minnesota who, because of unrest in their country, have been there for decades under an Executive order, something that sometimes Congress gets involved and sometimes the President reissues. But that is one example of a group of people who have been able to stay in our country legally, work in our hospitals, work in our industries, and raise their families in this country because of Executive orders.

So to say that it is sometimes lawless—how lawless for her to support this simple idea that a President can issue an Executive order. Of course, we can debate the merits of that. We can talk about the fact that of course we would rather have comprehensive immigration reform. That is why I voted it. Of course that would be better, so the President could just tear up his Executive action. He said he would be glad to do that.

But the point of this is that every Attorney General in the Republican administrations since Dwight Eisenhower has supported their President when they issued an Executive order. So this idea that by somehow saying that is legal makes this nominee lawless is just plain wrong.

We look forward to another robust debate on immigration policy. Comprehensive immigration reform should be debated and passed by Congress. But Ms. Lynch should be judged on her record and her record alone. When we look at her record, we should be proud to have her as our next Attorney General of the United States of America.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I would like to make a few remarks about Loretta Lynch. While she should have been confirmed as Attorney General months ago, I want to make the following points: Her qualifications are

sterling. Her education, her experience as a U.S. attorney under two Presidents, as well as her accomplishments are unassailable.

I have never seen a nominee in my 22 years handle a confirmation hearing with such poise and answer questions with such command. During her hearing, I said Loretta Lynch was a combination of steel and velvet, and that, to me, sums her up perfectly.

I met with her prior to her hearing and was deeply impressed. I reviewed her stellar record and found her to be a firm yet fair prosecutor—as a matter of fact, probably the prosecutor in one of the toughest districts—the Eastern District of New York—that exists in America.

Having led this very large and important U.S. Attorney's Office under two Presidents, she is a proven leader and she also knows how to bring people together to get the job done. I think that is important.

Let me just talk about national security. The Eastern District of New York, where Ms. Lynch served as U.S. attorney, has led the Nation in terrorism convictions among all U.S. Attorney Offices since 2001. She has overseen these cases. The six individuals connected to Najibullah Zazi, who was part of an Al Qaeda plot and planned to set off bombs on the New York subway system; Rezwanul Nafis, who attempted to use a weapon of mass destruction against the New York Federal Reserve Bank; four individuals, including Russell Defreitas, who plotted to attack JFK Airport; an individual who tried to go to Yemen to join Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula; and two individuals who allegedly were members of Al Qaeda and attacked U.S. military forces overseas.

In February, her office announced that three individuals had been charged with attempting and conspiring to provide material support to ISIL. Two were planning to fly to Syria to join ISIL. The third was arrested while boarding a flight to Turkey at JFK. Her office has also charged 11 individuals, alleging that they illegally worked to secure more than \$50 million in high-tech equipment for Russian military and intelligence agencies.

At her confirmation hearing, Lynch emphasized the importance of the government having the “full panoply of investigative tools and techniques to deal with the ever-evolving threat of terrorism.” In sum, I am confident she is going to be a very strong voice leading the Justice Department on issues of national security. I can only say I think, as those of us on the Intelligence Committee see—and the Presiding Officer is one of them—this becomes more important every day.

Her experience is just as deep on domestic issues. As U.S. attorney for a major urban district, she clearly understands the importance of protecting us

from gangs and organized crime, issues that are front and center in my home State of California.

Her work in this area shows she understands local and international criminal organizations.

In the last year, under her leadership, three individuals connected to a major organized crime family pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy.

A gang leader was found responsible, after a five-week trial, “for six murders, two attempted murder[s], armed robberies, murder-for-hire, narcotics, distribution, and gambling on dog fighting.”

Another gang leader was convicted and sentenced to 37 years in prison for ordering the murder of two individuals, one of whom was believed to be associated with a rival gang.

Three individuals in a New York cell of an international cybercrime organization were also convicted on charges stemming from cyberattacks that resulted in \$45 million in losses.

She has also made combatting human trafficking a priority. Over the last decade, her office's anti-trafficking program has indicted more than 55 defendants in sex trafficking cases and rescued more than 110 victims of sex trafficking, including more than 20 minors.

Simply put, Loretta Lynch has been on the frontlines in investigating and prosecuting a range of perpetrators, and I believe she will continue that work as Attorney General.

I would be remiss if I did not express my extreme disappointment in the delay over Ms. Lynch's confirmation. We have before us a nominee with impeccable credentials to serve as the Nation's chief law enforcement officer. During her confirmation, Senator LEAHY asked a panel of witnesses who were pro and supposedly con to raise their hands if they opposed her. Not a single witness raised their hand. To me, that spoke volumes.

Even Republicans who will vote against her because they disagree with the President praise her credentials and personal qualifications. But despite all of that, the Senate subjected her to, I think, an inexcusable delay. It is particularly sensitive because this would be the first African-American woman as Attorney General in the history of the United States.

If you look at race relations today and the impartial and important role that the Department of Justice plays, it seems to me that her appointment may well be the most important possible appointment at this particular point in time. Her nomination has been pending for 56 days on the floor. That is more than twice as long as the seven most recent Attorneys General combined.

So, hopefully, it is done now. I recognize the other side will say they could not move the nomination because of



the trafficking bill or for some other reason. But the fact remains that, historically, we customarily move back and forth between executive and legislative business. We could have done that here as well. We have confirmed district judges, we have confirmed individuals who serve in various other executive capacities, including subcabinet positions. So we could have easily considered the nominee for one of the most important posts in this government.

Let me conclude with this. I regret that a vote on her nomination cannot be unanimous. I hope it will be close to that. I do not think that will be possible. She is that good. She deserves a unanimous vote. She is as fine as I have seen in my time in the Senate.

Senator DURBIN remarked in committee that her confirmation will be a truly momentous occasion for the Senate and for our Nation. He said this should be a "solemn, important, and historic moment for America." I truly believe he was right. I truly believe this is an uncommon nominee at an uncommon time who can display a tremendous will, drive, motivation, and sense of justice as our U.S. Attorney General. I am very honored to cast my vote in favor of her nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, briefly, this should be a happy day for America. This should be a day that is circled on the calendar as another day, as the Presiding Officer of this Senate knows, that this is about the American dream. This woman is the embodiment of the American dream in action. We should be celebrating her confirmation to the most important law enforcement position in the United States of America.

So why am I not happy? I am sad. I am depressed, because what we are going to witness in a few minutes is base politics at its ugliest. It does not get any uglier than this because what we are saying today—what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying today is that it does not matter if you are qualified. It does not matter if you are one of the most qualified nominees for Attorney General in the history of our country. That makes no difference. We have a new test: You must disagree with the President who nominates you. Let me say that again because we love common sense in Missouri. This defies common sense. You must vote against a nominee for the Cabinet of the duly elected President of the United States because she agrees with the duly elected President of the United States. Think of the consequences of that vote. Think what that means to the future of advise and consent in this Senate.

If we all adopt this base politics "place in the cheap seats," I can't get elected President unless I am against

Loretta Lynch, if we all adopt that in the future, how is any President elected in this country going to assemble a Cabinet? Because it will be incumbent on all of us to be against Cabinet members who have the nerve to agree with the President who has selected them for their team.

It is beyond depressing. It is disgusting. She is so qualified. She has worked so hard all of her life. She is a prosecutor's prosecutor. She has prosecuted more terrorists than almost anybody on the face of the planet. The notion that this has occurred because she agrees with the man who selected her—I think everyone needs to understand what that means to the future if all of us embrace that kind of base politics in this decision. It is not a happy day. It is a very sad day.

I am proud of who Loretta Lynch is. I am proud she will be Attorney General of this country. I am sad it will be such a close vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Loretta Lynch is an historic nominee. What I worry about is this body is making history for the wrong reasons. Senate Republicans have filibustered her. She becomes the first out of 82 Attorneys General in our Nation's history to face a filibuster.

On one hand she is an historic nominee for the right reason; the first African-American woman for Attorney General, a woman who is highly, highly qualified. Everybody agrees with that. But what a shame that we have the second part of history, to have her be the first out of 82 Attorneys General to be filibustered—to be held to this very disturbing double standard. This woman has had to face double standards all her life—why one more? I will proudly vote for her.

I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, Susan M. Collins, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 164 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Alexander	Flake	Murphy
Ayotte	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gardner	Nelson
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Booker	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Reid
Brown	Heitkamp	Roberts
Burr	Hirono	Rounds
Cantwell	Johnson	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Kirk	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Thune
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Corker	McCaskill	Udall
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden

#### NAYS—34

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Heller	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Vitter
Ezri	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 34.

The motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, under the previous order, there will be up to 2 hours of postcloture debate equally divided between the two leaders prior to a vote on the Lynch nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1191

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week the Senate entered a unanimous consent agreement to get on the bipartisan Iran congressional review act at a time to be determined by the two leaders. Now that the Senate has passed the antitrafficking bill and the Lynch confirmation vote has been scheduled for later today, it is my intention to turn to the Iran legislation.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that at 3 p.m. today the Senate agree to the motion to proceed to H.R. 1191, as under the previous order, with debate only during today's session of the

Senate following the offering of a substitute amendment by Senator CORKER or his designee, as under the previous order.

I further ask that following leader remarks on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, Senator CORKER be recognized to offer an amendment to the pending substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that on Monday there will be opportunity for debate.

Is that right, Mr. Leader?

We will do that at closing tonight. That would be good.

Madam President, I appreciate very much the understanding of the Republican leader, the majority leader, about how to proceed on this. This is a really important piece of legislation. I don't know of a piece of legislation in recent years that is more important than this. So I look forward to the Senate turning to this legislation.

I again applaud and commend Senators CORKER and CARDIN for the delicate and very good work they have done on this. This measure, I repeat, is important. It deals with matters of international affairs and Congress's role in carrying out the constitutional responsibilities we have. This bill will take some time. I hope we can finish it as rapidly as possible. That is what I want.

I also want to comment that I think it is important we have the opportunity—and I am sure the Republican leader—to have our caucus on Tuesday, so that we by that time will have an idea how we are going to proceed forward on this.

I have heard some Senators want to offer amendments really to hurt this bill. I hope that, in fact, is not the case. I hope people are trying to be constructive. Regardless of that, the leader has assured us that there will be an open amendment process. So no matter how a person feels about this bill, they will have an opportunity to offer amendments. In my opinion, we need to support the Corker-Cardin agreement. Those Senators worked so we can get the bill passed as soon as possible.

So I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today the Senate takes up the nomination of the 83rd Attorney General.

We all know the former Democratic leadership could have processed this nomination during last year's lame duck. But in the limited time we had, they chose to concentrate on confirming a number of judges and getting a losing vote on NSA reform. Ms. Lynch, at that time, wasn't high on the priority of the Democratic majority, but now I am pleased that the Senate was finally able to come to an agreement on the sex trafficking legislation, so we can turn to the Lynch nomination.

I voted against Ms. Lynch's nomination in committee and will oppose her nomination again when it is time to vote this afternoon. I will spend a few minutes now explaining my reasons to my colleagues.

This nomination comes at a pivotal time for the Department of Justice and our country. The next Attorney General will face some very difficult challenges—from combatting cybercrime, to protecting our children from exploitation, to helping fight the war on terror. But beyond that, the new Attorney General has a mess to clean up. The Justice Department has been plagued the last few years by decisionmaking driven by politics—pure politics. Some of these I have mentioned before, but I would like to give just a few examples.

The Department's own inspector general listed this as one of the top management challenges for the Department of Justice: "Restoring Confidence in the Integrity, Fairness, and Accountability of the Department." That is quite a major management challenge the Department faces.

This inspector general cited several examples, including the Department's falsely denying basic facts in the Fast and Furious controversy. The inspector general concluded this "resulted in an erosion of trust in the Department."

In that fiasco, our government knowingly allowed firearms to fall into the hands of international gun traffickers, and, I am sorry to say, it led to the death of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry.

Then how did the Department respond to all this obviously wrong action on their part? They denied, they spun, and they hid the facts from Congress. And if you hide the facts from the American Congress, you are hiding the facts from the American people.

They bullied and intimidated whistleblowers, members of the press, and, you might say, anyone who had the audacity to investigate and help us uncover the truth.

But Fast and Furious isn't the Department's only major failing under the Holder tenure. It has also failed to hold another government agency accountable, the Internal Revenue Service.

We watched with dismay as that powerful agency was weaponized and turned against individual citizens who

spoke out in defense of faith, freedom, and our Constitution. What was the Department's reaction to the targeting of citizens based on their political beliefs? They appointed a campaign donor to lead an investigation that hasn't gone anywhere, and then, after that, the Department called it a day.

Meanwhile, the Department's top litigator, the Nation's Solicitor General, is arguing in case after case for breath-taking expansions of Federal power.

I said this before, but it bears repeating: Had the Department prevailed in just some of the arguments it pressed before the Supreme Court in the last several years—and I will give five examples:

One, there would be essentially no limit on what the Federal Government could order States to do as a condition for receiving Federal money.

Two, the Environmental Protection Agency could fine homeowners \$75,000 a day for not complying with an order and then turn around and deny that homeowner any right to challenge the order or those fines in court when the order is issued.

Three, the Federal Government could review decisions by religious organizations regarding who can serve as a minister of a particular religion.

Four, the Federal Government could ban books that expressly advocate for the election or the defeat of political candidates.

And five, lastly, the way this Solicitor General argued, as I said, would bring the most massive expansion of Federal power in the history of the country. The Fourth Amendment wouldn't have anything to say about the police attaching a GPS device to a citizen's car without a warrant and constantly tracking their every movement for months or years.

Now, I have given five reasons of expansion of the Federal Government. These positions aren't in any way mainstream positions. At the end of the day, the common thread that binds all of these challenges together is a Department of Justice which has become deeply politicized. But that is what happens when the Attorney General of the United States views himself—and these are his own words—as the President's "wingman."

Because of all the politicized decisions we have witnessed over the last few years, I have said from the very beginning of this process that what we need more than anything else out of our new Attorney General is independence. Ever since she was nominated, it was my sincere hope that Ms. Lynch would demonstrate that sort of independence. It was my hope that she would make clear that, while she serves at the pleasure of the President, she is accountable to the American people, because the job of Attorney General is defined by a duty to defend the Constitution and uphold the rule of

law. The job is not simply to defend the President and his policies.

I voted for Attorney General Holder despite some reservations and misgivings, but I have come to regret that vote because of the political way he has led the Department. I realize that the quickest way to end his tenure as Attorney General is to confirm Ms. Lynch, but, as I have said, the question for me from the start has been whether Ms. Lynch will make a clean break from the Holder policies and take the Department in a new direction.

Some of my Democratic colleagues have said that no one has raised any objection to Ms. Lynch's nomination. This, of course, is inaccurate. No one disputes that she has an impressive legal background. It was her testimony before the committee that caused concerns for many Senators, including me. After thoroughly reviewing that testimony, I concluded that she won't lead the Department in a different direction. That is very unfortunate. After 6 years of Attorney General Holder's leadership, the Department desperately needs a change of direction.

I would like to remind my Democratic colleagues that it was not too long ago that a majority of Democrats voted against Judge Mukasey for Attorney General—not based on his records but instead based upon his testimony before the committee. In fact, then-Senator Obama had this to say about Judge Mukasey: "While his legal credentials are strong, his views on two critical and related matters are, in my view, disqualifying."

I asked Ms. Lynch about her views on Fast and Furious, on the IRS scandal, and other ways the Department has been politicized. She did not demonstrate that she would do things differently. Instead, she gave nonanswers. She was eloquent and polished but nonresponsive.

The bottom line is that Ms. Lynch does not seem willing to commit to a new, independent way of running the Department. That surprised me very much. Based on everything we were told, I expected Ms. Lynch to demonstrate a bit more independence from the President. I am confident that if she had done so, she would have garnered more support.

As I said when the committee voted on her nomination, to illustrate this point, we need to look no further than the confirmation of Secretary Carter to the Department of Defense earlier this year. When he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary Carter demonstrated the type of independent streak that many of us were hoping we would see in Ms. Lynch.

Most of the media reporting on the two nominations seemed to agree. Headlines regarding the Carter nomination in the New York Times and the Washington Post commended his shift

from the President's policies with headlines such as "Defense nominee Carter casts himself as an independent voice," which was in the Washington Post, and in the New York Times, "In Ashton Carter, Nominee for Defense Secretary, a Change in Direction." But on the Lynch nomination, those same newspapers highlighted that she defended the President's policies on immigration and surveillance with headlines such as "Lynch Defends Obama's Immigration Action," which was in the New York Times, and from the Huffington Post, "Loretta Lynch Defends Obama's Immigration Actions."

Secretary Carter was confirmed with 93 votes. Only five Senators voted against Secretary Carter's nomination. That lopsided vote was a reflection of his testimony before the Senate, which demonstrated a willingness to be an independent voice within the administration. Unfortunately, Ms. Lynch did not demonstrate the same type of independence.

I sincerely hope Ms. Lynch proves me wrong and is willing to stand up to the President and say no when the duty of office demands it. But based upon my review of her record, I cannot support the nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Loretta Lynch, a proud New Yorker and soon-to-be Attorney General of the United States of America. She was born in North Carolina, and her father was a fourth-generation Baptist minister, a man who grew up in the segregated South, and her mother picked cotton when she was a girl so her daughter would never have to. Their daughter grew up to be one of the keenest legal minds our country has to offer, someone who has excelled at every stage of her education and her career while cultivating a reputation—well deserved—as someone who is level-headed, fair, judicious, and eminently likable.

If there is an American dream story, Loretta Lynch is it. Still, despite her intellectual and career achievements, Ms. Lynch has always been a nose-to-the-grindstone type, rarely seeking acclaim, only a job well done.

Throughout her career, she has had a yearning to serve the public, which began when she took a 75-percent pay cut to join the Eastern District as a prosecutor. There, she found her calling, handling some of the toughest litigation cases in the country on cyber crime, public corruption, financial

fraud, police abuse, gang activity, organized crime, and especially terrorism.

When you look at the breadth and the depth of the cases she has handled, it is clear that Loretta Lynch is law enforcement's Renaissance woman. Because of her judicious, balanced, and careful approach to prosecuting on complex and emotional community-police relations matters, Ms. Lynch has always emerged with praise from both community leaders and the police. America needs this kind of leadership in our top law enforcement position.

In this age of global terrorism, the Attorney General's role in national security has never been more important.

I know her well. I was the person who recommended her to the President to be U.S. attorney twice. I know how good she is. In some of the most difficult cases—cases where the community was on one side and the police were on the other—she emerged with fair decisions that made both sides praise her. In this difficult world we are in, where we have so much tension, she is going to be great. That is why I was so proud when the President nominated her for Attorney General. She is just great. But one sad note—there is one cloud on this sunny day, and that is the long time it took to confirm her. We heard about a whole lot of issues completely unrelated to her experience or her qualifications. No one can assail Loretta Lynch—who she is, what she has done, how good an Attorney General she would be.

One quick story about Ms. Lynch. As I mentioned, I originally recommended Loretta Lynch for the position of U.S. attorney in 1999 because I thought she was excellent. Sure enough, she was.

When President Bush took office, Ms. Lynch went to the private sector to earn some money. When I had the opportunity to recommend a candidate for U.S. attorney again when President Obama became President in 2009, I was certain I wanted Ms. Lynch to serve again. She had only served for about 1½ years. She had done such a good job, I said, we need her back. But she had a good life. She was making a lot of money and had gotten married in the interim.

Knowing what a great person she is, I decided I would call her late on a Friday afternoon. I was confident that with the weekend to think it over, she would be drawn to answer the call to public service. When I called her Friday afternoon, she said to me, I was dreading this call, because she was happy in her life. But sure enough on Monday morning she called me back and said, I cannot turn this down because my desire to serve is so strong.

She is a great person in every way. On top of decades of experience at the highest levels of law enforcement and a sterling track record, Loretta Lynch brings a passion and deep commitment

to public service befitting of the high office she is about to attain.

She will make an outstanding Attorney General. I believe every Member of this body will be proud of her, and I look forward to voting for her with great enthusiasm.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, today I underscore my opposition to the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be the next Attorney General of the United States. While her experience is extensive, both her judgment and independence were called into question by her expressed views on President Obama's clearly unconstitutional actions on immigration, and this is something that cannot be overlooked when considering a nominee to be our Nation's chief law enforcement officer.

Let's review Ms. Lynch's testimony before the Judiciary Committee on whether she believes the President's actions are constitutional. During that hearing, Ms. Lynch stated that she "thought the legal opinion was reasonable" and that the President's actions were a "reasonable way to marshal limited resources to deal with the problem." When asked for a yes or no answer on whether she thinks Obama's executive actions on immigration were legal and constitutional, she stated, "[A]s I've read the opinion, I do believe it is."

What do these statements tell us? On the specific question of whether she thought the executive action was constitutional, Ms. Lynch was, at best, ambiguous. She attempted to obfuscate by saying that she found the underlying legal opinion "reasonable." In my view, all obfuscation aside, she sufficiently conveyed to the committee that she, in fact, thought the executive actions were legal and constitutional.

Many have asked me: But, Senator MCCAIN, wouldn't you expect a Presidential nominee to support a position being taken by the President who is nominating her? In most cases, the answer is yes. And, it is well known that, historically, I have been deferential to the President's prerogative to select his senior advisors—even those who require Senate confirmation. But, on matters regarding the U.S. Constitution—particularly those that implicate the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches, the Attorney General is different.

It is the job of the U.S. Attorney General to represent the people of the United States and to "do justice." It is not to serve as a policy instrument or cheerleader for the President. We have had years of that with Attorney General Holder. It has to stop with this nomination. Inasmuch as, by her own testimony, Ms. Lynch sees merit in a position that impinges on the constitutional prerogatives of the branch of government that I serve, I must vote in opposition to her nomination.

By the President's own repeated appraisal, the executive actions on immigration are unconstitutional. At least 22 times in the past few years, President Obama claimed he did not have the authority to unilaterally change the law in the way he did. For years, he pointed to Congress as the only way this change could take place, but reversed that position last November with his executive actions declaring the law as currently drafted to be inapplicable to millions of people. The following is a just a sampling of these oft-repeated statements:

"Comprehensive reform, that's how we're going to solve this problem. . . . Anybody who tells you it's going to be easy or that I can wave a magic wand and make it happen hasn't been paying attention to how this town works."

"I can't simply ignore laws that are out there. I've got to work to make sure that they are changed."

"I am president, I am not king. I can't do these things just by myself."

"But there's a limit to the discretion that I can show because I am obliged to execute the law. That's what the Executive Branch means. I can't just make the laws up by myself. So the most important thing that we can do is focus on changing the underlying laws."

"With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case. . . ."

"Believe me, the idea of doing things on my own is very tempting. I promise you. Not just on immigration reform. But that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions. That's not how our Constitution is written."

Whether you call it prosecutorial discretion or prioritizing enforcement, the argument does not survive scrutiny. With the stroke of a pen, the President's Executive action on immigration unilaterally changed the law as he saw fit, in violation of our Constitution and the way our system of government wisely provides for laws to be changed.

To the extent Ms. Lynch is willing to characterize this as reasonable and even constitutional, I cannot support her nomination. For all these reasons, I cast my vote in opposition to her confirmation to be U.S. Attorney General and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the fast-track bill the Finance Committee approved last night, and that I think will be on the floor next week or the following week, on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

I think the most important aspect of this debate is that what we are discussing with the TPP is not a new concept. It is not as though somebody came and said, I have a great idea; let's try this trade agreement, and it is going to be really good for the American worker and the American middle class and the American people. The truth is that we have seen this movie time and time and time again. Let me tell my colleagues that the ending of this movie is not very good. It is a pretty bad ending. I think most Americans understand that our past trade agreements have failed our American workers and have led to the loss of millions of decent-paying jobs.

What I simply don't understand—if we were going forward in the first place, with a new idea, maybe we should give it a shot. But when we went forward with NAFTA, when we went forward with CAFTA, when we went forward with Normal Permanent Trade Relations and there were all of these folks telling us how great these agreements were going to be and it turned out that virtually everything they said was inaccurate—not true—why in God's Name would we go forward with another trade agreement which is, in fact, larger than previous trade agreements?

Let me give an example of what I mean. On September 19, 1993, President Bill Clinton said the following:

I believe that NAFTA will create 200,000 American jobs in the first two years of its effect. . . . I believe that NAFTA will create a million jobs in the first five years of its effect.

So President Clinton was pushing the NAFTA agreement very hard, and that is what he said.

In 1993, the same year, the Heritage Foundation, which is one of the most conservative think tanks in the country—so here we have a liberal President, Bill Clinton, and we have a conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation—this is what they said: "Virtually all economists agree that NAFTA will produce a net increase of U.S. jobs over the next decade."

In 1993, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, who is now our majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, said: "American firms will not move to Mexico just for lower wages." MITCH MCCONNELL: "American firms will not move to Mexico just for lower wages."

Well, was President Clinton right? Was the Heritage Foundation right? Was Senator MCCONNELL right? No. I

think the evidence is pretty clear they were all wrong.

According to a well-respected economist at the Economic Policy Institute—and their facts usually hold up pretty well—NAFTA has led to the loss of more than 680,000 American jobs. What President Clinton said was wrong, what the Heritage Foundation said was wrong. We lost substantial numbers of jobs.

In 1993, the year before NAFTA was implemented, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of more than \$1.6 billion. Last year, the trade deficit with Mexico was \$53 billion. We had a trade surplus of \$1.6 billion; last year we had a deficit of \$53 billion. Now, how is that a success? I don't know.

In other words, NAFTA has been a disaster for American workers.

What about the Chinese trade agreement? I remember hearing all of the discussions about how great it would be if we had a trade agreement with a huge country such as China; thinking about all of the American products they would be buying, manufactured here in the United States. Here is what President Bill Clinton said about PNTR with China back in 1999. It is important to remember what people said because they are saying the same thing about this trade agreement. But this is back in 1999, Bill Clinton, President, PNTR with China:

In opening the economy of China, the agreement will create unprecedented opportunities for American farmers, workers and companies to compete successfully in China's market. . . . This is a hundred-to-nothing deal for America when it comes to the economic consequences.

Once again, that is a liberal President.

Now, we have the conservative think tanks that love unfettered free trade. In 1999, discussing PNTR with China, the conservative economists at the Cato Institute—these are really conservative guys and this is what they said:

The silliest argument against PNTR is that Chinese imports would overwhelm U.S. industry. In fact, American workers are far more productive than their Chinese counterparts. . . . PNTR would create far more export opportunities for America than the Chinese.

Well, what can we say about that? The Cato Institute wrote in 1999: "The silliest argument against PNTR is that Chinese imports would overwhelm U.S. industry."

Sure. Right.

If we go out to any department store in America and we buy products, where are those products made? Guess what. They are made in China. It appears that, in fact, Chinese imports did overwhelm U.S. industry. The Cato Institute was dead wrong.

Again, nobody is really surprised at this. There is no more debate about this. Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, that trade agreement, was a disaster.

The Economic Policy Institute has estimated that trade agreement with China has led to the loss of 2.7 million American jobs. The trade deficit with China has increased from \$83 billion in 2001 to \$342 billion in 2014.

Now, in terms of China, I don't know that the American people have any doubt about it. Every time we go shopping, the products overwhelmingly are made in China. People look in their own towns and in their own States—my State—and see losses of more and more manufacturing jobs. Since 2001, we have lost 60,000 manufacturing facilities in America. Not all of it is attributable to trade; there are other reasons, but a lot of it is attributable to trade. Millions of decent-paying jobs are gone; people thrown out on the street as companies move to China, Vietnam, and other low-wage countries. There is not a debate about it. That is exactly what has happened. Corporation after corporation has said, Why do I want to pay an American worker \$15, \$20 an hour? Why do I want to deal with the union? Why do I have to obey environmental regulations? I can move to China, I can move to Vietnam, I can move to Malaysia or Mexico and I can pay people pennies an hour and bring the product back into the United States. That is what they said, and that is what they have done.

Major corporation after major corporation has reduced employment in America at the same time as they have increased employment in other countries.

Not only is it the loss of jobs, it is the race to the bottom. It is employers saying to workers, Look, I am cutting your health care, I am not giving you a raise, and if you don't like it, I am moving to China because there are people all over the world who are prepared to work for wages a lot lower than you are receiving. You can take it or leave it. That is one of the reasons why today the typical American worker is working longer hours for lower wages than he or she used to and why wages have gone down in America. That is what the global economy has done. That is what these horrendous unfettered free-trade agreements have pushed on American workers. That is the Chinese trade agreement: an estimated 2.7 million American jobs lost.

Then we have the Korea Free Trade Agreement, which has led to a loss of some 60,000 jobs. Our trade deficit with that country has gone up from \$16.6 billion in 2012 to \$25 billion in 2014.

So we have a history of failed trade agreement after failed trade agreement and people say, Hey, we failed, we failed, we failed; let's do the same thing again and this time we are really, really, really going to succeed. I don't think anybody really believes that.

I do understand that Wall Street loves this trade agreement and they

are staying up nights worrying about ordinary Americans; and I understand that the major corporations in this country love this agreement and the truck companies love this agreement, which gives us enough reason to hold this agreement in doubt.

Now, the Obama administration says, Well, trust us. Forget about the other trade agreements. This TPP is something different. It is a better agreement. This time will be different. This time it will support about 650,000 American jobs. Well, supporters of unfettered free trade were wrong about NAFTA, they were wrong about CAFTA, they were wrong about PNTR with China, and they were wrong about the Korea Free Trade Agreement and—surprise of all surprises—they are wrong again.

If the fast-track is approved, it would pave the way for the passage of the TPP—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—trade agreement. As my colleagues know, this trade agreement is poised to be the largest free-trade agreement in history, encompassing 12 nations that account for roughly 40 percent of the global economy. This is a very big deal.

Let me speak about two of those countries that are involved in the TPP; those are Vietnam and Malaysia. We are fighting here—and I understand there are differences of opinion—we are fighting here in the U.S. Congress to raise the minimum wage. I happen to believe a \$7.25 minimum wage, which is what it is federally, is a starvation wage. I would like to see it go up over a period of years to \$15 an hour. The Presiding Officer may disagree, and there are others who disagree.

Let me tell my colleagues what the minimum wage is in Vietnam. The minimum wage in Vietnam is 56 cents an hour—56 cents an hour. So we have American workers being forced to compete against people who make 56 cents an hour. And we have a situation, just as one example of many, where the Nike company—a company which produces over 365 million pairs of athletic shoes each year—goes all over the world. Do you know how many of those athletic shoes are manufactured in the United States of America? Fifty million? Twenty million? Ten million? One million? Zero. On the other hand, they employ 330,000 workers in Vietnam—mostly young women—and while they refuse to tell us, give us the detailed information, our supposition is that most of those women make very low wages.

Let's be clear about what is going on. According to a November 11, 2014, article in the Vietnamese newspaper Thanh Nien News: "Analysts acknowledge that Vietnam's abundance of cheap labor has played an increasingly pivotal role in wooing foreign firms looking to set up overseas manufacturing operations in a country with a population of 90 million."

In other words, that is what this is all about. Wages are very low in Vietnam. Companies from the United States and all over the world will go to that country. Allowing the TPP to pass will make it easier for multinational companies to shut down in America and move to Vietnam. That is wrong.

When we talk about free trade, it is important to understand what is involved. Whom are we competing against? Are we competing against Canadian workers whose standard of living is as high or higher than ours? Are we competing against workers in Germany whose standard of living may be higher than ours? No. We are competing against people who are struggling to stay alive, earning the lowest possible wages that keep a human being alive.

Last year, the Human Rights Watch published a report on Vietnam. Here are some of the quotes from that report:

The human rights situation in Vietnam deteriorated significantly in 2013, worsening a trend evident for several years. The year was marked by a severe and intensifying crackdown on critics, including long prison terms for many peaceful activists whose "crime" was calling for political change.

In other words, in Vietnam, if you speak up, you want political change, there is a likelihood you will end up in jail.

Vietnam bans all political parties, labor unions and human rights organizations independent of the government. . . . The authorities require official approval for public gatherings and refuse to grant permission for meetings, marches, or protests they deem politically or otherwise unacceptable.

It is not my point to beat up on Vietnam. They are a struggling country—a poor country that went through a terrible war with the United States that caused them incredible harm. But when we look at a trade agreement, when we say to American workers: This is your competition, people who are making 56 cents an hour in some cases, people who can't form an independent trade union, people who politically can't stand up and speak up for their rights, is that really appropriate and fair to the American worker? I don't think it is. I don't think it is.

Let me say a word not just on Vietnam but another country in that consortium of partners in the TPP; that is, the country of Malaysia.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a New York Times article, dated September 17, 2014.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 17, 2014]  
REPORT CITES FORCED LABOR IN MALAYSIA'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY  
(By Steven Greenhouse)

Nearly one in three migrant workers in Malaysia's thriving electronics industry toils under forced labor conditions, essen-

tially trapped in the job, a factory monitoring group found in a report issued on Wednesday.

The monitoring group, Verité—which conducted a two-year investigation commissioned by the United States Department of Labor—found that 32 percent of the industry's nearly 200,000 migrant workers were employed in forced situations because their passports had been taken away or because they were straining to pay back illegally high recruitment fees.

The report said those practices were prevalent among the migrants from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam and other countries who work in Malaysia's nearly 200 electronics factories. Those factories, which produce consumer electronics, motherboards, computer peripherals and other electronic goods, account for a third of Malaysia's exports and produce for many well-known companies, including Apple, Flextronics, Samsung and Sony.

The Verité report said that 92 percent of the migrant workers in Malaysia's electronics industry had paid recruitment fees and that 92 percent of that group had paid fees that exceeded legal or industry standards, defined as more than one month's wages.

The report said about half of the migrant workers who borrowed for their recruitment fees spent more than a year paying off those fees. According to the report, 94 percent of the migrants did not have their passports when Verité's investigators interviewed them, and 71 percent said it would be impossible or difficult to get their passports back when needed.

"This most modern of industrial sectors is characterized by a form of exploitation that long ago should have been relegated to the past," said Daniel Viederman, chief executive of Verité. "The problem is not one of a few isolated cases. It is indeed widespread."

Labor Department officials commissioned the study because the federal government frowns on the importation of goods made by forced labor. They sought an investigation after seeing evidence that the problem was serious in Malaysia.

Twelve investigators working for Verité interviewed a total of 501 workers from nearly 200 Malaysian factories. According to the study, "92 percent reported feeling compelled to work overtime hours to pay off their debt, and 85 percent felt it was impossible to leave their job before paying off their debt." Seventy-seven percent had to borrow money to pay their recruitment fees.

"Workers are paying too much to get their jobs," Mr. Viederman said. "That leaves them vulnerable to being trapped in their jobs."

He told of a migrant worker from Nepal who spoke good English and was the only one of five children with a college degree. His family paid a recruitment agent \$1,500 for his job, which was more than twice the annual income in Nepal, and they borrowed much of that at a 36 percent annual interest rate.

When the Nepali arrived in Malaysia, his passport was taken from him at the airport, and he has not seen it since, he told the Verité interviewer. "He has now completed 14 months of a three-year contract, and he has not been able to save any money" because he is still paying back the recruitment fees, Mr. Viederman said. The Nepali works 12 hours a day, often seven days a week, and said it would take two years to finish repaying the loan.

"He doesn't want to be in Malaysia anymore," Mr. Viederman said. "He wants to

quit and return home, but then he would have to pay a hefty fine and purchase his own plane ticket and still have the loan payment hanging over his head. He wasn't sure if he could get his passport back."

The report found that 30 percent of foreign workers said they slept in a room with more than eight people, and 43 percent said there was no place where they could safely store their belongings. Twenty-two percent of the workers said they had been deceived about their wages, hours or overtime requirements during the recruitment process.

Mr. Viederman said many workers faced a "one-two punch"—being charged high recruitment fees and then being paid less than they had been promised. He said many workers were told that their wages would be withheld or they would be reported to authorities if they complained or protested.

The Malaysian Embassy in Washington did not respond to inquiries—Tuesday was a national holiday.

Officials from Samsung and Sony did not respond to questions about Malaysia.

Asked about the reports of forced labor, Chris Gaither, a spokesman for Apple, said: "This is an issue we have paid a lot of attention to and done a lot of work on. We were the first electronics company to mandate reimbursement to workers who were charged excessive recruitment fees."

Mr. Gaither said Apple's supply chain, which employs 1.5 million workers worldwide, employs 18,000 in Malaysia, including 4,000 migrant contract workers. He said that since 2008, Apple had helped migrant workers in Malaysia and elsewhere to reclaim \$19.8 million in excessive recruitment fees, which he defined as more than one month's wages. Apple uses about 30 factories in Malaysia, and Apple had audits done at 18 of them in the last year to investigate forced labor and other problems.

Mr. Viederman said companies should strengthen their codes of conduct to bar payment of recruitment fees for workers at any factories they use and to prohibit supplier factories from taking migrant workers' passports. He said companies should make sure their factory monitors engaged in aggressive investigations to unearth such practices. In addition, he called for a grievance procedure for workers that would hold the companies, suppliers and labor brokers accountable.

The Verité report found 62 percent of migrant workers said they were unable to move around freely without their passports. Fifty-seven percent said they could not leave their job before their contract was finished because they would be charged an illegally high fine, lose their passport or be denounced to the authorities.

Forty-six percent reported having encounters with police, immigration officials or a volunteer citizens security corps. Most of the 46 percent said they had to pay a bribe, were detained or were threatened with detention or physical harm. Twenty-seven percent of the foreign workers said they could not come and go freely from their housing.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, what the New York Times article talks about is that today there are nearly 200 electronics factories in Malaysia where high-tech products from Apple, Dell, Intel, Motorola, and Texas Instruments are manufactured and brought back into the United States. It turns out Malaysia is a major center for the manufacturing of electronics, and some of the largest electronics manufacturers in the world are centered or have



plants in Malaysia. If the TPP is approved, that number will go up substantially. Now, what is wrong with that?

Well, let's talk about what is going on in Malaysia, where American companies in this country and American workers will have to compete as part of the TPP. Well, it turns out that many of the workers at the electronics plants in Malaysia are immigrants to that country and are forced to work there under subhuman working conditions.

According to Verite, which conducted a 2-year investigation into labor abuses in Malaysia, which was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor—this report was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor.

This report tells us that 32 percent of the electronics industries' nearly 200,000 migrant workers in Malaysia were employed in forced situations because their passports had been taken away or because they were straining to pay back illegally high recruitment fees.

According to the New York Times article commenting on the study, 92 percent of the migrant workers in Malaysia's electronics industries had paid recruitment fees, and 92 percent of that group had paid fees that exceeded legal or industry standards defined as more than one month's wages.

Ninety-four percent of the migrants did not have their passports when Verite's investigators interviewed them. Let me repeat that. The passports were taken away from 94 percent of the people whom these investigators interviewed. Now, if you are a migrant in a foreign country and your passport is taken away, you have no rights at all. You can't leave. You may not be able to travel. You have no rights at all. In other words, many of these workers who wanted to leave Malaysia were unable to do so. They were forced to stay and continue to work under these subhuman conditions.

Mr. President, 30 percent of foreign workers—this is again in the report from Verite, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor—30 percent of foreign workers said they slept in a room with more than eight people, and 43 percent said there was no place where they could safely store their belongings.

Well, when we talk about competition and a competitive global economy, I do not believe the American worker should be forced to compete against workers who are literally held in slave-like conditions, unable to leave the country, having their passports taken away, working for pennies an hour.

Let me conclude simply by saying this: This trade agreement is being pushed on the Congress by the largest corporations in the United States of America. They love unfettered free trade because it enables them to shut down in America and move to low-wage

countries where they can employ workers at pennies an hour. This trade agreement is pushed on us by Wall Street, that wants to make sure that around the world they will have financial regulations that make it easier for them to do what they do, rather than serve the economies of countries around the world.

This legislation is strongly supported by the pharmaceutical industry that will have the opportunity to prevent poor countries around the world from moving to generic drugs and make medicine affordable to the poor people in these countries. So all of the billionaire class, all of the powerful corporate world is supporting this trade agreement.

Who is opposing this trade agreement? Well, virtually every trade union in America whose job it is to stand up for American workers. They are in opposition. I was just at a rally with them the other day. They are united. They are in opposition. You have many environmental groups that understand this is a bad agreement. You have medical groups that understand this is a bad agreement for poor people in developing countries, and you have millions of workers in this country who do not want to compete. They are not afraid of competition. We are a productive country. They do not want to compete against people making 56 cents an hour or against forced labor in Malaysia. That is where we are today.

Where we are today is, Do we go forward with a failed trade policy or do we take a deep breath and say enough is enough? Let us rethink trade policy. Let us figure out a way we can grow the American economy, create decent jobs in the United States, and, by the way, help poor people around the world. All of us want to see wages go up in poor countries around the world, but that does not mean wages have got to go down in the United States of America. We need a trade agreement that works for our people, works for people around the world but is not a trade agreement that only works for the Big Money interests in the United States.

I hope very much the Senate will take a real hard look at this trade agreement, take a hard look at what people have been saying for years about previous trade agreements and say we are not going down this failed path anymore.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DR. IRWIN SCHATZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I came across an article in the New York Times on Sunday that called my attention to the passing of an amazing man, a man who has a connection to the U.S. Senate.

I rise to pay my respects to a man of uncommon integrity. Dr. Irwin Schatz passed away on April 1 at the age of 83. Beloved and respected in the medical community, Dr. Schatz spent his career helping people. He was a major contributor to the Honolulu Heart Program, a landmark study with half a century of followup on Japanese American men in Hawaii.

Dr. Schatz was the rare critic of the notorious Tuskegee, AL, syphilis medical experiments.

From 1952 to 1972, the U.S. Public Health Service conducted the Tuskegee clinical study on poor African-American sharecroppers. They wanted to know about untreated syphilis on African Americans. There were 600 men enrolled in the study. Almost two-thirds had syphilis, while the rest were used as control subjects. Between 1932 and 1947, the date when penicillin was determined to be the cure for the disease, at least seven men died, and their wives, children, and untold number of others had been infected.

Men participating in the study were told they were being treated for bad blood. Bad blood wasn't running in the veins of these men, it was running in the veins of those who decided this study was worth more than their humanity.

Dr. Irwin Schatz was 4 years out of medical school working as a cardiologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit when he came across the December 1964 issue of the journal "Archives of Internal Medicine," which mentioned the Tuskegee study. We cannot be sure how many other people read this issue, but Dr. Schatz read it, and he was horrified.

Dr. Schatz wrote to the study's senior author, Dr. Donald Rockwell. His letter was only three sentences long. These three sentences could have put his career at risk. Here was this young doctor criticizing an investigation overseen by some of the leading figures in the American Public Health Service.

Here is what he wrote:

I am utterly astounded by the fact that physicians allow patients with a potentially fatal disease to remain untreated when effective therapy is available. I assume you feel the information which is extracted from observations of this untreated group is their sacrifice. If this is the case, then I suggest the United States Public Health Service and those physicians associated with it in this study need to reevaluate their moral judgment in this regard.

The sad reality is that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention buried Dr. Schatz' letter, and it would sit in their archives until 1972. A Wall Street Journal reporter found the letter the same year that Peter Buxtun,



health service employee turned whistleblower, told the world about this horrific study.

Dr. Schatz went on to serve in a variety of hospitals. In 1975 he joined the University of Hawaii and eventually became chairman of their department of medicine. In 2009, he was named a medical hero by the Mayo Clinic because of his career but also because of the moral fury he expressed in that three-sentence letter.

Irwin Schatz was truly a hero. My prayers and thoughts go out to his sons, Jacob, Edward, Stephen, and our colleague Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, his nine grandchildren and his family.

Mr. President, I would like to speak on a separate topic very briefly.

The moment is going to finally arrive in just a few minutes when we are going to, I hope, approve by a bipartisan vote the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be our next Attorney General. This is a milestone in the history of the United States—the first African-American woman to become Attorney General of this country.

I would like to say that I am sorry—and I am—for the delay in bringing this nomination before the Senate. It should have been done long ago. She is an extraordinary person from an extraordinary family. We have been blessed with her public service for so many years, and now she has reached the top in her career to be able to serve as our next Attorney General.

I will, with a great deal of admiration and respect, be voting in favor of this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I eagerly echo the words of my dear friend, the senior Senator from Illinois. This is a great, historic moment. Earlier today, we ended the filibuster on this woman, Loretta Lynch. We ended the filibuster of her nomination to be Attorney General of the United States.

The good news is that we ended the filibuster. The bad news is that for the first time in our Nation's history, we had to overcome a filibuster for an Attorney General nominee—of either party. Eighty-two prior Attorneys General, going back to George Washington straight through, and not one of them has been treated the way Loretta Lynch has been treated.

I have come to know what a strong and good woman she is from her time as U.S. attorney and straight through to her confirmation hearing. At her confirmation hearing, those opposed to her brought witnesses but when I asked them, are there any of you who would vote against her, not a single hand went up.

You see, I know her strengths. I know she has persevered through much more difficult circumstances in her life. I believe this will make her even stronger. But do I hope after this ex-

tended delay, that Senate Republicans will show her more respect as Attorney General of the United States than she has received as a nominee.

She deserves all of America's respect and our gratitude for being willing to continue to serve our Nation. Loretta Lynch is eminently qualified to be Attorney General. She has twice been unanimously confirmed by the Senate to be U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Her record as a top Federal prosecutor in Brooklyn is unimpeachable.

I have no doubt that as Attorney General, Ms. Lynch will effectively, fairly, and independently enforce the law.

She has received the highest praise from those on both sides of the aisle. A group of 26 former United States Attorneys from both Republican and Democratic administrations have written, "Ms. Lynch has the experience, temperament, independence, integrity, and judgment to immediately assume this critically important position." A former Associate Attorney General serving at the Justice Department under President Bush wrote to me saying that "[Ms. Lynch is] uniquely qualified to serve as Attorney General." Former Republican mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani, said, "If I were in the Senate, I would confirm her," and Louis Freeh, former director of the FBI and Federal judge, has written "[i]n my twenty-five years of public service—23 in the Department of Justice—I cannot think of a more qualified nominee to be America's chief law enforcement officer." This is just a glimpse of the broad support she has received.

Loretta Lynch deserves to be considered by this Chamber based on her record, her accomplishments, and her extraordinary character. Let us come together. Let us make history by confirming Loretta Lynch to be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 165 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Hatch	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Heitkamp	Portman
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Johnson	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Kirk	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Feinstein	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Roberts
Barrasso	Gardner	Rounds
Blunt	Grassley	Rubio
Boozman	Heller	Sasse
Burr	Hoeven	Scott
Capito	Inhofe	Sessions
Cassidy	Isakson	Shelby
Coats	Lankford	Sullivan
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	McCain	Tillis
Cotton	Moran	Toomey
Crapo	Murkowski	Vitter
Daines	Paul	Wicker
Enzi	Perdue	
Ernst	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. As a reminder, expressions of approval or disapproval are not permitted from the gallery.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader making the usual request that the President be notified, but I have a sneaky suspicion the President knows what the final vote was.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last Thursday marked the 100th day of the new Republican-led Senate. While it is still very early, and there is still much to be done, we can report there has been bipartisan progress in a number of important areas. So I am optimistic. I am optimistic that the momentum we have seen over the last several months is going to translate into further successes on behalf of Americans.

It is interesting to read from last Thursday's USA TODAY: The first 100 days of Republican Congress. The headline is: "Lawmakers try to prove it's possible to be productive." So people are noticing the fact that we are keeping our campaign promises.

During the last campaign season we told people all across the country that if they just gave us the opportunity to govern, we would do it in a bipartisan way. In November, the American people did send an unmistakable message to Washington. Voters across the country said they were tired of gridlock and tired of a lack of action. They said it was time for a new majority—a Republican majority—a majority to get the Senate working again and to get America on a better course.

Republicans have responded, and we are working hard to make the Senate accountable again to the people who sent us here. And you don't have to take my word for it. Just the other day, the Bipartisan Policy Center came out with its healthy Congress index. This is a group of former Republican and Democratic leaders of Congress. They talked about how the new Senate has been showing signs of life. The total number of days worked, they report, is up from that of previous years—43 days in the first 100 calendar days of this Senate versus 33 days at the same point last Congress, and 33 days in the Congress before that.

Also, the number of bills reported out of committee is way up. In the first 100 days we had 15 bills reported out of committees in the Senate compared to just 8 in the first 100 days of the previous two Congresses. Imagine that, our committees are working, and we are pushing out bipartisan bills, such as the Iran congressional review bill that passed unanimously in the Foreign Relations Committee.

The number of amendments voted on is larger than it has been in previous Congresses. In the first 100 days of this Congress, we voted on more than 100 amendments. These are amendments by both Republicans and Democrats. For all of last year there were only 15

up-and-down votes on amendments—just 15 for the entire year. This year we topped that number of amendment votes by January 22.

That is just one more way the Senate is working again. In the first 100 days we passed a dozen bipartisan bills. We passed the bipartisan Keystone XL Pipeline jobs bill. We passed a bill to make much-needed reforms to the Medicare program and to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program. We passed the Clay Hunt Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. We reached an agreement to help victims of modern slavery who are abused and exploited by human traffickers. These important bills are just part of our commitment to work together to solve problems for the American people.

On top of all that, we passed a budget that actually balances over the next 10 years. Even former Democratic Senate leader Tom Daschle recently said that "there's been more open debate and consideration of issues" under Senator McConnell's leadership. Well, that is exactly right. The Senate is working again, and we are just getting started.

I am hopeful we can continue to work together to find solutions for more issues that matter to the American people. As chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, I can say that we have made real progress on bills to improve the lives of people across Indian Country. We have passed bills to improve irrigation projects, to help protect children in foster care, and to increase self-governance by Indian tribes. It has been a positive agenda, and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of all the committee members.

Along with a group of six Democrats and six Republicans who are working as cosponsors, I introduced a bill to speed up exports of American liquefied natural gas. We have bipartisan agreement on the need to streamline the permitting process for the sale of this clean American energy.

This week we also made great progress on a bipartisan bill on the waters of the United States. I am optimistic we can reach an agreement with Senators on the other side of the aisle to get that issue behind us.

The American people want an honest debate on important issues such as these. The American people want their representatives in the Senate to be able to offer amendments. The American people want to see their Senators take a stand and cast a vote up or down. That is how the Senate should work. That is how the Senate has been working for the first 100 days under Republican leadership.

I am pleased with how productive the Senate has been over the first 100 days. Of course we want to do more, and we will have the chance shortly. I look forward to more votes, more debate, and more consideration of ideas from both sides of the aisle. This is the com-

mitment Republicans made to the American people, and we are keeping that commitment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am happy to stand here today knowing that the Senate has had a pretty good week of getting its work done—or I should say the people's work done—and overwhelmingly passing important legislation that will actually help, first of all, victims of human trafficking, but generally speaking, help make the lives of our constituents, the American people, just a little bit better. I am talking about the antitrafficking legislation in particular—something I am particularly excited about—the unanimous, 99-to-0 vote yesterday. We passed this piece of legislation after a hard-fought few weeks of debate. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act was a bill we all agree was worth fighting for. Why? Is this important to the rich and powerful, the people who have a lot of influence here in Washington and around the country? No. We thought it was worth fighting for because it would help the people who, frankly, need a voice. They need somebody to speak up for them because they can't speak for themselves. This antitrafficking bill, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, protects the most vulnerable people in our country.

I thank the majority leader for his tireless help and commitment to making sure we got this job done to fight this monstrous crime and punish those who seek to hold our children in what has been appropriately called nothing less than modern-day slavery.

As the majority leader said yesterday, today is a new day. Under his leadership, the Senate is now in a new era of bipartisanship and functioning. If there is one thing I heard last year as I was campaigning for reelection in Texas or traveling around the country—I am sure the Presiding Officer had the same experience—it is that people would tell me how frustrated they were with Washington and the fact that no one seemed to be working together to try to solve the problems that were making their lives more difficult. "Dysfunction" was the word most commonly used.

But now, after this first 100 days of a new Congress, I think we are demonstrating that we are capable of functioning and working together in the best interest of the American people. Does that mean we are sacrificing our principles? People are Republicans or

Democrats for good reason: They have a different point of view. But what is inexcusable is for Republicans and Democrats to refuse to work together and get nothing done.

We have a colleague, a very conservative colleague who years ago told me, while working with a very liberal colleague—I asked him: How is it that somebody who really represents the book ends in terms of ideology—Republican versus Democrat, liberal versus conservative—how is it that you actually are able to get things done?

He said to me: Well, it is easy. It is the 80-20 rule. We take the 80 percent we can agree on and we leave the 20 percent we can't agree on for another day and another fight.

As we are celebrating, in a sense, a new era of bipartisanship and functioning here in the Senate, it is clear we can't rest on our laurels. We still have a lot of work to do, and I would like to spend a couple minutes talking about that.

Our upcoming agenda will include some very important and weighty matters, including the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which will give Congress the ability and time to scrutinize any agreement reached between the Obama administration and the P5+1 nations, while also prohibiting the President from lifting sanctions on Iran during this period of review.

This commonsense bill was unanimously reported out last week by the Foreign Relations Committee. I think that is a little bit of a surprise to many given the fact that the President initially said that if Congress were to pass this sort of legislation giving the American people a voice in this nuclear agreement, he would veto it. Well, when this came roaring out of the Foreign Relations Committee with unanimous support and when it became clear that enough Democrats were going to join together with Republicans to pass this legislation and prevent a veto by having enough votes to override a veto, then the President very commonsensically said: Well, I think I will sign it. I will agree to go along with that.

So the President finally agreed with Republicans and Democrats in the Senate that congressional oversight was warranted and admitted last week that he would not stand in the way of this legislation.

We are here not to guard our own prerogatives or privileges as individual Senators. That means essentially nothing. What we are here for is to stand in the shoes of our constituents—the 26.9 million people whom I represent in Texas, the people of Arkansas whom the Presiding Officer represents—and it is absolutely critical that we, as the representatives of the American people, have the opportunity to review this Iran deal and to consider its implications, to debate it, and to make that entirely transparent to the American

people because this is about not just the national security of the nation of Israel, this is about our national security as well as that of our other allies.

We will spend much of the next few days and perhaps through next week discussing this bill, so I won't belabor my thoughts on that at this time, but I did want to express a few concerns on the current state of the proposed framework with Iran.

On April 2, President Obama announced not a deal with Iran but a "historic understanding with Iran."

Well, people naturally asked: What does that understanding look like? What does it consist of? Where can I get a copy of it so I can read it?

To our surprise, there wasn't a deal. Nothing was written. It was somehow a historic understanding that—even the parties who negotiated it disagreed about the details. So it should come as no surprise that the President and the P5+1 countries have not been able to secure an actual deal with Iran, which is our biggest threat and most dangerous adversary in the Middle East. After all, let's think about whom we are talking to and with—the nation of Iran. This is the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism, a country that has repeatedly lied to and deceived inspectors in the past as a matter of standard operating procedure. As Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel reminded us just last month, for more than 30 years Iran has been hostile to America and her allies. In fact, Iran first killed Americans back in the early 1980s and has subsequently killed Americans mainly through proxies since that time until the present time. This is the same regime that has continued to target the United States since 1979. It is the same regime that has been on the State Department's terrorism blacklist since 1984 following an Iran-backed terrorist attack that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of American servicemen, including many from my State. Given this track record, does anybody really wonder what Iran would do with a nuclear weapon?

As these important negotiations continue for the next months, there remain a lot of question marks about Iran's true intentions and about whether the deal—once it is done—the Obama administration is finalizing will essentially cement Iran's status as a nuclear threshold nation.

I remember Prime Minister Netanyahu speaking to a joint meeting of the Congress. He said the framework he has seen doesn't prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon. What he said is that essentially the framework paves the way or paves the path to a nuclear weapon, which, of course, would represent a tremendous change in American policy.

Our policy has been—the administration's policy has been, as stated, no

nukes for Iran, none. But at least according to the framework that has been leaked, there appears to be more of the nature of a pathway toward a nuclear weapon as opposed to a prohibition. I look forward to continuing the discussion in the coming days, but Iran is only one issue we will be turning to as the Senate continues to work on bipartisan legislation to get work done for the American people.

We will be working on the very important issue of trade. Trade is important to my State, and it is important to the United States. Anytime we can open new markets to the things we grow in our agricultural sector or the livestock we raise—the beef, pork, poultry sector—anytime we can create and open new markets to the things we manufacture and we make in the United States, it strikes me it is a good thing, because while we occupy only 5 percent of the world's territory, we constitute 20 percent of the purchasing power in the world. That means 95 percent of the population—80 percent of the purchasing power in the world—lies beyond our shores. It just makes sense to me that we would want to open our markets, our goods that we make and grow and raise to markets overseas; in this case, primarily to Asia. But once we take up the Trans-Pacific Partnership, once it is negotiated, then at some future point we will turn to Europe and the so-called TTIP negotiation.

Last night, I am glad to report that the Finance Committee reported out the trade promotion authority piece of this legislation. This is something that has been a little bit misunderstood and, frankly, it is a little confusing. People have asked, Why in the world would you want to give the President authority to negotiate this Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiation? The simple answer is this trade promotion authority is not just for President Obama and his administration—he is only going to be there for the next 20 months. This will last for 6 years and go into the next Presidential administration.

The fact is, you can't negotiate something as complex as a trade deal like the Trans-Pacific Partnership with 535 negotiators; in other words, all the Members of the Senate and all the Members of the House. But what this does provide is that once a deal is reached, it has to be laid before the Congress and it has to be laid before the American people so they can read it and understand it.

After about 6 months, then there will be a debate in the Senate, and we will have an up-or-down vote. If we do not think it serves the interests of the United States, of our citizens and of our country, we can vote it down. But conversely, if we think this does improve trade and the economic prospects, jobs and wages for the American

people, then we can vote to approve it. This bill will open American goods and services to global markets, which is good for our economy, good for jobs, and good for better wages, something that has been under a lot of negative pressure over the last few years.

To sum up this week, we passed legislation that will help thousands of victims of modern-day slavery—typically, a girl between the ages of 12 and 14—who are routinely sex trafficked in our own backyards. This will provide real resources. It will not only help rescue them but begin to help them heal and to begin the path to restoration.

I think this should be a proud accomplishment for the Senate. But the bottom line is, we still have a lot of work to do, and I look forward to more accomplishments with my colleagues and for the new spirit of bipartisanship to continue as we tackle real problems for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the importance of trade and the Nebraskans who depend upon it. Since 1989, U.S. agricultural exports have nearly quadrupled in value. This is a direct result of our trade agreements, which have opened foreign markets to our goods. In 2014 alone, the value of U.S. agriculture exports was \$152.5 billion, yielding a trade surplus of more than \$43 billion. This surplus is the result of hard work by millions of American farmers and ranchers.

My home State of Nebraska is leading the way in progress as a top producer and exporter of agriculture and manufacturing products. In 2013, Nebraska exported \$7.3 billion in products tied to agriculture and the processing industries. By trading internationally, we are creating jobs and long-term income here at home. From farms and ranches to food processing, transportation, and manufacturing industries, countless parts of our economy rely on flow of goods across our Nation and around the world.

Nebraska's Governor, director of agriculture, and 22 Nebraska agriculture stakeholders echoed the necessity of these trade agreements, urging congressional leaders to quickly pass important legislation for these agreements to materialize. This point was reinforced in a recent Omaha World-Herald Editorial, which noted that Nebraska producers operate on a global scale and therefore understand the economic benefit of robust free-trade agreements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports generates \$1.3 billion in economic activity and supports

the full-time work of approximately 6,600 Americans throughout the economy. Simply put, international trade is an essential component of opening foreign markets to U.S. agriculture and food products. The best avenues we have to open new markets, increase that productivity, and create jobs are through strong, fair, and inclusive free-trade agreements.

With more than 95 percent of the world's population located outside the United States, economic growth and job creation depend on trade opportunities that allow our U.S. companies and our producers to tap into new markets to sell more American products.

As we debate, the world's population continues to grow. In more and more countries, we see a growing middle class with a mounting appetite. What do they want to eat? They want high-quality meat, produce, and food products from the United States of America. What a tremendous opportunity for American producers to capture new markets and reach more consumers worldwide, but these new markets cannot be developed unless the United States is at the table and at the table negotiating for comprehensive free-trade agreements that ensure producers and exporters receive that fair deal.

In order to accomplish this goal, the Senate must first pass trade promotion authority or the TPA. TPA effectively combines Congress's authority to regulate foreign commerce alongside the President's authority to negotiate treaties. It reinforces the role of Congress to set negotiation priorities, and it requires the President to consult extensively with legislators throughout this entire negotiation process. Under TPA, Congress retains its authority to review and determine whether the proposed trade agreement will be implemented through an up-or-down vote.

TPA has been granted to every President since Gerald Ford. This longstanding and proven partnership between the legislative and executive branches is essential to finalizing those free-trade agreements that create countless opportunities for American enterprise. TPA will allow us to actually complete the trade negotiations that are currently underway. America is on the brink of some very ambitious and progrowth deals. It will also provide our negotiators with the credibility they need in order to conclude those trade agreements. Our trading partners must be certain the United States is serious about its trade priorities and that we are serious about our commitments. To get the best deal, there is no doubt our trade negotiators need this vital negotiating tool.

Furthermore, as this administration negotiates the two largest regional trade agreements in history, we must position ourselves to extract the best deals possible. The Trans-Pacific Part-

nership or the TPP includes countries such as Japan, Vietnam, and Malaysia, which have great, tremendous opportunities for our exports. This agreement will give us greater access to the fastest growing economic region in the world. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is between the European Union and the United States, which together account for nearly half of global GDP.

I support the negotiations for each of these regional trade agreements. Both agreements hold enormous potential for continued progress in agricultural exports, and they will create jobs here at home. The United States has negotiated free-trade agreements with 20 countries over the past three decades. These trading partners only represent 10 percent of the global economy, but they consume nearly half of the U.S. exports. Economic growth and American job creation would only expand under TPP, where negotiating countries represent the fastest growing economies in the world.

That said, it is critical trade agreements eliminate barriers and level the playing field for American businesses. Fair, two-way market access that eliminates tariffs is essential to any comprehensive trade agreement.

We are in the 21st century, and our trade agreements should reflect 21st century principles. TPA is critical to providing our trade representatives with the necessary tools to finalize these pending negotiations, while also ensuring that the unsung heroes of the American dinner table—our farmers, our ranchers, our food processors—receive the greatest benefit.

Nebraska's farmers and ranchers are global leaders and the very best at producing safe, high-quality food to feed the world. It is imperative that foreign markets are open, balanced, and that they provide a level playing field for all of our U.S. products. One of best ways we can do this is by expanding free trade and authorizing TPA.

I encourage my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to H.R. 1191 is agreed to.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1191) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1140

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1140, which is the text of the substitute amendment to S. 615, which was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. CORKER], for himself and Mr. CARDIN, proposes an amendment numbered 1140.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I am thrilled to be here on the floor with my partner, Senator BEN CARDIN, who is the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. We had an outstanding week last week in our Foreign Relations Committee in passing out this bill that is now before us on a 19-to-0 vote. I thank all of the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which obviously includes Senator CARDIN, Senator RISCH, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator RUBIO, Senator KAINE, Senator JOHNSON, Senator COONS, Senator FLAKE, Senator UDALL, Senator GARDNER, Senator BOXER, Senator PERDUE, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator MURPHY, Senator PAUL, Senator BARRASSO, and Senator MARKEY.

Also, before we get into discussing the text, I wish to thank Senator BOB MENENDEZ and Senator MARK KIRK, who have been all things Iran. From the very beginning, these two Senators have led this body to put in place sanctions—crushing sanctions—that have led us to this place. I cannot thank them enough for their leadership in dealing with the issue of Iran.

Last year, we did a significant amount of work on creating some kind of review process relative to a final agreement that might be worked out with Iran. I thank Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM who has been a stalwart in ensuring that Congress play a role in the ultimate final deal that may or may not occur. Senator GRAHAM has been steadfast in wanting congressional review. Senator JOHN MCCAIN has joined in that effort and has been outstanding to work with, as well as Senator JIM RISCH and Senator MARCO RUBIO, who have also pushed for this type of legislation.

When we began this process, there were some original—or when we moved to the process we are now in, there were some original supporters of this current bipartisan bill who really

caused us to have the leverage, if you will, to move to the place where we are today. Again, Senator MENENDEZ certainly was one of those who led us in that effort; Senator GRAHAM; Senator TIM KAINE, who came here as a former Governor of Virginia and who has been so focused on Congress playing its appropriate role. Obviously, Senator MCCAIN, as he has been a leader from the beginning, Senator JOE DONNELLY, Senator MARCO RUBIO, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, Senator BILL NELSON, Senator JIM RISCH, and Senator ANGUS KING have played a role in creating the leverage, if you will, to get us where we are today.

As Senator CARDIN knows, we now have 62 cosponsors of this legislation that is now before us, obviously from both parties. So I think this is quite an accomplishment.

Obviously, we have a tremendous amount of work in front of us with this bill now on the floor. I know Senator CARDIN and I hope that people will come to the floor and begin offering their amendments, begin debating, begin discussing. Obviously, we won't be taking up any amendments, per the order that is before us, until Tuesday, but we hope people will begin bringing their ideas and amendments to the floor and certainly begin discussing the important issue of Iran.

Let me speak a little bit about what this bill does. First of all, I think everyone knows the administration is part of the P5+1. It is today negotiating an agreement to try to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. I think all of us know there was a political agreement that was achieved the first part of April that was more of a verbal agreement about how the P5+1 and Iran might interact in a manner that hopefully would keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

One of the things that I think everyone in this body knows and many people on the outside may not is that Congress has played a substantial and maybe the biggest role in getting Iran to the table in the first place. There were three sets of sanctions, three types of sanctions that have been instrumental in making this happen. They include the U.N. Security Council sanctions that have been put in place. The executive branch has put some sanctions in place as well. But Congress especially has four tranches of sanctions which have been put in place since 2010 which really have had a crushing effect on Iran's economy. They have created all kinds of inflation, and they have caused them not to be able to export the amount of oil—the 40 percent of the oil that they produce. That has hurt them in manufacturing.

I see Senator MENENDEZ has just come to the floor. He may not have heard me, but I cannot thank him and

Senator KIRK enough for their leadership on each set of those tranches—putting them in place, taking the leadership, and bringing Iran to the table.

I think the second thing people may understand is that on the U.N. Security Council sanctions, the White House has the ability, with the other members of the permanent Security Council, to lift those at any time they wish. They can obviously lift the executive sanctions. One of the things that all of us have been concerned about, though, is that Congress put in place the sanctions that really brought them to the table. We want to ensure that Congress has the ability, before those sanctions are lifted, to be able to voice an opinion through a vote.

What this legislation does—and we will be talking about it a great deal over the next week—is four things:

First of all, it forces the administration, in the event a final deal is agreed to, to bring all of those details to Congress, including the classified annexes we would likely not see until 6 months or so after an agreement is reached, without this legislation, if we can pass it.

Secondly, it keeps the executive branch from being able to lift the congressionally mandated sanctions that we put in place, while we have a reasonable period of time to go through the documents that have been provided to us.

Thirdly, it allows Congress to take a vote. The vote can take all kinds of forms. It can be a vote of approval. It also allows the leader to decide not to take a vote at all or we could take a vote of disapproval. If we decided that this was not something that was good for our country, not good for the Middle East, then we could cause this vote of disapproval to take place, and if it passed, it would keep the executive branch from being able to lift the congressionally mandated sanctions we have put in place.

The fourth and very important component is that it causes us to know whether Iran is in compliance. This bill stipulates, if passed, that the President would have to certify to us every 90 days as to whether Iran is in compliance. If there are significant violations, on a 10-day basis, let us know that is taking place so we can respond accordingly.

Let me close by saying this: I believe everybody in this body hopes we are able to achieve a negotiated agreement that will keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. I think everyone understands that is the best thing for our country. I think everybody also understands that Iran is a country in which we have little trust. Iran is a country that is the major exporter of terrorism in the region. Iran is a country that has a terrible human rights record. Iran is a country that is really moving ahead relative to its ballistic missile

design. And, obviously, Iran is a country that has been doing some things in its nuclear program that give us reason to believe they are moving toward a nuclear weapon.

One of the worst things we could possibly do is enter into an agreement with Iran that doesn't keep them from getting a nuclear weapon—in other words, one that is faulty, that has flaws, and that allows them to get a nuclear weapon. What that would mean is we would have a situation where the No. 1 exporter of terrorism in the region had access to not just a nuclear weapon but very quickly had access to the \$130 billion-plus that they have trapped overseas to conduct even more terrorism in the region, which could allow their economy to all of a sudden be growing at more rapid rates and, again, to have resources available to conduct even more terrorism in the region. As we can imagine, having an actor such as Iran has acted—and we hope at some point that behavior will change—having access to a nuclear weapon certainly would create the possibility of nuclear proliferation in the region.

So I think this is a very important piece of legislation. I thank Senator CARDIN for the way he has come into this and worked with us in a manner to reach an accommodation so that we have sufficient, ample, actually extraordinary support on both sides of the aisle to ensure that Congress has its rightful role in this agreement. It is one of the biggest geopolitical agreements we will deal with probably during the time we are here in the Senate.

With that, I yield the floor to my good friend Senator CARDIN. Again, he has done exemplary work in bringing us to this point. I thank him for all of his efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank and congratulate Senator CORKER for his extraordinary work in reaching this moment where we have brought to the floor of the Senate a bill that deals with congressional oversight of the nuclear discussions and agreements taking place between the P5+1, our negotiating partners in Iran.

It was just 3 weeks ago that the framework was announced by the White House and that Senator CORKER and I started our discussions to see whether we could find a common path forward on a bill which, to say the least, was very controversial; a bill which the President of the United States had threatened to veto; a bill in which there were Democrats and Republicans lined up on different sides of this issue, and it appeared just about impossible that we would be able to reach a bipartisan agreement on a path forward for the legislation.

Senator CORKER exercised the greatest leadership and diplomacy. He men-

tioned all the members of our committee. Each of those members has pretty strong views on this issue. This was not a simple matter of people saying: Gee, I will just yield to the thoughts of others. The only way we could reach this moment was to ask and solicit and listen to each member of the committee, and that is what Senator CORKER did. He encouraged me to do the same in regard to not just the Democratic members, because Senator CORKER talked to some of the Democratic members and I talked to some of the Republican members. We had to have that type of confidence.

I again congratulate Senator CORKER on his leadership. It has been a real pleasure to work with him. I am proud that we bring this bill forward with a 19-to-0 vote from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We have a long history in this country of putting aside partisan differences on foreign policy issues. I know we often quote from one of our former colleagues, but I think it is worth putting into the RECORD the comments of Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Jr.

He was a Republican Member of this body who said 63 years ago:

To me "bipartisan foreign policy" means a mutual effort under our indispensable two-Party system, to unite our official voice at the water's edge so that America speaks with maximum authority against those who would divide and conquer us and the free world. It does not involve the remotest surrender of free debate in determining our position. On the contrary, frank cooperation and free debate are indispensable to ultimate unity. In a word, it simply seeks national security ahead of partisan advantage.

Mr. President, that is exactly what the Foreign Relations Committee did. We had a very robust debate, there were many different views, but at the end of the day we spoke with unity. In speaking with unity, our country today is stronger, and that is exactly where we needed to be.

What we are trying to do, and I think as a result of the actions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—and I hope it will be approved by this body and by the House and sent to the President for signature—we are in a stronger position to accomplish our goal. Our goal is pretty simple, to prevent Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear weapon because we know that is a game changer in the region—a game changer in regard to not just one country in that region but to just about every country in that region. Their security is threatened and the U.S. security is threatened.

So what we did in the bill that we bring forward to you is a compromise—a compromise. Each of us gave and listened and we found common ground. We could use more compromise on the issues that confront this country in the work we do. I would hope my colleagues would look at how we worked

out these issues and use it as a model for other opportunities to move forward on issues that are important.

Senator CORKER pointed out why we are here—why we had a bill for congressional review. It started in the 1990s, when Congress passed sanctions against Iran because we saw, at the time, that Iran was developing the nuclear capacity to develop a nuclear weapon, and we said that could not happen. We imposed sanctions against Iran. Congress did this on several occasions in an effort to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state, telling them there would be an economic price to pay until they changed course.

Administrations—including President Obama's administration—worked with the international community and we were able to get U.N. sanctions. Congress's action was responsible for leading Iran to being willing to negotiate, and that is where we are today. Only Congress—only Congress—can permanently remove those sanctions or permanently change those sanctions.

So Congress must be involved in the sanctions and in the discussions. That is exactly what this legislation does. It provides an orderly process for us to review any agreement reached by the President and our negotiating partners with Iran. No congressional action will take place until and unless the President submits an agreement that he has made with our negotiating partners and Iran.

The April 2 framework that was recently announced is not an agreement and is not subject to review. There would be a 30-day review period, during which Congress would have the opportunity to review the agreement. No sanctions or additional sanction relief could be imposed during that 30-day period. If you read the April 2 framework, the President has made it clear that Iran will only get sanction relief if they earn sanction relief, if there is concrete progress made in dismantling their nuclear program. It is hard to believe that could take place within 30 days. So this 30-day period is a very reasonable period for Congress to be able to review any agreement.

As Senator CORKER pointed out, all information—all information—would be presented to us, and we would have an opportunity for full hearings and debate as to what we should do. It would follow the regular congressional order as far as committee hearings and potential action on the floor of the Senate and the House. Senator CORKER pointed out the options we would have. We could approve the agreement, we could disapprove the agreement, we could pass legislation affecting the sanctions, we could take whatever action we think is appropriate, but no action is required.

The agreement can commence without congressional action. If we do take congressional action, the President has



the prerogative of a veto, and if the President vetoes, we have the prerogative of an override of the veto. That is how the checks and balances system of our country should operate.

There is a second major component to this legislation and that is for the oversight of an agreement after it is reached; that is, there would be a quarterly certification by the President of the United States to Congress that Iran is in compliance with the agreement. If there is a material breach, it would trigger an expedited process so Congress could act, that we could not only snap back sanctions that may have been relieved, but if appropriate, we could impose additional sanctions if Iran had a material breach of the agreement. That is very important because I think we all agree, if we are going to have an effective agreement, that agreement must give us time before Iran can become a nuclear weapons country; that we can, through full inspections, determine if they have breached the agreement because, quite frankly, no agreement is going to be based on trust because we don't trust Iran. It is going to be based upon inspections and being able to confirm their compliance with the agreement. If they don't comply with the agreement, we need to make sure we have adequate time and take adequate steps to prevent them from becoming a nuclear weapons state. This review process and an expedited process in Congress puts Congress in the position of working with the administration to make sure we take those effective steps.

As Senator CORKER pointed out, there are other issues with Iran in addition to the nuclear proliferation issues. We have serious concerns about Iran. It sponsors terrorism. Its human rights violations against its own citizens is horrible. Its ballistic missile program is of great concern. The threats against Israel and other countries in that region are all of direct interest to the United States. So, in this legislation, we provide for regular reports twice a year to the Congress of the United States about the activities that Iran is participating in, in regard to terrorism and human rights.

I call our colleagues' attention to the detailed requirements, on pages 37 and 38 of the bill, concerning issues about whether Iran's financial institutions are engaged in money laundering, whether Iran is advancing its ballistic missile program, an assessment of whether Iran has directly supported, financed, planned or carried out any terrorism against the United States, "whether, and to the extent to which, Iran supported acts of terrorism . . . all actions, including international fora, being taken by the United States to stop, counter, and condemn acts by Iran" involving terrorism; "the impact on the national security of the United

States and the safety of United States citizens as a result of any Iranian actions reported under this paragraph. . . ." It is all required that that information be given to us because we may want to use that for other strategies against Iran.

An amendment that was added requires "an assessment of whether violations of internationally recognized human rights in Iran have changed, increased, or decreased, as compared to the prior 180-day [period]."

We are going to monitor their human rights record, and we will have that information. So, yes, we are concerned about issues beyond nuclear proliferation, but this agreement that is now being negotiated by the President deals with preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state.

It is clear. I want to underscore this because Senator CORKER was very strong to make sure it got into the bill. It says that "United States sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under an agreement. . . ." We are not talking about actions we have taken against Iran for terrorism or human rights violations. That is a separate issue—a major concern to us. What we are talking about is how do we implement oversight and review an agreement concerning nuclear weapons programs.

And lastly, we make it very clear in this agreement that "the President should determine the agreement in no way compromises the commitment of the United States to Israel's security, nor its support for Israel's right to exist." Israel is a key ally of the United States and our friendship is deep. Our commitment is solid. We make that very clear in the bill that is before you.

Let me conclude with two additional points—one dealing with the amendment process. As Senator CORKER pointed out, we asked Members who believe they can approve this bill to come forward. Let's see the amendments and try to work with you on the amendments. Let's maintain the bipartisan cooperation we have. Let's maintain a strong bill that accomplishes its purpose. Come down and let us take a look at it. Remember, we have a lot of strong views in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and we came together. Let's keep that same spirit, and I would just urge those who may have amendments to come on down and let us see them. We have today and up to before next Tuesday. Share them with us so we have an opportunity to keep the unity we have.

Then, lastly, I just want to join where Senator CORKER began, and that is to thank the incredible effort that took place on behalf of this bill. Senator CORKER already mentioned all my colleagues who were involved here.

Senator MENENDEZ and Senator Kaine are both on the floor. On the

Democratic side, they are the authors of this bill. They are the ones who drafted it. They are the ones who are responsible for why we are here today—from the Democrats. I thank both of them. From the beginning they said: We want a process to review. We are not talking about the merits. The merits are something we will pick up later. We want to preserve the normal prerogatives of the Senate, and we want to keep politics out of it. That was their intent from day one. Quite frankly, working with Senator CORKER, that is what I carried out in my negotiations with Senator CORKER; to maintain that balance that was the intent of the legislation. So I thank both of them and the other members of our committee who were involved.

Lastly, on a point of personal privilege right now, because I might forget to do this later, I want to thank Jodi Herman of our staff and Margaret Taylor, Algene Sajery, and Chris Lynch for the extraordinary amount of time they put in.

I want to thank President Obama. I want to thank President Obama for giving me his time so I understood what he was trying to achieve and how we could work together in order to achieve the objectives of the United States, and I thank Katie Fallon and Denis McDonough of his staff for the work they put in so we could reach this moment.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I want to rise in support of this bipartisan legislation, with a sincere hope that we can pass the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act as it was unanimously voted out of the committee.

I have worked tirelessly with the chairman and with the ranking member and with members of the committee—Senator Kaine, who had so much input in the conceptualization of what we wanted to do to bring this bill to the floor with the strongest bipartisan support.

In my view, the best way to send a clear message to Tehran about our expectations is for Congress to pass the Corker-Menendez Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act as it was voted out of committee. The spirit of bipartisanship that underscores Congress's critical role in the highest priority, national security, the nuclear nonproliferation challenge of our time, was unanimously passed out of the Foreign Relations Committee. I hope we can send this same message from the Senate floor.

Countering Iran's nuclear ambitions has been something I have worked on passionately for a long time. Senator CORKER and I fashioned language that became the framework of this final bill to ensure that Congress remains engaged in reviewing and, if there is an



agreement, overseeing its implementation.

So I want to thank Chairman CORKER. He has just done an exceptional job. He had this concept before any of us were agreed to it, and he was willing to work with us—and was dogged, I must say—until we got to the point that we would come together and offer the legislation in a bipartisan way. That has been the hallmark of his chairmanship and it was the hallmark of his time as ranking member when I was chairman. I appreciate the fashion in which he has worked to continue to move the committee, as I started it, in a bipartisan way, because as the ranking member Senator CARDIN says, that is when we are most powerful in terms of foreign policy.

I thank Senator CARDIN for his work in helping to forge a deal that both sides of the aisle can come to this floor and support with a clear conscience, knowing that we have sent a clear message to Tehran and that we are united, as we have always been, on Iran policy, and on this issue we speak with one voice.

The simple fact is, if the P5+1 and Iran ultimately achieve a comprehensive agreement by the June deadline, at the end of the day, Congress must make a judgment on it and have oversight responsibility. This legislation provides it. It establishes a managed process for congressional review and a framework for congressional oversight.

Now, I differentiate between this agreement and others the administration has cited for exclusive Executive action because the sanctions relief that is at the heart of this deal was crafted by Congress and enacted by Congress into law. It is primarily statutory. As the author of those sanctions, working with others, I can tell you we never envisioned a wholesale waiver of sanctions without congressional input and without congressional action.

The limited sanctions relief provided in the law was intended to provide the President with discretion to waive specific sanctions in specific circumstances, such as if a country was making real progress in reducing their oil purchases from Iran. So my goal has always been one goal; that is, to make certain Iran does not have the infrastructure to develop a nuclear weapon.

I have worked on that goal since my earliest days in Congress. Now, as we approach the witching hour for an agreement, the best way to achieve our goal is with bipartisan support on this legislation that strengthens the U.S. hand in moving from a political framework to a comprehensive agreement and sets out clear and decisive expectations for Iranian compliance.

The message we send to Tehran is that sanctions relief is not a given, and sanctions relief certainly is not a prize for signing on the dotted line. This bill

ensures that Iran must fully comply with all provisions of an agreement that effectively dismantle its nuclear weapons program and provide robust inspection and verification mechanisms to ensure its compliance with every word of that deal.

If Iran breaches an agreement, Congress will have the ability to restore sanctions on an expedited basis. Now, as I have said, I have been outspoken on this issue from the beginning, for years, for as long as I have been here. Frankly, I have many questions about the framework agreement. I have questions about the divergent understandings of the agreement.

I have questions about the pace of sanctions relief. I do not believe Iran should get a signing bonus. I am concerned by the President's most recent statement that greater sanctions relief could come upfront for Iran. I have questions about Iran's retention of research and development authorities and to what extent they can advance their research and development, because greater research and development means more sophisticated centrifuges that can spin faster and, therefore, dramatically reduce breakout time toward a nuclear bomb.

I am concerned about the ability to snap back sanctions if there are violations of the agreement. From what I can see, we have a committee process that will not guarantee that the snap-back will take place or that it will take place expeditiously. I am concerned about the International Atomic Energy Administration's ability to obtain "anytime-anywhere" snap inspections. What happened to Iran having to come clean about the possible military and weapons dimensions of their program?

More than anything else, I am concerned about what will happen when the critical elements of the proposed agreement expire after 10 years. Are we relegated to accepting Iran as a nuclear weapons state? The presumption that Iran will become a compliant Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty state in that time for me is not borne out when you see their insistence and our acquiescence to keeping key nuclear infrastructure and key nuclear facilities under the agreement.

It is not borne out by history. Iran has been on a single path toward nuclear weapons for more than 20 years. By deceit and deception—sometimes without detection until there were well-established covert facilities—they have advanced their drive for nuclear power to the precipice of achieving a nuclear bomb. For me, these are all issues that speak more forcefully to the reasons for having congressional review and oversight of any potential agreement.

Now, I did not fashion, along with colleagues, a sanctions regime for the sake of sanctions. It was for the sake of

getting Iran to deter its course. There is no one who would want to see the successful result of that design more than I. But by the same token, I do embrace what the administration has said time and time again that no deal is better than a bad deal. I will independently judge what that deal is when and if there is a final deal.

At a minimum, this legislation gives us the oversight role to monitor and address our concerns. So I urge my colleagues, when the bill comes for a vote, to vote for it as it was voted out of committee, because it does what all of us want to do: provides a clear opportunity for a review of any agreement, so we can express, if desired, our support or opposition to any agreement and have a clear oversight role with established parameters for compliance.

Let's vote on what the agreement does, not what it might have done or could have done if we had different amendments to it. I respect everybody's views and everybody's rights to have amendments. I hope those who have ideas will work with the chairman and the ranking member. But I will oppose amendments, at least with my own vote, that I consider to be poisonous and that undermine the very essence of what we have accomplished in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sometimes you have to know when you hit a home run and be able to cross the plate and say, We hit a home run—and not think that you are still stuck in the dugout. What we did in the committee is pretty close to a home run as far as I can see it. So let's vote on the merits of the bill that give us the oversight and the ability to pass the judgment that we need to send a clear message that we are united in our determination to prevent Iran from ever becoming a nuclear weapons state, potentially igniting a nuclear arms race in the most dangerous tinderbox of the world.

So I urge my colleagues to suppress any intentions that will drive us to a point that we can't have that strong vote, that we can't send that strong message to Iran. There is no stronger message to Iran, particularly in this critical time, in which I think we strengthen the administration and the P5+1's hand by saying there is a congressional review and potential judgment.

So that final agreement we get, hopefully, can be one we can all embrace. We can do that—we can actually have an effect by passing this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I just want to again thank Senator MENENDEZ for his tremendous leadership on this issue. He brought up a point I wish I had made in my opening comments. I have made it every time I have presented this bill elsewhere. But a lot of

people do not realize that at present, because of the waivers that are part of the sanctions that we put in place—some of them through independent pieces of legislation, some of them through NDAA's—in each case the President was given a national security waiver.

Again, as the Senator mentioned, it was never thought that waiver would be utilized to waive things ad infinitum. At present—a lot of people do not realize this—but the President today has the power, without this legislation, to go straight to the U.N. Security Council, without coming to Congress, and implement whatever deal he wants to implement with Iran. He has that ability.

So when you think about what is happening here, and this is what is so powerful about this bipartisan effort, is that we together—we together—have said: Wait a minute. If we pass this legislation, we want to retake the ability ourselves to lift those sanctions or to have them lifted; we do not want the President going straight to the U.N. Security Council.

I know Senator Kaine is on the floor. I cannot thank him enough for getting involved at the time he did. I remember distinctly in the committee meeting, where we had testimony from our Secretary of State, him articulating, better than anyone yet, the fact that at some point down the road we are going to have to permanently lift the sanctions, which, by the way, could be 5, 6, 7 years down the road, long after the sanctions regime has totally imploded. We are going to have to do it permanently down the road.

Would it not make sense for us to go ahead and review this on the front end and have the opportunity, if we think it is not something worthy of this, to disapprove or to approve if we decide to do that.

So I know Senator Kaine wants to speak. I cannot thank him enough for his knowledge of congressional responsibilities as it relates to these kinds of issues and his input, which was invaluable at the time it occurred. He really created the momentum for us to move ahead.

I will yield the floor, thanking him very much for his efforts in this regard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the Corker-Menendez bill. I thank Chairman Corker for his kind words and for the opportunity to work together on something, in what I believe to be the best traditions of our committee and the Senate. I thank my ranking member, Senator Cardin, for being a great facilitator at the end to help us get over a number of challenging issues, to a point of unanimity on the committee, and to Senator Menendez, whose long-term interest on this issue has been so consistent and

so helpful and whose work on this particular piece of legislation was critical.

I believe Senator Corker began, and I want to begin as well, with a condolence to the family of Dr. Weinstein, a Marylander who—the announcement today about his death in Afghanistan in a drone strike sort of reminds us of the stakes that are involved in these kinds of issues. When we are talking about American military action or about diplomacy around a nuclear weapons program, it is not a bill we are talking about, it is not a concept we are talking about, we are talking about human lives; that even in the best of circumstances there will be days like today when there will be sad news and Americans who are in harm's way because of the dangerous nature of the world—and I feel like the announcement today about Dr. Weinstein—our condolences to his family should remind us of the seriousness of our obligation.

Senator Cardin started with that great wisdom of Senator Vandenberg that “politics stops at the water's edge.” Now, we probably all know that was never 100 percent true. I know a little bit about some of the challenges Jefferson and other Virginians had early. There is always politics, but there is a core wisdom to that principle, a very important wisdom.

Of course, we are going to battle because we see things differently, and people seeing things differently can sometimes get to a greater understanding. That is what we hope to do. But the reason politics should stop at the water's edge is because we want to send a unified message to our allies as they depend on us. We need to send a unified message to our adversaries about our intentions.

But I would say in a personal way, because of maybe representing the Commonwealth of Virginia, we have to send a unified message to the men and women in our armed services who serve, who are serving in battlefields, who are serving in theaters of military operations around the world. When we are contemplating decisions about something so big that could potentially lead to war—we just deployed Virginia-based ships like the *Theodore Roosevelt* to Yemen to potentially check Iranian ambitions vis-a-vis the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Those are Virginians, many from other States, who are deployed on those ships.

We owe it to those who are serving and risking their lives to try to be as nonpartisan as we can, so they know they are not serving just because one party thinks they should or the other party thinks they should, but the missions they are undertaking are missions of national consensus. I feel that very strongly. That is why I am so gratified this bill now reaches the floor on a fundamental matter in a bipartisan way.

With respect to our negotiations with Iran, there was a view out there on the table that if Congress wanted to be involved, it must be because we are against diplomacy. In the committee I said that notion was offensive to me. There were those even who suggested that those who wanted a congressional oversight role were pro-war, which was highly offensive and insulting.

I am pro-diplomacy. I supported the President's commencement of these negotiations in November of 2013. I think America has a wonderful diplomatic tradition where we have been able to achieve a lot when diplomacy is done right.

I actually think the negotiation period from November 2013 to today has produced tangible benefits for the United States, our allies, and the world because Iran has rolled back its stockpile of 20-percent enriched uranium. They have allowed inspections they didn't allow before. And even nations and leaders who were skeptical about whether the negotiation would work have admitted to me: Maybe I shouldn't have been skeptical. The negotiation period has produced some benefits.

In the framework announced on April 2, I see some items I like and I see some other things I have some deep questions about. But a commitment by Iran, for example, to roll back uranium stockpiles from 10,000 kilograms to 300 kilograms—just a fraction of what would be necessary to produce even one weapon—would be very positive.

But I say all that just to say that as a prodiplomacy Senator, as someone who would love to find a negotiation that would work to a positive end, I believe strongly that a congressional review role of a matter such as this is necessary, it is helpful, and it is something, frankly, that the American public deserves. It is necessary for the reasons that have been described.

Now, a President, under article II powers, has significant ability to conduct foreign policy and even strike agreements without congressional approval. There are many things a President can do in the foreign policy sphere without congressional approval.

But this is fundamentally a negotiation about what Iran must do to get out from under sanctions that Congress has constructed, that Congress has imposed, and that Congress has perfected and approved over the years. If that is the negotiation, there is no way to have an ultimate deal about the unwinding and eventual repeal of a congressional sanctions statute without congressional review. So Congress is necessary to this deal.

Second, congressional review is helpful. It is helpful for the negotiators, as they are in this final chapter, to know that they must negotiate to their very best because they will have to sell this deal to Congress as the elected representatives of the American people.

That is a helpful discipline for our negotiators. It is helpful for the Iranians who want to get out from under congressional sanctions to have some sense of how Congress might ultimately look at this deal.

Put yourself in the Iranian shoes. We want them to make huge concessions, not modest ones. But what is their incentive to make big concessions to get out from under congressional sanctions if they have no idea what Congress will likely do? We have put a process in place that will give them some sense of what Congress would do in an orderly way, and that will be an incentive, I believe, for larger concessions.

Not only is this review bill necessary, not only is it helpful, but it is what the American public expects and deserves. I think we have all been looking at the way the American public has been reacting to this negotiation.

The American public is like all of us. They are deeply worried about an Iranian nuclear weapons program. They are like all of us. They would love it if we could find a diplomatic end to the Iranian nuclear weapons program. They are like all of us. They are skeptical about whether Iran will follow an agreement, and they overwhelmingly believe that if there is an agreement, it should be an agreement that Congress approves.

Why do they think Congress should approve it? Is it because we have fantastic approval ratings? Absolutely not. We don't have great approval ratings. But, the American public says: In our anxiety about whether we can trust Iran on a deal, we will feel better if both the executive and the legislative have looked at this deal and concluded—like you would try to get a second opinion from a doctor on something that was very important—that it is a good deal for our country and our national security. They are going to feel more comfortable, given the natural anxiety they have about Iranian compliance.

That is why this bill is so important.

Finally, I want to talk about how the bill got here because I do think there is a lesson for the floor activity on the bill but also for the body, more generally.

This bill was filed in original version in 2014, and I did not sign onto it.

Our chairman, Senator CORKER, and I were in the Middle East in January with five other Senators, in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Israel.

As we returned after a set of discussions with governmental leaders, military leaders, civil society, and political leaders about many topics, including the Iranian negotiation, Senator CORKER, a friend, sort of challenged me a little bit: Hey, you are the guy who likes to say that Congress needs to play a role. I have been pushing hard for Congress to play a role in an authorization of military force against

ISIL. If that is what you think, why aren't you on this bill about congressional approval of a deal with Iran?

I said: You are absolutely right congressional approval, but there are some aspects of the bill I don't like.

The chairman said to me: Then, fine, you rewrite it or propose amendments, and let's see if we can work together.

So I did and others did, and we put our best good-faith proposals down on the table. We found a listening ear, a staff, and a set of Senators on both sides of the aisle who were willing to try to exercise that congressional approval role—but do it in the right way, not the wrong way.

When we filed this bill on September 27, there were two Democratic original sponsors and two Republican original sponsors. Then there were five additional Democratic cosponsors and five additional Republican cosponsors.

So from the very day this bill hit the floor, we were trying to build it in a bipartisan way to show that the Vandenberg maxim, although it is not as true even when it was stated and it certainly is not as true today as we would like it, still had some power. And we wanted to show the body that we could do it in a bipartisan way so that our allies, our adversaries, and our troops would see that we could act in a bipartisan way on something so important.

There were steps between the filing of the bill and the Foreign Relations Committee action that threatened to push the bill off of the bipartisan rails into partisanship in ways that might have served the short-term purpose but that would have probably killed the bill. The chairman and others made sure that did not happen.

So when we got to the vote in the Foreign Relations Committee—and it went from 2 plus 2, to 7 plus 7, and eventually, 19 to zero—we carefully worked at every step along the way to make this bipartisan and, hopefully, to send an example on the floor that this is what it should be. Robust debate and amendment, of course, is what this body is about. But we want to make sure that review of this most important matter is done in a way that is careful, prompt, and deliberate, according to rules that all can respect and all can understand.

I conclude with thanks to my colleagues on the committee, to the leadership of the chair—both as the original drafter of the bill, then as the drafter willing to entertain other ideas, and then as the chair of this committee, trying to bring this to a productive place.

I thank Senator CARDIN for his great role in helping us bridge differences and, especially, for his communication with the White House. The White House threatened to veto this bill, but Senator CARDIN, probably better than most, was able to listen to the concerns and then try to respond to the

concerns in a way that we could make the bill productive.

This matter is so important that we just cannot tackle it in any way other than trying to follow—the best we humanly can—that Vandenberg maxim. I hope, as we get into deliberations on the floor next week, that this would be the spirit of all the colleagues who tackled this most important matter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator KAINE. I appreciate his outline of how this legislation went from unlikely to have much impact, because we didn't have the consensus and the numbers necessary to get it through the finish line. It would have had a very, very difficult time getting through the committee—let alone the floor of the Senate, the House, and signed by the President—but for how people listen to each other.

So I am pleased the two of you went on the trip together because I think we need to do more of that in the Senate.

Senator KAINE and Senator CORKER are both individuals who have a deep respect for the proper role of the Senate, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the Senators.

I am proud to serve with both of you. I am pleased to see that we have found ways that we really can bridge differences in order to achieve a common purpose. We were not interested in scoring political points. We are interested in doing what our responsibility is all about.

So Senator CORKER is now probing a way in which we can reauthorize the State Department, the role that our committee should have, and, therefore, to directly deal with our responsibilities in the Senate through the appropriate committee. I think all of these are efforts with which, working together, we can have the Senate perform the proper role in this government of ours to make sure that the legislative branch weighs in where it is appropriate on foreign policy issues.

I thank Senator KAINE and Senator CORKER for giving us a good model as to how legislation should be developed. I was proud to work with Senator CORKER so that we could get the White House and get some of our Members who didn't quite share the enthusiasm of this legislation to a place where they are comfortable in supporting the bill—not only supporting the bill but enthusiastically supporting the bill in order to get it done.

I also appreciate your mentioning Warren Weinstein. Warren Weinstein was a resident of Maryland. His wife, Elaine, I talked to on frequent occasions. She is a very brave woman and did everything she could to bring her husband home. Warren Weinstein was a USAID worker in Pakistan. He did that because he wanted to do good for the world.

He was very well respected, carrying out his mission in a most professional way. He was on his way home, basically, when he was kidnapped in 2011 by Al Qaeda. As we know, the President announced today that he was killed in January, along with an Italian national who was also serving. Our thoughts and prayers first go out to the families. Our hearts are broken.

Senator MIKULSKI, Congressman DELANEY, and I have frequently met with the family over the years to try to put a spotlight at the appropriate time in dealing with the hostage situation. It is very difficult to deal with a hostage situation when it is not a government that is holding the person, and it makes it much more complicated.

But I do think that in addition to doing everything we can to keep our Americans safe who go to these countries on our behalf, using diplomacy, basically, and developing assistance for a more stable country, we have to do everything we can to keep them safe. We have to recognize the risk factors in circumstances such as this. We have to have strategies to do everything we possibly can to bring these people back home safely.

I know you all share that. But then we have to make the world a little bit safer, and that is what this review statute is all about. I do believe it does give us a better opportunity to get the right agreement from Iran that would prevent it from becoming a nuclear weapons power, which is a game changer for the security in that region.

I wish to mention just one other example. There was an enormous human tragedy when another boat carrying desperate refugees and migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. In the most recent instance over 850 men, women, and children have died. Now these are very desperate situations when you take these dangerous voyages.

The number of people who have died in the Mediterranean—in 2014 we know that well over 218,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea, many fleeing violence, conflicts, and persecution in Syria, Iraq, and Eritrea. We also know that Yemen is involved here. Last year's death total surpassed 1,750 victims.

I mention that because what Iran is doing in this region is adding to the migration and refugee issues. Its support of terrorism, its involvement in Yemen, its involvement in Syria, and its involvement in other countries are causing people to take desperate action in order to stay safe. So we are here today to do something about that.

It is just another motivation for us to do everything we can to provide the types of policies that are necessary in that region of the world to make people safer and to have sustainable countries that can protect all of their citizens.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today we will begin the most important debate this Congress will have this year, probably this Congress, perhaps in the entire tenure any Member of this Senate has. This debate is not just about this piece of legislation but about a nuclear Iran and the consequences a nuclear Iran would create for the world.

Iran is today the greatest threat to the world. Iran already is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, according to the Obama administration's own State Department. We see their regional aggression on display in Syria, in Lebanon, in Iraq, and now in Yemen. They have a very bad habit of killing Jews around the world, from Israel, to Bulgaria, to Argentina. They hold four U.S. citizens hostage today without just cause or due process. They do all those things without a nuclear weapon and with tens of billions of dollars frozen overseas.

What could we expect if Iran is able to develop nuclear weapons capabilities?

First, we will see more regional aggression as they use their nuclear umbrella to continue their drive for regional dominance throughout the Middle East. They would use the tens of billions of dollars sanctions relief would give them not to build hospitals or schools or roads or to improve the lives of their people but, rather, to prop up their proxies, such as the Hezbollah or the Houthis or the Shiite militia currently at risk of tearing Iraq apart.

Second, they are likely to use those nuclear weapons. Ayatollah Khamenei, the original Supreme Leader, upon taking power said the Islamic revolution did not care about Iran or the Persian nation or its history, they cared about spreading worldwide Islamic revolution. This is not a normal state, and these are not normal leaders.

Third, we will see a nuclear arms race throughout the Middle East. As many Senators in this institution have heard from senior government officials of Sunni states throughout the gulf, they cannot tolerate a Persian Shiite nuclear power. Whether they develop with their indigenous capabilities, in some instances, or whether they purchase it from overseas, we will see the world's most dangerous and volatile region strung with nuclear tripwires.

Fourth, these countries may provide nuclear weapons to terrorists to be used against American troops in the region, against our allies, such as Israel,

or other countries or in one of the harbors on America's coasts, if not in America's heartland.

Fifth, terrorists or insurgents could get their hands on nuclear materials if they were able to destabilize or topple the wrong regime, as has tended to happen in the Middle East in the last 4 years and in recent decades.

The President started these negotiations on the grounds that we would stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Yet he has consistently backpedaled, conceded, and reversed himself. Rather than now trying to dismantle and disarm Iran's nuclear arms program, we are content to trying to manage it, to limit its breakout time to 1 mere year, if that.

The United Nation's Security Council has passed multiple resolutions saying that Iran has no right to enrich uranium. Yet now we are going to concede Iran the right to keep thousands of centrifuges, to continue advanced research into centrifuges, and to keep its stockpile of uranium.

The President said barely more than a year ago, after the negotiations started, that Iran had no reason to have a hardened underground military bunker in which they kept centrifuge cascades in Fordow. Yet, according to our own proposed fact sheet—much of which Iran disputes—we are going to concede the Fordow issue.

The President said at the very same time after negotiations had begun that Iran had no reason to keep its uranium stockpiles, and Iran had, in fact, reportedly agreed to tentatively export those to a third party. At the last minute, in Switzerland earlier this month, they reversed themselves, saying they were going to insist on keeping their stockpile, and we conceded on that front as well.

We have insisted throughout the period of these negotiations that we would not grant Iran immediate sanctions relief. The President's own term sheet said we wouldn't grant such relief. Iran's term sheet says differently. Just Friday, when confronted with this discrepancy, the President said we may have to find creative ways around this disagreement—creative ways to give Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, on its way to becoming a nuclear threshold power, tens of billions of dollars and reportedly even a \$50 billion signing bonus, as if Iran were not a theocratic dictatorial regime but a blue chip prospect in the NFL draft.

These negotiations have also excluded most of Iran's outlaw behavior—currently developing intercontinental ballistic missiles for which there is no reason other than striking the United States; holding those four hostages without due process or fair trials—and stopping its regional aggression and stopping its support for terrorism.

This legislation has some good elements in it. It would suspend the President's ability to waive any sanctions for approximately 7 weeks while we consider any proposed bill if such a deal is reached at some point in the future. It would also require the President to certify every 90 days that Iran is living up to its obligations under any such deal. But it only goes into effect after such a deal is announced. Any deal along the lines the President proposed 2 weeks ago is dangerous for the United States and dangerous for the world, and it is Congress's job to stop such a deal before it happens.

The sponsors of this bill didn't upend the constitutional baseline. This bill should be submitted for a treaty. The President should have to get 67 votes for a major nuclear arms agreement with an outlaw regime. Instead, Congress has to get 67 votes in the Senate to block such a bill. That is why I intend to support Senator JOHNSON's amendment that would require this to be submitted as a treaty.

This legislation omits most of Iran's outlaw behavior, and it doesn't lay out the terms on which Congress would insist, before there is sanctions relief, in addressing this outlaw behavior. And it may allow the President to argue in the future—if a mere 34 Senators vote against a resolution of disapproval—and say that Congress has acquiesced in his agreement and that he now has support from the Congress and is not just acting on his own whim.

Therefore, I expect to offer and I expect to support amendments that are offered in three main categories—first, an amendment that would treat any resolution of disapproval as a privileged amendment subject not to a 60-vote threshold but to a 51-vote threshold. We should not let 34 Senators block a resolution of disapproval from going into effect. We certainly shouldn't allow 41 Senators to impede the will of 59 Senators who disagree with any future deal from forcing the President to veto it and depriving him of the ability to claim that Congress has acquiesced to his action.

The second main category would be to limit the administration's discretion in the future on reporting about breaches of an agreement, should an agreement be reached and should it not be blocked by the Congress.

This legislation says the administration should report potentially significant breaches to the Congress and then determine whether those potentially significant breaches are a material breach, which is defined as substantially reducing Iran's breakout time or improving Iran's nuclear program. We should strike those lawyers' vague terms. They should submit every time the breakout time is decreased or Iran's nuclear program improves its position. It is our job as the people's rep-

resentatives to decide whether it is material, whether it is significant.

The third category of amendments is that Iran should not get sanctions relief until they live up to their international obligations, until they meet the very baseline terms the President himself laid out at the beginning of these negotiations or even after the negotiations had begun, and until Iran acts like a civilized country.

There should be no sanctions relief until the President can certify that the hardened underground military facility at Fordow is closed. He himself said Iran had no need for it.

There should be no sanctions relief until Iran has lived up to its international obligation to the IAEA—the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog—and disclosed the past military dimensions of its nuclear program, without which inspectors have no baseline to know what the status of their program is today.

There should be no sanctions relief until the President can certify that Iran is not developing intercontinental ballistic missiles. They have missiles that can defend their own territory and that can strike most of their neighbors in the Middle East. They are developing intercontinental ballistic missiles for one reason: to strike the United States with a nuclear warhead.

There should be no sanctions relief until the President can certify that Iran is no longer sponsoring terrorism because it goes to the heart of the threat Iran poses. Other countries in the world are a nuclear threshold power—Japan, Germany, and South Korea. We don't have debates about those countries being a nuclear threshold power because they are normal countries with normal leaders who do not call us the Great Satan and Israel the Little Satan and threaten to wipe Israel off the map. Until the nature of the Iran regime changes, we cannot allow them to have weapons of this nature. And they will not change until they have renounced terrorism.

Next, the President should have to certify that Iran is not cooperating with North Korea—as it has done countless times on ballistic missile programs and nuclear technology—an outlaw regime whose current nuclear status foretells the future of this deal. In 1994, the agreed framework was supposed to stop North Korea from becoming a nuclear power. Yet, just 12 years later, they have developed nuclear weapons. Now, by most estimates, they have 20—a number that could double in just a few years—with much of the United States falling underneath the threat of a North Korean nuclear attack.

Next, there should be no sanctions relief until all four American hostages are released—Pastor Saeed Abenini; Amir Hekmati, a decorated marine; Robert Levinson; and Jason Rezaian, a Washington Post reporter. That should

have been a term before we even sat down at the table, that no American citizen will be held hostage by an outlaw, third-rate regime like Iran—before we started negotiating with them. They and their families deserve no less.

There should be no sanctions relief until the President can certify that Iran has agreed to anytime, anywhere inspections. This is an ongoing point of major dispute between President Obama and Iran's leaders, but if we can't go to their military facilities, if we can't inspect any facility instantly, without notification, we will be engaged in the same kind of cat-and-mouse regime that has caused inspection regimes to fail time and time again.

Finally, Iran should recognize Israel's right to exist. It is not too much to simply say that Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish and a democratic country. This is a country that just a few months ago was tweeting—tweeting—nine different reasons why Israel should be annihilated from the world.

These are very simple terms, most of which President Obama himself outlined before these negotiations began or which are clear and binding international obligations on Iran. They are good amendments that would strengthen this bill—a bill that touches on the most important issues that most of us will address during our time in the Senate.

When we considered the Keystone Pipeline bill—an important bill but a bill that dealt with a single pipeline—we considered almost 250 amendments, and we voted on 40. Surely, we should have the same kind of robust consideration, debate, and voting on this bill. I strongly support the majority leader's call earlier this morning for exactly that kind of robust process. Most of these amendments touch directly on the heart of this legislation. I look forward to casting up-or-down votes on a 51-vote threshold on all of these amendments and many more that my colleagues may offer.

I regret that I may miss some of this debate. I may have to ask some of my colleagues to submit amendments for me. My first child is due today. By the time this bill gets to the floor next week for debate and voting, I expect my first child will have arrived. But I will not allow my son to live under the threat of a nuclear Iran—the threat of nuclear attack and ultimate nuclear war—any more than I will allow the sons and daughters of all Americans to live under that threat.

So I look forward to this debate. I look forward to stopping Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to continue our efforts to honor the Nation's and North Dakota's Vietnam veterans and specifically those brave servicemembers who were killed in action during the Vietnam war.

Mr. President, 198 soldiers from North Dakota died while serving in Vietnam. Today, I am honored to speak about some of these brave men and the stories their families have shared with us.

I need to credit David Erbstoesser of Bismarck, a Vietnam veteran, for his service and for his years of reaching out to the family members of these fallen North Dakota patriots. Over the past 20 years, David contacted each family to obtain a photo of every servicemember and a photo of their gravestone. I am grateful to David for meeting with my staff to share his collection of obituaries, news articles, and photos he has collected.

The Bismarck High students and their teachers are also researching North Dakota's servicemembers who didn't come home from Vietnam. Today, I am happy to include research from BHS's 11th grade students about two such men: Gary Myers and David Bujalski.

RAPHAEL "JOHN" FROST

The first of our soldiers is John Frost. John was from Hunter. He was born on March 16, 1948. He served in the Army's 196th Infantry Brigade. John was 20 years old when he was killed on December 20, 1968.

John was the oldest of three children and helped his dad on the family farm. During high school, John participated

in the school newspaper, choir, the Letterman's Club, a school play, and was a class officer. He was also an all-around athlete who earned letters in track, baseball, football, and basketball. His mother Lois still remembers how proud she was the day he scored 33 points in one basketball game in a winning effort.

After high school, John enrolled at Valley City State College. He was a quiet, fun-loving boy who dreamed of returning to his hometown to work as a teacher and basketball coach.

John's mother and brother Kevin remember John's kindness, especially toward his Grandma Alice while she was staying with the family recuperating from breaking her hip. While his parents were out of town, John stayed home caring for his grandmother, even making potato pancakes for her.

JON GREENLEY

Jon Greenley was from Fargo. He was born on January 30, 1942. He served in the Air Force's 774th Tactical Aerial Flight Squadron. Jon died on January 7, 1966. He was 23 years old.

Jon was one of three sons. His brother Doug remembers that Jon respected authority. Jon sent Doug a letter stating that the only time he questioned their parents' judgment was when he was buying a lawnmower and they suggested he buy a type he didn't like.

From a young age, Jon had an interest in planes and in the military. He joined the North Dakota Air National Guard. When his parents wouldn't take him to see the Air Museum in Ohio, he hitchhiked there.

Jon attended North Dakota State University and became president of the international relations group there. He was named Outstanding ROTC of the Air Force and was the first alternate to the Air Force Academy. The Fargo AMVETS post, founded in 1980, was named after Jon.

His body has never been recovered.

DAN HERDEBU

Dan Herdebu was from Baldwin. He was born on July 21, 1948. He served in the Army's 1st Aviation Brigade. He was 19 years old when he died on March 10, 1968.

Dan and his two brothers attended their two-room school through the eighth grade and attended Bismarck High School.

Dan planned to put his aviation experience to good use by flying helicopters for law enforcement or medical facilities someday.

Dan's older brother Eugene was in basic training when Dan was killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam. After Dan's death, Eugene also served in Vietnam in the Army.

ALAN HINZPETER

Alan Hinzpeter was from Minot. He was born on May 12, 1949. He served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Alan died on September 6, 1971. He was

22 years old. Alan was one of four children. His brother Gordie also served in Vietnam, and their father served in World War II in the Navy.

Alan's friends and family called him Pete and remember him as a hard worker who was smart and generous with his money. He was a jokester who liked everyone and whom everyone liked. His oldest sister Jean tells about the time he wanted to watch the World Series, so he smoked a cigarette at school so he would be suspended. Jean says that Alan was 5 feet 4 inches but had a big personality. Many people attended his funeral and still to this day remember him fondly.

GERALD ALLEN "AL" IVERSON

Al Iverson was from Oakes. He was born on May 26, 1947. He served in the Army's 9th Infantry Division. He was 20 years old when he died on November 1, 1967.

Al was the second youngest of 14 kids—7 boys and 7 girls. Al's siblings say he was a fun-loving brother with red hair and freckles. He loved baseball and fishing. He also enjoyed spending time with his older siblings' kids, the oldest in his family, and he wanted to get married someday and have six kids of his own.

Al had 3 months left before he was scheduled to return home. He was the first Dickey County soldier to die in Vietnam.

NORBERT FROEHLICH

Norbert Froehlich was from Belfield. He was born on March 4, 1947. He served in the Army's 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment. Norbert died on January 30, 1968. He was 19 years old.

He was the ninth of 10 kids and grew up on his family farm. Three of his brothers also served our country in the military.

His friends, both in the Army and from high school, remembered Norbert as a friend who stuck by them through thick and thin. His brother Don says that Norbert was wounded in Vietnam and was supposed to be on R&R in Australia but chose to stay in Vietnam to help his fellow soldiers. His church in Belfield recognizes him every year on the anniversary of his death. After his death, the Army promoted Norbert to corporal.

GERHARDT JUST

Gerhardt Just was from Wishek and was born October 31, 1925. He served in the Army's 1st Aviation Brigade. Gerhardt died on August 27, 1965. He was 39 years old. He was survived by his wife Lillian, daughters Oteeka and Cora, and his son Butch.

Gerhardt joined the Army, served in Korea, and then reenlisted in the Army to provide for his family.

Gerhardt's oldest child, Oteeka, remembers that it was so important for her dad to support his family financially that after his pickup caught fire and burned the driver's seat, he put a

kitchen chair in the cab so he could drive to his second job.

His kids have memories of spending their last time together working on the house he bought them, installing grass in the yard and painting the house days before his deployment.

Gerhardt was killed just a month after arriving in Vietnam.

Gerhardt's children appreciate how after his death, Gerhardt's parents and siblings always welcomed his widow and children into their family with open arms.

#### GARY MYERS

Gary Myers was from Fort Yates and was born on November 4, 1947. He served in the Marine Corps's 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. Gary was 20 years old when he died on May 13, 1968.

Gary's father served in the Army during the Korean war and was stationed in Germany, where Gary was born. Gary spent 1 year at Dickinson State University before enlisting.

Gary's sister Linda remembers him as an outgoing person who loved to help people when he had a chance. He was an honor student and enjoyed playing sports, including wrestling, football, and rodeo. When he wasn't busy with sports, Gary was helping his father work on their cattle ranch.

Gary's hometown friends and fellow soldiers reported that Gary was killed in Vietnam while leading a mission to retrieve his lieutenant's body 1 month before Gary was scheduled to return home to his family in the United States.

#### LARRY OLSON

Larry Olson was from McHenry. He was born on June 26, 1945. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Larry died on June 19, 1968. He was 22 years old.

Larry's grandfather served in World War I, his father in World War II, and his brother and nephews also served our country.

Larry was the oldest of six children. His sister Rita remembers him as the big brother who always watched out for her and kept bullies away.

Larry was a hard worker and a good friend. Fellow soldiers from his regiment loved Larry so much that they asked Rita to show them his grave.

#### RICHARD "RICK" BORGMAN

Rick Borgman was from Minot and was born on January 23, 1947. He served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. He was 21 years old when he died on March 3, 1968.

Rick's mother Anita and sister Pat remember him as a loving, gentle person. He participated in Boy Scouts, worked at the Red Owl grocery store, and enjoyed fast cars and life in general.

Rick left behind his widow Linda, his son Shannon, and daughter Laura. Linda learned that she was pregnant with Laura shortly after Rick's fu-

neral. Linda remembers Rick's big heart, great sense of humor, and that he was loved by many. She says she can see Rick whenever she looks at Shannon and Laura and that Shannon's laugh is contagious, just as his dad's was.

Linda is grateful that her second husband, Bruce Sullivan, a Vietnam veteran, adopted Shannon and Laura and lovingly helped her raise them.

#### DAVID BUJALSKI

David Bujalski was from Carrington. He was born on August 18, 1940. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers' 65th Energy Battalion. On August 15, 1967, David died. He was 27 years old.

David was the youngest of six children, lovingly called "Little David." But after reaching the height of 6 foot 2 inches, his family more often referred to cheerful and friendly David as a gentle giant.

He graduated in the top third of his class from West Point and married Barbara. They had a daughter Elizabeth while David was stationed in Germany. They moved to Arizona, and David became a commander. His first sergeant there was quoted saying, "He was revered by his cadre, loved by his students, and respected by his superiors."

David felt a duty to serve in Vietnam, and 8 days after arriving there, he was killed by a sniper. His second daughter Kathleen was born 6 weeks later.

David's brother Jack, also a West Point graduate, wrote the following about his brother:

David's life was too short for him to have reached his full potential. We can only conjecture as to what he would have achieved, but we do know that he influenced the lives of all who knew him.

#### LESLIE CARTER

Leslie Carter was from Jamestown. He was born on November 3, 1943. He served in the Navy as a medic. He was 24 years old when he died on July 1, 1968.

Leslie left behind his widow Marlys and his daughter Heidi. Leslie met Marlys through his brother Douglas. While home on leave, Leslie won Marlys over, and the couple later married. A year after their wedding, their daughter Heidi was born. Heidi was 5 months old when her father died and never had an opportunity to meet him.

One of Leslie's high school friends, who also served in the Navy, James Bitz, called Leslie "Butch" and remembers him as one of the nicest, most generous people he had ever had the pleasure of knowing.

#### DAVID CORCORAN

David Corcoran was from Grand Forks. He was born on May 5, 1951. He served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. David died on June 26, 1969. He was 18 years old.

David was one of five children and the only son. He loved hunting with his father, grandfather, and uncles. He also

loved cars and playing basketball. David helped construct a figure 8 race-track in Grand Forks and was happy to be able to race his own cars on the track a few times before being deployed.

Wanting to serve his country like his World War II veteran father, David joined the Army at age 17. His family hoped he would not be assigned to a combat unit because he was only 17, but a day after his 18th birthday, he received his orders to Vietnam.

#### WILBERT FLECK

Wilbert Fleck was from Breien and was born November 22, 1949. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He was 19 years old when he died on July 27, 1969.

Wilbert was one of 13 children—7 boys and 6 girls. Six of the seven boys served in the military.

Wilbert's brothers and sisters remember him as a selfless and caring person. He was always willing to help out a neighbor. He was dedicated to caring for his aging parents and was extremely protective of those he loved.

Wilbert died taking charge of his platoon after his platoon leader was killed. His sister Pauline says that this was just the kind of person he was—always willing to put the needs of others before his own. Wilbert was Pauline's best friend.

#### LOWELL HARDMEYER

Lowell Hardmeyer was from Mott. He was born on February 16, 1949. He served in the Army's 198th Light Infantry Brigade. He died on June 10, 1970. He was 21 years old.

Lowell was the younger of two sons. He was a blue-eyed boy who loved horses and grew up on his family farm and ranch in the Prairie Hills.

In 1967, Lowell graduated from high school and enrolled in the National Electronics Institute in Denver before serving in the Army.

In Vietnam, Lowell had various duties, including rear security guard, walking on point patrol, and radio operator. He was killed when his company came under mortar attack.

Lowell's cousin, Lauren, remembers Lowell was a shy, sweet young man. Lauren says that Lowell's parents, George and Clara Hardmeyer, grieved Lowell's death until their own in the 1990s.

#### MERLYN PAULSON

Merlyn Paulson was from Fargo and he was born on June 19, 1936. He served in the Air Force's 8th Tactical Fighter Wing. He was 35 years old when he went missing on March 29, 1972.

Merlyn was one of nine children, six boys and three girls. Five of the boys served their country, three in World War II and two in Vietnam.

Merlyn's brother Bob remembers him as a wonderful boy who people couldn't help but love. Bob jokes that Merlyn had personality to burn.



Merlyn went missing when his plane was shot down by a surface-to-air missile. Fourteen years later, in 1986, his body was finally recovered. Years later, his family was finally able to lay him to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

These are just a few stories that, by sharing today with the Senate and sharing today on the floor of the Senate, I hope will remind us all of the tremendous sacrifice that not only these young men have provided for their country but the sacrifice also of their families, their children, and the wives they leave behind, the parents they leave behind, and that it is a constant reminder that we must never forget the duty to our country and we must never forget those among us who have paid the ultimate price.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE STATE OF THE SENATE AS AN INSTITUTION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in the last Congress, I came to the Senate floor to express my concern about the state of the Senate as an institution, how it had been beset by dysfunction, destructive partisanship, and corrosion of its vital characteristics.

Today, I wish to reflect on some of the progress we have made in the first few months of this Congress in restoring this great institution to its essential role in our constitutional system. While significant progress has been made, there still remains much more to be done.

Central to properly understanding our responsibilities as Senators is an appreciation of the Senate's role in our system of government. Consider the particularly distinct purposes of the two Houses of Congress. The House of Representatives is the organ of government designed to embody the will of the people. Its small constituencies and short terms allow its Members to be as closely in touch with the voters as possible. With 435 Members, robust participation by every Member in each debate is impossibly cumbersome. Thus, the House's work is defined by majority rule as logically befits a body that represents the popular will.

By contrast, the Framers designed the Senate to serve as what they called "a necessary fence" against the "fickleness and passion" that sometimes drives popular pressure for hasty and ill-considered lawmaking—or, as Edmund Randolph put it, "the turbulence

and follies of democracy." Similarly, James Madison described its purpose as "protect[ing] the people against the transient impressions into which they themselves might be led."

Through its character and its institutional structure, the Senate not only checks transient and occasionally intemperate impulses but also refines the popular will with wisdom and sound judgment. Perhaps the most important characteristic that guarantees this key function is the Senate's relatively small size, which enables each and every Senator to contribute meaningfully in debate.

The primacy of individual Senators' rights has long guided the development of the Senate's rules and traditions, including the right to extend debate, open amendment consideration, and a committee system that gives all Members, from the most seasoned chairman to the newest freshman, a hand in drafting and improving legislation. Moreover, there is the reality that to function efficiently and effectively, the Senate frequently requires temporary modifications to the institution's oftentimes complex and cumbersome rules—agreements that require the unanimous consent of all Senators to take effect.

The expansive rights of Senators are a double-edged sword—at once both the great genius of the institution and the source of some of the greatest pitfalls that may befall it. By giving a minority of Senators—sometimes even a minority of one—great sway over the business of the whole body, each one of us is entrusted with enormous powers that can be used to grind the Senate to a halt. These powers can be used to do enormous good when used wisely and judiciously—from forcing a majority to reconsider misguided legislation to extracting important guarantees from the executive branch in exchange for allowing a nomination to go forward.

The former Senator from Oklahoma, Dr. Tom Coburn, was a leading exponent of these rights. During his time in the Senate, he was legendary for his use of the rules to stop wasteful spending and limit the expansion of the Federal Government. While we may not always have agreed on particular matters, it is beyond question that his willingness to stand up for what he believed in—even in the face of overwhelming opposition—did enormous good for our Nation. Dr. Coburn's service demonstrates exactly why the Senate allows a minority to hold such a sway over this body.

Nevertheless, while the whole Republic has benefited time and again from a Senate minority's judicious exercise of its rights, we know all too well how these rights can be abused. Today, the Senate's procedures have become bywords for mindless obstruction. In the minds of many of our fellow citizens, what drives the exercise of minority

rights is not the interests of thoughtful legislating or productive oversight but, rather, reflexive partisanship and political grandstanding.

From various quarters, including some within this very body, we often hear calls to eliminate the various rights of the minority. Although these calls may be instinctively appealing, we should decisively reject them. After all, without these minority rights, the Senate would lose its unique character, which has allowed it to serve the Republic so well for so many years. The Senate, stripped of its minority rights, would merely duplicate and needlessly frustrate the work of the House of Representatives.

Those of us in the present day should recall that we are not the first in our Nation's history to confront the potential for great dysfunction. In particular, we should recall the example of the late Senator from Montana, Mike Mansfield. Senator Mansfield served as majority leader from 1961 until 1977, holding that position longer than any other Senate leader. These were turbulent times for the Nation and the Senate alike, when the issues of the day could hardly have been more divisive and problematic.

Near the beginning of his tenure, when a determined minority stalled President Kennedy's legislative priorities, Senator Mansfield faced great pressure from within his own party to exert the majority's power more assertively. In an act of great courage, Mansfield resisted these calls to bend the Senate's rules. Although tempted by the prospect of important policy and political victories, he instead counseled that the remedy to gridlock "lies not in the seeking of shortcuts, not in the cracking of nonexistent whips, not in wheeling and dealing, but in an honest facing of the situation and a resolution of it by the Senate itself, by accommodation, by respect for one another, [and] by mutual restraint."

Senator Mansfield was absolutely right, and his wisdom is perhaps more relevant now than ever. For the Senate to function effectively, Senators of all stripes must practice mutual restraint—Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal, majority and minority alike.

In practice, restraint requires different sacrifices of different Senators, depending on their position. For the majority leadership, it is measured in part by what sort of measures are brought before the Senate for consideration. Do they tend to be divisive and partisan messaging bills, or do they tend to be measures that can gather bipartisan support—those that may offer less prospects of a messaging victory but greater prospects for actually becoming law? Have the measures typically been considered by the committee of jurisdiction, allowing for a thorough vetting and best chance for bipartisan consensus?

Restraint is also measured in how the majority conducts its consideration of a particular measure. Is there an open amendment process that allows all Senators to contribute to the Chamber's work and seek means of mutual accommodation, or does the majority leader fill up the so-called amendment tree, thereby freezing legislation in the exact form that he demands? Is the full Senate allowed sufficient time for full and free debate on a measure important enough for consideration on the floor, or does the majority leader move to end debate as soon as it begins?

The need for mutual restraint also creates correlative obligations for the minority. From filibusters, to poison-pill amendments, to objections, to routine unanimous consent requests—an often underappreciated but incredibly important tool to chew up this body's valuable time—Senators in the minority have numerous ways in which they can grind this body to a halt and derail a measure. Senators on both sides of the aisle—myself included—have relied on these means before. Their use can be quite legitimate when employed judiciously and motivated by serious policy disagreement; however, when employed indiscriminately for the purpose of frustrating the operation of the Senate for partisan gain, the use of such tactics is deeply improper.

The appropriateness of the minority's behavior hinges in large part on the actions of the majority. With the power to decide the Senate's business, including what the Senate considers as well as how it considers it, the majority's behavior rightfully shapes the minority's response. Majority restraint invites minority restraint, begetting productive legislating, whereas majority overreach invites minority intransigence, causing only dysfunction.

The Senate's dysfunction over the past few years resulted from exactly that—repeated instances of overreach by the majority in direct contradiction to the restraint counseled by Senator Mansfield. This overreach occurred along a wide variety of fronts, many of which my colleagues and I spoke out against in great detail.

In the last Congress, many bills that received floor consideration had completely bypassed the committee process. In fact, each of the past four Congresses set a new record for the use of this extraordinary procedure. The unfortunate but predictable result was the waste of the Senate's valuable floor time on partisan messaging bills that no one seriously expected to become law.

Instead of allowing an open amendment process, the previous majority used the procedural maneuver known as filling the tree to deny Senators the right to offer an amendment. By refusing to allow amendments out of a desire to prevent a vote on commonsense

bipartisan ideas, such as building the Keystone XL Pipeline and rolling back bureaucratic red tape, the previous majority invited minority opposition to the underlying measures, killing important bipartisan legislation such as the energy efficiency bill and the sportsman's bill.

In the last Congress, almost a year went by during which the majority allowed votes on only 11 minority amendments. During that period, all 45 Senators in the minority together got fewer votes on amendments than, for example, one House Democrat, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. In fact, the Congressional Research Service confirms that the previous majority leader used his position to block the consideration of amendments more than twice as often as the previous six majority leaders combined.

The previous majority also frequently moved to end debate on a measure at the very same time it was brought up for consideration, employing this tactic far more often than previous majorities. Its effect is not to end debate on legislation but to prevent it all together. Whenever those of us then in the minority resisted this demand that we end debate as soon as we began consideration, the majority wrongfully labeled it a "filibuster." Worst of all, the majority used this supposedly unprecedented level of obstruction to take the drastic step of abolishing extended debate all together on most nominations using the so-called nuclear option.

With the new leadership of the Senate under the senior Senator from Kentucky, we have made enormous progress toward restoring this sense of mutual restraint. Consider the sort of legislation the current majority leader has brought up for floor consideration so far this Congress: the bipartisan Hoeven-Manchin bill to authorize the Keystone XL Pipeline; the permanent solution for Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate and reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which passed 92 to 8; and the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill to fight the scourge of modern-day slavery known as human trafficking.

These are not Republican messaging bills. The majority leader has admirably avoided the temptation to fill our agenda with partisan bills just to score cheap political points. Instead, we have focused on bills that command broad bipartisan support. Moreover, consider the bills that the majority leader has indicated are next up for floor consideration: the Corker-Menendez Iran nuclear agreement legislation that passed the Foreign Relations Committee with unexpected and impressive unanimity; the bipartisan Alexander-Murray rewrite of No Child Left Behind; and our bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act, which passed out of the Finance Committee

last night with the support of 13 Republicans and 7 Democrats. By identifying these priorities, the majority leader has indicated that his focus on bipartisan committee-vetted legislation is not a fleeting illusion but a long-term commitment to responsible leadership.

The way in which the majority leader has conducted our consideration of these bills also demonstrates this commitment to restraint. We have seen committee consideration of legislation restored as the norm. We have also seen a renewed commitment to an open amendment process. In January, for example, the Senate voted on more amendments in 1 week than in all of last year. By my count, we have voted on 114 individual amendments in less than 4 months, the majority of which were offered by the minority. Many of these were tough votes, but the need to govern responsibly far outweighed any political cost. Instead of cutting off debate before it even begins, we have moved at a deliberate pace to allow the amendment process to flourish, tempering our own desire to move legislation faster in order to legislate according to the best traditions of this body.

This is not to say that the past 4 months have been perfect. There have been times when the sailing has been a bit rocky. While the current minority has repeatedly displayed admirable cooperation—the sort of mutual restraint that Senator Mansfield wisely lauded so many years ago—there have been times when some of my colleagues have fallen prey to the temptation of partisan obstruction.

In particular, I was extremely disappointed by the logjam that developed over the Hyde amendment and impeded progress on the bipartisan human trafficking bill. The gridlock over what should have been an uncontroversial provision indicated a troubling willingness on the part of some to derail our efforts to legislate responsibly and instead resort to tired and discredited war-on-women rhetoric to win cheap political votes.

I was so encouraged by this week's resolution of that impasse. The willingness on the part of leaders on both sides of the aisle to break the gridlock reflected the best of the Senate's great tradition of statesmanship. I want to extend my sincere thanks and respect to the senior Senators from Washington, Minnesota, and Texas, Senators MURRAY, KLOBUCHAR and CORNYN, as well as everyone else who helped craft the compromise.

By putting partisanship aside, they have not only benefitted the victims of human trafficking; they have also helped reinvigorate the ethos of accommodation and mutual restraint that is at the heart of this institution. We should all look to this example as a model of leadership worthy of the world's greatest deliberative body.

It is incumbent on all of us to get the Senate back to work for the American

people. By returning to the spirit of comity that served this body so well for so long, we have already made real and meaningful progress. I urge all of my colleagues to continue in this noble pursuit. It is undoubtedly worth the cost.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the millions of Armenians who were deported during the Armenian genocide in 1915, and the 1.5 million men, women, and children who were killed. April 24, 2015, marks the Centennial Remembrance Day of the Armenian genocide, and my thoughts go out to the descendants of the victims and all of the Armenian people as the world commemorates this tragedy.

As we reflect upon this horrific period in history, we are reminded of the importance of promoting tolerance and standing firm against hatred and discrimination. That is why I have always recognized the terrible atrocities that took place in Armenia as genocide and why I consistently support resolutions in the Senate to remember the anniversaries of the Armenian genocide. I will continue to support these resolutions and speak about this issue so we never forget the families who were torn apart and destroyed due to brutal intolerance.

Nevada is home to a vibrant community of thousands of Armenian Americans. Through churches and other organizations, Armenians in Nevada have demonstrated a commitment to working to improve their communities and serve others. For instance, the Armenian Relief Association in Las Vegas has dedicated years to serving the Las Vegas community and providing Saturday school for children to learn Armenian history. Kirk Kerkorian, an immensely successful Armenian American businessman and philanthropist, has shaped Nevada's booming tourism industry and created jobs with his investments on the Las Vegas Strip. Kirk has also generously donated to organizations across the Nation and in Armenia through his charitable foundation, the Lincy Foundation, to support important causes such as public education, health care, and infrastructure development. Another well-known Armenian American, the late Jerry Tarkanian, will long be remembered in Nevada not only for his success leading

the University of Nevada, Las Vegas basketball team, but also for his dedication to teaching young college athletes to be better people and proudly represent their city.

I am proud that, for years, Nevada has officially recognized the Armenian genocide, and that Nevada continues to find ways to honor this strong community and Armenian history. I am grateful for the efforts of the Armenian American Cultural Society of Las Vegas, which raised thousands of dollars for an Armenian Genocide Monument at Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada. The monument will represent the 12 provinces where Armenians were slaughtered during the genocide, and will provide Nevadans with a place for reflection for years to come.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out genocide against the Armenian people. Over the course of 8 years, more than 1.5 million Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality.

Over the years, this deliberate massacre of the Armenians has been well-documented and confirmed by scholars and experts. And there are countless testimonies from victims who lived to tell of their harrowing experiences.

In his memoirs, Henry Morgenthau, the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire between 1913 and 1916, wrote: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

Despite an irrefutable body of evidence, the U.S. Government has refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by its rightful name. Mr. President, 100 years have passed since the beginning of the Armenian genocide. It is long past time for our government to finally acknowledge one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century for what it was—genocide.

This year, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of a Senate resolution calling on the President to "ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide."

But each day that goes by without full acknowledgement by the United States prolongs the pain felt by the descendants of the victims of the Armenian genocide, as well as the entire Armenian community.

By affirming the Armenian genocide, the United States would join countries across the globe—including Argentina, Canada, France, Italy, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, and Venezuela—as well as the Holy See and 43 U.S. States in standing on the right side of history.

For years, I have urged both Democratic and Republican administrations to finally acknowledge the truth of the Armenian genocide. Today, I reiterate my call and I hope that this year the United States will finally correct this century-old injustice.

During a recent mass commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, Pope Francis said:

It is necessary, and indeed a duty, to honour their memory, for whenever memory fades, it means that evil allows wounds to fester. Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it!

On this April 24, as we take time to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, I hope the United States will heed the eloquent words of Pope Francis by formally and unequivocally affirming the incontestable fact of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I wish to solemnly observe the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

One hundred years ago, one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th Century began when the young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire executed more than 200 Armenian leaders and intellectuals. What followed was an 8-year systematic campaign of oppression, which by 1923, left an estimated 1.5 million Armenians dead and over a half a million survivors exiled.

These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and, indeed, across the globe, and many called for the United States to take action. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during this dark time, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., unsuccessfully pleaded with President Wilson to take action, and later remembered the events of the genocide, saying:

I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

Former President Theodore Roosevelt also called for an American response, saying, "Until we put honor and duty first, and are willing to risk something in order to achieve righteousness both for ourselves and for others, we shall accomplish nothing; and we shall earn and deserve the contempt of the strong nations of mankind."

Unfortunately, the United States and the world did not intervene. It is a testament to the unbreakable spirit of the survivors of the Armenian genocide that they persevered and went on to enrich their countries of emigration, including the United States. That is why today we not only commemorate

this grave tragedy, but we celebrate the traditions, the contributions, as well as the bright future of the Armenian people. Indeed, my home State of Rhode Island continues to be enriched by our strong and vibrant Armenian-American community.

Denial of this history is inconsistent with our country's values and as we mark this centennial, I once again join with my colleagues on a resolution that encourages the United States to recognize the Armenian genocide. We must continue to guard against hatred and oppression so that we can prevent such crimes against humanity. I would note that, earlier this month, Pope Francis held a mass to recognize this centennial and described this mass atrocity against Armenians as the first genocide of the 20th century. On this, the 100th anniversary, the United States should similarly recognize this horrific tragedy as genocide, joining the ranks of the many countries that have already done so.

I remain committed to supporting efforts, as ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to provide assistance to Armenia to promote economic growth, strengthen security, and support democratic reforms and development.

I am pleased that on May 7, at my invitation, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Worldwide Armenian Apostolic Church and the Great House of Cilicia, will serve as guest Chaplain before this body and continue this important message. We must find a way to come together to recognize what happened a century ago and show our unwavering support to those facing persecution today. I hope we can do that.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate and reflect on the centennial anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. With great sadness, we remember the beginning of the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks who died 100 years ago. On April 24, 1915, the campaign targeting the Armenian people began. They, along with Assyrians and Greeks, were viewed as threats to the Ottoman Empire and driven from their homeland. The persecuted minorities were uprooted from their way of life leaving behind generations of family history, property, and memories. The Armenians were then forced-marched into the desert without proper rations and supplies, with most dying along this brutal passage. The remaining survivors were detained in concentration camps rampant with disease and hunger. These mass killings are historically documented and served as a tragic prelude to the Holocaust.

This solemn anniversary offers us a chance to renew our commitment to the principle of "never again," a vow that surfaced after the Holocaust. And

so today I rise to proclaim never again can an ethnic group be targeted due to race, religion, or ethnicity.

#### BANGLADESH RANA PLAZA ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, April 24 marks the 2-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse which resulted in the death of over 1,130 Bangladeshi workers and the injury of approximately 2,500 more. To date, this remains the single largest disaster of its kind. Since 2013, many in the governmental, nongovernmental, private, and business sectors have pledged their financial resources and time to addressing the numerous issues and problems surrounding the ready-made garment industry. Even though progress has been made, many promises remain unfulfilled, especially in providing Bangladeshi workers the rights they deserve.

As a long-term U.S. ally, I want Bangladesh to be prosperous because only through a growing economy that delivers shared prosperity to its people can stability be ensured.

The country's garment industry is now, and will be for the foreseeable future, the engine of economic growth as it accounts for close to 80 percent of foreign exchange earnings. The United States, which remains the single largest country buyer of Bangladeshi garments, has an important responsibility to ensure that those garments are made in a way that do not put people's lives at risk and that fairly rewards workers for their labor.

Domestically, while there has been progress in conducting safety inspections and hiring additional inspectors, much work remains in providing for freedom of association. On this front, I have been very disappointed by the role played by the government of Bangladesh. The record over the past 2 years shows that the Bangladeshi government has failed to keep promises it made to our Government and to the European Union.

It has failed to pass a labor law in line with international labor standards and has not promulgated implementing regulations for the law that exists.

Workers still have no rights to form unions in Export Processing Zones and once again the government is saying it has no power to change regulations because of contractual obligations to companies.

The government of Bangladesh has made little progress with regard to the inspection of well over a thousand factories that it agreed to inspect for fire safety.

The government of Bangladesh personnel responsible for investigating unfair labor practices are not doing so and some police have refused to accept cases filed by labor organizers who experience violence from management-

hired thugs. Such antiunion behavior on the part of employers is common throughout many developing countries but in the case of Bangladesh, it is compounded by the government's actions which actively abet such behavior. For that, the government of Bangladesh must be held responsible.

There needs to be a clear, consistent and transparent union registration process. While approximately 300 factory-level garment unions have been registered in the last 2 years, more than 100 unions that filed for registration have been rejected by the government, many for arbitrary or unfair reasons.

The people of Bangladesh need mechanisms where workers can swiftly get the justice they deserve when their rights are violated. Bangladeshi authorities need to properly investigate, address and, if necessary, penalize employers for unfair labor practices to end the culture of impunity that surrounds employer resistance to legally protected union activity.

So as my colleagues can see, much work remains.

Until substantial progress is made, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has rightfully decided to keep in place the suspension of Bangladesh's Generalized System of Preferences—GSP—trade benefits with the United States. I support this decision.

The "Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh" and the "Alliance on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh" are two private sector initiatives made up of American and European retailers which have conducted safety inspections in more than 2,500 factories. As a result, some factories have adopted new safety practices and have made physical improvements such as the installation of fire doors to make it safer for workers to evacuate when fires occur. These inspections have resulted in the full or partial shutdown of a number of unsafe factories. The private sector has a critical role to play in changing the RMG culture in Bangladesh and I strongly urge both coalitions to focus on how workers' rights can be improved in the coming years.

Aside from ensuring that improvements are made to prevent another Rana Plaza, it is critical that full compensation is paid to the victims and their families. As of today, the "Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund" has received roughly \$21 million from a variety of donors, including both large global brands and the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Fund. While \$21 million sounds impressive, the fund is suffering from an approximate \$9 million shortfall. Because of this, some victims and their families have only received approximately 70 percent of the money they are entitled to. I am happy to hear that Benetton has recently agreed to donate to the Fund. I hope that other companies that had business at Rana Plaza

come forward and contribute, or continue contributing, their fair share.

It is encouraging to see different elements of the international community come together to support the garment factory workers in Bangladesh. Real progress in the RMG sector will require continued vigilance on the part of the international community. Earlier this year, we were once again saddened by the news of yet another tragedy involving the collapse of a building in Bangladesh. On March 12, in the town of Mongla, a cement factory collapsed and tragically killed eight people while injuring approximately 60 others. Whether in a garment factory or cement factory, we must remain vigilant to ensure that workers' safety and workers' rights are top priorities of the U.S. government and international buyers in Bangladesh.

#### REFUGEE AND MIGRANT DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to discuss an enormous human tragedy: another boat carrying desperate refugees and migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea and, in this most recent instance, over 850 men, women, and children have died. It is profoundly heartwrenching to view the anguished images of innocent refugees and migrants, men and women, old and young, who embarked on this desperate journey bound for a more hopeful future, but which instead ended in death on the Mediterranean Sea for so many people.

In 2014, we know that well over 218,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea, many fleeing violence, conflict, and persecution in Syria, Iraq, Eritrea and elsewhere, traveling on overcrowded and unseaworthy boats. Last year, over 3,500 women, men, and children died or went missing in their desperate attempts to reach Europe. According to the International Organization on Migration, IOM, this year's death toll in the Mediterranean Sea is believed to have surpassed 1,750 victims already—a drastic spike when compared to the same period last year. During the first 3 weeks of April alone, more than 11,000 people have been rescued.

This is a journey of unimaginable peril, and only the most despairing families with nothing to lose would sacrifice their lives in the hopes that this voyage will deliver an escape from misery. From Syria to Iraq, from South Sudan to Yemen, multiplying conflicts, gross human rights violations, statelessness, the effects of climate change, and food and water insecurity are all contributing to millions of people being forced from their homes in search of safety and survival.

The international community is witnessing the enormous costs of unending wars and the failure to resolve or pre-

vent conflict. The number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post-World War II era, exceeded 50 million people, according to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, UNHCR.

This massive increase is largely driven by the war in Syria, which is now in its fifth year. The Assad regime's ruthless attacks on Syrian civilians—compounded by horrific violence by armed extremists—has led to Syria's disintegration and massive internal and external displacement of its people.

Europe, facing conflicts to its south in Libya, east in Ukraine, and southeast in Syria, Iraq and the Horn of Africa, is currently seeing the largest numbers of refugees and migrants arriving by boat across the Mediterranean. To confront this enormous challenge, European Council President Donald Tusk called on member states on Monday, April 20, to meet their funding commitments for Trident, the European Union's, EU, naval operation in the Mediterranean. EU leaders also agreed to meet on Thursday, April 23, to consider increasing resources for rescue operations and the 10-point action plan on migration proposed by the Joint Foreign Affairs and Home Council.

The proposed plan would alleviate pressure on the member states receiving the majority of those rescued and also aims to combat trafficking and smuggling.

The EU's proposed 10-point plan is an important first step, but a bold and comprehensive response is urgently needed. First, rescue at sea is and should be the top priority. It is a moral imperative based on European values, as well as a fundamental principle of maritime law. A robust search and rescue operation, comparable to *Mare Nostrum*, that focuses on saving lives must be reinstated. While the reinforcement of the Joint Operations in the Mediterranean is welcomed, border surveillance operations are not an answer to this crisis.

Second, there needs to be a credible and firm commitment from countries both in Europe and across the globe to resettle significant numbers of refugees. Moreover, efforts to encourage legal alternatives to such dangerous voyages must be pursued. These include enhanced family reunification, private sponsorship programs, and study and labor migration programs for people in need of international protection.

Finally, I urge the U.S. Government to provide robust assistance, and to work closely with our European partners, so that we might all rise to the demands presented by this humanitarian crisis and commit to the measures needed to prevent tragedies such as the drowning deaths of 850 men, women, and children off the coast of Libya this past weekend.

#### NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April as National Minority Health Month. 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of this event, which provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made in addressing minority health issues and health disparities in our country and to renew our commitment to continue this critically important work.

Minorities now make up more than 35 percent of the American population and that number is expected to rise in the future. However, study after study has shown that minorities, especially African Americans and Latinos, continue to face significant health disparities in diseases such as diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and asthma.

Currently, over 26 million Americans suffer from diabetes. But African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with, and to die from, diabetes compared to non-Hispanic whites. African Americans are also more than 2½ times more likely to suffer from diabetes-related end-stage renal disease than non-Hispanic whites, and are more likely to have other complications, such as lower extremity amputations.

Obesity, which increases the risk of developing diabetes, is also more prevalent in minority communities. Nearly 4 out of 5 African-American women are overweight or obese, as well as 78 percent of Hispanic men. It is no coincidence that, nationwide, 27.2 percent of African Americans and 23.5 percent of Latinos lived below the Federal poverty line in 2013. Limited means and the lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables in "food deserts" prevent many people from accessing the nutrition they need to lead healthy lives.

Those living in impoverished areas are also much more likely to be exposed to polluted air, which exacerbates respiratory conditions like asthma. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2012, African Americans were 20 percent more likely to have asthma versus non-Hispanic whites.

HIV and AIDS, which are especially prevalent in low-income neighborhoods with widespread drug use, continue to devastate minorities across the country. African American women are 23 times more likely to have AIDS than their white counterparts and Hispanic women are four times more likely to be infected. In Maryland, African Americans are diagnosed with HIV at more than 10 times the rate of white Marylanders.

The role that access to resources, proper nutrition, and clean air plays in our well-being cannot be overstated. According to a 2012 report about Baltimore neighborhoods from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, those living in higher-income

parts of the city live, on average, nearly 30 years longer than their neighbors in impoverished areas.

Fortunately, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, ACA, we have recently made health coverage more accessible and affordable than it has been in decades. By reducing the number of uninsured Americans across the country, the ACA is working to address health inequalities. Between 2013 and 2014, the percentage of uninsured Latinos dropped by 7.7 percent, and the percentage of uninsured African Americans fell by 6.8 percent.

Also, as a result of the ACA, increased funding is available for community health clinics. Mr. President, 300,000 Marylanders, including more than 140,000 African Americans and 38,000 Latinos, are served by these clinics.

Under the ACA, preventive services, which are critical to the early detection and treatment of many diseases that disproportionately affect minorities, are now free for 76 million Americans, including 1.5 million Marylanders.

In 2011, African American women in Maryland died from cervical cancer at nearly twice the rate of white women. This disparity is simply unacceptable and illustrates the importance of access to preventive health care services: cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening tests and follow-up and, when detected and treated early, it is highly curable.

In our country, we are incredibly fortunate to have the National Institutes of Health, NIH, which works tirelessly to improve the health of all Americans, and the NIH's National Institute for Minority Health & Health Disparities, NIMHD, has the specific mission of addressing minority health issues and eliminating health disparities. I am proud of my role in the establishment of the NIMHD, which supports groundbreaking research at universities and medical institutions across our country.

This critically important work ranges from enhancing our understanding of the basic biological processes associated with health disparities to applied, clinical, and translational research and interventions that seek to address those disparities.

Some examples of recent NIMHD-funded projects include exploring racial disparities in sudden infant death syndrome, SIDS, to inform health education interventions about safe infant sleep practices, which historically have been shown to be less effective among African Americans; evaluating a community-based intervention to promote follow-up among uninsured minority women with abnormal breast or cervical cancer screening results; and developing a culturally tailored lifestyle intervention to prevent diabetes among African American and Hispanic adults.

Enhancing our understanding of the complex disparities across racial, ethnic, and other minority populations and their specific risk factors will help us develop better preventive health care, reduce long-term health care costs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans.

Minority health disparities cost many of our constituents their health and even their lives, and they cost our health care system and economy, as well. A 2009 joint center study found that direct medical costs resulting from health inequities among minorities totaled nearly \$230 billion between 2003 and 2006. With indirect costs such as lowered work productivity and lost tax revenue added to the equation, the tab amounts to more than \$1.24 trillion.

We owe it to our constituents to do everything in our power to fight for affordable, high-quality health care for everyone. One's ethnic or racial background should never determine the quality of his or her health or the length of his or her life. This month, let us renew our commitment to ensuring access to affordable, high-quality health care for all Americans, and pledge to do everything we can to eliminate health disparities in our country.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSE BAUMANN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Rose Baumann, and to pay tribute to her hard work on behalf of the people of Minnesota as a member of my staff for the past 9 years.

For anyone who has met Rose, it will come as no surprise to you that Rose went from being a junior staffer in my office in 2006 just after graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College to my chief of staff just 7 years later. For the first 4 of those 7 years, Rose handled health care issues first as an outreach director in the Twin Cities and then as a legislative assistant in Washington. Rose approached every challenge with dedication and grace, regardless of whether she was helping a constituent access their Medicare benefits or talking with Minnesota physicians about health care reform proposals or organizing and executing a health care summit. Rose's intelligence, strong Minnesota work ethic, tenacity, and optimism always seemed to ensure success.

During the health reform debate, Rose played a critical role in helping me highlight cost-saving health care delivery models like the Mayo Clinic uses and worked to ensure we reward quality, not quantity, of care. She worked tirelessly to advocate for Minnesota's hospitals, providers, patients, and industries, and that hard work is reflected today as we watch these policies being implemented.

As my legislative director for 3 years, Rose advanced my legislative agenda

while successfully managing 12 people and every policy area. My work on consumer safety, transportation, international adoptions, protection of our natural resources and cutting redtape at our Federal agencies all became law under Rose's leadership. Her natural ability, organization, and plain old hard work ensured that my legislative ideas became reality, while crucial events such as the confirmation hearing for Justice Elena Kagan were a success.

Rose has been a remarkable chief of staff. She is a natural leader who quickly adapts to any situation, no matter how large or small. Her enthusiasm has been a motivating force in my office, and her compassion toward the people of Minnesota and understanding of the problems they face has been instrumental to my ability to serve them in the Senate.

Rose Baumann—a proud native of St. Louis Park, MN—will soon begin a new professional adventure with new challenges, and I have no doubt that she will succeed. She is also getting married later this year, and I am so happy to see her so excited about this new phase of her life.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me as I say thank you to Rose Baumann for her 9 remarkable years of service to my office, the Senate, the people of the State of Minnesota, and the United States of America.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TENNESSEE NISSAN STORY

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Nissan plant in Smyrna, Tennessee earlier this week.

##### TENNESSEE NISSAN STORY

Thank you Randy, Gov. Haslam, Mr. Martin, ladies and gentlemen of Nissan.

When Randy invited me, he suggested I tell a little history of the Tennessee Nissan story in 5 minutes. And I am delighted to have that opportunity, and I would like to do it by putting a few human faces on the story that is usually told in cars and trucks and dollars and cents. And the best face is the one that Randy told me of his mother.

I remember sitting up with her one night and the boys had gone to their rooms, and she said to me she was sad. And I said, "Why would you be sad?" She said, "Because I've got smart boys and they will never find a job around here, and I will never see my grandchildren." Well as Randy said, two years later, here came Nissan.

There were many faces that had to do with the history of this company in the last 35 years. One was President Jimmy Carter. Two months after I was elected, I was at a White House dinner, and he said, "Governors, go to Japan. Persuade the Japanese to make in the United States what they sell in the United States." And at that time, Nissan made no cars and trucks in the United States, and Tennessee had almost no auto jobs.

So I took a photograph of the United States at night, taken at night from a satellite, to see Mr. Kawamata, the Chairman of



Nissan. I showed it to him. He said exactly where is Tennessee? I said right in the middle of the lights, which is where you want to be if you're building a plant with lots of heavy things that you want to ship around the country.

I thought Tennessee and Japan were a perfect match. They had no cars here, and we had almost no auto jobs here.

In Detroit in 1980 at the Republican Convention, the country was in a recession. Everybody was gloomy. As I looked around at all the gloomy faces, I said, "You guys have so much more money than we do. You've got higher teacher salaries. You've got better universities. You have all these things because you've got the auto industry."

So I skipped a meeting with Ronald Reagan, came home to meet with Takashi Ishihara, the CEO of Nissan. He was a big bluff chief executive. He knew exactly the depth of the lock in Dickson County. And he knew he wanted 400 acres in Rutherford County, where the McClary's had a farm. So one of the faces of Nissan was sitting on the back porch with the McClary family, they were in their 70's, and persuading them to sell their farm to Nissan and then Mr. Ishihara wanted to get the next 400 acres, which was owned by Maymee Cantrell. She wouldn't sell because she promised her tenant farmer that he could live there for his whole life. And she said, "I am a woman of my word." We found 400 acres in Williamson County for her tenant farmer to live on, so Maymee could be a woman of her word and Mr. Ishihara got 800 acres, which you have about filled up, 35 years later.

The faces of Nissan include Marvin Runyon and the Ford team that came from Detroit to a different part of the country to start from scratch in a new environment. They knew they didn't have another advantage. That every state north of Tennessee did not have a Right To Work law, and if they could work in the environment in which they could be competitive.

The faces of Nissan include the 300 Middle Tennesseans, who never once built a car who went to Japan and spent several weeks learning to build cars the Nissan way. It includes the governors, the local officials, and the legislatures who for 35 years, whether Republican or Democrat, have kept a consistent level of support for an environment that permits the workers of Nissan to produce quality products. It includes the faces of employees at places like Calsonic which was the first tier-one supplier, but now there are hundreds of them in 80 counties across this state, the wealth of Nissan, the family incomes, don't just belong in Middle Tennessee.

And, more than anything else, it includes the men and women of Nissan. It includes you. Those of you who proved early on that Tennesseans could not only build cars and trucks as of a high quality as those in Japan, but could build them better and produce the most efficient auto plant anywhere in North America.

So, look at those 35 years. Look at how Nissan has transformed Tennessee. Tennessee had almost no auto jobs. Today, one-third of its jobs in manufacturing are auto jobs. Then, Tennessee was the third poorest state. Today, Tennessee's family incomes have grown rapidly. Then, Nissan made no cars and trucks in the United States. Today, 85% of what it sells in the United States, it makes in North America.

But, the real story of Nissan and its transformation of Tennessee is the story of the faces of Nissan.

There's no better or more memorable face for me than the face of Lillian, sitting there late one evening in Melton 37 years ago saying that she was afraid that her boys who were talented would never have a chance to get a job around here, and she would never be able to see her grandchildren.

Think how proud she would be today.

Thank you.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE PITTS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Steve Pitts on his retirement after over 35 years of service to the Reno Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of hard work and dedication to creating a safe environment in the local Reno community.

Mr. Pitts stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to serving his State. He earned his bachelor's degree in organizational studies from California State University, Long Beach, and later pursued his master's in public administration from Golden Gate University. He is also a graduate of the National Academy at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Leadership Program at the Center for Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Naval Postgraduate School Homeland Security Program. His career in police services began in the early 1980s, building all the way to the top of the department in 2011. Mr. Pitts dedicated his work to major case and homicide investigations, emergency management, and crisis intervention. He also built upon his skills in special weapons and tactics over a span of 25 years, as well as gained command-level experience for over 15 years of his career. His unwavering work ethic is commendable, and his undeniable concern for the Reno community is greatly respected.

During his tenure, Mr. Pitts was promoted to deputy chief in January of 2008. He then served as interim police chief from March 2010 until March 2011, at which point he accepted the permanent position of police chief. As the leading voice of the police department, Mr. Pitts emphasized the importance of moving the organization toward what best benefitted the community. His positive legacy will be felt for years to come.

It is the brave men and women who serve in the local police department who keep our communities safe. These heroes selflessly put their lives on the line every day. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Pitts for his courageous contributions to the people of Reno and to the Silver State. His sacrifice and courage earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly put their lives on the line to benefit others.

Mr. Pitts has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards

of the Reno Police Department. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Pitts on his retirement, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a safer place. I offer him my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING WESTCARE FOUNDATION

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize WestCare Foundation, WestCare, for its commitment to providing important services to Nevadans across the State and specifically for its dedication to our veterans, military servicemembers, and their families. WestCare offers programs to help with substance use disorders, mental health disorders, domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, criminal justice, and HIV and AIDS, and provides additional youth and veteran-specific programs. The foundation is located throughout the State, including campuses in Las Vegas and Pahrump, as well as centers offering specific services in Reno and Las Vegas. Its commitment to improving lives across Nevada does not go without notice.

WestCare's veteran programs include assistance in transitional living and case management and offer support to veterans' and active military members' families. The foundation recognizes the increasing diversity of our veteran population and works to accommodate this change. The transitional living program provides separate facilities for both male and female veterans, as well as for their children. As our Nation's military continues to adapt to a new force, it is particularly important services offered also adapt to reflect these changes. There are countless distinguished women veterans who have made sacrifices beyond measure and deserve nothing but the best treatment and services that address specific female needs. I commend WestCare for its commitment in accommodating all veterans and their individual needs.

WestCare also helps the families of those who have so bravely defended our freedoms. All too often, returning veterans and their families struggle with financial uncertainty. The foundation is a positive light in the Nevada community, working to change this reality by providing families with supportive services in times of need. Westcare stands as a shining example of an organization that has gone above and beyond to positively impact the lives of our heroes. It is important we thank not only the brave men and women that protect our freedom but also their families making so many sacrifices.



As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but also to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and service-members in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service foundations, like WestCare, are committed to ensuring the needs of our veterans are met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing WestCare Foundation, an organization with a mission that is both noble and charitable. I am humbled and honored to recognize WestCare for its tireless efforts in helping our veteran community, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

#### GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 125th ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to pay special tribute to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This year is very special as they celebrate their 125th anniversary tomorrow, April 24.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. It was founded in 1890 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner in New York City honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based on her gender. In response, she formed a woman's club for the purpose of educating women. In 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of a federation by attending a national convention. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

I am very proud to recognize a third-generation clubwoman, Babs J. Condon from Westminster, MD, as the 2014–2016 International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. And, I am very pleased that the 2016 international convention will be held in Baltimore next June. For the record, there are 34 clubs in Maryland and almost 1,500 club members statewide.

By "Living the Volunteer Spirit", clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on, tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With nearly 90,000 members in affiliated clubs in every State, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles,

encourage civic engagement, and support international efforts to feed the hungry, encourage immunizations and impact other lifesaving and economic development initiatives.

GFWC history includes many powerful examples such as advocacy for child labor laws, promotion of nationwide outreach that led to passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, and working to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

GFWC has been instrumental in shaping our Nation. As it celebrates a history of 125 years, let's hope they continue to build upon their traditions and pave the way for a future filled with even greater success through volunteerism.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FORREST COLE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call the Senate's attention to the forthcoming retirement of U.S. Forest Service official Forrest Cole, who for the past 12 years has served as the supervisor of the Nation's largest National Forest, and probably unfortunately its most controversial one, the 16.9-million acre Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska.

Mr. Cole, a four-decade employee of the U.S. Forest Service, began his career, following receipt of a bachelor of science degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University, working on fire-related jobs in Arizona forests. In 1979 he began what he thought at the time would be a 2-year posting working in the Tongass forest in southeast Alaska, a forest that covers an area just slightly larger than the State of West Virginia. The Coles, however, found the beauty, wildlife, and resources of southeast Alaska too attractive to leave, and the family stayed. Over the past 36 years, Mr. Cole has served as the presale forester and small sales forester on the Petersburg Ranger District in the central Tongass; as timber management assistant on the Juneau/Yakutat Ranger Districts in the northern Tongass; as the timber minerals, special uses management assistant on the Juneau Ranger District; as the timber and fire management staff officer and resources staff officer on the Stikine administrative area, and later as the Forest and Fire Management staff officer for the entire Tongass National Forest based in the southern Tongass in Ketchikan.

Mr. Cole also served in the regional office as director of forest management, and as part of the planning team for the Tongass land management plan, with responsibility for the timber, vegetation, and subsistence programs in all of southeast Alaska—the land plan being the key document that guides all activities in the forest. In 2003 he was named as the forest supervisor for the Tongass, a key supervisory post, second only to the Regional Forester.

Mr. Cole during his years in Alaska has been in the midst of many controversial issues such as of how much timber should be allowed for harvest; how to protect wolves and goshawks, bald eagles, salmon and bear while harvesting timber; and how to provide the recreation that Americans increasingly demand. Mr. Cole arrived in Alaska the year before Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, that cut the allowable timber harvest in the Tongass by several hundred percent, from 1.35 billion board feet a year—a level that was considered its biological, sustainable yield level when modern timber harvesting began in the 1950s—to 450 million board feet that mandated by Congress in 1980. A decade later he was involved in implementing the next Tongass timber "reform" bill that once again nearly cut the forest's allowable timber forest in half, creating another six areas of wilderness, and designating another 12 new areas as congressionally protected lands, bringing to 6.48 million acres the amount of the Tongass protected from development.

As forest supervisor, Mr. Cole was required to implement the national Inventoried Roadless Area rule last decade that took another 9.5 million acres of the Tongass out of the timber base. And just this year, with passage last December of the Sealaska Native Corporation final land conveyance act, Mr. Cole has started the process of revising what lands will remain in the region's slimming federal timber base. He has had to wrestle with how to guide the timber industry's survival given that only 1.8 percent of the Tongass is still "open" to the harvesting of older-growth trees—80 percent of them having been permanently protected, and how to manage guiding, recreation, tourism, utility and infrastructure access and development in a forest that stretches 500 miles from near Ketchikan to Yakutat.

More than any other individual Mr. Cole has been a referee between many forces. And I know it can't have been a pleasant experience implementing policy set by Congress and the executive branch, more than 3,000 miles away. It has been a hard, often thankless job managing the Tongass. I wish to publicly thank Mr. Cole for his tireless service to America in doing that job well. We have not always agreed, but I truly appreciate that he has labored long and hard to be fair. He has listened to all sides. Given the legal, political and budgetary mandates he has faced, he deserves all of our thanks for all of the difficult phone calls he has returned, all of the complaints he has patiently fielded, and for all of the tough decisions he has been forced to make. It is no wonder that Mr. Cole was the recipient of the 2008 Regional Forester Award. He deserves the gratitude of the entire Senate for doing his

best to meet all of the competing demands Americans make of our national forests. And I personally thank him for his contributions and commitment to public land stewardship, community stability and for keeping the public's trust in one of America's most hotly contested regions. I think it demonstrates his love and concern for Alaska and the Tongass that he and his family are choosing to retire in Petersburg, AK. I wish him and his family well.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 12:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 23, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1362. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1363. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and

Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1364. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2014 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements" (RIN0694-AG41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1365. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Submission of Credit Card Agreements Under the Truth in Lending Act" ((RIN3170-AA50) (Docket No. CFPB-2015-0006)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1366. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Rules of Practice and Procedure and Amendments to FDIC Rules and Regulations" (RIN3064-AE08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1367. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was originally declared in Executive Order 13611 on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1368. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1369. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1370. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Stemme AG Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0633)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1371. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2015-2016 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass" (RIN0648-XD828) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1372. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, De-

partment of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD846) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1373. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2015" (Notice 2015-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a strategy for Support for Russia Democracy and Civil Society Organizations; a strategy for Assistance to Civil Society in Ukraine; and a strategy for Anticipated Defense Articles, Defense Services, and Training to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to overseas surplus property; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-148); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1377. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1378. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report for fiscal year 2014 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1379. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) annual report on Drug Shortages for Calendar Year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1380. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1381. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs Annual Report to Congress for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1382. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Government for authority to conduct electronic surveillance

for foreign intelligence during calendar year 2014 relative to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1383. A communication from the Chief Impact Analyst, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Driving Distance Eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program" (RIN2900-AP24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-17. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of North Dakota urging the United States Congress to call for a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires a balanced federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3015

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States mandates that upon the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments; and

Whereas, this application is to be considered as covering the balanced budget amendment language of the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states; and

Whereas, this application shall be aggregated for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds necessary to require the calling of a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject; and

Whereas, this application is a continuing application until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject; and

Whereas, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly deems an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced federal budget to be necessary for the good of the American people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of North Dakota, the Senate concurring therein:*

That the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Congress, to each member of the United States Congressional Delegation, and also to transmit copies to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the United States, requesting their cooperation.

POM-18. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, call-

ing for the United States Department of Transportation to immediately turn its attention to increasing the strictness of the regulations that govern rail transport of hazardous liquids; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Report to accompany H.R. 203, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-34).

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

Kara Fernandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

Roseann A. Ketchmark, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1064. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with regard to research on asthma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1065. A bill to amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for the development of asthma management plans and the purchase of asthma inhalers and spacers for emergency use, as necessary; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1066. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage, as supplies associated with the injection of insulin, of containment, removal, decontamination and disposal of home-generated needles, syringes, and other sharps through a sharps container, decontamination/destruction device, or sharps-by-mail program or similar program under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1067. A bill to require the periodic review and automatic termination of Federal

regulations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1068. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system from cyber security threats; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1069. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation contributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1070. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for clarification regarding the children to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1071. A bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to expand the amount available for victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1072. A bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COATS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1074. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1075. A bill to strengthen and extend the authorization of appropriations for the Carol M. White Physical Education Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1076. A bill to require mobile service providers and smartphone manufacturers to give consumers the ability to remotely delete data from smartphones and render smartphones inoperable; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1077. A bill to provide for expedited development of and priority review for breakthrough devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1078. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs and activities that connect people in the United

States, especially children, youth, and families, with the outdoors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 1079. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve coverage for colorectal screening tests under Medicare and private health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1080. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the jurisdiction of Federal courts to consider cases involving same-sex marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1081. A bill to end the use of body-grip traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1083. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1084. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1085. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S.J. Res. 12. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to applying laws equally to the citizens of the United States and the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 148. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 149. A resolution recognizing the importance and inspiration of the Hubble Space Telescope; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 150. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate about the importance of effective civic and government education programs in schools in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 151. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 223

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants for provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 248

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, *supra*.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation

Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, *supra*.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to include among the principal trade negotiating objectives of the United States regarding commercial partnerships trade negotiating objectives with respect to discouraging activity that discourages, penalizes, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 696

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to increase the number and percentage of students who graduate from high school college and career ready with the ability to use knowledge to solve complex problems, think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and develop academic mindsets, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 875

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 875, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

S. 883

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 883, a bill to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 950, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 966, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 967

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 967, a bill to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 1001

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1001, a bill to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1057

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1057, a bill to promote geothermal energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1060

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1070. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for clarification regarding the children to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1070

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "GI Education Benefit Fairness Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE CHILDREN TO WHOM ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE TRANSFERRED UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.—

“(1) TRANSFER.—An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual's entitlement as follows:

“(A) To the individual's spouse.

“(B) To one or more of the individual's children.

“(C) To a combination of the individuals referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(2) DEFINITION OF CHILDREN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘children’ includes dependents described in section 1072(2)(I) of title 10.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to educational assistance payable under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 1079. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve coverage for colorectal screening tests under Medicare and private health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now, SCREEN, Act. This legislation promotes access to colorectal cancer screenings in an effort to help prevent colorectal cancer and save lives.

Colorectal cancer affects far too many Americans. The American Cancer Society, ACS, estimates that 1 in 18 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2015, totaling an estimated 133,000 new cases. Colorectal cancer is expected to take the lives of nearly 50,000 Americans in 2015, making it the second leading cause of cancer deaths in this country.

Fortunately, colorectal cancer is also highly preventable, and colorectal cancer screening tests rank among the most effective preventive screenings available. Colonoscopy screenings are different from other types of preventive or screening services because precancerous polyps found during a screening can be removed during the same visit, before they progress to colorectal cancer. Early detection and intervention are key to preventing colon cancer. A 2012 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that removal of precancerous polyps during a screening colonoscopy may prevent up to 53 percent of colorectal cancer deaths.

The need to address barriers to colorectal cancer screening, particularly in the Medicare population, is clear. The Medicare population makes up approximately two-thirds of all new cases of colorectal cancer. However, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service, CMS, only about half of Medicare beneficiaries have had a colorectal cancer screening test, and less than two-thirds of Medicare-aged adults are up to date with recommended screenings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, American Cancer Society, ACS, American College of Gastroenterology, ACG, and more than 200 national, State and



local organizations have committed to work toward eliminating colorectal cancer through a national goal of screening 80 percent of eligible adults in the United States for colorectal cancer by 2018.

Currently, Medicare waives cost-sharing for colorectal cancer screenings recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, USPSTF, including screening colonoscopies. However, if the doctor finds and removes a pre-cancerous polyp during a screening colonoscopy, the procedure is no longer considered a "screening" by Medicare, and the beneficiary is required to pay the Medicare coinsurance. Because it is impossible to know in advance whether polyps will be found and removed during a screening colonoscopy, Medicare beneficiaries do not know whether the procedure will be fully covered until it is over. In February 2013, the administration announced that private insurers participating in State-based health insurance exchanges are required to waive all cost-sharing for screening colonoscopies during which a polyp is removed. Similarly, the SCREEN Act would waive Medicare's cost-sharing requirement for screening colonoscopies during which polyps are removed in order to prevent the development of colorectal cancer. In addition, the SCREEN Act would waive cost-sharing for follow-up colonoscopies necessary to complete the "screening continuum" following a positive finding from another recommended colorectal cancer screening test.

The SCREEN Act also seeks to improve coordination of care and promote other important age-based recommended screenings for Medicare beneficiaries, such as Hepatitis C virus, HCV, screening, by creating a demonstration project. The demonstration project would allow reimbursement for an office visit or consultation so that a Medicare beneficiary may sit down and discuss the screening with a doctor prior to the colonoscopy procedure. According to the National Institutes of Health, "fear of the procedure itself" is a barrier to increasing colorectal cancer screening utilization rates. This pre-procedure visit would allow providers to allay patient anxiety about the procedure, address any questions related to the colonoscopy, assess the patient's family history and risk factors for developing colorectal cancer, and educate the patient about the importance of following the pre-procedure instructions. In addition, this visit would provide an opportunity to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the importance of HCV screening. The CDC and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend a one-time HCV screening for all individuals born between 1945 and 1965, and a recent study suggests offering the HCV

screening in connection with colonoscopies may be an effective means of increasing HCV screening rates.

Finally, the SCREEN Act would provide incentives for Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are receiving the quality screening they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SCREEN Act, in order to help prevent colorectal cancer and save lives.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1079

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now Act of 2015" or the "SCREEN Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Maintaining calendar year 2015 Medicare reimbursement rates for colonoscopy procedures for providers participating in colorectal cancer screening quality improvement registry.

Sec. 4. Eliminating Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing for certain colorectal cancer screenings, colorectal cancer screenings with therapeutic effect, and follow-up diagnostic colorectal cancer screenings covered under Medicare.

Sec. 5. Medicare demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of a pre-operative visit prior to screening colonoscopy and hepatitis C screening.

Sec. 6. Budget neutrality.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States.

(2) In 2015, more than 130,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and nearly 50,000 Americans are expected to die from it.

(3) Approximately 60 percent of colorectal cancer cases and 70 percent of colorectal cancer deaths occur in those aged 65 and older.

(4) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopies allow for the detection and removal of polyps before they progress to colorectal cancer, as well as early detection of colorectal cancer when treatment can be most effective.

(5) According to a 2012 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, removing precancerous polyps through colonoscopy could reduce the number of colorectal cancer deaths by 53 percent.

(6) Although colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening, one in three adults between the ages of 50 and 75 years are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening.

(7) Over 200 organizations have committed to eliminating colorectal cancer as a major health problem in the United States and are working toward a shared goal of screening 80 percent of eligible Americans by 2018.

(8) Hepatitis C is a liver disease that causes inflammation of the liver and results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus. Chronic Hepatitis C infection can lead to serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. It is the leading cause of liver transplants in the United States.

(9) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 75 percent of adults infected with the Hepatitis C virus in the United States were born between 1945 and 1965.

(10) The CDC estimates that up to 75 percent of individuals with Hepatitis C do not know that they are infected.

(11) The CDC and the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommend a one-time screening for Hepatitis C for all individuals born between 1945 and 1965.

(12) A recent study suggests that offering Hepatitis C screening to patients in connection with screening colonoscopies may be an effective means of increasing Hepatitis C screening rates among individuals born between 1945 and 1965.

#### SEC. 3. MAINTAINING CALENDAR YEAR 2015 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR COLONOSCOPY PROCEDURES FOR PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REGISTRY.

Section 1834(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(d)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) MAINTAINING CALENDAR YEAR 2015 REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR QUALIFYING CANCER SCREENING TESTS FURNISHED BY QUALIFYING PROVIDERS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a qualifying cancer screening test furnished during each of 2016, 2017, and 2018, by a qualifying provider, the amount of payment to such provider for such test under section 1833 or section 1848 shall be equal to the amount of payment for such test under such section 1833 or 1848 during 2015.

"(ii) QUALIFYING CANCER SCREENING TEST.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'qualifying cancer screening test' means an optical screening colonoscopy (as described in section 1861(pp)(1)(C)).

"(iii) QUALIFYING PROVIDER DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'qualifying provider' means, with respect to a qualifying cancer screening test, an individual or entity—

"(I) that is eligible for payment for such test under section 1833 or section 1848; and

"(II) that—

"(aa) participates in a nationally recognized quality improvement registry with respect to such test; and

"(bb) demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, based on the information in such registry, that the tests were provided by such individual or entity in accordance with accepted outcomes-based quality measures."

#### SEC. 4. ELIMINATING MEDICARE BENEFICIARY COST-SHARING FOR CERTAIN COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS, COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS WITH THERAPEUTIC EFFECT, AND FOLLOW-UP DIAGNOSTIC COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS COVERED UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) WAIVER OF COST-SHARING.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the Social Security Act (42



U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended by inserting “, including colorectal cancer screening tests covered under this part described in section 1861(pp)(1)(C) (regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment of a diagnosis as a result of the screening test, for the removal of tissue or other matter during the screening test, or for a follow-up procedure that is furnished in connection with, or as a result of, the initial screening test)” after “or population”.

(b) **WAIVER OF APPLICATION OF DEDUCTIBLE.**—Section 1833(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) of the first sentence, by striking “individual.” and inserting “individual, including colorectal cancer screening tests covered under this part described in section 1861(pp)(1)(C)”;

(2) by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: “Subsection (a)(1)(Y) and paragraph (1) of the first sentence of this subsection shall apply with respect to a colorectal cancer screening test covered under this part described in section 1861(pp)(1)(C), regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment of a diagnosis as a result of the screening test, for the removal of tissue or other matter during the screening test, or for a follow-up procedure that is furnished in connection with, or as a result of, the initial screening test.”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to tests and procedures performed on or after January 1, 2016.

**SEC. 5. MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A PRE-OPERATIVE VISIT PRIOR TO SCREENING COLONOSCOPY AND HEPATITIS C SCREENING.**

Section 1115A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the last sentence of subparagraph (A), by inserting “, and shall include the model described in subparagraph (D)” before the period at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) **MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A PRE-OPERATIVE VISIT PRIOR TO SCREENING COLONOSCOPY AND HEPATITIS C SCREENING.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The model described in this subparagraph is a demonstration project under title XVIII to evaluate the effectiveness of a pre-operative visit with the provider performing the procedure prior to screening colonoscopy to—

“(I) ease any patient concern or fears with respect to the procedure and answer any questions relating to the screening;

“(II) ensure quality examinations and avoid unnecessary repeat examinations by educating individuals on the importance of following pre-procedure instructions, such as bowel preparation, and addressing the individual’s family history of or predisposition to colorectal cancer; and

“(III) increase Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) screening rates among Medicare beneficiaries by educating individuals about the importance of such screening during the pre-operative visit and having the pre-operative visit fulfill the referral requirement for such screening under title XVIII, allowing patients to be screened for colorectal cancer and HCV at the same time.

“(ii) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with stakeholders who would be providing the pre-operative visit under the model described in this subparagraph on the implementation of such model, including payment for services furnished under the model.”.

**SEC. 6. BUDGET NEUTRALITY.**

(a) **ADJUSTMENT OF PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE CONVERSION FACTOR.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall reduce the conversion factor established under subsection (d) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) for each year (beginning with 2016) to the extent necessary to reduce expenditures under such section for items and services furnished during the year in the aggregate by the net offset amount determined under subsection (c)(5) attributable to such section for the year.

(b) **ADJUSTMENT OF HOPD CONVERSION FACTOR.**—The Secretary shall reduce the conversion factor established under paragraph (3)(C) of section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)) for each year (beginning with 2016) to the extent necessary to reduce expenditures under such section for items and services furnished during the year in the aggregate by the net offset amount determined under subsection (c)(5) attributable to such section for the year.

(c) **DETERMINATIONS RELATING TO EXPENDITURES.**—For purposes of this section, before the beginning of each year (beginning with 2016) at the time conversion factors described in subsections (a) and (b) are established for the year, the Secretary shall determine—

(1) the amount of the gross additional expenditures under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) estimated to result from the implementation of sections 3 and 4 for items and services furnished during the year;

(2) the amount of any offsetting reductions in expenditures under such title (such as reductions in payments for inpatient hospital services) for such year attributable to the implementation of such sections;

(3) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the gross additional expenditures determined under paragraph (1) for the year exceeds the amount of offsetting reductions determined under paragraph (2) for the year;

(4) of the gross additional expenditures determined under paragraph (1) for the year that are attributable to expenditures under sections 1848 and 1833(t) of such Act, the ratio of such expenditures that are attributable to each respective section; and

(5) with respect to section 1848 and section 1833(t) of such Act, a net offset amount for the year equal to the product of—

(A) the amount of the net additional expenditures for the year determined under paragraph (3); and

(B) the ratio determined under paragraph (4) attributable to the respective section.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1084. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senator GRASSLEY in reintroducing the PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act. This bill permits the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, PCAOB, to make public the disciplinary proceedings it has brought against auditors and audit firms earlier in the process.

Over 10 years ago, our markets were victimized by a series of massive finan-

cial reporting frauds, including those involving Enron and WorldCom. These and other public companies had produced fraudulent and materially misleading financial statements, which artificially drove their stock prices up. Once the fraud was discovered, investor confidence plummeted.

In response to this crisis, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs conducted a series of hearings, which produced consensus on a number of underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inadequate oversight of accountants charged with auditing public companies’ financial statements.

In order to address the gaps and structural weaknesses revealed by the investigation and hearings, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in a 99 to 0 vote.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act ensured that corporate officers were directly accountable for their financial reporting and for the quality of their financial statements. This law also created a strong, independent board, the PCAOB, to oversee the conduct of the auditors of public companies.

The PCAOB is responsible for overseeing auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies and operates under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commissioner, SEC.

To conduct its duties, the PCAOB oversees more than 2,400 registered auditing firms, as well as the thousands of audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm’s work on each audit. The Board’s ability to commence proceedings to determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is an important component of its oversight.

However, unlike other oversight bodies, such as the SEC, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and others, the Board’s disciplinary proceedings are not allowed to be public without consent from the parties involved. Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing and thus these proceedings typically remain cloaked behind a veil of secrecy. In addition, the Board’s decisions in disciplinary proceedings are not allowed to be publicized until after the complete exhaustion of an appeals process, which can often take several years.

The nonpublic nature of these PCAOB disciplinary proceedings creates a lack of transparency that invites abuse and undermines the Congressional intent behind the establishment

of the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, and to bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Over the last several years, some bad actors have taken advantage of the lack of transparency by using it to shield themselves from public scrutiny and accountability. PCAOB Chairman James Doty has repeatedly stated in testimony provided to both the Senate and House of Representatives over the past two years that the secrecy of the proceedings “has a variety of unfortunate consequences” and that such secrecy is harmful to investors, the auditing profession, and the public at large.

In one example, an accounting firm that was subject to a disciplinary proceeding continued to issue no fewer than 29 additional audit reports on public companies without any of those companies knowing about the PCAOB disciplinary proceedings. In other words, investors and the public company clients of that audit firm were deprived of relevant and material information about the proceedings against the firm and the substance of any violations.

There are several reasons why the Board’s enforcement proceedings should be open and transparent. First, as I have already noted, the closed proceedings run counter to the public proceedings of other government oversight bodies. Indeed, nearly all administrative proceedings brought by the SEC against those it regulates, including public companies, brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and others, are open, public proceedings. The PCAOB’s secret proceedings are not only shielded from the public, but also from Congress, making it difficult, if not impossible, to effectively evaluate the Board’s oversight of auditors and audit firms, and its enforcement program.

Second, the incentive to litigate cases in order to continue to shield conduct from public scrutiny as long as possible frustrates the process and requires the expenditure of needless resources by both litigants and the PCAOB.

Third, agencies such as the SEC have found open and transparent disciplinary proceedings to be valuable because they inform peer audit firms of the type of activity that may give rise to enforcement action by the regulator. In effect, transparency of proceedings can serve as a deterrent to misconduct because of a perceived increase in the likelihood of “getting caught.” Accordingly, the audit industry as a whole would also benefit from timely, public, and non-secret enforcement proceedings.

Our bill will make hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered

by the Board. This would more closely align the PCAOB’s procedures with those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing the transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to disciplinary proceedings instituted by the PCAOB is a critical component of efforts to bolster and maintain investor confidence in our financial markets, while better protecting companies from problematic auditors.

I hope our colleagues will join Senator GRASSLEY and me in supporting this legislation to enhance transparency in the PCAOB’s enforcement process.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 148—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN’S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. RES. 148

Whereas, in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha’i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha’i Faith;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2014 Report stated, “The Baha’i community, the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, long has been subject to particularly severe religious freedom violations. The government views Baha’is, who number at least 300,000, as ‘heretics’ and consequently they face repression on the grounds of apostasy.”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2014 Report stated that “[s]ince 1979, authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha’i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs” and “[m]ore than 700 Baha’is have been arbitrarily arrested since 2005”;

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated that the Government of Iran “prohibits Baha’is from teaching and practicing their faith and subjects them to many forms of discrimination not faced by members of other religious groups” and “since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, formally denies Baha’i students access to higher education”;

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated, “The government requires Baha’is to register with the police,” and “The government raided Baha’i homes and businesses and confiscated large amounts of private and commercial property, as well as religious materials.”;

Whereas the Department of State 2013 International Religious Freedom Report stated, “Baha’is are regularly denied com-

pensation for injury or criminal victimization and the right to inherit property.”;

Whereas, on August 27, 2014, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a report (A/69/356), which stated, “The human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran remains of concern. Numerous issues flagged by the General Assembly, the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the Secretary-General persist, and in some cases appear to have worsened, some recent overtures made by the Administration and the parliament notwithstanding.”;

Whereas, on December 18, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/69/190), which “[e]xpress[ed] deep concern” over “[c]ontinued discrimination, persecution and human rights violations against persons belonging to unrecognized religious minorities, particularly members of the Baha’i [F]aith . . . and the effective criminalization of membership in the Baha’i [F]aith,” and called upon the Government of Iran to “emancipate the Baha’i community . . . and to accord all Baha’is, including those imprisoned because of their beliefs, the due process of law and the rights that they are constitutionally guaranteed”;

Whereas, since May of 2008, the Government of Iran has imprisoned the seven members of the former ad hoc leadership group of the Baha’i community in Iran, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or “friends of Iran”—Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm—and these individuals are serving 20-year prison terms, the longest sentences given to any current prisoner of conscience in Iran, on charges including “spying for Israel, insulting religious sanctities, propaganda against the regime and spreading corruption on earth”;

Whereas, beginning in May 2011, officials of the Government of Iran in 4 cities conducted sweeping raids on the homes of dozens of individuals associated with the Baha’i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) and arrested and detained several educators associated with BIHE, and 12 BIHE educators are now serving 4- or 5-year prison terms;

Whereas scores of Baha’i cemeteries have been attacked, and, in April 2014, Revolutionary Guards began excavating a Baha’i cemetery in Shiraz, which is the site of 950 graves;

Whereas the Baha’i International Community reported that there has been a recent surge in anti-Baha’i hate propaganda in Iranian state-sponsored media outlets, noting that, in 2010 and 2011, approximately 22 anti-Baha’i articles were appearing every month, and, in 2014, the number of anti-Baha’i articles rose to approximately 401 per month—18 times the previous level;

Whereas there are currently 100 Baha’is in prison in Iran;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and is in violation of its obligations under the Covenants; and

Whereas the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) authorizes the President and the Secretary of State to impose sanctions on individuals “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the 7 imprisoned Baha'i leaders, the 12 imprisoned Baha'i educators, and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(3) calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and Secretary of State to utilize available authorities, including the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 149—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND INSPIRATION OF THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 149

Whereas the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope on April 24, 1990, from the Kennedy Space Center marked a historic moment in space discovery and observation;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration designed, built, and placed the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Discovery transported the Hubble Space Telescope on the STS-31 mission and placed the Telescope into orbit at 380 statute miles;

Whereas the crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery consisted of Commander Loren J. Shriver, Pilot Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Mission Specialist Bruce McCandless II, Mission Specialist Kathryn D. Sullivan, and Mission Specialist Steven A. Hawley;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope weighed more than 24,000 pounds at launch, currently weighs 27,000 pounds following the final servicing mission in 2009, and measures more than 43 feet in length;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope orbits the Earth at 17,000 miles per hour and has completed more than 3,000,000,000 miles of orbit around the Earth;

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope continues to provide more than 10 Terabytes of data annually and has been heralded as one of the most productive scientific instruments known to man;

Whereas the spirit of discovery, innovation, and exploration is enshrined in the productivity of the Hubble Space Telescope; and

Whereas the Hubble Space Telescope has made significant advancements and discoveries in planetary sciences, cosmology, and galactic sciences: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope launch;

(2) recognizes the scientists, crew, engineers, and staff who contributed to the success of the Hubble Space Telescope;

(3) notes the significance of the discoveries and contributions to science of the Hubble Space Telescope as well as the subsequent innovations that were derived from the data collected from the Hubble Space Telescope; and

(4) acknowledges that the Hubble Space Telescope has captured images from and answered questions about space and has inspired generations of young people to go into the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and research.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 150—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 150

Whereas civic and government education is essential to the preservation and improvement of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas civic and government education programs foster understanding of the history and principles of the constitutional government of the United States, including principles that are embodied in certain fundamental documents and speeches, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech;

Whereas research shows that too few people in the United States understand basic principles of the constitutional government of the United States, such as the natural rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the existence and functions of the 3 branches of the Federal Government, checks and balances, and other concepts fundamental to informed citizenship;

Whereas, since the founding of the United States, schools in the United States have had a strong civic mission to prepare students to be informed, rational, humane, and involved citizens who are committed to the values and principles of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas a free society relies on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of the citizens of the society, particularly the individuals elected to public office to represent the citizens;

Whereas, while many institutions help to develop the knowledge and skills and shape the civic character of people in the United States, schools in the United States, including elementary schools, bear a special and historic responsibility for the development of civic competence and civic responsibility of students;

Whereas student learning is enhanced by well-designed classroom civic and government education programs that—

(1) incorporate instruction in government, history, law, and democracy;

(2) promote discussion of current events and controversial issues;

(3) link community service and the formal curriculum; and

(4) encourage students to participate in simulations of democratic processes; and

Whereas research shows that the knowledge and expertise of teachers are among the

most important factors in increasing student achievement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) civic and government education is essential to the well-being of the constitutional government of the United States;

(2) comprehensive and formal instruction in civic and government education would provide students a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the constitutional government of the United States;

(3) elementary and secondary schools in the United States are encouraged to offer courses on the history and theories of the constitutional government of the United States, using programs and curricula with a demonstrated effectiveness in fostering civic competence, civic responsibility, and a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles underlying the constitutional government of the United States; and

(4) all teachers of civics and government are well served by having access to adequate opportunities to enrich teaching through professional development programs that enhance the capacity of teachers to provide effective civic and government education in the classroom.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 151—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 151

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State "One Call" systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated "811" as the nationwide "One Call" number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas "One Call" has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to call before digging from 48 percent in 2004 to 26 percent in 2013;

Whereas the 1,700 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national "Call Before You Dig" campaign to

increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-90; 125 Stat. 1904) affirmed and expanded the "One Call" program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors regarding notifying "One Call" centers before digging; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as "National Safe Digging Month" to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national "Call Before You Dig" number: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National 3 Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1132. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1133. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1134. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1135. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1136. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1137. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1138. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1139. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1140. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1191, supra.

SA 1141. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1142. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1143. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1144. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1145. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1146. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1147. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1148. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1149. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1150. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1151. Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1152. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1132.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, line 23, strike "purpose." and insert the following: "purpose; and

"(iii) the President determines Iran's leaders have publically accepted Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

**SA 1133.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 30, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 34, line 11, and insert the following: "any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a).

"(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of dis-

approval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 12 calendar days following the date of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

"(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of disapproval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, and the President vetoes such joint resolution, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 10 calendar days following the date of the President's veto.

"(6) EXCEPTION.—The prohibitions under paragraphs (3) through (5) do not apply to any new deferral, waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

"(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

"(B) not later than 45 calendar days before the transmission by the President of an agreement, assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

"(c) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

"(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

"(A) the sanctions regime imposed on Iran by Congress is primarily responsible for bringing Iran to the table to negotiate on its nuclear program;

"(B) these negotiations are a critically important matter of national security and foreign policy for the United States and its closest allies;

"(C) this section does not require a vote by Congress for the agreement to commence;

"(D) this section provides for congressional review, including, as appropriate, for approval, disapproval, or no action on statutory sanctions relief under an agreement; and

"(E) even though the agreement may commence, because the sanctions regime was imposed by Congress and only Congress can permanently modify or eliminate that regime, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity, in an orderly and deliberative manner, to consider and, as appropriate, take action affecting the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

"(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action—

"(A) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(B) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(C) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase “action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States” shall include waiver, suspension, reduction, or other effort to provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to, Iran or to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran under

**SA 1134.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, line 23, strike “purpose.” and insert the following: “purpose; and

“(iii) all United States citizens unjustly detained by Iran, including Jason Rezaian, Amir Hekmati, and Saeed Abedini, have been released from Iranian custody, and the Government of Iran is fully cooperating in efforts to locate Robert Levinson.

**SA 1135.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 51, line 2, insert “and any related agreements, including draft United Nations Security Council resolutions or agreed parameters for such resolutions” after “parties”.

**SA 1136.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, line 7, insert “, and pursuing United Nations consideration of an agreement prior to Congress would undermine the appropriate role of Congress” after “Congress”.

**SA 1137.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are

not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, line 23, strike “purpose.” and insert the following: “purpose; and

“(iii) the President determines that no sanctions relief provided under the agreement will be provided from sanctions imposed by Congress or the Executive Branch due to Iran’s support for terrorism, its ballistic missile programs, or its human rights abuses against the people of Iran or will undermine the effectiveness of such sanctions.”.

**SA 1138.** Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

“(A) Saeed Abedini of Idaho, who has been detained in Iran on charges related to his religious beliefs since September 2012.

“(B) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011.

“(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

“(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

**SA 1139.** Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

“(A) Saeed Abedini of Idaho, who has been detained in Iran on charges related to his religious beliefs since September 2012.

“(B) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011.

“(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

“(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

**SA 1140.** Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN RELATING TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 134 the following new section:

#### “SEC. 135. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.

“(a) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN AND VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT WITH RESPECT TO SUCH AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) TRANSMISSION OF AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 5 calendar days after reaching an agreement with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership—

“(A) the agreement, as defined in subsection (h)(1), including all related materials and annexes;

“(B) a verification assessment report of the Secretary of State prepared under paragraph (2) with respect to the agreement; and

“(C) a certification that—

“(i) the agreement includes the appropriate terms, conditions, and duration of the agreement’s requirements with respect to Iran’s nuclear activities and provisions describing any sanctions to be waived, suspended, or otherwise reduced by the United States, and any other nation or entity, including the United Nations; and

“(ii) the President determines the agreement meets United States non-proliferation objectives, does not jeopardize the common defense and security, provides an adequate framework to ensure that Iran’s nuclear activities permitted thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the common defense and security, and ensures that Iran’s nuclear activities permitted thereunder will not be used to further any nuclear-related military or nuclear explosive purpose, including for any research on or development of any nuclear explosive device or any other nuclear-related military purpose.

“(2) VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall prepare, with respect to an agreement described in paragraph (1), a report assessing—

“(i) the extent to which the Secretary will be able to verify that Iran is complying with

its obligations and commitments under the agreement;

“(ii) the adequacy of the safeguards and other control mechanisms and other assurances contained in the agreement with respect to Iran’s nuclear program to ensure Iran’s activities permitted thereunder will not be used to further any nuclear-related military or nuclear explosive purpose, including for any research on or development of any nuclear explosive device or any other nuclear-related military purpose; and

“(iii) the capacity and capability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to effectively implement the verification regime required by or related to the agreement, including whether the International Atomic Energy Agency will have sufficient access to investigate suspicious sites or allegations of covert nuclear-related activities and whether it has the required funding, manpower, and authority to undertake the verification regime required by or related to the agreement.

“(B) ASSUMPTIONS.—In preparing a report under subparagraph (A) with respect to an agreement described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assume that Iran could—

“(i) use all measures not expressly prohibited by the agreement to conceal activities that violate its obligations and commitments under the agreement; and

“(ii) alter or deviate from standard practices in order to impede efforts to verify that Iran is complying with those obligations and commitments.

“(C) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—A report under subparagraph (A) shall be transmitted in unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex prepared in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), nor subsections (b) through (g) of this section, shall apply to an agreement described in subsection (h)(5) or to the EU–Iran Joint Statement made on April 2, 2015.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any agreement as defined in subsection (h)(1) and any related materials, whether concluded before or after the date of the enactment of this section, shall not be subject to the exception in subparagraph (A).

“(b) PERIOD FOR REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 30-calendar day period following transmittal by the President of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The period for congressional review under paragraph (1) shall be 60 calendar days if an agreement, including all materials required to be transmitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (a)(1), is transmitted pursuant to subsection (a) between July 10, 2015, and September 7, 2015.

“(3) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), prior to and during the period for transmission of an agreement in subsection (a)(1) and during the period for congressional review provided in paragraph (1), including any additional period as applicable under the exception provided in paragraph (2), the President may

not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a).

“(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of disapproval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 12 calendar days following the date of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

“(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of disapproval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, and the President vetoes such joint resolution, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 10 calendar days following the date of the President’s veto.

“(6) EXCEPTION.—The prohibitions under paragraphs (3) through (5) do not apply to any new deferral, waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

“(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

“(B) not later than 45 calendar days before the transmission by the President of an agreement, assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

“(c) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

“(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(A) the sanctions regime imposed on Iran by Congress is primarily responsible for bringing Iran to the table to negotiate on its nuclear program;

“(B) these negotiations are a critically important matter of national security and foreign policy for the United States and its closest allies;

“(C) this section does not require a vote by Congress for the agreement to commence;

“(D) this section provides for congressional review, including, as appropriate, for approval, disapproval, or no action on statutory sanctions relief under an agreement; and

“(E) even though the agreement may commence, because the sanctions regime was imposed by Congress and only Congress can permanently modify or eliminate that regime, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity, in an orderly and deliberative manner, to consider and, as appropriate, take action affecting the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

“(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action—

“(A) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(B) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(C) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase ‘action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States’ shall include waiver, suspension, reduction, or other effort to provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to, Iran under any provision of law or any other effort to refrain from applying any such sanctions.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF IRANIAN COMPLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of all aspects of Iranian compliance with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a).

“(2) POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT BREACHES AND COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—The President shall, within 10 calendar days of receiving credible and accurate information relating to a potentially significant breach or compliance incident by Iran with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(3) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submitting information about a potentially significant breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall make a determination whether such potentially significant breach or compliance issue constitutes a material breach and, if there is such a material breach, whether Iran has cured such material breach, and shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership such determination, accompanied by, as appropriate, a report on the action or failure to act by Iran that led to the material breach, actions necessary for Iran to cure the breach, and the status of Iran’s efforts to cure the breach.

“(4) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 calendar days after entering into an agreement described in subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every 180 calendar days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on Iran’s nuclear program and the compliance of Iran with the agreement during the period covered by the report, including the following elements:

“(A) Any action or failure to act by Iran that breached the agreement or is in non-compliance with the terms of the agreement.

“(B) Any delay by Iran of more than one week in providing inspectors access to facilities, people, and documents in Iran as required by the agreement.

“(C) Any progress made by Iran to resolve concerns by the International Atomic Energy Agency about possible military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear program.

“(D) Any procurement by Iran of materials in violation of the agreement or which could



otherwise significantly advance Iran's ability to obtain a nuclear weapon.

"(E) Any centrifuge research and development conducted by Iran that—

"(i) is not in compliance with the agreement; or

"(ii) may substantially enhance the breakout time of acquisition of a nuclear weapon by Iran, if deployed.

"(F) Any diversion by Iran of uranium, carbon-fiber, or other materials for use in Iran's nuclear program in violation of the agreement.

"(G) Any covert nuclear activities undertaken by Iran, including any covert nuclear weapons-related or covert fissile material activities or research and development.

"(H) An assessment of whether any Iranian financial institutions are engaged in money laundering or terrorist finance activities, including names of specific financial institutions if applicable.

"(I) Iran's advances in its ballistic missile program, including developments related to its long-range and inter-continental ballistic missile programs.

"(J) An assessment of—

"(i) whether Iran directly supported, financed, planned, or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

"(ii) whether, and the extent to which, Iran supported acts of terrorism, including acts of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

"(iii) all actions, including in international fora, being taken by the United States to stop, counter, and condemn acts by Iran to directly or indirectly carry out acts of terrorism against the United States and United States persons;

"(iv) the impact on the national security of the United States and the safety of United States citizens as a result of any Iranian actions reported under this paragraph; and

"(v) all of the sanctions relief provided to Iran, pursuant to the agreement, and a description of the relationship between each sanction waived, suspended, or deferred and Iran's nuclear weapon's program.

"(K) An assessment of whether violations of internationally recognized human rights in Iran have changed, increased, or decreased, as compared to the prior 180-day period.

"(5) ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND INFORMATION.—

"(A) AGENCY REPORTS.—Following submission of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, the Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense shall, upon the request of any of those committees or leadership, promptly furnish to those committees or leadership their views as to whether the safeguards and other controls contained in the agreement with respect to Iran's nuclear program provide an adequate framework to ensure that Iran's activities permitted thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the common defense and security.

"(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR INITIATIVES WITH IRAN.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of any initiative or negotiations with Iran relating to Iran's nuclear program, including any new or amended agreement.

"(6) COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION.—After the review period provided in subsection (b), the President shall, not less than every 90 calendar days—

"(A) determine whether the President is able to certify that—

"(i) Iran is transparently, verifiably, and fully implementing the agreement, including all related technical or additional agreements;

"(ii) Iran has not committed a material breach with respect to the agreement or, if Iran has committed a material breach, Iran has cured the material breach;

"(iii) Iran has not taken any action, including covert action, that could significantly advance its nuclear weapons program; and

"(iv) suspension of sanctions related to Iran pursuant to the agreement is—

"(I) appropriate and proportionate to the specific and verifiable measures taken by Iran with respect to terminating its illicit nuclear program; and

"(II) vital to the national security interests of the United States; and

"(B) if the President determines he is able to make the certification described in subparagraph (A), make such certification to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

"(7) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

"(A) United States sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under an agreement, as defined in subsection (h)(1);

"(B) issues not addressed by an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran, including fair and appropriate compensation for Americans who were terrorized and subjected to torture while held in captivity for 444 days after the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, in 1979 and their families, the freedom of Americans held in Iran, the human rights abuses of the Government of Iran against its own people, and the continued support of terrorism worldwide by the Government of Iran, are matters critical to ensure justice and the national security of the United States, and should be expeditiously addressed;

"(C) the President should determine the agreement in no way compromises the commitment of the United States to Israel's security, nor its support for Israel's right to exist; and

"(D) in order to responsibly implement any long-term agreement reached between the P5+1 countries and Iran, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity to review any agreement and, as necessary, take action to modify the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

"(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event the President does not submit a certification pursuant to subsection (d)(6) or has determined pursuant to subsection (d)(3) that Iran has materially breached an agreement subject to subsection (a) and the material breach has not been cured, Congress may initiate within 60 calendar days expedited consideration of qualifying legislation pursuant to this subsection.

"(2) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualifying legislation' means only a bill of either House of Congress—

"(A) the title of which is as follows: 'A bill reinstating statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.'; and

"(B) the matter after the enacting clause of which is: 'Any statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran pursuant to \_\_\_\_\_ that were waived, suspended, reduced, or otherwise relieved pursuant to an

agreement submitted pursuant to section 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 are hereby reinstated and any action by the United States Government to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to such agreement, or provide any further waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief pursuant to such agreement is hereby prohibited.', with the blank space being filled in with the law or laws under which sanctions are to be reinstated.

"(3) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-calendar day period provided for in paragraph (1), qualifying legislation may be introduced—

"(A) in the House of Representatives, by the majority leader or the minority leader; and

"(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader's designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader's designee).

"(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

"(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If a committee of the House to which qualifying legislation has been referred has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 legislative days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereof.

"(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which qualifying legislation has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the qualifying legislation in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the qualifying legislation with regard to the same agreement. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

"(C) CONSIDERATION.—The qualifying legislation shall be considered as read. All points of order against the qualifying legislation and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the qualifying legislation to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the qualifying legislation (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the qualifying legislation shall not be in order.

"(5) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

"(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—Qualifying legislation introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

"(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Foreign Relations has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 session days after the date of referral of such legislation, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such legislation and the qualifying legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

"(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the committee authorized to consider qualifying legislation reports it to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of qualifying legislation, and all points of order



against qualifying legislation (and against consideration of the qualifying legislation) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation is agreed to, the qualifying legislation shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(D) DEBATE.—Debate on qualifying legislation, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the qualifying legislation is not in order.

“(E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the qualifying legislation and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(F) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to qualifying legislation shall be decided without debate.

“(G) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to qualifying legislation, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such qualifying legislation, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

“(6) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of qualifying legislation of that House, that House receives qualifying legislation from the other House, then the following procedures shall apply:

“(i) The qualifying legislation of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(ii) With respect to qualifying legislation of the House receiving the legislation—

“(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no qualifying legislation had been received from the other House; but

“(II) the vote on passage shall be on the qualifying legislation of the other House.

“(B) TREATMENT OF A BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce qualifying legislation under this section, the qualifying legislation of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the qualifying legislation in the Senate, the Senate then receives a companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(D) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEASURES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the House of Representatives to qualifying legislation which is a revenue measure.

“(f) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—Subsection (e) is enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a

part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of legislation described in those sections, and supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the section shall be construed as—

“(1) modifying, or having any other impact on, the President's authority to negotiate, enter into, or implement appropriate executive agreements, other than the restrictions on implementation of the agreements specifically covered by this section;

“(2) allowing any new waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief from statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law, or allowing the President to refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) during the period for review provided in subsection (b);

“(3) revoking or terminating any statutory sanctions imposed on Iran; or

“(4) authorizing the use of military force against Iran.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGREEMENT.—The term ‘agreement’ means an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding or not, including any joint comprehensive plan of action entered into or made between Iran and any other parties, and any additional materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to the agreement or to be entered into or implemented in the future.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees and leadership’ means the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

“(4) IRANIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘Iranian financial institution’ has the meaning given the term in section 104A(d) of

the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513b(d)).

“(5) JOINT PLAN OF ACTION.—The term ‘Joint Plan of Action’ means the Joint Plan of Action, signed at Geneva November 24, 2013, by Iran and by France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and all implementing materials and agreements related to the Joint Plan of Action, including the technical understandings reached on January 12, 2014, the extension thereto agreed to on July 18, 2014, the extension agreed to on November 24, 2014, and any materially identical extension that is agreed to on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015.

“(6) EU-IRAN JOINT STATEMENT.—The term ‘EU-Iran Joint Statement’ means only the Joint Statement by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif made on April 2, 2015, at Lausanne, Switzerland.

“(7) MATERIAL BREACH.—The term ‘material breach’ means, with respect to an agreement described in subsection (a), any breach of the agreement, or in the case of non-binding commitments, any failure to perform those commitments, that substantially—

“(A) benefits Iran's nuclear program;

“(B) decreases the amount of time required by Iran to achieve a nuclear weapon; or

“(C) deviates from or undermines the purposes of such agreement.

“(8) NONCOMPLIANCE DEFINED.—The term ‘noncompliance’ means any departure from the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a) that is not a material breach.

“(9) P5+1 COUNTRIES.—The term ‘P5+1 countries’ means the United States, France, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

“(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511).”

**SA 1141.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 15, strike “purpose.” and insert the following: “purpose; and

“(iii) the President determines Israel's leaders have publically accepted Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

**SA 1142.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, line 7, insert “, and pursuing United Nations consideration of an agreement prior to Congress would undermine the

appropriate role of Congress" after "Congress".

**SA 1143.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, line 11, insert "and any related agreements, including draft United Nations Security Council resolutions or agreed parameters for such resolutions" after "parties".

**SA 1144.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 7, line 10, strike "any such sanctions" and all that follows through "under" on page 11, line 7, and insert the following: "any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a)."

"(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of disapproval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 12 calendar days following the date of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

"(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), if a joint resolution of disapproval described in subsection (c)(2)(B) passes the Congress, and the President vetoes such joint resolution, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions or facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) for a period of 10 calendar days following the date of the President's veto.

"(6) EXCEPTION.—The prohibitions under paragraphs (3) through (5) do not apply to any new deferral, waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

"(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

"(B) not later than 45 calendar days before the transmission by the President of an

agreement, assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

"(c) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

"(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

"(A) the sanctions regime imposed on Iran by Congress is primarily responsible for bringing Iran to the table to negotiate on its nuclear program;

"(B) these negotiations are a critically important matter of national security and foreign policy for the United States and its closest allies;

"(C) this section does not require a vote by Congress for the agreement to commence;

"(D) this section provides for congressional review, including, as appropriate, for approval, disapproval, or no action on statutory sanctions relief under an agreement; and

"(E) even though the agreement may commence, because the sanctions regime was imposed by Congress and only Congress can permanently modify or eliminate that regime, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity, in an orderly and deliberative manner, to consider and, as appropriate, take action affecting the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

"(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action—

"(A) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

"(B) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

"(C) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

"(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase "action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States" shall include waiver, suspension, reduction, or other effort to provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to, Iran or to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran under

**SA 1145.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 15, strike "purpose." and insert the following: "purpose; and

"(iii) all United States citizens unjustly detained by Iran, including Jason Rezaian, Amir Hekmati, and Saeed Abedini, have been released from Iranian custody, and the Government of Iran is fully cooperating in efforts to locate Robert Levinson.

**SA 1146.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 15, strike "purpose." and insert the following: "purpose; and

"(iii) the President determines that no sanctions relief provided under the agreement will be provided from sanctions imposed by Congress or the Executive Branch due to Iran's support for terrorism, its ballistic missile programs, or its human rights abuses against the people of Iran or will undermine the effectiveness of such sanctions."

**SA 1147.** Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

"(v) Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world; and

**SA 1148.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROVIDING SANCTIONS RELIEF.

The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under section 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as added by section 2 of this Act, until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Iran has fully and verifiably—

(1) reduced by approximately two-thirds its installed centrifuges, with the remaining 6,104 centrifuges being IR-1s, Iran's first-generation centrifuge;

(2) halted any uranium enrichment over 3.67 percent and agreed to continue to do so for at least 15 years;

(3) reduced its stockpile of low-enriched uranium to 300 kilograms of 3.67 percent low-enriched uranium (LEU);

(4) placed all excess centrifuges and enrichment infrastructure in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitored storage to be used only as replacements for operating centrifuges and equipment;

(5) agreed to not build any new facilities for the purpose of enriching uranium for 15 years;

(6) halted enrichment of uranium at the Fordow facility and agreed to continue this moratorium for 15 years;

(7) converted the Fordow facility into a nuclear, physics, technology, and research center for peaceful purposes only;

(8) halted research and development associated with uranium enrichment at Fordow and agreed to continue this moratorium for 15 years;

(9) removed almost two-thirds of Fordow's centrifuges and infrastructure, ensured that the remaining centrifuges are not enriching uranium, and placed all centrifuges and related infrastructure under IAEA monitoring;

(10) removed advanced centrifuges at Natanz, and is only enriching uranium using IR-1 models and has agreed to continue this arrangement for 10 years;

(11) removed the 1,000 IR-2M centrifuges currently installed at Natanz and placed them in IAEA-monitored storage and agreed to keep them there for 10 years;

(12) halted use of its IR-2, IR-4, IR-5, IR-6, or IR-8 models to produce enriched uranium and committed to continue this for at least ten years.

(13) begun to abide by the schedule and parameters for limited centrifuge research and development agreed to by the P5+1 countries;

(14) provided regular access to all of Iran's nuclear facilities, including to Iran's enrichment facility at Natanz and its former enrichment facility at Fordow, and is allowing the use of the most up-to-date, modern monitoring technologies;

(15) provided inspectors with access to the supply chain that supports Iran's nuclear program;

(16) provided access to uranium mines and continuous surveillance at uranium mills, where Iran produces yellowcake, and has committed to continue to do so for 25 years;

(17) provided inspectors with access to allow continuous surveillance of Iran's centrifuge rotors and bellows production and storage facilities, and has committed to continue to do so for 20 years;

(18) placed all centrifuges and enrichment infrastructure removed from Fordow and Natanz under continuous monitoring by the IAEA;

(19) begun to use only the dedicated procurement channel for Iran's nuclear program to monitor and approve, on a case by case basis, the supply, sale, or transfer to Iran of certain nuclear-related and dual use materials and technology;

(20) implemented the Additional Protocol of the IAEA and committed to adhere to the Additional Protocol permanently;

(21) committed to grant access to the IAEA to investigate any suspicious sites or allegations of a covert enrichment facility, conversion facility, centrifuge production facility, or yellowcake production facility anywhere in the country, including at military sites;

(22) implemented Modified Code 3.1 requiring early notification of construction of new facilities;

(23) redesigned and rebuilt the heavy water research reactor in Arak based on a design agreed to by the P5+1 countries and ensured that the reactor will not produce weapons grade plutonium;

(24) destroyed or removed from the country the original core of the Arak reactor;

(25) committed to ship all spent fuel from the Arak reactor out of the country;

(26) halted any reprocessing or reprocessing research and development on spent nuclear fuel;

(27) committed to not accumulate heavy water in excess of the needs of the modified Arak reactor, and to sell any remaining heavy water on the international market for 15 years; and

(28) halted building of any additional heavy water reactors and committed to continue this moratorium for 15 years.

**SA 1149.** Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran is a congressional-executive agreement to be considered under expedited procedure in both houses of Congress.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event the President transmits to the appropriate congressional committees an agreement with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran, Congress may initiate within 60 days expedited consideration of a joint resolution of approval pursuant to this paragraph.

(2) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “joint resolution of approval” means only a joint resolution introduced after the date on which the President transmits to the appropriate congressional committees an agreement described in paragraph (1) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That Congress approves the agreement submitted to Congress related to the nuclear program of Iran on \_\_\_\_\_”, with the blank space being filled with the appropriate date.

(3) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-day period provided for in paragraph (1), a joint resolution of approval may be introduced—

(A) in the House of Representatives, by any member of the House of Representatives; and

(B) in the Senate, by any member of the Senate.

(4) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of approval introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and in the House of Representatives to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(5) DISCHARGE.—If the committee of either House to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported such resolution within 10 session days after the date of referral of such resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such resolution and the joint resolution of approval shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(6) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution of approval reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution of approval in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolution of approval. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution of approval shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution of approval and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution of approval to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution of approval shall not be in order. No amendment to, or motion to recommit, a joint resolution of approval shall be in order.

(C) APPEALS.—All appeals from the Chair relating to the application of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to the joint resolution of approval shall be decided without debate.

(7) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the committee authorized to consider a joint resolution of approval reports it to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution of approval, and all points of order against the joint resolution of approval (and against consideration of the joint resolution of approval) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution of approval is agreed to, the joint resolution of approval shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(B) DEBATE.—Debate on a joint resolution of approval, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution of approval is not in order.

(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the joint resolution of approval and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution of approval shall be decided without debate.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with

respect to a joint resolution of approval, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such joint resolution of approval, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(8) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of approval of that House, that House receives a joint resolution of approval from the other House, then the following procedures shall apply:

(i) The joint resolution of approval of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(ii) With respect to a joint resolution of approval in of the House receiving the resolution—

(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution of approval had been received from the other House; but

(II) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution of approval of the other House.

(B) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution of approval under this paragraph, the joint resolution of approval of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this paragraph.

(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the joint resolution of approval in the Senate, the Senate then receives a companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

(c) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—subsection (b) is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of legislation described in those sections, and supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

## SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON SANCTIONS RELIEF.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions imposed under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding or not, including any joint comprehensive plan of action entered into or made between Iran and any other parties, and any additional materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to the agreement or to be entered into or implemented in the

future, unless a joint resolution of approval is passed by Congress under section 1(b).

**SA 1150.** Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. TREATY SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any agreement reached by the President with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran is deemed to be a treaty that is subject to the requirements of article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States requiring that the treaty is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring.

### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON SANCTIONS RELIEF.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions under any other provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding or not, including any joint comprehensive plan of action entered into or made between Iran and any other parties, and any additional materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to the agreement or to be entered into or implemented in the future, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate as a treaty, receives the concurrence of two thirds of the Senators.

**SA 1151.** Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) the Government of Iran and the Government of North Korea are not sharing or transferring any information or technology related to ballistic missile development or nuclear weapons capability; and

**SA 1152.** Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 6, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 27, line 21, and insert the following:

“(b) REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—After the President transmits an agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement.

“(2) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (3) and subsection (c), the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a).

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (2) does not apply to any deferral, waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

“(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

“(B) not later than 45 days before the transmission by the President of an agreement, assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

“(c) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, only if the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF IRANIAN COMPLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of all aspects of Iranian compliance with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a).

“(2) POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT BREACHES AND COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—The President shall, within 10 calendar days of receiving credible and accurate information relating to a potentially significant breach or compliance incident by Iran with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(3) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submitting information about a potentially significant breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall make a determination whether such potentially significant breach or compliance issue constitutes a material breach and, if there is such a material breach, whether Iran has cured such material breach, and shall submit

to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership such determination, accompanied by, as appropriate, a report on the action or failure to act by Iran that led to the material breach, actions necessary for Iran to cure the breach, and the status of Iran's efforts to cure the breach.

“(4) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 calendar days after entering into an agreement described in subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every 180 calendar days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on Iran's nuclear program and the compliance of Iran with the agreement during the period covered by the report, including the following elements:

“(A) Any action or failure to act by Iran that breached the agreement or is in non-compliance with the terms of the agreement.

“(B) Any delay by Iran of more than one week in providing inspectors access to facilities, people, and documents in Iran as required by the agreement.

“(C) Any progress made by Iran to resolve concerns by the International Atomic Energy Agency about possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.

“(D) Any procurement by Iran of materials in violation of the agreement or which could otherwise significantly advance Iran's ability to obtain a nuclear weapon.

“(E) Any centrifuge research and development conducted by Iran that—

“(i) is not in compliance with the agreement; or

“(ii) may substantially enhance the break-out time of acquisition of a nuclear weapon by Iran, if deployed.

“(F) Any diversion by Iran of uranium, carbon-fiber, or other materials for use in Iran's nuclear program in violation of the agreement.

“(G) Any covert nuclear activities undertaken by Iran, including any covert nuclear weapons-related or covert fissile material activities or research and development.

“(H) An assessment of whether any Iranian financial institutions are engaged in money laundering or terrorist finance activities, including names of specific financial institutions if applicable.

“(I) Iran's advances in its ballistic missile program, including developments related to its long-range and inter-continental ballistic missile programs.

“(J) An assessment of—

“(i) whether Iran directly supported, financed, planned, or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

“(ii) whether, and the extent to which, Iran supported acts of terrorism, including acts of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

“(iii) all actions, including in international fora, being taken by the United States to stop, counter, and condemn acts by Iran to directly or indirectly carry out acts of terrorism against the United States and United States persons;

“(iv) the impact on the national security of the United States and the safety of United States citizens as a result of any Iranian actions reported under this paragraph; and

“(v) all of the sanctions relief provided to Iran, pursuant to the agreement, and a description of the relationship between each sanction waived, suspended, or deferred and Iran's nuclear weapon's program.

“(K) An assessment of whether violations of internationally recognized human rights

in Iran have changed, increased, or decreased, as compared to the prior 180-day period.

“(5) ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND INFORMATION.—

“(A) AGENCY REPORTS.—Following submission of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, the Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense shall, upon the request of any of those committees or leadership, promptly furnish to those committees or leadership their views as to whether the safeguards and other controls contained in the agreement with respect to Iran's nuclear program provide an adequate framework to ensure that Iran's activities permitted thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the common defense and security.

“(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR INITIATIVES WITH IRAN.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of any initiative or negotiations with Iran relating to Iran's nuclear program, including any new or amended agreement.

“(6) COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION.—After the President transmits an agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the President shall, not less than every 90 calendar days—

“(A) determine whether the President is able to certify that—

“(i) Iran is transparently, verifiably, and fully implementing the agreement, including all related technical or additional agreements;

“(ii) Iran has not committed a material breach with respect to the agreement or, if Iran has committed a material breach, Iran has cured the material breach;

“(iii) Iran has not taken any action, including covert action, that could significantly advance its nuclear weapons program; and

“(iv) suspension of sanctions related to Iran pursuant to the agreement is—

“(I) appropriate and proportionate to the specific and verifiable measures taken by Iran with respect to terminating its illicit nuclear program; and

“(II) vital to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(B) if the President determines he is able to make the certification described in subparagraph (A), make such certification to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(7) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(A) United States sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under an agreement, as defined in subsection (h)(1);

“(B) issues not addressed by an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran, including fair and appropriate compensation for Americans who were terrorized and subjected to torture while held in captivity for 444 days after the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, in 1979 and their families, the freedom of Americans held in Iran, the human rights abuses of the Government of Iran against its own people, and the continued support of terrorism worldwide by the Government of Iran, are matters critical to ensure justice and the national security of the United States, and should be expeditiously addressed;

“(C) the President should determine the agreement in no way compromises the commitment of the United States to Israel's security, nor its support for Israel's right to exist; and

“(D) in order to responsibly implement any long-term agreement reached between the P5+1 countries and Iran, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity to review any agreement and, as necessary, take action to modify the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

“(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event the President does not submit a certification pursuant to subsection (d)(6) or has determined pursuant to subsection (d)(3) that Iran has materially breached an agreement subject to subsection (a) and the material breach has not been cured, Congress may initiate within 60 calendar days expedited consideration of qualifying legislation pursuant to this subsection.

“(2) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “qualifying legislation” means only a bill of either House of Congress—

“(A) the title of which is as follows: “A bill reinstating statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.”; and

“(B) the matter after the enacting clause of which is: “Any statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran pursuant to

\_\_\_\_\_ that were waived, suspended, reduced, or otherwise relieved pursuant to an agreement submitted pursuant to section 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 are hereby reinstated and any action by the United States Government to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to such agreement, or provide any further waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief pursuant to such agreement is hereby prohibited.”, with the blank space being filled in with the law or laws under which sanctions are to be reinstated.

“(3) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-calendar day period provided for in paragraph (1), qualifying legislation may be introduced—

“(A) in the House of Representatives, by the majority leader or the minority leader; and

“(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader's designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader's designee).

“(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If a committee of the House to which qualifying legislation has been referred has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 legislative days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereof.

“(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which qualifying legislation has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the qualifying legislation in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the qualifying legislation with regard to the same agreement. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(C) CONSIDERATION.—The qualifying legislation shall be considered as read. All points of order against the qualifying legislation and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as

ordered on the qualifying legislation to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the qualifying legislation (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the qualifying legislation shall not be in order.

“(5) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

“(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—Qualifying legislation introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

“(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Foreign Relations has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 session days after the date of referral of such legislation, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such legislation and the qualifying legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

“(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the committee authorized to consider qualifying legislation reports it to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of qualifying legislation, and all points of order against qualifying legislation (and against consideration of the qualifying legislation) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation is agreed to, the qualifying legislation shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(D) DEBATE.—Debate on qualifying legislation, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the qualifying legislation is not in order.

“(E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the qualifying legislation and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(F) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to qualifying legislation shall be decided without debate.

“(G) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to qualifying legislation, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such qualifying legislation, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

“(6) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of qualifying legislation of that House, that House receives qualifying legislation from the other House, then the following procedures shall apply:

“(i) The qualifying legislation of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(ii) With respect to qualifying legislation of the House receiving the legislation—

“(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no qualifying legislation had been received from the other House; but

“(II) the vote on passage shall be on the qualifying legislation of the other House.

“(B) TREATMENT OF A BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce qualifying legislation under this section, the qualifying legislation of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the qualifying legislation in the Senate, the Senate then receives a companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(D) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEASURES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the House of Representatives to qualifying legislation which is a revenue measure.

“(F) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—Subsection (e) is enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of legislation described in those sections, and supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the section shall be construed as—

“(1) modifying, or having any other impact on, the President's authority to negotiate, enter into, or implement appropriate executive agreements, other than the restrictions on implementation of the agreements specifically covered by this section;

“(2) allowing any new waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief from statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law, or allowing the President to refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a);

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 To Deliver

Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Airport Issues and Infrastructure Financing.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 2 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance be authorized to



meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "A Fresh Look at the Impact of the Medical Device Tax on Jobs, Innovation, and Patients."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL INTEREST

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 23, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Eroding the Law and Diverting Taxpayer Resources: An Examination of the Administration's Central American Minors Refugee/Parole Program."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Destiny Whitehead, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the session today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 27, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 75; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination, and that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motion be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 21, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 25, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 3 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in the RECORD of February 5, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 149, Hubble Space Telescope; S. Res. 150, Civic and Government Education; and S. Res. 151, National Safe Digging Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, April 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 1191 for debate only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:48 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 27, 2015, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 23, 2015:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LORETTA E. LYNCH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL.



## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION: TIER RANKINGS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a hearing on the importance of accountability in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report—the State Department's biggest opportunity of the year to prod countries to fight human trafficking with greater effect, greater efficiency and greater effort.

There are some twenty plus million people around the globe who live in sex or labor slavery today.

When one hears such a figure—over twenty million people—one's eyes begin to glaze over, as a number of such magnitude becomes an abstraction. There is a cynical saying, attributed to Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, that “the death of one man is a tragedy. The death of millions is a statistic.” Stalin knew that many would shrug their shoulders and avert their gaze.

But we must never allow such cynicism to obscure the fact that each of those twenty million persons is a human being with inherent, God-given dignity. Each one is a child that suffers from beatings and abuse, a woman raped, a man who labors in the field as a slave—all for the commercial gain of others.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report, required by the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)—legislation which I authored—ensures that countries making anti-trafficking efforts a priority are praised and supported, while countries that ignore the cries of the enslaved are justly shamed, and considered for sanctions.

The success of the TIP Report and rankings is beyond anything we could have hoped for. From presidential suites and the halls of parliaments, to police stations in remote corners of the world, this report focuses anti-trafficking work in 187 countries on the pivotal principles of prevention of trafficking, prosecution of the traffickers, and protection of the victims.

Each year the trafficking office at the Department of State evaluates whether a government of a country is fully compliant with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so. The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier rankings narrative. Tier 1 countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier 2 countries do not meet the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to do so. Tier 3 countries do not meet the standards and are not making significant efforts to do so—and, indeed, may be subject to sanctions.

Over the last 14 years, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings. Some countries openly credit the TIP Report for their increased and effective anti-trafficking response and look to us for examples of how to do even better. Last year, for example, I was invited by the speaker of Peru's unicameral congress to address legislators on how to protect victims of trafficking, meeting also with prosecutors, members of a multi-agency task force, victims and those who provide for victims.

The Tier 2 Watch List was created in the 2003 TVPA reauthorization and I also authored to encourage good-faith anti-trafficking progress in a country that may have taken positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year. Unfortunately, some countries made a habit of last-minute efforts and failed to follow through year-after-year, effectively gaming the system.

To protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it works properly to inspire progress, Congress in 2008 created an automatic downgrade for any country that had been on a Tier 2 Watch List for 2 years but had not taken significant effort enough to move up a tier.

The President can waive the automatic downgrade for an additional 2 years if he has certified “credible evidence” that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan that, if implemented, would constitute significant efforts to meet the minimum standards.

In 2013, the first test of the new system, China, Russia, and Uzbekistan ran out of waivers and moved to Tier 3, which accurately reflected their records.

In the 2014 reporting cycle, only Thailand and Malaysia were auto-downgraded, out of six countries. Russia and Uzbekistan retained their Tier 3 downgrades from the previous year—but China was upgraded from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List.

I am very concerned that China fooled the State Department, which seemed to believe that China was abolishing its re-education through labor camps rather than simply renaming the camps and continuing the practice. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China reported that in 2013, Chinese authorities increasingly used “other forms of arbitrary and administrative detention such as Legal Education Centers, Custody and Education Centers, ‘black jails,’ and compulsory drug detoxification centers.”

Moreover, the Commission reported that in November 2014, the Deputy Director of China's Ministry of Justice said at a press conference that the “vast majority” of China's [re-education through labor] facilities have been converted to compulsory drug detox centers. The China Commission believes that these compulsory drug detox centers force detainees to do labor, as do the Custody and Education Centers.

If true—and I believe it is—then the Chinese government is directly involved in human trafficking and profiting from it.

The Chinese Government also continues, through its one-child birth limitation policy, to decimate the female population, creating a vacuum for sex and bride trafficking in China as males confronted with a sentence of lifetime bachelorhood seek to obtain a mate.

And despite a much-ballyhooed November 2013 government announcement of a relaxation of the one-child policy that affects only a small subset of the population, this fig leaf will not do enough to correct the gender imbalance in China.

Last summer, a local official at the Mid-Year Family Planning Work Meeting in Chongqing municipality noted that “the intensity of family planning work has not diminished.” And the evidence of coercive enforcement continues to emerge.

The U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, following its May 2014 review of China, noted that it was “seriously concerned about reported instances of the use of coercive measures, including forced abortion and forced sterilization, with a view to limiting births.”

This is unacceptable.

Approximately 40 million women and girls are missing from the population—and China's birth limitation policy continues to increase that number—making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking of women from neighboring countries such as Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea.

Indeed, an estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China are trafficked as brides. And yet China does not take responsibility for the government-made disaster and provide these women with aid. Rather, China denies these women refugee status and sends them back to punishment in North Korea—punishments that far too often include execution.

Yet we gave China a pass, turning our backs on these suffering women.

But Asia is not the only place where there are victims of trafficking. The hearing also looked at three African countries that must be automatically downgraded unless they significantly improved efforts to fight human trafficking in 2014: Burundi, Comoros, and Angola.

The shared tragedy of these countries is that it is their children who are being trafficked. Chinese nationals in Angola exploit the Angolan children in construction, rice farming, and brick making.

In Comoros, poor families place their children with wealthy relatives, who then exploit them in domestic servitude.

Similarly, in Burundi, family members sometimes profit from the prostitution of children with tourists or, according to the State Department, “teachers, police officers, and gendarme, military and prison officials.”

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In 2013, as automatic downgrade loomed, the President of Comoros finally admitted his country had a trafficking issue and the National Assembly changed the penal code. Angola and Burundi have also amended their penal codes while on the Watch List.

Aggressive implementation of these anti-trafficking laws would keep them off Tier 3, as well as protect children from trafficking. I earnestly hope implementation has been a priority.

The Southeast Asia region continues to struggle with particularly acute and entrenched human trafficking. Thailand and Malaysia were downgraded to Tier 3 last year. Burma must receive a presidential waiver this year to avoid Tier 3.

One of the key drivers of intense human trafficking in the region is the vulnerability and desperation of the Muslim minority Rohingya people. Squalid living conditions in displacement camps, discrimination, child limitation, and violence are pushing the Rohingya out of Buddhist-dominated Burma into the hands of human traffickers who claim to have jobs for them in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

However, according to reports by Reuters last year, many Rohingya never make it to Malaysia, and instead end up in tropical gulags in the jungles of Thailand, where they are held for ransom. Many die from abuse and disease. Those who cannot pay the ransom are sold into sex slavery or forced labor, often in the fishing industry.

Thai General Prayuth Chan-ocha has vowed to crack down on any Thai authorities involved and to bring an end to the practice. While we have seen an impressive number and variety of anti-trafficking efforts in Thailand during the last year—including a new law in March that heightened penalties to life imprisonment for traffickers—prosecutions have significantly diminished in the last year. Prosecutions regarding trafficking of Rohingya migrants seem particularly low.

Nevertheless, over the last year, Thailand has taken concrete steps to register nearly 100,000 migrants, amend laws related to the fishing sector, raise the minimum age for labor at sea to 18 years old, set mandatory rest periods and employment contract requirements, and inspect hundreds of boats. And we also need to look at ourselves, and ask too whether we are complicit in abetting trafficking, perhaps unwittingly.

Last month, for example, the Associated Press documented Thai boats picking up seafood in Indonesia caught by Burmese slaves who, when not at sea, are kept in cages on remote Indonesian islands. The seafood was taken back to Thai ports and processed by the company that owns Chicken of the Sea. Much of the tainted seafood may have entered the supply chain to reach the shelves of American grocery stores and, through vendors such as Sysco, have landed on the plates of our service men and women.

There are nevertheless success stories, and Thailand has been a stalwart partner with the United States in fighting the sex tourism that drives sex trafficking. The Philippines also has worked with us in fighting sex tourists and helping the victims of trafficking—indeed, one of the witnesses we will hear from is a priest whose faith-based organization has helped

thousands heal from the horrors of human trafficking.

Finally, a word to those who think that our TIP report embarrasses allies and undercuts our efforts to cultivate friendly ties around the globe.

I will never forget two of our closest allies, Israel and South Korea, at one point were both on Tier 3, the worst rank. I remember meeting with their Ambassadors who had files demonstrating to all of us and anyone who would listen the measures they were taking to mitigate this terrible crime. And both of those countries got off Tier 3 when they backed words with substantive action.

Rather than alienating them, the exercise underscored that friends watch out for each other, and that we must call upon our friends to live up to the high ideals they profess. Ultimately, countries that do live up to their ideals show they value and treasure their citizens—their greatest resource—and in the long run will benefit the most.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to an event with the President in my home state, I was unable to vote during Roll Call 154, the motion on ordering the previous question for the rule H. Res. 200, as well as Roll Call 155, passage of H. Res. 200.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 156, final passage of H.R. 1562, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act, as well as Roll Call 157, final passage of H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion ordering the previous question on the rule H. Res. 200 and against final passage of the rule. Also, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1562 and opposed H.R. 1563.

#### IN HONOR OF CRYSTAL BERTHEAU

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the outstanding public service work of Crystal Bertheau on the occasion of her retirement from the Santa Cruz County Elections Department following a long and distinguished career.

In Ms. Bertheau's professional career, she embodied the fundamental principal that should guide American democracy across our great nation: that every voter should have easy access to the ballot and that every vote cast should be counted. It is an example that stands as a beacon even now in the 21st Century.

Crystal started her professional career in San Mateo County in 1972 where she and her co-workers created an annual program for Court Room Clerks at Stanford University.

From 1981 to 1996, Crystal worked for Judge Clarence B. Knight. In 1996, Crystal transferred to the San Mateo County Elections Department. In 1997, she and her husband, David, moved to Scotts Valley, California. In 1998, the Santa Cruz County Elections Department hired her as the poll worker training and recruitment coordinator for the county. She was instrumental in launching and implementing the county Inspector Hotline, a dedicated phone number for poll workers to call in questions on Election Day.

In 2002, she took on the duties of Program Coordinator in charge of candidate filing. Crystal quickly became known as the knowledgeable and friendly face who helped thousands of candidates navigate their way through the candidate filing process. Crystal also served as a Passport Acceptance Agent and a Deputy Commissioner for Civil Marriage for the County of Santa Cruz. She and her co-workers earned the 2013 Employee Recognition Gold Award for successfully facilitating the start of same sex marriages in Santa Cruz County.

Crystal's passion for elections and community service is unsurpassed. She has worked 20 hour Election Days, spent many weekends serving her community on Passport Saturdays and Weekend Voting, and conducted weddings near the midnight hour on Valentine's Day. Crystal has enjoyed sailing in the San Francisco Bay, has run 2 half marathons and dozens of 10ks, has backpacked in the High Sierras, and enjoyed scuba diving in Cozumel, Bonaire, and the Monterey Bay. In retirement Crystal hopes to continue to enjoy her hobbies of golf, gardening, hiking, playing the piano, reading, and spending time with family and friends, especially her son Mark.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak on behalf of the entire House in thanking Crystal for her 42 years of public service and outstanding leadership, showing one person can impact the lives of many. I wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF DAVID C. BARRETTE

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of First Deputy Chief David C. Barrette. Deputy Chief Barrette served our nation in the United States Air Force and, subsequently, has bravely served the 24th District of New York for over 40 years in the Syracuse Police Department. As Deputy Chief Barrette retires from the Syracuse Police Department, it is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and civil servant.

Deputy Chief Barrette served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War as a Staff Sergeant from 1969 to 1973. Following his military career, Deputy Chief Barrette began his career with the Syracuse Police Department. For 41 years, he has progressed through the ranks of the Syracuse Police Department, serving as a Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain before being

promoted to Deputy Chief of the Uniform Bureau in 2005 and Deputy Chief of Police in 2009.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Barrette has received numerous commendations for his service to our nation and the 24th District, including: a Certificate of Appreciation from the Viet Nam Veterans of America, CNY Chapter #103, the Officer Appreciation Award from the Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse, an Outstanding Partner Award from the SU Community Partnership, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Southeast University Neighborhood Association and the Eastside Neighbors in Partnership, and an Outstanding Achievement Award from Syracuse United Neighbors.

Deputy Chief Barrette has remained an active member of the Syracuse community while on and off-duty through his role as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corporation, President of the Syracuse Police Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, and Vice-Chair of the Onondaga County Chiefs of Police Association.

Deputy Chief Barrette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from LeMoyne College and a Master of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Alabama. He is supported by his wife, Patty.

Deputy Chief Barrette has proudly served our nation and Central New York, reflecting the courage and loyalty ubiquitous in Central New York law enforcement. I wish Deputy Chief Barrette well in his retirement and would like to thank him for his years of hard work, dedication, and service to our community.

HONORING EDWARD GARDNER  
HALEY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend, Mr. Ed Haley for an outstanding career of public service that has spanned over 30 years, encompassed numerous roles, and helped countless lives. An advisor to the powerful, a mentor to the many, and smiling face for those he served, Ed Haley's life has exemplified what it means to be a servant leader.

Following graduation from Millington Central High School, Mr. Haley joined the Air Force and served as a radioman for four years before he was honorably discharged. Then, he embarked on a 15 year career with the DuPont Company before joining the Shelby County Government in 1973. During the next 27 years, Mr. Haley worked for the citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee as the Assistant Director of Safety, the Administrator for the Shelby County Automotive Facility, and ultimately the Director of the Shelby County Road Department. While most people would be looking forward to retirement, Mr. Haley energetically signed on to help the small town of Arlington as Town Superintendent and managed Arlington's explosive growth over the last 15 years until his well-deserved retirement on March 1, 2015.

Of course, knowing only Mr. Haley's public work contributions would be to miss the massive impact he has had through volunteer service during his tenure. Growing up in Millington, Tennessee and returning after the Air Force, Mr. Haley won a seat to the Board of Alderman in 1972. Throughout the 1970's and 80's he was active in the Jaycees, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, PTSA, Scottish Rite, and Gideon International. In 1990, he was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly as a State Representative serving north Shelby County until 1998.

In Matthew's Parable of the Talents, each servant has been entrusted with resources for which they are held accountable. Mr. Haley has used his life's work for the betterment of others and truly deserves to hear his Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck in retirement and for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Mr. Ed Haley.

HONORING MR. H. DWIGHT WEAVER  
FOR RECEIVING A MISSOURI  
HUMANITIES AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. H. Dwight Weaver. Mr. Weaver will be receiving one of the Missouri Humanities Awards, Exemplary Community Achievement—Lake of the Ozarks Preservation, on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Mr. Weaver has contributed to the betterment of the state of Missouri for many years.

H. Dwight Weaver worked for 15 years at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. During his time there, he wrote about Missouri's air, land and water quality resources and these writings aided in policy-making. Mr. Weaver was awarded with two regional and two national awards for his article contributions to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources magazine, Missouri Resources.

During his 50 years living in the Lake of the Ozarks region, Mr. Weaver, has developed a passion for Missouri caves and a profound interest in the history of that region. From his time exploring and working at caves, he gained the knowledge to publish six books. H. Dwight Weaver treasures the various places of mystery and beauty that caves offer.

For a period of 40 years, H. Dwight Weaver has assembled a rare collection of vintage images and memorabilia that is reflective of the cultural heritage of the Lake of the Ozarks region. This collection has contributed to his ability to publish seven books and ultimately be the most prolific and best-selling author of the Lake of the Ozarks. Mr. Weaver contributes his time to the Miller and Camden County historical societies and serves as a source of historical information for anyone who requests information about the Lake of the Ozarks region.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Mr. H. Dwight Weaver on receiving this award for his dedication to the Lake of the Ozarks region and the entire state of Missouri!

HONORING PEOPLES' SELF-HELP  
HOUSING

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Peoples' Self-Help Housing, which has served my constituents on the Central Coast of California since its incorporation on August 6, 1970. Since its inception Peoples' Self-Help Housing has provided vital affordable housing and self-sufficiency programs for low-income families, seniors, and other special needs groups in our local community.

Over the past 45 years, Peoples' Self-Help Housing has developed nearly 1,600 affordable rental units at 45 properties throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Their home building program utilizes a collaborative group method known as "sweat equity" to build homes for limited income families. This valuable program has resulted in over 1,200 new homes constructed by individuals as owner-builders under the supervision of Peoples' Self-Help Housing.

Furthermore, Peoples' Self-Help Housing provides safe and attractive shelter for 4,400 residents throughout the Tri-Counties. The organization has also received numerous national, state and local awards in recognition of their significant contributions to revitalizing our neighborhoods and communities, ensuring stable housing for veterans and those who were formerly homeless, and for their innovative work in educating our youth population.

I congratulate and offer my sincerest thanks to Peoples' Self-Help Housing for 45 years of successfully providing affordable housing and vital community services to the people of the Central Coast.

COMMEMORATING THE 67TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDE-  
PENDENCE

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of Israel's independence. On this day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, we celebrate Israel's establishment as a sovereign state and as a homeland for the Jewish people.

Rising from the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has come to embody the true meaning of perseverance and resilience. Since its declaration of independence in 1948, Israel has overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges, defending itself time and again against enemies seeking to destroy it. Today, Israel stands proudly alongside the world's most developed nations and as the Middle East's sole

true democracy—one rooted in equality and freedom of speech and religion.

However, this prosperity has come at a high price, as over 20,000 brave Israeli men and women have given their lives in service to their country. That is why this week we also observe Yom Hazikaron, to pay tribute to the Israeli service members who made the ultimate sacrifice and to thousands of Israeli civilians who lost their lives in senseless acts of terror.

Sadly, in the post-9/11 world, the United States has also grown familiar with the threat of terrorism and we have watched our own men and women give their lives to defeat it. This common struggle has created yet another bond between our nations, as we both understand the indiscriminant, unjustifiable evil of terrorism, the irreparable pain it causes, and the swift, unequivocal response necessary to destroy it.

So today, we celebrate more than just 67 years of Israeli independence—we celebrate 67 years of strong and unwavering U.S.-Israeli relations.

I am proud to have visited Israel as a citizen of the United States, and I look forward to returning this summer as a member of Congress representing New York's fourth district, which is home to many people of the Jewish faith and has a special bond with the State of Israel and the Israeli people. During my time in Israel, I saw firsthand the prosperity that this great nation has built, as well as the fear that accompanies the daily threat of terrorism. On Israel's 67th year of independence, I want to congratulate the Israeli people and assure them that the U.S. will forever remain committed to their security, their survival and their prosperity.

#### THE AGING OUT CRISIS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Autism Awareness Month and a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and a concerted national effort.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum transition into adulthood and are in the process of losing access to the vital educational, therapeutic and other services which enable them to live full, independent and successful lives.

Individuals with autism in the aging out generation find themselves entering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and as a result face shrinking opportunities—and in many cases even regression.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, Congressman MIKE DOYLE and I hosted a briefing called "Autism and the Aging Out Crisis." We brought together prominent researchers, parents of autistic children and self-advocates to discuss how to best respond to the needs of this growing demographic.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 17-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, spoke and stat-

ed that "many people with autism can be contributing, tax paying citizens of society. We just all need some level of funding for the support services that we were entitled to before graduation."

High school students are given services and supports to help prepare them for young adulthood. However, when they graduate, they face a support cliff—their services end and limited options remain available to continue development.

Many of us view high school graduation as a proud accomplishment—when hard work pays off and we become participants in an adult society. For adolescents on the autism spectrum like Jonathan, a diploma can represent the end of an era without a new beginning. The support that allowed them to continue their development and remain in the community is quickly and dramatically reduced. The challenges ahead can seem overwhelming.

According to a report released this week from Drexel University researcher Dr. Paul Shattuck—who participated in the briefing and whose work was prompted by my recent law—40% of autistic youths do not receive mental health therapy, speech counseling, case management, or even medical services related to their disability once they reach early adulthood.

26% of young adults on the autism spectrum received no services whatsoever to help them become employed, continue their education, or live more independently.

Further, the consequences of the cliff are tangible and profound. One third of young adults with autism did not continue their education or get a job in their early 20s, compared to less than 8% of young adults with other disabilities. Individuals with autism from low-income households were almost twice as likely not to continue their education or find meaningful employment.

The study found individuals with autism who transition into adulthood continue to struggle with communication, social skills, and decision making; confront behavioral challenges; and face co-morbid medical conditions and co-occurring mental health disorders related to their diagnosis. When the services which help them to address these challenges evaporate, not only do these individuals fail to progress in these areas, they are profoundly impacted by the loss of their routine, and many regress.

Mr. Speaker, autism does not end when a person reaches adulthood—and our commitment shouldn't either. Support should transition along with the individuals, bolstering the promise and realization of self-sufficiency.

My Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 or the "Autism CARES Act" (Public Law 113–157) began this conversation by tasking multiple federal agencies with producing a comprehensive study on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

As researchers, parents, and advocates indicated in the briefing today, we need a holistic approach—one that looks at healthcare, housing, employment, education and public safety, among other needs. With the assistance of Chairmen FRED UPTON and JOE PITTS, last year I also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report evaluating ex-

isting programs for effectiveness and making recommendations—in consultation with key stakeholders—on how the public and private sectors can advance initiatives to ensure a better transition.

The briefing is the first in a series the Caucus will host—building on my recent hearing "The Global Challenge of Autism"—to highlight the aging out crisis and explore remedial action. In addition to the importance of transition planning, there is evidence that with specialized support, employment is feasible even among individuals with high levels of impairment.

At my hearing, Jose Velasco, Vice President of Product Management at software giant SAP discussed their process of actively recruiting and hiring over 700 young adults on the autism spectrum. Management at SAP has recently told me that SAP's diligent young employees with autism are extraordinarily effective workers, and the corporation and the employees mutually benefit through this innovative alliance.

We have an obligation to help individuals with disabilities grow into adulthood. It is not only the right thing to do; it's a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that lower costs in the long run. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities estimates that: "Diverting just one young person into living-wage employment could save an average of \$150,000 in SSI benefits over their lifetime. According to the Social Security Administration, transitioning just one half of one percent of current SSDI and SSI beneficiaries from benefits to self-sustaining employment would save \$3.5 billion in cash benefits over the work-life of those individuals."

By investing in and harnessing the potential of young adults with autism, we as a society will benefit from the unique skills, abilities, and perspectives of the aging out generation.

**HONORING THE SIMON RIVERA  
EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL  
RAIDERS, THE 2015 6A BOYS SOCCER  
UIL STATE CHAMPIONS  
FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS**

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the Simon Rivera Early College High School Raiders—the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Champions from Brownsville, Texas. Their undefeated 28 game season proved that the Rio Grande Valley is home to the best soccer team in the State of Texas, and one of the best in the nation.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Rivera Raiders beat Katy Cinco Ranch 2 to 0 in Georgetown, Texas. The win cemented their state title and brought a third statewide championship to the Brownsville Independent School District.

From the onset of the 2015 soccer season, Coach Salvador Garcia knew the Rivera Raiders were a "Team of Destiny," and would rally the support of an entire community. Coach Garcia's dedication, tenacity and years of experience would transform the Rivera Raiders

into an undefeated powerhouse. He knew the hours of practice and commitment would yield only one outcome—a chance to prove what he already knew—that the Rivera Raiders would be the best soccer team in Texas.

Their historic championship season serves as a reminder that through teamwork and perseverance, we are all capable of achieving great things. The entire team of dedicated student-athletes set an example to be emulated. Their accomplishments have earned them a place in the history of Rivera High School, and the legacy of their state championship will live on through the precedent set by an undefeated season.

To all those who supported the players, your efforts were critical to the strength of the Rivera Raiders. You drove them to practices early in the morning and picked them up late into the evening. On game days, you prepared them the nutritious meals that would give them stamina. You helped them balance the demands of athletics, studies, and home life, and you instilled the values of humility, sportsmanship and perseverance.

To the faculty and staff at Rivera High School: teachers, assistant coaches, counselors, principals, support staff and personnel, thank you for all that you do to help our children accomplish their goals. Your commitment to educating all students is vital as we prepare the next generation of Americans to lead our nation in the future. Keep doing the excellent job you do.

The coaches and players who inspired a community and cemented their place in Rivera High School history by winning the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Championship are Head Coach Salvador Garcia; Assistant Coaches Jose Dominguez, Andres Macias and Jimmy Montalvo; Athletic Coordinator Tom Chavez; and Principal Aimee Garza-Limon.

The 2015 Rivera Raiders are Isidro Martinez (named Most Valuable Player); Eliezer Acero; Israel Acero; David Alexander; Erik A. Alonso; Carlos I. Alvarez; Jose R. Alvarez, Jr.; Francisco Cardenas, Jr.; Roberto C. Castro; Jorge A. Cordova; Abdon Cruz; Hernan A. Cruz; Ivan L. Cruz; Julian Espinoza; Marcos A. Hernandez, Jr.; Alexis Herrera; Lee R. Martinez; Roberto J. Melendez; Eliseo F. Ortiz; Edward M. Rojas; Eduardo A. Salinas; Sergio Soto-Ramirez; Jesus A. Torres II; Jose A. Muniz Velazquez; Jose M. Villanueva, Jr.; Alfredo G. Villarreal; and Jesus R. Zaragoza.

These students from Rivera High School represented the Brownsville Independent School District and the City of Brownsville in a manner that brings great credit and distinction to our region, and I am proud that they set an example for us all to follow. I wish each of them the best in their future endeavors, and I join with my colleagues in Congress in congratulating them on an undefeated championship season.

# IN HONOR OF RAYMOND FRANK FRESCHI

## HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a wonderful human being, good friend, and a great American. Raymond Frank Freschi died earlier this month at the age of 89. Ray will always be remembered for his very kind and generous heart and lively spirit. He loved his family, his many friends and his life. He will be greatly missed.

Ray was born in Clifton, New Jersey on June 16, 1925. Ray joined the Navy after graduating from high school and served as a medic-corpsman in Norfolk, Virginia and later aboard the U.S. *Wakefield* on a mission to China. Upon leaving the Navy, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson College in Rutherford, New Jersey and then transferred to University of Southern California. At USC he met his beloved wife Shirley, to whom he was married for 65 years—they are an example of a beautiful couple actively involved in their community. They had two children, daughter, Susan Elaine, who sadly preceded Ray in death, and son Raymond Sandy Freschi, Jr. Ray and Shirley lived in La Canada-Flintridge in Southern California for 25 years before moving to Pebble Beach for the next 25 years, and then on to Carmel Valley Manor.

Everybody who knew Ray remarked on what a joyous person he was. He radiated happiness. He loved and respected people; always taking a genuine interest in others. Among other things, this helped him become a successful real estate entrepreneur. Ray studied and taught real estate, and quickly established, what was then, the largest real estate office in Glendale, California. Among Ray's many accomplishments was purchasing the Chevy Chase country club in Glendale, and transforming it into a thriving successful golf community. He also developed a three story office building and condominium complex on the Golden State Freeway in Glendale. Ray even made a run for a House seat here in Congress. Later, during his retirement, Ray built several beautiful houses in Pebble Beach.

For many years, Ray had enjoyed spending time at his Green Glen ranch property in Gilroy. Ray's hobby was driving horses and collecting antique carriages and wagons. While in Pebble Beach, Ray could often be seen on the weekends driving a pair of his Welsh Cobbs, Concord & Taffy, or his French Percheron draft horses, Peter & Oliver, with a newlywed couple in the carriage. His appearance brought joy to everyone, especially my daughter who has followed his professional love of horses.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our condolences to Ray's friends and family, including his wife Shirley, son Sandy, grandchildren Peter McLean Freschi, Brooke Susan Freschi, sister Beverly Vivenetto, as well as many nieces and nephews.

# TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Shahinian Family, Melkonian Family, Nalbandian Family, Kharmandarian Family, Kasbarian Family, Eksoozian Family, Garabedian Family, Hairabedian Family, Etyemezian Family, Barsoumian Family, K. Vartanian, Levonian Family, Gugasian Family, A. Arakelian, the parents and family of Simon Samsonian, Arakelian Family, Harutune Dadourian and 41 members of Dadourian and Arsenian Families, Hunazant Alexanian and 49 members of Alexanian and Abkarian Families, First daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Second daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Rev. Fr. Mashdots Abajian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Adomian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Afarian, Rev. Fr. Kiud Aghayekian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Aghinian, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ajemian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Alamasharian, Rev. Fr. Alexan Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Amirkhanian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ananian, Rev. Fr. Atam Anchigian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Andnonian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Andonian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Apkarian, Rev. Fr. Housig Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Melidos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Arakelian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Arakelian, Archpriest Fr. Yeghish Aramian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Aramian, V. Rev. Fr. Gomidas Ardzrouni, Rev. Fr. Karekin Arekian, Rev. Fr. Yeznag Arevigian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Arisian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Armaghanean, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Aroyan, Rev. Fr. Arsen Arshagouni, Rev. Fr. Avedis Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Yeremia Asarian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Asdikian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Asdourian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Housig Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Atamian, V. Rev. Fr. Mikael Atchabadian, Rev. Fr. Inkndios Avakian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Avakian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Avedian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Kasbar Aveidsian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ayvazian, Rev. Fr. Iravapar Ayvazian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Ayvazian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Ayvazian, Rev. Fr. Marouk Babian, Rev. Fr. Andon Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Baghdassarian, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepan Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Agepsimos Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Sempad Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Pakrad Balemian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Balian, Rev. Fr. Movses Baligian, Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Baligian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghish Balouni, Rev. Fr. Shgha Bantekhdian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Barigian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Baronian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Baronian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Bayian, Rev. Fr. Armenag Bedigian, Rev. Fr. Arshen

Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Asdvadzadour  
 Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Bedrossian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Begian, Rev. Fr. Taniel Begian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Behrigian, Rev. Fr. Magar Bekhozian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Bennayan, Rev. Fr. Hagop Berberian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Beylerian, Rev. Fr. Kerovp Biberian, Bishop Sempad Saadetian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Vahram Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Aram Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bordigian, Rev. Fr. Krisdapor Bosdigian, V. Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Bouroujian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Boyajian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Boyapian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Chamashourian, Rev. Fr. Nershabouh Charchian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Chekmezian, Rev. Fr. Souren Chengelian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Cheorugian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Chitchejian, Rev. Fr. Toros Chitchejian, Rev. Fr. Vosgian Cholakian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Cholakian, Rev. Fr. Arshavir Choloyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Daderian, Rev. Fr. Natan Dadian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Dadigian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Daghljian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Dayan, Rev. Fr. Neshan Der Antreassian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Hmayag Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Melkon Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Yermia Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khosrov Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Der Garabedian, Archpriest Ghevont Der Ghevontian, Rev. Fr. Gournelios Der Gureghian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Zenop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Der Hamazasbian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Der Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Der Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Vrtanes Der Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Der Housigian, Rev. Fr. Asdvadzadour Der Housigian, Rev. Fr. Araham Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Atanas Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Gosdantianos Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovasap Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Pilibos Der Hovhannessian, V. Rev. Fr. Magar Der Hovhannessian, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Hovsepian, Rev. Fr. Arakel Der Katchian, Rev. Fr. Anania Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Der Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Khatian, V. Rev. Fr. Bbag Der Khorenian, Rev. Fr.

Hagop Der Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Der Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Der Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Der Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Madteossian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Der Manuelian, Rev. Fr. Kerovpe Der Manuelian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Der Manuelian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Papken Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Margos Der Margossian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Margossian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Der Markarian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Der Markarian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Markarian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Parnag Der Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Der Mekhitarian, Rev. Fr. Bbag Der Melidossian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Samuel Der Mesrobian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Der Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Der Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Mousheghian, Movses Der Movsessian, Movses Der Movsessian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Aharon Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Knel Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Der Sarkissian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Sdepanian.

#### ROME CITY HALL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 100th Anniversary of the City Hall in Rome, Georgia.

Over a century ago, leaders of this fine community had a vision for the city to build a municipal building not like many of its time.

Today the building still serves as one of Rome's central landmarks, located in the center of downtown on Broad Street.

Construction began on this site one hundred years ago this month, after residents—"Romans"—agreed to allow city issued bonds to be sold to fund the project.

The building's auditorium has served as the venue for a variety of significant events and hosted a long list of notable public officials, including former U.S. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, and popular musicians like the Allman Brothers Band.

I cannot imagine a drive through downtown Rome without seeing City Hall.

Happy centennial anniversary.

H.R. 1560 AND H.R. 1731

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and H.R. 1731, National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act.

H.R. 1560 was an overly broad intrusion into civil liberties. While H.R. 1730 was more narrowly tailored and represented progress from previous cybersecurity bills that the House has considered, I continue to have reservations, particularly with the liability provisions in the bill.

Protecting ourselves against cyber-attacks is critical for national security and for a robust economy, and I strongly support taking actions to ensure that we have the best mechanisms in place to defend against cybersecurity threats. In working toward this goal, however, we cannot sacrifice important civil liberties or the privacy of American citizens. We must also ensure that companies can be held accountable if they fail to protect personal information or fail to act on cybersecurity threat information.

I will work to help these proposals to evolve so that we will consider an improved solution in the future.

#### HONORING NEW HAVEN NATIVE FRED PARRIS

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I rise to join Mayor Toni Harp and the City of New Haven as they pay tribute to New Haven native Fred Parris at the City's 377th Anniversary celebration. Today, community leaders and residents will gather to plant five trees, one for each century during which the City of New Haven has been incorporated. As they do so, they will pay homage to the City's "deep roots" by recognizing one of our civic icons, Fred Parris.

Founder and lead singer of The Five Satins, Fred's extraordinary story began in 1953 when he started singing as a student at Hillhouse High School in a group called the Scarlets. The group disbanded when its members joined the army in 1956 and Fred Parris found himself stationed at Philadelphia's Navy Yard. On weekends, Fred would often return to New Haven and sing for fun with a few friends from the neighborhood. In fact, they could often be found singing on street corners along bustling Dixwell Avenue. At the insistence of a local record company owner, Fred got together with Jim Freeman, Lou Peebles, Eddie Martin and Stanley Dortch to form the Five Satins—the era of Doo-Wop music was born.

One night, while on guard duty at 4 am, Fred penned "In The Still of the Night" bringing a musical gift to the world. It has been over 50 years since they recorded "In The Still of the Night" in the basement of St. Bernadette's church in New Haven. Just weeks later, Fred was shipped out by the time the record made the national charts, he was stationed in Japan and had to be replaced by Bill Baker. When Fred returned from the army, he again became the group's lead, recording songs like "Shadows" and "I'll Be Seeing You."

"In the Still of the Night" has sold millions of copies and is still one of the most requested "golden oldies" on almost every Top-

40 radio station in the country. In fact, when Rolling Stone magazine released its list of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time" a few years ago, "In the Still of the Night" was right up there at #90—in between #89 "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas & The Papas and #91 "Suspicious Minds" by Elvis Presley. Fred and his Five Satins continued recording well into the 1980's and in 2003 were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

Fred, along with his wife, Emma, continues to make the Greater New Haven community their home today and Fred continues to perform. He is true community treasure and I am honored to join Mayor Harp and all of those gathered today in paying him tribute.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Rev. Fr. Ghevont Der Sdepanian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Der Sdepanian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Seropian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Seropian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Simonian, Rev. Fr. Shmavon Der Simonian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Tavitian, Rev. Fr. Vrtanes Der Torossian, Rev. Fr. Bimen Der Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Kakig Der Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Vartanian, Archpriest Yeghia Der Yeghiayan, Rev. Fr. Karnig Der Yezegielian, Rev. Fr. Zakaria Der Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Zakaria Der Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Der-Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der-Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der-Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Der-Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Der-Atamian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Der-Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Der-Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der-Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Knel Der-Azarian, Rev. Fr. Iravapar Derbabian, Rev. Fr. Atam Derderian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Derderian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Derderian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Derderian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Derderian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Derderian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Derderian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Derderian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Derderian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Der-Kalousdian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Der-Kalousdian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Der-Kalousdian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Der-Kalousdian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Der-Kalousdian, Rev. Fr. Serovpe Der-Kasbarian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Dermenjian, Rev. Fr. Souren Deroyan, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der-Paraseghian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Der-Paraseghian, Rev. Fr. Parsegh Der-Paraseghian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Der-Partoghmeossian, V. Rev. Fr. Vrtanes Devgants, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Deyirmenjian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Dilegian, Rev. Fr. Hetoum Diradourian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Dishlian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Djanikian, Rev. Fr. Khosrov Djeghikian, Rev. Fr. Movses Djenezian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Djeranian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Dobrashian, Rev. Fr. Donabed, Rev. Fr. Armenag Donatossian, Archpriest Madteos Donigian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Donoyan, Rev.

Fr. Krikor Dosdourian, Rev. Fr. Souren Durgerian, Rev. Fr. Kiud Dzadourian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Dzaghigian, Rev. Fr. Yevkineos Dzaghigian, Rev. Fr. Teopile Dzerougian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Dzerouni, Rev. Fr. Movses Dzotsigian, Rev. Fr. Torkom Ehramjian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Elbegian, Rev. Fr. Adovm Elmasdian, Rev. Fr. Apkar Englian, Rev. Fr. Norayr Eozelian, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ermoyan, Rev. Fr. Geghemes Etyemezian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Fakhirian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Ferhadian, Rev. Fr. Tornig Gaboudigian, V. Rev. Fr. Madteos Gadarian, V. Rev. Fr. Arisdages Gadegjian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Gananian, Archpriest Fr. Yezegiel Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Alexianos Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Mamigon Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Garabedian, V. Rev. Fr. Boghos Garabedian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Soukias Gargarian, Rev. Fr. Saponia Garinian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Gedigian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Gedjadian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Gemjian, Rev. Fr. Movses Geogjian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Gergerian, Rev. Fr. Mikael Ghamparian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Gharibshahian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Ghazarian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Ghazarian, Rev. Fr. Movses Ghazarian, V. Rev. Fr. Bedros Ghazarian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Ghougassian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Ghougassian, Rev. Fr. Khosrov Ghougassian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Giragossian, Rev. Fr. Magar Giragossian, Rev. Fr. Partoughimeos Gobalian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Gogoyan, Rev. Fr. Gorun, Rev. Fr. Movses Gulgezhian, Rev. Fr. Apel Gureghian, Rev. Fr. Sebouh Gureghian, Rev. Fr. Avak Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Hagopian, V. Rev. Fr. Boghos Hagopian, V. Rev. Fr. Hagop Hagopian, V. Rev. Fr. Taniel Hagopian, V. Rev. Fr. Vartan Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Hairabedian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb, Rev. Fr. Khoren Hampartsoumian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Hampartsoumian, Rev. Fr. Adom Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Guregh Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Taniel Haroutiunian, V. Rev. Fr. Arsen Haroutiunian, V. Rev. Fr. Anania Hazarabedian, Rev. Fr. Zaven Hazarian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Hazarashahian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Hekimian, Rev. Fr. Roupen Hekimian, Rev. Fr. Sempad Helhelian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Hendeyan, Rev. Fr. Kourken Hovagimian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Margos Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Hovhannessian, V. Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Hovivian, Rev. Fr. Pakrad Isakian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Jamgotchian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Jamgotchian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Kalayjian, Rev. Fr. Yevakr Kalayjian, V. Rev. Fr. Souren Kalemian, V. Rev. Fr. Ardavazt Kalenderian, Archpriest Fr. Megerditch Kaleonjian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Kalousdian, Bishop Yeznig Kalpakjian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Kaprielian,

Rev. Fr. Krikor Karagueozian, Rev. Fr. Vahram Karaguivourian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Karakashian, Rev. Fr. Yervant Karamanougian, Rev. Fr. Agepsimos Kasbarian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Kasbarian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Kasbarian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Kasbarian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Kasbarian, V. Rev. Fr. Megerditch Kasbarian, Archpriest Fr. Bedros Kassian, Rev. Fr. Housig Kavafian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Kebabjian, Rev. Fr. Parnag Kehiayan, Rev. Fr. Hovagim Keomurjian, Rev. Fr. Madatia Keondukian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Keoroghlian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Keremian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Ghogas Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Keshishian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Maghakia Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Movses Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Zakaria Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Zarmayr Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Keyhiayan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Khanjian, Bishop Nerses Kharakhanian, Rev. Fr. Pakrad Kharputlian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, Rev. Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Oksendios Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Khatchadourian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeremia Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Dzamitos Khatchigian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Khatchoyan, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Khojian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Khojayan, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepan Khorkhorounian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kibritjian, Rev. Fr. Khosrof Kirkorian, Rev. Fr. Hiusikos Kojadeolian, Rev. Fr. Yebipan Kojayan, Rev. Fr. Vahan Koltoukian, Rev. Fr. Stepan Kopoushian, Rev. Fr. Kakig Kossian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Koulaksezian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Koushoghlian, Rev. Fr. Armenag Kouyoumjian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Kouyoumjian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Krikorian, V. Rev. Fr. Bedros Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Kulkanjian, Rev. Fr. Adom Kurkjian, Rev. Fr. Housig Kurkjian.

#### IN COMMEMORATION OF 1890s DAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of 1890s Day, which commemorates an influential piece of legislation that took effect 125 years ago yet is still very relevant today.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law with the intention of giving federal land grants to states so that they would in turn sell them to establish "land-grant" universities with the funds. Academically, these institutions were to specialize in fields such as agriculture, military strategy, and engineering, initiatives that would have a distinct impact on local economies and technological developments in years to come.

Twenty-eight years later, the second Morrill Act of 1890 was enacted and we celebrate that moment today. It was significant because it specifically addressed the former Confederate States. In order to combat extensive racial discrimination faced by African Americans



in the post-Civil War South, the Act required that States wishing to receive federal support must either omit entry restrictions based on skin color at their universities entirely, or else establish separate institutions specifically designed to accommodate African Americans. Many historically black colleges and universities came into existence as a result of this rule.

Prior to the Civil War, there were few opportunities for African Americans to receive a higher education. Those African Americans who did receive such schooling studied at home or in informal settings. In fact, during the era of slavery, it had been a crime to instruct an African American in anything except the most rudimentary skills.

Within the Second Congressional District of Georgia, one concrete outcome of this landmark legislation was the 1895 founding of Fort Valley High and Industrial School, which would later become Fort Valley State College and, finally, Fort Valley State University. This historically African-American institution remains Georgia's only 1890 land-grant university.

Proving itself over decades of scholastic distinction and educating thousands of students in the sciences as well as the arts, this renowned establishment is still alive and flourishing today. It was all made possible through that groundbreaking decision made more than a century ago. Since the 1890 Act directly addressed concerns of discrimination against African Americans, it has served to provide opportunities for all students, regardless of their race.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my privilege to bring attention to this important day, and to recognize the changes the Morrill Act of 1890 has brought to our communities and to our nation. For it is through the diversity and the inspiration of our youth that we are able to grow as a society, in innovation and in hope. Let us celebrate these developments today and anticipate a bright future to come tomorrow.

THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I join the Israeli people in celebrating 67 years of independence and more than six decades of steadfast support by the United States.

Israel remains unquestionably our strongest ally in the region—a key supporter in our fight against terrorism and the only country in the region in which the voice of its citizens is regularly heard through the ballot box.

Not only are our security interests inextricably linked, but the U.S.-Israeli relationship is firmly rooted in democratic values, common goals, and the unbreakable bond between our people.

As the former Chairwoman and current Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, I will continue to advocate for U.S. assistance to Israel, which helps our ally secure its borders and protect its citizens, as well as un-

equivocally support efforts to stand with Israel in international fora.

This year's Yom Ha'atzmaut is an opportunity to celebrate the ties that unite us and recommit ourselves to working together on the many challenges currently facing both our great countries.

HONORING THE MOTHERS TRUST  
FOUNDATION

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mothers Trust Foundation of Lake County. Founded by Barbara Monsor, the Mothers Trust Foundation's mission is to provide immediate assistance during times of crisis to low-income children.

Mr. Speaker, the Mothers Trust Foundation works to connect children in desperate situations with those who want to provide assistance where it truly makes a difference. Each request is specific to the child's financial needs. For example, the organization helps fund the cost of school supplies, a class field trip fee or even a college application payment.

By assisting in these times of need, the Mothers Trust Foundation strives to build confidence and make a positive difference in young people's lives. Thank you to Jody Ortiz, Jeanette Lincoln, Wendy Feldhaus, Daria Andrews, Jane Rubin, Terri Karst, Tina Mascari and Mary Claire Sparrow for dedicating your time to a special cause. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize these selfless, inspiring leaders and the Mothers Trust Foundation.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Mansouian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Mansouian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Maranian, Rev. Fr. Ardag Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Michael Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Margossian, Rev. Fr. Dzamitos Markarian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Markarian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mavian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Mazmanian, Rev. Fr. Israel Medjigian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Megerditchian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Melikian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Souren Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Messerlian, Rev. Fr. Apkar Mghdessian, Rev. Fr. Mikael, Rev.

Fr. Khoren Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Mikaelian, V. Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Mergerios Minassian, Rev. Fr. Minas Minassian, Rev. Fr. Tateos Minassian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Miroyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Mkhalian, Rev. Fr. Partogh Mkhalian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mogatsian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Moughalian, Rev. Fr. Zadig Moumigian, Rev. Fr. Hayrabad Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Oksendios Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Ovresdes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Souren Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Mouradian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Mouradkhanian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Moushmoulian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Najarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Nalbadian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Nazaretian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeznig Nergararian, Rev. Fr. Soukias Nersesian, Rev. Fr. Levon Nigoghossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Nonoyan, Rev. Fr. Partoghimeos Noradougian, Rev. Fr. Minas Noraznian, Rev. Fr. Vramshabouh Norhadian, Rev. Fr. Michael Norigian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Noroyan, Rev. Fr. Teopile Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Ohan, Rev. Fr. Krikoris Otsetsian, Rev. Fr. Arisdage Otsnetsi, Rev. Fr. Israel Padigian, Archpriest Fr. Boghos Paghian, V. Rev. Fr. Taniel Paghoumian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Paghoyan, Rev. Fr. Avedik Palouyan, Bishop Hagop Ashod Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardashes Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardashes Papazian, Rev. Fr. Baghdasar Papazian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Papazian, V. Rev. Fr. Mashdots Papazian, Rev. Fr. Yezras Papelian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Paraghmanian, Rev. Fr. Simon Parkhalian, Rev. Fr. Adom Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Parshegh Parseghian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Partoughimiosian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Patrian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Pehlivanian, Rev. Fr. Sebouh Perthigian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhan Peshdimaljian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Pirlian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Piroumian, Rev. Fr. Parsegh Pogharian, Rev. Fr. Bsag Posigian, Rev. Fr. Jirayr Posoyan, Rev. Fr. Sahag Postoyan, Rev. Fr. Serovpe Pregian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Proudian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Proudian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Rapounian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Reyissian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Rouhbanian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Roushanian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Neshan Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Rapael Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sahagian, V. Rev. Fr. Shavarsh Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Yerevoum Sandekian, Rev. Fr. Kenarios Sarafian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarajian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis, Rev. Fr. Avedis Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Bsag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Sarkissian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Savayan, Rev. Fr. Sdepan, Archpriest Karekin Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Seferian, Rev. Fr. Oksen Semerjian, Rev. Fr. Sempad, Rev. Fr. Khoren Senekerimian, V. Rev. Fr. Gorun Serabian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Serginian, Rev. Fr. Kervope Seropian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Seropian, Rev. Fr. Serovpe, V. Rev. Fr. Avedis Setrakian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Shahbazian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shahinian, Rev. Fr. Oshin Shahnazarian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Shakarian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Shaljian, Rev. Fr. Teopile

Sharounagian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Sharoyan, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Sheperdigian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shiranian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Shisheyan, Rev. Fr. Krikor Simigian, Rev. Fr. Diradour Simonian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Simonian, Rev. Fr. Reteos Simonian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sinabian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sinoyan, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sivasian, Rev. Fr. Soghomon, Rev. Fr. Nerses Soghomonian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Soghomonian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soughoubatian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soukiasian, Rev. Fr. Hrayr Soukiasian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sourenian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sumenian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Takavorian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Tamezian, Bishop Nerses Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Markar Tanielian, V. Rev. Fr. Barkev Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Gomidas Tapinian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Sempad Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Tashjian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tatarian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tavitian, Archpriest Hagop Tchaghatsbanian, V. Rev. Fr. Megerditch Tchelghadian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Tehanoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Telalian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Tellerian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Temourian, Archpriest Fr. Mampre Tepigian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Tertsagian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Terzian, V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Teveklian, Bishop Khoren Timaksian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Tinarian, Rev. Fr. Asoghig Toghakian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Topalian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Topalian, V. Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Torigian, Archpriest Fr. Yeprem Torkomian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Torossian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Torossian, Rev. Fr. Medropanos Tosoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Toukhighian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Tourian, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Toursarkissian, Rev. Fr. Housig Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Tovmas Tovmassian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmayan, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes, V. Rev. Fr. Apraham, V. Rev. Fr. Karekin, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Vahan, Archpriest Nerses Vahanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Vahradian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Penig Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Hesou Vartabedian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Khat Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Vartanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Vatabedian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vemian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Vosganian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Yaghoubian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Yardemian, Rev. Fr. Vagharshag Yegavian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Yeghiseyan, Rev. Fr. Gorun Yeramian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Yeranossian, Archpriest Boghos Yeretsian, Archpriest Fr. Moushegh Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Yergatian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Yessayan, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeterian, V. Rev. Fr. Apkar Yotnaghperian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Zadourian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Shemavon Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sighvanos Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Zakoyan, Tshxun Karoyan, Krikor Zohrab, Haroutiun Shahrigian (Adom), Karekin Khajag

(Chakalian), E. Agnuni (Khachadour Maloomian), Dikran Kelegian, Siamanto (Adom Yarjanian), Herand (Melkon Gurjian), Taniel Varoujan (Chibookirarian), Roupén Zartarian, Roupén Sevag (Dr. R. Chilingirian).

# RECOGNIZING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and to reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Israel was created in 1948; it took President Truman only 11 minutes to recognize the new Jewish State.

Since then, Israel has come to exist as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Israel and the United States have many of the same foundations of government: freedom of religion, free speech, basic human rights, the rule of law and being a nation of immigration and diversity.

In addition, it is a home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and attracts multitudes of visitors every year.

Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history.

The people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as an example of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

I applaud the Government of Israel for successfully working with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel many times, and observing firsthand her great achievements in the areas of medical research, technology, business, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel is an occasion for us to reflect and reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

The United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect.

The people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally.

I hope this friendship continues to grow and blossom for decades to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL AUDITING STANDARDS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from being disbursed to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) unless DOT certifies that MWAA is complying with audit standards. There have been some improvements at MWAA, but significant failures in MWAA's contracting, auditing, and hiring policies and practices pointed to a need for systemic reform in MWAA's acquisition, auditing, and hiring processes. Despite being created by Congress, leasing federally owned land, and benefiting from significant federal taxpayer funds, MWAA is not subject to federal procurement, auditing or nepotism laws. However, MWAA has been taking steps to address these shortcomings.

MWAA is an independent public body created by Congress under the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 (Airports Act). MWAA, with 1,400 employees, leases Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport from the federal government. In addition to managing the airports, MWAA is responsible for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which has an estimated cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$977 million in federal funds. In 2012, DOT appointed a Federal Accountability Officer, who reports directly to the Secretary, to ensure MWAA follows the DOT Inspector General's (IG) recommendations.

A 2012 DOT IG report, "MWAA's Weak Policies and Procedures Have Led to Questionable Procurement Practices, Mismanagement, and a Lack of Overall Accountability" (Report Number: AV-2013-006) (IG Report), found that "MWAA's contracting policies and practices are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Airports Act and the lease agreement between DOT and MWAA." For example, the Airports Act and lease agreement require MWAA to award contracts over \$200,000 competitively to the maximum extent practicable. However, the IG Report found that MWAA had recently awarded two-thirds of its contracts exceeding \$200,000 with limited competition. The IG Report also noted that MWAA awarded many contracts with no formal solicitation. After the IG Report, MWAA immediately took action and has closed out 10 of 12 recommendations and MWAA has adopted as much of the Federal Acquisition Regulations as are applicable to MWAA. Still, there are significant issues sighted in a recent draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits that virtually mandates greater monitoring.

A January 15, 2013, Washington Post article reported that at least 10 percent of MWAA employees have family members working there, including spouses and children. The IG report also noted that MWAA lacked "sufficient controls to detect and prevent nepotism." It is

clear that changes were imperative and overdue. The lack of transparency and competition on MWAA's contracts and hiring were inconsistent with continued ownership of the airports by the federal government, MWAA's creation by Congress, and the significant federal taxpayer dollars MWAA receives. The IG Report's conclusion that procurement procedures and hiring policies in place were inadequate required a response that definitively fixed these issues. MWAA has updated its policies, and nepotism appears to no longer be a problem.

A current draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits raises a number of questions regarding MWAA's internal auditing procedures. It finds that there have been no outside reviews of the Office of Audits and that the office has not adopted standards and lacked sufficient oversight. MWAA has responded to this draft report by taking initial steps to restructure the office. MWAA has updated its regulations so that the head of the Office of Audits will now report directly to the Board of Directors as well as the President & CEO. MWAA has also adopted the Institute of Internal Auditors standards, and it is undergoing a national search for a new internal auditor and external auditor.

The steps MWAA has taken to address the findings of the DOT IG are commendable. However, considering the outstanding issues, continuous oversight is essential. To further assist MWAA, I am offering this bill so that DOT will continue to have direct oversight over MWAA and access to audit materials.

I urge support of this bill.

#### ISRAEL'S 67TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Israel as Israel celebrates its 67th anniversary.

Since its establishment on May 14, 1948, Israel has proven itself to be a vibrant democracy, one that prioritizes innovation, liberal values and freedom. It is these shared principles that have created the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel.

Throughout its existence, the Israeli people have faced grave threats from hostile neighbors, defending themselves bravely against repeated terrorist and military attacks. Despite these hardships the Israeli people have not wavered in their commitment to democracy and freedom and have thrived economically, politically, culturally.

The recent growth in anti-Semitic acts, including the attacks this year in Paris and Copenhagen, are a powerful reminder of why the world needs a safe haven for the Jewish people. Such threats to the Jewish Diaspora underscore the importance of Israel as its own protector, and the moral imperative for the United States to stand by her right to self-defense.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in

service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for and will continue to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong and bipartisan.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Sarkis Minassian, Dr. Nazaret Daghararian, Dr. Garabed Pashalian Khan, Levon Larents (Kirishjian), Sumpad Purad (Derghazarents), Hampartsoom Hampartsoomian, Parsegh Shahbaz, Ardashes Haroutiunian, Jack Sayabalian (Paylag), Krikor Torosian, Kegham Parseghian, Dikran Cheogurian, Shavarsh Kurisian, Krikor Yesayan, Armen Doryan (Hurchya Soorenian), Aris Israyelian, Mihran Tabakian, Hagop Terzian, Hampartsoom Boyajian (Moorad), Vartkes (Hovhannes Serengulian), Marzbed (Ghazar Ghazarian), Arisdages Kasbarian, Haroutiun G. Jangulian, Sarkis Parseghian (Shameel), Bedros Kalfayan, Haroutiun Kalfayan, Sarkis Suvin (Sungujian), Edwar Beyazian, Hurach (Haig Tirakian), Adom Shahan (Yeritsants), Yenovk Shahan, Nerses Papazian, Nerses Zakarian, Dr. Sdepan Miskjian, Ardzruni (Hagop Avedisian), Sako, Dr. Levon Bardizbanian, Ardashes Semerjian (Torkom), Vramshabooch Arabian, Nerses Shahnoor, Serovpe Noradoongian, Karekin Husian, Mardiros H. Koondakjian, Krikor Armooni, Boghos Tanielian, Megerdich Garabedian, Apraham Hayrigian, Levon Aghababian, Kevork Terjimanian, Dikran Ashkharooni, Kevork Diratsooyan, Mihrtad Haygazan, Rosdom Rosdomian, Vramshabooch Samuelian, Arshag Khazkhazian, Mrgrdich Sdepanian, Levon Shashian, Paroonag Feroukhan, Onnig Maghazajian, Teodor Mendzigian, Varteres Atanasian, Apig Jambaz, Vahram Altoonian, Yeranig Aram, Nerses D. Kevorkian, Onnig Srabian, Partogh Zorian, Akrig Kerestejian, Melkon Piosian, Pilibbos Chilinguirian, Haroutiun Konialian, Vahan Jamjian, Haroutiun Kalfaian, Hovhannes Kelejian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Dikran Sarkisian, Barooyr Arzoomanian, Haig Derderian, Mirijan Artinian, Hampartsum Balasan, Vahan Kehaian, Ardashes Ferahian, Artin Meserlian, Armenag Arakelian, Mihran Pasdurmajian, Neshan Nahabedian, Yeghia Suzigian, Bedros Kurdian, Diran Yerganian, Asadoor Madteosian, Yervant Chavooshian, Hagop Shahbaz, Sarkis Kaligian, Garabed Reyisian, Kevork Kopooshian, Krikor Ohnigian, Aram Ohnigian, Karekin Ohnigian, Hovhannes Keoleian, Dikran Baghdigian, Hovhannes Cheogurian, Paramaz, Dr. Benne Torosian, Aram Achukbashian, Kegham Vanigian, Yervant Topoozian, Roupén Garabedian, Hovhannes Der Ghazarian, Tovmas

Tovmasian, Hagop Basmajian, Moorad Zakarian, Megerdich Yeretsian, Karekin Boghosian, Armenag Hampartsoomian, Yeremia Manoogian, Apraham Mooradian, Minas Keshishian, Sumpad Kulujian, Karnig Boyajian, Herand Yegavian, Boghos Boghosian, Herand Aghajanian, Garabed Patoogian, Khoren Khorenian, Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian, Ishkhan Nighoghayos Boghosian with his 4 friends, Vramian Onnig Tertsagian, Ardashes Solakian, Dikran Odian (Asso), A. Proodian, Garabed Dantlian, Haygag Yeremishian, Yerookhan (Yervant Srmakeshkanlian), Tulgadintsi, Prof. Garabed Soghigian, Prof. Megerdich Vorperian, Prof. Hovhannes Boujikanian, Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian, Prof. Khachadour Nahigian, Prof. Donabed Lulejian, Jirair Hagopian, Hovhannes Dingilian, Hovhannes Aghanigian, Aram Srabian, Armen Onanian, Hovsep Malemezian, Kegham Samuelian, Kapriel Tanielian, Karnig Gosdanian, Hagop Dinjian, Armen Hovagimian, Asadour Jamgochian, Mouradian, Hovhannes Zartarian, Kevork Keleshian, Hagop Shoushanian, Setrag Dulgerian, Aram Dabaghian, Haroutiun Semerjian, Hagop, Hapet, Sarkis Eljanian, Mihran Isbirian, Senekerim Kalyonjian, Moorad Derderian, Garabed Barsamian, Karnig Toughlajian, Manuel Dedeian, Levon Kantarian, Aram Hagopian, Khachadour Grdodian, Michael Frengulian, Roupén Rakoubian, Hampartsoom Blejian, Vahan Husisian, Nazaret Husisian, Bidza, Hemayag Karageozian, Israel Ozanian, Dajad Chebookjian, Levon Karageozian, Hmayag Margosian, Hmaig Karibian, Ardashes Boornazian, Hagop Boornazian, M. Paroonag Sarkisian, Arshag Kizirian, Hovhannes Boghosian, K. Vosgerichian, Antranig Bozajian, Aram Adrouni, Aram Shesheian, Hurach Loosparonian, Megerdich Asdourian, Pilos, Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed, Partogh Odabashian, Kaloosd Garabedian, Vahan Kasbarian, Kevork Zooloomian, Hagop Garabedian, Peniamin Chulghatian, Haroutiun Boshosian, Gorun (Gomsetsi Iso), Megerdich Polaian (Mejo), Vartan Dikran, Armenag Yokhigian, Garabed Jamjian, Karnig Kouyoumjian, Garabed Nevroozian, Hagop Khayelian, Hago Merdinian, Parsegh Mootafian, Krikor Kouyoumjian, Sarkis Aghartmajian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Mardiros Zoonajian, Mirijan Yoghourdlashian, Haroutiun Yoghourdlashian, Hagop Sudjian, Garabed Mooradian, Hovhannes Nevshehirlan, Avedis Elmajian, Kevork Turkujian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Hagop Oorganjian, Hagop Yesaian, Hagop Balekjian, Garabed Oozoonoghian, Ghazer Mayisian, Hagop Kazezian, Hovhannes Zeytoontsian, Hovhannes Tavitian, Sarkis Tooloomjian, Garabed Chiyedemian, Vahan Amadouni, Krikor Moumijhanian, Krikor Khacheroogian, Haroutiun Dayian, Asdoor Minasian, Haroutiun Keoleyan, Garabed Aghcharian, Manoog Buchakjian, Hagop Chubookjian, Mihran Guzeian, L. Varzhabedian, Misak Bahanjian, Sarkis Karakezian, Setrag Chechenian, Karnig Shemshian, Hagop Berberian, Sahag Kayserlian, Kevork Vishabian, Vahan Kurkjian, Minas Minassian, Minas Bedrosian, Kevork Jamjian, Vahan Jamjian, Kapriel Kurkjian, Markar Yazejian, Parsegh Kilimlian, Vahan Kehiayan, Krikor Gerekezmian, Hagop

Yousoufian, Garabed Yousoufian, Karnig Kavjian, Dedeyan Brothers, Aram Dabanian, Yervant Varteresian, Mardiros Lusarian, Nushan Halajian, Garabed Zambakjian, Hovhannes Ekmekjian, Haroutiun Beojekian, Vahan Chapoutian, Garabed Matosian, Varteres Varteresian, Hagop Bostanjan, Hovhannes Tufenkjian, Dikran Kasabian, Haroutiun Der Megerdichian, Karnig Balekjian, Prof. Arakel Sivaslian, Prof. Hovhannes Hagopian, Gagig Ozanian, Prof. Arshag Daghljan, Prof. Hovhannes Arozian, Garabed Kojaian, Parsegh Endebeian, Nushan Yenjelian, Hovhannes Momjian, Ardrem Gorgodian, Prof. Jessy Matossian, Prof. Loofti Babigian, Hovhannes Hasurjian, Prof. Arshag Roomian, Hovhannes Kazanjian, Dikran Temurian, Avedis Khudurian, Noorjian Noorjianian, Yegho, Hagop Aghaser, Tovmas Jelalian, Senekerim Bonjooklian, Minas Ipekian, Manoog Tanielian, N. Evranian, G. Churakian, Kar Gozigian, Arshag Papazian, Vahakn Datevian, Ashoogh Shahnazar, Kerovpe Gulbengian, Sdepan Nalbandian, Dr. Hagop Hovhannesian, Ardashes Der Sdepanian, Vartan Misirian, Arakel Abroyan, Garabed Taniel, Berj Taniel, Melki Khanzarian, Sooren Harootiunian, Garabed Sivrisarian, Zinvor Mardig, Siragan Papazian, Alexan Haroutiunian, Sdepan Akchaian, N. Markarian, M. Bartunlian, S. Lazian, K. Paplian, Sarkis Khozaian, Hovhannes Khosaiian, Nazaret Tashjian, Mihran Tashjian, Garabed Zadigian, Hayotsian, Garabed, Shmavon, Mihran Kiremdjian, Bedros, Minas, Krikor Sumpadian, Bedros Genjian, Boghos Gegenozian, Hovhannes Mooradian, Khachig Mardigosian, Hampartsoom Isheian, Siragan Stamboltian, Iskender Tasamkian, Hagop Bijoyan, Garabed Lezian, Hayrabad Balukjian, Hovhannes Varjabedian, Simonig Seferian, Misak Semerian, A. Khanjian, Onnig Baltayan, A. Nalbandian, H. Kapoojian, Karnig Pekmezian, Toros Pekmezian, S. Dingilian, L. Dingilian, L. Looftiyan.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER  
PETE WHEELER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant of Georgia, Commissioner Pete Wheeler, longtime leader of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS). Commissioner Wheeler passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Decatur First United Methodist Church in Decatur, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Pete Wheeler was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia and an attorney, admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1949. He served our nation with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1950, he joined the Georgia National Guard. He retired in 1978 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Pete Wheeler joined the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in 1949 as Director

of the Education Division. In 1951, he was named Assistant Director of the Department. In 1954, he was appointed as the department's director but the title was later changed to Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Service. His strong and effective leadership was widely noted, for he was reappointed fifteen times and remained in charge up to his passing.

For 66 years, Commissioner Wheeler acted as a voice for Georgia veterans and worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of these national heroes who sacrificed so much to safeguard our cherished liberties.

Shortly after his appointment as director of the GDVS, Commissioner Wheeler joined the effort to recognize Veterans Day as a new federal holiday. He was named Georgia Chairman of the National Veterans Day Committee and partnered with then-Governor of Georgia, Herman Talmadge, to arrange a formal ceremony for the signing of the proclamation declaring the new holiday in Georgia. This ceremony became a tradition in the state that is still honored today. Due to a decline in health, 2014 marked the first year that Commissioner Wheeler was unable to attend but he certainly was there in spirit.

In 1966, in response to the needs of the first veterans returning from the Vietnam War, as well as those of their families and survivors, Commissioner Wheeler created the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits, a one-day informational event aiming to gather local, state, and federal agencies that provide services to veterans. The event was so successful that it became an annual signature event of the GDVS and has been replicated throughout the country.

In 1994, Commissioner Wheeler was appointed Chairman of the National World War II Memorial Advisory Board by President Bill Clinton, serving until the memorial's dedication by President George W. Bush in 2004. He served as a past president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and was a life member of the American Legion, DAV, and AMVETS.

The Georgia General Assembly issued a resolution in 1998 renaming the state's war veterans memorial complex in Atlanta, Georgia as the "Pete Wheeler Georgia War Veterans Memorial Complex." The complex includes memorials to Georgia veterans from the Spanish-American War through Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Earlier this year, Commissioner Wheeler approved the design for the next addition, a memorial honoring those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be dedicated on May 20, 2015.

On a personal note, Commissioner Pete Wheeler was a close friend of mine. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Commissioner Wheeler has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family. His wife of 59 years, Geraldine, and one daughter, Jane, preceded him in death. Mourning his memory and rejoicing his life are his daughter, Francis and son-in-law, Mark; son, Peter and daughter-in-law, Debbie; son-in-law, John; and six grandchildren, Matthew, Joshua, Joanna, Alex, Charles, and Jonathan.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the

Second Congressional District and veterans all across Georgia, salute Commissioner Pete Wheeler for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of life for our veterans. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Commissioner Wheeler's family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING HAROLD W. MCGRAW III

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harold W. McGraw III on his upcoming retirement from the board of directors of McGraw Hill Financial, the company that his great-grandfather founded in 1888.

Known to his friends as Terry, he joined the company in 1980, holding a number of leadership positions before being named chief executive officer in 1998—the third McGraw to hold that position.

During his tenure as CEO, Terry led the company's transformation from education and publishing into a credit ratings, benchmarks and portfolio-based company, with best-in-class brands that include Standard & Poor's, Platts and J.D. Power.

Though he retired as CEO in 2013, Terry remains active in the global business community and is a well-known voice in various key economic fields. In addition to chairing the International Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Trade Representatives' Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and the U.S. Council for International Business and the Emergency Committee for American Trade, Terry also is a former Chairman of the Business Roundtable and the U.S.-India Business Council. He serves as a member of the board of directors of United Technologies and of Phillips 66, chairman of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), and a member of the Business Council.

The company has always been a fixture in the New York City philanthropic community and, under Terry's leadership, employees have donated countless volunteer hours for causes and programs around the city. This has included everything from park clean-ups with the New York Restoration Project to reading to underserved elementary school children as part of the Read Ahead partnership. The company has provided scores of grants to arts and cultural venues as well.

Terry has devoted himself personally to several programs with which he has particularly deep relationships. He greatly increased corporate support—and personal contributions—to the New York Public Library, where he also serves as a Trustee. He continued the long tradition of McGraw family and company support for Hartley House, a nonprofit community center serving the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. Terry also initiated the company's partnership with the South Bronx-based

Morris High School Educational Campus, taking an active personal interest in the school by meeting and mentoring its students, speaking at events and launching an annual scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, Terry McGraw has distinguished himself throughout his career as a skilled and savvy businessman, as well as a generous and civic-minded philanthropist. I ask my colleagues to support me in congratulating him on his countless achievements during a remarkable career.

# 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

This year marks one hundred years since the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. A systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. What began with the killing of 300 Armenian leaders resulted in the deaths of one and a half million people and the forced exile of another 500,000.

It is often said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it, which is why each year I call on the President to officially acknowledge this terrible chapter of history by using the word "genocide." In a recent Detroit News article, a local resident said this, "The fact that 100 years later you still have to explain and prove that what happened to your ancestors was a premeditated crime on a massive scale really incurs a lot of pain for all Armenians."

In my home state of Michigan, 11,000 people of Armenian descent reside and may leading organizations have organized commemorative events leading up to April 24th. I have had the honor to attend many events at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield where there stands a memorial which contains the remains of a genocide victim. We are also proud that the only Armenian research center attached to an American university is at the University of Michigan-Dearborn where the Center documents the Armenian genocide and current Armenian issues.

I am always pleased to co-sponsor Congressional resolutions that shed light on the true nature of this ethnic extermination, and honor its victims and survivors. On the 100th Anniversary, I recall with deep sorrow the stories passed down through families of death marches, labor camps, entire families wiped out, years of slavery, massacre, and starvation.

I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

# RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire orchestrated a murderous campaign that resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, and forced hundreds of thousands into exile. Growing up in the land of William Saroyan, I learned the stories of this tragic time from the sons and daughters of survivors time and time again. Refusal to accurately recognize this crime against humanity as genocide hurts both the Armenian people and the American people.

In the Central Valley, Fresno State University has designated April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The unveiling of the Armenian Genocide Monument, the first of its kind on a U.S. college campus, will take place later today at my alma mater and I know that this memorial will serve as a somber reminder of the devastating violence committed against the Armenian people for generations to come.

Achieving peace today requires recognizing the dark parts of our history and moving forward to find a place of understanding and cooperation. It is my hope that Turkey grasps what President Obama has referred to as the burden of unresolved history and takes this important first step in recognizing what is widely referred to as the first genocide of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Acknowledging this atrocity would finally allow a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity. It is time for Congress to end the silence and stand up for the Armenian people.

# TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Minas Keoleyan, Herand Arabian, Azniv & Onnig Filipelian, Kapriel Mozigian, Lapajian father & son, Sinem Shamamian and son Bedros, Minas Fendekian, H. Oozoonian, Mihran Lootfian, H. Yazejian, S. Hisian, M. Khanjian, Aram Kamboorian, G. Ebeyian, K. Andonian, S. Mechigian, Puzand Morookian, Karnig Pachajian, Garabed Pachajian, Sarim

Kulujian, Eduar Beyazian, H. Lootfian, Armenag Lootfian, Tevonian, Sukias Dulgerian, Herand Asdvadzadourian, Hagop Garakian, Melkon Hovsepian, Zareh Kochian, Dr. Maksood Apigian, Dr. Azadian, Dr. Sarkis Azoyan, Dr. Nushan Ajemian, Dr. Surdash Arslanian, Dr. Levon Arslanian, Dr. Levon Torkom Partoghian, Dr. Vahan Kavajian, Dr. Mike Karageozian, Dr. Minas Yarmaian, Dr. Elmasian, Dr. Eminian, Dr. Hagop Tajirian, Dr. Minas Tulbendjian, Dr. H. Terzian, Dr. Vosgan Topalian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Ipranosian, Dr. Esgi Denek Madentsi, Dr. Krikor Gulbenkian, Dr. Dikran Halajian, Dr. Levon Lootfi Halebian, Dr. Haroutiun Halvajian, Dr. A. Hayranian, Dr. Boghos Hisarlian, Dr. Vahan Ghazarian, Dr. Ghazaros Kharperzi, Dr. Jeljelian, Dr. Manuelian, Dr. Melkisetegian, Dr. Sarkis Momjian, Dr. Hagop, Dr. Toros Nazlian, Dr. Nushan Nahigian, Dr. H. Nazlian, Dr. Souren Nushanian, Dr. Nerses Shahbazlian, Dr. Anigdos Chobanian, Dr. Misak Baghdasarian, Dr. B. Baghdasarian, Dr. Toros Babigian, Dr. Nushan Bakalian, Dr. Sarkis Sertelian, Dr. Armenag Seraydarian, Dr. Baghdasar Vartanian, Dr. Haroutiun Vezneian, Dr. Khachig Der Manuelian, Dr. Nushan Der Vahramian, Dr. H. Donigian, Dr. Boghos Palabuyukian, Dr. Misak Panossian, Dr. H. Keshishian, Dr. Mihran Altunian, Dr. M. Albertian, Dr. H. Achbahian, Dr. Peniamin, Dr. Haigazoon Tabibian, Dr. Levon Yegavian, Dr. Nushan Ghonchegulian, Dr. Manooq, Dr. Nushan Mughigian, Dr. Sumpad, Dr. Paroonag Ajemian, Dr. Armenag, Dr. Proodian, Dr. H. Kooyoomjian, Dr. Krattian, Dr. Simon Koyoonian, Dr. Yetvart Tashjian, Dr. Khachadour Torkomian, Dr. Haroutiun Lootfian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Gurjian, Dr. Kevork Gurjian, Dr. Yeghiazar Mesiaian, Dr. Vahan Shidanian, Dr. Khachig Saraydarian, Dr. Dikran Saraydarian, Dr. Sarkis, Dr. Hagop Sarigian, Dr. Sebooh, Dr. Kasbar Srabian, Dr. Vahan Vartanian, Dr. Puzand Derbabian, Dr. M. Der Sdepanian, Dr. Levon Panossian, Dr. Yeghishe Papanian, Dr. Khachig Pasdermajian, Dr. Hagop Kenderian, Dr. Khosrov Keshishian, Maldjian Family, Aintablian Family, Zarouhi Magarian, Rahel Demirjian, Raffael Der-Tovmasyan, Levon Aharonian, Aharon Aharonian, Altoon Aharonian, Haygaz Simonian, Hagop Beloian, Hagop Beloian, Yetvart Jamgochian, Vergeen Tashjian, Verone Bedrosian, Smbat Byurat DerGhazarian, Zumgroot DerGhazarian, Zartar Arakelian, Maryam Kazarian, Hovanness Yeretzian, Marian Shekerdemanian, Vartan Yeretzian, Kevork Vichabian, Simon Simonyan, Zmrookht Simonyan, Mariam Simonyan, Haroutyun Papazian, Zakaria Minassian, Garabed Jingoizian, Zakaria Minassian, Krikor Papazian, Baghdassar Karibian, Mary Meuguerditchian-Apelian, Zakar Ovoian, Hambardzum Khulyan, Suren Hakobyan, Azatuhi Hakobyan, Vostan Baghallian, Simon Hovhannesi Achikgozian, Hripsime Aghvinian, Hovhanes Aghvinian, Ester Maghakian, Boghos Maghakian, Maghak Maghakian, Mkhoyan Asatur, Hripsime Maghakian, Srpuhi Mkrtchyan, Assadour Assadourian, Yeva Hovhannessian, Ghazaros Medzoian, Sargsian Tigran, Loosatsin Medzoian, Araxi Fundukian, Zaven Fundukian, Mariam Aroushian, Sarkis Aroushian, Gadarine Fundukian, Anahid Fundukian,

Elmast Medzigian, Khachig Fundukian, Hagop Fundukian, Khassig Fundukian, Eva Fundukian, Melkon Medzigian, Ludwig Medzigian, Verjin Medzigian, Ara Medzigian, Hovannes Altibarmakian, Horop Anoushian, Zakaryan Nerses, Grigor Zohrap, Movses Deirmendjian, Hovaness Toutikian, Maritsa Kyulehyan, Tadevos Karapetyan, Khatchador Boyajian, Shimavon Donoyan, Anna Donoyan, Avedis Chaparian, Sirak Keshishian, Mardiros Toutikian, Abraham Toutikian, Hovannes Knajian, Armenouhi Toutikian, Harout Knajian, Lucya Knajian, Christeen Ter Stepanian, Avak Mouradian, Papken Toumaian, Hagop Kalbakian, Aram Jermakyan, Garabed Kaloustian, Sarkis Dadoyan, Elisabeth Partamian, Nazareth Partamian, Ovsanna Kayayan, Marna Banerian, Onnig Khachigian, Elmonig Khachigian, Onnig Khachaturian, Stepan Khachigian, Elize Avakian, Zabel Avakian, Arousiag Avakian, Setrag Avakian, Mgrditch Tashjian, Boghos Mkhitarian, Iskouhi Gabrielian, Aregnaz Markaryan, Missak Moztian, Haroutyun Sarkissian, Santoukht Moztian Ansoorian, Mikael Ansoorian, Yeghia Sarkissian, Khazaros Charchian, Mihran Berberian, Haganoush Tarpinian, Megerdich Sarafian, George Chelabian, Hakop Ter-Saakyan, Tatos Moloian, Mikael Khachetoorian, Hamparsoum Borzakian, Mesrob Der Mesrobian, Marta Avakian, Karnig Tomassian, Gayane Kazarian, Dikran Kazarian, Ararat Kazarian, Shoushanig Donegian, Haroutune Oknayan, Hagop Parsaghian, Niko Zakarian, Mariam Kouyoumjian, Kevork Mardirossian, Hripsime Mardirossian, Kevork Mardirossian, Makrouhie Oknayan, Khachik Oknayan, Hagop Oknayan, Mihran Oknayan, Manuk Oknayan, Asvadzadour Oknayan, Marie Oknayan, Mousheg Khodjhumyan, Jovannes Kabbendjian, Krakow Ouzounian, Edward Bozajian, Manouk Gasparian, Gazaros Tombulyan, Sarkis Gasparian, Ibrahim Louseian, Ann Gasparian, Ibrahim Lousean, Davit Gezalian, Yegisabet Gezalian, Hrand Mikoyan, Minas Chatalian, Mariam Chatalian, Yestare Bedrossian, Rosa Jeboghlian, Marie Balian, Mikael Tarkanian, Alton Derderian, Esksa. Derderian, Mihran Tarkanian, Vartan Dakeessian, Levon Guevoghlarian, Boghos Grikorian, Hovanes Minasyan, Gevorg Minasyan, Matevos Matilyan, Simon Kelian, Hovannes Terterian, Haji Teyrekian, Ahavni Birickyan, Avetis Martirosyan, Ocean Movsesian, Krikor Gureghian, Paul DerBoghossian, Sahag DerBoghossian, Tigran Trchunyan, Tirhouhi Kara-Sarkissian, Gevork Kara-Sarkissian, Armen Kara-Sarkissian, Aram Kara-Sarkissian, Alexan Tavitian, Armine Pagoumian, Vartan Balikian, Margaret Madoian, Miriam Madoian, Hatchig Madoian, Pasant Madoian, Maghta Gevorgian, Barsegh Karapetyan, Osanna Madoian, Atoyan Maria-Magdalena, Stepan Arvanyan, Haroutune Bozghourian, Ghazaros Baldjian, Sanasar Hovhannisyan, Eriya Amirian, Armenag Zeytounian, Toros Agha Chaghlassian, Hovsep Najarian, Stephen Minasian, Haykandukht Mheryan, Hagop Melkonian, Christophor Mheryan, Nerses Mheryan, Serop Manjikian, Sarkis Kurkdjian Senior, Tigran Zarookian, Zarouhi Alachanian, Mardiros Djambazian, Anahid Der Parseghian, Zaruhi Caroglanian, Asadour Daldabanian,

Krikor Daldabanian, Arshagul Artinian, Krikor Artinian, Vaxho Simonyan, Haroutyun Tatikyan, Kurken Parseghian, Mihran Sabonjian, Vahan Kazezian, Mariam Kazezian, Yebrakeh Kazezian, Krikor Sabonjian, Nazar Guyujyan, Razmik Palandjian, Mari Guyujyan, Krikor Gokpanossian, Panos Trashian, Goar Akopova, Anoush Kulafian, Vartouhy Kulafian, Ohannes Hagopian, Hagop Hagopian, Jirair Demirjian, Suqias Nuroyan, Matevos Sachyan, Hnazand Sachyan, Samson Khachatryan, Mariam Khachatryan.

# IN HONOR OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the State of Israel in celebration of the 67th anniversary of the declaration of its independence. Israel was founded and declared an independent state on April 14, 1948, moments before the British Mandate was due to end. From that point on in history, Israel has had to face many challenges that threaten the free and democratic nation. Under the administration of President Harry Truman and minutes after its independence, the United States found in Israel a friend and an ally.

From the beginning of its history as an independent state, Israel has had to face and overcome constant challenges to its freedom of speech, religion, press, and to its democracy. Israelis have had to fight for the strengthening of their independence and their advancement as a global state. Despite constantly being threatened by turmoil from bordering regions, Israel has been able to flourish and become a global leader in scientific research and medical advancements, and a model to the world for its economic stability.

Today, we celebrate the 67th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the State of Israel. We celebrate that Israel has been able to stand strong and thrive against all adversity. For this, I would like to commend the State of Israel for its tremendous accomplishments while fighting for the peace and freedom of an independent state.

# RECOGNIZING KAREN RATZOW

## HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the tremendous work of Karen Ratzow who has been on detail with the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for the past year. Karen has been detailed to the Subcommittee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Budget Office. Karen has not only been invaluable to the Subcommittee's work this past year, but she has been diligent, had a tremendous work

ethic, and very knowledgeable of the budget process. Karen is always eager to volunteer and lend a hand to whatever task may be needed. She quickly became an integral part of the team and she will certainly be missed.

I want to thank Karen for her outstanding work and for her dedication to agriculture in the United States of America. She is a great example of the kind of public servant we should all strive to be.

As her detail comes to a close, we want to wish her well. We look forward to working with her when she returns to her previous role at USDA.

# IN RECOGNITION OF QUINCY BROWN

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quincy Brown, an outstanding actor, producer, photographer, director, singer, model, philanthropist, and co-founder of FourXample Productions. Quincy will be honored at the premiere of his new movie, *Brotherly Love*, on Friday, April 24, 2015 at Carmike Hollywood Connections Ritz 13 in Columbus, Georgia.

The son of actress and model, Kim Porter, and New Jack Swing singer, Al B. Sure, and the stepson of singer and producer, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Quincy grew up in Columbus, Georgia and was educated in the Muscogee County School District. He is the grandson of the late Sarah Porter and great-grandson of Ms. Lila Star, the owner of the renowned Royal Café in Columbus.

Notwithstanding his lineage, Quincy has made a name for himself in the entertainment industry. At just 23 years of age, Quincy is a mini-mogul himself. In 2012, Quincy released his debut single, "Stay Awhile," featuring Kendre. In 2013, he followed up with another single, "The First Thing," which he co-wrote. Now Quincy is both behind and in front of the camera with his FourXample Production crew, recently wrapping up his directorial debut of singer Elle Winter's music video, "No Words," which features Quincy's brother, Christian Combs.

Moreover, Quincy just premiered his new single, "Friends First," featuring rapper French Montana. The single has already hit number 1 on the Billboard "Trending Social" chart. Quincy's new album, *1948*, is slated for release this year.

Even at his young age, Quincy recognizes the importance of giving back to the community. He coordinated the first annual Celebrity Kickball Charity Event and the First Annual Celebrity Flag Football Charity Event with singer Chris Brown, which brought together a host of entertainers and celebrities. Quincy has given much to his charity of choice, Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to creating employment opportunities and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At 23, Quincy has already lived more than many people two or three times his age. He

pursues each and every idea and passion, striving to connect with people from all walks of life and seeking to live life to the very fullest. Yet, as he achieves stardom, he never forgets the people, places, or comforts of his home—Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I have long said that in our area of Middle and Southwest Georgia, we have some of the best, the brightest, the most creative, and the most talented young people anywhere in the world. And Quincy Brown proves that beyond the shadow of a doubt! His industrious perseverance and steadfast commitment to his goals set a magnificent example for the young men and women who look up to him as a role model. We are sure to see even more great things from Quincy Brown in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in recognizing Quincy Brown for his remarkable accomplishments as an entertainer and for his generous heart and humble spirit as a philanthropist.

## ROHINGYA CRISIS CONTINUES IN BURMA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a new report about the perilous reality facing the daily lives of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Burma, also known as Myanmar. The report, *The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar: An ASEAN Challenge and Call to Action*, was published by the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights and describes the continuing persecution of the Rohingya in Burma. Along with my friend and colleague, Congressman JOE PITTS, in our positions as the Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, we sent a letter to the Chairman of the ASEAN parliamentarians for Human Rights, the Honorable Malaysian Member of Parliament Charles Santiago, expressing how we share their concerns regarding the continuing human rights abuses perpetrated against the Rohingya people of Burma. Last year, the 113th Congress passed H. Res. 418, "urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the letter to Chairman Santiago, the press release from the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights describing their report, and the Executive Summary and Call to Action of the report.

I urge all my colleagues to review this report and continue to advocate on behalf of the human rights and basic human dignity of the Rohingya people of Burma.

TOM LANTOS,  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,  
April 21, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES SANTIAGO,  
Member of Parliament, Malaysia, Chairman,  
ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human  
Rights, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SANTIAGO: As Co-Chairs of Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States Congress, we are writing to congratulate you on the release of your report, "The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar". We share your concerns with the situation in Burma (Myanmar) and appreciate the initiative of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights to shed light on these disturbing developments and call for action to address them. We are eager to review the report and bring it to the attention of the U.S. Congress and the American people by sharing it with our colleagues and formally entering it into the Congressional Record.

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission shares your vision of standing up for abuses of human rights wherever they may occur. We have held hearings and briefings in the U.S. Congress and have worked closely with civil society organizations to bring further attention to the particularly egregious abuses against minorities by the Government of Burma. Last year, we introduced and passed a Congressional Resolution, H. Res. 418 "Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma."

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and your commitment to advancing human rights within ASEAN. We would be pleased to work with you and other elected officials who are committed to the advancement of human rights to address the escalating human rights crisis facing the Rohingya in Burma.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. McGOVERN,  
Member of Congress,  
Co-Chair TLHRC.

JOSEPH R. PITTS,  
Member of Congress,  
Co-Chair TLHRC.

PARLIAMENTARIANS CALL ON ASEAN LEADERS  
TO ADDRESS THE ROHINGYA CRISIS AND THE  
ESCALATING RISK OF ATROCITY CRIMES IN  
MYANMAR

KUALA LUMPUR.—ASEAN leaders must urgently respond to the escalating crisis situation for Rohingya Muslims and other vulnerable minorities in Myanmar, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) said today in a public call on regional governments on the eve of the 26th ASEAN Summit.

In an open letter to ASEAN heads of state, the collective of parliamentarians called for greater recognition of the serious threat the continued persecution of the Rohingya minority represents not only to Myanmar, but to all of ASEAN. APHR also called for an independent investigation into the growing crisis and the deployment of ASEAN monitors in the lead up to elections scheduled for later this year.

"The growing risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar represents a direct threat to ASEAN nations, both because of the security risks and economic strains it poses for all ASEAN member states, and because it undermines our shared commitment to protecting all people from persecution and violence," said Charles Santiago, APHR's Chair-

person and a member of the Malaysian Parliament.

"We are standing on the precipice of a great tragedy. ASEAN as a grouping as well as individual national leaders have the responsibility, both morally and under international law, to act to prevent atrocity crimes and crimes against humanity from taking place."

APHR MPs travelled in early April to Myanmar to see the situation first hand and were alarmed by the proliferation of hate speech and extremist language that the state is turning a blind eye to.

The findings of that mission, combined with further long-term independent research by established human rights organizations, were compiled into the APHR report, *The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar: An ASEAN Challenge and Call to Action*, released today. The report highlights the deteriorating situation for Myanmar's already vulnerable minorities and the escalating risk of atrocity crimes.

"Our delegation identified several troubling signs of anti-Muslim rhetoric and broader incitement to violence, which are likely to increase in the lead up to elections," the parliamentarians wrote in their open letter to ASEAN leaders.

"There is no possible conclusion other than that the Myanmar government is at best allowing and at worst encouraging this very dangerous and systematic persecution of Rohingya and other religious and ethnic minorities, in direct contravention of international human rights laws," Santiago added.

APHR's report analyzes current dynamics based on indicators included in the UN Framework for Analysis of Atrocity Crimes, including specific indicators of the risk of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Among the indicators in the case of Myanmar is the intense discrimination and persecution of Rohingya. As the report details, Rohingya face severe restrictions on all aspects of daily life in their native Rakhine State. Tens of thousands still live in IDP camps more than two years after deadly inter-communal violence, and thousands more have fled by sea—often at the mercy of human traffickers.

U Shwe Maung, a Rohingya member of Myanmar's parliament, declared that, "the situation is already dire, and I fear what is coming may be much worse. The unwillingness of many in Myanmar to even recognize the word 'Rohingya' is particularly troubling."

The report also highlights concerning indicators for other minority populations in the country, including widening anti-Muslim sentiment throughout Myanmar and persistent human rights abuses perpetrated by the Myanmar Army with impunity against ethnic minority groups in Kachin and northern Shan States.

The report and open letter represent a collective call to action for ASEAN leaders to prioritize the issue at the upcoming ASEAN Summit and future meetings and to take other measures to combat the crisis.

"ASEAN's leaders have a role to play in mitigating the risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar," said Irine Yulsiana Roba, a member of parliament from Indonesia. "Working through existing regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, they can strengthen their response. But it must begin with a recognition that the issue impacts all of us and deserves to be prioritized."



In appreciation of the need for a coordinated international response, the co-chairs of the U.S. House of Representatives' Human Rights Commission sent a letter to APHR congratulating its members on the report's release and expressing interest in working with them to address the crisis facing Rohingya in Myanmar.

As the report concludes: "APHR will remain focused on the escalating crisis and determined to draw the attention and action of ASEAN's leaders." Parliamentarians are committed to continuing their push for action, working with allies around the globe, including members of the U.S. Congress, to secure a robust response to the crisis.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The longstanding persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar has led to the highest outflow of asylum seekers by sea since the U.S. war in Vietnam. Human rights violations against Rohingya have resulted in a regional human trafficking epidemic, and there have been further abuses against Rohingya upon their arrival in other Southeast Asian countries.

This protracted culture of abuse threatens Myanmar's political transition, puts strains on regional economies, and supports the rise of extremist ideologies that pose potential security threats throughout the region. Ongoing human rights abuses against Rohingya pose a threat to regional peace and security and must end.

Broader anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence has also flared up in locations across Myanmar in recent years. These incidents, as well as ongoing abuses against ethnic minority groups throughout the country pose similar risks for Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In April 2015, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), an organization of members of parliament from several ASEAN countries, conducted a fact-finding mission in Myanmar. APHR is deeply concerned about the current dynamics there and how they affect the region and the broader global community. APHR is equally concerned with the failure of ASEAN nations to adequately respond.

Critical national elections in Myanmar are slated for the end of 2015. APHR has found an alarmingly high risk of atrocities against Rohingya, other Muslims, and other ethnic minority groups in the lead up to the election. These risks constitute a regional concern, not only due to potential cross-border spillover effects, but also because ASEAN member states share a moral responsibility to take all possible measures to prevent the commission of atrocities within ASEAN.

Despite these troubling realities, the Rohingya issue remains conspicuously absent from the agenda of the ASEAN Summit. ASEAN and other global leaders ignore these dynamics at their own peril. The Rohingya crisis and broader animosity toward other Muslims and ethnic minorities in Myanmar are not just a Myanmar problem—they are an ASEAN problem.

Nearly every common risk factor for atrocity crimes identified in the United Nations' Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes is present in Myanmar today. This report draws upon APHR's collective knowledge to analyze the situation in Myanmar within the context of this United Nations' Framework. Based on this analysis, it is clear that there is a high risk of ongoing atrocity crimes in Myanmar in 2015 and beyond.

#### CALL TO ACTION

The crises in Myanmar, including the persecution of Rohingya, anti-Muslim violence,

and systematic abuses against other ethnic minorities, are not only a problem for Myanmar, they are a problem for all of ASEAN. The risk factors and specific indicators enumerated in this report, including those for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, demonstrate a high risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar in the year ahead. Such crimes threaten to undermine the human rights standards and common dignity of ASEAN citizens. They also threaten to spill over borders and affect the economic and physical security of neighboring countries.

APHR will remain focused on the escalating crisis and determined to draw the attention and action of ASEAN's leaders. This report is more than a detailed listing of warning signs. It also represents a call to action to prevent the further escalation and perpetration of atrocity crimes that will affect Myanmar and the entire region.

We call upon ASEAN's leaders to take the following actions:

Recognize the escalating crisis in Rakhine State and the plight of Rohingya as a serious danger to both Myanmar and ASEAN by prioritizing the issue in Summit meetings.

Conduct an independent investigation of conditions and risks of increased violence and displacement in Myanmar, as well as associated risks to ASEAN, including greater refugee flows to countries like Malaysia and Thailand.

Expand the mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to include country visits, inquiries, complaints, and emergency protection mechanisms, and ensure adequate independence and staffing support for its members. Engage AICHR to conduct a follow-up investigation into the Rohingya crisis.

Deploy ASEAN monitors well ahead of the Myanmar elections to observe and report on the Rohingya crisis and broader anti-Muslim and ethnic minority dynamics.

Utilize existing mechanisms in ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Troika, AICHR, the office of the ASEAN Secretary General, and the role of the ASEAN Chair, to respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in member states in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights.

Commit to protecting those fleeing the crisis in Rakhine State, including by granting prima facie refugee status to Rohingya and providing the UN refugee agency with unfettered access to asylum seekers.

Ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Strengthen and expand the mandate of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to help combat threats to women's rights, including those presented by the "Protection of Race and Religion Bills" and other Myanmar government policies that restrict rights, particularly for ethnic and religious minority women.

Call upon the Myanmar government to adhere to regional and international human rights and humanitarian standards, including by rejecting the "Protection of Race and Religion Bills."

Call upon the Myanmar government to address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis by amending the 1982 Citizenship Law to provide Rohingya with equal access to full citizenship, promoting reconciliation initiatives, denouncing hate speech and propaganda, and holding perpetrators of violence, including government officials, accountable.

## RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN LANCE'S MISSOURI CLASS 4 HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christian Lance, a Nixa High School senior, on capturing the 2015 Class 4 Wrestling State Championship.

Christian reached this impressive feat during the February 21 championship with a 56–1 record for the season. At 220 pounds, with this Class 4 championship win, Lance captured the eighth state title for the Nixa High School Eagles.

Though this may be his first state championship, Lance has been no stranger to high achievement during his six-year stint in wrestling. As a freshman, Christian weighed in at only 120 pounds. Since then, he has wrestled in almost every weight class, working his way up to the coveted State Champion position.

In the 2014 wrestling season, just one year before his impressive feat, Lance was a finalist in many conferences and, at 182 pounds, took fifth place in the Missouri High School Class 4 Championships.

Christian Lance's exemplary devotion and remarkable improvements during his time as a Nixa High School wrestler are testaments of his hard work and dedication. The Nixa community, I'm confident, is proud of Christian and his Class 4 State Championship. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved victory.

## HONORING NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 high school students from Moriarty High School that will represent New Mexico this month in the We the People National Finals, a three day civics competition on the U.S. Constitution. During the competition these exceptional students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles in simulated congressional hearings before panels of judges.

Since its inception in 1987, more than 30 million students have benefitted from participating in the We The People program of constitutional study. The program divides students into teams where they are able to learn together and challenge each other. Surveys have shown that these students are more civic minded, politically active and have a better understanding of how government functions.

Moriarty High School won the We The People New Mexico state competition to earn a spot in this month's National Finals. I commend these students, and their dedicated teachers and coaches for participating in this

instructional program that helps students learn about participating in government as effective, responsible citizens.

School: Moriarty High School.

Teacher: Amy Page.

Students: Martin Andazola, Audrianna Aragon, Nicholas Arellano, April Arguello, Katherine Arnold, Joshua Berson, Robert Castle, Samantha Chavez, Ethan Delora, Sarah Eliott, Marion Gerhart, Shannon Goldrick, Christopher Gonzales, Haley Hamblin, Troy Jack, Frances Licon, Regina McCleave, Matthew Mink, Savanna Nelson, Logan Smyth, Melissa Summers, Alexandru West, Grant Windsor.

I congratulate these outstanding students and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Asadur Arabyan, Arax Arabyan, Zvart Kureghian, Deradour Harmandayan, Kveh Gasparian, Gohar Kirakosian, Vasilika Kirakosyan, Zabel Kirakosian, Karapet Gasparian, Mariam Yeritsyan, Arakel Arakelyan, Makartich Ter-Hakopian, Nicholas Chavshudian, Mary Chavshudian, Avedis Kilisian, Mari Shirinian, Arsen Pashgian, Haiganoush Mandjikian, Krikor Kaakedjian, Gadar Chaparian, Takouhi Baghoyan, Ani Hidirah, Haygaz Baghoyan, Parsegh Baghoyan, Hagop Zilifian, Helen Manoyan, Boghos Manoyan, Krikor Zilifian, Jovannes Kabbendjian, Vahan Hakobyan, Haykaz Sarkissyan, Lucia Baghdasaryan, Sara Galtakian, Arutyun Gelejian, Tagvor Dadurian, Araxsi Dadurian, Alina Dadurian, Hmiyak Dadurian, Nishan Chaderjian, Nishan Chaderjian, Maritza Chaderjian, Martha Margosian, Gulenia Havounjian, Tonapet Yeritsyan, Hovsep Sarkissian, Armenuhi Balian, Vahram Ghiragossian, Hagop Kouyoumdjian, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Vartivar Berberian, Yaghsapet Berberian, Hagop Pessayan, Mary Pessayan, Armen Dedeyan, Simon Terzian, Satenik Lusparyan, Hripsime Lusparyan, Artavazd Tumanyan, Nikolaj Safrazbekyan, Levon Safrazbekyan, Rebecca Margossian, Toros Margossianmy, Sarkis Panpalian, Vartan Vartanian, Hanna Gulian, Haroutioun Kapralian, Ana Kapralian, Flore Kapralian, Baghdassar Avedikian, Ohaness Aslanian, Isgouhi Zhamgochian Derounian, Hagop Terzian, Nishan Chaderjian, Maritza Chaderjian, Hagop Chaparian, Artin Chaparian, Hampartsoum Piligian, Hovanness Piligian, Haroutune Piligian, Pilig Piligian, Kevork Chaparian, Movses Kavarian, Megerdich Kavarian, Khatoon Kavarian, Joseph Hanna, Danho Kavarian, Hagop Kradjian, Deekran Kradjian, Nazaret Oglou, Dikran Svazlian, Hagop Bodoorian, Garabed

Chilingirian, Toukhman Zoroghlian, Touna Zoroghlian, Garabed Zoroghlian, Hovhanness Zoroghlian, Loucine Zoroghlian, Garabed Zoroghlian, Nshan Ter-Saakyan, Hovhannes Tngozian, Karapet Grigoryan, Parantzem Garavanian, Abkar Badalian, Karapet Grigoryan, Parantzem Garavanian, Abkar Badalian, Jeyran Badalian, Manuk Hamamchyan, Sarhad Kocharian, John Hovig Yeressian, Kerop Tsaxikyan, Tatos Ghazazian, Yervand Urghatbashian, Margaret Urghatbashian, Caspar Mardirossian, Sinam Yeranossian, Hovakim Ahramjian, Beghegia Ahramjian, Arsen Avedikian, Acabi Avedikian, Zarmandought Ahramjian, Yevkine Ahramjian, Arousag Ahramjian, Khoren Aharonian, Raphael Bahde, Joseph Moukhtar, George Moukhtar, Francis Moukhtar, George Farra, Melcon Movsessian, Melcon Movsessian, Dr. Ovsia Hekimian, Tavit Tavitian, Antaram Hovanesian, Sarkis Hovanesian, Galust Jermakyan, Hamardzum Jermakyan, Vrej Jermakyan, Toros Jermakyan, Mania Jermakyan, Levon Jermakyan, Aram Jermakyan, Siranush Alexanian, Grigo Alexanian, Maqrui Alexanian, Maqrui Alexanian, Avak Der-Avakian, Hana Soghomonian, Malaka Soghomonian, Isahak Ekshian, Mariam Ekshian, Arsen Kostanyan, Yegish Grigoryan, Krikor Shahinian, Khanum Nalbanian Shahinian, Anna Garabedian, Airapet Tumanyan, Lucine Maghakian Adanalian, Stepan Boyajian, Stepan Boyajian, Hossep Melkisetian, Parsegh Shahbaz, Ardashes Haroutiunian, Jack Sayabalian (Paylag), Krikor Torosian, Kegham Parseghian, Dikran Cheogurian, Shavarsh Kurisian, Krikor Yesayan, Aris Israyelian, Mihran Tabakian, Hagop Terzian, Arisdages Kasbarian, Haroutiun G. Jangulian, Bedros Kalfayan, Haroutiun Kalfayan, Edwar Beyazian, Yenovk Shahan, Nerses Papazian, Nerses Zakarian, Dr. Sdepan Miskjian, Dr. Levon Bardizbanian, Vramshabooh Arabian, Nerses Shahnoor, Serovep Noradoongian, Karekin Husian, Mardiros H. Koondakjian, Krikor Armooni, Boghos Tanielian, Megerdich Garabedian, Apraham Hayrigian, Levon Aghababian, Kevork Terjimanian, Dikran Ashkharooni, Kevork Diratsooyan, Mihrad Haygazn, Rosdom Rosdomian, Vramshabooh Samuelian, Arshag Khazkhazian, Mrgrrdich Sdepanian, Levon Shashian, Paroonag Feroukhan, Onnig Maghazajian, Teodor Mendzigian, Varteres Atanasian, Apig Jambaz, Vahram Altoonian, Yerchanig Aram, Nerses D. Kevorkian, Onnig Srabian, Partogh Zorian, Akrig Kerestajian, Melkon Piosian, Pilibbos Chilingirian, Haroutiun Kionalian, Vahan Jamjian, Haroutiun Kalfaian, Hovhannes Kelejian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Dikran Sarkisian, Barooyr Arzoomanian, Haig Derderian, Mirijan Artinian, Hampartsum Balasan, Vahan Kehiaian, Ardashes Ferahian, Artin Meserlian, Armenag Arakelian, Mihran Pasdurmajian, Neshan Nahabedian, Yeghia Suzigian, Bedros Kurdian, Diran Yerganian, Asadoor Madteosian, Yervant Chavooshian, Hagop Shahbaz, Sarkis Kaligian, Garabed Reyisian, Kevork Kopooshian, Krikor Ohnigian, Aram Ohnigian, Karekin Ohnigian, Hovhannes Keoleian, Dikran Baghdigian, Hovhannes Cheogurian, Dr. Benne Torosian, Aram Achukbashian, Kegham Vanigian, Yervant Topoozian, Roupem Garabedian, Hovhannes

Der Ghazarian, Tovmas Tovmasian, Hagop Basmajian, Moorad Zakarian, Megerdich Yeretsian, Karekin Boghosian, Armenag Hampartsoumian, Yeremia Manoogian, Apraham Mooradian, Minas Keshishian, Sumpad Kulujian, Karnig Boyajian, Herand Yegavian, Boghos Boghosian, Herand Aghajanian, Garabed Patoogian, Khoren Khorenian, Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian, Vramian Onnig Tertsagian, Ardashes Solakian, A. Proodian, Garabed Dantlian, Haygag Yeremishian, Tulgadintsi, Prof. Garabed Soghigian, Prof. Megerdich Vorperian, Prof. Hovhannes Boujikianian, Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian, Prof. Khachadour Nahigian, Prof. Donabed Lulejian, Jirair Hagopian, Hovhannes Dingilian, Hovhannes Aghanigian, Aram Srabian, Armen Onanian, Hovsep Malemezian, Kegham Samuelian, Kapriel Tanielian, Karnig Gosdianian, Hagop Dinjian, Armen Hovagimian, Asadour Jamgochian, Hovhannes Zartarian, Kevork Kelesian, Hagop Shoushanian, Setrag Dulgerian, Aram Dabaghian, Haroutiun Semerjian, Sarkis Eljanian, Mihran Isbirian, Senekerim Kalyonjian, Moorad Derderian, Garabed Barsamian, Karnig Toughlajian, Manuel Dedeian, Levon Kantarian, Aram Hagopian, Khachadour Grdodian, Michael Frengulian, Roupem Rakoubian, Hampartsoom Blejian, Vahan Husisian, Nazaret Husisian, Hemayag Karageozian, Israel Ozanian, Dajad Chebookjian, Levon Karageozian, Hmayag Margosian, Hmaig Karibian, Ardashes Boornazian, Hagop Boornazian, Arshag Kizirian, Hovhannes Boghosian, Antranig Bozajian, Aram Adrouni, Aram Shesheian, Hurach Loosparonian, Megerdich Asdourian, Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed, Partogh Odabashian, Kaloosd Garabedian, Vahan Kasbarian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Lariyan, V. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Loforian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Lousararian, Rev. Fr. Yezras Lousararian, V. Rev. Fr. Movses Madoyan, Rev. Fr. Krikor Madteosian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Malkhassian, V. Rev. Fr. Parsegh Mangerian, Rev. Fr. Atte Manougian, Rev. Fr. Krisdapor Manougian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Manougian.

KAMELIA VICK

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kamelia Vick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kamelia Vick is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kamelia Vick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kamelia Vick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

ANNIVERSARY OF YOM  
HA'ATZMAUT, ISRAEL'S INDE-  
PENDENCE DAY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, a day on which we celebrate its establishment and growth, and recognize the fortitude of the Israeli people.

For 67 years, Israel has stood as a shining example of freedom and democracy in a region plagued by violence and oppression. Since President Harry S. Truman famously recognized the nascent state only 11 minutes after its founding, our two nations have shared the common bonds of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, tied together in an unbreakable friendship based on religious kinships and mutual interests.

As a Member of Congress, I have been honored to travel to Israel 15 times and never cease to be impressed by the strength of Israel and its people. I will continue to do all that I can in Congress to ensure that Israelis have a secure and peaceful homeland. It is my sincere hope that through diplomatic efforts the future will bring a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and prosperity. I wish the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, 2015, I was attending an event with Vice President BIDEN to raise awareness and help prevent campus sexual assault. This event was part of the "It's On Us" campaign and was held on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign located in the 13th Congressional District which I am proud to represent.

As the father of a daughter who will be a college freshman next year, this issue is very personal to me. I am so proud of the students and faculty at the University of Illinois, as well as other campuses across the country, for stepping up and taking a stand against sexual assault.

Due to my participation in this important event with Vice President BIDEN and my constituents, I was unable to cast votes in the House on April 23, 2015.

JUSTYCELYNN BUCHANAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Justycelynn Buchanan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Justycelynn Buchanan is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Justycelynn Buchanan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Justycelynn Buchanan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALICE  
TREGAY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alice Tregay.

Alice Tregay was not only a dear friend of mine; she was a role model and mentor to many over five decades. She poured her heart and soul into promoting social justice: advocating on behalf of poor people in Chicago, registering literally tens of thousands of voters over the years, managing high-profile political campaigns and more.

She began her activism in 1964 when she joined the protest against Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Ben Willis and his infamous "Willis Wagons", which perpetuated segregation and an inferior learning environment. In the end, not only were the wagons shut down, but Superintendent was also removed from his post. Alice also fought alongside well-known figures like Al Raby and Dick Gregory in this winning battle.

Alice marched with Dr. Martin Luther King for open housing in Chicago, and when Dr. King's Operation Breadbasket began operations in Chicago, Alice worked hand in hand with Rev. Jesse Jackson to put the organization together. She started the Political Education Division at Operation Breadbasket, training thousands of students over a five year period. Alice was an integral part of that organization, now called the Rainbow Push Coalition, each day since then.

She also served as an essential staff member of many campaigns including Congressman Abner Mikva, Jesse Jackson Sr., Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., Mayor Harold Washington, and President Jimmy Carter.

The best words to describe Alice are "tireless" and "persistent." Alice impacted so many lives as an organizer, educator, and change-maker. She gave a voice to those who are too frequently ignored. She provided the tools to engage and equip generations of activists, including me. I owe much to my precious friend, Alice Tregay. My heartfelt prayers and thoughts are with her family. She will be sorely missed.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. This anniversary represents 67 years in which there has been a strong, independent, and democratic State of Israel; 67 years of growth, advancement, and modernization. But, unfortunately, it also means that for 67 years the only Jewish state in the world has repeatedly had to defend itself from enemies who seek her annihilation.

Yesterday, Israel commemorated Yom Ha'zikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. For a country in which most of its citizens have served in the Israeli Defense Force and have proudly defended their country, this day is a personal reminder that their 67 years have not been without significant personal sacrifice. From the moment of its birth, Israel has endured attacks by state armies and terrorist organizations. More recently, these attacks have taken a new shape, in the form of economic boycotts, lawfare, and political de-legitimization campaigns.

But 67 years later, Israel remains standing, proudly, as the shining beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

This is an important day for the Israeli people and people all over the world to reflect on how far this country has come in such a short period. It has transformed desert into fertile land, developed one of the most innovative and vibrant technology sectors in the world, and stood steadfastly on a foundation of democratic principles and basic fundamental liberties.

I am proud to say that it was also 67 years ago, only minutes after David Ben-Gurion announced Israel's declaration of independence, that the United States recognized the nascent state. Since 1948, our two countries have shared a strong, unshakeable bond based on shared values and goals. And the United States and Israel will continue to stand together as Israel pursues peace, and as Israel confronts any threat to her people. It is my commitment as a Member of Congress to ensure that our partnership remains strong and unbreakable. As President Bill Clinton wrote, "We are proud of the strong bond we have forged with Israel, based on our shared values and ideals. That unique relationship will endure just as Israel has endured."

JORDAN GONZALEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Gonzalez is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

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IN HONOR OF DR. BEVERLY  
DANIEL TATUM

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President of Spelman College, who will be retiring after thirteen years as distinguished leader of the school. She will be honored at a farewell reception on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at The Spelman College Suites Dining Hall on campus.

Born on September 27, 1954, in Tallahassee, Florida, Dr. Tatum attended Wesleyan University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Afterward, she attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and then Hartford Seminary for a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies.

Dr. Tatum's professional involvement in higher education began in 1980 and spanned a number of prominent institutions. At the University of California at Santa Barbara, she lectured in the Department of Black Studies, and later held professorships in psychology at Westfield State College and Mount Holyoke College. Also during her time at Mount Holyoke, Dr. Tatum served as chair of the Department of Psychology and Education. In 1998, she became Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College and, in 2002, she was appointed acting president of the College.

In the meantime, she also advanced a career as a distinguished clinical psychologist with her own independent practice between 1988 and 1998. Focusing her studies on diversity in organizational development and racial identity, she is the author of *Can We Talk About Race? And Other Conversations in an*

*Era of School Resegregation; Assimilation Blues: Black Families in White Communities: Who Succeeds and Why?; and "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" And Other Conversations about Race*, the latter of which was celebrated as the 1998 Multicultural Book of the Year by the National Association of Multicultural Education.

In 2002, she was appointed president of Spelman College. Through her steady and transformational leadership, the institution now ranks among the top 100 liberal arts colleges in the country. Faculty research has flourished, and funding for student scholarships has tripled since 2002. Alumnae contributions to the annual fund have also tripled and a generous gift donation in 2008 helped establish the Gordon-Zeto Fund for International Initiatives, providing critical resources for international students as well as travel support for faculty and students alike.

In addition to these successes, Dr. Tatum has overseen the expansion of on-campus housing capacity by more than 25 percent to provide opportunities for even more students, made possible in part by the construction of a "green" residence hall in 2008. As president, she also made the landmark decision to end the College's limited participation in NCAA intercollegiate sports, and instead pioneer a campus wellness initiative to encompass a wider range of students.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tatum is not only an educator, she is an innovator. The developments she engineered serve as the foundation of Spelman College's Strategic Plan for 2015, which focuses on supporting leadership and service, enhancing an interdisciplinary curriculum, fostering undergraduate research and internships, strengthening alumnae-student connections, promoting sustainability, and advancing global initiatives.

Outside of this tremendous scholastic dedication, Dr. Tatum is also actively involved in the community. She has presided on a variety of boards and served with a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Moreover, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Advisory Board for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She has received numerous awards and commendations, including the 2013 Carnegie Academic Leadership Award. Dr. Tatum shares her life and accomplishments with her husband, Dr. Travis Tatum, and their two sons, Travis Jonathan and David.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum for her thirteen remarkable years as President of Spelman College. Her leadership is impressive in itself but more than structures, more than money, and more than rankings, she advanced the very character of the institution through its people. In being a role model for the young women of this premier institution, she has helped countless individuals strive to fulfill their sincere potential in this world, making the aims of Spelman College become realized.

HONORING PUERTAS ABIERTAS  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center as it celebrates its 10th Anniversary of offering educational programs and advocacy services to support personal growth and family stability in the Latino community throughout Napa County.

Ten years ago, the Center opened its doors on Napa Street as an independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping provide culturally sensitive intake and referral services in order to bridge the gap between community service providers and the Latino community. In fact, the Center's services are available to anyone in the community—regardless of ethnicity, race, or language. In achieving these goals, the Center partners with numerous other organizations in the area and its programs range from Case Mentoring and ESL training to Free Tax Preparation and Zumba. The Puertas Abiertas Center serves over 500 families a year.

The Center's focus on helping connect residents and services through a culturally sensitive intake and referral process helps make Napa County's diverse population stronger and better prepared to take advantage of our community's resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center for all they do to increase access to vital community services. On behalf of a grateful community, we honor and thank the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center today.

KARA MCCONNELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kara McConnell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kara McConnell is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kara McConnell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kara McConnell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL OBSERVES NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. In Congress, we observed this week by hosting the Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

The Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, founded by JIM COSTA from California and me from Texas, came together to form the bipartisan caucus.

This week, the Victims' Rights Caucus recognized the tenacious individuals who dedicate their time and efforts in supporting crime victims.

But this week was also commemorated back in Texas. Kingwood High School observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week for the first time.

Under their fearless leader, criminal justice teacher Janet Collins, a former Dallas County probation officer, Kingwood High School heard from community warriors who work every day to protect and support victims.

My good friend, Sheriff Adrian Garcia, was Monday's headline speaker (who just so happened to receive our Victims' Rights Award at last year's Victims' Rights Caucus Awards). Kingwood High School students heard the best testimonies straight from the source.

Exposing our students to real-life situations in combination with education is so important. Teaching our students how prevalent crime is and ways to prevent it can only benefit our communities. What a great way to start a young group of victims' advocates.

It makes me proud to know that our school students are building good character and learning more about the Crime Victims Movement. Supporting victims is something that Americans can do at any age.

Janet Collins should be commended for her leadership and pioneering of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in our schools.

It is encouraging to see National Crimes Victims' Rights Week being observed not only in Congress, but in our education system throughout the Nation.

And that is just the way it is.

**JULIA VAZQUEZ-PETERSON**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Julia Vazquez-Peterson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Julia Vazquez-Peterson is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Julia Vazquez-Peterson is exemplary of the type of

achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Julia Vazquez-Peterson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**HONORING ANIMAL EDUCATION AND RESCUE**

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, so I would like to take this opportunity to rise in recognition of Animal Education and Rescue, a humane society in the 10th District. Founder and director Sandy Wisniewski has dedicated herself to improving the lives of both animals and people in our community.

Ms. Wisniewski works to prevent cruelty to animals by educating the public through school and community center visits. Her curriculum emphasizes the need to properly care for pets. She understands the strong correlation between animal abuse and other violent crimes, and she seeks to break the cycle of violence through education. As a humane investigator, Ms. Wisniewski responds to reports of animal abuse and neglect. She often rescues these neglected animals and places them with foster families until they find permanent homes. Her work is vital to our community.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, I am pleased to recognize AEAR and Ms. Wisniewski. I am grateful for their work and wish them continued success.

**HONORING MURRAY JANOFF**

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Murray Janoff of Boca Raton, Florida, who turns 100 years old on April 26, 2015.

Murray was born in Bronx, New York in 1915. He graduated from New York University with a degree in journalism and had a long and distinguished career writing for the Long Island Press's sports section, the Associated Press, U.P.I., and Reuters. Murray served in the Navy during World War II receiving several merits with the highest being a Bronze Star medal. Murray was married 52 years to his late wife and is proud of his three children, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Murray is an exceptional man, and one who I am proud to represent in Florida's 22nd District. I know I join with his friends and family

in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming year.

**JORDAN DELITZ**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Delitz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Delitz is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Delitz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Delitz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRITON COLLEGE**

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the competitive workplace of today, higher education is more important than ever. I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Triton College in River Grove, Illinois.

Since opening its doors in September of 1965, Triton has been one of the nation's premier two year colleges. Every semester, Triton provides over 12,000 students with the tools they need to be successful at a 4 year school, their careers, and in life.

Since its inception, Triton has provided over 50,000 degrees and certificates helping to create a more educated workforce. With tuition rates on the rise, 2 year institutions have become one of our most important assets in self advancement. By offering quality education at an affordable rate, students have opportunities they would not otherwise have. As a former professor, I can appreciate the outstanding work Triton has done preparing its students for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Triton College. I am truly honored to have such an exceptional institution of higher education in my district.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PACIFIC  
NORTHWEST GRAY WOLF MAN-  
AGEMENT ACT OF 2015

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Pacific Northwest Gray Wolf Management Act of 2015. This legislation would remove the Gray Wolf from the "List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and return management authority for the species back to our Pacific Northwest states. A proposed rule released by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in June of 2013 found that the Gray Wolf population has grown substantially and is now considered to be recovered, and therefore, does not merit protection under the Endangered Species Act.

State governments are fully qualified to responsibly manage Gray Wolf populations and are better to meet the needs of local communities, ranchers, livestock, and wildlife populations. Delisting the Gray Wolf would allow state wildlife officials to more effectively manage wolf populations. We have seen that this is possible in states such as Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan and we should allow Pacific Northwest States the same flexibility to manage these populations. This commonsense and straightforward bill would allow states to provide a more practical management program than the one currently in place by the federal government. I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN METROPOLITAN  
AIRPORT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport for their leadership and commitment to Jefferson County.

Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA), located between downtown Denver and Boulder, serves as a major economic engine for the region's aviation industry. The airport supports 2,670 jobs with an annual payroll of more than \$153 million, and creates \$460 million in economic activity each year. RMMA serves as a reliever airport for Denver International Airport (DIA) and international travelers at the airport have access to an on-site U.S. customs office that operates 24-hours per day. The absence of landing fees at the airport makes clearing U.S. customs easy and cost effective. RMMA houses many corporate aviation facilities, flight schools, and government offices, including: Pilatus Business Aircraft, HeliOps, and HeliQwest.

Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport also has plans to expand their operation in the Verve Innovation Park, a site which sits strate-

gically between downtown Denver and Boulder and is a perfect location near a highly educated workforce and with airport runway access and hangar space for corporate jets.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport for their well-deserved Chairman's Choice Award and their continued contribution to Jefferson County.

HONORING AL TAUBMAN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this week, Michigan lost a true giant.

Alfred Taubman was a great businessman who revolutionized the way America shops, but he will forever be remembered as a passionate philanthropist whose generosity touched lives in our state and around the world.

Al Taubman cared deeply about Michigan. He cared about people. And his contributions made our communities stronger and more vibrant, our schools and universities more innovative, and our research institutes more prepared to find cures for the most devastating diseases we face.

His generosity made possible the Taubman Medical Research Institute at the University of Michigan. He supported the Detroit Institute of Arts and helped improve design education at Detroit's College for Creative Studies. And he contributed actively to schools and universities across our region, including Wayne State University and his alma mater Lawrence Technological University, among many others.

Al Taubman changed Michigan for the better, and while he will be greatly missed, his vision and generosity will live on in the many lives he touched.

In the words of his son, Robert, Al Taubman was a "great American story." He is right. And all of us in Michigan are so glad that he was ours.

JONALYNN SELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jonalynn Sell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jonalynn Sell is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jonalynn Sell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jonalynn Sell for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ZION HILL  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S  
134TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Cusseta, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate a remarkable 134 years. The congregation of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, in conjunction with Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church, will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the Church in Cusseta, Georgia.

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church's remarkable journey and growth as a church began in 1882 on the intersecting county lines of Marion and Chattahoochee Counties in Southwest Georgia. Reverend Shed Thornton is the first known pastor to lead Zion Hill. Other pastors to follow would include Reverend Jackson, Reverend Mathis, Reverend Davis, Reverend Chinn, Reverend Gates, and Reverend Campbell. Reverend Carter then pastored the church for thirty-six years, followed by Reverend Baker, who pastored for over sixteen years.

Reverend Willie E. Neal then became the Pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and in his twenty-two years of leadership, he worked tirelessly to expand the church. Under his careful eye, the current Fellowship Hall was built, and new pulpit furnishings, new pews, and the indoor baptismal pool were installed.

In 1987, the church was incorporated and attendance continued to grow. The church added classes for children and young adults to its Sunday school program. After the church established a youth choir ministry and youth usher ministry, it became a full-time Gospel church, holding services every Sunday.

After the Reverend Frederick D. Harris took over the leadership, the church began making some structural improvements. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary, the pews were covered, the fellowship hall was outfitted with new tile, and new tables, chairs, and kitchen appliances were added. A new sound system was installed and finally, a steeple was added to the top of the sanctuary, inviting members of the community to come praise and worship the Lord at Zion Hill.

It was during this time that Rev. Harris also implemented a new Wednesday class to increase spiritual growth. After Rev. Harris was called to relocate to Maryland, the Reverend Clarence R. Barnes then took over the leadership of Zion Hill. Sadly, due to medical reasons, Rev. Barnes had to resign in November 2014.

Along with pastors, there have also been many deacons who influenced and guided the

church. Some of the most notable include Deacon James Williams, who contributed the church flags, and Deacon Willie J. Short, who built the current Sanctuary.

Throughout the past 134 years, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist has become a spiritual home for many. Advancements in both the actual structure of the church building as well as the church body were made to better accommodate the divine growth emanating from the hearts and spirits of many pastors, deacons, and church members. The story of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Cusseta, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

JOSEPH BOULANGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Boulanger for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Boulanger is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Boulanger is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Boulanger for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained for votes on Tuesday, April 21st. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call #162, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to the passing of my mother on April 21, 2015 I had to remain in Texas and was unable to vote on April 21 and April 22, 2015.

On roll call no. 162, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 163, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 166, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 165, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 166, had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call no. 167, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 168, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 169, had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call no. 170, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

JOSEPH BERGMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Bergman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Bergman is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Bergman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Bergman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT MATTHEW COOKE, RECIPIENT OF THE PURPLE HEART

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Matthew Cooke, a recipient of the Purple Heart from North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

Sergeant Cooke was one of thirty-two wounded during the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. On November 5, 2009, Nidal Hasan opened fire at the Soldier Readiness Center at Fort Hood, killing 13 people and wounding 32 and without the courageous actions of Sergeant Cooke, the death toll would likely have been higher.

When Sergeant Cooke saw a non-commissioned officer shot in the torso, he draped himself on the higher-ranking soldier to shield him from Hasan. He was shot five times in the act of protecting another's life.

Recovering physically and mentally from the massacre at Fort Hood has been a continuing struggle for Sergeant Cooke. Despite serving two deployments in Iraq, Sergeant Cooke's greatest injuries and selflessness took place on home soil. I am overjoyed that Sergeant Cooke is finally receiving the Purple Heart and well-deserved recognition for his heroic actions.

It is an honor to extend these remarks today to congratulate United States Army Sergeant Matthew Cooke for receiving the Purple Heart and to thank him for his brave and selfless service.

HONORING COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Community Partners for Affordable Housing for the exceptional progress they have made in providing the basic human need of housing to those struggling to afford its rising costs.

Partnering with the cities of Highland Park, Evanston and Lake Forest, CPAH addresses affordable housing collaboratively, operating the first community land trust program in Illinois.

CPAH preserves communities' existing housing stock by rehabilitating problematic or blighted properties. This maximizes the cost-effectiveness of public and private investment for long-term community benefit.

In short, CPAH synthesizes safe, clean housing with affordability. CPAH is an incredible asset that the cities of Highland Park, Evanston, and Lake Forest are fortunate to benefit from. I am proud to represent Community Partners for Affordable Housing.

HONORING DAVID AND PATRICIA NIERENBERG

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David and Patricia Nierenberg for the honor of receiving PeaceHealth's Nat Giustina Philanthropy Award. This award was created to honor individuals who have advanced the well-being of



our community through the generous donation of their time, talent and resources over many years through support of PeachHealth Medical Centers.

Their generous support and collective service on the PeachHealth Southwest Foundation Board for nearly two decades, has given the Vancouver hospital the opportunity to expand its capacity and serve more residents of Southwest Washington. Their contribution, which focuses primarily on maternal and infant health, helped establish the Holtzman Twins Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Patricia Nierenberg Childcare and Early Learning Center. Their generosity has helped construct world-class facilities and establish a scholarship for low-income families to help offset the cost of care at the new center, leading to a more healthy and vibrant community.

I want to thank David and Patricia for their tireless involvement and support of our community. Their contribution is one that will positively impact Southwest Washington for generations to come.

#### HONORING MR. WIN SHAW

### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Win Shaw for his long service to the country and to General Dynamics' Gulfstream Aerospace, the largest private employer in the First District of Georgia.

Mr. Win Shaw represented the hard working people of Gulfstream for 20 years beginning in March, 1993. Prior to his career with Gulfstream, Mr. Shaw graduated from Norwich University and was commissioned into the U.S. Army as an Armor officer. Dedicating 29 years of his life to military service, Mr. Shaw served two tours of duty in Vietnam and one tour in Korea. In his last active duty assignment, Mr. Shaw served as Chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Office for four and a half years. Mr. Shaw retired as a Colonel with many deserved decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Soldiers Medal and 3 Bronze Stars with the V device. He is also a graduate of the Army War College. Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mr. Shaw joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation for two and a half years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Mr. Win Shaw's colleagues, family and friends in celebrating many years of hard work and dedication to our community and our Country.

#### HONORING DR. RUTH B. LOVE

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Ruth B. Love.

Dr. Love was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, and grew up in Bakersfield, California, where she attended public schools. From a young

age, Dr. Love displayed a deep passion for reading, which she transformed into a career in education. Dr. Love received her B.A. in education from San Jose State University, her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. in Human Behavior and Psychology from the United States International University.

Dr. Love began her teaching career in Oakland, California. In addition to teaching, which she enjoyed immensely, Dr. Love worked on various projects, at the local, national, and international levels. She served as the Project Director for Operation Crossroads Africa in Ghana. She was also selected for the National Fulbright Program in England, where she taught for a year and was able to travel the world.

Dr. Love also took on various roles at the California State Education Department, where she served in a statewide role as Bureau Chief for Program Development. She went on to join the Federal Office of Education as National Director of the Right to Read Program, and worked with Congress to enact the National Reading Program and other important pieces of legislation.

Eventually, Dr. Love was recruited to serve as Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, where her teaching career had begun. She served for nearly seven years, pioneering innovative programs and helping Oakland students achieve national norms on standardized tests. After much consideration, Dr. Love accepted the position of General Superintendent for the Chicago Board of Education, where she oversaw one of the largest school districts in the nation—comprising over 500 schools, 44,000 employees, and a \$2 billion budget.

Prior to her retirement in 2014, Dr. Love was the Founder and President of RBL Enterprises, an education consulting company. Dr. Love traveled the world extensively in this capacity, lecturing and advising on education policy. She also worked for many years as a professor in the Doctorate Programs at San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege to be with Dr. Love in Ghana and witness the respect and love Ghanaians have for her. She is truly a citizen of the world, and has shared her knowledge and experiences with those who have not had the chance to visit Africa. Many years ago, I met Dr. Love's late mother. I will always remember the love, kindness, and selfless caregiving Dr. Love provided her mother in spite of her busy schedule. She was an inspiration to me as I had the honor to care for my late mother in her golden years.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Ruth B. Love, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you and your loved ones the very best.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY STREET PLAYERS

### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Bay Street Players at the Historic State Theatre in Eustis, Florida.

Construction on the Historic State Theatre began in 1916, and included one of the largest "photo play" pipe organs in the Southeast to accommodate the latest entertainment of "moving pictures." Throughout the Great Depression, the Theatre also provided chorale and orchestral music programs to help lift the spirits of the community.

By 1975, the building had become vacant and fallen into disrepair, but was rediscovered by local theatre enthusiasts. This group, composed of Deborah Carpenter, Dale Carpenter, Charlene Smith, Lou Tally, Mary Jane Mitenius, and Ed Mitenius became the founding members of the Bay Street Players, which has remained an active part of the community for the past forty years.

It is my pleasure to join the Bay Street Players in commemorating their 40th anniversary and recognizing their founding members. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Central Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ST. PAUL AME CHURCH'S 113TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate a remarkable 113 years. The congregation of St. Paul AME Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the turn of the twentieth century, the church's first cornerstone was laid on April 27, 1902 at Meeler's Hill, a historic neighborhood in Columbus, Georgia. Under the leadership of Reverend A.C. Linton, a new church family was born. This edifice served as the congregation's place of worship until 1957, when Reverend Fedd and the congregation relinquished control of St. Paul at Meeler's Hill to the City of Columbus for urban renewal. During this time, Mt. Tabor AME Church, Grant Chapel AME Church and Galilee Baptist Church allowed the St. Paul family to hold Sunday services at their locations two Sundays a month.

God answered the congregation members' many prayers on May 25, 1960, when St. Paul broke ground at 1508 South Street in Columbus. Under the leadership of Reverend R. L.

Coachman, Sister Callie Jackson turned the first spade of dirt. The church was completed and dedicated on October 9, 1960.

In 1981, God again called St. Paul to relinquish control of the South Street location to the City of Columbus. In October of that year, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at 4900 St. Mary's Road in Columbus. On April 11, 1982, a dedication service for the new location was held under the leadership of Reverend Frank C. Maddox.

Throughout the years, the church would be remodeled and renovated, with new technologies installed. With these aesthetic changes came changes to the church's ministry through the creation of several new committees, programs, and outreach ministries. Moreover, the church has had the honor of hosting several sessions of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference. The Church takes pride in being a "dangerous" church, for they are armed with the Word of God.

The story of St. Paul AME Church, which began 113 years ago, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to St. Paul AME in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING SENATOR ROBERT GRIFFIN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last week Michigan lost a true statesman: former Senator and State Supreme Court Justice, Robert P. Griffin.

Senator Griffin represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate for more than 20 years, where he set an extraordinary example of honesty and integrity, and held himself and those around him to the highest level of ethical standards.

As his son Judge Richard Griffin said, he always strove to do the right thing—whether no one was watching or the nation was watching—that was simply the kind of person he was.

That quality made Senator Griffin an effective and respected leader, and I was honored to have the opportunity to learn from him firsthand.

Senator Griffin was my first boss, and he taught me the importance of integrity in the political process, of keeping your word and working with members on both sides of the aisle.

He inspired me and countless others, and he spent his life trying to instill in young people the value and importance of serving.

Senator Griffin was a champion for Michigan. He loved our state. And we can all pay tribute to his legacy by striving to serve our state as well as he did.

HONORING PASTOR H. LEE JORDAN FOR 5 YEARS IN SERVICE TO THE GREATER FAITH CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor H. Lee Jordan on his 5th anniversary as Pastor at the Greater Faith Church in Waukegan, Illinois. Pastor Jordan became Pastor of the Greater Faith Church on January 20, 2010 after initially beginning his pilgrimage on June 20, 1993.

Since joining the Greater Faith Church 5 years ago, Mr. Speaker, Pastor Jordan has worked tirelessly to serve the Waukegan community. In addition to his service to The Greater Faith Church, Pastor Jordan is a loving father and husband, a community leader, recipient of numerous awards, and sits on the boards of multiple local community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Jordan enhances the legacy and integrity of the nationally known church, dedicating himself to promoting spiritual growth. I offer my most sincere congratulations to the Pastor for passing this milestone and faithfully serving the Waukegan community.

## SENATE—Monday, April 27, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our strength and shield. We are grateful for Your great and precious promises that provide us with inspiration and hope. Daily, You have provided for our needs, leading us along the road toward abundant living. We continue to be sustained by the promise of Your eternal presence. Lord, forgive us when we surrender to those influences that draw us downward.

Bless the Members of this body. Teach them that Your hand is on the helm of human affairs and that You still guide Your world. Renew their strength and give them the courage to persevere in doing what is right.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### OBAMACARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is a hard thing to admit you are wrong. It is always very difficult. It is not very pleasing to look back and say to yourself: Oh, I wish I wasn't so far off; I was way off.

But as public servants, we have to accept reality, regardless of where we may have stood or what we may have said in the past.

Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress are trying their utmost to escape the reality that ObamaCare is a smashing success.

Just consider a few of the facts—and these are only a few of them: 16.4 million Americans now have quality health coverage, many for the first time in decades, many for the first time in their lives.

Since 2013, the United States has seen the largest decline in the unin-

sured rate—ever. Nine in ten Americans have health insurance. In the last 18 months, the uninsured rate for non-elderly adults has fallen by 35 percent. Health care costs have grown at their slowest rate in 50 years.

Since 2011, the number of preventable deaths at hospitals and care centers has dropped by 50,000. That is 50,000 lives—50,000 people are alive today who wouldn't have been but for ObamaCare, and ObamaCare enrollees are overwhelmingly satisfied with their coverage.

Those are the facts. No matter how hard my Republican colleagues try, they cannot wish those numbers away. All of the doomsday reports are wrong.

I understand that many Senate Republicans have worked hard to make their opposition to ObamaCare their legacy.

In June of 2009, the Republican leader—the majority leader—was on the Senate floor decrying health care reform more than 3 months before the bill even passed. His mind was made up before he even saw the bill.

And so it has been with too many other Republicans in this body, and certainly in the other body where they voted—I lost track of it—65 times to repeal it. Each time it has been a colossal flop.

The junior Senator from Wyoming, for example, has been relentless in his condemnation of ObamaCare. He comes to the floor all the time with his charts and everything, but he avoids the facts. He has been relentless in his condemnation of ObamaCare—before and after the bill was passed. But he is wrong. I don't say so, the facts say so.

For example, Paul Krugman's piece in the New York Times today effectively lays out the options congressional Republicans have with respect to ObamaCare. Remember, this isn't some high school teacher talking about the merits of ObamaCare, it is a Nobel laureate in economics.

This is what he said today, and I quote part of what he said—simply put, Republicans were wrong on ObamaCare. In this body, it is understandable for a Senator to be dead wrong on some piece of policy from time to time. It happens. But what is not understandable and what is not acceptable is for the entire Republican Party to double down on its opposition after they have already been proven wrong. It says a lot about their inability to govern and, quite frankly, their grasp on reality—that Republicans refuse to acknowledge facts.

That is a reality.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full piece

from the New York Times written by Paul Krugman.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 27, 2015]

NOBODY SAID THAT

(By Paul Krugman)

Imagine yourself as a regular commentator on public affairs—maybe a paid pundit, maybe a supposed expert in some area, maybe just an opinionated billionaire. You weigh in on a major policy initiative that's about to happen, making strong predictions of disaster. The Obama stimulus, you declare, will cause soaring interest rates; the Fed's bond purchases will "debase the dollar" and cause high inflation; the Affordable Care Act will collapse in a vicious circle of declining enrollment and surging costs.

But nothing you predicted actually comes to pass. What do you do?

You might admit that you were wrong, and try to figure out why. But almost nobody does that; we live in an age of unacknowledged error.

Alternatively, you might insist that sinister forces are covering up the grim reality. Quite a few well-known pundits are, or at some point were, "inflation truthers," claiming that the government is lying about the pace of price increases. There have also been many prominent Obamacare truthers declaring that the White House is cooking the books, that the policies are worthless, and so on.

Finally, there's a third option: You can pretend that you didn't make the predictions you did. I see that a lot when it comes to people who issued dire warnings about interest rates and inflation, and now claim that they did no such thing. Where I'm seeing it most, however, is on the health care front. Obamacare is working better than even its supporters expected—but its enemies say that the good news proves nothing, because nobody predicted anything different.

Go back to 2013, before reform went fully into effect, or early 2014, before the numbers on first-year enrollment came in. What were Obamacare's opponents predicting? The answer is, utter disaster. Americans, declared a May 2013 report from a House committee, were about to face a devastating "rate shock," with premiums almost doubling on average.

And it would only get worse: At the beginning of 2014 the right's favored experts—or maybe that should be "experts"—were warning about a "death spiral" in which only the sickest citizens would sign up, causing premiums to soar even higher and many people to drop out of the program.

What about the overall effect on insurance coverage? Several months into 2014 many leading Republicans—including John Boehner, the speaker of the House—were predicting that more people would lose coverage than gain it. And everyone on the right was predicting that the law would cost far more than projected, adding hundreds of billions if not trillions to budget deficits.

What actually happened? There was no rate shock: average premiums in 2014 were about 16 percent lower than projected. There

is no death spiral: On average, premiums for 2015 are between 2 and 4 percent higher than in 2014, which is a much slower rate of increase than the historical norm. The number of Americans without health insurance has fallen by around 15 million, and would have fallen substantially more if so many Republican-controlled states weren't blocking the expansion of Medicaid. And the overall cost of the program is coming in well below expectations.

One more thing: You sometimes hear complaints about the alleged poor quality of the policies offered to newly insured families. But a new survey by J. D. Power, the market research company, finds that the newly enrolled are very satisfied with their coverage—more satisfied than the average person with conventional, non-Obamacare insurance.

This is what policy success looks like, and it should have the critics engaged in soul-searching about why they got it so wrong. But no.

Instead, the new line—exemplified by, but not unique to, a recent op-ed article by the hedge-fund manager Cliff Asness—is that there's nothing to see here: "That more people would be insured was never in dispute." Never, I guess, except in everything ever said by anyone in a position of influence on the American right. Oh, and all the good news on costs is just a coincidence.

It's both easy and entirely appropriate to ridicule this kind of thing. But there are some serious stakes here, and they go beyond the issue of health reform, important as it is.

You see, in a polarized political environment, policy debates always involve more than just the specific issue on the table. They are also clashes of world views. Predictions of debt disaster, a debased dollar, and Obama death spirals reflect the same ideology, and the utter failure of these predictions should inspire major doubts about that ideology.

And there's also a moral issue involved. Refusing to accept responsibility for past errors is a serious character flaw in one's private life. It rises to the level of real wrongdoing when policies that affect millions of lives are at stake.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one on the floor, so will the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1191 for debate only, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1191) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Corker/Cardin amendment No. 1140, in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, Congress unanimously passed the International Religious Freedom Act in 1989 with a 98-to-0 vote in this body for that legislation, including 19 Senators still serving today—11 Republicans and 8 Democrats. We asserted that religious freedom "undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States." Yet, religious freedom today is under attack across the country.

Political activists are attacking religious freedom as the enemy of equality, claiming that laws protecting religious freedom are designed to enshrine discrimination in State law. This effort is misinformed, it is misguided, and it is misleading. It will serve only to harm religious freedom and to demonize religious people, many of whom would be allies in the effort to promote equality.

The attack on religious freedom misunderstands the history and importance of religious freedom in America. That story began more than 400 years ago, as one religious community after another came to these shores so they could freely live their faith. As far back as December 1657, residents of the community known today as Flushing, NY, signed a petition called the Flushing Remonstrance. This petition protested a ban on certain religious practices that prevented the Quakers from worshipping. The petition signers stated that they would let everyone decide for themselves how to worship.

One hundred twenty years later, the original States and the Federal Government specifically protected religious freedom in their Constitutions. Indeed, the phrase America's Founders chose for the first individual right listed in the First Amendment—the free exercise of religion—is very important. The free exercise clause is not limited to particular exercises of religion or to the exercise of religion by certain parties but instead protects the free exercise of religion itself. James Madison wrote in 1758 that exercising religion according to conviction and conscience is an inalienable right. Two hundred years later, Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg declared that "to the Founding Fathers, freedom of religion was regarded to be preeminent among fundamental rights."

This belief in the special importance and preeminent status of religious freedom did not end with America's founding generation. In his famous 1941

State of the Union Address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted that "the right of every person to worship God in his own way" is an essential human freedom. Just 4 years later, after the end of World War II, the United States signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This crucial document includes religious freedom as one of the inalienable rights universal to all members of the human family.

Our last several Presidents have issued annual proclamations declaring January 16 Religious Freedom Day. This date marks the anniversary of the Virginia General Assembly's adoption of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. In this year's proclamation, President Obama said that religious freedom is a fundamental liberty and defined religious freedom as the right of every person to live and practice their faith how they choose. In previous years, President Obama has called religious freedom a universal and natural human right and an essential part of human dignity. President George W. Bush similarly declared that no human freedom is more fundamental than the right to freely practice one's religious beliefs. President Clinton said that religious freedom is a fundamental human right, a core value of our democracy, and essential to our dignity as human beings.

I want my colleagues to appreciate how robust religious freedom has historically been in our country. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that religious freedom includes "freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest . . . religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

In America, religious freedom has always included freedom in both belief and behavior, in private and in public, individually and collectively. Today's attacks on religious freedom know none of this. Instead, they dismiss religious freedom as a sham, as little more than an excuse for mean-spirited people who want to discriminate. Today's opponents of religious freedom laws either do not know or do not care that religious freedom is an integral part of the origin, the identity, and the very life of our Nation.

They are also clearly misinformed about how, even in America, the reality of religious freedom has not always matched the promise of religious freedom. The truth is that government does many things that compromise, burden, and even prohibit the exercise of religion. The Flushing Remonstrance was necessary because community leaders allowed religious freedom for some but not for others. Government has even sometimes passed laws explicitly designed to limit or stamp out particular religious practices or religious communities.

More often, government undermines and restricts the exercise of religion through indirect impact. General laws that on their face do not explicitly target religion can nonetheless have a profound impact when applied to particular religious practices. Zoning ordinances may restrict where churches can meet, whether they may expand their meeting place, and what services they may offer. Religious institutions may be forced to hire individuals who do not share their faith. Regulations may prohibit individuals from wearing items required by their faith or require employees to work on their Sabbath.

Government at all levels—Federal, State, and local—is becoming ever more intrusive in virtually every facet of life. Unless government is mindful of its impact on religious practices, government will become increasingly intrusive in matters of religion as well.

The attack on religious freedom is also misinformed about how important religious liberty laws are to protecting the exercise of religion.

Prior to 1990, for more than a century the Supreme Court's interpretation of the free exercise clause had gradually moved toward broader application and stronger protection. In the 19th century, for example, the Court said that the First Amendment protected religious belief but not religious conduct, even though the First Amendment makes no such distinction. The Court subsequently adopted a more unified view of religious practice and set a standard that made it difficult for government to interfere with either belief or conduct.

In 1981, the Supreme Court made clear that government “may justify an inroad on religious liberty by showing it is the least restrictive means of achieving some compelling state interest.” This standard was important for two reasons. First, it reflected the general importance of religious freedom in our country. Second, it applied to both religious conduct and religious belief and protected against both direct and indirect government burdens and restrictions.

In a 1990 case entitled “*Employment Division v. Smith*,” the Supreme Court regrettably reversed course. Under the Court's new interpretation of the First Amendment, as set forth in *Smith*, the free exercise clause applies only when government directly burdens religion with a law targeted at religious practice. The clause provides no protection at all when government burdens religion indirectly through a generally applicable law or regulation. Before the *Smith* decision, it had been difficult but not impossible for government to interfere with the exercise of religion. Government had to show that a law or regulation burdening religion furthered a compelling State interest and was the least restrictive means of achieving that interest. I might add, under

the Court's new *Smith* standard, however, government can make religious practice not only difficult but even impossible. Provided government does not specifically target religion for disfavor, it can pass all sorts of laws that interfere with worship, practice, or belief.

It would be hard to overstate the impact of *Smith*. In 1992, the Congressional Research Service found that as a result of *Smith*, “free exercise claims have become markedly unsuccessful.” Remember that the government has its biggest impact on religion not through direct suppression but, rather, by indirect restriction—by disregarding religious practice as something needing special attention. Under *Smith*, government can do exactly what the First Amendment forbids and prohibit the free exercise of religion so long as it does so through generally applicable laws rather than laws targeted at specific groups.

Congress responded to *Smith* by enacting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA. I had a lot to do with that. RFRA's standard mirrored what the Supreme Court had only a few years earlier said the First Amendment required—namely, that government may impose a substantial burden on the exercise of religion only if it is the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling government purpose.

RFRA does not automatically protect any specific exercise of religion, nor does it automatically prohibit any specific government action that burdens religion. RFRA sets a standard that requires balancing government action against religious freedom and puts a thumb on the scale in favor of religious freedom. RFRA leaves it to the courts, in individual cases based on real facts, to determine whether a particular exercise of religion or a particular government action is more important.

In 1997, the Supreme Court held in *City of Boerne v. Flores* that RFRA applies only to the Federal Government. This meant that once again religious practice was vulnerable to virtually any restriction, regulation, or prohibition by State or local government. States responded to the *Flores* decision just as Congress had responded to the *Smith* decision: They immediately began enacting State religious restoration acts that set the same standard for State and local governments that the Federal statute still imposes on the Federal Government, the Federal statute called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. These State RFRA's differ in a few minor ways from the Federal RFRA but are identical to the Federal RFRA in the core provision that really matters—the standard that government must satisfy in order to burden religious exercise. Under all of these statutes, government action that burdens religion must be the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling government purpose.

I want my colleagues to understand two things about these religious freedom laws: First, States are enacting State-level Religious Freedom Restoration Acts for the same reason Congress did. Without such laws, every exercise of religion is vulnerable to restriction or even prohibition by government. Second, State versions of RFRA operate the same way the Federal statute does. They set a standard and then leave that standard for courts to apply in individual cases with real facts. In every case, the party claiming RFRA protection must show that government action imposes a substantial burden on his or her exercise of religion, and the government must show that this burden is the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling government interest. Without this protection, government action will trump religious practice in almost every case. With this protection, government action will have to accommodate religious practice in at least some cases.

Those attacking religious freedom today are completely misinformed about why these laws are passed and how they work to protect religious freedom. They want people to believe that RFRA was passed to provide cover for discrimination masquerading as religious practice and to therefore oppose efforts to pass or strengthen State-level RFRA's. That account is complete fiction. RFRA was passed so that the fundamental inalienable right to practice religion can have at least some protection.

What would happen if we treated the free speech clause of the First Amendment the way these activists treat the free exercise clause of the First Amendment? No one would be protected against government restrictions on speech because a few people might say things the rest of us don't like.

In addition to being misinformed about religious freedom in America and how the Religious Freedom Restoration Act protects it, the attack on religious freedom today is misguided because discrimination—not religious freedom—is the real problem.

I am sure my colleagues have heard the sound bite that RFRA legalizes discrimination. NBC News, for example, reported last year that the Arizona RFRA “would have permitted businesses in the state to deny service to gays and lesbians for religious beliefs.”

I explained how RFRA works to make crystal clear that this claim is false. Neither the Federal Government nor any State RFRA legalizes, permits or prohibits anything. RFRA sets a standard that government must meet when its actions burden the exercise of religion. Courts apply that standard in individual cases based on real facts to decide whether the religious practice or the government action is more important.

I need to make one more important distinction before looking at another

reason why this claim is false. Those attacking religious freedom today use a very broad brush when raising the specter that businesses will “deny service.” They apparently want us to believe that businesses everywhere are intent on turning away customers, on not doing business with certain people. That not only makes no sense, but it just plain is not true.

Instead, the controversy exists only with regard to a few businesses that supply particular goods or services for weddings. A small number of business owners apparently feel that, while they gladly serve the general public and provide goods and services to all types of customers, providing certain specific goods or services for a same-sex wedding would amount to supporting or endorsing something inconsistent with their religious beliefs. Think what you want about those business owners, I want my colleagues to know that RFRA does not protect their decision to refuse service today.

Here is what has to happen for a case pitting RFRA against a claim discrimination to exist. The particular State where the business is located must have a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in places of public accommodation such as businesses. The State must also have not only a Religious Freedom Restoration Act but one that applies between private parties. The business would have to violate the antidiscrimination law and, if the business were sued, argue that the antidiscrimination law imposed a substantial burden on the exercise of religion. Only then would a judge decide whether—in that case based on its specific facts—the antidiscrimination law or the business owner’s religious beliefs were more important.

Do you see why the claim that RFRA, by itself, legalizes discrimination is absolutely, completely false? Not only does RFRA not legalize anything, the situation in which RFRA would even be involved does not exist anywhere in America today. Right now, according to the Human Rights Campaign, 17 States have the necessary antidiscrimination law, and only 4 of those 17 have a Religious Freedom Restoration Act. And of those four, none has a RFRA that applies to lawsuits between private parties. In other words, the number of States today in which a business could look to RFRA to justify discrimination is precisely zero.

Moreover, the current controversy, misinformed and misguided as it is, has no doubt diminished the likelihood that States with antidiscrimination laws will now enact religious freedom laws. Discrimination, not religious freedom, is the real problem. Despite what the activists want everyone to believe, Americans practice religion every day in innumerable ways that

have nothing whatsoever to do with anyone’s sexual orientation or gender identity. In the very few situations in which religious freedom and discrimination might overlap, RFRA would actually be the way to sort out the conflict—the mechanism to balance these competing interests. Even though the exercise of religion is a fundamental and inalienable right, it is not absolute. Many courts have found that government has a compelling interest in prohibiting discrimination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an excellent analysis of this point by David Rivkin and Professor Elizabeth Price Foley that appeared in the Wall Street Journal be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Here is the bottom line. The situation that activists want everyone to believe is sweeping the country cannot exist anywhere in America today. If the day ever comes when that situation does arise, many applying RFRA would place freedom from discrimination over freedom of religion by a wide margin.

The attack on religious freedom today is not only misinformed about religion freedom in America and how laws such as RFRA protect that freedom, it is not only misguided in presenting religious freedom rather than discrimination as the real problem and RFRA as the culprit, but it is also misleading in broadly painting religious people as mean-spirited bigots. That is wrong. That is just plain wrong.

It is also unfortunate because many Americans believe in both equality and religious freedom and could be allies in seeking to maximize both. I voted for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act last Congress after working with Senators on both sides of the aisle to strengthen its provisions protecting religious freedom. Earlier this year, the Utah State Legislature passed and Governor Gary Herbert signed a law prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing while also protecting religious freedom.

How did we go from religious freedom being a fundamental and inalienable right to religious freedom laws being attacked as un-American? How did we go from religious freedom being an essential human right that undergirds our Nation’s very existence to activists calling laws that protect religious freedom dangerous and even contemptuous?

Those attacking laws that protect religious freedom would deny any legal protections for anyone to exercise religion in any way today because a few people might someday attempt to exercise their religion in a way that the courts would likely reject. This is a misinformed, misguided, and misleading campaign that will only damage religious freedom and demonize many who would work toward maximizing both equality and freedom for all Americans.

I was the prime sponsor in the Senate of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. I went to Senator Kennedy. He was a friend, and we joined on many pieces of legislation that were in the best interests of everybody in America. At first, he said: I am not joining on that bill. Then I kept talking to him about it and how important it was. Finally, he said: Yes, I am going to be a prime cosponsor on that bill. There are many other prime cosponsors on that bill.

When that bill was signed on the South Lawn of the White House by President Clinton, one of the most proud people on Earth on that signing day happened to be Ted Kennedy, who knew that he had done right, who knew that it was right to protect the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. And I know it is right. That is one reason we fought so hard for it, and it passed 97 to 3, if I recall it correctly—almost unanimously—and unanimously in the House, as far as I know.

It is time for us to wake up and realize that religious freedom is under attack in this country. It is under attack because people don’t understand the Constitution and people don’t give a darn about the Constitution. It is under attack because some groups think they can get ahead by attacking religious freedom. Frankly, we ought to decry that, and we all need to stand up for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which upholds the first basic law of freedom in our Bill of Rights.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 9, 2015]

GAY RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE LAW

(By David B. Rivkin, Jr. and Elizabeth Price Foley)

There is a better route to protections than the battle in Indiana.

Debates about the Indiana and Arkansas Religious Freedom Restoration Acts, or RFRAs, have regrettably pitted religious freedom against gay rights. Critics claim the laws provide a license to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals. But this criticism shouldn’t be aimed at the religious-freedom laws, which don’t license discrimination based on sexual orientation or anything else.

Those wanting to advance LGBT rights should focus on enacting laws that bar discrimination. If there is a legal “license” to discriminate based on sexual orientation, it is because few jurisdictions today provide protection against such discrimination, or because the Constitution may immunize such behavior in certain circumstances.

There is no federal law prohibiting private discrimination based on sexual orientation. An executive order by President Obama in 2014 bans such discrimination only for federal workers and contractors. About 20 states and some municipalities prohibit sexual-orientation discrimination in workplaces and public accommodations. But the majority of states still don’t proscribe discrimination based on sexual orientation, though discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity or national origin is banned.

The federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act was passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities and signed by President Clinton in 1993. It represented a backlash against the Supreme Court's 1990 decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*. That decision held that the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause doesn't allow a religious exemption from laws of general applicability—e.g., compulsory military service, or prohibitions on drug use or animal cruelty—even if those laws substantially burden religious exercise.

The federal RFRA law supplanted *Smith*, declaring that the government could substantially burden religious exercise only upon proving a "compelling" government interest for doing so, and using only the "least restrictive means" of furthering that interest. The Supreme Court, for example, recently affirmed that the federal RFRA allowed Hobby Lobby, a corporation closely held by religious owners, to refuse participation in ObamaCare's contraceptive mandate, which would have required the company to provide contraceptives that may destroy an already-fertilized egg.

Because the federal RFRA applies only to federal actions, 20 states have passed their own religious-freedom laws designed to provide the same protection against state-imposed religious burdens. Another 11 states have implemented similar protections through court decisions, based on state constitutions.

So why have the latest religious-freedom laws been so controversial? RFRA has become a political focal point for pent-up anger over the paucity of legal protections against LGBT discrimination. A specific controversy is over the application of such laws to lawsuits between private parties.

Indiana's RFRA applies "regardless of whether the state or any other governmental entity is a party to the proceeding." Federal RFRA doesn't clearly apply to such private disputes, and federal courts are divided on whether it should. Arkansas adopted language identical to the federal RFRA.

Applying religious-freedom laws to private disputes has stirred fears that businesses will be able to defend discriminatory behavior when LGBT individuals sue them. This fear is greatly overblown. First, in states or localities where there is no law banning sexual-orientation discrimination, individuals and businesses are allowed to discriminate, with or without a RFRA.

Second, where it's illegal to discriminate, a religious-freedom defense requires proving that the antidiscrimination statute "substantially burdens" religion.

Third, even if it does, courts routinely conclude that preventing discrimination is a compelling interest, so the LGBT plaintiff wins. RFRA thus doesn't change outcomes—only laws banning sexual-orientation discrimination will.

Such laws won't eliminate all legal questions, however. Those engaged in activities with a strong expressive component—e.g., officiating at a wedding—may claim that their First Amendment free-speech or association rights trump antidiscrimination statutes. Some of these claims may prove successful.

Moreover, state and federal law allows individuals to refuse to provide certain services, such as abortions, based on moral objections. Similar conscience-based protections may eventually be demanded to accommodate moral objections to participation in same-sex weddings by the likes of wedding planners, photographers or bakers.

Americans have generally settled on the proper reach of statutes prohibiting race,

gender, ethnicity or national origin-based discrimination by banning it in places of employment or public accommodation. With this consensus in mind, states and the federal government should consider statutes prohibiting in similar circumstances sexual-orientation discrimination.

Religious-freedom laws merely recognizing religious liberty—a centerpiece of liberal society—would then be more likely to become as universally accepted as they were in the 1990s.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, while the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is here, I want him to know of my admiration for him for trying to work together in a bipartisan way on an especially thorny issue, this Iranian nuclear negotiation.

I read in today's paper that there are a lot of people who are trying to torpedo the chairman's good work by basically bringing up all kinds of poison pill amendments. If the chairman's conclusion is that he is going to stick with the unanimous product that came out of this committee, then I will be with him to keep that product clean so it can go forward in the bipartisan way in which the chairman brought it to the floor.

#### TAKATA AIRBAGS

Mr. President, I am going to speak on a different subject today. It is not as pleasant as the remarks I addressed to the chairman, and it is on a completely different subject matter. It is about the defective airbags manufactured by the Takata Corporation which are exploding in people's faces and our collective effort to get them out of cars.

Instead of saving a life, these airbags—when they explode—either maim or kill because of the defective construction. When the airbag explodes, metal is coming out of the airbag like shrapnel and hitting the occupant of the car—either the driver or the passenger.

Last November, we had a hearing in the commerce committee about these rupturing airbags and the recalls. The number of vehicles recalled due to the defective Takata airbags is going to be in the record books as one of the largest in American history.

At that hearing, we saw that instead of preventing these deaths and injuries, the opposite was happening. Interestingly, many of these incidents are happening in vehicles exposed to persistent high heat and humidity.

This Senator is from Florida, so it is, sadly, no surprise that Florida has been the epicenter of these incidents. Earlier this year, I came to the floor

and reported that Takata had received unconfirmed reports of 64 injuries and 5 deaths as a result of the exploding airbags. At the time, these numbers from Takata were far greater than what had been reported. Takata recently provided an update to the committee, and I have new numbers.

According to the most recent data as of the end of January, Takata had identified 40 more alleged incidents of rupturing airbags, including 1 death. This brings the total number of alleged injuries from 64 to 105 and the total number of alleged deaths to 6. As one would expect, 17 of the 40 newly reported incidents provided by Takata to our committee occurred in Florida. That brings the total number of alleged incidents of exploding Takata airbags in Florida—just in Florida—to 35, including 1 that caused a death.

Now, these injuries have been very serious. I am not talking about a minor little nick. These injuries include facial fractures, blindness, a broken sternum, and even quadriplegia. This Senator has visited with one of his constituents—a big, strapping, healthy firefighter who will no longer be a firefighter because he does not have sight in one of his eyes. But even the new numbers I just gave do not paint the full picture.

In fact, Reuters recently reported that another Takata airbag in Florida ruptured just last month. The figures I reported earlier were as of the end of last January. The victim who was injured last month was in a 2003 Honda Civic. He had a 1½-inch piece of metal shrapnel lodged into his neck after the airbag exploded. He was airlifted to the hospital and the doctors were able to remove the shrapnel, but now he has a big scar and a constant reminder that this incident could and should have been prevented.

The death that occurred in Florida was due to shrapnel cutting the jugular vein of the victim. When the police got to that accident, instead of thinking it was a traffic accident, they looked at the driver and thought a homicide had just occurred. It didn't occur to them that shrapnel from an exploding airbag killed the driver.

Honda has informed us that they are sending their recall notices out in both English and Spanish in order to more effectively reach consumers. We appreciate what Takata has done in trying to ramp up their production of replacement inflators. After that Honda announcement, Honda also started an ad campaign in both English and Spanish to remind owners to have their recalled airbag inflators replaced, but obviously more still needs to be done.

We need to get to the root cause of the problem, that is what we need to do, and we need to make sure we know why these defective airbag inflators are failing. It may be the inflator or it may be the propellant inside. We need to



know. So, yes, we need more replacement inflators, but we need to make sure they are actually safe replacement inflators instead of potentially producing more defective inflators.

It is my understanding that Honda and others are taking steps to ensure the safety of the replacement inflators. Well, that needs to happen right now and be validated right away by an independent third party. We need to make sure we are able to prevent defects like this in the future.

I am going to stay on Takata. This Senator is going to stay on the automakers. This Senator is going to stay on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to do exactly that. But for right now, I urge anybody listening to me—if a defect is identified and you receive a recall notice, get your car into the dealership for repair just as quickly as you can. I also want folks to know that even if they have not received a notice from Takata, they should go to the Web site, safecars.gov and put in their car's VIN number to check and see if it is subject to this or any other recall. That is imperative.

We are continuing to monitor this situation. We are going through tens of thousands of pages of documents related to this defect. I will keep the Senate updated.

I am pleased to report that the Senate is very close to approving S. 304, the Motor Vehicle Safety Whistleblower Act. This bipartisan legislation, which Chairman THUNE and I authored, would provide financial incentives for whistleblowers in the automotive sector to step forward if they see a manufacturer that is hiding or failing to address a dangerous defect.

Certainly none of us needs to be reminded about the ignition switch defect coverup at General Motors. They hid that defect for a decade, and at least 87 people died because of it. This bill will hopefully help prevent such coverups in the future.

This bill, S. 304, is a small but meaningful step toward automobile safety. I hope my colleagues will urge their constituents to check on those Takata airbags by going online, and I urge my colleagues as well to clear this commonsense legislation. I certainly urge the House to do so as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I yield the floor to my colleague, Senator COATS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am just going to speak for a few minutes. I am happy to defer to the Senator from Tennessee, but it shouldn't take more than 2 or 3 minutes.

If the Senator is interested, this is this week's installment of my "Waste

of the Week" speech. I come to the floor every week to point out some spending of taxpayer dollars that perhaps we should absolutely save. The cost to the taxpayers, as I will point out shortly, is in the tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars on programs that have already been identified by government agencies as worthless, fraudulent, unnecessary, and wasteful. While we have been unable—and the Senator from Tennessee was a very pivotal part of this effort—to come to an agreement on dealing with the larger issue of saving our country from insolvency down the line, the very least we can do is to point out those areas where we are spending money that absolutely does not need to be spent and can be returned to the taxpayer. This week's waste of the week is such that I can't keep from chuckling over how this could happen, but it happens.

Everybody has heard about Ponce de Leon's search for the fountain of youth. Obviously, that hasn't happened. A recently released Social Security Inspector General's report found that 6.5 million individuals over the age of 112 still have active Social Security numbers. How can this happen? Well, it happened because in 1936 when the program started, there were some people even from the mid-1800s who were enrolled in Social Security, and they have never been taken off the rolls. Now, obviously, these people are not all receiving checks, but it opens the prospect for fraud and waste and people getting these numbers, using them, and then receiving Social Security benefits illegally.

In this inspector general's report, the Social Security Administration is faulted for poorly managing data on "number holders who exceeded maximum reasonable life expectancies and were likely deceased."

Well, to put it mildly, if we have 6.5 million people in America who are over the age of 112, my guess is that most of those people, if not all of those people, are deceased—not likely deceased but are, in fact, deceased.

Of those 6.5 million, the Social Security Administration inspector general has determined that nearly 3,900 numbers were run through the U.S. Government's E-Verify system for people more than a century old. The E-Verify system is used when someone applies for a job. So that means thousands of people over 100 years old are applying for these new jobs. Obviously, someone is fraudulently using the system to report a Social Security number for someone over 112 years of age who is in the E-Verify system as applying for a job.

Auditors also discovered nearly 67,000 Social Security numbers in recent years were used to report wages for people other than the cardholders themselves. The workers reported

about \$3 billion in earnings between 2006 and 2011, and then those earnings are used to calculate their Social Security benefits.

Obviously, this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Auditors have proposed that the Social Security Administration take action to correct death records, but the Social Security Administration says it doesn't want to divert resources away from efforts to improve payment accuracy. I suggest the Social Security Administration might want to reassess their assessment.

A gaping hole such as this undermines the confidence of the American people in our government and in the way we run this business of government in both the Social Security Administration and the Federal Government at large.

Government agencies have estimated that the Social Security Administration can reduce fraud and save at least \$2 billion, likely more, if this problem is corrected.

So as I do each week, we keep adding to our gauge of savings that now are approaching very close to \$50 billion, just over several weeks of pointing out waste and fraud that has been documented by nonpolitical, neutral Federal agencies. We keep adding more. We are approaching \$50 billion. Our goal is \$100 billion. I think we will go way past that if I keep doing this every week.

In order to help correct the problem, I have introduced legislation, along with Senator CARPER and others, which will update the Social Security system and ensure accuracy in Federal records, not just in Social Security but in other agencies as well. I am just looking at one agency. Wait until we get into some of the others.

The key provisions of our bill include allowing Federal agencies access to the complete death database, because under current law, only agencies that directly handle beneficiary payments may have access to the complete database. The act allows all appropriate Federal agencies to have access to the complete death data program for integrity purposes as well as for other needs such as public safety and health. It requires the use of death data to curb improper payments. Our legislation establishes procedures to ensure more accurate death data.

As I have said before, by simply correcting the death records, the Social Security Administration can reduce fraud and save at least \$2 billion.

This is an area that is ripe for reform, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and eliminate this waste, along with the other \$49 billion we have identified in just the last few weeks. We would be doing the taxpayers a great service while making our government the efficient, effective government it needs to be, particularly in these times of lack of fiscal discipline.

I thank the Chair for the time. I also thank my colleague from Tennessee for giving me this time.

Mr. President, I know we have important legislation on the floor this week. This "Waste of the Week" speech is kind of tongue in cheek. We are moving on to legislation that has historic consequences for the future of America, for our own future, our children's future, and our grandchildren's future.

The debate that will take place this week, led by Senator CORKER from Tennessee regarding the Iranian pursuit of nuclear weapons capability is, in my time of service here in the Senate and in Congress, I think the most consequential piece of legislative debate that I will ever enter into. It will have enormous historical consequences, and we need to get it right.

So I commend my colleague Senator CORKER for his efforts in this regard. He has moved the legislation through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with total bipartisan support, which is absolutely key to the success of our efforts and necessary to prevent a catastrophic activity taking place in Iran.

So I appreciate the time to speak, while not focusing all of my attention and effort, as I hope all of my colleagues will, to this extraordinary challenge that we have before us this week that will determine the future for country and maybe the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator for his continual focus on fiscal issues. I know he spent a great deal of time with a handful of folks at the White House two summers ago trying to come up with a plan to really save our Nation.

I actually was just standing up a minute ago. I was about to suggest the absence of a quorum until I saw the Senator from Indiana, so the Senator can speak as long as he wishes on these waste issues. I thank him for the kind of Senator he is and his continual efforts to save our Nation from a national security standpoint and also our greatest national security risk right now which is our inability to get our fiscal house in order.

So I thank the Senator for this, and I look forward to the debate over the next several days.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this week we are going to, in my view, deal with one of the most concerning, one of

the most dangerous, one of the most treacherous issues we will face—that I will face as a Member of the U.S. Senate and, certainly, has been in the short period of time I have had the honor of representing Kansans here in our Nation's Capital. It is the question of Iran. It is the question of their ability to acquire nuclear weapons.

On this question of Iran, American policymakers are approaching a number of fateful decisions—in fact, a series of decisions that I think have significant consequences. The implications of the choices that will be made by our Nation and others will determine events today, tomorrow, and well into the future, both regionally and globally. As I indicated, the consequences will be felt for decades—generations, perhaps—to come.

Such significant consequences require each step to be planted with great care and consideration. I fear that the recent American march into nuclear negotiations with Iran has been misguided, drawing our country and the global community into a dangerous position.

American foreign policy with respect to Iran has long been centered around the goal of preventing Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapon capability. Today, this policy has weathered and has been allowed to be weakened. It has become a position of delayed tolerance of a nuclear Iran. This policy deterioration was made clear in recent weeks by global affairs minds no less than former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, who wrote: "... negotiations that began 12 years ago as an international effort to prevent an Iranian capability to develop a nuclear arsenal are ending with an agreement that concedes that very capability. . . ."

The administration's stated goal of securing a 1-year nuclear development breakout period reveals a shift from firm disapproval to acquiescence. The result, in my view, is a world that is much less safe, a Middle East that is further prone to violent conflict, and an international order trending toward nuclear armaments rather than walking away from it.

Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif pointed this out last week in his writing in the *New York Times*:

Nothing in international politics functions in a vacuum. Security cannot be pursued at the expense of the insecurity of others. No nation can achieve its interests without considering the interests of others.

Nowhere are these dynamics more evident than in the wider Persian Gulf region.

That is the Foreign Minister of Iran speaking. Mr. Zarif's words apply to the pending nuclear question and the budding proposal to exchange sanctions relief for a temporary suspension of Iranian nuclear development. The decisions made by Iran and the P5+1 participants in these nuclear negotiations

are being considered and acted upon and responded to by others in the region and others around the globe. As Iran's neighboring states are looking to increase arms purchases for use in the ongoing conflicts in their region, international concerns about a nuclear-capable Iran are not merely passive policy critiques. They are warnings worthy of our careful, determined consideration.

I would suggest and I will ask what we must ask: Does this pending accord make the world safer or more dangerous? Does it bring Iran closer to or further from nuclear capabilities? Can the world trust Iran to uphold its commitments? Will the terms of the deal be sufficiently verifiable to know if they do not?

Ultimately, we must ask if this deal would stabilize tensions in the Middle East or accelerate them. These questions are greater than any grappling things that go on between Congress and the President, between Republicans and Democrats. This cannot and should not be a politically partisan issue. It should be one of serious consideration about long-term consequences to America, its allies, and our enemies.

The nuclear accord will have serious and lasting consequences for us all. It is incumbent upon American leadership to guide these efforts in the safest possible direction. In my view, our trajectory to date has been uncertain. In response, Congress has insisted—and rightfully so—that it oversee and participate in the process, especially in any decision regarding the lifting of sanctions.

The President's efforts to ignore or sidestep the legislative branch's constitutional role in foreign policy are troublesome. Many, including me, have been asking why Congress lacks the ability to block or more forcefully respond to a potential bad deal or to do more to limit the President's ability to act unilaterally. Unfortunately, the law resulting from the previously passed sanctions legislation allows the President to waive sanctions under certain conditions—the legislation that we passed.

Let me say that again. The legislation that we passed over a period of time—and I am a Member of the banking committee involved in this legislation—allowed a President—this or other Presidents—to waive those sanctions under considerations of national security. What we regrettably discovered is that Congress provided way too much flexibility to a President too willing to ignore the concerns of the legislature, too willing to find a reason to waive the sanctions.

But there remains reason of hope that Congress will play a constructive and important part in this matter. Despite opposition from the White House, bipartisan efforts led by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman

Senator CORKER have produced legislation providing for a congressional review process. The bill had broad bipartisan support, and perhaps that makes it impervious to President Obama's initial threats of a veto.

Any increased role by Congress is welcomed, from my perspective. For too long, Congress has deferred to Executive action when it comes to foreign relations and foreign affairs—not just this Congress and this President, but many Congresses and many Presidents. In my view, Congress has failed its constitutional authority to oversee a President's foreign policy efforts.

So this increased role for Congress is welcome. And for anyone who is skeptical of the framework released by the State Department in early April or curious about what the parameters might look like in a final deal, Congress will have the ability to see, to know, and to let the American people, and, in fact, the world know what these agreements might contain.

After the presumed passage of the Iran Nuclear Review Act—the legislation we have been considering this week—if it passes and the case is that a deal is ultimately struck and an agreement is struck by the June 30 deadline between the administration, the P5+1, and Iran, Congress will have 30 days to review that agreement.

As we began late last week and early this week to consider this legislation, the point in being here at this stage is to indicate that while I wish there were more opportunities for congressional involvement in the process, what the committee has presented to us gives us the starting point, the beginning point, and the opportunity to explore fully what the administration has been negotiating in secret.

I have attended the meetings—the so-called classified briefings—and it is hard to leave those meetings with an understanding or appreciation or more knowledge of what is in the potential agreement with Iran than before I walked in the door. What will transpire this week on the Senate floor gives me and others the opportunity—and ultimately the American people—to know a lot more.

As this process has been developed and as we implement it here on the Senate floor, it is important that we use this time to carefully examine the results of any nuclear negotiations and ask ourselves this question: Is the world better off as a result of that agreement? Is peace more assured, and does humanity have a better future?

We don't have the agreement in front of us yet, but what we do this week sets the stage for that review, for that understanding, and for the ability to reject, if necessary. What that agreement contains is important. It is encouraging to me to see that the Senate—the Congress, in fact—is stepping forward to play its rightful constitutional role in foreign affairs.

I look forward to the discussion this week, but more importantly, I look forward to the passage of legislation that allows us to have a much greater say, much more significant knowledge, and a better opportunity to have understanding about a potential treacherous path that our country may be headed toward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Kansas. I think he has articulated about as well as anybody the importance of passing the legislation on the floor.

Many of my colleagues, I think, unlike the Senator from Kansas, in some ways fail to recognize that when we put the sanctions in place that brought them to the table, in the meanwhile they were going from 164 centrifuges back in 2003 to 19,000 centrifuges today. What Congress did in a bipartisan way was put four tranches of sanctions in place to begin putting pressure on them to stop and to get them to the table. We have done that, but in each of those cases, we gave the President unilaterally the ability to waive or suspend the sanctions *ad infinitum*—forever.

It is something that my friend Senator Kaine from Virginia recognized in our meetings as we had the Secretary come forward and talk to us about the fact that, yes, you are going to have a vote on this. But we all recognized that was 4 to 5 to 6 years down the road after the sanctions regime had been totally alleviated.

I just want to thank the Senator for being so articulate in his comments.

The fact is that without this legislation—without this legislation passing—Congress will have zero. The President will go straight to the U.N. Security Council with the suspensions in his hands that we have already given them and implement whatever kind of deal he wants to implement.

I have had a great conversation with my friend from Virginia today. I think this bill obviously does give Congress, as the Senator from Kansas mentioned, its rightful role. But I think it also gives the President a backstop when he is negotiating so that people will understand that we are going to play that role.

So I thank the Senator very, very much for his comments and for the constructive way he is on so many of the big issues we deal with and for his cosponsorship of this very important legislation.

With that, I yield the floor. I see my friend from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. Kaine. Thank you, Mr. President.

I appreciate the comments of Chairman CORKER, and I appreciate the two

punch lines of the Senator from Kansas to his argument that I am strongly in support of. The first is that this is a very momentous topic, and there are many, many questions about an ultimate deal that we have to grapple with. Second, it is so much of the moment that the congressional sanctions themselves are so wrapped up in the discussion that Congress must have a role to fulfill our constitutional obligation and to actually do what we essentially set in motion by passing the congressional sanctions. We must have a role.

So to the chairman and to all who are supporting the bill, I think we have got it in a good place on the floor, and I am proud to be a strong supporter of it.

The only issue on which I would offer a slightly different take than the Senator from Kansas is this. I think by all objective standards, the negotiations to this point have produced a status quo that has been better than where we were before the negotiations. If you think back to before November 2013, Iran—although under punishing sanctions—was moving forward in a very dramatic way to build up an architecture. While the sanctions were hurting the Iranian economy, there was some argument that it was not slowing down their nuclear program. It was accelerating it because they were feeling isolated.

Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel appeared before the United Nations and gave a very famous speech in which he talked about the stockpile of uranium that was enriched to a 20-percent level. We drew a bomb and showed a level of enrichment that was getting to an extremely dangerous place. That is where we were before President Obama started these negotiations with the P5+1 in November 2013.

At the time the negotiations were started, there were some who said they were misguided or a historic mistake or a giveaway. But, by now, virtually all—even those who were skeptical at the beginning—would acknowledge that the negotiations have actually led to a status quo significantly better than before November 2013. The 20-percent enriched uranium stockpile Iran had has been rolled back to a 5-percent enrichment level. Many of the centrifuges and facilities where nuclear weapons and nuclear activities were occurring have either been disabled or in some way have been reconfigured so that they are not continuing to produce more material that would cause significant concern. Since November 2013 the international community has been able to achieve significantly greater inspections of the Iranian nuclear activity than they had before.

So while we still have significant questions about an ultimate deal and Congress's role, we have a much better

handle on their program. They have rolled back that program to a significant degree, and even skeptics of the original deal acknowledge that. I do think that is important to mention.

Congress needs to fulfill its article I powers, but we also need to have the President do the diplomacy that article II allows him to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator KAINE and Senator CORKER.

This is the second day that we have been debating the nuclear oversight bill. Members have had a chance to express their concerns. They have had a chance to put forward amendments, to file them at this particular moment. We have been working with several Members to try to see whether we can work out an orderly way for the consideration of those amendments. I want all of the Members to know we are open for business. Senator CORKER has been meeting with Members, and I have been talking to Members. We hope we can find a way to move this bill forward tomorrow for the consideration of amendments.

I would urge Members—we are not encouraging amendments because we think we took up these issues in the committee and we worked out a bipartisan bill to get this done. But please talk to us so we can try to work out in an orderly way the consideration of amendments starting tomorrow and hopefully finish the bill shortly thereafter.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF DAVA J. NEWMAN TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dava J. Newman, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time allotted during quorum calls be charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAINE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Dava Newman to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Newman. She is a talented individual. She is passionate about aerospace engineering and is generating awareness of science, technology, energy, and math opportunities in Montana students.

Dr. Newman is excited to get to work and continue to make NASA competitive with other countries studying space exploration.

A graduate of C.R. Anderson Middle School and Capital High School in Helena, MT, Dr. Newman is a testament to the quality of Montana's public education. After graduating from high school, Dr. Newman attended the University of Notre Dame before pursuing graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Newman is now a professor of aeronautics and astronautics.

In 2007, Time magazine highlighted Dr. Newman's work as one of the best inventions of the year. She developed a new space suit, known as the BioSuit, to increase astronauts' agility and movements, allowing astronauts to not only walk but also run and even climb mountains.

Her track record of success and nomination to NASA serve as a way to encourage young Montanans to pursue careers in space and engineering.

Dr. Newman is an incredibly accomplished Montanan who truly exemplifies our State's legacy of public service. Her passion and dedication to NASA is clear. I know she will lead with honor and is prepared for whatever challenges may lie ahead. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Dr. Newman's nomination.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we are going to vote on the confirmation of Dava Newman, the nominee for Deputy Administrator of NASA. This little Agency happens to

be one that I have some personal fondness for, having participated with NASA many Moons ago—29½ years ago—on the 24th flight of the space shuttle, a crew led by then-Navy Captain Robert Gibson, otherwise known as Hoot Gibson, and his second in command, the pilot of our mission, which was dubbed STS—Space Transportation System—61-C. Subsequently, all of the numbers of the space shuttles reverted to their original numbering, but there was a hiatus in there where several shuttle flights had a very complicated numbering system, and ours was one of them. The pilot of that mission was then-Marine Colonel Charlie Bolden, now-Marine General, Retired, Charlie Bolden, who is the Administrator of NASA and has been for the last 6 years. But Administrator Bolden does not have a Deputy, and he needs a Deputy Administrator. So this process has been carefully conducted, and they sifted through hundreds of names to come up with just the right person, and that is in the person of Dr. Dava Newman.

She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and two master's degrees and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is currently a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and engineering systems at MIT. She is also the director of the Technology and Policy Program there.

Right off the bat, you can see there is no question as to her skills, her smarts, and her credentials, but she is also known for her leadership and technical expertise in aerospace engineering. She authored over 200 research publications, including the textbook "Introduction to Aerospace Engineering and Design."

I think that would be kind of interesting, that as a backup to Administrator Bolden, who is a five-time space shuttle astronaut, we have someone who is an expert in aerospace engineering design, particularly as we are creating the new rockets and the new spacecraft as we speak, for the goal, which is Mars in the decade of the 2030s.

During her career, she served as the principal investigator on three space flight experiments flown on board the space shuttle and on board the previous Mir Space Station. She is tremendously known for her innovative space suit designs that use mechanical counterpressure to make the space suit formfitting, lightweight, and much more flexible than previous space suits.

If you notice, when you see the astronauts outside of the International Space Station—which, by the way, blows the mind, how big it is. It is 110 yards long. From one goalpost to the other goalpost is 120 yards. That is how big the International Space Station is that is 250 miles above the Earth with six humans on board. When you watch

those EVAs—extravehicular activities—when they go outside to do the repairs, well, lo and behold, Dr. Newman is the designer of their innovative space suits. She has been recognized. Back in 2007, Time magazine recognized her and her space suit work as one of the best inventions of the year. She is currently leading the development of a suit that may help astronauts overcome back problems in space. The suit is planned to be tested on the International Space Station later this year.

As we go on this dual track in our civilian space program—first the track with commercial rockets that will take our cargo and is taking our cargo to and from the International Space Station and will soon be taking Americans to and from the International Space Station, and the other track of the dual tracks is the development of this huge new rocket, much larger than the Apollo Saturn V Rocket, which at the time defied the imagination of how large it could be—this is even bigger. This is called the Space Launch System, and atop it will sit the human capsule Orion, which will start the process of developing the systems, the techniques, the lifesaving, life-enhancing, and life-protecting measures and equipment that can take us all the way to Mars.

So we need a professional at NASA to help General Bolden and his very dedicated team. I certainly commend Dr. Dava Newman to the Senate as that person. We should confirm her today, and we can continue this Nation's civilian space program.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. I yield back the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dava J. Newman, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON),

the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Ayotte	Feinstein	Moran
Baldwin	Fischer	Murray
Barrasso	Franken	Nelson
Bennet	Gardner	Paul
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Peters
Booker	Hatch	Portman
Boozman	Heinrich	Reed
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reid
Brown	Heller	Risch
Burr	Hirono	Roberts
Cantwell	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Sanders
Cardin	Isakson	Sasse
Carper	Johnson	Schatz
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Cassidy	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Crapo	McCain	Tillis
Daines	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Ernst	Mikulski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—13

Alexander	Klobuchar	Toomey
Cotton	Murkowski	Udall
Cruz	Murphy	Vitter
Flake	Rubio	
Graham	Schumer	

The nomination was confirmed.

(At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am proud that Florida has such a rich history and relationship with NASA. From the earliest launches of rockets that established manned missions, to the Apollo program and the continued support for the International Space Station, my home State of Florida is proud to take ownership in NASA's past and will certainly be a part of its future.

It is imperative that we continue to have a robust space exploration program that promotes America's economic, scientific, and security interests, and that effectively utilizes its re-

sources. NASA must have strong leadership and I believe Dr. Dava Newman will serve the Administration well in her new role as Deputy Administrator of NASA. While other obligations kept me from Washington, I would have voted in favor of her nomination.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Georgia.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 20 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CREATING A NEW BEGINNING

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise today to address for the first time this august body, the United States Senate—the greatest governing body ever conceived. Out of respect, I have waited until we passed the 100-day mark to deliver this speech, but I rise today because I believe our Republic is in grave danger. We need to create a new beginning by dealing with the very real crisis of leadership we face today. It is why I ran for the Senate in the first place—because we need a new perspective in Washington. Like many Americans, I am outraged by Washington's dysfunction, its fiscal irresponsibility, its lack of leadership in foreign policy, its intrusiveness and overreach, and its negative impact on hard-working Americans.

Before being elected to the Senate, I had never been involved in politics. Simply put, I am a political outsider committed to changing the direction of our country. I grew up in a small military town in Middle Georgia, working on our family's farms. My mom and dad were public school teachers, and I grew up modestly, as did most people there. I worked my way through college and was blessed with a business career that took me from the factory floor to become a Fortune 500 CEO.

My story is not unique. It is the American story. Only in America is this possible, thanks to hard work and self-reliance. It is called the American dream, and it is our job to make sure it lasts. Many people today believe that this dream no longer exists, that we need big government to provide us with

more and more financial security. I disagree totally. I believe our best days lie ahead. But we have to act boldly if we are to save this dream and our very way of life.

As an outsider to the political process, I am humbled by the privilege to serve my country as a U.S. Senator. I am sobered by the immense responsibility of representing the people of Georgia, and I am encouraged by the opportunity we have to solve this crisis of leadership and create a new beginning.

As one of the Original Thirteen Colonies, Georgia has long been blessed with outstanding statesmen in the U.S. Senate. The first Senator to serve in this seat in the first U.S. Congress in 1789 was Senator William Few. He also signed the U.S. Constitution. As fate would have it, Sarah Few Collins, a member of the team that helped me become Georgia's 37th U.S. Senator in this seat, is a direct descendant of Senator Few. I think that is pretty special. This desk I use on the Senate floor is also very meaningful to me. It has served such distinguished leaders from Georgia such as Saxby Chambliss, Zell Miller, Sam Nunn, Herman Talmadge, and the venerable Richard B. Russell, Jr.

I rise to speak about three issues creating this national crisis of leadership we experience today: the abuse of Executive power, the significant deterioration of American foreign policy, and our out-of-control debt.

First, "What we are witnessing today is one of the greatest challenges to our constitutional system in the history of this country"—not my words but the words of George Washington University constitutional law professor Dr. Jonathan Turley, who incidentally voted twice for President Obama. Unbridled use of Executive orders and regulatory mandates has basically allowed this President to run the country without Congress for the past 6 years. According to Professor Turley, this sets dangerous precedents for future courts and future Presidents.

To create a new beginning, we must first get back to our founding principles articulated in our Constitution that created this miracle called America in the first place: economic opportunity, fiscal responsibility, limited government, and individual liberty. When government grows larger, individual liberty declines. I even believe that our Founders were committed to the concept of citizen legislators—people would come to Congress, do their work, and go home. I don't believe they could perceive of the potential rise of career politicians we experience today.

We also face a global security crisis that is getting worse by the day. This administration has created a situation where our allies don't trust us and our enemies don't fear us. Leading from behind has failed us as a foreign policy.

Right now, we face the threat of nuclear proliferation starting with Iran. As President Obama has conceded, this deal being negotiated would leave Iran with a breakout time "almost down to zero" in 10 to 15 years. As Prime Minister Netanyahu reminded us when he spoke before Congress, a nuclear Iran is not just a threat to Middle East security, it is not only a threat to U.S. security, it is indeed a threat to global security.

A nuclear Iran whose leaders are committed to the death of Israel and America would spark an unprecedented wave of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Under no circumstances can we allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons State—not now, not in 10 years, not ever.

After battling terrorism for the past 14 years and fighting two major wars, with thousands of American lives lost and billions spent, we still face terrorist threats from jihadist Islamic groups who openly vow to do us harm. We face a tough choice, however: Deal with them over there or wait and deal with the consequences here at home.

We are also witnessing the return of great power rivalries. Last year, Russia actually seized territory of a sovereign state and continues their aggression today in the Ukraine. China is also growing more aggressive, doubling its military spending and flexing its muscle in the region.

New asymmetric threats, combined with traditional symmetric challenges, create unprecedented demand on our military at the very time this administration has reduced military spending to the point that we are about to have the smallest Army since World War II, the smallest Navy since World War I, and the smallest Air Force ever. This is simply unacceptable.

To address this global security crisis and create a new beginning, we must have a consistent and strong foreign policy. However, to have a strong foreign policy, we must have a strong defense.

Providing for the national defense is one of only 6 reasons outlined in the Constitution why 13 Colonies formed our Union in the first place. To have a strong defense, though, we have to have a strong economy, as we proved during the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Our own fiscal irresponsibility jeopardizes our very ability to fund a strong military. ADM Michael Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, once said that the greatest threat to our national security is our own Federal debt. This debt crisis threatens our ability to defend our country, stand for freedom, and maintain our very way of life. It is a primary reason why we need to create a new beginning.

This debt crisis affects each of us every day. While the economy lurches

along, we see working middle-class Americans struggling. Many people are having difficulty finding jobs, and those with jobs are lucky to have a job. Their wages remain stagnant, making it harder and harder to get from payday to payday. Many families can't afford to buy a home or plan for the future. Moms and dads fear they can't send their kids to college or prepare them for a good job. Many college graduates today have sizable student loans and still can't find meaningful employment. A comfortable retirement is only a dream for many.

Back home in Georgia, people share my outrage with Washington's fiscal irresponsibility. From what I have seen so far up here, there is not enough great sense of urgency in tackling this skyrocketing debt crisis. There are no innocent parties up here, either. Both sides have pushed us to the brink, contributing to this unsustainable level of debt we face today. In the last 6 years alone, the Federal Government has spent \$21.5 trillion, but it borrowed \$8 trillion, so that today we have a Federal debt of more than \$18 trillion. We simply cannot afford everything we are doing as a Federal Government. We are already overtaxed and overregulated.

The progressive policies of the past 100 years and particularly the egregious policies of this current administration have failed the very people they were intended to help—the working middle class. Instead, Washington has created a spiraling situation that will only take us deeper into debt.

What is worse, we have over \$100 trillion in future unfunded liabilities related to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal pensions, and the interest on the Federal debt. While developing a long-term solution to this debt crisis, we also need to protect today's seniors and save our safety net programs so they will be there for people who really need them the most, when they need them. Shockingly, Social Security and Medicare trust funds will be totally insolvent in just a few short years, and worse, this administration has no plan to deal with that.

Unfortunately, we are already past the tipping point in this fiscal catastrophe. If interest rates today were at their 5.5 percent 30-year average, we would already be paying almost \$1 trillion in interest. That is twice what we spend on our military, and it is totally unmanageable.

People back home expect Washington to work. This fiscal irresponsibility drives people back in Georgia absolutely crazy. Doubling down on bigger government, more Federal programs, and more government spending is not the answer, as has been proven repeatedly over the last 100 years. We have to break the gridlock in Washington to solve this problem. One side wants to increase taxes; the other side wants spending cuts. The result is that we

have had gridlock in Washington for a generation.

The real solution, of course, is to grow our economy. Just 1 percentage point of incremental GDP growth would generate over \$3 trillion of Federal tax revenues in the next decade alone. Combine that with the elimination of truly duplicative programs, and we can develop a long-term plan to solve this debt crisis, as well as get Americans back to work in meaningful, well-paying jobs.

To create a new beginning, my focus in this body will be to add to the debate about how to grow our economy, rein in our outrageous spending, and solve this debt crisis.

To grow our economy, three priorities should be addressed right away. First, we need to totally reinvent how we fund our Federal Government. Many States, such as Georgia, have a balanced budget law, and so should Washington. American families can't spend more than they take in, and neither should their government.

Our archaic tax system is choking growth, holding back innovation, and discouraging investment. Eventually, I believe, we should transition from an income tax to a simple consumption tax, such as the fair tax, that would level the playing field with the rest of the world.

While that debate will take some time, there are things we can do right now to stimulate our economy. We need to reduce our corporate tax rate and eliminate entirely our repatriation tax to be more competitive with other countries. At the same time, we need to eliminate corporate welfare and make our tax system fairer and simpler for every American.

We also have to rein in our out-of-control regulators. This President has created the fourth branch of government—the regulators—which today makes more rules that affect our lives and our jobs than does Congress.

Finally, we need to unlock our full energy potential to get this economy moving. We need to develop our domestic natural resources. Isn't it time we finally develop a long-term energy policy that unleashes this potential while protecting our environment?

Doing these things now will also allow us to fund our infrastructure needs, improve our education process, become more competitive with the rest of the world, create well-paying, 21st-century jobs, and ignite the next economic boom for our kids and grandkids.

I have used the word "crisis" carefully and thoughtfully today. The first step toward making the tough choices required to change our direction comes from a true realization that we indeed have a crisis. Americans respond better than anyone in history to a true crisis, but we are not always the quickest to recognize we have one.

To create a truly new beginning, it is time for this eminent body, the U.S. Senate, to rise above partisan politics and do the right thing. It starts with leadership. It starts with making hard choices. It starts with telling the American people the unvarnished truth. It starts with no longer kicking the can down the road. It starts with having the courage to actually solve these problems independent of how it might affect our reelection chances.

My motivation is very simple. I do not want to be a member of the first generation in American history that has to tell its kids that we are leaving them a country that is worse off than our parents left us.

Ronald Reagan once said:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it along to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States when men were free.

Let us fight to find common ground to create a new beginning for our country, for people back home who are struggling, and for the future of our children and our children's children.

As I close, I am reminded of a seldom-quoted closing sentence of the Declaration of Independence:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Our Founders got it right. They would remind us of that commitment and encourage us today to put our differences aside, to work together to solve these sometimes overwhelming problems.

Together, we can put our differences aside. Together, we can do the right thing. Together, we can create a new beginning.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### CONGRATULATING SENATOR PERDUE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate our new colleague from Georgia on his insightful and accurate assessment of the biggest challenges confronting our country. Not only did he lay out the biggest challenges, he certainly laid out the best solutions to those challenges to get this country moving again and to guarantee, as he put it, that we leave behind for the next generation a better country than our parents left behind for us.

I congratulate our new colleague for an outstanding major speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am grateful that we have the distinguished Senator from Georgia in the Senate. I really enjoyed his remarks here this evening. He laid out a program that we ought to follow.

I am very proud to have the Senator here, and I am proud to serve with him. We wish him the very, very best in every way. I think he will enjoy this body in spite of all the vagaries and varieties of it. But he is a great addition to this body, and we are very appreciative that he is here with us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to note that my colleague from Georgia just made a great speech. In it he listed those who sat in the desk he now sits in—Nunn, Russell, Chambliss. It is obvious he has inherited that seat, and he is equal to the task of those gentlemen. I commend him on his first speech, and I am honored to serve with him in the Senate.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to say, I knew the Senator from Georgia prior to being a Senator. He was an outstanding CEO in a major public company. He has done business all over the world. I know when he campaigned in Georgia for this seat, what he said was that he was going to be the adult in the room. I just want to say that he certainly has distinguished himself since he came here in acting that way and looking at the big issues that our Nation has to deal with.

I know that he knows that still the greatest threat to our country right now is our inability to get our fiscal house in order, and I really believe that Senator PERDUE is going to not just be a leader on the Foreign Relations Committee, as he already is—hugely helpful in the vote that we had last week relative to Iran—but I think as much as anybody in the Senate, Senator PERDUE is going to help drive this body to responsibly deal with fiscal issues we have to deal with.

We have a lot of work to do. We haven't even begun. I look forward to working with him, not only to ensure that our Nation is safe and secure but that we get our fiscal house in order. I could not be more gratified that Senator PERDUE is part of this body and serving in the manner that he is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Senator from Georgia on the content of his speech as well as on his enthusiasm and also on how he follows through on what he says. I get to serve with him on the Budget Committee, and I have been extremely impressed.

At his first meeting, I introduced him as someone who has balanced



budgets. He corrected me. In the private sector, one can't just balance the budget; you have to do better than that. He has that kind of experience to bring to the Budget Committee and to this body, and I look forward to working with him diligently on the budget. We only had 6 weeks to do what hadn't been done in 6 years, and he was a tremendous help in getting through that process and understanding some of the complexities. He is a good numbers man. So when he talks about what we need to do with the budget and paying down the debt and the ways we can do it, I look forward to working with him to get those things accomplished.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I wish to commend my fellow freshman, Senator PERDUE, for a great maiden speech. I like particularly his emphasis upon growing our gross domestic product, growing our economy, and making it stronger. It echoes what Senator ENZI just said. It is not just about balancing the budget but about creating the sort of growth that creates more prosperity for the families who depend upon this prosperity for better jobs for them and their families.

It was a great speech. I thank the Senator for capturing the optimism that makes the United States unique.

I yield back.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID RANKIN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Southern Arkansas University president Dr. David Rankin who will retire in June after nearly half a century of dedication to education.

For 46 years he served alongside the faculty of SAU, the last 13 as president. Dr. Rankin made a career out of helping students and facilitating growth at the school. His vision to improve academic programs and expand campus resources has been a success; benefiting the community and creating a new standard for education.

Since becoming president in 2002, Dr. Rankin helped grow graduate enrollment 200 percent. Throughout his presidency SAU has not only seen record enrollment, but record development as well. Construction of state-of-the-art academic buildings, upgraded athletic facilities, a 30,000-square-foot agriculture center and a \$17.5 million Science Center are just a few of the projects championed by Dr. Rankin.

Public service is a cornerstone of Dr. Rankin's life. Serving as president of SAU is certainly enough to stay busy, but his commitment to the community and the State keep him active in a variety of other roles including as the chair of the Golden Triangle Economic

Development Council. During his tenure he also served as the economic advisor to two Arkansas Governors. He is an active member of Central Baptist Church in Magnolia where he teaches Sunday school.

I congratulate Dr. David Rankin for his outstanding achievements in education and the community. I have appreciated his friendship and enjoyed supporting his efforts to continue making his vision for SAU a reality. I wish him continued success. SAU is a much improved school thanks to his leadership and years of dedication to this institution. •

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1560. An act to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1086. A bill to establish an insurance policy advisory committee on international capital standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1087. A bill to require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1088. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1089. A bill to encourage and support partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1090. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1091. A bill for the relief of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1092. A bill for the relief of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1093. A bill for the relief of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1094. A bill for the relief of Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1095. A bill for the relief of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez and Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1096. A bill for the relief of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1097. A bill for the relief of Alicia Aranda De Buendia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1098. A bill for the relief of Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1099. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide States with flexibility in determining the size of employers in the small group market; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 1100. A bill to require State and local government approval of prescribed burns on Federal land during conditions of drought or fire danger; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry by unanimous consent with instructions that if the bill is reported by that Committee, the bill be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1101. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of patient records and certain decision support software; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1102. A bill to provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1103. A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1104. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 27, a bill to make wildlife trafficking a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes and the Travel Act, to provide for the use for conservation purposes of amounts from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures, and restitution under such statutes based on such violations, and for other purposes.

S. 33

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 33, a bill to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 127

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to prohibit Federal funding for motorcycle checkpoints, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 590

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 590, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 648

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve formulary requirements for prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans with respect to certain categories or classes of drugs.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

S. 698

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr.

ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 698, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to facilitate the administration and enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under

the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1014

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1074

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1074, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 144

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 144, a resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1151 intended to be pro-

posed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

#### STATEMENT ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1102. A bill to provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today postsecondary education is required for most family-sustaining, middle-class jobs, and an educated workforce is essential to a modern, productive economy. A recent report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce found that college-intensive business services have replaced manufacturing as the largest sector in the U.S. economy, and that while college-educated workers make up only 32 percent of the workforce, they now produce more than 50 percent of the Nation's economic output, up from 13 percent in 1967. Median annual earnings for bachelor's degree holders were \$23,000 higher compared to high school graduates in 2014.

Yet just as there is growing recognition that postsecondary education is indispensable in the modern economy, families are being required to shoulder growing debt burdens that threaten access to college.

According to a recent analysis of student loan debt by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, between 2004 and 2014, there was an 89 percent increase in the number of student loan borrowers and a 77 percent increase in the average balance size. Today, over 40 million Americans have student loan debt.

This is a growing drag on our economy. As student loan debt has grown, young adults have put off buying homes or cars, starting a family, saving for retirement, or launching new businesses. They have literally mortgaged their economic future.

We know that student loan borrowers are struggling. Default rates are on the rise. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported that the number of borrowers who default each year increased from about half a million 10 years ago to 1.2 million annually in 2011 and 2012. Only 37 percent of borrowers are current on their loan and actively paying down their debt.

We cannot tackle the student loan debt crisis without States and institutions also stepping up and taking greater responsibility for college costs and student borrowing.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the Protect Student Borrowers Act with Senators DURBIN, WARREN, and MURPHY to ensure there is more skin in the game when it comes to student loan debt by setting stronger market incentives for colleges and universities to provide better and more affordable education to students, which will in turn help put the brakes on rising student loan defaults.

The Protect Student Borrowers Act will hold colleges and universities accountable for student loan defaults by requiring them to repay a percentage of defaulted loans. Only institutions that have 25 percent or more of their students borrow would be included in risk sharing based on their cohort default rate. Risk-sharing requirements would kick in when the default rate exceeds 15 percent. As the institutional default rate rises, so too will the institution's risk-share payment.

The Protect Student Borrowers Act also provides incentives for institutions to take proactive steps to ease student loan debt burdens and reduce default rates. Colleges and universities can reduce or eliminate their payments if they implement a comprehensive student loan management plan. The Secretary may waive or reduce the payments for institutions whose mission is to serve low-income and minority students, such as community colleges, Historically Black Institutions, or Hispanic Serving Institutions provided that they are making progress in their student loan management plans.

The risk-sharing payments will be invested in helping struggling borrowers, preventing future default and delinquency, and reducing shortfalls in the Pell Grant program.

With the stakes so high for students and taxpayers, it is only fair that institutions bear some of the risk in the student loan program.

We need to tackle student loan debt and college affordability from multiple angles. And we need all stakeholders in the system to do their part. With the Protect Student Borrowers Act, we are providing the resources and incentives for institutions to take more responsibility to address college affordability and student loan debt and improve student outcomes. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and look forward to working with them to include it and other key reforms in the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1103. A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today, I introduce two bills, S. 1103 and S. 1104,

with my colleague from Montana, Senator JON TESTER, my Idaho colleagues Senators RISCH and CRAPO and also my counterpart in the House, Montana's Representative RYAN ZINKE. Current uncertainty in the permitting process threatens sources of clean, renewable power in my State. My bills would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend a license for nonfederal hydropower development on existing dams in my state of Montana.

The first bill would extend for 3 years a contract for hydropower development on the Clark Canyon Dam in Dillon, Montana. The bill would allow for construction and operation of a project that would power about 1,200 homes each year with clean, renewable hydropower, while replacing 18,000 metric tons of carbon each year. The bill would help create 30 to 40 jobs during construction. Further, the project would produce \$611,000 in State and Federal taxes over the first 5 years of operation and \$37,000 in property tax contributions over the first 5 years.

The second bill would provide a 6 year contract extension for nonfederal hydropower development on the Gibson Dam, near August and Choteau Montana. Once completed, the project will provide for decades of stable of tax revenues per year to each Teton and Lewis and Clark Counties, the state of Montana, and the Federal Government. Gibson Hydro project will benefit the environment as they are required by their FERC license to incorporate measures in their operations and construction that would enhance fish and wildlife resources, water quality, recreational and aesthetic resources. Further, the project would replace 40,000 tons of carbon per year and will strengthen the irrigation component of the Gibson Dam by providing a portion of the power sales to Greenfields Irrigation District to support irrigation improvements, operations, water conservation and usage enhancements. This bill will help create 15-25 construction jobs, \$1 million in local revenue over 2 years, and \$4-5 million in wages during construction phase and over \$200,000 per year for the Sun River Cooperative.

Hydropower development must be a key component of our Nation's all-of-the-above strategy to meet our Nation's needs. Passing these bills will show the Senate's commitment to hydropower as a clean source of power for our country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bills be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bills were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1103

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR A FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING CLARK CANYON DAM.**

Notwithstanding the time period described in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12429, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the "Commission") shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, reinstate the license and extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of project works for the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

S. 1104

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING GIBSON DAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12478-003, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the "Commission") may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice and in accordance with the procedures of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project for a 6-year period that begins on the date described in subsection (b).

(b) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subsection is the date of the expiration of the extension of the period required for commencement of construction for the project described in subsection (a) that was issued by the Commission prior to the date of enactment of this Act under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 1153. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1154. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1155. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1156. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1157. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1158. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1159. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1160. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1161. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1162. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1163. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1164. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1165. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1166. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1167. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1168. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1169. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1170. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1171. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1172. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1173. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1174. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1175. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1176. Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

SA 1153. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, strike lines 10 through 25 and insert the following:

“(A) may not be taken unless—

“(i) the unconditional release of Jason Rezaian, Saeed Abedini, and Amir Hekmati from Iran has occurred; and

“(ii) the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, in writing, that Iran is cooperating with United States officials regarding the identification of the location and return of Robert Levinson to the United States; and

“(B) if each of the releases described in subparagraph (A)(i) has occurred and the certification described in clause (A)(ii) has been submitted—

“(i) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(ii) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(iii) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

**SA 1154.** Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, strike lines 10 through 25 and insert the following:

“(A) may not be taken unless the President declares United States policy toward Iran regarding the underground uranium enrichment facility at Fordow, Iran; and

“(B) after the declaration described in subparagraph (A) has been made—

“(i) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(ii) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(iii) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

**SA 1155.** Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTS ON THE MILITARY POWER OF IRAN.**

Section 1245(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2542), as amended by section 1277 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

**SA 1156.** Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, strike lines 10 through 25 and insert the following:

“(A) may not be taken until the President submits to Congress an assessment of the nature and scope of cooperation between Iran and North Korea regarding their respective nuclear programs; and

“(B) after the assessment described in subparagraph (A) is submitted as described in that subparagraph—

“(i) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(ii) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(iii) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

**SA 1157.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has not made advancements in ballistic missile and space-launch development in violation of any international agreement or United Nations Security Council Resolution, or in a way that could be a

threat to the national security of the United States or the security of United States allies; and

**SA 1158.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, strike line 1 and insert the following:

“(h) **GENERAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act, any agreement with the Government of Iran, or any resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council or the United Nations General Assembly may be construed or used to prohibit or restrict the ability of the United States Government to re-impose waived sanctions or enact new sanctions against the Government of Iran for continued development of its nuclear program under any circumstances if it is determined to be in the national security interests of the United States to do so.

“(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

**SA 1159.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 39, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

“(C) **REPORT ON ACTIONS BY IRAN AFFECTING US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL.**—In addition to any other information required to be submitted to Congress under this paragraph, the President shall also report to Congress not later than seven days after any action by the Government of Iran that could compromise the commitment of the United States to the security of Israel or the support of the United States for Israel’s right to exist.

**SA 1160.** Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY ON THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY OF IRAN.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that its nuclear enrichment program is solely for peaceful purposes. On September 20, 2009, the Supreme Leader of Iran,

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, stated that Western nations “falsely accuse the Islamic republic of producing nuclear weapons. We fundamentally reject nuclear weapons and prohibit the production and the use of nuclear weapons”.

(2) President Bill Clinton, on August 5, 1996, signed the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, which President Clinton stated was intended to “limit the flow of resources necessary to obtain weapons of mass destruction”.

(3) In his 2006 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush stated that “[t]he Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons”.

(4) As recently as April 2015, President Obama reiterated in an interview that “[m]y goal, when I came into office, was to make sure that Iran did not get a nuclear weapon and thereby trigger a nuclear arms race in the most volatile part of the world”.

(5) Secretary of State John Kerry, in the confirmation hearing on his nomination for appointment to that position on January 24, 2013, said about the development by Iran of a nuclear weapon that “[o]ur policy is not containment. It is prevention, and the clock is ticking on our efforts to secure responsible compliance”.

(6) In a March 2015 letter to Congress, President Obama stated that “[c]ertain actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States”.

(7) On March 26, 2015, testifying before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, Generals Lloyd Austin, David Rodriguez, and Joseph Votel, Commanders of the United States Central Command, the United States Africa Command, and the United States Special Operations Command, respectively, all agreed that “in terms of the long-term threat in the region, Iran is the greatest threat to stability”.

(8) On February 26, 2015, testifying before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper was asked “[i]s it still [United States] policy that no options are off the table and that Iran should not have a nuclear weapon?” Director Clapper replied, “[t]hat’s my understanding, yes sir. [ . . . ] No option is off the table”.

(b) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States that the Islamic Republic of Iran should not obtain nuclear weapons.

**SA 1161.** Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN COMPENSATION FUND.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the “American Hostages in Iran Compensation Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”) for the purposes of—

(1) making payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:00-CV-03110 (ESG) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(2) satisfying the claims of the members of the proposed class against Iran relating to the taking of hostages and treatment of personnel of the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.

(b) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There is imposed a surcharge equal to 30 percent of the amount of—

(i) any fine or penalty imposed, in whole or in part, for a violation of a law or regulation specified in subparagraph (B) committed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) the monetary amount of a settlement entered into by a person with respect to a suspected violation of a law or regulation specified in subparagraph (B) related to activities undertaken on or after such date of enactment.

(B) **LAWS AND REGULATIONS SPECIFIED.**—A law or regulation specified in this subparagraph is any law or regulation imposing a fine or penalty for any economic activity relating to Iran that is administered by the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, or the Department of Energy.

(C) **TERMINATION OF DEPOSITS.**—The imposition of the surcharge under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on the date on which all amounts described in subsection (c)(2) have been distributed to all recipients described in that subsection.

(2) **DEPOSITS INTO FUND; AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—

(A) **DEPOSITS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the Fund all surcharges collected pursuant to paragraph (1)(A).

(B) **PAYMENT OF SURCHARGE TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.**—A person upon which a surcharge is imposed under paragraph (1)(A) shall pay the surcharge to the Secretary without regard to whether the fine or penalty with respect to which the surcharge is imposed—

(i) is paid directly to the Federal agency that administers the law or regulation pursuant to which the fine or penalty is imposed; or

(ii) is deemed satisfied by a payment to another Federal agency.

(C) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.**—Amounts in the Fund shall be available, without further appropriation, to make payments under subsection (c).

(c) **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.**—Payments from the Fund shall be administered, subject to oversight by the Secretary of the Treasury, by the named representatives of the proposed class described in subsection (a)(1) and the principal agent designated by the proposed class for the period beginning in 1999 and continuing through the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **PAYMENTS.**—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), payments shall be made from the Fund to the following recipients in the following amounts:

(A) To each living former hostage identified as a member of the proposed class described in subsection (a)(1), \$10,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(B) To the estate of each deceased former hostage identified as a member of the pro-

posed class described in subsection (a)(1), \$10,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(C) To each spouse and child of a former hostage identified as a member of the proposed class described in subsection (a)(1) if the spouse or child is identified as a member of that proposed class, \$5,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(3) **PRIORITY.**—Payments from the Fund shall be distributed under paragraph (2) in the following order:

(A) First, to each living former hostage described in paragraph (2)(A).

(B) Second, to the estate of each deceased former hostage described in paragraph (2)(B).

(C) Third, to each spouse and child of a former hostage described in paragraph (2)(C).

(4) **CONSENT OF RECIPIENT.**—A payment to a recipient from the Fund under paragraph (2) shall be made only after receiving the consent of the recipient.

(d) **PRECLUSION OF FUTURE ACTIONS AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS.**—

(1) **PRECLUSION OF FUTURE ACTIONS.**—A recipient of a payment under subsection (c) may not file or maintain an action against Iran in any Federal or State court for any claim relating to the events described in subsection (a)(2).

(2) **RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS.**—Upon the payment of all amounts described in subsection (c)(2) to all recipients described in that subsection, all claims against Iran relating to the events described in subsection (a)(2) shall be deemed waived and forever released.

(e) **DEPOSIT OF REMAINING FUNDS INTO THE TREASURY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any amounts remaining in the Fund after the date specified in paragraph (2) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(2) **DATE SPECIFIED.**—The date specified in this paragraph is the later of—

(A) the date on which all amounts described in subsection (c)(2) have been made to all recipients described in that subsection; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **REPORT TO CONGRESS ON COMPLETION OF PAYMENTS.**—Not later than 60 days after determining that a law or regulation specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) is terminated or suspended or that amounts in the Fund will be insufficient for the payment of all amounts described in subsection (c)(2) to all recipients described in that subsection by the date that is 444 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress recommendations to expedite the completion of the payment of those amounts.

**SA 1162.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROVIDING SANCTIONS RELIEF.**

The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from,



or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under section 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as added by section 2 of this Act, until the Commission to Assess the Nuclear Activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran submits the report required under section 6.

**SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established a commission to be known as the “Commission To Assess the Nuclear Activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Commission shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

(1) 3 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate.

(2) 3 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) 3 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(4) 3 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Commission shall be appointed from among private United States citizens with knowledge and expertise in the political and military aspects of nuclear proliferation and the military and civilian nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(d) **CHAIRMEN.**—The Committee shall have two co-chairmen, of whom—

(1) one shall be designated from among the members of the Commission by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, after consultation with the majority leader of the Senate; and

(2) one shall be designated from among the members of the Commission by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate.

(e) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) **SECURITY CLEARANCES.**—All members of the Commission shall hold appropriate security clearances.

(g) **INITIAL ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—All appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **FIRST MEETING.**—The Commission shall convene its first meeting not later than 30 days after the date as of which all members of the Commission have been appointed, but not earlier than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 5. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

The Commission shall assess the following:

(1) The status of the military nuclear activities and civilian nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(2) The relationship between the military nuclear activities and civilian nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(3) The intentions behind the military nuclear activities and civilian nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**SEC. 6. REPORT.**

Not later than 180 days after its first meeting, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on its findings and conclusions as a result of the assessment under section 5.

**SEC. 7. POWERS.**

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission or, at its direction, any panel or member of the Commission, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, receive evidence, and administer oaths to the extent that the Commission or any panel or member considers advisable.

(b) **SUPPORT OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may secure directly from the Department of Defense, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and any other department or agency of the United States Government information that the Commission considers necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties under this Act.

(2) **COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.**—The Commission should receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and other appropriate officials of the United States Government who should, in providing such cooperation, provide the Commission with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of the Commission.

**SEC. 8. COMMISSION PROCEDURES.**

(a) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the chairman of the Commission.

(b) **QUORUM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum other than for the purpose of holding hearings.

(2) **ACTION BY RESOLUTION OF MAJORITY.**—The Commission shall act by resolution agreed to by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(c) **COMMISSION.**—The Commission may establish panels composed of less than full membership of the Commission for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act. The actions of any such panel shall be subject to the review and control of the Commission. Any findings and determinations made by such a panel shall not be considered the findings and determinations of the Commission unless approved by the Commission.

(d) **AUTHORITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO ACT FOR COMMISSION.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action which the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

**SEC. 9. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

(a) **PAY OF MEMBERS.**—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay by reason of their work on the Commission.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(c) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The co-chairmen of the Commission may, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, jointly appoint a staff director and such additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties under this Act. The appointment of a staff director shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The co-chairmen of the Commission may jointly fix the pay of the staff director and other personnel of the

Commission without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay fixed under this paragraph for the staff director may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title and the rate of pay for other personnel may not exceed the maximum rate payable for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule.

(d) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Upon the joint request of the co-chairmen of the Commission, the head of any department or agency of the United States Government may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any personnel of that department or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties.

(e) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The co-chairmen of the Commission may jointly procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

**SEC. 10. MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

(a) **POSTAL AND PRINTING SERVICES.**—The Commission may use the United States mails and obtain printing and binding services in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States Government.

(b) **MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Director of Central Intelligence shall furnish the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, any administrative and support services requested by the Commission.

**SEC. 11. FUNDING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds for activities of the Commission under this Act shall be provided from amounts available for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2015.

(b) **DISBURSEMENT.**—Upon receipt of a joint written certification from the co-chairmen of the Commission specifying the funds required for the activities of the Commission, the Director of National Intelligence shall promptly disburse to the Commission, from amounts referred to in subsection (a), the funds required by the Commission as stated in such certification.

**SEC. 12. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

The Commission shall terminate 60 days after the date of the submission of its report under section 6.

**SA 1163.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 6, strike lines 8 through 15 and insert the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During the 30 calendar day period following transmittal by the President of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a)—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign



Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold briefings and hearings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement;

“(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold briefings and hearings on the compliance and verification mechanisms of such agreement;

“(C) the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold briefings and hearings on the military significance of such agreement; and

“(D) the Committee on Banking and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold briefings and hearings on the relief of sanctions provided under the agreement.

**SA 1164.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President has certified to Congress that the Government of Iran is not developing an intercontinental ballistic missile with assessed ranges capable of reaching the United States and its territories.

**SA 1165.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON THE POSSIBLE MILITARY DIMENSIONS OF IRAN’S NUCLEAR PROGRAM.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President has certified to Congress that the Government of

Iran has fully and verifiably disclosed all of Iran’s Possible Military Dimensions associated with the Iranian nuclear program.

**SA 1166.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President has certified to Congress that the Government of Iran has not materially supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or United States persons anywhere in the world.

**SA 1167.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON INSPECTIONS AND TRANSPARENCY.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President makes the following certifications:

“(A) The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will have access anytime without notice to all of Iran’s nuclear facilities, including to Iran’s enrichment facility at Natanz and its former enrichment facility at Fordow, and all of Iran’s military facilities, and including the use of the most up-to-date, modern monitoring technologies.

“(B) Inspectors will have access to the supply chain that supports Iran’s nuclear program. The new transparency and inspections mechanisms will closely monitor materials and components to prevent diversion to a secret program.

“(C) Inspectors will have access to uranium mines and continuous surveillance at uranium mills, where Iran produces yellowcake, for 25 years.

“(D) Inspectors will have continuous surveillance of Iran’s centrifuge rotors and bel-

lows production and storage facilities for 20 years, and Iran’s centrifuge manufacturing base will be frozen and under continuous surveillance.

“(E) All centrifuges and enrichment infrastructure removed from Fordow and Natanz will be placed under continuous monitoring by the IAEA.

“(F) As an additional transparency measure, a dedicated procurement channel for Iran’s nuclear program will be established to monitor and approve, on a case by case basis, the supply, sale, or transfer to Iran of certain nuclear-related and dual use materials and technology.

“(G) Iran has agreed to implement the Additional Protocol of the IAEA, providing the IAEA much greater access and information regarding Iran’s nuclear program, including both declared and undeclared facilities.

“(H) Iran will be required to grant access to the IAEA to investigate suspicious sites or allegations of a covert enrichment facility, conversion facility, centrifuge production facility, or yellowcake production facility anywhere in the country.

“(I) Iran has agreed to implement Modified Code 3.1 requiring early notification of construction of new facilities.

**SA 1168.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has not acquired and deployed advanced integrated air defense systems, including long-range surface-to-air missiles such as the Russian-made S300, to protect the underground facility at Fordow; and

**SA 1169.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON THE STATUS OF HARDENED UNDERGROUND ENRICHMENT FACILITIES.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President has certified to Congress that the Government of Iran has permanently closed or rendered inoperable all of its hardened underground facilities associated with the Iranian nuclear program.

**SA 1170.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 11, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

“(4) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES IN SENATE FOR RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

“(A) MOTION TO PROCEED.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period for review provided in subsection (b), to move to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution described in paragraph (2)(B), and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion to proceed is not subject to a motion to postpone. The motion to proceed shall be agreed to by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of Senators present and voting. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of a joint resolution described in paragraph (2)(B), and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order, is not debatable, and, notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, shall be agreed to by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of Senators present and voting. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution described in paragraph (2)(B), the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be decided without debate.

**SA 1171.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 11, strike line 16 and all that follows through “significant breach” on page 12, line 4, and insert the following:

“(2) BREACHES AND COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—The President shall, within 10 calendar days of receiving credible and accurate information relating to a breach or compliance incident by Iran with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

(3) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submitting information about a breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall make a determination whether such breach

**SA 1172.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, lines 20 and 21, strike “substantially”.

**SA 1173.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS WHILE IRAN DETERMINED TO BE A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (6), prior to the determination that Iran is no longer a state sponsor of terrorism pursuant to section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act (50 U.S.C. App. 240(j)), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780), and section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371), the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a).

**SA 1174.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 6, beginning on line 10, strike “subsection (a),” and all that follows through line 15 and insert the following: “subsection (a)—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign

Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement; and

“(B) the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold briefings and hearings on the military significance of such an agreement.

**SA 1175.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.—The President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State and any other Executive branch officer or agency may not waive, suspend, reduce or provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described under subsection (a) until the President has certified to Congress that the Government of Iran is not developing an intercontinental ballistic missile with assessed ranges capable of reaching the United States and its territories.

**SA 1176.** Mr. ISAKSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### **SEC. 3. COMPENSATION OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD IN IRAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ensure that the former hostages held in Iran for 444 days between 1979 and 1981 and their spouses and children identified in case number 1:00-CV-03110 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia are compensated for the days of captivity the hostages endured in service to the United States. Such compensation shall be consistent with established judicial precedent.

(b) PAYMENT MECHANISM.—The establishment of a payment mechanism, the administration of payments, and the source of funds shall be at the determination of the President or his designee.

(c) PAYMENT FORMULA.—Payments under this section shall be made to the following individuals in the following amounts:

(1) To each living former hostage, \$10,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(2) To the estate of each deceased former hostage, \$10,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(3) To each living spouse and child of a former hostage if the spouse or child is identified as a member of the proposed class in

case number 1:00-CV-03110 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, \$5,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(4) To the estate of each deceased spouse and child described in paragraph (3) of a former hostage, \$5,000 for each day of captivity of the former hostage.

(d) **PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS.**—Payments under this section shall be distributed in the following order:

(1) First, to each living former hostage described in subsection (c)(1).

(2) Second, to the estate of each deceased former hostage described in subsection (c)(2).

(3) Third, to each living spouse and child of a former hostage described in subsection (c)(3).

(4) Fourth, to the estate of each spouse and child described in subsection (c)(4).

(e) **PRINCIPAL AGENT AND CONSENT OF RECIPIENT.**—A payment under this section to an eligible recipient shall be made only after receiving the consent of the recipient through the principal agent designated by the proposed class described in subsection (c)(3) for the period beginning in 1999 and continuing through the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **WAIVER OF FURTHER CLAIMS.**—A recipient of a payment under this section shall waive and forever release all existing claims against Iran and the United States arising out of the events described in case number 1:00-CV-03110 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

(g) **CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.**—The President or his designee shall certify to Congress that all payments under this section have been made to all eligible recipients before—

(1) any agreement between the United States and Iran is submitted for the advice and consent of the Senate or is submitted to Congress under section 135 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as added by section 2 of this Act;

(2) any termination or reduction of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran, whether imposed by executive action or pursuant to statute; and

(3) any normalization of relations between the United States and Iran, including the establishment of diplomatic relations or the opening of an embassy or consular offices of the United States in Iran.

#### **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions of and amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provisions and amendments to any other person not similarly situated or to other circumstances, shall not be affected by the holding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### **SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL—S. 1100**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Thune bill No. 1100 be sequentially referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and then to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### **REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-2**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 27, 2015, by the President of the United States: Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, Treaty Document No. 114-2. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

#### *To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed at New York on May 6, 2014 (the "Protocol"). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (the "Treaty") to which the Protocol relates, and the Department of State's Overview of the Protocol, which includes a detailed article-by-article analysis of both the Protocol and the Treaty.

Ratification of the Protocol is in the best interest of the United States, as it will enhance U.S. security by furthering our objective of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, strengthen our relations with the states and the people of Central Asia, demonstrate our commitment to the decision taken at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that helped secure

that Treaty's indefinite extension, and contribute significantly to the continued realization of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in all its aspects. As the Department of State's Overview of the Protocol explains, entry into force of the Protocol for the United States would require no changes in U.S. law, policy, or practice.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to its ratification, subject to the statements contained in the Department of State's Overview of the Protocol.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 27, 2015.

#### **ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1191, as under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### **ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m.

#### **CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 27, 2015:

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION

DAVA J. NEWMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, April 27, 2015

The House met at 8 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 27, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Reverend Daniel Coughlin, Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

At the end of the day, God of the heavens and Earth You bid us lay our worries, concerns, and responsibilities to rest.

While we sleep, You continue to care and provide for us. Your creation, renewal of energy, and evolution of beauty and peace continue without us.

Let it be, now and forever.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from a staff member of the 18th Congressional District of Illinois:

APRIL 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

KELLI RIPP.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 27, 2015 at 10:11 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 21.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 25.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 3.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

### EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,

Washington, DC, April 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,  
*Chairman,*  
*Committee on House Administration.*

### AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS—H. RES. 676

July 1–September 30, 2014 .....	\$0.00
October 1–December 31, 2014 .....	42,875.00
January 1–March 31, 2015 .....	50,000.00
Total .....	92,875.00

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 3. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I; to the Committee on House Administration.

### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

April 27, 2015

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 161, Pt. 4

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Visit to Greece, Crete, October 3–6, 2014:											
Hon. Paul Cook	4/10	5/10	Greece		(*)		(*)				
Commercial airfare	5/10	6/10	Crete								
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	4/10	5/10	Greece		(*)		8,679.10				8,679.10
Commercial airfare	5/10	6/10	Crete								
Leonor Tomero	4/10	5/10	Greece				13,905.80				13,905.80
Commercial airfare	5/10	6/10	Crete								
Michael Amato	4/10	5/10	Greece				8,693.80				8,693.80
Commercial airfare	5/10	6/10	Crete								
Visit to Greece, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia with Codel Turner, October 6–11, 2014:							8,693.80				8,693.80
Hon. Paul Cook	7/10	8/10	Greece		4,325.00						4,325.00
	8/10	8/10	Cyprus								
	8/10	9/10	Macedonia		224.00						224.00
	9/10	10/10	Montenegro		93.00						93.00
	10/10	11/10	Bosnia and Herzegovina								
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	7/10	8/10	Greece		4,325.00						4,325.00
	8/10	8/10	Cyprus								
	8/10	9/10	Macedonia		224.00						224.00
	9/10	10/10	Montenegro		93.00						93.00
	10/10	11/10	Bosnia and Herzegovina								
Visit to Qatar, October 25–29, 2014:											
Christopher Bright	26/10	29/10	Qatar		342.00						342.00
Commercial airfare							10,402.00				10,402.00
Elizabeth Conrad	26/10	29/10	Qatar		342.00						342.00
Commercial airfare							10,402.00				10,402.00
Heath Bope	26/10	29/10	Qatar		342.00						342.00
Commercial airfare							10,402.00				10,402.00
Visit to Qatar, Afghanistan, Jordan, November 20–25, 2014:											
Hon. Rob Wittman	21/11	24/11	Qatar		639.96						639.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		350.21						350.21
Commercial airfare							4,534.60				4,534.60
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	21/11	24/11	Qatar		639.96						639.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		350.21						350.21
Commercial airfare							9,847.10				9,847.10
Hon. Mike Coffman	21/11	24/11	Qatar		417.96						417.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan								
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		222.21						222.21
Commercial airfare							11,414.50				11,414.50
Hon. David Loebsack	21/11	24/11	Qatar		639.96						639.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		350.21						350.21
Commercial airfare							11,256.10				11,256.10
Michele Pearce	21/11	24/11	Qatar		639.96						639.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		350.21						350.21
Commercial airfare							11,260.10				11,260.10
Brian Garrett	21/11	24/11	Qatar		639.96						639.96
	22/11	23/11	Afghanistan		6.00						6.00
	23/11	24/11	Jordan		350.21						350.21
Commercial airfare							11,265.10				11,265.10
Delegation expenses	23/11	24/11	Jordan				458.64		787.17		1,245.81
Visit to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, December 13–20, 2014:											
Alexander Gallo	14/12	16/12	Turkey		94.00						94.00
	16/12	18/12	Saudi Arabia		525.00						525.00
	18/12	19/12	Kuwait		296.63						296.63
Commercial airfare							17,290.40				17,290.40
Michael Casey	14/12	16/12	Turkey		94.00						94.00
	16/12	18/12	Saudi Arabia		525.00						525.00
	18/12	19/12	Kuwait		296.63						296.63
Commercial airfare							17,290.40				17,290.40
Lindsay Kavanaugh	14/12	16/12	Turkey		94.00						94.00
	16/12	18/12	Saudi Arabia		525.00						525.00
	18/12	19/12	Kuwait		296.63						296.63
Commercial airfare							17,290.40				17,290.40
Delegation expenses			Kuwait				126.15		375.00		501.15
Visit to Ukraine, Germany, United Kingdom, December 13–19, 2014:											
Kimberly Shaw	14/12	15/12	Ukraine		370.25						370.25
	15/12	17/12	Germany		229.94						229.94
	17/12	19/12	United Kingdom		877.15						877.15
Commercial airfare							10,772.80				10,772.80
Joseph Whited	14/12	15/12	Ukraine		370.25						370.25
	15/12	17/12	Germany		229.94						229.94
	17/12	19/12	United Kingdom		877.15						877.15
Commercial airfare							10,772.80				10,772.80
Douglas Bush	14/12	15/12	Ukraine		370.25						370.25
	15/12	17/12	Germany		229.94						229.94
	17/12	18/12	United Kingdom		438.58						438.58
Commercial airfare							10,772.80				10,772.80
Delegation expenses			Ukraine		222.19						222.19
			United Kingdom		177.28						177.28
Visit to Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Germany, December 11–17, 2014:											
Hon. Mike Rogers	12/12	14/12	Romania		510.00						510.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland		260.19						260.19
	15/12	17/12	Ukraine		370.88						370.88
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	12/12	14/12	Romania		510.00						510.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland		260.19						260.19
	15/12	17/12	Ukraine		370.88						370.88
Hon. Michael Turner	12/12	14/12	Romania		240.00						240.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland		260.19						260.19

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Rick Larsen	15/12	17/12	Ukraine .....		370.88						370.88
	12/12	14/12	Romania .....		510.00						510.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland .....		260.19						260.19
Timothy Morrison	15/12	17/12	Ukraine .....		370.88						370.88
	12/12	14/12	Romania .....		510.00						510.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland .....		260.19						260.19
Leonor Tomero	15/12	17/12	Ukraine .....		370.88						370.88
	12/12	14/12	Romania .....		510.00						510.00
	14/12	14/12	Poland .....		260.19						260.19
Delegation expenses .....	15/12	17/12	Ukraine .....		370.88						370.88
			Ukraine .....						9,674.75		9,674.75
			Poland .....				537.02				537.02
			Romania .....						2,615.00		2,615.00
Committee total .....					29,647.25		216,067.41		13,451.92		259,166.58

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

\* See Codel Turner.

HON. MAC THORNBERRY, Chairman, Mar. 23, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Apr. 15, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES W. DENT, Chairman, Apr. 8, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 9, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROB BISHOP, Chairman, Apr. 6, 2015.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

## HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Apr. 1, 2015.

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>

## HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. TREY GOWDY, Chairman, Apr. 9, 2015.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1252. A letter from the Counsel, Law and Policy, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Submission of Credit Card Agreements Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2015-0006] (RIN: 3170-AA50) received April 21, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1253. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Homeownership Counseling Organizations Lists and High-Cost Mortgage Counseling Interpretive Rule (RIN: 3170-AA52) received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1254. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2014 Prescription Drug User Fee Act Financial Report, pursuant to Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992, as amended; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1255. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the second annual report on Drug Shortages for Calendar Year 2014, pursuant to Sec. 1002 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, Pub. L. 112-144; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1256. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2014 Performance Report to Congress, pursuant to the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1257. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the "2014 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report to Congress", pursuant to the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1258. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle-York Nonattainment Areas to Attainment for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0525; FRL-9926-79-Region 3] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1259. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0873; FRL-9926-19-Region 9] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1260. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Montana [EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0158; FRL-9924-80-Region 8] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1261. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Saflufenacil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0339; FRL-9923-57] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1262. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Feather River Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0924; FRL-9924-77-Region 9] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1263. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Implementation Plans; Washington: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Visibility Protection [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0755; FRL-9926-95-Region 10] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1264. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bicyclopyrone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0355; FRL-9926-66] received April 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1265. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Sec. 73.202(b) FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Sagaponack, New York) [MB Docket No.: 14-253] (RM-11741) received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1266. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Cooling-Off Period for Sales Made at Homes or at Certain Other Locations (RIN: 3084-AB10) received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1267. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Energy Labeling Rule (RIN: 3084-AB03) received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1268. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Energy and Water Use Labeling for Consumer Products Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Energy Labeling Rule) (RIN: 3084-AB15) received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1269. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting the thirty-ninth annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for FY 2014, pursuant to the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act of 1975, as amended; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.



1270. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Managing the Safety/Security Interface, Regulatory Guide 5.74, Revision 1 received April 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1271. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Overseas Surplus Property annual report for properties identified for possible disposal within FY 2015 through FY 2016, pursuant to the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, Pub. L. 105-277, Sec. 2215; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1272. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1273. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1274. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1275. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity management and Equal Opportunity, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the FY 2014 reports to Congress, pursuant to the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1276. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Small Entity Compliance Guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-81; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR 2015-0051, Sequence 1] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1277. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Further Amendments to Equal Employment Opportunity [FAC 2005-81; FAR Case 2015-013; Item I; Docket No.: 2015-0013, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AN01) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1278. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly re-

port of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 114—29); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1279. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31008; Amdt. No.: 3635] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1280. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31011; Amdt. No.: 3638] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1281. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31010; Amdt. No.: 3637] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1282. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31012; Amdt. No.: 519] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1283. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31009; Amdt. No.: 3636] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1284. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0123; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-040-AD; Amendment 39-18134; AD 2015-07-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1285. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area Boundary Descriptions; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0618; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1286. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes

[Docket No.: FAA-2015-0839; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-006-AD; Amendment 39-18131; AD 2015-07-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1287. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0904; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-18129; AD 2015-07-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1288. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0920; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-192-AD; Amendment 39-18135; AD 2015-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1289. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0132; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-038-AD; Amendment 39-18132; AD 2015-07-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1290. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0825; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-035-AD; Amendment 39-18138; AD 2015-08-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1291. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0627; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-18126; AD 2015-06-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1292. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0908; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-007-AD; Amendment 39-18136; AD 2015-05-52] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1293. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0621; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-201-AD; Amendment 39-18133; AD 2015-07-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1294. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2015 [Notice 2015-33] received April 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1295. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — May 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-8) received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1296. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — IRC Section 5000C — Qualified Income Tax Treaty Countries [Notice 2015-35] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1297. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members [Notice 2015-34] received April 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*[The following action occurred on April 24, 2015]*

Mr. SIMPSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2028. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-91). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DENT: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2029. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-92). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

*[Submitted on April 27, 2015]*

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1732. A bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-93). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 2030. A bill to amend the Asbestos Information Act of 1988 to establish a public database of asbestos-containing products, to require public disclosure of information pertaining to the manufacture, processing, distribution, and use of asbestos-containing products in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 2031. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for the transmission of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to trigger a response by a law enforcement agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. RUSSELL):

H.R. 2032. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 2033. A bill to designate Nepal under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Nepal to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2034. A bill to provide certain workplace protections to interns relating to discriminatory practices; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2035. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve coverage for colorectal screening tests under Medicare and private health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 2036. A bill to direct the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to plan to return to the Moon and develop a sustained human presence on the Moon; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2037. A bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 2038. A bill to authorize the conveyance of certain Coast Guard property in Tok, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for official Congressional events surrounding the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

15. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 12, urging the government of Turkey to: uphold and safeguard religious and human rights of all its citizens without compromise; grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate ecclesiastical succession and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and respect the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious and faith traditions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

16. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 2, opposing any national monument designation in the Caldera area of the Island Park region in eastern Idaho; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

17. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 5, supporting any effort to reach a decision regarding lands of Idaho administered by federal agencies be made with local collaboration rather than by unilateral administrative processes that exclude the citizens of Idaho; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

18. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 9, urging Congress to continue to make no funds available for use by the Secretary of the Interior to consider, prepare, write, or issue pursuant to Sec. 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) a petition finding or proposed regulation for greater sage-grouse for a period of 10 years through and including FY 2025; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

19. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 10, urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider the excessive boating, hunting, and hiking restrictions in the proposed Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge comprehensive conservation plan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

20. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3105, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

21. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

22. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 8, urging the Congress of the United States to enact the pending legislation introduced by the Idaho congressional delegation providing legal authority to the State of Idaho to determine whether to allow 129,000-pound vehicles on the federal interstate highway system in Idaho; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

23. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 7, urging the Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress to join Idaho in exploring the favorable geologic conditions of the Geothermal Resource Research Area on the western edge of the

Idaho National Laboratory; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

24. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6, urging the Congress of the United States to enact bipartisan legislation that reaffirms the FDA as the primary authority in uniform food labeling related to genetic engineering, based on scientific standards regarding health, safety, and nutrition; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

25. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 11, that Idaho opposes the removal or breaching of the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries, has sovereignty of its water resources, prohibits contributions of water from Idaho's reservoirs for flow augmentation except those expressly authorized by state law, that efforts for further recovery of anadromous fish must be undertaken in a manner based on sound science, and supports maintenance and multiple use benefits of the Columbia-Snake River System; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 2028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 2029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of avail-

ability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 2030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 2032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 2033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 2036.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2037.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 2038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Mr. WELCH and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 210: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 249: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 270: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 291: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 346: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 418: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 427: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 500: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 509: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 592: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 624: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 627: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 662: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 671: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 776: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 784: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 816: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 825: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 846: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 907: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 915: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 928: Mr. HARDY and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 975: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 985: Mr. BLUM, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1075: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 1090: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1174: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1221: Mr. BLUM, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1269: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1299: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 1412: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 1431: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1432: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1478: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. JONES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1479: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1552: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1624: Mr. BURGESS and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1625: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1726: Mr. HARPER and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1732: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1882: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1917: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1937: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1964: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2024: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 56: Mr. STEWART.

H. Res. 198: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. AMASH, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H. Res. 214: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

#### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. MCCLINTOCK

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 6, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$400,000)".

Page 22, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$22,661,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$34,000,000)".

Page 24, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$227,000)".

Page 25, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$32,262,000)".

Page 25, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,000)".

Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 28, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,119,000)".

Page 36, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,632,000)".

Page 49, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$105,819,000)”.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. MCCLINTOCK

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 21, lines 5 and 6, after each dollar amount, insert “(reduced to \$0)”.

Page 22, lines 3 through 7, after each dollar amount, insert “(reduced to \$0)”.

Page 22, lines 20 and 21, after each dollar amount, insert “(reduced to \$0)”.

Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,198,935,000)”.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. BABIN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” may be made available to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements for Federal assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran except for contracts or agreements that require the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the pursuit, acquisition, and development of nuclear weapons technology.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. BABIN

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” may be used to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements

for Federal assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran except for contracts or agreements that include authority for the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct anytime, anywhere inspections of civil and military sites within the Islamic Republic of Iran.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. BABIN

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the Appraised Value Offer program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and to honor Armenia for the enormous strides they have made since that unspeakable tragedy. On April 24, 1915, approximately 1.5 million Armenians suffered the first deliberate act of systematic mass murder by the Ottoman Empire and the unspeakable crime of genocide was born. I believe we are all morally obligated to never forget this dark episode in history and call for an honest acknowledgment of the facts from all parties.

I would also like to point out that this is also an opportunity to celebrate the resiliency of the Armenian people. Armenia has been a great champion of freedom and democracy. I expect our two nations will continue to build on our close ties and support peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to express my sympathy to the survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide. I hope we can all take time to reflect on this solemn day of remembrance and take this occasion to reinforce our bond and renew our commitment to end tyranny and protect democracy.

OPPOSITION TO ESTATE TAX  
REPEAL

## HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it was barely three weeks ago that the Republicans came to the floor with their “work harder, get less” budget. While making everyday life harder on working Americans, the Republican budget disinvests in the future of our nation by making deep cuts to education, infrastructure, and scientific research. Under their plan, Americans would face smaller paychecks and have a harder time getting ahead or buying a home; kids would have a harder time affording college; and seniors would have a harder time ensuring a secure retirement, with the end of the Medicare guarantee and immediate higher costs.

The Republican plan also took budget quackery to a new level. Their budget claimed to repeal the ACA, but relied on its revenues and savings in order to claim it balanced in 2025. It made no accounting for the costs of the almost \$1 trillion in business tax cuts that

Republicans called for in the 113th Congress. The Republican budget also included all the revenue from the current estate tax.

Today, Republicans are fully abandoning any claim to balancing the budget, and showing once again that they prioritize wealth over hard work. Instead of investing in America in a fiscally responsible way, Republicans want to give the very wealthiest households a \$269 billion dollar tax cut by repealing the estate tax, while still refusing to close a single special-interest loophole to pay for it.

The estate tax is designed so that it only affects the very wealthiest households. Today, you do not have any estate tax obligation as a couple if your estate is less than \$10 million. That means that only 5,500 of America’s richest families will pay the estate tax this year. There are cruise ships that hold more people than that. 99.8% of households will never pay it. We do have an estate tax on the amount over \$10 million, because we do not believe that people should get ahead just by the wealth they inherited from others—Americans pride themselves on getting ahead through their own hard work.

But instead of rewarding work, Republicans are passing a massive giveaway for just 5,500 of the wealthiest households in the country. The average tax cut will be \$3.3 million. Three-quarters of the cost of this bill goes to households with estates over \$20 million. For households with estates worth over \$50 million, the average tax cut would be \$22.5 million. And right now, the wealthy have rarely been better off. The top 1% of income-earners now hold 42% of all the wealth in the United States. Last week was the 90th anniversary of The Great Gatsby being published, and we are heading towards levels of wealth concentration not seen since then.

And yet, Republicans want to give tax cuts to the very richest families without doing anything for the middle class. In fact, the Republican budget would raise taxes on American workers—it ends the American Opportunity Tax Credit for higher education, ends the expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, does nothing to expand the EITC for childless workers, does nothing to expand tax credits for child or elderly care, and does nothing to help two-earner families. This bill also destroys any pretense of the Republicans balancing the budget in ten years. This is not just me talking—the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said, “if the estate tax were repealed, the budget would no longer balance.” And they did not even take into account the lost revenues from repealing the Affordable Care Act or unpaid for extensions of expiring tax provisions. If you add those altogether, in 2025, the Republican Budget is hundreds of billions of dollars in the red.

Of course, this is nothing new. In the two years of the 113th Congress, the Republicans passed tax bills on the House floor and in the

Ways and Means Committee that, including debt service, would have increased the deficit by a trillion dollars. The Republicans in this Congress are doing their very best to surpass even that level of fiscal irresponsibility. When you add up all the tax bills approved by Ways and Means Republicans in this Congress, the debt would grow by \$700 billion—and it’s only April! Just today, in addition to the estate tax, the Republicans brought another permanent tax extension to the Floor without closing any loophole to pay for it—not the loophole for corporate jets, for hedge fund managers, or for shipping jobs overseas.

The House Democratic Budget is focused on the priorities of the American people—boosting the economy to create more broadly shared prosperity, making critical investments in our future, and keeping our promises to seniors. Our plan would grow workers’ paychecks and provide tax cuts for the middle class and for Americans who are working hard to get by; invest in our infrastructure and transportation network; help students pay for college; support working families and reduce the cost of childcare. And we do it in a fiscally responsible way.

Today is more proof that Republicans are not seeking balance. Rather, they want to cut crucial supports for children and the elderly, voucherize Medicare and cut investments in research and infrastructure, all so that they can give America’s wealthiest families multi-million dollar tax cuts.

We need to foster shared prosperity and reward hard work, not give a tax cut to multi-millionaires. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1105.

HONORING ISRAEL’S 67TH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every year I am reminded of the extraordinary accomplishments of the young State of Israel. See, our birthdays are just a few days apart. This year we both turn sixty-seven.

When I think of some of my own milestones I inherently think about Israel.

We came into the world at the same time, but while I was being cared for by loving parents, Israel was forced to fight for its very survival when it was attacked by surrounding Arab armies immediately after declaring independence in 1948.

As I entered my college years at Boston University in 1967, Israel retook control of the holiest site in Judaism during the Six Day War, allowing Jews to once again pray in the old city of Jerusalem where they have prayed for thousands of years.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

During my days as a law student at Georgetown, in the early 1970s, Israel elected an American-born woman, Golda Meir, to lead the country as Prime Minister—one of the first women to ever lead a nation.

In March of 1979, following the birth of my son Ben, Israel reached a ground-breaking treaty with Egypt, ceding the entire Sinai—a landmass larger than the current State of Israel—in exchange for recognition and peace.

In the early 1990s, as a State Legislator, I took my second trip to Israel meeting with many Ethiopian Jews who were among the tens of thousands saved by Israel when they were airlifted to the Democratic Jewish State.

While I was back in Florida's Legislature, Israel reached yet another critical peace agreement, this time with Jordan, demonstrating once again Israel's enduring commitment to ending conflict.

I remember facing many challenges in my next role as Mayor of West Palm Beach but none compared to the daily barrage of terror attacks Israelis suffered during the Second Intifada.

And over the last few years, while I have served in the House of Representatives, Israel has accomplished so much even while faced with the constant threat of rocket attacks from Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah terror in Lebanon, spill-over from the war in Syria, attacks from Sinai in Egypt, and the ire of a possible nuclear Iran.

Since its founding Israel has been at a near perpetual state of war, yet the resilience of Israeli people has allowed the nation to thrive and contribute so much to the community of nations.

In a tiny country where 60 percent of the land mass is desert, Israelis invented drip irrigation to make the desert bloom with vineyards and vegetable farms. They now share that technology with countries in Africa facing water scarcity where millions more people are being fed by cutting water use over 90 percent.

Israel also perfected seawater desalination which it is sharing today with California to help them during their drought. In fact, an Israeli company is helping to build what will become the largest desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere just north of San Diego.

Israel at 67 is a world leader in medicine, technology, defense, and energy. It is a country with whom the United States has partnered since President Harry Truman recognized the nascent state just minutes after its founding. And Israel is a country with whom we continue to partner because it represents freedom, democracy, and progress in a region where tyranny too often reigns.

As we celebrate more birthdays together in the future, I will do all I can to ensure Israel continues to flourish as a Jewish and democratic state, and that the bond between our two nations never falters.

Yom Huledet Sameach, happy 67th birthday to our enduring ally Israel.

INMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mount Calvary Baptist Church was formed July 28, 1865, with 19 charter members led by Pastor I. L. West; and

Whereas, after several name changes in 1915 the name was changed to its present name, Inman First Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Inman First Baptist Church continues to be one of the leading churches in Inman, South Carolina, and under the leadership of Dr. Paul Moore the congregation continues to be active and enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, Inman First Baptist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and this anniversary celebration will draw former and current members to Inman, South Carolina, to participate in this momentous milestone in the history of their church;

Now therefore, be it resolved that I, TREY GOWDY, do congratulate the members of Inman First Baptist Church in recognition of their 150th anniversary and thank them for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and contributions to Spartanburg County and to the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S 1975 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LACROSSE TEAM AND COACH BUDDY BEARDMORE

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of the 40th anniversary of The University of Maryland Men's National Championship Lacrosse Team of 1975. And it's distinguished Coach Buddy Beardmore, and his players and coaches, and trainer Jim Weir who has since passed. Buddy brought two National Championship titles to Maryland, with his now famous "Be the Best" ethos, and brought the lacrosse world into the modern day age, with his weight training, running, and tactics both on and off the field. Their speed and strength and power were something to behold, and they are the benchmark by which any great team is measured today.

"Be the Best"

Now beat Hopkins guys!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with Armenians throughout the United States, Armenia, and the world in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. This past week, members and friends of the Armenian community gathered to remember April 24, 1915, when the arrest and murder of 200 Armenian politicians, academics, and community leaders in Constantinople marked the beginning of an eight-year campaign of extermination against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire.

Between 1915 and 1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over 500,000 more were exiled to the desert to die of thirst or starvation. The Armenian genocide was the first mass murder of the 20th century, a century that was sadly to be marked by many similar attempts at racial or ethnic extermination, from the Holocaust to the Rwandan genocide to Darfur, Sudan.

As we solemnly remember the victims of this tragedy, let us also celebrate the extraordinary strength and spirit of the Armenian people, who have fought successfully to preserve their culture and identity for over a thousand years. They overcame the horrors of genocide, two world wars, and decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. In addition, the vibrant Armenian diaspora continues to thrive and around the world.

It is only by acknowledging and learning from the past that we can build a future free of racial, ethnic, and religious hate and violence. By remembering the Armenian genocide and speaking out against all such atrocities, we can live up to the promise made to all those who suffered of "never again."

CONGRATULATING THE EL MONTE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EL MONTE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the El Monte Union High School District of El Monte, California for receiving the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and District Sustainability Award. El Monte Union High School District was one of just 14 school districts across the country chosen to receive such an award and I am honored to represent them.

The Green Ribbon award recognizes schools and districts that shine in three areas of environmental sustainability. These three areas are: reducing utility cost and environmental impact, improving the environmental health on campus including fitness and nutrition, and offering effective sustainability educational programs. Schools and districts must

excel in all three areas in order to receive the award.

We have a moral obligation to protect our environment. Every one of us should be chipping in to help preserve our planet. I am immensely proud to represent a school district that has taken this to a new level. The students, parents, and faculty members should be proud of themselves for their hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the El Monte Union High School District, and the other schools and districts across the country who've received this year's Green Ribbon School Award. Thank you all for doing your part to preserve our planet.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine opportunities for private investment in public infrastructure.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine five years after Deepwater Horizon, focusing on improvements and challenges in prevention and response.

SR-253

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the King vs. Burwell Supreme Court case and congressional action that can be taken to protect small businesses and their employees.

SR-428A

9:35 a.m.

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider S. 335, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 152, to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

SD-628

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration.

SR-418

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States European Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the National Institutes of Health.

SD-124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine insurance capital rules and Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) process.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities, S. 523, to coordinate the provision of energy retrofit assistance to schools, S. 600, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency retrofit pilot program, S. 723, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to provide guidance on utility energy service contracts used by Federal agencies, S. 869, to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, S. 878, to establish a State residential building energy efficiency upgrades loan pilot program, S. 886, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a smart energy and water efficiency pilot program, S. 888, to promote Federal-State partnerships for developing regional energy strategies and plans to mitigate risks in changing energy systems, S. 893, to establish an Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (EPIC) to assist energy policy innovation in the States to promote the goal of doubling electric and thermal energy productivity by January 1, 2030, S. 939, to require the evaluation and consolidation of duplicative green building programs within the Department of Energy, S. 1029, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing a final rule amending the efficiency standards for residential non-weatherized gas furnaces or mobile home furnaces until an analysis has been completed, S. 1038, to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, S. 1039, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans to achieve energy cost savings, S. 1044, to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage, S. 1046, to accelerate the adoption of smart building technologies in the private sector and key Federal agencies, S. 1047, to require the Secretary of Energy to review rulemaking proceedings of other Federal agencies for the potential to cause an adverse effect on the cost, time, or difficulty of complying with energy efficiency regulations, guidelines, or standards, S. 1048, to remove the authority of the Secretary of Energy to amend or issue new energy efficiency standards for ceiling fans, S. 1052, to require a study on the impact of State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings, to provide for competitive awards



to utilities, States, and units of local government, S. 1053, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to promote alternative fueled vehicle fleets and infrastructure, and S. 1063, to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine safeguarding American interests in the East and South China Seas.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treat-

ment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wild-

fire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.

SD-366

MAY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 883, to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States.

SD-366

## SENATE—Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, as Baltimore, MD, descends into chaos and the death toll in Nepal rises, we come to You today in the assurance not of our feeble hold on You but of Your mighty grasp on us. Thank You for the beckoning glory and the fresh vigor of a new day.

Sustain our Senators in their work. May they trust in Your power as they strive to solve the vexing problems of our time. Lord, use them to ensure that justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Strengthen them with Your might and fill them with the Spirit of Your love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The majority leader is recognized.

### IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, every Republican and every Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee voted to approve the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. That 19-to-0 vote cleared the way for its consideration on the floor today.

This is an important debate in our country. At its heart, it turns on a central proposition: Do the American people, through the Members of Congress they elect, deserve a say in one of the most important issues of our time? For a long time, the answer from the White House seemed to be no. We have since seen a softening of that hard line, but that doesn't mean the fight for this bipartisan legislation has been won. I still expect to see a vigorous debate this week. I still expect to see a robust

amendment process. And then, at the end of the day, the American people are right to expect their Senators—regardless of party—to stand for them by supporting a bill that is as sensible as it is bipartisan.

Preventing the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism from getting access to nuclear weapons should be the goal of our Senators no matter what party they belong to. The price of a bad agreement with Iran could be catastrophic.

Iran's nuclear program is only one aspect of its efforts to confront the West across the full spectrum of warfare: through public diplomacy, through its support for terrorism and proxies, through its missile capabilities, and through a modernization of its conventional forces. Iran is on the move in all of those areas. Any sanctions relief from a nuclear agreement would give Iran, actually, more funds to conduct these and other activities, so Congress needs to have a say.

Let's not forget that the American people were led to believe that the point of the White House negotiations with Iran were to end Iran's nuclear program and to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons. Congress and the American people were not told that this would be an exercise in granting Iran international permission to become a nuclear threshold state—just steps away from a nuclear weapon.

If that truly is how things have developed since, then the Members of this body and the people we represent need to be heard. The American people, through the representatives they elected, have a right to review, analyze, and pass their judgment on any agreement reached to ensure Americans are getting the kind of agreement they actually deserve.

Giving the American people a real voice on a topic of such vital importance should not be a partisan issue, and by passing the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, we can help ensure that it isn't.

Among other things, this bipartisan bill would require that any agreement reached with Iran be submitted for congressional review and for public examination. It would also provide the Congress elected by the people with the ability to approve or disapprove of any Iran deal before congressional sanctions are removed.

In short, the point of this bill is to give the elected representatives of the American people the tools to assess any agreement reached by the administration before congressional sanctions are lifted. Those crippling sanctions—

which include bipartisan sanctions authored by Senator KIRK that passed 100 to 0, over the White House's objections—are one of the most important reasons we even got Iran to the table in the first place. So the United States should not give up that leverage now if it means bringing home an agreement that does not meet American national security interests or one that simply passes on dealing with the Iranian nuclear program to the next administration.

The point of these negotiations should be to secure an agreement strong enough on its own merits to pass muster with Congress and with the American people.

Congress had the correct judgment to impose bipartisan sanctions over White House objections a few years back. Congress would now have the correct judgment to insist that its Members and the Americans each of us represent be considered in this critically important conversation. Passing the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act is key to ensuring that happens, and in the process of doing so, we will ensure that the voices of all Americans are heard with the kind of robust amendment process I mentioned on the floor last week.

In that vein, we appreciate the Democratic leader's comments about an open amendment process where, no matter how a person feels about this bill, they will have an opportunity to offer amendments. I appreciate his supportive comments, and we encourage Senators to come to the floor today and to offer their amendments.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation publicly—I have done so privately—for the good work done by Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN, the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. They have done remarkably good work and exemplary work for us. Getting consensus on anything in the Senate is very hard. In spite of the monumental task they faced, the chair and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN, were able to do just that with their Iran legislation. These two good Senators have worked

very hard to find a middle ground that satisfies both Congress and the administration. I think they have done that.

The Corker-Cardin bill allows Congress to vote on a final agreement. It also provides for immediate reinstitution of the sanctions should Iran breach the terms of the agreement. After weeks of bipartisan negotiations, the Foreign Relations Committee reported the Corker-Cardin legislation with a unanimous 19-to-0 vote.

I, along with many of my Senate Democratic colleagues, support this legislation. In fact, I think all Democrats would support this legislation. Senators CORKER and CARDIN worked very hard to strike a very delicate balance. Now we must protect that delicate balance by working together to avoid major changes that could imperil the success of the bill.

I hope we can move forward with the same spirit of bipartisanship that got us here and bring the bill to a vote as quickly as possible. However, a number of my Republican colleagues stated publicly, in their efforts to be the Republican nominee for President, what they want to do with this bill. I am concerned that they and others want to use this good, bipartisan piece of legislation as a platform for their political ambitions. This bill is too important to be a pawn in anyone's political game. I have told Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN that I will support their efforts to preserve their work.

As we move forward, I am hoping we can all work together in the bipartisan spirit in which this bill was crafted and keep our eyes on the ultimate goal of preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

Having said that, I am very concerned about some statements made by my friend, the vote counter for the Senate Republicans, the senior Senator from Texas. He said in Politico—I am not going to state his full quote but basically enough to get the idea:

Some of 'em might pass. I think it's going to be an interesting dance. . . . There are some that are interesting, that will be hard to vote against.

This is a bill which was brought to the Senate floor on a bipartisan basis. We should continue on that basis. It shouldn't be up to Democrats to kill these vexatious amendments; we should get some help from our Republican colleagues.

I look forward to this debate. It is important for the country. It is important for the world. I am grateful for the work done by those two good Senators. I just hope it is not maligned, messed up, and denigrated as a result of political posturing.

#### THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate and when I served in the House, conference committees

were an important part of the business we did here in Congress. But in recent years—very recent years—going to conference hasn't been what it used to be.

Going to conference on a piece of legislation used to mean there would be serious discussions and compromises that generally produced a product that could be supported by Members of both parties. It was a real conference. Democrats sat down with Republicans and in a public forum determined what should happen on that bill.

I can remember going to those conferences. They were tough, they were long, and there were a lot of compromises made. But that is what legislation is—the art of compromise. When we finished, we had a product that was supported by both parties.

That is why we used to do appropriations bills like that. Why? As an example, Senator Domenici and I for many years were the chairman and ranking member of a very important subcommittee, energy and water. It was very important, billions and billions of dollars. We did our work as a subcommittee, but then we were able to meet and work these out in conference. That is why we came to the floor. We did the bill in a few hours because everyone had had their input.

Sadly, under a Republican House and a Republican Senate, that is no longer the case. Here is an example: the budget conference resolution. There is all the chest-beating and flexing of muscles in the press. The Republicans have a budget. They worked and worked and got it done. They finished the conference.

The Republican majorities in the House and the Senate don't even bother to show that there is a bipartisan consensus building; they just do it. Any meetings that have been had on this bill with Democrats have been strictly for show.

There is no discussion. There is no public debate. There is nothing done. It is Republicans in the House and Republicans in the Senate meeting together. I would bet that the conferences even between the House and the Senate were done mainly by the two chairs of the committees. Not a word of input on this bill—not a word of input on this bill from Democrats. It is no conference. The party already knows what they want; they are not interested in our ideas.

Forbes magazine—I don't quote Forbes magazine very often for obvious reasons. It is a very conservative news outlet, but listen to what they said, and I quote verbatim:

This will not be the start of a period of bipartisanship when it comes to budget issues. To the contrary, the budget resolution conference report that will likely be voted on this week will solely become a product of what the Republican majorities in the House and Senate wanted to do. There was little-to-no effort to involve Democrats in the negotiations because the leadership would risk

losing GOP votes in both houses by doing so. They also would have risked alienating the GOP base, much of which continues to believe a compromise with congressional Democrats and the Obama administration is the political equivalent of collaborating with the enemy.

How about that; every word of this is true. It is so sad for our country when working across party lines is considered collaborating with the enemy.

I have said here on the floor many times, and I will say it again: When Obama was elected the first time, Republicans gathered here in Washington—a couple of days the meeting took, and it has been written up a lot of times—and they made two conclusions. They came to two conclusions: No. 1, we are not going to have Obama reelected. They failed miserably with that. But on the second thing they have been successful; that is, they would oppose anything and everything President Obama wanted. They have done that now for 6½ years.

What a sad day for our country.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my friend, the senior Senator from South Dakota, be recognized as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Prior to recognizing my colleague, would the Chair note the business for the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from South Dakota.

#### IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on April 2, President Obama announced that a framework had been reached for a nuclear agreement with Iran. If all goes according to plan—which hasn't happened often during these repeatedly prolonged negotiations—it means the White House would finish negotiating an agreement sometime in June. But the question remains as to what type of agreement the negotiations will finally produce.

Any deal with Iran needs to achieve one thing—one thing—and that is to prevent permanently Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. But the framework the President has unveiled seems unlikely to achieve that goal.

Far from eliminating Iran's nuclear capabilities, the framework does not shut down a single nuclear facility in the country. It doesn't destroy a single centrifuge. It doesn't stop research and development on existing centrifuges. It

doesn't eliminate Iran's missile development programs. And it allows Iran to keep a substantial part of its existing stockpile of enriched uranium. It is no surprise that Members of both parties are deeply concerned the final agreement will not be effective in preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

I don't need to tell anyone why Iran's possessing a nuclear weapon is such a dangerous prospect. First of all, Iran, as we all know, is a state sponsor of terrorism. Practically speaking, that means Iran provides support and funding to organizations that consider the slaughter of innocent civilians to be an acceptable negotiating tactic, which has kept millions of ordinary men, women, and children in the Middle East from living in stability and peace.

Iran's plan for the Middle East includes its stated goal of wiping our ally Israel off the map, which should tell us all we need to know about that country's commitment to peace in the region. Meanwhile, at home, Iran embraces the same violence and oppression it spreads abroad. Iran's Government is hostile to freedom of any kind. Thousands of Iran's citizens have been tortured, imprisoned, and executed for daring to stand up for their human rights. This is not a regime that can be trusted with a nuclear weapon.

In addition to the danger inherent in a regime such as Iran having nuclear weapons at its disposal, Iran's acquiring such a weapon could likely start a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Right now, we are witnessing a quasi-proxy war in Yemen, with Iran supporting the Houthis and a Saudi Arabia-led coalition bombing the Houthis and supporting the ousted government. Imagine this scenario if both major powers had nuclear weapons at their disposal?

There is also the other great danger in Iran's acquiring nuclear weapons—a chance it could give a nuclear weapon to a terrorist organization. Imagine a situation in which a nuclear weapon fell into the hands of such organizations. The consequences of that would be unthinkable.

This week the Senate is considering the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act negotiated by Senators CORKER and CARDIN. The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act would ensure that the American people's concerns about a nuclear deal are heard by providing for congressional review of any agreement the President reaches with Iran.

Specifically, the bill would require the President to submit the agreement to Congress and prevent him from waiving any congressional sanctions on Iran until Congress reviews the deal.

Congress passed sanctions that eventually brought the Iranian economy to its knees and drove the Iranian Government to the negotiating table. The only reason—the only reason—Iran is

cooperating at all on a nuclear agreement is because it wants to see those sanctions lifted. This bill would ensure the sanctions could only be lifted after congressional review.

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act would also make sure any agreement with Iran is verified and enforced. Under the terms of this legislation, every 90 days the President would be required to provide Congress with confirmation that Iran is complying with the agreement.

The bill also includes reporting requirements on Iran's record on human rights and support for terrorism and any ballistic missile testing it is conducting.

I plan to offer an amendment to this legislation to require the Secretary of State to investigate whether the International Atomic Energy Agency, which would be in charge of inspections under any agreement, would have access to military bases if they were deemed to be suspicious sites.

Recent reports have indicated that the Iranian military is hostile to any inspection of military bases. General Hussein Salami, deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, told Iranian media, "They [the inspectors] will not even be permitted to inspect the most normal military site in their dreams." Well, given that attitude, are we really supposed to trust Iran to fully comply with a nuclear agreement?

While I remain concerned about the framework the President has unveiled, one bright spot in this debate has been seeing Democrats and Republicans working together to ensure that any deal with Iran is verifiable, enforceable, and accountable and promotes security and stability in the region and around the globe.

This kind of bipartisanship has been more the norm in the Senate lately. When Republicans were elected last November, we promised we would get Washington working again for American families. That was not a campaign slogan. That was a commitment, and we have been delivering on our promise.

Since Republicans took control of the Senate in January, we have passed 13 bipartisan bills: legislation to approve the Keystone Pipeline, a bill to prevent suicides among veterans, reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, legislation to give law enforcement new tools to fight human trafficking and provide support for trafficking victims, and the first significant bipartisan reform of Medicare in years.

Even the media is paying attention. On April 26, CBS published an article entitled "Some Good News Out of Washington, For a Change." On April 24, an NPR headline asked: "Has the Senate Found It's More Fun to be Functional?" And a USA TODAY headline from April 20 noted: "New Study

Suggests a 'Healthier' Congress." It argues that we are getting things done again and working again and functioning here in the Senate.

The best way to solve the challenges facing our Nation is for Democrats and Republicans to come together and to develop solutions. We have been doing that for the past 4 months here in the Senate, and that is what we are doing on this crucial Iran legislation.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to the safety, security, and stability of the globe, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1191, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1191) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Corker/Cardin amendment No. 1140, in the nature of a substitute.

AMENDMENT NO. 1179 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1140

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I call up the Corker-Cardin amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. CORKER], for himself and Mr. CARDIN, proposes an amendment numbered 1179 to amendment No. 1140.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require submission of all Persian text included in the agreement)

On page 2, line 13, insert "and specifically including any agreed Persian text of such agreement, related materials, and annexes" after "and annexes".

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, this amendment simply requires that, alongside the English text of any final agreement, the President submit to Congress the official Persian text of any final agreement, including the related materials and annexes.

We all have seen the controversy surrounding the discrepancies between the

American factsheet and the Iranian factsheet. This agreement is too important to rely on secondhand interpretations of the Senate. In order for Congress to adequately evaluate any agreement, we have to see what both sides believe this agreement is, and that requires the Persian text of the agreement.

This is a commonsense amendment. I thank Senator CARDIN for joining me in this amendment, and not unprecedented in any way. In fact, we just recently received a transmission of the China 123 agreement, which included the Chinese text.

I yield to my friend, Senator CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator CORKER on this first amendment being offered. We have used the same process we used in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There are several Members who have brought this to our attention; that it is important, in reviewing the agreement—assuming agreement is reached by Congress—that we have at our disposal the documents being used. We expect we will have certainly an English version, but there could be information in other languages, including Farsi. So it is important we have the original documents being used so we can review and determine ourselves all the details of the agreement.

So that is the purpose of this. This is a bipartisan amendment. We believe it strengthens the underlying purpose of this bill, which is to set up an orderly way for Congress to review a potential agreement reached between the United States and our negotiating partners and Iran—have an opportunity to review and have the options of either taking no action or dealing with an approval or disapproval or dealing with the sanctions, since we imposed the sanctions. So I think it strengthens the underlying bill, but more importantly it is a process we should use.

If I might, the bill now is open for amendment, but I would urge my colleagues to understand how the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has brought forward a bill that got a 19-to-0 vote in the committee—because we recognize stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state is so important, we cannot be distracted by other issues. So we focused on that issue.

As I said earlier, we have a lot of other problems with Iran. Iran sponsors terrorism. Iran has interfered with its neighbors and is continuing to do that. Iran has a horrible record on human rights.

So as I started to look through the amendments that were filed—they haven't been made pending but have been filed—I see a whole host of amendments that deal with issues that aren't really involved in this bill in stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons

state. They would add certification requirements on Iran not participating in terrorism or its ballistic missile program or its human rights record or its interference with the sovereignty of other countries or the return of U.S. citizens who are improperly being held.

Every Member of this body agrees that Iran needs to respond to those issues, and we have tools available to deal with that. We have sanctions, regimes that deal with human rights violations, sponsoring terrorism, ballistic missile programs. This bill deals with stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state.

Now what would happen if any of those amendments were approved, if we had to have a certification. The President could not make that certification. So one of two things happens: It is a poison pill that kills this bill, so we lose our opportunity to review or it blows up negotiations, and then the United States is alone, without any international support, because we blew it up in stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state, making it much less likely that we will stop Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state. That is why Senator GRAHAM said the only people who will celebrate a poison pill getting on this bill will be Iran.

So I urge my colleagues to understand what is at stake. This is a very important bill.

What Senator CORKER and I urge Senators to do is, if they have amendments to file, talk to us. That is how we did it in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Talk to us. Let's see whether we can work out an amendment, in an orderly way, to consider those amendments.

That is what we want to do, so we can use our time on the floor in consideration of amendments in the most constructive way, that will lead to a bill being approved by the same large vote we had in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, so we use the process for amendments similar to what this bill, S. 615, does for a congressional review of an agreement and the way the Senate Foreign Relations Committee did its work to get a 19-to-0 vote.

I thank my chairman for his extraordinary leadership. I thank the Presiding Officer who was very helpful in this process. I hope we will be able to proceed in that direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Maryland.

I agree. We have reached out to numbers of people who have amendments and have asked them to come down to the floor and talk with us. I know a number of our folks are traveling around the country focused on other things at present. We have reached out to them to get back with us and talk about some of the language.

I say to my friend from Maryland that I appreciate his openness to the numbers of amendments we are now looking at. I know at lunch today he will talk to his caucus a little bit about them and we will talk to ours.

I look forward to a robust process. But, again, we have to have people who, if they want to call up an amendment—they need to come down, if they will, and talk with us and let us work through the process.

I thank the Senator for his comments.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER ABE

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise to welcome the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe to Congress and to speak to the importance of United States-Japan relations and the future of the Asia-Pacific region.

Tomorrow is a momentous occasion. For the first time ever, our country will welcome the leader of Japan to speak before a joint meeting of Congress.

For over 2½ centuries, our Nations have been intimately linked by trade and commerce. In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry waited with his ships on Japanese shores to deliver a letter from President Millard Fillmore to Japan's Emperor on November 13, 1852, which said in part:

I send you this public letter by Commodore Matthew C. Perry, an officer of the highest rank in the navy of the United States, and commander of the squadron now visiting Your imperial majesty's dominions.

I have directed Commodore Perry to assure your imperial majesty that I entertain the kindest feelings toward your majesty's person and government, and that I have no other object in sending him to Japan but to propose to your imperial majesty that the United States and Japan should live in friendship.

Thus, our Nations embarked on a path and relationship that would change the course of world history. On July 29, 1858, the United States and Japan concluded the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, and in 1860 Japan dispatched its first diplomats to Washington, DC. They were the very first Japanese diplomats to visit a foreign power in 200 years.

Historians have often referred to our opening with Japan as an extension of our own Nation's Manifest Destiny which spread the American people and values across the West, including my home State of Colorado.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft further advanced our ties by concluding the Treaty of Commerce and

Navigation with Japan. In World War I, Japan sided with the allies.

On March 26, 1912, a gift of 3,020 cherry blossom trees arrived in our Nation's Capital—a symbol of United States-Japanese friendship that we witness every spring as we walk by or drive by the Tidal Basin and other landmarks in Washington. But we must never forget the dark pages in our history. We must never forget Pearl Harbor, the day that will live in infamy. We must never forget Iwo Jima, Saipan, Guadalcanal, and the bloody battles in Okinawa.

This war changed our Nation forever. Every day we must remember the sacrifice of the greatest generation that prevailed in that epic, great civilizational conflict. Without them, this Nation would not be what it is today. Without them, this Nation may not have endured. We never lost sight of perspective of why we fought. As Imperial Japan surrendered aboard the USS *Missouri*, GEN Douglas MacArthur offered the following:

It is my earnest hope and indeed the hope of all mankind that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past—a world founded upon faith and understanding—a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish—for freedom, tolerance, and justice.

Japan's destruction following World War II was nearly complete. Out of that rubble of tragedy emerged the great partnership between our two nations. On April 19, 1951, General MacArthur went before Congress and declared in his farewell address:

The Japanese people, since the war, have undergone the greatest reformation recorded in modern history. With a commendable will, eagerness to learn, and marked capacity to understand, they have, from the ashes left in the war's wake, erected in Japan an edifice dedicated to the supremacy of individual liberty and personal dignity; and in the ensuing process there has been created a truly representative government committed to the advance of political morality, freedom of economic enterprise, and social justice.

As Japan took on the task of arduously rebuilding its society and economy, our friendship and our relationship blossomed. Perhaps helping in that relationship, of course, is a shared national pastime, baseball. It arrived in Japan in the 19th century and was already a thriving sport by the time the postwar recovery had begun.

Yogi Berra, the New York Yankees' great, visited Japan in 1953 in the midst of this rebuilding process. His love of the game won the affection of millions, and he traveled the country demonstrating his skills behind the plate. Still, many of us may pause to wonder if this is the place—a nation haunted by such recent trials of war and a land struggling to regain its footing in the world, a once powerful country desperate to turn the page in history—where Yogi Berra first uttered

his memorable phrase: The future ain't what it used to be.

With the United States firmly at her side, Japan rose again. Japan today is the world's third largest economy and the fourth largest trading partner for the United States. Millions of Americans for generations have bought iconic Japanese products, from Sony televisions to Toyota automobiles, to Toshiba laptops.

In the 1980s, former Senate majority leader and later Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield would describe the United States-Japan relationship as the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none. The United States-Japan alliance remains the backbone of security and stability in Asia. Approximately 53,000 U.S. military personnel are now stationed in the Japanese islands, both onshore and offshore. Together, with our Japanese partners, we work daily to confront the security challenges in the region and to ensure peace and stability.

As the challenges in the region are evolving, so, too, must the security relationship between the United States and Japan. The Japanese leadership is currently taking necessary steps to change its post-World War II defense posture in order to meet the traditional and emerging challenges in the region. The revised United States-Japan defense cooperation guidelines, announced yesterday, signify a new phase in our relationship and Japan's emergence as security leader in the region.

I want the American people to understand the importance of these developments. It is due to U.S. military presence and the steadfast commitment to our allies that we have avoided a land war in East Asia for generations.

Distinguished political scientist Joseph Nye may have put it best when he said: Security is like oxygen—you tend not to notice it until you begin to lose it, but once that occurs there is nothing else that you will think about.

Our presence in the region has given our allies the breathing space to rebuild and stave off aggression, and now they are stepping up to the plate by increasingly sharing that responsibility with the United States.

This is also a historic economic moment for the Asia-Pacific region. The United States and Japan are leading the way on concluding one of the most ambitious trade deals ever undertaken, the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Eleven Pacific nations from Malaysia to New Zealand and Brunei to Vietnam are actively working to tear down barriers to trade that have stifled access to markets far too long. TPP's reach encompasses nearly 40 percent—nearly 40 percent of all global trade and trillions of dollars in economic activity.

TPP will set the standard for a new era of economic relationships with Asia, and the United States and Japan

are leading the way. We must conclude this landmark agreement as soon as possible, and I am encouraged by the progress we have made in Congress to advance this historic pact, but we must look at the TPP as just one step forward in our commitment to the region, not the final solution.

Despite the crises of the day in the Middle East or Europe, where the United States does and should play an important role, our Nation's strategic future lies in Asia.

Consider the following estimates from the Asian Development Bank:

By 2050, Asia will account for over half of the population and over half of the world's gross domestic product.

Asia's middle class will rise and increase to a staggering 3 billion people.

Per capita GDP income in the region will rise to around \$40,000, making it similar to the Europe of today.

We cannot miss the opportunity to be a part of this important opportunity and transformation. Working with Japan and other regional partners, we must ensure that our policies strengthen existing friendships and build new partnerships that will be critical to U.S. national security and economic well-being for generations to come.

This administration's pivot to Asia or rebalance policy, which builds on the work that began under previous administrations, is a sensible approach to realizing these goals. But I am concerned, however, with the pace and focus and the consistency of the implementation of the rebalance. The administration, this administration and the next one, must ensure that this important policy of engagement is pursued vigorously at all levels—whether that is the military, diplomacy or civilian fronts—in order for the rebalance to actually achieve its stated and strategic objectives. Moving in fits and starts is not good policy, whether that is for the economy or foreign relations. Every moment of hesitation and idleness invites evermore challenges and missed opportunities. Doubt is never the basis of a long-term, strong relationship.

Our partners in the region must know each and every day that the United States is here to stay. We still face grave threats in the Asia-Pacific region as North Korea marches on with their nuclear program and belligerence toward the free world. The growing challenges of nuclear proliferation, cyber security threats, and the destabilizing territorial disputes in the South and East Asian seas requires that now more than ever the United States and Japan are vigilant and united with our allies in our efforts to maintain regional prosperity and security.

As the Prime Minister delivers his historic address tomorrow, it is my hope that he delivers the message that the promise of the future in the region,

bolstered by an alliance with the United States, is a more powerful force than the painful history of the past.

We must never forget that colonialism and militarism caused untold anguish and destruction in the region in the 20th century. But as demonstrated by the strength of the United States-Japan relations following those dark pages of history, it is my sincerest wish that our friends in the region can establish a viable path forward and overcome this difficult past to focus on building a better future.

America's new century in the Asia-Pacific region has arrived. But as we welcome Prime Minister Abe and celebrate our friendship, we must remember this is only the first inning of this ball game. We must continue to work toward the goal that General MacArthur had stated aboard the USS *Misouri* on September 2, 1945:

... a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past—a world founded upon faith and understanding—a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish—for freedom, tolerance and justice.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator GARDNER for his leadership as chair of the East Asia and Pacific subcommittee. I am still technically the ranking member of that subcommittee, but under my new responsibilities I have not had the same amount of time. I want to thank the Senator for the work he is doing, for doing the rebalanced Asia. We know how important Asia is to the United States. With the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Abe, being here this week, it is an opportunity to underscore the important relationship between Japan and the United States. I really wish to thank the Senator for the way he has led the subcommittee and how he has worked to point out the important issues we have on maritime security and how we have to work together to make sure responsible action takes place and that we don't have a circumstance that could get out of control and could affect not only the security of some of our allies but also the maritime shipping areas.

There are so many issues we are working on with our ally Japan, and this week we have a chance really to strengthen those relationships. We will have an opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Senator

from Colorado in this very important part of the world, Japan.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORINTHIAN COLLEGES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it has been nearly 1 year since Corinthian Colleges, Inc., began its death spiral—falling under the weight of its own wrongdoing. Corinthian Colleges defrauded students, defrauded taxpayers, lied to accreditors, lied to the Federal Government, and on Sunday, this for-profit college, Corinthian Colleges, announced it would close its remaining 28 campuses—campuses in California, Oregon, Hawaii, Arizona, and New York. So, finally, Corinthian has collapsed.

We reflect on this disaster and ask a basic critical question: Why did it take this long given the long litany of violations to finally stop the flow of hundreds of millions of dollars—Federal tax dollars—to Corinthian Colleges, and equally important, how many Corinthian disasters lie ahead in the for-profit college and university industry?

There are certainly more questions we need to ask of the Department of Education about how it handled this case and how it must be more aggressive in the future to stop violations earlier, especially to prevent the students at these for-profit education companies from suffering an experience similar to Corinthian.

There will be more to come on that in the weeks and months ahead, but today I wish to focus on what is next for the students who attended these Corinthian campuses. We know this for-profit college and university industry pretty well. Ask any high school student in America to go online and to search a word, such as college or university, and watch what happens. As soon as they get to any kind of directory of Web sites, they will start seeing the ads for the for-profit colleges and universities. Some of the names are pretty obvious and well known. The largest of all is University of Phoenix. The next largest is DeVry University, out of the city of Chicago, and the next largest is Kaplan, an entity that was once owned by the Washington Post and now is on its own.

These for-profit colleges and universities descend on students, as well as on those who graduated from high school, imploring them to sign up for

an education online—to sign up for a for-profit college. It will be so easy. They can do this online and get their degree. It will be a snap. That is what Corinthian did for years.

I know that with the news of the closure, students who signed up for Corinthian and went to school there woke up wondering what is next. Their college just disappeared, but their student debt didn't disappear. They signed up for these loans to go to this worthless school, and now the school has disappeared and the debt is still there.

There is a Federal law that can help these students. The Higher Education Act gives students who attended a school such as Corinthian—within 120 days of its closure—the ability to discharge their Federal student loans. I am renewing my call to the Department of Education to reach out directly to the thousands of students who have been exploited by Corinthian Colleges and to provide discharge applications to these students and give them clear, upfront information about how transferring their credits to another school may impact their ability to discharge their loans.

If a student transfers these Corinthian credits, which have limited value, to another school, they likely cannot discharge the loan they took out at Corinthian. So a student has to make a choice. The notice that the Department of Education sent to students yesterday is unacceptable. It leaves students to navigate through a series of links to get more information and it glosses over the most basic right of a student to discharge the student loans from bankrupt Corinthian Colleges.

Federal regulations clearly state the Secretary of Education's responsibility when a school such as Corinthian closes. According to the law, it says: "After confirming the date of a school's closure, the Secretary identifies any Direct Loan borrower (or student on whose behalf a parent borrowed) who appears to have enrolled at the school on the school closure date or to have withdrawn not more than 120 days prior to the closure date."

It goes on to say: "If the borrower's current address is known, the Secretary mails the borrower a discharge application and an explanation of the qualifications and procedures for obtaining a discharge."

The law is pretty clear. It is up to the Secretary of Education—the same agency that published an accreditation for this failed school, the same agency which sent the loan forms for students to sign up for loans. That same agency now has an obligation under the law to tell these students there is a way out.

Do you know what the average tuition is for a 2-year degree at the failed Corinthian Colleges? About \$40,000. Imagine if this were your son or daughter. They just went through 2 years of school and have \$40,000 in debt, and the



college they are attending, Corinthian Colleges, just essentially went bankrupt, and now they find out people are laughing at them when they show their diploma from Corinthian Colleges. What is wrong with this picture? A young person, 2 or 3 years out of high school, now has \$40,000 worth of debt or more and nothing to show for it.

Now is not the time for the Department to be concerned with the cost to taxpayers of discharging this debt. That is an important issue, and we will take it on later. The time for that was really over the last 12 months when the Department of Education kept Corinthian alive by pumping in hundreds of millions of dollars to keep their doors open when they were headed for bankruptcy. Now is the time to focus on the students, particularly the students in the States I mentioned earlier. They need the relief from this student debt.

The Department has also been doing something which I really want to call them out on. You know what they are suggesting to the students who have just gone through this miserable experience at the for-profit, failed, bankrupt Corinthian Colleges? They are suggesting that they can transfer to another for-profit college. What are they thinking?

Students should be warned if they use their Corinthian credits to transfer to another institution, they will likely not be eligible for discharge.

I have a few examples of the schools the U.S. Department of Education suggested that the Corinthian Colleges students transfer their credits to and still keep their debt from Corinthian. ITT Tech is one example. We see their ads everywhere, don't we? What we don't see in their ads is the fact that they are being sued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Sixteen different State attorneys general are investigating ITT Tech, and they are on the Department of Education's heightened cash monitoring list. Our Department is recommending that these students transfer to this school? What are they thinking?

Here is another example: Le Cordon Bleu and International Academy of Design and Technology—powerful names. What we don't see in all of their ads is that their parent company, Career Education Corporation, is under investigation by 17 different State attorneys general and on the Department of Education's heightened cash monitoring list. And our Department of Education is suggesting that the students at the failed Corinthian Colleges—why don't you pick up a culinary degree from Le Cordon Bleu. Maybe it will stay in business.

Here is another example: the Art Institutes and Argosy University. Argosy University—I ran into their signs in Chicago last week, and I could not help but think how many students are lured into believing Argosy University is

something more than it really is. It is a for-profit college and university.

Incidentally, for the record, the parent company, Education Management Corporation is being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice and investigated by 17 State attorneys general. They are also on the Department of Education's heightened cash monitoring list. This is another school that the Department of Education suggested that Corinthian Colleges students transfer to.

Westwood College, one of the most infamous in the Chicagoland area, is being sued by the Illinois attorney general for deceptive recruiting practices. They were suggested to Corinthian Colleges students to transfer to by the Department of Education.

DeVry is under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission and by two State attorneys general. The University of Phoenix's parent company is being investigated by two State attorneys general. Kaplan is under investigation by three State attorneys general.

Has the Department of Education learned nothing? How in good faith can they tell these Corinthian students—who just had their college disappear and are sitting on a pile of debt—that these are viable transfer options for their students?

Last summer the Department assured me they would not sell Corinthian campuses to companies being investigated. They didn't want the students to be placed in double jeopardy. Why now will the Department accept that outcome for these students?

A move such as this leads me to the sad conclusion that the Department of Education is out of touch with the reality of the danger of students signing up at for-profit colleges and universities.

I want to say a word about the students who don't qualify for the clear relief I mentioned under the Federal law—the closed-school discharge. I joined with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN and others to call on the Department of Education to provide meaningful debt relief for all students wronged by Corinthian. We believe the fraud perpetrated by Corinthian should constitute a defense for repayment to students. The Department should provide clear guidelines on how students can assert their claims. These students need it and deserve it.

Senator WARREN and I will meet with Secretary Duncan and Undersecretary Mitchell later this week.

While Corinthian's fraudulent behavior has left tens of thousands of students in financial desperate straits, the company's leaders have been cashing in for years.

The CEO of the failed Corinthian corporation, which received 80 to 90 percent of its revenue directly from the Federal Treasury through student loans, made over \$3 million in 2013. The

vice presidents didn't do quite as well. They were only paid \$1 million. The list goes on.

In September of last year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sued Corinthian. This goes back a few months. They sued them for illegal predatory lending schemes by luring students with false job promises, saddling them with high-cost debt, and harassing them when they were unable to repay their loans. It turned out that only 25 percent of the students coming out of Corinthian Colleges were able to repay their loans—25 percent. Why? Because the tuition is so high, the diploma is so worthless.

Why are we complicit? Why is the U.S. Department of Education not blowing the whistle on this school and every other school that is exploiting students all across America?

At the end of the day, the losers are not only the students who have wasted their time and ended up with debt, the losers are the taxpayers of America—the taxpayers of America, who provide funds for the student loans and unfortunately do not have the protection they deserve in this situation.

I call on the Department of Education to make their highest priority the casualties and victims of this Corinthian College.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, the Senator from Indiana now has the floor. I thank the Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Indiana for working with each other to go about this in a timely way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I rise to express my support for the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—the only measure now before us that will prevent President Obama from having a free and independent hand to conclude a flawed agreement with the Government of Iran.

The White House and the Ayatollahs in Iran must know that the Congress will not tolerate a bad deal secretly struck behind our backs and without our approval. The Corker-Menendez bill now before us and being managed by Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN on the floor needs our engagement and is the only vehicle we have to send that message. Thus, the passage of this review act is absolutely essential. Its passage will send a message more important than any amendments, no matter how correct or well-conceived, if those amendments would doom the bill, mute the message, and deprive us of this vital role.

We have come to a moment of decision in this Chamber. It is clear at last that we are finally close to imposing a vital congressional role in evaluating any deal—something President Obama

previously had been determined to avoid.

I have long been concerned that the President is determined to implement his version of a deal with Iran on his own, circumventing Congress. This is not acceptable. Resolving this issue with Iran is the most significant foreign policy and security challenge of our age. It cannot be pursued simply by the President potentially overreaching his constitutional authority, longing for a legacy and desperate for a deal. If he fears that a supermajority in Congress would reject this deal if it is presented to us, then he has struck the wrong deal.

Fortunately, the right, statesman-like Presidential support was finally provided after the Foreign Relations Committee voted on an entirely bipartisan basis to give Congress a role in this matter. The question is whether the President will accept the decision made by the Congress as to whether the agreement with Iran achieves the goal of denying Iran nuclear weapons capability.

The successful congressional strategy that brought us to that result in committee required the sponsors of this bill—the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—to keep the focus on its core purpose. While there were many amendments considered or offered in the committee that could have improved the bill, the Corker-Menendez bill passed by the Foreign Relations Committee is a necessary first step in achieving the goal of congressional engagement in one of the issues, if not the most important issue of our time.

It is now clear that the most important goal at this stage of the misguided and badly managed negotiations with the Iranian regime is that Congress must have a determining voice in accepting or rejecting any deal that is presented to us. With passage of the Corker-Menendez legislation, we will be able to spell out with precision what sort of an Iran deal might be acceptable, what concessions may be going too far, and what the consequences would be if Iran backs away from acceptable conditions.

I wish to emphasize and define the worst possible outcome that could happen. If our effort to impose a congressional role fails—if this bill is defeated or the promised veto is upheld—Congress will have become a spent force. Iran will see that Congress is no longer a matter of concern for them. The Iranians will have a green light to continue negotiations with a weak administration desperate for a deal—any deal. The Iranians can play their hand to maximum advantage without concern for the views of Congress or even the views of the American people we represent. At the same time, the Administration would be free to give as much ground as necessary to secure a deal that apparently they so des-

perately desire. They will be constrained by nothing coming from this Chamber or an impotent Congress.

To avoid that outcome, we must focus on keeping the bipartisan majority on this bill solid and robust. So I am cosponsoring, supporting, and will be voting for the Corker-Menendez bill. This is a necessary intermediate step, as I have said, toward a much more crucial vote on the Iran deal itself, where our focus needs to be.

Once we have secured a congressional role by passing this bill, we then must use the next 2 months to analyze the outlined agreement that came out of the negotiations in Switzerland a couple of weeks ago, identify its weaknesses, and determine how we should best proceed.

As it now stands, as outlined by the so-called political framework, I am profoundly unhappy with what has been agreed to by the Obama Administration. If this is what we see when the result of the final negotiations is presented to us, I will vote against it and do my best to make sure others do as well. We in Congress must make sure the White House knows what we require if a deal is to be accepted.

This is not a recent or uninformed position on my part. I have been deeply involved in this issue for the past several years, and I have been concerned about the growing threat of Iran since at least 2001. Back then, when I was our Ambassador in Berlin, the Embassy's biggest challenge was to persuade Germany to support the invasion of Iraq. But the Israeli Ambassador to Germany at the time, Shimon Stein, kept talking to me about what they conceived to be the real, ultimate threat. He convinced me that an even greater threat would be coming from Iran and that this threat would continue to grow until we took it seriously and dealt with it effectively.

After returning to the United States, I cochaired with Senator Chuck Robb the original Iran project at the Bipartisan Policy Center. We focused deeply on the Iran nuclear issue and offered detailed analysis and recommendations on how we believed it should be dealt with. Our task force members included such experts as Ash Carter, now Secretary of Defense; Ambassador Dennis Ross, one of the key and most experienced ambassadors and foreign policy analysts—particularly in the Middle East; a number of key generals who had served in the military on Middle Eastern affairs; and a number of other names, including Jack Keane and others.

Our reports covered all of the elements of a deal that is acceptable and could best meet, we thought, our national security needs. These included all aspects of fissile material production and how that activity must be limited and controlled; activities at the various nuclear facilities and the

type of research and development that must be curtailed; the issue of Iranian stockpiles and their disposition; nuclear weapons design activities in the past that need to be revealed and stopped; missile development work; the critical need of adequate inspection regimes and compliance verification measures; and, importantly, the duration of any future deal.

We also examined the requirements of a necessary and credible military option that must back up any diplomatic efforts and sanctions pressure to achieve the right result. It was a last resort, and it was there to apply the pressure needed, along with ever-ratcheting sanctions, if Iran continued to defy the wishes of the United Nations, the wishes of the United States, and the wishes of the free world and all of those who had spoken up about the deadly consequences of the Iranian pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Since that early involvement and throughout that period, I supported negotiations as one of the essential tools to solve this problem. I want to state that again. This is not a rush to war. This is doing everything we can to prevent a war, to prevent conflict. I have ardently supported negotiations to try to achieve the necessary result combined with sanctions, putting ever-increasing pressure on the Iranian regime to achieve the desired result, with a backup—not taking off the table the use of force if necessary but only if necessary, only if everything else failed, because four Presidents, including our current President, have stated that Iranian possession of nuclear weapons is simply unacceptable. The United Nations has passed numerous resolutions to that effect. Other nations have said the same. Yet, now, we are looking at a framework that might allow Iran to break all of the commitments it made and all of the assertions we made.

We need a solution that guarantees our security and assures that Iran will never have nuclear weapons. If the White House cannot be persuaded to bring us a deal that does that, they should not bring us a deal at all.

Unfortunately, it is clear to me from the framework agreement and subsequent developments that these negotiations are off track and have been for some time. They do not begin to meet the minimum criteria outlined in our several Bipartisan Policy Center reports. Let me name five major problems that I see currently with the framework proposal that has been agreed to.

First, the Obama Administration's negotiating tactics have been seriously flawed from the beginning, abandoning central principles at the very outset of the negotiations. An agreement that builds on the outline emerging from the negotiations and trumpeted by the Administration as a breakthrough will

allow Iran to retain a robust, industrial-capacity ability to enrich uranium—the core of nuclear weapons. This was never the intention of the international community until the Obama Administration negotiators took the helm and changed direction. The original intent—to deprive Iran of this nuclear weapons infrastructure—was deemed to be “just too hard to achieve.”

The result is that Iran can now assume a guarantee that it will have the right to enrich uranium—the regime’s fundamental demand from the beginning and one which the United Nations Security Council firmly and consistently refused until the Obama Administration began these negotiations. In the wake of that fundamental concession, we will have to rely on elaborate monitoring and compliance verification mechanisms to keep the uranium enrichment enterprise within agreed bounds.

That directly leads to my second major problem with the outlined agreement. On the surface, there is a lot of reassurance that we would be able to detect cheating, and the President has emphasized this point repeatedly. Well, I have seen all of this before. I served here in this Senate when we were told our agreements with North Korea could be verified and would lead to a safer world. We were misled by that illusion. Today, 20 years after the nuclear agreement with North Korea, negotiated by the Clinton Administration, that country now has an estimated 20 nuclear warheads and the Chinese experts tell us the North Koreans will have more than 40 by the end of next year and an effective ICBM—intercontinental ballistic missile—to put those weapons on.

All that work developing such a huge, dangerous nuclear arsenal was done after we concluded a negotiated agreement to end North Korea’s nuclear program, confident that we would be able to detect cheating. Let me repeat that. All that North Korea has achieved in violation of the agreement we made with them has occurred after that agreement, not before. And today they sit as a dangerous nuclear-armed nation, with over 20 nuclear warheads that can be easily—and have been—attached to ICBMs.

Now I fear we are making the same mistake in negotiating with another rogue regime. In recent days, it has become difficult for anyone to maintain that the agreement under consideration by this Administration with Iran will provide the transparency we need. Senior Iranian officials and authorities, including the Ayatollah himself and the chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, have said repeatedly that there will be no international inspections of Iranian military facilities.

We know that much of the nefarious nuclear weapons development work has

gone on in such facilities. Barring access to them must simply be the end of any deal if that holds. The White House has indicated that such hard-line statements by the regime are part of their negotiating tactics. I do not take comfort from that. If that is so, then it must be proven at the negotiating table, not simply by declaration from our White House.

If the Administration brings us a deal that does not include complete transparency and the total ability to monitor Iranian compliance anywhere in that country, then all Members of Congress must stand and reject it. Third, I find there are many other nearly sinister details buried within this outline that are hidden from those not steeped in the technical details of this entire matter.

Many show that our negotiators caved on key issues, some at the last minute, to prevent Iran from walking out. In fact, the entire negotiations process since it began 6 years ago has been a steady uninterrupted litany of concessions as we give ground on one issue after another. The outline agreement confirms that pattern and hints at more to come.

One of the many examples of this is the agreement to allow continuing research and development of the most advanced centrifuges within the Fordow site that is safely buried deep beneath a mountain. Because there will not be uranium enriched there for the first 10 years of the agreement, we are told to take comfort. In fact, the developments that will occur in that sheltered bunker will make a nuclear “break out” capability certain and rapid once the agreement expires in a decade.

Even President Obama recently admitted that in the final years of the period covered by the outline, “the breakout time would have shrunk almost to zero.” That startling admission is a mortal blow to this agreement, in my view, and it comes from the chief advocate of the deal.

A fourth problem with the outline is the essential issue of sanctions relief. Initially, after the outline was released, the White House fact sheet emphasized that sanctions would be lifted gradually in stages as the Iranians showed a pattern of compliance with the terms of an agreement. The Iranian negotiators and the Supreme Leader immediately refuted that claim. They continue to say there is no such agreement and that all sanctions must be lifted immediately upon signing. It remains for them a nonnegotiable demand.

President Obama responded in a press conference last week that all of a sudden he was not very concerned about the phasing or timing issue or the way sanctions would be lifted. Instead, he said, and again I quote, the so-called “snap-back” provisions that would reimpose sanctions in the event of non-compliance were more important.

These Presidential comments signaled publicly that once again the Ayatollah could have his way. Sadly, no one seriously gives any credibility to these alleged “snap-back” provisions and their efficacy once the sanctions dam has burst.

Fifth, another mortal flaw in the outline is the issue of expiration date—the “sunset clauses”. The outline and the White House talking points are designed to sell or confuse this issue. Various timeframes have been mentioned—10 years, 15 years, 25 years, permanent. The fact is the core limitations on Iran’s nuclear infrastructure, if they are actually implemented over time, expire in 10 years, others in 15. The sanctions against Iran will have long since disappeared and Iran will then have the technical ability, the will, and the wealth to sprint toward a nuclear arsenal, as the President has acknowledged.

Ten years or even fifteen years is tomorrow afternoon in this dangerous game for the world’s future. Again, the President’s own words tell us everything we need to know about the effectiveness of the deal he is pressing on us. I quote again. “What is a more relevant fear would be that in year 13, 14, 15, they have advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium fairly rapidly, and at that point the breakout times would have shrunk almost down to zero.”

This is, indeed, the most relevant fear presented by the negotiations with the Iranian regime; namely, the fear that Iran will be given the path to nuclear weapons possession, resulting in consequences that are not acceptable. We should all agree with President Obama that that is, indeed, the most relevant fear presented by his negotiations with the Iranian regime.

But at this moment, it seems most probable that we will be called upon to consider a deeply flawed agreement, one that is worse than no agreement at all, but this is not entirely unavoidable. We still have time to press the negotiators on both sides to change the outcome of their talks. The Iranians must know that with passage of the Iran Nuclear Review Agreement Act, Congress has become an important player at the table. There will be no new constraints on their maximalist positions.

If they want a deal now, they must give ground; if not, they will face new, more painful, and more relentless sanctions pressure. This is a profound moment in our history. A nuclear-armed Iran would present a danger to the Middle East, to the United States, and to the world that is impossible to overstate. Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons always has been at the heart of our nuclear strategy. More than that, it is at the heart of the future of the world.

Allowing Iran to develop the capacity to develop those weapons, igniting

thereby a nuclear arms race among its neighbors and beyond must be prevented at any cost. There is nothing whatsoever partisan about this request. Neither I nor most of my Republican colleagues are attacking the President or trying to deny him a foreign policy triumph or wishing him ill in this important task.

Similarly, I trust our Democratic colleagues will not be blindly supporting the President on this issue no matter what agreement might emerge from the Iran negotiations. In many ways, the future of these negotiations is now in our hands. We must pass the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act with as much bipartisan support as we can achieve in order to play a significant or any role in this process.

We must not provoke a veto that can be sustained, thereby depriving Congress of our role and voice. We must all use the next 2 months to press the White House to demand an agreement that permanently halts Iran's nuclear ambitions. We must then evaluate objectively and honestly the agreement that emerges; accept it if we can, reject it if we must. This is a solemn duty that the Constitution requires of the Senate. I trust that each of us will be up to the task and the challenge we are facing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I first want to thank Senator COATS for the manner in which he has presented his views. We may not agree on every issue he raised in his remarks, but I fully agree that we have a responsibility to continue to work in a bipartisan manner in order to achieve this review statute so Congress can have an orderly way to express its review. I thank him for the thoughtful presentation he has made in regard to the legislation that is before us.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EVENTS IN BALTIMORE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I know everyone in this body, this country, has been focused on the events in Baltimore. I live in Baltimore. It has affected all of us in our city. We love Baltimore. It is heartbreaking to see the violence that has taken place over the last several days, particularly yesterday. Baltimore is known for its neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are our strength. People take great pride in their neighborhood. There is a lot of ethnic pride in Baltimore. We have a proud tradition. We have a proud tradition of blue-collar workers who helped build this great country in steelmaking and shipbuilding and automaking.

We have government workers who have helped provide the services to the

people of this country. We have a high-tech workforce that is the future of Baltimore. Baltimore is a great destination for tourists—our Inner Harbor. I could go on and on. But Baltimore is known for its people, its friendliness, and its real pride in strong neighborhoods.

That was shaken very badly during the events of yesterday as we saw violence. What happened to Freddie Gray is something that needs to be fully investigated. We want justice. All of us want justice. I was pleased we will have that independent investigation done by the Department of Justice.

Thousands of protesters were out in the streets in Baltimore exercising their First Amendment rights, expressing their frustration. They did it in an orderly way, in the way I would think we would want to see people express their views about matters of importance, including justice for Freddie Gray. There were a small number who decided to take to the streets in violence. It was counterproductive to the message. The family of Freddie Gray urged yesterday, particularly the day of his funeral, to be a day without protests.

But these individuals decided they would take matters into their own hands. What they did was hurt their community, hurt the neighborhoods, and hurt the city I love. Senator MIKULSKI and Congressman CUMMINGS, Congressman SARBANES, and others have been in touch with the mayor of Baltimore, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, with Governor Hogan, with the White House. We are taking all steps in order to preserve public safety in Baltimore and to make sure justice is provided in regard to the tragic death of Freddie Gray.

I would just urge all people to exercise restraint so we can provide safe communities for the people of Baltimore, that we will rebuild from this episode, and we will move forward. I thank many of my colleagues who have contacted Senator MIKULSKI and myself to express their concerns. We know these are very challenging times.

We urge all citizens of Baltimore to exercise restraint but to continue their passion for justice, as certainly Senator MIKULSKI and I and our congressional delegation will insist upon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I see Senator COONS on the floor, and he is prepared to speak with regard to S. 615.

First, I thank Senator COONS for his extraordinary leadership with regard

to S. 615. He is one of those individuals who worked very closely with Senator CORKER and me to find a common way to resolve some extremely challenging issues we had. Let me take you back just a few weeks, where most people thought it was totally impossible for the Senate to get together on a bill that would provide an orderly way for us to review a potential agreement with Iran on nuclear weapons.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee had scheduled a vote, there was a recess, and I think most of us felt that the bill would come out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee but that it would be a bill on which the President would continue his veto threat, and its future was anything but certain. Then the Senate Foreign Relations Committee went to work under Senator CORKER's leadership, and we were able to resolve these issues.

But one of the key players was Senator COONS. Senator COONS was traveling during the recess. He was in Africa doing important work on behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I doubt that he got any sleep because I was getting calls from him at times when it was the middle of the night in Africa giving us very constructive ways to deal with some of the very difficult issues of congressional review, the length of time necessary for congressional review, how we can make sure that we had the information we needed, and that it gave the President the strongest possible hand. I thank Senator COONS for his extraordinary leadership and work on behalf of the legislation we have before us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, first, I thank Senator CARDIN for his gracious remarks and for his strong and capable leadership.

I come to the floor today to speak about the Iranian nuclear negotiations and the need for Congress to play a constructive, meaningful role in reviewing any potential deal.

This week, the full Senate will consider the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 which would ensure that Congress has the ability to consider any nuclear deal with Iran before any congressionally enacted sanctions on Iran's nuclear program are rolled back. This bill will also ensure that Congress exercises its oversight over the implementation of any agreement through imposing rigorous reporting requirements and certifications on the administration.

This bill passed the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate unanimously after Senators CORKER and CARDIN—the chair and ranking member—worked tirelessly together to ensure that it would receive bipartisan support. They carefully negotiated a deal that defeated amendments that

would have prevented the Obama administration from continuing to negotiate in good faith. In my view, it is a great testament to their leadership that we were able to come together on a bipartisan bill that passed the committee unanimously and that the President has now said he would sign.

For the last 4 years, I have been hugely frustrated by the failure of Republicans and Democrats to come together in this Senate to pass legislation for the American people. The Republicans are now in the majority and have a chance to move past obstructionism and into leadership and to show that in this Senate, we have an opportunity to pass a bill, that this Senate plays a constructive role in protecting the national interests of the United States.

Leader McCONNELL said that he wants a functioning Senate, that he wants regular order, that he wants the Senate to play its rightful role in foreign affairs. Well, here is the chance.

Let's review what has happened with this piece of legislation. The Republican chair of the Foreign Relations Committee—working well with his Democratic counterpart—crafted this bipartisan bill. Today, it has 44 Republican cosponsors. It passed the committee, which fully and thoroughly debated the bill and many potential amendments. A committee with views as broad as Republican Senators JOHNSON and RUBIO and PAUL to Democratic Senators BOXER and MURPHY—a very broad range of views on our foreign policy—came together to pass this bill unanimously. If that is not regular order, I don't know what is.

If Senator McCONNELL wants a functioning Senate, I believe we should respect the committee process that Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN led to achieve this compromise. This bill gives Leader McCONNELL exactly the opportunity he wants to ensure that this Senate exercises its role in protecting America's national interest.

I particularly like what my Republican colleague from South Carolina, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, said recently:

Anybody who monkeys with this bill is going to run into a buzz saw. Anybody who offers an amendment that will break this agreement apart . . . the beneficiary will be the Iranians.

That is why I stand here today to urge my colleagues to avoid attaching poison-pill amendments that are outside the scope of the current ongoing negotiations and pass this bill as currently passed out of the Foreign Relations Committee and as currently supported by a majority of Senate Republicans.

Over the last few years, Iran has responded to congressionally enacted sanctions by finally coming to the negotiating table to discuss and deal with

its illicit nuclear weapons program. The Obama administration and the other P5+1 countries have been engaged in difficult, demanding negotiations with the Iranian theocratic regime. After a few extensions that have effectively frozen and in some ways rolled back certain parts of Iran's illicit nuclear program, the administration is in the final phases of their negotiations. Earlier their month, the President released the parameters of a potential deal, with the technical details and a few remaining critical gaps to be finalized possibly by the end of June.

This bill is not a referendum on the President's decision to pursue a path of diplomacy with Iran. This bill is not a referendum on the parameters announced on April 2. The bill before us this week has a simple, clear goal: It is about creating an orderly process that allows Congress to review any deal. As negotiations come to an end, it would ensure that Congress can play a constructive role after an agreement is reached by considering whether the deal is strong enough to warrant rolling back congressionally enacted sanctions. Yet, some—a few of my colleagues have insisted on making this bill a partisan exercise rather than keeping it the responsible, bipartisan measure that is before us now.

This bill is not about debating the merits of an ultimate deal now. We will have that chance when or if a deal is reached over the summer. It is not about, I hope, killing the negotiations before they have a chance to conclude. This bill is not about creating a list of complaints about Iran's destructive behavior in areas outside of its nuclear program. It could and should pass now, in its current form, without amendment.

I believe I have been as outspoken as anybody about Iran's destructive behavior, but I am troubled by some of the amendments being offered to make Iran's human rights record, its support for terrorism, and its relationship with Israel a part of these negotiations. Yes, Iran's human rights record is atrocious. Its support for terrorism threatens the stability of its neighbors and has taken countless innocent lives. Its continued threatening of Israel and its unwillingness to recognize the right of the Jewish State of Israel to exist is cowardly, dangerous, and just plain wrong. Iran must release the four Americans it currently holds hostage. I think everyone in this body would agree these are legitimate concerns for our consideration. Yet, the truth remains that they are outside the scope of the current negotiations around Iran's nuclear program. Congress must resist the temptation to make them a sticking point in those negotiations by including them as amendments to this bill.

Let's be clear. There are already congressionally enacted sanctions on Iran

for its behavior in these areas. The deal's parameters, as published April 2, said that "U.S. sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under the deal." No one is talking about removing those sanctions. The negotiations are about Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program and the critical importance of preventing Iran from ever building a nuclear weapon.

I have long believed a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave threat to the region, to Israel, and to the world. The nuclear arms race it would set off throughout the Middle East would have horrible consequences for global security. That is why throughout the negotiating process I have remained adamant that no deal is better than a bad deal, and I have closely consulted with the administration on that point as well as many others. I have met with senior administration officials to discuss these recently announced parameters and have been clear that I remain concerned about closing the remaining gaps and the need to maintain pressure on the Iranian regime to close any pathway to their development of a nuclear weapon capability.

I support this bill as it is. It is responsible and focused on the issue at hand. It ensures that Congress gets to weigh in if a deal is reached, and it strengthens this administration's ability to negotiate the best deal it possibly can.

Every Republican in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted for this bill, all 10 of them—from Senator RAND PAUL and Senator RUBIO to Senator JOHNSON and Senator BARRASSO. All nine Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee supported this bill. All 19 Senators on this Foreign Relations Committee represent as wide a range of foreign policy views as could exist. So I urge my colleagues on both sides to pause and reflect before supporting amendments that would make this a partisan exercise rather than a prudent use of congressional authority. If we want Congress to play a responsible role overseeing any potential deal, this bill gives us that chance. The alternative to this bill is not a better bill; it is a deal without any meaningful congressional input.

I have been as critical of Iran and distrusting of its intentions as anyone in this body, but if unrelated amendments become attached to this bill, I will not support its final passage.

Because of the great leadership of these two Senators, we have here a rare moment for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate as a whole to demonstrate our ability to move past what have been divisive and partisan fights over the last 4 years and come together and enact into law a measure that demonstrates our ability to give constructive, timely input on

one of the most important national security challenges of our day and to restrain our sometimes extreme and divisive instincts in this body and instead demonstrate our ability to overcome those instincts and show our relevance. Let's not miss this opportunity to work together in the best interests of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator for his constructive comments and his work on the committee.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

Early this month, Iran and the P5+1 countries agreed to a framework deal to restrict Iran's nuclear program and to submit it to international inspections. Negotiators now have until June 30 to try to reach a final agreement.

At the same time, the Senate has been advancing legislation requiring the President to submit any final agreement to Congress for review. That is the legislation on the floor before us today.

Congress is divided along partisan lines on many issues, but we are united in our conviction that Iran must not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon and that the people's elected representatives should have the opportunity to review any final agreement with Iran.

This bipartisan consensus was reflected in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's unanimous vote in favor of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. I thank Chairman CORKER, who is on the floor here with me today, and Ranking Member CARDIN, also on the floor, for their statesmanship and the spirit of bipartisan compromise that they exhibited in negotiating the act. They did a great job.

According to the legislation, the President must submit any final agreement to Congress. Congress would then have 30 days to hear from negotiators and outside experts and to determine if additional action is warranted, including a resolution of approval or disapproval.

I believe congressional oversight is appropriate because the President, in order to implement any agreement with Iran, will need to set aside sanctions put in place by Congress. I also voted for this bill because it reasserts the proper role of Congress in providing oversight of the President's execution of foreign policy.

As a member of the Senator Foreign Relations Committee, I believe the best way to resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear program is a hardnosed agreement that cuts off all paths Iran could take to pursue a nuclear weapon.

It was therefore crucial for me that the legislation considered by the committee not hinder our negotiators' efforts to reach a strong agreement. I believe that standard should be maintained as the full Senate considers this legislation.

I believe it is also essential that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship that was demonstrated by Senators CORKER and CARDIN in forging a bipartisan bill continue this week as the full Senate takes up the Iran legislation. Amendments that undermine the administration's negotiations or structurally alter this careful bipartisan compromise should be rejected by the Senate.

While I supported this bill in the Foreign Relations Committee, if the bipartisan nature of the legislation is eroded on the floor, the bill will no longer merit my support. This is a serious matter that will require the Senate to rise above the desire of some to force votes on poison-pill amendments that would destroy the bipartisan balance. We have to rise above politics here because we are confronted by a dangerous and unacceptable status quo in Iran.

The benefits of a strong final deal could be significant. Such a deal would stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and ensure that it could not pursue destabilizing activities in the region with impunity. It would prevent a nuclear arms race in the Middle East and advance greater long-term security for our regional allies. That is why, even as Congress reaffirms its role in reviewing any final agreement, we need to give the administration and its international partners every opportunity to bring these difficult negotiations to a successful conclusion.

With so much at stake for the United States, for Israel, and for the entire world, it is more important than ever that the Senate rise above partisan politics and reaffirm bipartisan cooperation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

I withhold the suggestion of the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank Senator SHAHEEN. She talked about the bipartisan way the committee operated. She played a large part in bringing us together in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and working over the recess. I want to thank the Senator for her input and the manner in which we were able to strengthen our negotiators and maintain the proper role for the Congress.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, if I could respond, I think one of the rea-

sons for the success of the agreement was because of the efforts of Senator CARDIN and Chairman CORKER to solicit input from members of the committee to see what people could agree to and, where we had concerns, to respond to those in crafting the legislation. It truly was a bipartisan, very statesmanlike effort, and I thank the Senators.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

## PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT—Continued

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. FRANKEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1112 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I yield the floor to the good Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today and for the next few days we will have the opportunity to consider a very important piece of legislation, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015—a piece of legislation that, like all the legislation we consider here, is important, but this particular legislation is important to our national security and, indeed, it is important to the peace and security of our allies around the world.

This bill represents a good, bipartisan effort. It passed unanimously out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by a vote of 19 to 0 earlier this month.

The reason this legislation is so important is because it would guarantee Congress the opportunity and the time necessary to scrutinize any agreement reached between the Obama administration and the P5+1 nations that are currently negotiating on the Iranian nuclear capacity. It would also prohibit

the President from lifting sanctions on Iran during this period of review.

This is not important because we are U.S. Senators; this is important because we represent the American people, and the American people need to understand what is in this agreement and what it means to their safety and security and to that of future generations.

I think it is critical that Congress have this opportunity to understand completely and thoroughly any deal that is cut between this administration and Iran and, of course, its implications, particularly on a matter that is so vital to our national security. If the Congress can have a voice on ongoing trade negotiations—which we do—with many of our allies, how much more so should Congress have, at the very least, a review of the final negotiated deal with one of our stated adversaries?

As I have made clear before, I have serious reservations about the framework that has been announced with Iran. This framework, as it is called, is right now very vague, and it strikes me as somewhat convoluted. It also represents a significant departure from longstanding U.S. policy to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon and instead puts us on a path—a feeble path, at that—to try to contain an Iranian nuclear weapon. Such an outcome is irresponsible, unacceptable, and dangerous. We simply cannot trust the Iranian leadership with threshold nuclear capabilities, which is exactly what the President's framework would do at this point. The concept of good-faith negotiations between us and Iran is a fantasy. Iran is a rogue regime and the world's foremost sponsor of international terrorism, and to trust them—to trust them—would be laughable and also reckless.

Iran and its proxies have been attacking and killing Americans and attempting to undermine our national security interests for at least the last three decades. Unfortunately, Iran's proxy war throughout the Middle East is well documented. Right at this moment, Iran's regional adventurism continues to destabilize areas where American interests are at stake, including war-torn Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. Even more worrisome, Iranian officials have publicly stated that even during this period of "understanding," while the details are being worked out, Iran has made clear that its true intentions are to destroy one of the United States' most stalwart allies, Israel, and to further Iran's aspiration as a regional hegemon and Iranian empire. This is the kind of country—a country that has been on our own State Department's sponsors of terrorism list since 1984. This is the administration that is being negotiated with by the Secretary of State and the Obama administration's representatives. That is why this bill is so important, because we need a

congressional backstop against an Iranian regime that is well known for being deceptive and, frankly, lying to international institutions and inspectors.

One thing this legislation does do, which I applaud, is it guarantees Congress the time and the opportunity for us to scrutinize, debate, and judge this deal if it is made by the summer. Many of our Senate colleagues have ideas about how to further improve the bill, which is admittedly not perfect. No piece of legislation ever is.

I look forward to a lively and healthy debate on the Senate floor. This will be an important debate on a serious matter of national security and one that has a clear ramification for generations yet to come. That is what the United States—the Founders of our country—designed the Senate for. I expect the Senate will be doing what only it can do—having a lively debate, having a fulsome review of this legislation, and then voting on the outcome. But I am thankful to those who produced this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I am glad that we are united in our strong belief that robust congressional review of any potential Iranian deal is an absolute necessity.

On behalf of the American people, America's elected representatives should be able to get any and every detail on this emerging deal. We should have the time and the space to review it and make sure we understand its terms and its implications. We need to be able in this debate to voice our concerns and ultimately have a timely opportunity to prevent this deal from being implemented if we conclude in the end that it is not in America's best interests.

Going forward, I hope the spirit of bipartisanship that has brought us this far, so far, is evidenced in this Chamber over the debate that will ensue. I look forward to discussing this legislation and providing a clear path for congressional review of any potential deal President Obama may make with Iran. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to the bill that is before us with regard to the Iran negotiations. I wish to address two fundamental and major segments of this process. One is the process and the other is the substance of the agreement which, hopefully, will come before this body at the end of June or July.

First is the process. We are operating in a constitutional gray area. There is

no question that the Constitution assigns principal responsibility for the conduct of foreign policy to the President, but it also assigns responsibility to the Congress—responsibility with regard to treaties, responsibility with regard to funding the foreign policy of the United States, and responsibility with regard to approving foreign policy officials. So there is an opportunity here for us to break, in a sense, new ground to establish a rational, formal, predictable process for considering this important issue.

If we don't pass a bill, such as the one that is before us today, we will be in a kind of disorganized, chaotic situation of what will be the congressional reaction, what is Congress's role, how will it be played out, and how will it work. I believe that it is very important for us to establish this process before the agreement is laid before the world and the American people. It sets forth a process whereby Congress can weigh in in a meaningful way and determine the merits and the quality of the arrangement that is being set before us.

I cannot imagine a more solemn responsibility for this body than the consideration of this matter. This is a decision which will affect the United States, our ally Israel, and all the countries of the Middle East for generations to come. This is a consideration that must be taken on the merits, on the facts, on the data, on the actual alternatives—and I will talk about that in a minute—that we have to deal, or the arrangement, that we hope will ultimately be brought to us later this summer. Let's treat this issue on its merits, and, please, to my colleagues, let's not treat it as simply another partisan issue.

We have a tendency around here for everything to become a partisan issue. A great Republican Senator of the 1950s said that "politics should stop at the water's edge." That means that this kind of issue, which involves war and peace and ridding or preventing a major country from obtaining nuclear weapons and thereby destabilizing the region and possibly the world, is the most solemn kind of issue that we can face.

I know that there are people in this body who are not supportive of the President. They oppose the President. They don't like what he did on health care or don't like what he did on immigration. This is not the place for partisan politics. That does not mean I am saying we should roll over and do whatever the President says. I don't mean that at all. What I mean is that this matter should be considered in the context of the facts and the merits. What will it actually do and what are the alternatives?

It is not about whether we agree with this President or whether we want this President to have an international accomplishment on his resume. We have



to try to separate ourselves from that kind of consideration.

Let's talk a bit about the agreement itself. The first thing to say about it is that it doesn't exist yet. It has not been finalized. We don't know what it is. I am a little surprised, frankly, when I hear many of my colleagues say that it is a terrible deal and won't work, when we don't even know what it is.

It is true that we have a framework. Interestingly enough, many of the same people who are saying this is a terrible deal are the same people who said that the joint plan of action 1½ years ago was terrible—a historic mistake. It turned out to be a very important step toward an agreement and essentially froze Iran's nuclear program for the past 18 months.

Let's take a deep breath and reserve judgment about whether this is a good deal, a bad deal or something in between until we actually see what it is and see what is signed. Hopefully, there will be something signed. We don't even know that for sure.

Clearly, the framework agreement that was announced a few weeks ago is an important step in this process. It gives us some information, but it does not give us the all-important detail.

First, let's do "ready, aim, fire," not "ready, fire, aim." Let's understand what it is we are debating and talking about before we fill the airwaves with rhetoric about whether this is a good or bad deal.

Second, it has to be a good deal or we should not approve it. If the deal is illusory and structured in such a way that Iran has a clear path to the bomb and it would not slow them down, and, in fact, would facilitate it in some way, clearly we should not approve it and it should not be before us.

I start with the premise that, A, we should hold our fire until we see what it actually says, and, B, it has to say the right things. It has to affirmatively stall, delay, and prohibit Iran's path to a nuclear weapon, and it must be totally verifiable. Ronald Reagan, of course, said "Trust, but verify." In this case, it is don't trust and verify to the nth degree.

I will submit that verification is the heart of the agreement, and it has to involve technology and people on the ground. It has to involve an openness to inspections that is unprecedented. We have experience from dealing with North Korea. We had a "kind of" agreement with North Korea which turned out not to be sufficient, and, in fact, they moved toward nuclear weapons by cheating.

We cannot make that mistake again, and verification is the heart of it. It has to be as vigorous and as intrusive as is necessary in order to assure us and the world that Iran is not cheating and is not moving in any way, shape, or form toward a nuclear weapon.

In this regard, I think we are extraordinarily fortunate in this moment of history when this particular negotiation is taking place, in that one of the President's principal advisers, the Secretary of Energy, happens to be a nuclear physicist. I don't know if we have ever had a nuclear physicist in that position before, but he is uniquely positioned to understand the details and the implications and the alternatives that can help us to assure that this arrangement provides the protection that we believe must be the case.

In assessing this arrangement—whatever it is—I start with the premise that it has to be solid, verifiable, and meaningful. It cannot be just window dressing. It has to stop Iran's progress toward a bomb and create at least a 1-year breakout period so that the other alternatives can be exercised if they start moving in that direction. In order to assess that deal, it is imperative that we also assess alternatives. We cannot just say: Well, this is good or bad. It has to be, compared to what? There are really only two alternatives that I can see. If we don't make this arrangement, one alternative is more severe sanctions—more sanctions. Some people throw that out as if it was easy. "More severe sanctions" comes "trippingly on the tongue," as Shakespeare would say.

What is missing in this discussion is that we are not the only player here. This is not Barack Obama and the Supreme Leader. This is not the United States and Iran. This includes five other major countries, members of the Security Council of the United Nations, major countries that are involved in this whole discussion and negotiation, but most importantly, they are engaged in the sanctions.

There is no doubt that our sanctions are important, but it is not only our unilateral sanctions that are necessarily providing all of the pressure on Iran. In fact, an argument can be made that it is the participation in sanctions by other countries in the world, not only by the P5+1, but by other countries as well that are not buying Iranian oil. We have not bought Iranian oil for 35 or 40 years. But people not buying Iranian oil include countries such as China, India, and Japan. Their decisions are contributing to the pressure that has brought Iran to the negotiating table.

If the world decides this is a sufficient deal and sufficiently restricts Iran and that the verification is as vigorous as it needs to be—if the world decides that and we say, the heck with you, we are walking away, they may say that we have taken that step unilaterally and against the best judgment of what this deal means for keeping Iran from a nuclear weapon. Then the sanctions regime starts to fray, and, indeed, it starts to unwind. We can do all we want. We can stomp our

feet and do more sanctions, but if the rest of the world is not with us, it is not going to be effective.

The idea that somehow in this body, in this Congress, in this city we unilaterally can make the decision to impose additional sanctions that will bring Iran to its knees when the rest of the world doesn't agree with us is not a valid observation. So it is not so easy to say, oh, well, the alternative here is that if we don't like this deal, we will just go to more sanctions.

Now, if the other members of our negotiating group decide they agree with us that it is not a good deal, then sanctions will continue and, indeed, probably strengthen. But I don't think we should feel that we have this kind of unilateral "the heck with the rest of the world, we are going to do this ourselves" mentality. I think that is a very important point to understand, that we are part of an international community that is negotiating this deal, and what other members of the community are doing in the way of sanctions is important, as well as our sanctions.

Of course, the other alternative is military action. The other alternative is some kind of strike. There are various estimates I have heard in various forums and settings, but the most common estimate I have heard is that we could destroy their entire atomic infrastructure. We could level the buildings, destroy all the centrifuges, and we would set back their nuclear weapons program by 2 to 3 years. But what if we did that? We set it back by 2 to 3 years. We can't erase the knowledge they have. We have simply erased their infrastructure. The infrastructure can be rebuilt, and three things will have changed: No. 1, they will have the knowledge; No. 2, they will never ever negotiate; and No. 3, we will have created enemies of an entire new generation of Iranian people. We will have alienated those people to the point where it will be impossible to negotiate, and we will be in a situation of some kind of military intervention as far as the eye can see.

The military option has to be on the table. The President has to retain that option, and he has. But I think we have to be realistic about what that option means and the commitment it entails both from us and our allies. I am not saying it is off the table. I am not saying it would never happen. But what I am saying is we have to assess the negotiated arrangement in light of the realities of either the deterioration of the sanctions regime or the realities of facing military action.

Finally, I know that as this debate continues there are going to be a series of amendments and a lot of those amendments are going to be appealing. For example, as part of the condition of the deal, Iran shall recognize Israel's right to exist or as part of the negotiation of the deal, Iran must forswear

terrorism or the President has to certify that Iran forswears terrorism. Those are desirable, but they will never happen. Iran will not agree to those. So when we propose an amendment such as that, what we are really saying is we don't want an agreement, because that is never going to be an idea they are going to accept.

I would submit I think Iran is a mischievous—that is too light a word—a dangerous country in terms of exporting terrorism. We see it throughout the region. There is only one scenario worse than an Iran that is attempting to support terrorism and destabilize regimes in the region, and that is an Iran that is supporting terrorism, destabilizing the region, armed with nuclear weapons.

We can't solve all the problems in the region with this agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to keep Iran from achieving a nuclear weapon. That is what we have to keep our eye on. And if amendments—no matter how desirable, no matter how good they sound, no matter how politically appealing, if those amendments will undercut or effectively eliminate our ability to keep our eye on the main ball, which is to keep them from having nuclear weapons, those amendments will not serve us, our interests, Israel's interests, the Middle East's interests, or the world's interests.

We have to focus on what it is we are trying to achieve, and what it is we are trying to achieve is incredibly important. A nuclear-armed Iran is a danger to the region, and it is a danger to the world. Right now, I think it is a very pivotal moment as to whether we are going to be able to achieve a realistic agreement that will make that less likely.

Now, it may be that the agreement which we agree to and which goes into place doesn't work. It may be that they cheat. I would submit that at that point, we will be right where we are now. We can then talk with the rest of the world about additional sanctions. We do have the military option. We are no worse off than we are if we at least try to achieve a resolution of this grave issue through diplomacy, negotiation, and working with the rest of the world to try to eliminate this one problem.

We are not going to eliminate all the world's problems with this one arrangement or negotiation, but if we can keep Iran, through this process, from achieving a nuclear weapon, from aspiring to a nuclear weapon, then we will have achieved something important for ourselves, for the future generations not only in the Middle East but in America and the world.

Before I close, I would like to share my thoughts on the role of Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN in bringing this matter to us in a thoughtful, responsible, deliberative

way. This is the way the Senate is supposed to work—committee consideration, debate, discussion, review of amendments, and bringing a bill to the floor for discussion and debate. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Senator from Tennessee, who has taken this so seriously and who is doing it in the best traditions of this body.

I think we are embarking upon an important and solemn project here that can have enormous ramifications for ourselves and for our posterity.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. I think this is a very important debate, very consequential. A nuclear Iran is a global threat to everyone everywhere. The world deserves our best effort at stopping Iran's illicit nuclear program.

This does not mean we need to yield to Iran on important points just to win vague promises that they will give up their dreams of a nuclear weapon. I realize that, President Obama says he understands it would be better to have no deal than to have a bad deal. I agree with the President. This legislation is about making sure that any agreement the administration reaches with Iran is truly a good deal.

President Obama made it clear that he did not want this bill. He fought tooth and nail to make sure this legislation would not succeed, even threatened to veto it. The President wanted members of his administration to do all of the negotiating in private. He wanted to decide for himself what is best. Well, that is not how things this important to our Nation are supposed to work.

When the stakes are high, the American people deserve a say. The Vice President knows that. Back in 2008, JOE BIDEN was the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I served under him. He said, "I have often stated that no foreign policy can be sustained without the informed consent of the American people." Well, that informed consent includes allowing Congress to review important foreign policy decisions like any agreement over Iran's nuclear program.

Now, I have my concerns about the parts of this deal that have been made public so far. I am also concerned about some of the confusion there seems to be between the White House and the Iranians. There is a clear disagreement about the lifting of economic sanctions against Iran. Iran has

said a final deal must remove all of the economic sanctions on day No. 1. The administration has said sanctions will be lifted in phases and only if Iran complies with different steps along the way.

So if a final deal is ever reached, it is going to be very important that we, the American people, have a very clear airing of all of the terms and an understanding of really what is in the deal. We need to make sure everyone agrees on what the deal actually says. I believe Iran is simply not trustworthy and we cannot afford to take chances with something this important.

Any agreement must be enforceable, any agreement must be verifiable, and any agreement must be accountable. The President has now accepted that he needs to come to Congress and to get the support of the American people before he goes to the United Nations. Under the bill, the President must certify a few things every 90 days: He has to certify that Iran is fully implementing the agreement. He has to certify that Iran has not committed a material breach. He needs to certify that Iran has not engaged in any covert action to advance its own nuclear weapons program. The President has to confirm to Congress that Iran is playing by the rules.

Now, if the President cannot do that, the bill creates an expedited process for Congress to take action. The way this bill was originally written, by Republicans and Democrats together, the bill also said something that many Americans believe is vitally important: It said the President must certify that Iran was not directly supporting or carrying out an act of terrorism against the United States or against an American citizen anywhere in the world.

To me, this was a very important part of the original bipartisan bill, a bill which had bipartisan support and bipartisan sponsorship. During the negotiations in the committee, this consequential part of the original bill was removed.

Congressional sanctions, I think, have been devastating to Iran's economy. It is what brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. Once the sanctions are lifted, Iran will have a lot of money that it did not have before. Now, I do not believe Iran is going to use that money to build schools or hospitals or roads or to improve the lives of the people in their country. Iran is going to have access to tens of billions if not over \$100 billion that it can use to finance groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Will there be any meaningful part of the final deal that guarantees that they will not use that money to support terrorists? Congress and the American people need to know if Iran is directly supporting acts of terrorism against our country and our people.

The Iranian nuclear issue is absolutely intertwined, in my opinion, with terrorism. The two cannot be separated. So during the process of negotiating this bill, this was the only certification requirement that was left out. All the other parts stayed in. The critical part about making sure Iran was not supporting terrorism against our country came out. The President didn't want it there. Why wouldn't the President want to tell the American people about the terrorist threats facing our country and our citizens? If Iran is supporting terrorist attacks on Americans, then why would we trust them to keep their word on the nuclear program? So I have proposed an amendment that would restore the terrorism certification that was in the original bipartisan bill. That is all.

I think it is very important that the American people hear from the President on this important point. Now, I understand some Senators do not like the idea of the President having to certify something like this. Some people have said that this requirement would compromise the ability of the United States to continue its negotiations. I disagree. My amendment simply says that if Iran is supporting acts of terrorism against our Nation and our people, then Congress will have a more streamlined process to address it. It is all very simple.

That same process applies to all of the other things that the President has to certify. Would those other things compromise our ability to negotiate? This amendment would not get rid of the rest of our agreement on Iran's nuclear program, it would just allow a clear picture of whom we are dealing with. It would make it easier for Congress to act. It does not make it automatic. Congress still has to decide what to do. This just makes it easier.

That is what my amendment does. It is not the only thing I would like to change in the bill. I hope we can have other amendments as well. It is important for Congress and the American people to have their say on any final deal. It is just as important that the oversight we provide be meaningful and that Congress state clearly that we will not tolerate Iran's support of terrorism. If our negotiators reach a final agreement with Iran, I will be giving it very close scrutiny in the Foreign Relations Committee and on the floor of the Senate. This is a consequential piece of legislation. It is an important bill, and there are ways we can make it even stronger. My amendment is a start.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator BARRASSO for his help in bringing this bill forward. He made valuable contributions during the committee's consideration and the

managers' amendment. I know how strongly he feels about the certification issue.

I want to point out—I know Senator BARRASSO is aware of this—with his help and Senator CORKER's help and all of the members' of the committee, we have added very strong language in this bill that requires the President to report to Congress periodically on the status of Iranian activity in the areas he is concerned about.

For example, the President must make an assessment of whether any Iranian financial institutions are engaged in money laundering or terrorist finance activity, including names of specific financial institutions if applicable; Iran's advancements in the ballistic program, including developments related to its long-range and intercontinental ballistic missile program; an assessment of whether Iran directly supported, financed, planned or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or United States persons anywhere in the world; whether and the extent to which Iran supported acts of terrorism, including acts of terrorism against the United States or United States persons anywhere in the world; all actions, including in international fora, being taken by the United States to stop, counter, and condemn acts by Iran to directly or indirectly carry out acts of terrorism against the United States and United States persons; the impact on the national security of the United States and the safety of U.S. citizens as a result of any Iranian actions reported in this paragraph.

Then, we require an assessment of whether violations of internationally recognized human rights in Iran have changed, increased or decreased, as compared to the prior period.

I just point that out because Senator BARRASSO raises a very valid point about Congress having information in order to carry out its responsibilities. We made this bill very clear that our interest in Iran goes well beyond its nuclear weapons program. We are concerned about Iran's sponsorship of terrorism. We are concerned about Iran's human rights violations. We are concerned about Iran's ballistic missile program. As the framework in the April 2 agreement points out, nothing will affect the sanctions that are currently in place as it relates to terrorism, human rights violations or the ballistic missile program.

So I understand the Senator's concerns. I thank him for helping us develop a bill that I think is well balanced in the area of his concerns.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I, too, want to thank the Senator from Wyoming for his continually constructive role and just the tone in which he

talked about this last issue. I will say that in negotiations with Senator CARDIN, we added all kinds of reporting mechanisms. It is true that the negotiations that are underway have nothing to do with alleviating any kinds of terrorist sanctions, human rights sanctions or ballistic missile testing sanctions. I will just say that should Iran commit an act of terrorism against an American, sanctions would be the minimum, I think, they would have to be worried about. I would think bombs and missiles on heads would be what they would be concerned about.

I think we have in place mechanisms that allow us to know these things. I have a feeling that if Iran, again, commits any kind of act of terrorism against Americans—which is what is being talked about here—significant kinetic activity would be taking place. Sanctions, to me, would be the least of their worries.

But I am pleased that we were glad to clear up all of the reporting requirements but also to stipulate, again, that in this particular bill we are talking about the nuclear file, not alleviating sanctions on any of the other components.

Let me just say, if there is a deal—and this is something I have tried to make clear from day one—I hope it is a good deal. I know the Senator from Wyoming does too. We know the best route for us is to have a negotiated good deal.

But in the event we end up with a negotiated good deal and sanctions are relieved, these four tranches of sanctions that we put in place since 2010 are then available to us to reapply in the event we find human rights violations, we find ballistic testing is getting out of hand or we have terrorist activity, to add again an additional crushing blow to the Iranian economy.

I thank the Senator for his steadfast concern in this regard. I thank him for the way he works with all of us. I hope we are going to be in a process very soon to be voting on some amendments. I know we think we have agreed to some language, and hopefully that will begin very soon.

Mr. CARDIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

(The remarks of Ms. WARREN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1109 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1112 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### EDUCATION REFORMS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the ranking member on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on the outstanding occurrence last week where the committee, on a 22-to-0 vote, voted out the education reforms that are going to affect young people throughout our country. It was a great undertaking, and I think it speaks to her willingness to reach across the aisle and to solve problems that matter so much to all of our constituents. I wanted to thank her for being here today and for being a part of this debate.

Mrs. MURRAY. If I could just thank the Senator. I was very impressed with the work of Senator ALEXANDER on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. He worked with all our members to make sure we replace the No Child Left Behind Act—which I think most Americans agree is not working today—with a bipartisan approach. I am hopeful we can bring it to the Senate floor and move it through quickly because this is a law that does need to be fixed.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1150 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1140

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 1150.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I just want to know which amendment the Senator is calling up. Is this the amendment that would change this into a treaty obligation?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Mr. CARDIN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. JOHNSON], for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TOOMEY,

and Mr. CRUZ, proposes an amendment numbered 1150 to amendment No. 1140.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To declare that any agreement reached by the President relating to the nuclear program of Iran is deemed a treaty that is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. TREATY SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any agreement reached by the President with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran is deemed to be a treaty that is subject to the requirements of article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States requiring that the treaty is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring.

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON SANCTIONS RELIEF.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions under any other provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding or not, including any joint comprehensive plan of action entered into or made between Iran and any other parties, and any additional materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to the agreement or to be entered into or implemented in the future, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate as a treaty, receives the concurrence of two thirds of the Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this deal the administration is involved in making with Iran has serious implications not only for America's long-term national security but for really the peace and security of the world.

It is true that at this point in time, nobody knows what is really in the deal. We certainly have been given a framework in terms of what the deal is supposed to be. But what we do know is that even within that framework as has been described to the American public, there are some serious discrepancies in terms of the way this administration has typified that framework of the deal and what the Ayatollah in Iran—how they have described that deal.

For example, according to our President, the sanctions will only be lifted once Iran has complied with major components of the agreement. Accord-

ing to the Ayatollah, those sanctions will be lifted immediately. That is a big discrepancy.

According to this administration, we will have the right to inspect to ensure verification and accountability of any agreement. The Ayatollah disagrees with that. The Ayatollah certainly says there will be no inspections on military sites. If we want to enter into this agreement to prevent Iran from creating a nuclear weapon, surely we should have the right to inspect the military sites.

Another pretty serious discrepancy in terms of the administration's understanding of what this framework is versus the Ayatollah's understanding, what is going to happen with the 10,000 kilograms of enriched uranium? According to this administration, it is going to be shipped out of the country, not available for any kind of nuclear program. According to the Ayatollah, no way; it is going to stay in Iran.

So those are major discrepancies in terms of what this agreement is all about, the types of discrepancies that certainly need to be fully vetted, and the American people need to understand what that is.

There have also been some real deceptions about this agreement. For example, we have heard repeatedly in hearings that this administration will insist that any agreement will ensure that the nuclear program within Iran will be for peaceful purposes.

I have to point out that there is no peaceful purpose for Iran to have nuclear enrichment. If they want peaceful nuclear power, they can certainly do what a number of other countries that have peaceful nuclear power have done: They can purchase that uranium fuel, that nuclear fuel from outside countries. The only reason Iran would subject itself to the sanctions, to the isolation, to the economic harm to its economy and its people, is because it wants nuclear weapons to blackmail the region and the world.

Of course, this administration talks about snapback of sanctions. That is deceptive because once these sanctions are relaxed, once these sanctions are lifted, it will be virtually impossible—once tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions of dollars of investment from the West and from other countries start flowing to Iran, it will be impossible or almost virtually impossible to put those sanctions back in place.

We have had a sanctions regime going back to—U.N. resolutions dating back to 2006. It took years for those sanctions to really take hold, to have the teeth that brought Iran to the bargaining table. Unfortunately, in its negotiations, this administration relaxed those sanctions and basically acknowledged Iran's right to enrich uranium and, in that event, basically lost these negotiations before they ever began.

So there are an awful lot of deceptive typifications about what this deal is

and what it won't be and what it will be. The purpose of my amendments is to bring clarity to what the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act would be and what it is not.

I give the chairman and the ranking member of our Senate Foreign Relations Committee a great deal of credit for trying to come up with some sort of deal, some sort of law that will give Congress some kind of role in this incredibly important deal. But this is not Congress's rightful role. This is not what the Framers felt, in article II, section 2 of the Constitution, would be advice and consent. It is far from it.

There are basically three forms of international agreements: There is a treaty, there is a congressional executive agreement, and then there is just an executive agreement. There is really no set criteria of what makes one international agreement a treaty, a congressional executive agreement, or an executive agreement. They are considerations. There is precedent. What, in fact, basically is the final determination is how that particular agreement is ratified or approved by Congress or not approved by Congress.

I believe when we take a look at the considerations in the State Department's own foreign policy manual, consideration No. 1 is "the extent to which this agreement involves commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole." I would say this agreement with Iran certainly involves risks that affect our entire Nation.

Consideration No. 3 is whether the agreement "can be given effect without the enactment of subsequent legislation by the Congress." The whole point of this particular act is that we have put sanctions in place by passing laws in Congress, and Congress does realize that we have a role in any lifting of those sanctions.

Consideration No. 5 is "the preference of Congress as to a particular type of agreement." Well, there can be some dispute, and that is really at the heart of what my amendments would do, is involve Congress in determining what exactly this deal is. Is it a treaty? Is it a congressional executive agreement? Is it simply an executive agreement that really does not have long-lasting effects?

Now, that is really the point of my first amendment. I believe that this is of such importance, that this deal is so important to the security of this Nation and to world peace that it rises to the level of a treaty. So my amendment simply strikes the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act and replaces it with a simple statement that this Congress deems this agreement with Iran as a treaty.

The other thing my amendment does is it removes the waiver authority this Congress granted this President as relates to those sanctions. That would then require this President, upon com-

pletion of the deal with Iran, to come to this Congress—as was contemplated by article II, section 2 of the Constitution—for the advice and consent of this body, so that 67 Senators would have to vote affirmatively that this is a good deal, that basically the American public would be involved in the decision through their elected representatives. We are not being given that opportunity. The American public is not being given that opportunity right now. What is happening right now under this Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act is we have turned advice and consent on its head. We have lowered the threshold to what advice and consent means as relates to this Iran deal.

Hopefully we are going to vote—and it sounds as if we will—on this amendment.

I have a second amendment. In case this one does not succeed, I have a second amendment. If this Congress, this Senate doesn't want to treat this as a treaty, we should at a minimum treat it as a congressional executive agreement. I am willing to lower that threshold under expedited procedures to a simple majority vote of both Houses, 50 percent.

I contemplated and I had actually written an amendment to really detail what this review act really is—a low-threshold congressional executive agreement. And when I say "low threshold," I mean that what is going to happen here if we pass the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act is we will get a vote of disapproval. If 60 Senators agree this is a bad deal for America and they disapprove of it, we can pass that disapproval, and then that goes to the President for signature. He can veto that. Of course, if he vetoes that, it would take two-thirds of this body to override that veto and two-thirds of the House to override that veto. That requires 67 Senators. If we are unable to muster those 67 votes to override the veto of our vote of disapproval on a bad deal between Iran and America, what we, in fact, have done is we have given 34 Senators the ability to approve that bad deal.

When I offered that amendment to the Parliamentarian—that would basically show with real clarity that what this Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act really is, is a very low threshold approval by this body—the Parliamentarian I think very appropriately ruled that amendment out of order, unconstitutional. You can't approve something with just 34 votes in the Congress, in the Senate. I think that is my point.

I appreciate the fact that we will be able to vote on my amendment deeming this deal between America and Iran a treaty so that the American people have the ability to weigh in, to have a say in whether this is important enough to be affirmatively approved—as our Constitution contemplated with

an international agreement of this importance—be affirmatively approved by 67 Senators, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator for his active involvement on our Foreign Relations Committee. He is a valuable member, and I appreciate his concern about this issue. I know he understands that this is an amendment that is likely not to pass. Let me tell you why.

Four times since 2010, Congress has put in sanctions that most people believe is what brought Iran to the table—four different tranches. They began in 2010. In almost every one of these cases they have had huge bipartisan support. I know the Senator knows this. But what happened was when those were done—as a matter of fact, this Senator three of those four times voted to give the President a national security waiver on the congressionally mandated sanctions. I know the Senator knows this as well. We talked about it extensively. I know he has had conversations with the Secretary of State—former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, as I have multiple times, and she agrees this is an executive agreement. Let me tell you why.

The reason it is an executive agreement is right now the President has the ability to go straight to the U.N. Security Council, working with the other members, and alleviate the U.N. Security Council's sanctions. Obviously, he has the ability to do that with the Executive sanctions that he himself put in place.

What Congress has done—and I know the Senator participated because he, too, wanted to make sure we sanctioned Iran to bring them to the table, as we have. But I know this Senator has been here long enough that in three of those times, he gave—he gave—the President the unilateral ability to waive these sanctions.

I was very concerned about this and wrote a letter to the President about 2 months ago asking how he planned to do this. The President—obviously, I got a response from the Chief of Staff, and they made it very clear. They plan to go straight to the U.N. Security Council, and it is my understanding that what they plan to do is use something called a nonbinding political commitment—that is what they plan to do with Iran if they come to an agreement—and then have that endorsed by the U.N. Security Council.

While I very much appreciate the sentiment of the Senator—whom I love working with and I am glad we have a businessman of his caliber here—I think he knows that what we are actually doing here is something that is unprecedented; that is, that we are taking back from the President authority

that has already been given to him, causing him to have to bring this agreement to us. I know it is not to the level he would like—candidly, not to the level I would like. I agree with that.

Let me say this: We know that in the event that this amendment were to pass, it would be vetoed and, therefore, it is a substitute for the bill that is before us. So what that would mean is no limitation would be on the President's use of waivers to suspend sanctions that we put in place, no requirement that Congress receive the deal at all, never mind the classified annexes that we all know are a big part of this and, by the way, the American people are never going to see.

Without the bill that is on the floor, the American people will never see it. We will see it on their behalf because we believe that on behalf of the American people, somebody should go through this bill and this deal in detail, if there is a deal reached. There will be no review period for Congress to see the deal and vote before it is implemented, no requirement that the President certify that Iran is complying, no mechanism for Congress to rapidly reimpose the sanctions, and no reporting on Iran's support for terrorism, ballistic missile development, and human rights violations.

Now, look, if I could wave a magic wand or all of a sudden donkeys flew around the Capitol, I would love for us to have the ability to deem this a treaty. I really would. I think the Senator knows I mean that. I would love for us to have to affirmatively approve this. But unfortunately, a lot of us are article II folks, and we think the President has the ability to negotiate things. We had no idea this President would consider suspending these sanctions ad infinitum forever—no idea. I think even people on this side of the aisle were shocked. As a matter of fact, TIM Kaine, thankfully, in a meeting where Secretary Kerry—I am sorry, was being one tick too cute at one of our hearings—said: You are going to have the right to vote on it. Of course, what he meant was 5 years down the road, 6 years down the road, after the sanctions regime has been eliminated.

Look, I have strong agreement with the sentiment of our Senator from Wisconsin, somebody I love serving with, but let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Let's ensure that we have the ability to see the details of this deal that it lays before us, that the clock doesn't start until we get all of the classified annexes on behalf of the American people, some of whom are here in the Gallery watching this. On their behalf, we have the ability to see what is in this.

By the way, if we don't like it, yes, there is a large hurdle in the Senate. We know the way the Senate operates. We have to have a 60-vote threshold. In

the House, it is a simple majority. It is a simple majority in the House.

Look, I agree with the sentiment. This is one of the biggest geopolitical issues that will potentially happen if an agreement is reached in our lifetime here in the Senate. I hope people, in spite of the fact that I agree with the sentiment, will vote against the Johnson amendment when it comes to the floor and make sure we can pass the bill that is before us so that on behalf of the American people, we have the opportunity to see it, to weigh in. By the way, one of the things that is very important, that lives beyond—lives beyond—is that every 90 days the President is having to comply that Iran is—or is having to certify that Iran is complying with the agreement.

Again, I thank the Senator. I appreciate his sentiments.

I yield the floor.

I see that the distinguished minority leader is here on the floor. My sense is he has something to say.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

MR. REID. Mr. President, I have said on a number of occasions, and I have told the Senators, but not with both of them present, how much I admire their legislative skills. What they have brought to the Senate is a work of art. I will always be amazed at how they were able to accomplish this 19 to 0 coming out of that committee.

As I said earlier today, I hope we can preserve the structure of this great piece of legislation that the two fine Senators were able to come up with.

#### OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE

MR. President, on another subject, we are all saddened by what we have witnessed unfold in the streets of Baltimore. A man is dead who should not be dead. His name was Freddie Gray. Freddie Gray's name will not be forgotten.

This young man's death is the latest in a series of disturbing and unnecessary deaths of young men of color at the hands of police and vigilantes. To be clear, violence is never acceptable in any regard. It is never an acceptable response, even in tragedies such as these.

The rioting and looting we are seeing on the streets of Baltimore will only further damage a community in a great American city that is already hurting. We should not let the violence perpetrated by a few become an excuse to ignore the underlying problem: that millions of Americans feel powerless in the face of a system that is rigged against them.

It is easy to feel powerless when you see the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer. The opportunities to build a better life for yourself and your family are nonexistent, nonexistent in your community. It is easy to feel devalued when schools in your community are failing. It is easy to believe

the system is rigged against you when you spend years watching what President Obama called "a slow-rolling crisis" of troubling police interactions with people of color.

No American should ever feel powerless—no American. No American should ever feel their life is not valued, but that is what our system says to many of our fellow citizens. No American should be denied the opportunity to better their lives through their own hard work, but that is a reality too many face.

In a nation that prides itself on being a land of opportunity, millions—not thousands, millions—of our fellow citizens live every day with little hope of building a better future no matter how hard they try.

We cannot condone the violence we see in Baltimore, but we must not ignore the despair and hopelessness that gives rise to the claim of violence. This is not just about inner cities. This is about the deep, crushing poverty that infects rural and suburban communities across our great country.

It does not matter if you live in Searchlight, NV, or the metropolitan Las Vegas area—which is now more than 2 million people—or in Baltimore, rural America, when there is no hope, anger and despair move in. That is the way it is. We cannot ignore that. So let's condemn the violence, but let's not ignore the underlying problem.

Let's not pretend the system is fair. Let's not pretend everything is OK. Let's not pretend the path from poverty—like the one I traveled—is still available to everyone out there as long as they work hard because it is not.

For hard work to bear fruit, there must be opportunity and there must be hope.

I cannot imagine what direction my life would have taken without the hope of the American dream. As a little boy I had that. As a teenager I had it. I had it in college. So instead of turning a blind eye, let's work together and take the problem seriously.

There is bipartisan work being done on criminal justice, and that is a good start. We need criminal justice reform. That is a good start, but it is only a start. Ensuring that populations are not unfairly targeted for incarceration will be a positive step, a real positive step. But we also need to be investing in inner cities and rural areas and ensuring that jobs and training and educational opportunities are available where they are needed the most.

Looking out at the year ahead, the only piece of legislation I see on the agenda that does anything to create jobs is the surface transportation bill. There is nothing else. Look around. That is not enough. We need to do more. It is up to us in this Capitol to create these jobs. Democrats and Republicans must work together to make sure Americans have a right to succeed

and America continues to be a land of opportunity for all of our citizens, not some of our citizens.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me first thank Leader REID for his comments about the circumstances in Baltimore. I spoke a little bit earlier today about Baltimore. It is my home city, the city I love. It is a people I love. We are really hurting from what happened. I appreciate the leader's comments about it.

We are going to get through this, we are going to restore order in Baltimore, and there will be justice for Freddie Gray. We are all going to work together. I appreciate the outreach we have received from the White House and from the Federal and State in helping Baltimore restore the order in our city.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. President, I just want to respond very briefly. I see Senator ISAKSON is here. I will not take too much more of his time. Let me respond briefly in support of Senator CORKER's concerns concerning Senator JOHNSON's amendment. I oppose that amendment.

The determination of a treaty is an Executive decision. The ratification of a treaty is a legislative decision. When we go through treaty negotiations and ratification, we delegate legislative authority. It would then be up to a different entity to make decisions.

I know my colleagues are very concerned about treaty obligations and the ratification of treaties. This clearly would raise some constitutional issues with this type of legislation.

Let me just give you the practical problem we have here. In 2012, we entered into a treaty for disabilities. I don't believe it is controversial at all. It does not change any of our laws. We have not acted on that yet.

In 1994, the United States entered into a treaty with the Law of the Seas. Most countries have ratified that treaty, not the United States. That was 1994. So now if Senator JOHNSON's amendment became law, the President would have no authority to implement this agreement because the waiver authorities will be gone and it would require ratification to move forward. We cannot pass a disability treaty in this body. We can't even pass a tax treaty in this body.

It would be beyond belief that this really would allow us to move forward with a negotiation with Iran. This is what we call a poison pill. It would prevent this bill—one of a couple of things. This bill would not become law. It would not pass or it would be vetoed by the President, and he would not override the veto. If it became law, it would kill negotiations. There would be no negotiations. The United States would be isolated because our negoti-

ating partners would be wondering why we are withdrawing from the negotiations, not Iran. The United States would be isolated.

And the final line, it would make it more likely, not less likely, that Iran will become a nuclear weapon state. That is why Senator CORKER and I strongly oppose Senator JOHNSON's amendment. At the appropriate time, we will be asking our colleagues to vote against it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

#### THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BALTIMORE

Mr. ISAKSON. First, Mr. President, to Senator CARDIN, the people of Maryland and Senator MIKULSKI, on behalf of the people of Georgia, our prayers and sympathy go to your great State in a time of trouble. Anytime there is violence in a city in America, whether it is Atlanta or whether it is Baltimore, whether it is Washington, whether it is Los Angeles, it is a problem for all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Baltimore, and we hope that peace returns as quickly as possible.

My purpose in rising is to first talk about the deal that is before us in terms of the congressional review act, in terms of the Iranian deal that is being negotiated by the President.

I thank the ranking member, Senator CARDIN, and the previous ranking member, Senator MENENDEZ, for their hard work, and I thank Senator CORKER for his leadership as chairman.

This is a most important deal. As a politician, when I travel in my State, I have two great tests that I use to understand the veracity of a deal. The first is the tear test, and second is the nod test.

Sunday night, I attended a celebration of the 67th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, which was at a synagogue in Atlanta, GA. I was asked to speak. In my speech I said: One thing you can count on for sure is that I thank God for the nation of Israel and for the fact that in 1948 it found a home. Equally, I thank God for the fact that I serve in the Senate.

I will have a vote over the congressional review of any deal made with Iran, and I promise the people of Israel that no deal with the Iranians will be mentioned or agreed to as long as I have anything to say about it as long as the people of Israel are not respected, protected, and honored not only by us but the people of Iran as well. That is essential to me, and I think this congressional review act gives us the opportunity to do that. A tear came out of Rabbi Bortz's eye. She thanked me for looking out for the people of Israel and thanked me for the United States being their friend.

The nod factor happened to me on the previous Sunday when I spoke to

the Association of County Commissioners in Savannah, GA. When I stood up for that speech, it was supposed to be about local government, trade, zoning, and land use. Instead, I opened up by saying: I want everybody in the audience to know whether you have an interest or not in the Iranian nuclear deal that is being negotiated by the President, I, as your Senator, promise that there will be no deal unless there is congressional oversight, congressional review, and a congressional vote. The nods went all through the audience.

There were farmers and county commissioners from all over the State. This is an issue you would think would be removed from them, but it is not. For the people of Georgia this is a primary issue for our country and our security, and it is so for a very good reason. The Iranians have not proven to be very trustworthy with their negotiations in the past.

I thank Senator CARDIN and Senator CORKER for their agreement to put language in this bill that reports the sense of the Senate in terms of the value of the hostages that were held by the Iranian Government in 1979 and 1980.

A lot of people have forgotten what happened in 1979. In 1979, the Iranian troops jumped on the American Embassy in downtown Tehran. They captured 52 American diplomats, held them for 444 days, beat them, tortured them, and harassed them. They finally let them go shortly before the swearing in of Ronald Reagan as President of the United States. When they did, President Carter negotiated the Algerian Accords, which said that the Iranians would release these hostages but they would not be held accountable to pay those hostages any reparations. We negotiated away from them what almost every other hostage has ever received; and that is reparations from their captives.

In the committee, I introduced sense of the Senate legislation that says the Iranians should pay and the sanctions money that was paid under the previous sanctions bill that is now in place should be used to pay those hostages and their families and the survivors. Forty-four of them are left. Some have committed suicide and some have died of natural causes. But all of them were tortured, beaten, and badly abused in 1979 and 1980. We owe it to those Americans to look out for them and to make sure they are compensated, and it should come from the money that would have gone to the Iranians that was taken in the penalties for doing business with Iran under the sanctions legislation.

Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN have done an outstanding job. They have crafted legislation that not only represents the best interest of the country of the United States but also the best interest of our people. I want



everybody to understand one thing loud and clear. You can call it an Executive order, you can call it a treaty, you can call it a wink and nod. It is the single most important vote that any Member of this Senate is going to take in a long, long time because this one is for all the marbles.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a danger not just to the Middle East but to the peace and security of the entire world. Giving the Senate and House oversight on this agreement is absolutely essential to the American people so they know that they have oversight. We are the eyes, we are the ears, and we are the conscience of the people we represent.

I can tell you from the winking and nodding theory that I have, and from the tears that I saw shed by the people of Israel Sunday night, this treaty is important to the United States of America, it is important to the world, and it is important to see to it that the congressional review action takes place and this bill passes.

I commend Senator CORKER for his leadership, and I commend Senator CARDIN and Senator MENENDEZ, the previous ranking member, for the work they did to see to it that this happens.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. President, the Senate Finance Committee met until about 11 p.m. last Thursday night. We passed TPA, trade promotion authority. Get this, the President of the United States has asked for it. The Senate Committee on Finance voted 20 to 6 to pass it, and it is coming to the Senate floor soon. It will promote trade and give the President the authority to negotiate trade deals. And the Senate has the authority to approve them up or down. It will send a signal to the rest of the world that we are open for business in America.

When I first came to the Congress in 1999, one of my first votes was fast-track for President Clinton, a Democratic President. As I served in the House, I later voted for President Bush to have TPA. I will vote for TPA for President Obama because it is in America's best interest.

Trade should not be, nor is it ever intended to be, a partisan issue. It is about the well-being and the jobs of the American people.

A lot of us talk about managing expenses through cutting expenses and a lot of us talk about raising our revenue to pay for expenses. Raising prosperity for the American people is the best way to raise their revenue and raise their hope and opportunity. This bill does exactly that. Fast-track promotes American agriculture, American manufacturing, and American innovation.

In 2007, I went to the nation of India with MIKE ENZI and LAMAR ALEXANDER, two members of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. We went to follow up on a book written by

Tom Friedman called "The World is Flat." It was all about the jobs that were being taken away from America by the Indian people because of the ability to use the computer, the change in time zones, and to fill American employment and put help desks overseas in India.

A lot of people rose up against the jobs going to India, and they sent us over there to find what was happening. One of the things we did in India was visit Mr. Murthy, the president of Infosys. Infosys is the largest market cap from India on the NASDAQ in America. It is a tremendous success story. It is a high-tech engineering and technology company.

In the boardroom of Infosys, we asked this question: Mr. Murthy, the American people ask us, as Members of the Senate, why is it that all of our jobs are going to India? He answered very quickly. He said: Mr. ISAKSON, I will tell you this. When I started my company 20 years ago, I drove an Indian car, drank an Indian soft drink, and banked with the Bank of India. Today, I drink Coca-Cola, I drive a Ford, and I bank with the Bank of America.

That is what doing business with the world does. It opens up opportunities. That is what trade promotion authority is going to do for America. It will open up opportunities for the American people. It will expand trade and opportunity. It will empower us through jobs and work.

We should make sure that trade never becomes a partisan issue, and that when we vote, we have a bipartisan vote to pass trade promotion authority for the President and for the best interest of our people.

We should remember this. We should never choose isolation over innovation. Trade promotion is innovation. We should never fear competition. We should always see that competition is rewarded by hard work, and we should never cower in fear of those who compete with us. We should always be the leader we have always been in terms of American technology, ingenuity, and trade.

Trade promotion authority is good for America, good for the world, good for this country, good for the economy of the United States, and good for middle-class America. It promotes manufacturing and jobs around this country.

Lastly, there are those who fear it might prompt immigration increases. This bill gives the Congress the authority to override any change in the law that is current in the United States made by the President in any trade deal. So immigration will not be expanded, and it will not be broadened. The President will be given no more authority, but instead, America will be going to the trade table, making deals, raising prosperity, not through higher taxes but through higher engagement, more jobs, and better work.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I commend Senator ISAKSON for always playing such a constructive role. I know he played a big role on the TPA issue, which is, as he mentioned, very important. I know from a geopolitical balance standpoint, it is very, very important for us to be able to consummate the TPA arrangement.

I also thank him for the constructive role he always plays on foreign relations. For a couple of years he was off the committee, and we missed him greatly. We are glad to have him back and very much appreciate his support of not only the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act but his constant and vigilant effort to ensure that people who have not been compensated properly end up being compensated properly.

I look forward to the markup of his bill in the committee. I thank him for consistently and steadfastly pursuing this issue and, again, for the many constructive ways in which he works to cause this body to function in a productive manner.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1155 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1140

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 1155.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, is this the amendment that deals with the report date?

Mr. BLUNT. It is.

Mr. CARDIN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri [Mr. BLUNT] proposes an amendment numbered 1155 to amendment No. 1140.

Mr. BLUNT. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend the requirement for annual Department of Defense reports on the military power of Iran)

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTS ON THE MILITARY POWER OF IRAN.**

Section 1245(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2542), as amended by section 1277 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I am pleased to call up this amendment. This amendment extends what would now be a sunset on the Department of Defense annual report on the military power of Iran and adds another 10 years to that annual reporting date. Currently, the law would end that annual report in December of 2016. This amendment would extend the reporting time until December 2026.

I think this amendment sends a message to the American people that Congress understands the lengths that Iran's military is willing to go to promote instability around the world. Pentagon officials today reported that the United States is monitoring the seizure by Iran of a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship which was reportedly moving through the Straits of Hormuz. Iranian patrol vessels fired warning shots across the bow of the boat.

Just yesterday, it was reported by Politico that the commander of Iran's ground forces was of the opinion that America was behind the attacks on 9/11. We currently see Iran's deadly influence in a negative way into other countries, including Yemen, Iraq, and other countries. I think we need to continue to monitor the military strength and the military capacity of Iran. This annual Department of Defense assessment of Iran's increasingly destabilizing military is possibly more important even now than it was when these reports started.

Every year, the Department of Defense provides Congress with a review of Iran's military. There is no reason this report should expire at the end of 2016. This commonsense amendment extends the sunset on this annual report we have been having through December of 2026.

I encourage a “yes” vote on this amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I see the Senator from Pennsylvania, my old friend Mr. TOOMEY, standing up like he wants to offer something. There are a couple of us who want to have a col-

loquy for a few minutes, Senator DURBIN, Senator BLUMENTHAL and myself, on an issue involving veterans and veterans' financial assistance for school.

I do not want to get in the way of Senator TOOMEY if he has something he wants to offer, just as long as it does not take forever. May I ask a question through the Presiding Officer? What do you think he has to offer and for how long?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I would direct the question to the Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I would assure the Presiding Officer, for the purpose of passing on to any interested Senators, that I, in fact, would not take forever. In fact, I think I can do this in—it probably will take 15 or 20 minutes.

Mr. CARPER. I would just ask the Senator, if he could take closer to 15, that would be great.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I rise to address two issues this afternoon. The first is amendment No. 1190. I will be as quick as I can on this because I want to spend more time dealing with the Johnson amendment, which I also will address.

Amendment No. 1190 arises because of the very unusual procedural circumstances we find ourselves in. As the Presiding Officer probably knows very well, for technical procedural reasons, the Senate has chosen to conduct a debate about the Corker-Cardin bill, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, on a House legislative vehicle that was sent over to us. But in order to do this, all of the language from the House bill gets stripped out and it goes away.

That original House bill, H.R. 1191, was the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act. I want to talk a little bit about it. But here is my amendment. It is pretty simple. I just want to restore the language from that House-passed vehicle. It is pretty simple. I do not think it is controversial.

Let me just sum up what this is about. This is a bill that was offered in the House by Congressman LOU BARLETTA from Pennsylvania. It is a bill that would protect volunteer firefighters from some unintended consequences of ObamaCare. More specifically, it exempts volunteer firefighters from counting toward the trigger for the employer mandate.

I do not think it was ever intended that volunteer firefighters would be counted this way, but nonetheless the danger arises because of an IRS ruling. So the IRS issued a guidance back in 2013 that suggested that volunteer firefighters would have to count any benefits they got as income.

It raises the question of whether they would be counted toward the ObamaCare limit. They have gone back and forth. They have issued a ruling that says volunteer firefighters would

not be counted toward triggering the number of employees that invokes ObamaCare, but that is just an administrative ruling at this point. It could change at any point in time.

If it were to change, and if every volunteer fire department in America that had 50 or more volunteer firefighters had to be deemed to be an employer requiring full ObamaCare coverage, I dare say it would put out of business virtually every volunteer fire department in America because none of these volunteer fire departments have the kind of money it would take to go out and buy health care for those volunteer firefighters, nor was ObamaCare ever intended to cover these folks.

This would be a huge problem, particularly in Pennsylvania where we have 2,400 volunteer fire departments, more than any other State in the Union, and we have over 50,000 volunteers in Pennsylvania alone, but there are over 750,000 nationally. So, as I said, the IRS did give us a ruling that, for now, they will not deem volunteer firefighters to be employees for the purpose of triggering ObamaCare mandates.

But I would like—and I am not the only one who would like to have this codified in law so this danger goes away so volunteer fire departments can continue to thrive. This passed the House unanimously. There is bipartisan support in the Senate.

I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member. My understanding is there is no opposition from either of them to this amendment, which is very straightforward.

I would be delighted with a voice vote when the time is appropriate for that. I would be very grateful. I have said my piece about the volunteer firefighters, but I do think it is a great opportunity to get this taken care of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1150

What I would like to address, though, is the incredibly important debate that we are having now about the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. Now, let me state very clearly, I think the underlying bill that Senators CORKER and CARDIN have produced is a very important good-faith effort to give Congress some say in something Congress absolutely should have a say in.

But I do think there is an underlying problem with the bill. The underlying problem with the bill is that the reality is, at the end of the day, an agreement announced by the President with Iran, should that come to pass, could be opposed by a majority of Senators—it could be opposed by a big majority of Senators and it would still go into effect, despite the provisions in this underlying bill.

Specifically, why I say that is, in the first place, in order to prevent the congressionally authorized sanctions from being waived, we would need to pass a resolution of disapproval. That takes 60

votes in the Senate. So any 41 Senators could prevent that from taking place and then the deal goes forward, the sanctions get lifted.

If we have a supermajority, more than 60, and we could pass this legislation and send to it the President, he could veto it. Then it would take 67 votes to override the President's veto. So the math is pretty clear. Any 34 Senators in support of the agreement could permit the agreement to go ahead, while 66 Senators could oppose the agreement and yet it would take place. It seems to me that this turns an important part of the Constitution on its head, and that is article II, section 2 that says: The President "shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur."

So, in my view, this certainly ought to be deemed to be a treaty because it rises to that level of importance. A treaty, generally defined, is an agreement through negotiations signed by nations. I think that is what we are talking about here. Certainly something of this enormous importance as arguably the most dangerous regime in the world on a path that might very well enable them to obtain the most dangerous weapon in the world, it is hard to imagine things that are much more important than that.

So I think it certainly ought to rise to the level of a treaty. We routinely treat matters of much lesser import as treaties. This is not just sort of an abstract, theoretical question of Presidential authority. There are very specific, very real consequences. It is my view that we are on a path toward a very bad, very dangerous deal. The only way I can think of that we change the path we are on is if there is a plausible, credible possibility for Congress to stop this, which would then cause these negotiations to change their course, which is what I think has to happen to avoid a very dangerous outcome.

Let me be clear. My goal is not to kill any deal, my goal is to get a good deal, one that provides for the security and safety our country needs.

I do not think that is the direction we are on right now. Let me explain a few of the reasons why. I guess the simple summary was very aptly put by the Prime Minister of Israel when he spoke to the joint session of Congress and he said: The problem with this deal is that it would not block Iran's path to a bomb, it paves it. That is exactly what I am concerned about, ultimately.

Let me explain why I am concerned about that. I see three big categories of reasons; first, the administration has already made too many concessions; second, the Iranian regime is a regime we cannot trust; third, while the administration says don't worry, you don't need to trust them because we

can verify and enforce this agreement and, boy, if they step out of line, we will snap those sanctions back in a heartbeat, that is a fantasy. I do not see that working. Let me explain these three categories.

With respect to the concessions, first, we ought to be concerned, I think, about the concessions that were made before the negotiations even began—the concessions that we wouldn't even address, the ongoing ballistic missile program that the Iranians continued to pursue and make ever more sophisticated.

We wouldn't address their active, ongoing support for terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East and around the world. That wouldn't be on the table.

We wouldn't address their open declarations that they want to wipe Israel off of planet Earth.

These things were permitted just to be set aside. That is a very major round of concessions before we ever got to the table.

My next concern is the way the administration has been moving the goalpost throughout these discussions. The initial goal stated by the President in the fall of 2013 was to ensure that Iran would not have a nuclear bomb. That was the right goal. The only problem is that is not the goal anymore.

Now the goal is, according to the administration, that we would have about 12 month's notice if the Iranians decide to develop and deploy nuclear weapons. That is a huge, huge concession, and, I think, a very dangerous one.

Finally—and maybe the most disturbing concession—it seems to me that the framework of this deal, as it has been described by the administration, allows Iran to retain a nuclear infrastructure—actually, an industrial-scale nuclear infrastructure, with the underground facility at Fordow and the plutonium reactor Arak—thousands of centrifuges for a country that doesn't need a single centrifuge.

If their intended purpose really is just to have peaceful nuclear energy, they don't need a single centrifuge. They can buy enriched uranium. They don't need to have the domestic capability of enriching centrifuges. But it has already been conceded that they will have thousands.

None of this, by the way, is going to be destroyed. Anything that is deactivated is locked away, but it is still there.

Frankly, I am worried about the next round of concessions. If you listened, as I have, to the way the administration has described the framework of this agreement, and then you listened to how the Iranians have described it, there are some huge divergencies there. For instance, with respect to the sanctions, the administration has said that the sanctions would be lifted gradually,

only as and when the Iranians comply with the terms of agreement.

The Iranians have said: Absolutely not. The sanctions get lifted immediately upon execution of the agreement.

And on inspections, this essential part of the enforcement mechanism, the administration has said: We will have the ability to inspect anytime, anywhere.

The Iranians have said: No, you won't. You will only do inspections by permission, and military sites are off limits all together.

I think this is a very disturbing range of concessions that have already been made, and the deal is not finished yet.

The second point I make is that we can't trust this regime. I just think that is abundantly obvious. I think it is very clear that they have not reached the decision as a nation that they want to abandon their quest for a nuclear weapon. I don't think they have.

And, if you look at their behavior, they have been killing Americans since 1979, including nearly 1,500 U.S. soldiers in Iraq with the sophisticated IEDs they make.

Iran is the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism. They are promoting radical Islam in many places in the Middle East. They recently were plotting to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador by a bomb planted in a DC restaurant.

They have repeatedly declared their intention to wipe Israel off the map, and they have a history of cheating on agreements and violating U.N. resolutions. Why do we think this time would be different?

Well, as I said, the administration says: Don't worry. You don't have to trust. We will have verification, enforcement, and snapback sanctions.

Well, I don't think that is realistic at all. But it is not only my view. Henry Kissinger and George Shultz wrote, I thought, a very important essay about this. They mention, among other things, the difficulty we are probably going to have in even discovering that cheating is going on. I quote from the Kissinger-Shultz article. They say: "In a large country with multiple facilities and ample experience in nuclear concealment, violations will be inherently difficult to detect."

Not only that, it looks like we are, in a way, subbing out the endorsement to the U.N.—populated, I might remind my colleagues, by countries that are often not terribly friendly to the United States. There we will have the challenge of proving violations that we do discover, proving that they are, in fact, violations. Again, Kissinger and Shultz point out that when cheating or a breakout occurs, it is unlikely to be a "clear-cut event." Rather, it is likely to be "the gradual accumulation of ambiguous evasions."

So we discover these ambiguous evasions, and what do we do? We have to go to the U.N. and convince them. I suspect the Iranians will deny them. And how long will this process go on while this is adjudicated and while the Iranians remain in violation? And what are our chances that we will eventually convince the people we need to convince at the U.N. that we are right and they are wrong?

But even if we are successful in all of this, the administration says: Well, that is when we will just snap the sanctions right back in place.

How can that even be a serious notion when the sanctions regime is crumbling right now? I mean, it is already crumbling. The Russians are selling air defense systems now to the Iranians.

Why is the President so reluctant to have Congress have a role in this, in any case? If the President can make the case that America will be more secure as a result of this agreement, he should be able to convince the American public and the Senate, get the votes, and then he would have a much more enduring agreement.

A treaty is binding indefinitely, and it would have the approval of Congress. It wouldn't have the temporary nature of the executive agreement.

I think it is our responsibility that we have to uphold the Constitution. It is our responsibility that we have to maximize the safety of the American people to the extent we can. So I hope my colleagues will support the Johnson amendment, which will simply deem this agreement to be a treaty and require the two-thirds vote for ratification that a treaty requires.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, if I could respond, just briefly, I know there are speakers who would like to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I thank the Senator for his amendment. My sense is that over the course this debate, there will be a pathway forward.

Secondly, I thank him for cosponsoring the legislation that is before us.

As to deeming it a treaty, I wish to point out that the Senator has been in the Senate almost 6 years, which leads me to believe that at on at least three occasions, the Senator has already voted to give the President unilateral ability to implement this by a national security waiver. That is why this now is an executive agreement. And I think everyone here knows that what the President plans to do is to take what Senator TOOMEY and others have granted to him—a national security waiver—and go directly to the U.N. Security Council and, therefore—as a matter of fact, if we had not granted that security waiver, it would take a majority of people here to lift that. However, in

putting these sanctions in place, all of us who put these four tranches of sanctions in place since 2000 have granted the President a national security waiver.

In a letter in response to me, the Chief of Staff made it clear that they plan to go straight to the U.N. Security Council with this waiver in hand. They plan to waive these sanctions ad infinitum way down the road. Secretary Kerry has testified to us that maybe 5 years down the road, after the sanctions regime has totally dissipated, we would have the ability to vote. So my sense is that I agree with the sentiment that is being laid out.

I just wish to say again, if the Johnson amendment were to pass, ultimately this bill would not pass. Let me just say there would be no limitation on the President's use of waivers to suspend sanctions that we put in place, which brought them to the table, and no requirement that Congress receive the deal at all—never mind the classified annexes that go with it—no review period for Congress to seal the deal and vote before it is implemented, no requirement that the President certify Iran is complying, no mechanism for Congress to rapidly reimpose sanctions, and no reporting on Iran support for terrorism, ballistic missile development, and human rights violations.

So my sentiment is with the Senator. I hope his amendment will very soon become law, and I appreciate his diligence there.

I think he understands that this body, in putting the sanctions in place, gave the President the ability to do this unilaterally. What this bill does is to take back some of that authority. I hope we will be able to do that collectively.

I appreciate the ranking member's efforts in this regard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to join Senators CARPER and BLUMENTHAL on a subject we would like to speak to by way of colloquy, without objection by my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND OUR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Senator CARPER, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and I have come to the floor to discuss a terrible loophole in Federal law. It is the Federal 90-10 rule that limits the amount of Department of Education title IV dollars for for-profit colleges. They can receive 90 percent of their revenue from the title IV. The intent was to make sure for-profit colleges were not totally reliant on Federal taxpayers for operations and that they could survive without taxpayer dollars.

Well, I think 90 percent is way too high to accomplish that goal. What is

more, the law doesn't count non-title IV Federal programs as revenue when they calculate the 90 percent. The Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 GI bill and Department of Defense tuition assistance and MyCAA dollars are some of the biggest examples of Federal revenue not counted in the 90 percent calculation.

It means that some for-profit colleges get vastly more than 90 percent from the Federal Government. These are supposed to be private institutions in the private sector? No way. If they were standing alone as an industry, the for-profit colleges and universities would be the ninth largest Federal agency in Washington. They get that much money.

Who are some of these schools that get more than 90 percent of their revenue from federal taxpayers? Well, names you might have heard: Everest College in Newport News, VA; Everest College in Portland, OR; Heald College campuses in Fresno, San Francisco, and Stockton, CA. If the names sound familiar, it is because they are part of the now bankrupt and out-of-business Corinthian Colleges system that defrauded students, lied to the Federal Government, and raked in \$1.4 billion annually in title IV dollars and another \$186 million from GI bill benefits.

Ashford University in Clinton, IA, is another notorious story of a for-profit school that received more than 90 percent of their revenue from Federal dollars when the Department of Defense and VA funds are included. I know that one very well.

A past Bloomberg news article really demonstrated the depths these companies will sink to in order to ensnare or enroll veterans and servicemembers who qualify for Federal benefits.

James Long was reported to have suffered a brain injury when artillery shells hit his humvee in Iraq. The Ashford recruiter came to a barracks for wounded marines at Camp Lejeune while Long was recovering from his brain injury and pitched to him to go to Ashford University, this for-profit school. Their parent company, Bridgepoint Education, is under investigation by at least three State attorneys general.

I could go through the list, but I will yield the floor for my friend from the State of Delaware, Senator CARPER, to say a few words as well.

Westwood College, based out of Colorado, in my State of Illinois, is under investigation by the Illinois attorney general. I have been contacted by their students, including veterans, who have been lured into their worthless degree programs and use up their GI bills as a result of it.

There are many other schools included on this list of schools that receive more than 90 percent of their revenue from federal taxpayers. Vatterott College and Coyne College are in my

home State. There are schools owned by Apollo, the largest for-profit college and university in the United States, which is currently under investigation by two State attorneys general.

Career Education Corporation—which is another notorious for-profit school—is under investigation by 17 different State attorneys general. And there are schools owned by Kaplan, which used to be owned by the Washington Post, which now is on its own, and is under investigation by three different States attorneys general.

Why do we allow this to happen? These schools are targeting our veterans and our servicemembers and members of their family.

I was listening to Pandora the other day and I heard American Military University advertising. Well, they know it is Washington, DC. There are a lot of people in uniform in Washington, DC.

The American Military University is not part of any official part of our military. They just picked up the name. It is a for-profit school raising questions, again, about whether they are providing our veterans and servicemembers with any value for their GI benefits.

So I have joined with a number of my colleagues, Senator CARPER, and 18 other colleagues, in writing to the Secretary of the Department of Education to publish its annual 90-10 data with all the Federal education benefits, including the Department of Defense and VA benefits.

According to documents obtained by the Center for Investigative Reporting, the Department of Education has produced data internally. So it is there, and it is time that it be shared with the public.

I thank Senator CARPER. Many people have heard me come to the floor and talk about for-profit colleges and universities and probably think: Well, there goes DURBIN again.

Well, this time I am joined by a couple of my outstanding colleagues, and one of them is the Senator from Delaware, who helped me to bring together 20 Senators to sign this letter.

I yield to Senator CARPER.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator from Illinois for yielding.

Madam President, I don't know about your family, but my dad and his brother served in World War II. They were both combat veterans, one in the Navy and one in the Army. On my mom's side of the family, two of her brothers ended up serving in the Navy. One was killed in a kamikaze attack on an aircraft carrier out in the Pacific. He never had a chance to participate in the GI bill, but my dad did. Later, in the Korean war, my uncle Ed, who married my mom's sister, had a chance to participate in the GI bill. It was a great benefit. It is one of the things—when we look back in time, we know

this is one of the wonderful things that happened in our country. It helped lift us up and prepare a workforce to make us a preeminent nation in the second half of the 20th century.

But as it turned out, as the benefits were offered and taken advantage of by veterans, scam artists emerged on the heels of World War II. The same thing happened again after the Korean war. It seems as if every time we have renewed and extended the GI bill for a new generation of veterans, the same thing has happened.

I served on Active Duty from 1968 to 1973 in the Vietnam war—as a naval flight officer—served 5 years on Active and another 18 years beyond that as a P-3 aircraft mission commander, a retired Navy captain. I had a chance to get a master's degree near the end of the Vietnam war, and I moved from California to Delaware and got an MBA on the GI bill. I think we got \$250 a month.

The GI bill today—men and women who have served 3 years of Active Duty, including some time in Iraq or Afghanistan, get tuition free to pretty much any college or university—public—in their State. They get tuition assistance. They not only get tuition, they get book fees, and if they need tutoring, they get that free. They also get about a \$1,500-a-month housing allowance. Vietnam veterans got 250 bucks a month. This is a lucrative GI benefit. And if the GI doesn't use it today, their spouse can use it. If their spouse doesn't use it, it is transferrable to their dependent children. It is a great benefit.

Not surprisingly, just as scam artists emerged at the end of World War II, at the end of the Korean war, and at other times, they have emerged again this time as well. Some of them are private colleges; some of them are not. Some of the private colleges actually do a good job, but too many of them do not. They are in this for money. They see a rich benefit, and one of their goals is to try to make sure they cash in. In some cases, it is at the expense of the veteran and the taxpayers.

Congress put in place in I want to say 1992 a rule that said we want to combat this by injecting some market forces. So since the beginning of 1992, no university, college, whatever, could get more than 85 percent of their revenues from the Federal Government—no more than 85 percent from the Federal Government. We changed that in 1998 and said that no college or university—private, for profit, whatever—could get more than 90 percent of their revenues from the Federal Government. They had to raise 10 percent from other sources, such as people who paid their own money or who got private loans or whatever to go to college.

Somewhere along the line, though, we changed the rules to say that 90 percent did not include the GI bill, that 90

percent did not include something called tuition assistance for people on Active Duty. So 90 percent today is not a full picture. It is student loans and it is Pell grants. It is not the GI bill. It is not tuition assistance from people on Active Duty. So if we put it all together, we find out that today there are over 100 colleges and universities—again, almost all private—that are getting way more than 90 percent of their revenue from the Federal Government. I don't think that is a good thing. It is not a healthy thing. What was meant to be an approach that provided some market correction doesn't work anymore.

For years, Senator DURBIN and I have introduced legislation designed to restore the integrity of the original 85-15 rule or the 90-10 rule, which says, look, if you are a college or university, if you are a for-profit, private, public, the 90 percent should be included all in. It is college loans, it is student loans, it is Pell grants, it is the GI bill, it is tuition assistance—the whole deal. If you are a college or university, you can get up to 90 percent of your revenues from those sources but not 100 percent—as too many of them are doing today.

We have talked about Corinthian, which has gone down. Corinthian has cost taxpayers probably billions of dollars. A lot of men and women who risked their lives and served our country in sometimes very dangerous situations have now gotten out of the military and they have literally been put at risk again. They have been put in a position where they have squandered their GI bill benefits.

We ask sometimes why there is bad morale in some cases, low morale, why some Veterans take their own lives. Well, sometimes it is because they get sucked into these scams. Sometimes that is what happens.

We can fix this. It is the right thing to do for our veterans. It is the right thing to do for our taxpayers.

I know Senator BLUMENTHAL is here. He is also a distinguished veteran and the father of a distinguished veteran, and I am happy to yield to him.

(Mr. GARDNER assumed the Chair.)

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER and Senator DURBIN, two of our most distinguished colleagues who have fought ceaselessly for the interests of students and veterans. I am very proud to be here with them today. I do have a very personal interest as the dad of a veteran and also of a currently serving young man whom I hope will be a veteran one day.

Nothing is more important than this issue of making sure we keep faith with our veterans and protect them because the phenomena we have described today often create incentives for schools to lure veterans into education deals, and they are often education deals that fail them, that don't make sense for them, that don't give

them the education and the qualifications they think they are going to receive. So very often they are failed by these programs, and they fail to complete their courses and leave with mountains of debt but no degree.

These kinds of abuses that bring us here today involve some for-profit schools in effect scamming our Nation's veterans.

We all know that for-profit schools are prohibited from receiving more than 90 percent of their total revenue from Federal student aid, but, as my colleagues have so well stated, the Department of Defense and Veterans' Administration education benefits are not counted toward that 90 percent. That loophole causes the for-profits to target those servicemembers and veterans, often with predatory marketing practices that lure them into those deals that make no sense for them.

We need to change that law. We need to change the law so that DOD and VA benefits count under the 90-percent cap on Federal revenue. That is really our ultimate goal.

I thank the President for including such a provision in his budget request for fiscal year 2016. I look forward to working with my colleagues and with the President in moving that legislative effort forward.

In the meantime, we need a more accurate picture of this problem because when it comes to for-profit schools and veterans, there are some things we definitely need to know and our veterans need to know.

Here is what we do know. We know there are a large number of for-profit schools that would be in violation of the 90-10 rule if we made this change today. In fact, a 2013 Department of Education analysis identified 133 for-profit schools that would be in violation. We also know that the current loophole in that 90-10 rule creates those incentives for certain institutions to conduct aggressive, relentless, often predatory recruitment of veterans.

What we lack and what we need is comprehensive, complete information on the exact scope of the problem. That part should be easy. The Department of Education already collects the information we are asking them to publish. It is a simple task of publishing how much revenue schools receive from all Federal education programs, including the DOD and the VA. That would bring accuracy and transparency to the debate over the 90-10 rule. Disclosure and transparency are part of the battle. Most importantly, this information and these statistics would provide veterans themselves and servicemembers better data and information to make informed choices about higher education.

Let me briefly mention another tool that I think is very important because it encourages veterans to make in-

formed higher education choices, and that is the VA's GI bill comparison tool. I am glad—and I thank Secretary McDonald—the VA has launched this vitally important resource for veterans in response to the President's Executive order, which established principles of excellence for schools that serve veterans. I also think Secretary McDonald can take steps to improve this tool, specifically by adding a risk index that would highlight unscrupulous bad actors in the industry.

As our Nation's veterans decide where to spend their taxpayer-funded education benefits—their money but taxpayer funded—they deserve to know if the school they are considering is under investigation for deceptive practices, what its record is on this score, what its graduates do, what the value is of education and courses there. They deserve to know if the school they are considering has been placed on heightened cash monitoring status, a specific status from the Department of Education. They deserve to have this information. It is vital not only to them but to their smart use of taxpayer dollars.

Let me finish by saying that for-profit schools have been problematic in many ways. The Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, on which I served during my first 2 years, conducted an investigation. I was very proud to be a part of the effort to reform for-profit schools. Our former colleague Tom Harkin worked very hard on this issue.

We should not tar every for-profit school with too broad a brush. We should note improvements that have been made. This problem is discrete, identifiable, critically important, and I thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to talk about it and work with them on it.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator CARPER, and I also thank Senator LEE, who has waited patiently for the last 15 minutes or so. I will conclude my part of this by first saying that I thank my colleagues for joining me.

If I said we were dealing with an industry—the for-profit colleges and universities—that has 10 percent of the high school graduates in America attending and 44 percent of all the student loan defaults, it might raise some question. If I said that at least 90 percent of the revenue these for-profit colleges and universities receive is often from the Federal Treasury, a Federal subsidy—sometimes more than 90 percent, which is the point we are making here—and if I said that many of these schools are literally exploiting our veterans and servicemembers, I think that is a clarion call for Members of Congress to stand up and first do something to protect the men and women in uniform and the veterans and second to make sure taxpayers' dollars are well spent.

This Corinthian College collapse is an indication of how we can lose \$1.4 billion a year for a worthless college system, for-profit college system.

If I said at the end of the day that I don't know what the term "crony capitalism" means—I will go and look it up after this speech, but it looks to me as if they are calling themselves private schools. They might as well be Federal agencies and, as such, should be held accountable.

I thank my colleagues for joining me.

Mr. CARPER. If I can add just one thing, Mr. President, 5 years ago, 6 years ago, our Federal budget deficit hit \$1.4 trillion. It has come down since, bit by bit. Now it is down by about two-thirds. But it is still a lot—like \$400 billion or so. That is a lot of money.

I think the key to further reducing deficits is threefold: No. 1, tax reform that broadens the base and lowers the corporate rates so we are competitive with the rest of the world but also generates some revenues for deficit reduction.

No. 2, entitlement reform that saves money and saves programs for our children and grandchildren and doesn't savage old people or poor people.

No. 3, look at everything we do in the Federal Government and say: How do we get a better result with less money? This is one of those things we need to look at and put under a microscope.

Again, are all for-profit schools bad? No, they are not all bad. Some do a very good job. But we have millions of jobs out here in this country waiting to be filled. We have a lot of people who would like to have a job and don't have the skills. We are spending a ton of money through the GI bill and tuition assistance, and we need to better ensure that the folks—particularly who are veterans—are getting their money's worth and that we are getting our money's worth and that we are getting the workforce we need to fill up those millions of jobs.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would add one last note. My colleague Senator DURBIN has very appropriately mentioned the Corinthian debacle. We should note that this debacle is not an innocent failure. It is not a victimless debacle. Behind that staggering number of \$1.2 billion are thousands of real people with huge debt and no value in the courses they have taken in terms of a degree that can give them marketable qualifications. There are real-life stories of huge debt, no degrees, and people who are tragically trapped in financial situations really beyond their own fault because of this situation.

So that, too, is a phenomenon we need to keep in mind when we talk about this 90-10 rule. Those veterans who are failed, who are marketed to, who are lured into this system are often left in tragic situations that they don't deserve and that they wouldn't

have undertaken if they had been well-informed, which is what ultimately this Nation owes them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendments and call up amendments Nos. 1141, 1145, and 1148 on behalf of Senator RUBIO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Senator CORKER and I have been working very hard to get amendments considered in a very orderly way. We have three amendments that are pending. We are attempting to get to those amendments in a way that we can have votes. We do not want a lot of amendments pending while we are debating certain amendments. For that reason, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to speak on the legislation before the Senate, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, and I specifically want to create a focus for our colleagues on the essential question before the Senate. The essential question before the Senate is, Does the Senate want to have a role in opining upon any agreement that may be concluded between the United States and the P5+1 and Iran? Right now, there is no clear mechanism for the Senate and the Congress of the United States to have a say about that potential final agreement.

The reality is that an Iran that does not have nuclear weapons capability is an Iran that at the end of the day enures to a status in which the national security of the United States is better preserved and in which our ally the State of Israel's security is better preserved. But, in fact, an Iran that does have nuclear weapons capability is a national security threat to the United States and to the State of Israel, our ally, which clearly would face an existential threat.

The problem is that many of us, myself included—personally, I abhor the Iranian regime. I abhor its human rights abuses. I abhor its promotion of terrorism in the world. I abhor that

they are holding U.S. citizens hostage and so much more. But as much as I abhor all of that reality, what I really have a concern about is the Senate not having a say over any final agreement, particularly when I have some serious reservations about where this framework agreement to this date takes us; the questions of the differences in views between the P5+1 and Iran about what the framework agreement says and doesn't say; the reality, it seems to me from what I read, that Iran can advance in its research and development in a way that ultimately allows them to have, for example, centrifuges that can spin more efficiently, more quickly, and therefore reduce the breakout time; my concern about the question of what happens after 10 years—are we, in essence, relegated to a nuclear-armed Iran; my concern about what I understood was a threshold redline issue in which the International Atomic Energy Administration was going to have anytime, anyplace, anywhere inspections based upon any agreement; and many other elements.

But all of those concerns—and we will see whether a final agreement, if there is a final agreement, ultimately addresses those concerns—will be for naught in terms of having a way to express my concerns if, in fact, there is no process that ultimately creates the potential for a judgment on any final agreement and an action in response to that judgment and a continuing oversight obligation and opportunity for the Senate.

So while I abhor all of the things on which many of my colleagues offer amendments, this is not necessarily the only Iran piece of legislation we have to consider. But if we want to have a say on the fundamental question of any potential agreement, then don't load up this legislation that came out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously. And God knows we don't get too many unanimous votes in this Chamber, much less in committees. And the good work of Senator CORKER as the chairman and the work of Senator CARDIN in the negotiations and, I would like to believe, many of us who were on this legislation before we got to this point and some of us who have been following Iran since my days in the House of Representatives—ultimately, that was the type of structured process that creates a say for the Senate and for the Congress in a meaningful way.

Could we seek other legislation to deal with Iran's terrorism? The answer is yes, even though this legislation has reporting requirements to ensure that we have senses of that and, most importantly, doesn't repeal any other sanctions that may be related to terrorism, which was my original concern when we had language as it related to the question of terrorism.

Do we have the opportunity to look at Iran's missile capacity and program

and what that means to the national security of the United States and our allies and the State of Israel? Yes.

Do we have the opportunity to continue to express ourselves about Iran's use of its resources not for its people but to promote terrorism in the world? Yes.

Does it all have to be in this legislation? No. Because what we are going to do is sink the legislation, and there will be no say, there will be no opportunity to deal with any potential final agreement.

As the author, along with others, of the sanctions regime that brought Iran to the table in the first place to discuss it—I always find it interesting because I hear the administration at times talk in two ways about the sanctions regime: Either the sanctions regime cannot be enhanced because to do so would break the coalition, and by the same token—and don't expect that Iran would respond to any further sanctions—by the same token, I hear that the reason Iran is at the negotiating table and wants to strike a deal as an expression of their sincerity is because of the sanctions. So you can't have it both ways.

By the way, I have often heard that any enhancing of the sanctions regime would ultimately lead to a breaking of the coalition. I heard that many times before, and that sanctions regime didn't create that.

But I am willing to forgo enhanced sanctions at this time to get the fundamental opportunity of the Senate having a say on any final agreement because that is the threshold question—whether we will have a say on the most important nuclear nonproliferation national security issue, I would say, of our time.

So I hope my colleagues, as earnest as I believe they are in some of their amendments, understand that at the end of the day, pursuit of such an amendment, however worthy it might be, would sink the very opportunity to have a law in place that would give us a process and a say, because there is none right now.

So whether you want to change this to a treaty, which has all types of other legal consequences to it far beyond—I don't think people have thought that through because far beyond, a treaty has legal requirements on both sides or multiple sides when you enter into a treaty. I don't know that I want Iran having that legal precedent or ability to use against the United States at any given time if things don't go the way we want them to. I don't know that, in fact, I want to have a set of circumstances in which Iran can ultimately rear its ugly head by the use of our own very same purposes in legislation, which I think people haven't thought about fully, the unintended consequence of some of their legitimate goals, haven't thought



it fully through. But most of all, I don't think they have thought about the consequences of the Senate not having a say on any final agreement. That, to me, is paramount.

So I hope very much that as our colleagues are considering this—I am sure the chairman and the ranking member will try to work, when appropriate, with individual Members who ultimately may have language that doesn't strike at the heart of the legislation, that may be able to be accommodated, that may enhance it. By the same token, we have to decide whether we want a political victory or a national security victory.

If we want a national security victory, then we will try to keep the legislation that came out on a unanimous bipartisan version from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee pretty much intact. If we want a political victory to say that someone is stronger than someone else or one group is stronger than someone else about national security or about our support of the State of Israel—for which I take a backseat to no one in this Chamber—then we can have that opportunity, but that will mean not having a final say on any agreement, and that, I think, would be of historical proportion a huge mistake.

So I look forward to the debate that continues. I hope we can keep a measured look. I am happy to work with other colleagues who want to further advance issues which I think are legitimate as it relates to Iran but not necessarily as it relates to the determinative factor as to whether we will have a say on any potential final agreement as it relates to a nuclear agreement with Iran. I think that is paramount. I hope we don't lose sight of it. I hope we can have the same strong, incredibly bipartisan votes that we have had on Iran because that sends a clear message to our allies as to our expectations, it sends a clear message to Iran of what we will expect and the standard that we will hold them up to. Anything short of that will only create the opportunity for those who have a different vision about what we seek to achieve to try to accomplish it. I do not think we want that. I do not think that is anybody's intention. I do not judge anyone in terms of their intent. I only ask to think about the consequences to our greater goal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent in a moment.

First, I would like to thank the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, who has been as much as anybody in this entire congressional body, both House and Senate—actually he and Senator KIRK have been stalwarts on Iran. Without his efforts, we would not

even be in a negotiation right now. I cannot thank him enough for his positive contributions, for his leadership as ranking member and chairman. I want to thank him.

AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 6:10 p.m. today be equally divided in the usual form and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the following amendment: Johnson amendment No. 1150; further, that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment and that it require a 60-affirmative-vote threshold for adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, if I could follow up, I have been in extensive conversations with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who I know has tremendous respect on this side of the aisle. She sent out a release today in response to this amendment that is coming before us today that the proposed Iranian nuclear agreement is classically an executive agreement and does not need to be a treaty with the advice and consent of the Senate—this is our former Secretary of State under George W. Bush—but Congress should be able to opine, given the congressionally mandated sanctions would have to be lifted. I think everybody on our side of the aisle understands that with four tranches of sanctions that Congress put in place—we brought them to the table with Senator MENENDEZ leading that effort, and in each of those cases, which is traditionally done, we gave a national security waiver. No one ever thought the President would use the national security waiver to kick the can down the road for years on the congressionally mandated sanctions without our approval. But everybody in this body who has been here in recent times participated in giving the President—if you voted for these sanctions and in some cases they were unanimous—the unilateral ability to waive the sanctions.

If we pass this underlying bill, on which we now have 67 cosponsors, we are taking back that authority. But to try to deem this as a treaty is a losing effort. In essence, it will destroy our ability—it will destroy our ability to have any say-so, as the Senator just mentioned, in one of the biggest geopolitical events of our time.

If this amendment were to pass, the outcome would be no limitation on the President's use of waivers to suspend the sanctions we put in place, none—no requirement that Congress receive the deal at all, never mind the classified annexes that go with it but which, by the way, the American people will never see—will never see, but on their behalf we would like to see—no review period for Congress to seal the deal and

vote before it is implemented, no requirement that the President certify Iran is complying, no mechanism for Congress to rapidly reimpose sanctions, and no reporting on Iran's support for terrorism, ballistic missile development, and human rights violations.

I just want to say to my friends, voting for this treaty is, in essence, saying that we are willing to throw what has been put together aside, even though we have 67 cosponsors. Look, I wish we had the ability to vote affirmatively, but we gave that away. Almost everybody in this body was a part of giving that national security waiver away.

This is an executive agreement. Our former Secretary of State, whom we love and cherish, says this is an executive agreement. We can wish it was a treaty or we can try to deem it as a treaty, but the effect is we will have no role if we were to pass this amendment by JOHNSON, a friend of mine. We will have no role in this.

I urge people to vote no. I know there will be debate between now and 6:10. I appreciate the ranking member being here with me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I want to join Senator CORKER in thanking Senator MENENDEZ for his leadership on this issue—I said that on previous occasions on the floor—clearly, his leadership, working with Senator CORKER and working with Senator KAINE, who developed the bill for the appropriate review for Congress. I wish to thank Senator MENENDEZ very much for all of his hard work on this bill.

I want to identify myself with the comments of Senator CORKER in opposition to the Johnson amendment. But let me give you one more reason. I respect the intent of those who support this amendment, but let me tell you what it means. It means that if this were, in fact, a treaty, we would be saying that we would be delegating to other entities the decision on whether to eliminate the sanction regime we in Congress imposed.

I have listened to my colleagues, particularly on the Republican side, who say they do not want to delegate that authority, that Congress should keep its legislative authority.

If you believe Congress should keep its legislative authority, that it is up to us to determine whether we are going to change or eliminate or modify the sanction regime, then you cannot be for a treaty because a treaty would give away that power. I do not think you really mean to do that, but that is the intent, if this were to be turned into a treaty, that we would be giving up our power.

Secondly, I don't know how we are going to explain it to our colleagues in the House of Representatives. The Presiding Officer served in the House. I

served in the House. Senator MENENDEZ served in the House. The last time I checked, we imposed these sanctions because a bill passed both the Senate and the House, and now we are saying that the approval process is going to ignore the House of Representatives, solely going to be a matter for the U.S. Senate on a ratification of a treaty? That does not seem like a workable solution.

My point is to concur in the observations of Senator CORKER. This is clearly an amendment that if it were adopted would say we are not going to have an orderly review process for Congress to be able to weigh in. We are not going to be able to get the material to set up the logical review by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that we are going to lose all the benefits of this bipartisan bill if this amendment were to be approved.

For all those reasons, I would urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. I think I have about 1 minute remaining. I will be glad to yield that to Senator JOHNSON, if he would like to have a minute and a half to try to rehabilitate his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Maryland yielding time.

If I could ask a question, if this amendment fails in terms of involving the House, I have another amendment that if the Senate decides not to deem this a treaty—and I believe it should be deemed a treaty—we can also deem this a congressional executive agreement which, of course, would have to be voted on by both Houses.

I think the fact is this does rise to the level of a treaty. Again, there is no specific criteria in terms of what creates a treaty or comprises a treaty and what doesn't. In the end, what determines whether something is a treaty is how it is approved by Congress.

From my standpoint, when we take a look at the considerations in the Foreign Affairs Manual, in terms of what actually causes something to become a treaty, the extent to which the agreement involves commitments or risks affects the Nation as a whole. I think this deal between Iran and America and the world affects and risks—certainly affects the Nation as a whole.

Another consideration is whether the agreement can be given effect without the enactment of subsequent legislation by the Congress. I think the fact that we are even debating this bill lends credence to the fact that Congress needs to be involved.

In the end, though, it is not about involving Congress. This is about involving the American people. I think the American people should have a say through their elected officials as to whether this is a good deal or a bad deal. The fact that this bill does allow

some involvement, some role, forces the administration to, for example, provide us the details of the bill. Can you imagine the arrogance that they would not even provide the details without this bill?

Again, I appreciate the Senator yielding time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 167 Leg.]

YEAS—39

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Heller	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott
Collins	Kirk	Sessions
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	McConnell	Thune
Daines	Moran	Tillis
Enzi	Murkowski	Toomey
Fischer	Paul	Vitter
Gardner	Portman	Wicker

NAYS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Merkley
Ayotte	Feinstein	Murphy
Baldwin	Flake	Murray
Bennet	Franken	Nelson
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Perdue
Booker	Hatch	Peters
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Manchin	Udall
Coons	Markey	Warner
Corker	McCain	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Mikulski
Graham	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The majority whip.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the evidence of climate disruption caused by carbon pollution is clear and overwhelming. Yet the Senate is sleepwalking through this history. I am here today for the 97th time to say that we must wake up. Climate disruptions are felt in every corner of the globe, from the ocean floor to the reaches of the atmosphere and from pole to pole.

Indeed, the United States is an Arctic Nation. We have been so since Secretary of State Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1878 for about \$7 million. From our vantage point at the Arctic Circle, we are witnessing some of the direst climate disruptions.

The Arctic region has been warming now for decades, twice as fast as the rest of the planet. Alaska's warmest year on record was 2014, going back to at least 1918. Here I am talking about measurements, not a theory. This year the Alaskan winter was so mild that the start of the famous Iditarod race had to be moved from Anchorage to Fairbanks, more than 300 miles to the north, so that the mushers could find snow and hard, frozen rivers to sled on.

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, a project drawing on more than 250 scientists from 15 countries, detailed the risk to the iconic wildlife and landscape of the Arctic. The report's chief scientist said:

Polar bears and other highly adapted organisms cannot move further north, so they may go extinct. We risk losing several species forever.

The report is clear. Climate change is the most serious threat to Arctic biodiversity and to its fisheries and tourism. Arctic warming has wreaked havoc on the ice cover of the Arctic terrain and ocean.

Look at the Greenland ice sheet. In 2012, the National Snow and Ice Data Center recorded melting over a larger area than ever in more than 30 years of satellite observation.

Here is a map of the average annual days of melting across the Greenland ice sheet from 1979 to 2007. That is the average. Here is 2012. Some areas, such as along here, the southwestern coast, saw more than 120 days of melting in 2012. Scientists estimate that the water pouring out of this ice sheet accounts for 30 percent of current global sea level rise. If the entire Greenland ice sheet were to melt, the seas would rise 6 meters.

Here is what 20 feet of sea level rise would look like for the east coast. Much of Rhode Island's coastline here would be lost. Florida, ground zero for climate change, would lose the entire southern region of the State. Here is Miami, completely underwater. Here is Tallahassee's new oceanfront.

Sea ice in the Arctic, not just land ice, is also in full retreat. Our scientists at NASA track disappearing sea ice using satellites. Since NASA started measurements in 1979, Arctic ice coverage has diminished in almost all regions and seasons. The winter record low ever—ever—was this March.

The ice is not just a feature of the Arctic landscape. It supports the way of life of Native people. Thinning ice, dangerous to traverse, threatens traditional sustenance such as quail hunting. Sea ice protects the shoreline from powerful ocean storms and waves. As that ice barrier fades away, land and infrastructure flood and wash away. Entire villages are facing wholesale relocation, as Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska has indicated on the floor. It is the climate that has sustained them for generations that is being disrupted.

A new national security theater has opened in the Arctic as melting ice frees up the Northwest Passage for transportation and shipping, for new fishing grounds, and for its natural resources. The Departments of Homeland Security and Defense need new strategies and equipment to protect American interests in this new theater.

In 2013, the Pentagon released its "Arctic Strategy." Then Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, the former Republican Senator, said:

Climate change is shifting the landscape in the Arctic more rapidly than anywhere else in the world. While the Arctic temperature rise is relatively small in absolute terms, its effects are significant—transforming what was a frozen desert into an evolving navigable ocean, giving rise to an unprecedented level of human activity.

His words are echoed by former Coast Guard Commandant ADM Robert Papp, Jr., who is now the U.S. Special Representative to the Arctic Region. It is his job to help manage risk in this remote but increasingly accessible region of the world. He had this to say about the disruptions of the Arctic climate:

I am not a scientist. I can read what scientists say, but I am in the world of consequence management. My first turn in Alaska was thirty-nine years ago, and during the summertime we had to break ice to get up to the Bering Strait and to get to Kotzebue. Thirty-five years later, going up there as commandant, we flew into Kotzebue at the same time of year; I could not see ice anywhere. So it is clear to me there are changes happening, but I have to deal with the consequences of that.

Last weekend, Secretary Kerry headed to the Canadian city of Iqaluit to assume the chair of the Arctic Council on behalf of the United States. The Arctic Council is the international forum for

Arctic nations to work together to ensure a secure and sustainable Arctic future. Secretary Kerry made it clear that climate disruption would be a focus for America's chairmanship, saying plainly:

The ability of future generations to be able to adapt, live, and prosper in the Arctic the way people have for thousands of years is tragically but actually in jeopardy. . . . So if we want to know where the problem begins, all we have to do is look in the mirror.

Secretary Kerry sees this problem for what it is and knows we need to lead in addressing climate change. Congress, too, should seize the opportunity to do big things, to understand the changes that are occurring, and to protect against these climate disruptions. Our executive homeland and national security leaders must deal in real world consequences. So should we. They do not have the privilege of shrugging off serious risk analysis; neither should we.

But the big polluters and their front organizations ignore the consequences of carbon pollution, cherry pick the evidence, and traffic in denial, doubt, and delay. Deniers are quick to point out that Antarctic sea ice is increasing while Arctic sea ice is melting. But the fact is that, overall, the globe is losing sea ice at a rapid pace. Since satellite measurements began, the planet has been losing sea ice at an average rate of 13,500 square miles per year.

The deniers usually also leave out the melting of the great ice sheets of Antarctica. Remember, sea ice floats on the sea and its melting does not much raise the sea level. Ice sheets rest on land. Their melting adds to the seas. Scientists now warn that the melting of some of those massive Antarctic ice sheets may have "passed the point of no return."

Rhode Island has already experienced nearly 10 inches of sea level rise. The implications of an Arctic ice sheet melting are measured in feet, not inches. Many thought that the Alaska Purchase was a mistake. Some called it "Seward's folly." But Secretary Seward had vision when he secured Alaska for the United States, and now it is a treasured part of this great Nation.

We in Congress, in the Senate, should try to see through the haze of polluter influence and muster some vision ourselves on what scientists and world leaders alike call the greatest challenge of our time. The United States should be leading—not stalled by special-interest politics. Secretary Kerry knows we should lead. He has made fighting carbon pollution a priority for the State Department in the lead-up to the global climate talks in Paris this fall. More than 100 Democratic Members of Congress sent a letter last month to the President, supporting U.S. leadership in these talks. We told the President: "We stand ready to help you seize this opportunity to strength-

en the global response to climate change."

But what do our Republican colleagues try to do? They try to undermine American leadership. The majority leader openly warned other countries that the United States would not be able to meet its climate plan and that they should proceed with caution before entering into a binding, unattainable deal. It is past time to take action. The price of being wrong on this will be very high, particularly if the reason turns out, in the eyes of history and of our fellow nations, to have been partisan politics and special-interest influence.

One of America's great powers is the power of our example. What a sickening example we are setting now. Our inaction is our folly. It is, indeed, time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor a longtime champion of Arkansas, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 92 after a long life as a dedicated public servant.

As a member of the "greatest generation," John Paul served as a combat pilot during World War II and was a decorated war hero. As a Congressman from the Third District of Arkansas for 26 years and the only Republican member of the delegation at the time, he worked across the aisle to provide infrastructure and various improvements to Arkansas, paving the way for the growth in the northwest corner of the State.

Even following his retirement more than 20 years ago, John Paul continued to serve the people, who fondly referred to him as "JPH." He always put Arkansas first. His vision for a two-party system in Arkansas led him to seek elected office. He paved the way for the Republican Party in the State, and his vision continues to be realized as the party continues its growth in the State.

"John Paul" is a name that is just as familiar in Arkansas as it is to my colleagues in the Senate who served with him before serving in this Chamber as well as the many Members in the House who worked alongside him during his years of elected service and through decades more of providing assistance to his beloved Arkansas.

You would have been hard-pressed to find a kinder, gentler man than John Paul Hammerschmidt. As a mentor and friend, John Paul's wisdom and counsel have shaped my Washington experience more than anyone else. When I ran for Congress in 2001, I sought John Paul out for advice. I quickly learned, as a newly elected Member of Congress for the Third District of Arkansas, how fond his former colleagues were of him. Senior Members of the House of Representatives had so much respect for him that they welcomed me into their inner circle because he had given his approval.

It was John Paul who taught me that after the election is over, there are no more Republicans, no more Democrats, there are only the people of Arkansas. His dedication to his constituents during his career of public service was unmatched and is a marker we should all strive to meet. During his time in Congress, he served in the minority, but he would disagree without being disagreeable.

I always valued John Paul's friendship and his continued advice.

John Paul set the standard for helping Arkansans. That bar is something members of the Arkansas congressional delegation continue to strive toward today.

His vision to improve life for Arkansans led him to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee as well as the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. By the time he retired, he served as the latter's ranking member.

Using his position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he helped secure funds for roads and infrastructure projects, including Interstate 540, which now bears his name, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, as well as protecting the Buffalo River and getting a designation as the first national river.

John Paul left big shoes to fill. He believed he could make a difference in the lives of Arkansans because he believed in loving his fellow man. We are capitalizing on the benefits he helped provide—a testament to his time in Washington.

From all Arkansans, I thank John Paul for his devotion to public service, his leadership, and his dedication to Arkansas. His example is something we should continue to strive for in Washington.

#### REMEMBERING SERGEANT EDWARD GOBEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of SGT Edward Gobel, a long-time resident of Las Vegas, NV, who passed away on April 1, 2015. Ed Gobel was a man whose strong sense of duty to his Nation drove him to continuously seek new ways to help others and improve his community, and I am

grateful for his years of service. He will truly be missed.

Sergeant Gobel proudly served in the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam war. After his military service left him confined to a wheelchair, he drew from his personal experiences to help enact positive change in Las Vegas. He became a leading advocate for military veterans and the disabled in Nevada. Recognizing the importance of being involved in his community, Sergeant Gobel took on numerous roles, from director of the Council of Nevada Veterans Organizations to State commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War. His tireless efforts to push key bills through the Nevada Legislature, such as a bill to create Nevada's first veterans home, earned him the Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2003. And in 2014, he was honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Gold Medallion for his giving nature and commitment to service. I am impressed by Sergeant Gobel's investment in the people and issues that mattered most to him and by his continuous belief that change was possible.

Sergeant Gobel is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Caryl Gobel, along with his sister, children, and grandchildren. My thoughts are with his family as they celebrate him and a life well lived.

#### MARRIAGE EQUALITY CASES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this morning, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the marriage equality cases. The legal principle at stake is whether the 14th Amendment to the Constitution protects marriages between individuals of the same sex. But at the heart, these cases represent something more fundamental. They are about the right of every American to marry the person they love and to have their relationships treated with the respect and dignity to which every American is entitled.

I am proud that my home State of Vermont has embraced love, equality, and freedom in its active and leading role on marriage equality. In 2000, Vermont was the first in the Nation to provide for civil unions. As the years went by, Vermont came to see that civil unions were insufficient to provide the protections all American couples are entitled to, and in 2009, the Vermont Legislature on a bipartisan vote was the first State legislature to enact marriage equality into law. Vermont, which has led by example, is now one of 37 States and the District of Columbia that recognizes marriage equality.

While the arguments in the cases today analyzed legal principles and precedent, we should remember that they are ultimately about love and rec-

ognizing the extraordinary commitment between two people. Jim Obergefell had been with his partner, John Arthur, for over 20 years. They wanted to marry, but the marriage laws in their home State of Ohio would not allow it. Bedridden and incapacitated with ALS, John could neither drive nor fly commercially to get married in another State. It took the generosity of friends and family, along with the kindness of coworkers and others, to cover the cost of a \$12,700 chartered, medically equipped private plane.

After more than 20 years together, Jim and John finally married during a seven and one-half minute ceremony in an airplane at a Baltimore airport. Upon their return to Ohio, the State refused to recognize their marriage. And John passed away just a few months later. Jim, now a widower, should not have to live in a State like Vermont to be able to have his 20-year relationship validated and recognized by the State. He should not have had to fly to another State to say his vows and pledge his commitment to his partner. Jim's current fight—and our current fight—is to show that relationships like his should be treated with the same respect and dignity that has been accorded to all other Americans. It is to persuade the Supreme Court to live up to the motto engraved in Vermont marble above its own building, which declares "Equal Justice Under Law."

Nearly five decades ago when the Supreme Court decided *Loving v. Virginia*, the Court recognized that:

Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as [ ] racial classifications . . . is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State.

In the marriage equality cases heard today, the Court has a simple job to do. It need only apply these same constitutional principles to hold that the same principle applies equally regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

When the Supreme Court issues its decision this summer, I am hopeful that it will be another landmark moment demonstrating that ours is a more perfect union when it is a more inclusive union. And that the name Obergefell will come to signify love, equality, and freedom the same way it does when *Loving* and *Windsor* are invoked.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am objecting to consideration of the nomination of Brodi Fontenot to be Chief

Financial Officer of the Treasury Department.

In May 2014, I found out about questionable hiring practices at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN. The problem occurred after the agency posted job requirements for openings in the enforcement division. Eligible candidates were disqualified for a criterion that was never in the original job posting: a law degree. This is illegal under Federal hiring guidelines.

In the process, FinCEN rejected qualified veterans who applied for the positions. Instead, FinCEN hired three former Federal prosecutors for the positions. Veterans preference doesn't guarantee veterans a job, but it does give them extra consideration for jobs for which they are qualified. The unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans is significantly higher than the rate for the general population. These men and women are extremely capable. They have an array of job skills to offer in the workplace. It is inexcusable for FinCEN or any other Federal agency to reject qualified veterans who faithfully served our country. Our veterans deserve better from the Obama administration.

As part of my investigation, I requested all emails sent between the Treasury Department and FinCEN pertaining to this issue. To date, I have received a total of four emails. The Treasury Department has tried to convince me that no other relevant emails exist, but I am still not convinced. Their search was limited to only the 8 months when the vacancy announcements were open. This excluded any email communications that took place in preparation for posting the announcements or during 2014 when problems with the announcements were found.

As a result, I placed a hold on the former Assistant Secretary for Management at the Treasury Department who was nominated to be Deputy Secretary at HUD. Instead of simply providing the requested documents so that I could release the hold, former Majority Leader REID ignored what was done to veterans and pushed through the nomination over my objections.

In January 2015, I requested any emails sent between FinCEN and main Treasury using alternate email and handheld devices, as well as any email messages that were printed and saved by FinCEN but no longer retained in the electronic email system. The response from the Treasury Department outlined the Federal Government's records retention regulations but did not include any of the requested documents.

This is unacceptable. Therefore, I am objecting to consideration of Mr. Fontenot's nomination.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the nomination of Dr. Dava Newman to be the Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. I missed the vote yesterday because I was meeting with turkey growers in Minnesota who are struggling with the avian influenza outbreak, and I attended the funeral services for my long-time friend, colleague and mentor, John Mooty. My vote would not have changed the outcome and had I been present I would have voted in support of Dr. Newman's nomination.

The work being done at NASA pushes the boundaries of innovation, science, and exploration, and it is critical we have strong leaders like Dr. Newman in place to lead those initiatives. Dr. Newman is well known for her cutting-edge work in developing the next generation of space suits. As a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and engineering systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Newman will bring a strong academic, research, and technical background to this position. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, I supported Dr. Newman's nomination when it was considered by the committee earlier this year. I am pleased that Dr. Newman was confirmed by the Senate to be the Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

#### STEVE GLEASON ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I support the Steve Gleason Act, which passed the Senate last week. I would especially like to thank Senator VITTER for championing this important legislation that will ensure patients on Medicare have access to critical speech-generating devices.

I am so glad that we were able to come together to pass this bipartisan bill and take an important step toward giving patients their voices back.

For Americans affected by debilitating diseases, speech-generating devices aren't a luxury—they are a lifeline. Without these devices, many people who are suffering from diseases like ALS and Parkinson's can't communicate with their family members, caregivers and friends. Many patients use their devices in conjunction with eye gaze technology because they no longer have use of their hands, arms, and other parts of their body. And these new technologies allow patients to use the Internet and email—technologies most of us take for granted but are crucial to help keep patients connected with their communities.

Unfortunately, recent policy changes have threatened patients' access to these important devices and associated technologies.

Under the new policy, Medicare will stop paying for speech-generating de-

vices if a patient is admitted to a hospital, nursing facility, or hospice. It is at this time that patients are most vulnerable and most in need of being able to communicate with their doctors, caregivers, and loved ones.

I have heard heartbreaking stories of patients who have lost their ability to communicate when they enter a care facility. One person told of having to put her mother in hospice care. When her mother entered hospice, Medicare would no longer cover her mother's device. The daughter was devastated that she could no longer understand what her mother was saying. She could tell how frustrated her mother was by this new isolation, but she was helpless to do anything about it.

I have also heard from people who have decided to forego treatment in hospice or a nursing home because they would rather suffer at home than lose their voice. This is simply unacceptable.

That is why I have worked with Senator VITTER to restore full access to speech-generating devices for those who need them.

The Steve Gleason Act will ensure that patients have continuous access to their speech-generating devices, no matter where they are receiving treatment. And the bill will allow patients to use eye-tracking technology with their devices—technology that is vital for patients who can no longer use their arms or hands.

Ultimately, these changes will ensure that Americans who have been robbed of their ability to speak by diseases like ALS aren't also robbed of relationships with their caregivers and loved ones.

Again, I thank my colleagues in the Senate for passing this important bill and I urge the House to pass this legislation and give patients their voices back.

#### REMEMBERING SHAWN PHILLIP SOMITS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I honor the life and service of Shawn Phillip Somits of Muncy, PA, a Federal corrections officer at USP Allenwood and a U.S. Army veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, whose life tragically ended on April 2, 2015.

Shawn Somits was born on July 1, 1975, in Williamsport, PA, the son of John and Charlotte Somits, of Muncy. Shawn was a 1994 graduate of Muncy High School and attended both Penn College and Bucknell University. In 2003, Shawn married his wife, Daisy, and welcomed the birth of his first child, Faith. At this time, Shawn was dutifully serving his country in OIF/OEF in the U.S. Army, where he was deployed to both Iraq and Kuwait from February 2003 until April of 2004. Upon his return from deployment in 2004,

Shawn entered into Federal service with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a corrections officer at USP Allenwood, where he would serve for nearly 11 years.

Shawn Somits' life ended suddenly and tragically on April 2, 2015, following a long battle with post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, suffered as a result from his combat service. He is survived by his wife, Daisy, and their two children, Faith and Wesley.

Today I express my condolences to the family of Shawn Somits and honor Shawn's service to his country both as a combat veteran and a Federal law enforcement officer. Tragic losses such as this provide us a chance to reflect on the sacrifices dedicated public servants like Shawn make in order to keep us all safe from harm. Shawn Somits was a dedicated soldier, officer, husband, and father. His loss leaves a deep void in the lives of those who knew and loved Shawn.

#### MONROE COUNTY, OHIO BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Monroe County, OH, as it celebrates its bicentennial anniversary. On January 29, 1813, an act to form the County of Monroe made up of parts of Belmont, Washington, and Guernsey Counties was passed by the Ohio Legislature.

Although Monroe County had already been established, it did not function as a county until it was officially organized in 1815. On February 3, 1815, an act was passed by the Ohio Legislature to attach another part of Washington County to Monroe County and to organize Monroe into a separate county. The act went into effect on March 1, 1815, which was when Monroe began to formally function as a county. Residents named the county in honor of James Monroe, who at the time was U.S. Secretary of State and eventually became the fourth President of the United States. However, the official bicentennial celebration begins this month since the first Monroe County officials were elected in April of 1815.

I congratulate the citizens of Monroe County and all who are involved in planning the yearlong celebration, which will feature a variety of events recognizing 200 years of history and heritage throughout Monroe County.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the construction industry plays a major role in promoting economic growth, employing workers across a variety of trades, and literally building commu-

nities. It is a noble profession, yet today it remains one of the most dangerous occupations. Building codes and workplace safety regulations have made great strides but there is more to be done. We all share a responsibility to ensure that men and women who offer their most valuable asset—their labor—not only earn fair wages but also work in safe environments so they can safely return home after every shift.

I am proud that in my hometown of Portland, OR, various public, private and nonprofit stakeholders have formed the SafeBuild Alliance to promote and share best practices for worksite safety. This collaboration is so important because we know that with proper planning, communication and controls, reducing workplace injuries and fatalities is not only possible, it is already happening.

The SafeBuild Alliance is leading the way with its Zero Incidents Through Collaboration initiative, which facilitates safe performance by promoting the sharing of best practices among industry professionals. From general contractors to property owners, public and private entities, architects and engineers, to building and construction trade associations, industry vendors and insurers—everyone has a role in promoting safe worksites.

It is my great privilege to recognize the Safebuild Alliance for their work and advocacy for safe workplaces on behalf of all our workers engaged in the construction industry. Safety must be priority No. 1, every job, every day. And to further heighten awareness, I am pleased to offer my support in the official observance of May 3 to 9, 2015 as Construction Industry Safety Week.●

#### REMEMBERING DICK GINSBURG

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to honor an icon in Oregon's legal community and a long-time friend who passed away on March 1. Dick Ginsburg was a long-time resident of the small Washington County community of Cornelius, and a founding member of the Oregon chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA. Dick was one of those rare human beings who brought both reason and compassion to every issue on which he worked. And I know everyone who met Dick will always remember his engaging smile, his joyful enthusiasm and that infectious laughter—regardless of the issue.

Dick often referred to the lifelong impact he felt from his experience in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, surely much of it attributable to his loving wife of 40 years who he met there, Rosalia. Along with their wonderful children, Brian and Laura, the Ginsburg family was always exceptionally generous and created an extended fam-

ily, not only in Oregon, but everywhere he went.

As a friend during my early days at Legal Aid, Dick showed himself to be a thoughtful, compassionate, and dedicated lawyer. He understood the intricacies of immigration law and devoted his life to making it work with equal justice for businesses and people alike.

While Dick will be remembered by all whose lives he touched, I will especially remember my friend as a mentor, a guiding force, and one of those people who made the world a better place just for being here.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1124. An original bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1105. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1106. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1107. A bill to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include court security officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1109. A bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1110. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1111. A bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1112. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1113. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to remand certain civil actions transferred by the judicial panel on multidistrict litigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1114. A bill to enhance rail safety and provide for the safe transport of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1115. A bill to close out expired, empty grant accounts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1116. A bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. LEE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1117. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REED) (by request):

S. 1118. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of

the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1119. A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1120. A bill to make aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible, deportable, and ineligible for various forms of relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1121. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1122. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education, and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1123. A bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1124. An original bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1125. A bill to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfoot Tribe of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission regulating broadband Internet access; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 152. A resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 153. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Japan relationship to safeguarding global security, prosperity, and human rights; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 171, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT)



and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 497

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes.

S. 525

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to reform the Food for Peace Program, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 564, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include licensed hearing aid specialists as eligible for appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 694

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr.

KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old children employed in logging or mechanized operations from child labor laws.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, *supra*.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 859

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to protect the public, communities across America, and the environment by increasing the safety of crude oil transportation by railroad, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers.

S. 889

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 889, a bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with

respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to allow more small insured depository institutions to qualify for the 18-month on-site examination cycle, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 982, a bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to repeal certain provisions relating to criminal penalties and violations of foreign laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, and for other purposes.

S. 1043

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1043, a bill to ensure that transportation and infrastructure projects carried out using Federal financial assistance are constructed with steel, iron, and manufactured goods that are produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1065

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1065, a bill to amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for the development of asthma management plans and the purchase of asthma inhalers and spacers for emergency use, as necessary.

S. 1071

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to expand the amount available for victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY)

and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 143, a resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

At the request of Mr. RISCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

At the request of Mr. LEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

At the request of Mr. COTTON, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1142

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1142 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1142 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1143

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1143 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1144

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1144 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees

under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1145

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1145 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1145 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1147

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1147 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1148

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1148 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

At the request of Mr. LEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1148 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1150

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1150 proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1151 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include court security officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1108

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Stanley Cooper Death Benefits for Court Security Officers Act".

**SEC. 2. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS.**

Section 1204(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting "or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) a court security officer who is under contract with the United States Marshals Service."

**SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out the amendments made by this Act.

**SEC. 4. APPLICABILITY.**

The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any injury sustained on or after January 1, 2010.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1109. A bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Truth in Settlements Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced earlier today with my colleague from Oklahoma Senator LANKFORD, the Presiding Officer, will help the public hold Federal agencies accountable for settlements they make with corporate wrongdoers.

When companies break the law, Federal enforcement agencies are responsible for holding them accountable. In nearly every instance, agencies choose to resolve cases through settlements rather than a public trial. They defend this practice by arguing that settlements are in the best interest of the American people. That sounds good, but their actions paint a very different picture.

If agencies were truly confident that these settlements were good deals for the public, they would be willing to publicly disclose all of the key details of those agreements. Instead, time after time, agencies do the opposite,

hiding critical details about their settlements in the fine print—or worse, hiding them entirely from public view.

Consider that copies of these agreements or even basic facts about them are not easily accessible online. Many agencies regularly deem agreements confidential without any public explanation of why the public cannot see what has been done in their name. When agencies do make public statements about these agreements, they often trumpet large dollar amounts of money recovered for taxpayers while failing to disclose that this sticker price isn't what the companies will actually pay, since the number that is listed includes credits for engaging in routine activities and doesn't reflect massive tax deductions that many of these companies get.

Add all of these tricks, and you will end with a predictable result. Too often the American people learn only what the agencies want them to learn about these agreements. That is not good enough.

These hidden details can make a huge difference. Below the surface, settlements that seem tough and fair don't always look so impressive.

For example, 2 years ago, Federal regulators entered into a settlement with 10 mortgage servicers accused of illegal foreclosure practices. The sticker price on the settlement was \$8.5 billion. Now, that is a big number. But \$5.2 billion was in the form of credits, or what the agencies described in their press release as "loan modifications and forgiveness of deficiency judgments."

That vague public statement left out a key detail: Servicers could rack up those credits by forgiving mere fractions of large, unpaid loans. For example, a servicer that wrote down \$15,000 of a \$500,000 unpaid loan balance would get a credit for \$500,000—not the \$15,000 that was actually written down. That undisclosed method of calculating credits could end up cutting the overall value of the \$8.5 billion settlement by billions and billions of dollars.

Failure to disclose possible tax deductions is another way agencies can hide the ball. Two years ago, a Federal court found that a company that allegedly defrauded Medicare and other Federal health programs—for years—was entitled to a \$50 million tax deduction for government settlements that it had made. That deduction came on top of earlier tax deductions the company had already taken in their settlement payment.

The end result? A \$385 million settlement that was touted at the time as the largest civil recovery to date in a health care fraud case was, in fact, \$100 million smaller once taxpayers had picked up part of the settlement.

At least in these two cases, the text of the settlements was public, allowing the American people the chance to dig

into the fine print and uncover these unflattering details. But for settlements that are kept confidential, the public is kept entirely in this the dark.

Recently, Wells Fargo agreed to pay the Federal Housing Finance Agency \$335 million for allegedly fraudulent sales of mortgage-backed securities to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. That is about 6 percent of what JPMorgan Chase paid in a public settlement with FHFA to address very similar claims. Now, in what ways did the actions of Wells Fargo differ from those of JPMorgan? We will never know, because while the JPMorgan settlement is public, the much smaller Wells Fargo settlement is held confidential.

The American people deserve better. These enforcement agencies don't work for the companies they investigate; they work for us. Agencies should not be able to cut bad deals and then hide the embarrassing details. The public deserves transparency.

The Truth in Settlements Act requires that transparency. It requires agencies making public statements about their settlements to include explanations of how those settlements are categorized for tax purposes and what specific conduct will generate credits that apply toward the sticker price. The bill also requires agencies to post text and basic information about their settlements online. And while the legislation does not prohibit agencies from deeming settlements confidential, it requires agencies to disclose additional information about how frequently they are invoking confidentiality and their reasons for doing so.

If we expect agencies to hold companies accountable for breaking the law, then we should be able to hold agencies accountable for enforcing the law. We cannot do that if we are being held in the dark. The Truth in Settlements Act shines a light on these agency decisions and gives the American people a chance to hold agencies accountable for enforcing our laws.

I introduced this bill in the last Congress with Senator LANKFORD's predecessor, Senator Coburn. The bill advanced through the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee by voice vote but was blocked on the Senate floor.

I hope that in this Congress we can finally make this commonsense legislation law.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1112. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for a safer and healthier workplace and to urge my colleagues to join me and Senator MURRAY in supporting the Protecting America's Workers Act, which I am proud to introduce today.

Today, April 28, is Workers' Memorial Day—a day for our Nation to remember and focus on those workers who have died or been injured on the job. Today is also a day to acknowledge the significant suffering experienced by families and communities when workers die or are injured and to recommit ourselves to maintaining safe and healthy workplaces for all of our workers.

April 28 is also the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the OSH Act, which created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. When the bill was passed on a bipartisan basis and signed into law by President Nixon 45 years ago, 14,000 workers were dying on the job each year. Now the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there were 4,405 worker fatalities in 2013. That is a huge improvement, and it would not have happened without the OSH Act. But it also means that far too many workers are still getting hurt and dying on the job.

Our workforce and workplaces have changed significantly in 45 years, but our laws have not kept pace. We have made no real updates to our workplace safety laws even though thousands of workers die every year on the job, many in large industrial disasters that could be prevented.

Unfortunately, too often, we are told that we cannot afford to strengthen our workplace safety laws. But I believe our country cannot afford the economic and emotional costs incurred by middle-class families when workers lose their lives or their livelihoods on the job. And it is not just those families; law-abiding businesses that invest in safe workplaces cannot afford to subsidize the corporations that cut corners on workplace safety and then leave the American public to pick up the tab.

Let me remind you of a few of the tragedies that have happened in just the past decade that show the cost to our country.

On March 23, 2005, fire and an explosion at BP's Texas City Refinery killed 15 workers and injured more than 170 others. On February 7, 2008, 13 people were killed and 42 people were injured in a dust explosion at a sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, GA.

On April 17, 2014, 15 people were killed—13 of them volunteer first responders—and another 200 people were injured after a fertilizer company in West Texas exploded. The explosion leveled roughly 80 homes and a middle school. Mr. President, 133 residents of a nearby nursing home were trapped in the ruins.

And just last week, we recognized the 5-year anniversary of the explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. That accident killed 11 workers and is considered the largest accidental marine oilspill in the history of the petroleum industry, costing millions to the local economy and causing unprecedented damage to the environment.

All of the reports following these accidents cited weak compliance and gaps in our safety laws. They all point to the fact that our workplace safety laws are too weak. They are so weak that they cannot ensure the safety of American workers, and they do not level the playing field for law-abiding businesses that make sure their workers are safe.

These are not isolated incidents. Since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began collecting data on worker fatalities on the job in 1992, over 124,000 workers have died on the job. To put that in perspective, on average, in the United States, about six times as many people die on the job each year as died in airplane crashes last year worldwide. The fact is that many of these accidents could have been prevented. Many of these workers could still be with their families today. But, unfortunately, even after the reports outlining the details of these accidents and recommending commonsense updates to our laws to protect workers from these types of incidents, there have been no significant updates made to the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

We all rely on the sacrifice of American workers who are employed in difficult and often dangerous industries. We all depend on construction, manufacturing, natural gas production, and agriculture to help build and heat our homes and put food on the table. The Americans who work in those fields should not have to choose between their health and safety and providing for their families.

We can do something about that. That is why today I am proud to reintroduce the Protecting America's Workers Act with Senator PATTY MURRAY, who has long been a champion of workers' rights. After 45 years, this legislation will modernize the Occupational Safety and Health Act for the 21st century.

This legislation will expand the number of workers in safe workplaces and make it harder to violate workplace safety laws. It will also protect whistleblowers who bravely speak out about unsafe work conditions for themselves, their coworkers, and their families. This legislation protects the public's right to know about safety violations and about OSHA investigations. It will also help us track and respond to workplace safety issues by requiring tracking of worker injuries.

Nothing can bring back the workers lost in Texas City; Port Wentworth,

GA; West Texas; the Deepwater Horizon disaster; or the many tens of thousands of other workers who have lost their lives on the job. But we owe it to those who have died and to their surviving families to learn from those accidents and to try to stop them from happening so that other families do not have to suffer the same loss.

Good jobs are safe jobs, and I believe this bill will help us create safer workplaces. I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator MURRAY in supporting the Protecting America's Workers Act.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I believe that we in Congress should be working to grow the economy from the middle out, not from the top down, and we should make sure that our government is working for all of our families, not just the wealthiest few. An important part of this is making sure that workers have access to a safe and healthy workplace and the basic protection of earning a living without fearing for their safety.

That effort takes on special meaning today. April 28, today, is Workers' Memorial Day, the day when we remember those who lost their lives just for doing their job. When a worker is injured or is killed on the job, it has devastating impacts for their families and their communities. In 2014, more than 4,500 workers were killed on the job. That is more than 12 deaths every single day.

So we need to do everything we can to make sure employers are taking the necessary precautions to keep their workers safe.

So today, let's keep the families and communities that have suffered from these losses in our thoughts, and let's make sure this Workers' Memorial Day is about recommitting ourselves to improving safety protections at workplaces across the country. Every worker in every industry should have basic worker protections. While workers are doing their jobs, employers should be doing everything they can to protect them.

In 1970, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act to protect workers from unsafe working conditions. Back in 1970, that law finally gave workers some much needed protection so they could earn a living without sacrificing their health or safety.

Since then, of course, American industry has changed significantly. Businesses have become more complex. Workers are performing 21st-century tasks, but we are still using a 1970s approach to protect employees. That doesn't make sense, and it is time for it to change.

I support the bill Senator FRANKEN introduced today called Protecting America's Workers Act. I want to note that Senator FRANKEN is the new ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on

Employment and Workplace Safety. In that role, he will bring a focus and a passion for moving this legislation forward, and I look forward to working with him to that end.

The Protecting America's Workers Act is a long overdue update to the Occupational Safety and Health Act and is a good step toward making workplaces across America safer and healthier. The legislation will increase protections for workers who report unsafe working conditions, and adding these whistleblower protections will protect workers from retaliation. The bill will make sure workers have the option to appeal to Federal courts if they are being mistreated for telling the truth about dangerous practices. This bill will also improve reporting, inspection, and enforcement of workplace health and safety violations. It expands the rights of victims of unsafe workplaces and makes sure employers quickly improve unsafe workplaces to avoid further endangering worker health and safety because we owe it to all workers to make sure they are truly protected on the job.

Our economy is finally recovering after the worst downturn since the Great Depression. We are not all the way back yet, and there is a lot more that needs to be done to create jobs and help our middle class and working families. But while we continue that work, we must also recommit to our bedrock responsibilities to workers and their safety. Workers should be able to go to work confident their employers are doing their part to provide safe and healthy workplaces, and they should know their government is looking out for them, their families, and their economic security.

Today, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the workers who lost their lives this past year. I am hopeful we can honor their legacy by working together to pass the Protecting America's Workers Act and make these commonsense updates to meet our obligations to the best workforce in the world and continue our work growing the economy from the middle out, not the top down.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REED) (by request):

S. 1118. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Senator REED and I are introducing, by request, the administration's proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016. As is the case with any bill that is introduced by request, we introduce this bill for the purpose of placing the administration's proposals before

Congress and the public without expressing our own views on the substance of these proposals. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, we look forward to giving the administration's requested legislation our most careful review and thoughtful consideration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1120. A bill to make aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible, deportable, and ineligible for various forms of relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to discuss a bill I am introducing today with my colleagues from North Carolina, Senators TILLIS and BURR, related to criminal gangs. Our bill would reform our immigration laws to protect the homeland and the public's safety by ensuring that criminal gang members are not eligible for deportation relief and are swiftly removed from the country.

Under current immigration laws, alien gang members are generally not deportable or inadmissible based on their gang membership, and they are eligible for various benefits and forms of relief.

Just this month, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, admitted it erred in granting deferred deportation to a known gang member who is now charged with four counts of 1st degree murder in North Carolina. In response to a letter Senator TILLIS and I sent them, USCIS stated that Emmanuel Jesus Rangel-Hernandez's request for deferred deportation under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, executive order "should not have been approved" based on its procedures and protocols. This individual was placed in the removal process in March 2012, following drug charges, but was shielded from removal by USCIS even though the agency knew of his gang membership. After having received DACA, Mr. Rangel-Hernandez allegedly murdered four people.

Secretary Johnson testified today before the Senate Judiciary Committee and said, "If you are a member of a gang, a known member of a criminal gang, you should not receive DACA. You should be considered priority for removal." The Secretary said that Rangel-Hernandez should not have been approved for DACA, and that there was a lapse in the background checks for this applicant.

The Rangel-Hernandez case shows that USCIS is not doing a thorough job reviewing the individuals who it allows to stay in this country under the President's deferred action program. It remains unclear whether USCIS has a zero tolerance policy for criminals and criminal gang members applying for DACA, or any other immigration ben-

efit or form of relief from removal. It is unclear how many individuals have received DACA that shouldn't have. So far, since 2013, 282 individuals who are known gang members or criminals have had their DACA benefit terminated. The review of all cases, as ordered by Secretary Johnson, is ongoing, so that number could climb.

In April 2015, nearly 1,000 gang members and associates from 239 different gangs were arrested in 282 cities across the U.S. during Project Wildfire, a 6-week operation led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's, ICE, Homeland Security Investigations. Of those arrested, 199 were foreign nationals from 18 countries in South and Central America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director expressed concern about criminal gangs and said, "Criminal gangs inflict violence and fear upon our communities, and without the attention of law enforcement, these groups can spread like a cancer."

Despite the concern about violent criminal gangs, ICE arrests are down. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, "arrests peaked in 2012, then dropped by more than 25 percent in 2013, and continued to decline in 2014."

Furthermore, under the Fourth Circuit's decision in *Holder v. Martinez*, former gang members may argue that their status as a former gang member similarly entitles them to remain in the United States. This ruling has opened the door to violent gang members renouncing their membership as a ruse to stay in the country. Unfortunately, the Department of Justice didn't appeal the ruling, signaling support for gang members to remain in the country.

The Grassley-Tillis-Burr bill seeks to ensure that alien gang members are not provided a safe haven in the United States. It defines a criminal alien gang, renders them inadmissible and deportable, and requires the government to detain them while awaiting deportation. The bill also prohibits criminal alien gang members from gaining U.S. immigration benefits such as asylum, Temporary Protected Status, Special Immigrant Juvenile visas, deferred action or parole, with limited exceptions for law enforcement purposes. Lastly, the bill provides an expedited removal process for terrorists, criminal aliens and gang members.

I hope my colleagues will agree that our immigration laws, and the administration's policies, must be reformed so that those who pose a threat to the public are not allowed to remain in the United States and take advantage of the benefits we provide.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1122. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education, and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1122

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Court Legal Access and Student Support (CLASS) Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE 9, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ENROLLMENT AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code (relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements) shall not apply to an enrollment agreement made between a student and an institution of higher education.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON LIMITATIONS ON ABILITY OF STUDENTS TO PURSUE CLAIMS AGAINST CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(30) The institution will not require any student to agree to, and will not enforce, any limitation or restriction (including a limitation or restriction on any available choice of applicable law, a jury trial, or venue) on the ability of a student to pursue a claim, individually or with others, against an institution in court."

#### SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1123. A bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.



Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, almost 2 years ago, Vermonters and the American people learned for the first time the shocking details of the National Security Agency's dragnet collection program. Relying on a deeply flawed interpretation of section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, the NSA has been indiscriminately sweeping up Americans' private telephone records for years.

It is long past time to end this bulk collection program. Americans have made clear that they will not tolerate such intrusion into their private lives. The President has called for an end to bulk collection under section 215. The Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General supported legislation last year that would have shut this program down. National security experts have testified that the program is not necessary, and the American technology industry has called for meaningful reform of this program because it has lost billions to competitors in the international marketplace due to a decline in the public's trust.

Yet in the face of this overwhelming consensus, Congress has failed to act. Last year, when we had an opportunity to pass my bipartisan legislation to end this program and reform other surveillance authorities, some Members of this body chose to play political games rather than engage in constructive debate.

The time for posturing and theatrics is over. It is time for Congress to answer to the American people.

Today, I—along with Senator MIKE LEE—introduce the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015. This bipartisan bill is also being introduced in the House today by Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, House Judiciary Committee chairman BOB GOODLATTE, ranking member JOHN CONYERS, and a large bipartisan group of House Judiciary Committee members.

If enacted, our bill will be the most significant reform to government surveillance authorities since the USA PATRIOT Act was passed nearly 14 years ago. Most importantly, our bill will definitively end the NSA's bulk collection program under section 215. It also guarantees unprecedented transparency about government surveillance programs, allows the FISA Court to appoint an amicus to assist it in significant cases, and brings the national security letter statutes in line with the First Amendment.

The bipartisan, bicameral bill we introduce today is the product of intense and careful negotiations. It enacts strong, meaningful reforms while ensuring that the intelligence community has the tools it needs to keep this country safe.

Some will say that this bill does not go far enough. I agree. But in order to secure broader support for reform legislation that can pass both the House

and Senate and be signed into law, changes had to be made to the bill that I introduced last year. This new bill does not contain all the reforms that I want. It contains some provisions I believe are unnecessary but that were added to secure support from the House Intelligence Committee. But we should pass it and continue fighting for more reform.

I have been in the Senate for more than 40 years—and I have learned that when there is a chance to make real progress, we have to seize it. This is not my first fight and certainly will not be my last. I have a responsibility to Vermonters and the American people to do everything I can to end the dragnet collection of their phone records under section 215. And I know for a fact that the upcoming June 1 sunset of section 215 is our best opportunity for real reform. We cannot squander it.

Last year, a broad and bipartisan coalition worked together to craft reasonable and responsible legislation. Critics resorted to scare tactics. They would not even agree to debate the bill. I hope that we do not see a repeat of that ill-fated strategy again this year. The American people have had enough of delay and brinksmanship. Congress now has an opportunity to show leadership and govern responsibly.

The intelligence community is deeply concerned about the possibility of a legislative standoff that could result in the expiration of section 215 altogether. The USA FREEDOM Act is a path forward that has the support of the administration, privacy groups, the technology industry—and most importantly, the American people. I urge congressional leaders to take up and swiftly pass the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015—because I will not vote for reauthorization of section 215 without meaningful reform.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—RECOGNIZING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 152

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris, France on December 10, 1948, states that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without

interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, evaluate freedom of the press around the world, defend against attacks on the independence of the media, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013)) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, that unequivocally condemns, in both conflict and nonconflict situations, all attacks on and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment;

Whereas 2015 is the 22nd anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme “Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111-166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the annual Human Rights Reports of the Department of State to include the examination of freedom of the press;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, in 2014, freedom of the press suffered a “drastic decline” across all continents;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, in 2014, 69 journalists and 19 citizen-journalists were killed in connection with the collection and dissemination of news and information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2014, the 3 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment were Syria, Ukraine, and Iraq;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 40 percent of the journalists killed in 2014 had been targeted for murder and 31 percent of journalists murdered had reported receiving threats;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 650 journalists were killed between 1992 and April 2015 and the perpetrators have not been punished;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 5 countries with the highest number of unpunished journalist murders between 2004 and 2014 are Iraq, Somalia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Syria;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, in 2014, 853 journalists and 122 citizen-journalists were arrested;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as of December 1, 2014, 221 journalists worldwide were in prison;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison as of December 8, 2014, were China, Eritrea, Iran, Egypt, and Syria;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, in 2014, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists threatened or attacked were Ukraine, Venezuela, Turkey, Libya, and China;

Whereas, according to the 2015 World Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders, Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Syria, and China were the countries ranked lowest with respect to “media pluralism and



independence, respect for the safety and freedom of journalists, and the legislative, institutional and infrastructural environment in which the media operate”;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2014, Syria was the world’s deadliest country for journalists for the third year in a row;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the Government of the Russian Federation continued to pressure the media to control independent news outlets to an extent that may lead to the termination of the outlets;

Whereas Freedom House has cited a deteriorating environment for Internet freedom around the world and in 2014 ranked Iran, Syria, China, Cuba, and Ethiopia as the countries having the worst obstacles to access, limits on content, and violations of user rights among countries and territories rated by Freedom House as “Not Free”;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world following World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2015;

(2) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(3) pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

(4) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013);

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press, including: brutal murders of journalists by the terrorist group Islamic State in Syria, violent attacks against media outlets such as the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, and the kidnappings of journalists and media workers by pro-Russian militant groups in eastern Ukraine;

(6) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to improve the means by which the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(B) to urge foreign governments to conduct transparent investigations and adjudications of the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press year round.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP TO SAFEGUARDING GLOBAL SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted

the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 153

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is a cornerstone of global peace and stability and underscores the past, present, and future United States commitment to the stability and prosperity of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, a conflict where the United States and Japan were enemies, and the strength of the alliance is a testament to the ability of great nations to overcome the past and to work together to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas January 19, 2015, marked the 55th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan;

Whereas the United States and Japan are both free societies committed to the principles of inclusive democracy, respect for human potential and individual character, and the belief that the peaceful spread of these principles will result in a safer and brighter future for all of mankind;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Japan can help realize this future through further strengthening their economic, political, social, cultural, and security relationship;

Whereas the United States and Japan are indispensable partners in tackling global challenges, and have pledged significant support for efforts to counter violent extremism, including the threat of ISIL; combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; prevent piracy; improve global health; promote human rights; contribute to economic development around the world; and assist the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Japan share a commitment to free and open markets, high standards for the free flow of commerce and trade, and the establishment of an inclusive architecture for regional and global trade and development;

Whereas Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has also reiterated that his cabinet will uphold the stance on the recognition of history of previous prime ministers, including the Murayama statement;

Whereas the United States-Japan security alliance has evolved considerably over many decades and will continue to transform as a partnership, sharing greater responsibilities, dedicated to ensuring a secure and prosperous region and world;

Whereas the Government of Japan has reinterpreted its constitution to allow for the collective self-defense of its allies, including the United States, an action that strengthens the alliance’s ability to defend Japan and to continue to safeguard regional security;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is essential for ensuring maritime security and freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight in the waters of the East China Sea;

Whereas Japan stands as a strong partner of the United States in efforts to uphold respect for the rule of law and to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the regional or global status quo, including in the East and South China Seas, which are among the busiest waterways in the world;

Whereas the United States and Japan are committed to working together towards a world where the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) does not threaten global peace and security with its weapons of mass destruction and illicit activities, and where the DPRK respects human rights and people can live in freedom;

Whereas the United States and Japan have a long history of successful technical cooperation and joint scientific research and development;

Whereas, on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and Japanese-Americans have made significant contributions to the advancement, including our former colleague, the late Senator Daniel Inouye, of the United States;

Whereas people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees which dot our nation’s capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, signifying an unbreakable bond between the two nations; and

Whereas, on April 29, 2015, Prime Minister Abe will address a Joint Meeting of Congress at the invitation of the Speaker of the House: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) reaffirms the importance of the United States-Japan alliance for maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, including through United States extended deterrence, the revision of the Guidelines for United States-Japan Defense Cooperation, and Japan’s policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principles of international cooperation;

(2) supports ongoing efforts to further strengthen the United States-Japan alliance to confront emerging challenges, including cyber and space;

(3) supports strong cooperation between the United States and Japan in safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight in the East and South China Seas;

(4) recognizes that although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

(5) reaffirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands and that the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan;

(6) recognizes the support of the Government of Japan in addressing global challenges that threaten the security of people everywhere;

(7) supports the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan, especially efforts to encourage Japanese students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties;

(8) encourages the expansion of scientific research and development and technical cooperation with Japan, to address global challenges;

(9) promotes deepening the economic and trade ties between the United States and

Japan, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of both our nations, the Asia Pacific region, and the world; and

(10) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in the promotion of human rights.

#### SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1177. Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1178. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1179. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra.

SA 1180. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1181. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1182. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1183. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1184. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1185. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1186. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1187. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1188. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1189. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1190. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended

to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1191. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1192. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1193. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1177.** Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL AND RELOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel, both de jure and de facto.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected as they have been by Israel since 1967;

(2) every citizen of Israel should have the right to reside anywhere in the undivided city of Jerusalem;

(3) the President and the Secretary of State should publicly affirm as a matter of United States policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the State of Israel;

(4) the President should immediately implement the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) and begin the process of relocating the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; and

(5) United States officials should refrain from any actions that contradict United States law on this subject.

(c) AMENDMENT OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) is amended—

(1) by striking section 7; and

(2) by redesignating section 8 as section 7.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF JERUSALEM ON GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any official document of the United States Government which lists countries and their capital cities shall identify Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

(e) RESTRICTION ON FUNDING SUBJECT TO OPENING DETERMINATION.—Not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated to the Department of State for fiscal year 2015 for “Acquisition and Maintenance of Buildings

Abroad” may be obligated until the Secretary of State determines and reports to Congress that the United States Embassy in Jerusalem has officially opened.

(f) FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017 FUNDING.—

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated for “Acquisition and Maintenance of Buildings Abroad” for the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, such sums as may be necessary should be made available until expended only for construction and other costs associated with the establishment of the United States Embassy in Israel in the capital of Jerusalem.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated for “Acquisition and Maintenance of Buildings Abroad” for the Department of State for fiscal year 2017, such sums as may be necessary should be made available until expended only for construction and other costs associated with the establishment of the United States Embassy in Israel in the capital of Jerusalem.

(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “United States Embassy” means the offices of the United States diplomatic mission and the residence of the United States chief of mission.

**SA 1178.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

“(C) REPORT ON ACTIONS BY IRAN AFFECTING US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL.—In addition to any other information required to be submitted to Congress under this paragraph, the President shall also report to Congress not later than seven days after any action by the Government of Iran that could compromise the commitment of the United States to the security of Israel or the support of the United States for Israel’s right to exist.

**SA 1179.** Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

On page 2, line 13, insert “, and specifically including any agreed Persian text of such agreement, related materials, and annexes” after “and annexes”.

**SA 1180.** Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection

and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, line 18, insert “, including military bases,” after “suspicious sites”.

**SA 1181.** Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 6, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 26, line 19, and insert the following:

“(1) REVIEW PERIOD.—

“(A) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—During the first 60 days that the House of Representatives is in session following transmittal by the President of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement.

“(B) SENATE.—During the first 60 days that the Senate is in session following transmittal by the President of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall, as appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such agreement.

“(2) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PERIOD OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (3), during the period for congressional review provided in paragraph (1), the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a).

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (2) does not apply to any new deferral, waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

“(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

“(B) not later than 45 calendar days before the transmission by the President of an agreement, assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

“(C) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.—

“(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(A) the sanctions regime imposed on Iran by Congress is primarily responsible for bringing Iran to the table to negotiate on its nuclear program;

“(B) these negotiations are a critically important matter of national security and foreign policy for the United States and its closest allies;

“(C) this section does not require a vote by Congress for the agreement to commence;

(D) this section provides for congressional review, including, as appropriate, for approval, disapproval, or no action on statutory sanctions relief under an agreement; and

“(E) even though the agreement may commence, because the sanctions regime was imposed by Congress and only Congress can permanently modify or eliminate that regime, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity, in an orderly and deliberative manner, to consider and, as appropriate, take action affecting the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

“(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action—

“(A) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action, if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the agreement;

“(B) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b), the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

“(C) may not be taken if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b), there is not enacted any such joint resolution.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase “action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States” shall include waiver, suspension, reduction, or other effort to provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to, Iran under any provision of law or any other effort to refrain from applying any such sanctions.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF IRANIAN COMPLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of all aspects of Iranian compliance with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a).

“(2) POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT BREACHES AND COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—The President shall, within 10 calendar days of receiving credible and accurate information relating to a potentially significant breach or compliance incident by Iran with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(3) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submitting information about a potentially significant breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall make a determination whether such potentially significant breach or compliance issue constitutes a material breach and, if there is such a material breach, whether Iran has cured such material breach, and shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership such determination, accompanied by, as appropriate, a report on the action or failure to act by Iran that led to the material breach, actions necessary for Iran to cure the breach, and the status of Iran's efforts to cure the breach.

“(4) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 calendar days after entering into an agreement described in subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every 180 calendar days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on Iran's nuclear program and the compliance of Iran with the agreement during the period cov-

ered by the report, including the following elements:

“(A) Any action or failure to act by Iran that breached the agreement or is in non-compliance with the terms of the agreement.

“(B) Any delay by Iran of more than one week in providing inspectors access to facilities, people, and documents in Iran as required by the agreement.

“(C) Any progress made by Iran to resolve concerns by the International Atomic Energy Agency about possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.

“(D) Any procurement by Iran of materials in violation of the agreement or which could otherwise significantly advance Iran's ability to obtain a nuclear weapon.

“(E) Any centrifuge research and development conducted by Iran that—

“(i) is not in compliance with the agreement; or

“(ii) may substantially enhance the breakout time of acquisition of a nuclear weapon by Iran, if deployed.

“(F) Any diversion by Iran of uranium, carbon-fiber, or other materials for use in Iran's nuclear program in violation of the agreement.

“(G) Any covert nuclear activities undertaken by Iran, including any covert nuclear weapons-related or covert fissile material activities or research and development.

“(H) An assessment of whether any Iranian financial institutions are engaged in money laundering or terrorist finance activities, including names of specific financial institutions if applicable.

“(I) Iran's advances in its ballistic missile program, including developments related to its long-range and inter-continental ballistic missile programs.

“(J) An assessment of—

“(i) whether Iran directly supported, financed, planned, or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

“(ii) whether, and the extent to which, Iran supported acts of terrorism, including acts of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world;

“(iii) all actions, including in international fora, being taken by the United States to stop, counter, and condemn acts by Iran to directly or indirectly carry out acts of terrorism against the United States and United States persons;

“(iv) the impact on the national security of the United States and the safety of United States citizens as a result of any Iranian actions reported under this paragraph; and

“(v) all of the sanctions relief provided to Iran, pursuant to the agreement, and a description of the relationship between each sanction waived, suspended, or deferred and Iran's nuclear weapon's program.

“(K) An assessment of whether violations of internationally recognized human rights in Iran have changed, increased, or decreased, as compared to the prior 180-day period.

“(5) ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND INFORMATION.—

“(A) AGENCY REPORTS.—Following submission of an agreement pursuant to subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, the Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense shall, upon the request of any of those committees or leadership, promptly furnish to those committees or leadership their views as to whether the safeguards and other controls contained in the agreement with respect to Iran's nuclear

program provide an adequate framework to ensure that Iran's activities permitted thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the common defense and security.

“(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR INITIATIVES WITH IRAN.—The President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees and leadership fully and currently informed of any initiative or negotiations with Iran relating to Iran's nuclear program, including any new or amended agreement.

“(6) COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION.—After the review period provided in subsection (b), the President shall, not less than every 90 calendar days—

“(A) determine whether the President is able to certify that—

“(i) Iran is transparently, verifiably, and fully implementing the agreement, including all related technical or additional agreements;

“(ii) Iran has not committed a material breach with respect to the agreement or, if Iran has committed a material breach, Iran has cured the material breach;

“(iii) Iran has not taken any action, including covert action, that could significantly advance its nuclear weapons program; and

“(iv) suspension of sanctions related to Iran pursuant to the agreement is—

“(I) appropriate and proportionate to the specific and verifiable measures taken by Iran with respect to terminating its illicit nuclear program; and

“(II) vital to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(B) if the President determines he is able to make the certification described in subparagraph (A), make such certification to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(7) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(A) United States sanctions on Iran for terrorism, human rights abuses, and ballistic missiles will remain in place under an agreement, as defined in subsection (i)(1);

“(B) issues not addressed by an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran, including fair and appropriate compensation for Americans who were terrorized and subjected to torture while held in captivity for 444 days after the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, in 1979 and their families, the freedom of Americans held in Iran, the human rights abuses of the Government of Iran against its own people, and the continued support of terrorism worldwide by the Government of Iran, are matters critical to ensure justice and the national security of the United States, and should be expeditiously addressed;

“(C) the President should determine the agreement in no way compromises the commitment of the United States to Israel's security, nor its support for Israel's right to exist; and

“(D) in order to responsibly implement any long-term agreement reached between the P5+1 countries and Iran, it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity to review any agreement and, as necessary, take action to modify the statutory sanctions regime imposed by Congress.

“(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event the President does not submit a certification pursuant to subsection (d)(6) or has determined pursuant to subsection (d)(3) that Iran has materially breached an agreement subject to subsection (a) and the material breach has

not been cured, Congress may initiate within 60 calendar days expedited consideration of qualifying legislation pursuant to this subsection.

“(2) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “qualifying legislation” means only a bill of either House of Congress—

“(A) the title of which is as follows: “A bill reinstating statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.”; and

“(B) the matter after the enacting clause of which is: “Any statutory sanctions imposed with respect to Iran pursuant to \_\_\_\_\_ that were waived, suspended, reduced, or otherwise relieved pursuant to an agreement submitted pursuant to section 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 are hereby reinstated and any action by the United States Government to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to such agreement, or provide any further waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief pursuant to such agreement is hereby prohibited.”, with the blank space being filled in with the law or laws under which sanctions are to be reinstated.

“(3) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-calendar day period provided for in paragraph (1), qualifying legislation may be introduced—

“(A) in the House of Representatives, by the majority leader or the minority leader; and

“(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader's designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader's designee).

“(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If a committee of the House to which qualifying legislation has been referred has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 legislative days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration thereof.

“(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which qualifying legislation has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the qualifying legislation in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the qualifying legislation with regard to the same agreement. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(C) CONSIDERATION.—The qualifying legislation shall be considered as read. All points of order against the qualifying legislation and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the qualifying legislation to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the qualifying legislation (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the qualifying legislation shall not be in order.

“(5) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

“(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—Qualifying legislation introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

“(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Foreign Relations has not re-

ported such qualifying legislation within 10 session days after the date of referral of such legislation, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such legislation and the qualifying legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

“(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the committee authorized to consider qualifying legislation reports it to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of qualifying legislation, and all points of order against qualifying legislation (and against consideration of the qualifying legislation) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation is agreed to, the qualifying legislation shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(D) DEBATE.—Debate on qualifying legislation, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the qualifying legislation is not in order.

“(E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the qualifying legislation and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(F) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to qualifying legislation shall be decided without debate.

“(G) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to qualifying legislation, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such qualifying legislation, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

“(6) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of qualifying legislation of that House, that House receives qualifying legislation from the other House, then the following procedures shall apply:

“(i) The qualifying legislation of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(ii) With respect to qualifying legislation of the House receiving the legislation—

“(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no qualifying legislation had been received from the other House; but

“(II) the vote on passage shall be on the qualifying legislation of the other House.

“(B) TREATMENT OF A BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce qualifying legislation under this section, the qualifying legislation of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the qualifying

legislation in the Senate, the Senate then receives a companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(D) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEASURES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the House of Representatives to qualifying legislation which is a revenue measure.

“(f) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS.—

“(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term “joint resolution” means a joint resolution either approving or disapproving—

“(A) an agreement subject to subsection (a); or

“(B) the Joint Plan of Action.

“(2) INTRODUCTION.—During the period described in subsection (b), a joint resolution may be introduced—

“(A) in the House of Representatives, by the Speaker (or the Speaker’s designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader’s designee); and

“(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader’s designee) or the minority leader (or the minority leader’s designee).

“(3) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—

“(A) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A joint resolution that is introduced in the House of Representatives shall immediately be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(B) SENATE.—A joint resolution that is introduced in the Senate shall immediately be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

“(4) DISCHARGE.—If the committee of either House to which joint resolution has been referred has not reported such joint resolution within 10 session days after the date of referral of such resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

“(5) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives reports the joint resolution to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order. No amendment to, or motion to recommit, joint resolution shall be in order.

“(C) APPEALS.—All appeals from the Chair relating to the application of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to the joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(6) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate reports the joint resolution to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) DEBATE.—Debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the joint resolution and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to joint resolution, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with such joint resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

“(7) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one House of the joint resolution introduced in that House, that House receives joint resolution from the other House—

“(i) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(ii) with respect to joint resolution of the House receiving the legislation—

“(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

“(II) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

“(B) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section, the joint resolution of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate receives a companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—Subsections (e) and (f) are enacted by Congress—

**SA 1182.** Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) the Russian Federation is not providing to Iran, through sales, leases, or other lending, weapons systems in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929 (2010) or sophisticated air defense systems; and

**SA 1183.** Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

“(L) An assessment of whether the Russian Federation is providing to Iran, through sales, leases, or other lending, weapons systems in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929 (2010) or sophisticated air defense systems.

**SA 1184.** Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has ceased the development of a nuclear warhead and delivery systems that could be used for a nuclear attack; and

**SA 1185.** Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has ceased the development of a nuclear warhead; and

**SA 1186.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

“(C) ASSESSMENT OF INADEQUACIES IN INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A report under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment by the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the heads and other officials of relevant agencies, detailing existing inadequacies in the international monitoring and verification system as outlined and in accordance with findings and recommendations pertaining to verification shortcomings contained within—

“(I) the September 26, 2006, Government Accountability Office report, ‘Nuclear Non-proliferation: IAEA Has Strengthened Its Safeguards and Nuclear Security Programs, but Weaknesses Need to Be Addressed’;”

“(II) the May 16, 2013, Government Accountability Office Report, ‘IAEA Has Made Progress in Implementing Critical Programs but Continues to Face Challenges’;”

“(III) the Defense Science Board Study, ‘Task Force on the Assessment of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring and Verification Technologies’;”

“(IV) the IAEA Report, The Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the IAEA Safeguards Statement for 2010;

“(V) the IAEA Safeguards Overview: Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols;”

“(VI) the IAEA Model Additional Protocol; and

“(VII) the IAEA February 2015 Director General Report to the Board of Governors.

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The assessment required under clause (i) shall include recommendations based upon the reports referenced in such clause, including recommendations to overcome inadequacies or develop an improved monitoring framework and recommendations related to the following matters:

“(I) The nuclear security program’s long-term resource needs.

“(II) A plan for the long-term operation and funding of the IAEA and relevant agencies increased activities in order to maintain the necessary level of oversight.

“(III) A potential national strategy and implementation plan supported by a planning and assessment team aimed at cutting across agency boundaries or limitations that impact its ability to draw conclusions—with absolute assurance—about whether Iran is developing a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

“(IV) The limitations of IAEA actors.

“(V) Challenges within the geographic scope which may be too large to anticipate within the sanctioned treaty or agreement or the national technical means (NTM) monitoring regimes alone.

“(iii) PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary of State submits a report under subparagraph (A), the President shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the President has reviewed the Secretary’s shortfall assessment required under this subparagraph, including the rec-

ommendations contained therein, and has taken necessary actions to address existing gaps within the monitoring and verification framework.

“(D) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—A report under

**SA 1187.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

“(4) JOINT INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after the President transmits an agreement under paragraph (1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint fact sheet signed by the President and the President of the Republic of Iran certifying a clear interpretation of the agreement as seen by both parties.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—The joint fact sheet shall include the following elements:

“(i) A joint commitment of understanding by the United States and Iran that the agreement will halt the Iranian pursuit of nuclear military capability.

“(ii) A delineation of the ongoing agreed maximum allowable levels of declared uranium, uranium, and percent purity.

“(iii) A timeframe for the lifting of sanctions, and a mutual understanding that if Iran violates the deal, sanctions can be re-imposed within 30 days.

“(iv) A statement clarifying the dispute resolution process envisioned.

“(v) A certification that—

“(I) Iran has provided the necessary explanations that enable the IAEA to clarify the two outstanding practical measures, as outlined in the February 19, 2015, IAEA Board of Governors meeting; and

“(II) Iran has proposed new practical measures in the next step of the Framework for Cooperation as previously agreed on.

“(vi) A statement of Iran’s continued agreement to provide the IAEA with access to centrifuge assembly workshops, centrifuge rotor production workshops, and storage facilities.

“(vii) A description of the level of allowable ballistic missile development and capability.

“(viii) A joint statement describing the research and development into advanced centrifuges that is permissible.

“(ix) An outline of the agreed upon schedule and parameters that have been agreed to by the P5+1 countries.

**SA 1188.** Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has not acquired and deployed advanced integrated air defense systems, as defined by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and including long-range surface-to-air missiles such as the Russian-made S300; and

“(B) if the President determines he is able to make the certification described in subparagraph (A), make such certification to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(7) IMPOSITION OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS.—In the event the President does not submit a certification pursuant to paragraph (6) or has determined pursuant to paragraph (3) that Iran has materially breached an agreement subject to subsection (a) and the material breach has not been cured, the President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to impose sanctions in accordance with United Nations Resolution 1929 (2010).

“(8) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of

**SA 1189.** Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### SEC. 3. PETROLEUM-RELATED SANCTIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership (as that term is defined in subsection (h)(3) of section 135 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as added by section 2) an unclassified report assessing—

(1) the ability of crude oil and condensate produced in Iran and the United States to access and supply the global crude oil and condensate market; and

(2) the extent to which future action involving any measure of statutory sanctions relief (as that term is defined in subsection (c)(3) of such section 135) by the United States will result in greater exports of Iranian petroleum to the global market than permitted by the Joint Plan of Action (as defined in subsection (h)(5) of such section) and under the sanctions described in subsection (c)(1)(A) of such section.

(b) REMOVAL OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.—Beginning 30 calendar days after submission of the report required under subsection (a), notwithstanding any provision of law, any domestic United States crude oil and condensate may be exported on the same basis that petroleum products may be exported as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), or part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.) to prohibit exports.

**SA 1190.** Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to



amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms ‘qualified services’, ‘bona fide volunteer’, and ‘eligible employer’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

“(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

“(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘bona fide volunteer’ means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

“(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

“(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

“(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘specified employer’ means—

“(I) any government entity, and

“(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

**SA 1191.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 31, strike lines 7 through 11 and insert the following:

“(9) NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM.—The term ‘nuclear weapons program’ means any effort whatsoever, including research and development efforts, to develop, design, obtain, procure, create, fabricate, manufacture, assemble, or test, in any fashion or manner, a nuclear explosive device or any component thereof, as well as any effort whatsoever to obtain, procure, or create, including through enrichment, fissile material of any type, including plutonium or uranium, that is enriched to a sufficient level for use in a nuclear explosive device, and includes any nuclear weapon related materiel program (“NWRMP”), which includes the research, development, manufacture, or procurement of components used to detonate, test, or deploy a nuclear device.

“(10) P5+1 COUNTRIES.—The term ‘P5+1 countries’ means the United States, France, the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

“(11) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term

**SA 1192.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, line 17, strike “enhance” and insert “reduce”.

**SA 1193.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 11, strike line 16 and all that follows through “significant breach” on page 12, line 4, and insert the following:

“(2) POTENTIAL BREACHES AND COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—The President shall, within 10 calendar days of receiving credible information relating to a potential breach or compliance incident by Iran with respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

“(3) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submitting information about a potential breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (2), the President shall make a determination whether such potential breach

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING**

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Brodi L. Fontenot, to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of the Treasury, dated April 28, 2015.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on May 5, 2015, at 2:30 pm, in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Continuing America’s Leadership: Realizing the Promise of Precision Medicine for Patients”.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Jamie Garden of the committee staff on (202) 224-1409.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The State of the Insurance Industry and Insurance Regulation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “Staying Afloat: Examining the Resources and Priorities of the U.S. Coast Guard.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Aviation Safety and General Aviation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during



the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Creating a More Efficient and Level Playing Field: Audit and Appeals Issues in Medicare."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Continuing America's Leadership: The Future of Medical Innovation for Patients."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Securing the Border: Biometric Entry and Exit at Our Ports of Entry."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of Homeland Security."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Examining the Proper Role of Judicial Review in the Federal Regulatory Process."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Stavish, an education fellow, and Karen Armitage, a health policy fellow, both in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY WHISTLEBLOWER ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 36, S. 304.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 304) to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 304

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Motor Vehicle Safety Whistleblower Act".

SEC. 2. MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§30172. Whistleblower incentives and protections

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED ACTION.—The term 'covered action' means any administrative or judicial ac-

tion, including any related administrative or judicial action, brought by the Secretary or the Attorney General under this chapter that in the aggregate results in monetary sanctions exceeding \$1,000,000.

"(2) MONETARY SANCTIONS.—The term 'monetary sanctions' means monies, including penalties and interest, ordered or agreed to be paid.

"(3) ORIGINAL INFORMATION.—The term 'original information' means information that—

"(A) is derived from the independent knowledge or analysis of an individual;

"(B) is not known to the Secretary from any other source, unless the individual is the original source of the information; and

"(C) is not exclusively derived from an allegation made in a judicial or an administrative action, in a governmental report, a hearing, an audit, or an investigation, or from the news media, unless the individual is a source of the information.

"(4) PART SUPPLIER.—The term 'part supplier' means a manufacturer of motor vehicle equipment.

"(5) SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION.—The term 'successful resolution' includes any settlement or adjudication of a covered action.

"(6) WHISTLEBLOWER.—The term 'whistleblower' means any employee or contractor of a motor vehicle manufacturer, part supplier, or dealership who voluntarily provides to the Secretary original information relating to any motor vehicle defect, noncompliance, or any violation or alleged violation of any notification or reporting requirement of this chapter which is likely to cause unreasonable risk of death or serious physical injury.

"(b) AWARDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If the original information that a whistleblower provided to the Secretary led to the successful resolution of a covered action, the Secretary, subject to subsection (c), may pay an award or awards to 1 or more whistleblowers in an aggregate amount of not more than 30 percent, in total, of collected monetary sanctions.

"(2) PAYMENT OF AWARDS.—Any amount payable under paragraph (1) shall be paid from the monetary sanctions collected, and any monetary sanctions so collected shall be available for such payment.

"(c) DETERMINATION OF AWARDS; DENIAL OF AWARDS.—

"(1) DETERMINATION OF AWARDS.—

"(A) DISCRETION.—The determination of whether, to whom, or in what amount to make an award shall be in the discretion of the Secretary.

"(B) CRITERIA.—In determining an award made under subsection (b), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

"(i) if appropriate, whether a whistleblower reported or attempted to report the information internally to an applicable motor vehicle manufacturer, part supplier, or dealership;

"(ii) the significance of the original information provided by the whistleblower to the successful resolution of the covered action;

"(iii) the degree of assistance provided by the whistleblower and any legal representative of the whistleblower in the covered action; and

"(iv) such additional factors as the Secretary considers relevant.

"(2) DENIAL OF AWARDS.—No award under subsection (b) shall be made—

"(A) to any whistleblower who is convicted of a criminal violation related to the covered action for which the whistleblower otherwise could receive an award under this section;

"(B) to any whistleblower who, acting without direction from an applicable motor vehicle manufacturer, part supplier, or dealership, or agent thereof, deliberately causes or substantially contributes to the alleged violation of a requirement of this chapter;

“(C) to any whistleblower who submits information to the Secretary that is based on the facts underlying the covered action submitted previously by another whistleblower;

“(D) to any whistleblower who fails to provide the original information to the Secretary in such form as the Secretary may require by regulation; or

“(E) to any whistleblower who fails to report or attempt to report the information internally to an applicable motor vehicle manufacturer, parts supplier, or dealership, unless—

“(i) the whistleblower reasonably believed that such an internal report would have resulted in retaliation, notwithstanding section 30171(a); or

“(ii) the whistleblower reasonably believed that the information—

“(I) was already internally reported;

“(II) was already subject to or part of an internal inquiry or investigation; or

“(III) was otherwise already known to the motor vehicle manufacturer, part supplier, or dealership.

“(d) REPRESENTATION.—A whistleblower may be represented by counsel.

“(e) NO CONTRACT NECESSARY.—No contract with the Secretary is necessary for any whistleblower to receive an award under subsection (b).

“(f) PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS; CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 30167, and except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5) of this subsection, the Secretary, and any officer or employee of the Department of Transportation, shall not disclose any information, including information provided by a whistleblower to the Secretary, which could reasonably be expected to reveal the identity of a whistleblower, except in accordance with the provisions of section 552a of title 5, unless—

“(A) required to be disclosed to a defendant or respondent in connection with a public proceeding instituted by the Secretary or any entity described in paragraph (5);

“(B) the whistleblower provides prior written consent for the information to be disclosed; or

“(C) the Secretary, or other officer or employee of the Department of Transportation, receives the information through another source, such as during an inspection or investigation under section 30166, and has authority under other law to release the information.

“(2) REDACTION.—The Secretary, and any officer or employee of the Department of Transportation, shall take reasonable measures to not reveal the identity of the whistleblower when disclosing any information under paragraph (1).

“(3) SECTION 552(b)(3)(B).—For purposes of section 552 of title 5, paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of that section.

“(4) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit the ability of the Attorney General to present such evidence to a grand jury or to share such evidence with potential witnesses or defendants in the course of an ongoing criminal investigation.

“(5) AVAILABILITY TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Without the loss of its status as confidential in the hands of the Secretary, all information referred to in paragraph (1) may, in the discretion of the Secretary, when determined by the Secretary to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this chapter and in accordance with subparagraph (B), be made available to the following:

“(i) The Department of Justice.

“(ii) An appropriate department or agency of the Federal Government, acting within the scope of its jurisdiction.

“(B) MAINTENANCE OF INFORMATION.—Each entity described in subparagraph (A) shall

maintain information described in that subparagraph as confidential, in accordance with the requirements in paragraph (1).

“(g) PROVISION OF FALSE INFORMATION.—A whistleblower who knowingly and willfully makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, or who makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, shall not be entitled to an award under this section and shall be subject to prosecution under section 1001 of title 18.

“(h) APPEALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any determination made under this section, including whether, to whom, or in what amount to make an award, shall be in the discretion of the Secretary.

“(2) APPEALS.—Any determination made by the Secretary under this section may be appealed by a whistleblower to the appropriate court of appeals of the United States not later than 30 days after the determination is issued by the Secretary.

“(3) REVIEW.—The court shall review the determination made by the Secretary in accordance with section 706 of title 5.

“(i) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Motor Vehicle Safety Whistleblower Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations on the requirements of this section, consistent with this section.”

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) ORIGINAL INFORMATION.—Information submitted to the Secretary of Transportation by a whistleblower in accordance with the requirements of section 30172 of title 49, United States Code, shall not lose its status as original information solely because the whistleblower submitted the information prior to the effective date of the regulations if that information was submitted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) AWARDS.—A whistleblower may receive an award under section 30172 of title 49, United States Code, regardless of whether the violation underlying the covered action occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act, and may receive an award prior to the Secretary of Transportation promulgating the regulations under section 30172(i) of that title.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of subchapter IV of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“30172. Whistleblower incentives and protections.”

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 304), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP TO SAFEGUARDING GLOBAL SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 153, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 153) recognizing the importance of the United States-Japan relationship to safeguarding global security, prosperity, and human rights.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 153) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Shinzo Abe into the House Chamber for the joint meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION REFERRED

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; that upon the reporting out or discharge of the nomination, the nomination then be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, after which the nomination, if still in committee, be discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed

expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until 10:30 a.m., with the time equally divided in the usual form; further, that at 10:30 a.m., the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair to allow for the joint meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, His Excellency Shinzo Abe; and finally, that following the joint meeting, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1191.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, Senators are asked to gather in the Chamber at 10:35 a.m. tomorrow to proceed

as a body to the Hall of the House for the joint meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BOOZMAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:08 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PETER V. NEFFENGER, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JOHN S. PISTOLE, RESIGNED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDI-

CATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JEFFREY G. LOFGREN

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### *To be lieutenant colonel*

ERIC R. DAVIS

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### *To be lieutenant commander*

JUSTIN C. LEGG

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 28, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK WALKER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when the Supreme Court ruled in 2013 to invalidate the preclearance formula in the original Voting Rights Act, it issued a challenge to Congress to pass an updated one. That is a challenge Congress must accept. Until Congress acts, millions will continue to face barriers at the ballot box.

On April 18, The New York Times editorial board highlighted the disturbing and flawed argument that preclearance is no longer necessary. Obviously, the Congress of the United States found otherwise.

The editorial stated: "This process . . . stopped hundreds of discriminatory new laws from taking effect, and deterred lawmakers from introducing countless more."

The process to which they were referring was the preclearance process that the Supreme Court threw out. The editors cited a new study that analyzed more than 4,000 rights cases.

They write again: "The study provides the most wide-ranging empirical

evidence yet that Congress was amply justified in finding that voting discrimination remains concentrated in the covered States and regions."

When we reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006, Mr. Speaker, we did so with an overwhelming vote of 390-33 in the House. In the Senate, Mr. Speaker, it was 98-0. There was no confusion, there was no doubt in the minds of the Congress of the United States, and that bill was signed by President George Bush. It was an overwhelmingly bipartisan conclusion that preclearance was still necessary some 45 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

This has traditionally been an issue that brings Democrats and Republicans together, and I am proud to have co-sponsored a bipartisan compromise bill sponsored by Republican former chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, JIM SENSENBRENNER, who was the sponsor and chairman of the committee when the reauthorization was effected in 2006.

The bill that we have introduced, called the Voting Rights Amendments Act, with Republican former chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, JIM SENSENBRENNER, and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, as well as JOHN LEWIS—great hero of the civil rights movement—that would answer the Supreme Court with an updated preclearance formula, as they suggested. In fact, in the past 2 years since the Court's ruling, we have seen a resurgence of efforts to limit when and where minorities can vote.

The editorial goes on to say, Mr. Speaker: "Voting discrimination no longer takes the form of literacy tests and poll taxes. Instead, it is embodied in voter-ID laws, the closing of polling places in minority neighborhoods, the elimination of early-voting days and hours, and much more."

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will take up a bill to restore the Voting Rights Act without delay and crack down on these discriminatory practices that only serve to weaken our democracy by excluding millions of voices that deserve to be heard.

2015 is the 50-year anniversary of the passing and signing of the Voting Rights Act. That act was achieved only after some died, many bled, and a large number participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery.

That galvanized American public opinion and led the Congress to pass one of the most significant civil rights and democratic rights bills of its history. Congress has the responsibility to act and act now.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Members of the Congress that I discussed this with the majority leader. The majority leader indicated that we would have discussions about bringing Voting Rights Act to the floor, as did I and Mr. Cantor, his predecessor as majority leader.

I look forward to those discussions to facilitate and to speed the bringing to the floor of the bipartisan restoration of the protections in the Voting Rights Act amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD the editorial reference.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 18, 2015]

### VOTING RIGHTS, BY THE NUMBERS

When the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, its main argument was that the law was outdated.

Discrimination against minority voters may have been pervasive in the 1960s when the law was passed, Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. wrote, but "nearly 50 years later, things have changed dramatically." In this simplistic account, the law was still punishing states and local governments for sins they supposedly stopped committing years ago.

The chief justice's destructive cure for this was to throw out the formula Congress devised in 1965 that required all or parts of 16 states with long histories of overt racial discrimination in voting, most in the South, to get approval from the federal government for any proposed change to their voting laws. This process, known as preclearance, stopped hundreds of discriminatory new laws from taking effect, and deterred lawmakers from introducing countless more.

But Chief Justice Roberts, writing for a 5-4 majority, invalidated the formula because "today's statistics tell an entirely different story."

Well, do they? A comprehensive new study by a historian of the Voting Rights Act provides a fresh trove of empirical evidence to refute that assertion. The study by J. Morgan Kousser, a professor of history and social science at the California Institute of Technology, examines more than 4,100 voting-rights cases, Justice Department inquiries, settlements and changes to laws in response to the threat of lawsuits around the country where the final result favored minority voters.

It found that from 1957 until 2013, more than 90 percent of these legal "events" occurred in jurisdictions that were required to preclear their voting changes. The study also provides evidence that the number of successful voting-rights suits has gone down in recent years, not because there is less discrimination, but because several Supreme Court decisions have made them harder to win.

Mr. Kousser acknowledges that the law's formula, created without the benefit of years of data, was a "blunt tool" that focused on voter turnout and clearly discriminatory practices like literacy tests. Still, he says,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the statistics show that for almost a half century it “succeeded in accurately homing in on the counties where the vast majority of violations would take place.”

Members of Congress had seen some of this data in 2006 when, by a near-unanimous vote, they reauthorized the Voting Rights Act for 25 years. In fact, the legislative record contained more than 15,000 pages of evidence documenting the continuation of ever-evolving racially discriminatory voting practices, particularly in the areas covered by the preclearance requirement.

But the Roberts opinion showed no interest in actual data. Nor did it seem to matter that the law was already adapting to current conditions: Every one of the more than 200 jurisdictions that asked to be removed from the preclearance list was successful, because each showed it was not discriminating.

Instead, the court said the coverage formula had to be struck down because it failed to target precisely all areas with voting rights violations in the country.

Mr. Kousser's study does not solve this problem, in part because there is no easy way to compare discrimination in places that are under a federal microscope with those that are not. But the study provides the most wide-ranging empirical evidence yet that Congress was amply justified in finding that voting discrimination remains concentrated in the covered states and regions. In other words, the tactics may have changed, but the story remains largely the same. Voting discrimination no longer takes the form of literacy tests and poll taxes. Instead, it is embodied in voter-ID laws, the closing of polling places in minority neighborhoods, the elimination of early-voting days and hours, and much more.

The Supreme Court suggested that Congress could fix the law by updating the coverage formula to more closely reflect where violations are occurring today—and a bipartisan bill introduced in 2014 and reintroduced this year has done just that. So far it has gone nowhere because most Republicans oppose it. Even if it were to pass, there is no guarantee it would survive before a Supreme Court that is highly skeptical of any race-conscious efforts to reduce discrimination.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department and private groups are doing what they can to combat the flood of new discriminatory laws with the surviving provisions of the Voting Rights Act. But without preclearance requirements for places with the worst records on racial discrimination, they will always be a few steps behind.

#### AMERICAN ANGELS OF MERCY IN SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last year, a National Geographic photographer captured 5,000 desperate people navigating their way through a sandstorm, then eventually breaking through a barbed wire for safety through the border into Turkey. They were among the roughly 11 million Syrians who have now been displaced from their homes over the past 4 years.

The rich, the poor, the elderly, and the children, Christians, Muslims, they all share a new identity: a war refugee. Though they may be alive, many of them have little hope for a better life.

A Syrian mother and a refugee under World Vision's refugee program said she and her family lived in a small apartment and they were happy before the war; they were never envious of anyone, but after living in a tent with some 25 other families in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, she now envies even the dead in Syria.

Unable to work because it is illegal, the more than 3.8 million refugees in neighboring countries wonder every day if they will be given aid to feed their kids. Safe places where children can go to learn, laugh, and play don't exist. Parents worry that their children might also join the ranks of ISIS, become victims of child labor or forced marriage.

A 14-year-old girl who participated in Save the Children's programs in Jordan had been married off by her father, not because he loved her less, but because it was one less mouth to feed in the family. Young girls like this one are torn within their identity. They wonder whether they should be playing with fellow children or must be a wife.

For the 7 million people internally displaced in Syria—7 million, that is bigger than New York City—those people face a double-edged sword every day because they may be killed by Assad's monsters or by the rebels. In June 2012, government forces executed entire families in front of one another and their neighbors.

Ten-year-old Fatima stood bravely before the soldiers with \$2 in her hand, asking to spare the life of her 11-month-old baby brother, Mattessem. They still shot. The bullet went through Mattessem and killed their mother. Out of a family of 25, only Mattessem, Fatima, the father, and the grandfather survived those executions.

Assad kills his people indiscriminately with barrel bombs that are embedded with chlorine and with shrapnel. These attacks bring scores of victims into the already overworked makeshift hospitals in Syria; 175 of these hospitals have been hit by barrel bombs by Assad.

Dr. Sahloul, a Chicago doctor and head of the Syrian American Medical Society, has become one of the dozens of American doctors who have helped the wounded in this war. He has risked being arrested, tortured, and even killed for aiding the opposition. He has treated victims of these barrel bomb attacks and has shared with my committee a young boy's vivid account of the attack.

Instead of drawing a sun and animals, this child drew people with their legs severed—severed from their bodies—bloody, and tears in the eyes of the victim. These children have had the first years shrouded in war. They have been deprived of a childhood stolen by war.

We are all made the same way, no matter what we look like or where we

live, and deep down in our soul, all of us, even these Syrian refugees, just want to be free.

For every day the reign of terror continues, the colossal number of 12.2 million Syrians who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance continues to grow. U.S. Government-funded programming is working to meet this need. U.S.-based nongovernment organizations, both religious and secular, are doing great work inside Syria and the surrounding region to address the many needs of the displaced.

American funding has provided lifesaving food and essential items for several hundred thousand people inside the constantly bombarded city of Aleppo. Dozens of medical facilities throughout Syria are providing trauma and primary health care, as well as much-needed psychological and social support. Child-friendly spaces are set up in a safe place for children to receive support, to learn, and to play.

Mr. Speaker, war is hell, and the non-combatant citizens are the ones who suffer from this hellish violence. Until the war in Syria is over, the lifesaving humanitarian care done by these American angels of mercy give hope to millions of refugees.

We thank these selfless people that help those affected by this war in Syria.

And that is just the way it is.

#### CORINTHIAN COLLEGES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, next month, almost 4 million students will graduate from college, but on Monday, more than 16,000 students—students who have sacrificed countless hours and resources—were robbed of the opportunity to achieve this goal.

These students are the victims of Corinthian Colleges, which closed its doors yesterday amidst ongoing State and Federal investigations regarding the school's fraudulent and predatory recruiting tactics. Corinthian's closure marks the end of one of the Nation's largest for-profit colleges, an industry wrought with fraud and deception.

The story of Corinthian starts with the rising cost of college, combined with repeated cuts to other affordable public educational options like community college or HBCUs. The combination of these factors led to the explosive growth of a for-profit college industry that quickly began to prey on low-income, minority, and veteran students by enticing them with the false promise of a quality education and good jobs. These promises were simply untrue.

Corinthian repeatedly misrepresented the quality of its programs and

lied about the job placement rates of its graduates. By doing so, Corinthian lured in the country's most vulnerable student populations, whose Federal loan and grant dollars were used to line the pockets of its CEO, investors, and shareholders.

As a result, Corinthian and the for-profit college industry as a whole absorbed one-quarter of all the Federal student aid, more than \$30 billion annually. During the Great Recession, Corinthian alone nearly doubled its revenue due to the enrollment of millions of vulnerable unemployed workers who were even more susceptible to the enticing offer of a quality education and future employment.

Make no mistake, these people preyed on at-risk students and workers. They took advantage of the next generation of America's leaders, and they used the economic distress and uncertainty our young people were dealing with for their own economic gain.

As Corinthian continued its deceptive practices, the school had 162 failing academic programs, more than any other for-profit college in the country.

□ 1215

During this Congress, I have continued my lifetime of work on this subject, which began in the California General Assembly. I have repeatedly called on the Department of Education to close Corinthian and offer full loan forgiveness for all its students. Last month, I was proud to endorse the Corinthian 100 and their efforts to obtain full debt relief.

Today, joined by my Senate colleague, Democratic Whip DICK DURBIN, I am introducing the CLASS Act, a piece of legislation that will help restore students' legal rights against for-profit institutions.

We need this for a key reason. As Corinthian knowingly deceived its students, it also included in its enrollment agreements provisions that limited students' access to courts and shielded Corinthian from liability for its misconduct. These included mandatory arbitration and measures that prohibited students from joining together to form a class action lawsuit.

As a result, even though Corinthian Colleges has closed its doors, students are still suffering because they do not have a legal outlet to address their harms.

If students are to receive any relief, they are at the mercy of the Department of Education and the good faith of Corinthian Colleges itself, the same institution that has already deceived them and saddled them with debt.

The CLASS Act attempts to remedy this problem by prohibiting any school receiving Federal funding from including any restrictions on students' ability to pursue legal claims against it in court.

Essentially, this bill serves as the students' strongest line of defense against any future fraudulent conduct by restoring their rights to have their day in court.

I encourage all of my colleagues to take a stand against the practices of Corinthian Colleges and other predatory for-profit institutions by supporting this legislation and fighting for our students' right to an honest, quality education.

Mr. Speaker and Members, we still have a lot of for-profit colleges out there that are treating our students in the same manner that Corinthian has—deceiving them—and who are guilty of fraud.

We must take responsibility in this Congress to protect our students.

#### RAISE THE WAGE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is an important and significant week here in the Hall of the people's House because, this week, we are going to be introducing the Raise the Wage Act.

This argument has been going on for quite some time now; yet, frustratingly, despite all the time and energy that has been focused on this issue, the Federal minimum wage still has not been raised in almost a decade.

Depending on what measure of inflation you use, the minimum wage in real dollars is either at its lowest level in 50 years or its lowest level in 70 years. Either way is bad for American workers.

I want to particularly combat the perception some have that all minimum wage workers are teenagers. Actually, the average age of a minimum wage worker is 33 years old.

Any time you go into the local McDonald's or Burger King in my neighborhood, you can see in person that we are dealing with not just teen workers, but many who are in their thirties, forties, fifties, and many seniors who need to work in order to supplement their income.

I also want to highlight this important fact: 18.7 million children—almost 19 million children—are supported by parents who work full time at minimum wage jobs.

We are not talking about a government handout. We are not talking about helping those who aren't attempting to help themselves. We are talking about making sure a fair day's work actually pays. We are talking about rewarding hard-working Americans.

By the way, if you don't work a minimum wage job—you are just an ordinary taxpayer—you, too, would benefit from increasing the minimum wage.

Here is why. We have, right now in America, the highest percentage of minimum wage workers who are currently getting government assistance—food stamps, Medicaid, and other sorts of programs—because, despite working full time, they make so little, they qualify for government assistance.

By raising their wage, we would decrease the poverty rate and decrease the amount of money needed to be spent on public assistance programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue about fairness; it is an issue about justice, but it is also an issue about what kind of an America we believe in, one that rewards hard work, one that rewards those who are going to work every day and working for a living, or one that just says the wealthiest one-tenth of 1 percent can continue to grow at the greatest rate of income in American history, while the other 70 percent of Americans are losing their share of income. That is wrong.

We believe in an America in which those who work hard and play by the rules should benefit. One way of ensuring this will happen is raising the minimum wage now.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCARTHY) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Jim Birchfield, First Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for the gift of this new day and for the promise that You are with us. Thank You for Your grace, Your love, and the many blessings that are ours through You.

Forgive us for falling short of Your grace and Your call upon our lives, and help us to walk humbly, serve graciously, and lead righteously.

Guide this body today in the work that You have called them to. Grant strength, wisdom, courage, and compassion to the leadership and to each Member of this House, the Senate, our President, and all the leaders of our government.

Finally, we pray for our Nation. Grant us peace and unity. Call out the best in us, and help us to care for and serve the least of those among us.

Bless these leaders, that they might be a blessing to the world.

To Your glory, Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LOWENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND DR. JIM BIRCHFIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to be here today to watch my father-in-law, the Reverend Dr. Jim Birchfield, speak in the House this afternoon.

Reverend Dr. Jim Birchfield is a man whom I have known over the past nearly decade that I have known my wife and her family. They are here with us in the gallery this afternoon. He is a man of utmost integrity who has devoted his life to, as he said, serving those among us that are most in need.

Through his ministry at First Presbyterian Church and, prior to that, in Newport Beach, California, and the Greater Los Angeles area, he and his family have consistently dedicated themselves to spreading the Word of God and making sure that we, as a community and a country, remain focused on those who need our help most.

He has spread that Word throughout the entire world, from Sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt, and Malawi, to recent trips to Israel, and literally the world over, as he continues to expand his ministry and touch those who are in need of additional services.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful today to be with my father-in-law, Reverend Dr. Birchfield, and to have this moment to share with him and his family this morning.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of Senator CORYN and Senator WYDEN, the Senate has unanimously passed the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This bill will help stop modern-day slavery here in America. The House has passed a similar bill under the sponsorship of CAROLYN MALONEY and myself.

We have acknowledged international human trafficking for years. Now, we acknowledge and put sufficient resources behind the fight against the buying and selling of human beings. Slavery in America is not going to be tolerated.

The bill penalizes traffickers and buyers. Mr. Speaker, buyers have escaped the long arm of the law for too long. The bill also treats trafficking victims as victims and not criminals.

We can no longer deny the scourge of rape and abuse of our children. I strongly encourage the House leadership to immediately bring up the Senate compromise, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, for a vote.

Victims are people, too. Let it be known that America's kids are not for sale, and woe be to anyone that sells them or buys them in the marketplace of slavery.

And that is just the way it is.

#### BLACK APRIL

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, the fall of Saigon ended the war in Vietnam and began the journey for hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who were forced to flee their land for foreign shores like America.

This April, we remember those Vietnamese, Americans, and their allies who lost their lives in Vietnam and for the many thousands of boat people who perished while fleeing Vietnam on the "journey to freedom."

Today, in communities throughout our Nation, Vietnamese Americans contribute daily to the tapestry that we call American life.

On this 40th anniversary of Black April, we also cannot forget the continuing struggle in Vietnam for democracy, freedom, and basic human rights.

Today, I am introducing a resolution commemorating this historic event, remembering those who gave their lives, and honoring the Vietnamese community in the United States.

#### CLEAN POWER PLAN IN MINNESOTA

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise aware-

ness about the questionable requirements the State of Minnesota has been given by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

The Clean Power Plan mandates that Minnesota reduce carbon emissions for power plants by 41 percent by the year 2030, while requiring lower reductions in other States. The EPA has failed to recognize and credit Minnesota for already decreasing its emissions by 13 percent between 2005 and 2011.

Not only is this plan patently unfair to Minnesotans, but it will hurt consumers across our Nation. Electricity prices will increase for many businesses and families, disproportionately impacting those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Additionally, according to the Cato Institute, the plan will only reduce the average worldwide temperature by about two-hundredths of a degree Celsius, and that will take almost 100 years.

I encourage the EPA to reconsider the Clean Power Plan, while keeping in mind the work many States have already done on their own to reduce emissions.

#### TRIBUTE TO EARL HARGROVE

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I will place a statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD paying tribute to the memory of my dear friend, Earl Hargrove, who passed earlier this month.

Earl was a very respected figure in Maryland's Fifth District; in Maryland; and, indeed, nationally. He built a successful specialty decorations and event planning business and served our Nation in the Marine Corps.

Everyone has seen Earl Hargrove's work in America because he did many of the inaugural floats for our Presidents; so when you watched television, you were watching the work of Earl Hargrove, his family, and coworkers.

I am honored to celebrate his life and legacy today, and I hope my colleagues will join me in offering condolences to Earl's wife of six decades, Gloria Love Hargrove, and to his children and grandchildren.

#### MARRIAGE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on this day that the Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments on marriage, I want to read a quote.

I believe marriage is not just a bond but a sacred bond between a man and a woman . . . I am committed to the sanctity of marriage, to the fundamental bedrock principle that exists



between a man and a woman, going back into the mists of history as one of the foundational institutions of history and humanity and civilization . . . its primary, principal role during those millennia has been the raising and socializing of children for the society into which they become adults . . . Every State reserves the right to refuse to recognize a marriage performed in another State if that marriage would violate the State's public policy.

Indeed, the Supreme Court has long held that no State can be forced to recognize any marriage. That is what the case law has held . . . the Supreme Court has historically held that States do not have to recognize laws of other States that offend their public policy, it is assumed that any challenge would be futile.

Mr. Speaker, that was Hillary Clinton in 2004. She was right.

#### THANK A NURSE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the hard-working nurses across America.

Nursing is our country's largest healthcare profession. There are more than 3.1 million registered nurses working on the front lines with patients across the country.

Beyond working in hospitals, nurses work at private practices, public health agencies, primary care clinics, home health care, nursing homes, and outpatient facilities.

Nurses perform a number of important duties. They are a pillar of our healthcare system and are vital in creating a healthier America. An increased emphasis on preventative care means nurses will become even more important in the future.

Nurses do important and fantastic work and are an integral part of our healthcare system. If you know a nurse—or the next time you see one—thank them for what they do.

#### CONGRATULATING THE WILKES CENTRAL LADY EAGLES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Wilkes Central High School women's basketball team, which recently won the North Carolina 2A State championship. It is the first NCHSAA State championship in the program's history.

The Lady Eagles fought hard in the final minutes to beat Kinston High School 44-41 for the win. MVP Laken Blackburn had 15 points to lead the team. Kailey McNeil added 9 points and 19 rebounds. Amber Godfrey had 7

points, and Kamre Gibbs added 6 points, including two free throws with 6.7 seconds left to seal the win. Brooke Bentley scored 5, and Maegan McUmber hit two crucial free throws in the fourth quarter.

I commend these young athletes and head coach Scott Waugh, who led them on their winning campaign, and wish the team continuing success in future seasons.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from Porter J. Goss, chairman and board member of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby notify you of my resignation as Chairman and Board Member of The Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE), effective immediately.

As you may recall, I have been serving as Co-Chair of The OCE Board since the inception of the office in 2008. The guidelines established by H. Res. 895 show my term should not exceed eight (8) years. An Alternate Member currently serves on the Board to fill vacancy.

Co-Chairman David Skaggs and I believe the purposes of H. Res. 895 are best served by staggering the timing of replacement of each of the Co-Chairs. Therefore, I have begun to transition to other areas of public service and private activity.

Please be assured I consider it an honor and privilege to have experienced this appointment on behalf of The House of Representatives.

Kindest regards,

PORTER J. GOSS.

#### REAPPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702 and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:

Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas, Columbus, Ohio

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### RAUL HECTOR CASTRO PORT OF ENTRY

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1075) to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1075

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. RAUL HECTOR CASTRO PORT OF ENTRY.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the port of entry referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1075 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would designate the United States Customs and

Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry.

Raul Hector Castro was a distinguished public servant who served in both elected and nonelected public services, in offices such as the Governor of Arizona and a United States Ambassador.

Mr. Castro was the first Mexican American to be elected Governor of Arizona, and he served as United States Ambassador to Bolivia, El Salvador, and Argentina. He will be remembered with respect for his lifelong dedication and his many contributions to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and thank him for bringing this to our attention and for being the author of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin and the leadership on the other side of the aisle for expediting this particular request—I am very appreciative—and to all the members of the Arizona delegation for their concurrence with this designation.

I am proud to offer this bill today to recognize a man that not only led a tremendous life of public service, but served as a personal hero to many of us in Arizona, as well as the Nation.

His story is one worth sharing. By designating the Douglas Port of Entry as the Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry, we will ensure the story continues to be memorialized and told; and in the future, when a revitalized port is designated for Douglas, Arizona, it will continue to bear his name.

Mr. Castro was the embodiment of the American Dream and, despite all the odds, he proved that, with perseverance and courage, all dreams can be achieved.

Mr. Castro's story, like many Americans today, begins south of the border. Born June 12, 1916, in Cananea, Mexico, Mr. Castro grew up in Arizona and graduated from Douglas High School.

He was the second youngest in a family of 12 children. His father was a union leader forced out of Mexico for organizing the mine in Cananea. His father died when Castro was only 12 years old, and his mother became a midwife to feed the family.

Growing up on the U.S.-Mexico border near Douglas, Arizona, Castro learned many life lessons, especially when it came to the issues of prejudice and injustice. He often spoke of walking 5 miles to a segregated school while White children rode a bus to another school.

He was keenly aware of the difference in the quality of jobs available to men and women that looked like him. This

early prejudice and discrimination ultimately became his enduring motivation.

A moment engraved in his memory is when, despite not being able to properly pronounce his name, Castro realized his grammar school teacher truly cared for him and wanted him to be a good student. Castro embraced this encouragement and became an even more determined student than he was.

A stellar student, an athlete, his enthusiasm continued through college. After graduation, after being denied a teaching job because of his race, he went on to work in the field picking sugar beets and at the Douglas mining smelter, where he was paid half the wages of his White counterparts.

Still undeterred, he landed a job with the U.S. Consulate in the border city of Agua Prieta, Mexico. Then, despite being told it was impossible, he fought to enter law school and eventually graduated with a J.D. from the University of Arizona. He excelled and went on to be the first elected Mexican American county attorney and, later, the first Mexican American judge in the Pima County Superior Court.

This was just the beginning of Castro's improbable journey. He went on to serve as U.S. Ambassador to three Latin American countries. Lyndon Johnson sent him to El Salvador and Bolivia, where he stayed for a short time under President Nixon before returning to Arizona and making the first of two bids for Governor.

After two of the closest gubernatorial elections in State history, Castro once again trumped all odds and became the State's first Latino elected to serve as Governor. He defeated his opponent by less than 1 percentage point and recalls being 4,000 votes behind until the Navajo voters' ballots were counted, and that turned out to be the margin of his victory. Castro served 2½ years as Governor before resigning, when President Carter asked him to be Ambassador to Argentina.

Let me quote directly from Raul Castro's memoir published in 2009, appropriately entitled, "Adversity Is My Angel."

The introduction starts:

Raul H. Castro's unlikely but distinguished professional career suggests that the adversity inherent in his humble beginnings only hardened his resolve and strengthened his determination. He was born into grinding poverty and minority status on the U.S.-Mexico border, but eventually overcame these obstacles to become, among other titles, Arizona's first Hispanic Governor. Castro's story, which suggests much about the human spirit and the hope of the American Dream, is one that ought to be told.

In that introduction, it continues:

Yet, in spite of such a disadvantaged beginning, Castro found a way to get an education and embark on his path to the prominent positions that he held in his lifetime, beginning as a teacher, then a lawyer, then a Pima County Attorney, Superior Court Judge, the

Governor of Arizona, an American Ambassador to El Salvador, Bolivia, and Argentina. Though Castro suffered innumerable instances of social and racial discrimination, he overcame institutional and personal prejudice to attain the life he deserved.

Raul Castro's career and service serve as dual role models, not only for Mexican Americans, but for all Americans.

He said:

At the time I moved to Tucson, just after the cessation of hostilities in World War II, the public school system was instrumental in the subordination, rather than the advancement, of Mexican students. They were put in vocational classes and discouraged from attending college.

I decided, what a terrible waste of brain power.

In Governor Castro's own words, he said at the time: "I intended to take a different track and buck that trend."

Indeed, he did buck that trend and opened a new path in public service for many of us, including myself. Castro credits the challenges faced to shaping his character and understood that education was the ultimate path to a better life. To him, the far most important part of the legacy was to inspire Mexican American children and all children to aspire to do great things, even in the face of adversity.

Even in his nineties, Castro continued to work with underrepresented and poor students to encourage them to pursue higher education, to get their education, and to use the obstacles as motivation to make their life better for others.

This bill recognizes an extraordinary pioneer that dedicated his life to public service and to the fight for equality. I appreciate the support of the entire Arizona House delegation for honoring this American legend.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGU).

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1075.

I would like to begin by thanking my good friend, Congressman GRIJALVA, and the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding their time and for authoring this important legislation.

Governor Raul Castro was a trailblazing figure in Arizona history, and renaming the city of Douglas port of entry in his honor is a fitting tribute to all that he did for our State and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Castro was the first Mexican American Governor of our fine State. He also served as Ambassador to Argentina, Bolivia, and El Salvador.

Governor Castro paved the way for a new generation of politically active Latinos and immigrants who followed in his footsteps and fought to make their voices heard. He played an important role in the history of Arizona and

of the Latino rights movement, and we will be forever indebted to him for his work on behalf of our community.

Governor Castro devoted his entire life to public service. He saw that Latinos in Arizona needed a voice, and he accepted that challenge. He worked tirelessly to encourage Hispanics to get involved and participate in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Castro is an inspiration to Arizonans and Latinos in public service throughout this country.

I want to thank, again, Congressman GRIJALVA for his tremendous work on this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. Let me thank my colleague, Mr. GALLEGOS, for his support and his eloquent statements. And to Mr. RYAN, thank you again for expediting and having this vote today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I will just simply say I congratulate the Arizona delegation for bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor. It is a fitting tribute to a man who has an important place in history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1075.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SISTER ANN KEEFE POST OFFICE

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 651) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 651

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SISTER ANN KEEFE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 651, introduced by Representative DAVID CICILLINE, for the purpose of designating the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the Sister Ann Keefe Post Office.

Sister Ann Keefe was a dedicated public servant and a community activist who touched the lives of many, many people in Providence, Rhode Island. In fact, for over 30 years, Sister Keefe led the Social Justice ministry at St. Michael's church. She was instrumental in founding nearly two dozen community organizations.

Unfortunately, Sister Keefe passed away from cancer earlier this year, on January 18, at the young age of 62.

□ 1615

Sister Keefe will be remembered for her incredible ability to get things done and to turn an idea into reality. She will be remembered for her many accomplishments and as an example of selfless and faithful service.

Naming a postal facility for Sister Ann Keefe in the community that she served and lived in for so many years will help memorialize her dedication to the people of Providence and encourage others to follow her example of public service. So I urge Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his kind words with respect to Sister Ann Keefe.

I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the Sister Ann Keefe Post Office.

Sister Ann, who passed away on January 18 of this year, was a dedicated activist for the poor and disenfranchised, an advocate for nonviolence, a champion of social justice and equal opportunity, and a beloved member of the Rhode Island community.

Sister Ann was born in Warren, Massachusetts, in 1952 to a large family. A dedicated Catholic, Sister Ann joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1982 after

first earning a master's degree in social work from Fordham University. Sister Ann spent the next 33 years of her life in service at St. Michael the Archangel Church in south Providence and left an indelible mark on Rhode Island that will not be forgotten.

Sister Ann was instrumental in the founding and development of over 22 organizations that aimed to improve the lives of members of the community most in need. These organizations included the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, Providence CityArts for Youth, the Community Boating Center, and AIDS Care Ocean State. These organizations embody the passion and relentless work Sister Ann dedicated her life to and serve as a reminder of her tireless advocacy and selfless commitment to others.

I offer this legislation today along with my colleagues in the Rhode Island delegation to designate the facility at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence as the Sister Ann Keefe Post Office in order to create a permanent reminder of Sister Ann's contributions and of her accomplishments in our community.

I had the extraordinary honor of working with Sister Ann over many years and treasure our friendship. Her life was spent magnanimously. Her dedication, spirit, and generosity to others will be missed by all who knew her.

I thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for their work in passing this legislation and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 651 to honor Sister Ann's memory and her extraordinary legacy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) aware that I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Again, I move the passage of this piece of legislation, which will honor a great woman who contributed so much to my great State. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his accommodation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am very much pleased to support this legislation honoring Sister Ann Keefe by lending her name to the Elmwood Avenue post office in Providence, Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sister Ann Keefe, who touched the lives of countless individuals in her service to Rhode Island, and in support of H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States

Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office."

Sister Ann's generosity, compassion, and fearless advocacy for social justice have left an indelible mark on our state. She was a true public servant, speaking for those who had no voice and working tirelessly to assist the disadvantaged. In her more than 33 years of service as a Sister of Saint Joseph, Sister Ann worked to address the challenges facing Providence. No feat was too great; Sister Ann knew how to roll up her sleeves and get the job done, bringing a patient, faithful voice to issues affecting the most vulnerable among us.

Sister Ann's legacy endures through the many lives she touched and the dozens of initiatives and organizations she founded, including the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, Providence CityArts for Youth, AIDS Care Ocean State, and the Providence Human Relations Commission. These programs continue to serve those in need and work to make our communities stronger.

Sister Ann faced the problems that others ignored, and her example serves as a reminder that with love, compassion, and determination, a single individual can make a tremendous difference. Sister Ann left us too soon, but our state and our world are better places because she passed through. I am proud to support the naming of this facility as yet another marker of appreciation for, and in remembrance of, Sister Ann, and I thank my good friend and colleague from Rhode Island for introducing this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1690.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### JOSEPH F. WEIS JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1690) to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1690

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the

"Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1690.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1690 designates the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse.

Joseph F. Weis, Jr., served as a Federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 1973 until assuming senior status in 1988. He served in that capacity until his death last year.

Prior to his appointment to the United States Court of Appeals, Judge Weis was appointed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his appointment to the Federal bench, he served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and was in the private practice of law.

Judge Weis served our country during the Second World War as a captain in the United States Army and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Given Judge Weis' service and dedication to our country, it is fitting to name this courthouse after him.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1690 names the U.S. Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for Judge Joseph Weis, a distinguished jurist who made significant contributions to the surrounding community.

Judge Weis was a World War II veteran who received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with oak leaf clusters for his service in the Army. Judge Weis went on to graduate from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh Law School. In 1970, he was appointed to the Western District Court of Pennsylvania. Three years later, he

was appointed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and went on to serve 44 years as a distinguished Federal judge.

Judge Weis won numerous awards while on the bench, including the DeVitt Award, considered the highest award for a Federal judge; the Pitt Distinguished Alumni Award; and he served as an adjunct faculty member at the Pitt School of Law.

Because of Judge Weis' dedicated service to the legal community and his exemplary time as a jurist in Pittsburgh, it is fitting to name this courthouse in his honor.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BARLETTA. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), my very distinguished colleague.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. I thank my good friend for yielding me time. I want to thank him as well for his support for this legislation in committee and here today on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1690, legislation to designate the Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse.

I have the honor and privilege of representing the city of Pittsburgh in the House of Representatives. Joseph F. Weis, Jr., was a well known and respected individual in western Pennsylvania who served his country both as a soldier and as a judge.

Naming the Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh would be fitting recognition for an individual with such a long and distinguished record of service to his country.

Joe Weis left college and enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. Later in life, he described that decision simply as "the thing to do. The country was at war, and I felt I should be out there doing my share." And he clearly did. He was wounded twice fighting in France with the 4th Armored Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster for his action in combat.

After the war, Joe Weis completed his undergraduate degree at Duquesne University and then pursued a legal career, joining his father's practice after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1950. After a number of years in private practice, he was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in 1968 as the first choice on both the Democratic and Republican ballots. As a judge, he rapidly earned a reputation for dedication, integrity, and hard work. Two years later, Judge Weis was appointed to the Federal bench, and in 1973, he

was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, one step below the Supreme Court.

□ 1630

He served on that court for 40 years, retiring just 2 years ago when he was 90 years old.

He worked tirelessly to improve the judicial system, advocating for innovative courtroom technologies and enforcement of judicial ethics. He was recognized for his outstanding service on the bench with the Devitt Award, the highest honor given to Federal judges.

Amidst this impressive list of accomplishments, he was known most of all for the strength of his character. Joe Weis was beloved by his colleagues and his law clerks, who to this day call themselves "Weis guys."

Joseph F. Weis, Jr.'s life is a model all public servants should aspire to emulate. Naming this Federal courthouse in his honor is a fitting way to honor this long, faithful, and capable service to our country and to hold him up as an example of a true public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to name the Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh in his honor.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. DOYLE, from Pennsylvania.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1690.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### R. JESS BROWN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 172) to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 172

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 172.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 172 designates the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Brown was a civil rights attorney who worked against racial discrimination and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights lawsuit in Mississippi. A native of Oklahoma, Mr. Brown attended Illinois State University, Indiana University, and the Texas Southern University law school.

In the 1960s, he was one of only four African American lawyers in Mississippi and one of three who took civil rights cases. In 1962, he worked on behalf of James Meredith, whose successful lawsuit allowed him to be the first African American student to enroll in the University of Mississippi.

Later, Mr. Brown worked to fight against discrimination in transportation and other public accommodations. Given his dedication to the law and civil rights, it is appropriate to name this courthouse after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 172, a bill to designate the Federal courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Attorney R. Jess Brown was a towering champion during critical moments in the civil rights movement in the South and especially in Mississippi.

Jess Brown received his law degree from Texas Southern University and practiced law in Mississippi throughout the 1960s and the 1970s.

As an associate counsel for the NAACP, he filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi in the 1950s. In 1961, he represented James Meredith in his

suit to be allowed to enter the University of Mississippi.

His victory in this case opened doors that the University of Mississippi citizens had to walk through quite boldly, and I think that he doesn't get the credit that he deserves, Mr. Speaker.

It is important to note that, while with the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, he played a major role in fighting racial discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations.

I support this legislation, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to help me pass H.R. 172.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown was a courageous American who stood and fought for what was right. He is deserving to have this courthouse named after him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 172.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 373) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 373

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act".

#### SEC. 2. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE.—The term "eligible", with respect to an organization or individual, means that the organization or individual, respectively, is—

(A) acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

(B) composed entirely of members who, at the time of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission, have attained the age of majority under the law of the State where the mission takes place.

(2) GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.—The term "good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission" means a search conducted by an eligible organization or individual for 1 or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable.

(b) **PROCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and individuals to request access to Federal land to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The process developed and implemented under this subsection shall include provisions to clarify that—

(A) an eligible organization or individual granted access under this section—

(i) shall be acting for private purposes; and  
(ii) shall not be considered to be a Federal volunteer;

(B) an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered to be a volunteer under section 102301(c) of title 54, United States Code;

(C) chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), shall not apply to an eligible organization or individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(D) chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Employees Compensation Act”), shall not apply to an eligible organization or individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, and the conduct of the good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission shall not constitute civilian employment.

(c) **RELEASE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal land under this section, if the eligible organization or individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(2); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability relating to the access granted under this section and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States from any claims or lawsuits arising from any conduct by the eligible organization or individual on Federal land.

(d) **APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization or individual of the approval or denial of a request by the eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section by not later than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) **DENIALS.**—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial of the request; and

(B) any actions that the eligible organization or individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(e) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—Each Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery-focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations—

(1) to coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for

missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a joint report describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (e)(1); and

(2) efforts carried out to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. **BISHOP**) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. **TSONGAS**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **BISHOP** of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. **BISHOP** of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. **HECK**), whose bill we are discussing, to introduce the bill.

Mr. **HECK** of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee for working with me in a bipartisan manner to bring H.R. 373, the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act, to the floor.

H.R. 373 tears down bureaucratic roadblocks that are preventing families from achieving closure when their loved ones go missing on Federal land. This issue was first brought to my attention by the separate but similarly tragic cases of Las Vegas taxi driver Keith Goldberg and Air Force Staff Sergeant Antonio Tucker.

Mr. Goldberg and Staff Sergeant Tucker were presumed dead, and their remains were believed to be missing somewhere within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. In both cases, local, experienced search and recovery groups volunteered their time and resources to help locate the remains of these missing individuals.

Unfortunately, due to unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles from the Federal Government, the group volunteering to help locate and recover Mr. Goldberg's remains was denied access to Park Service land to conduct its search for 15 months. The group volunteering to help locate the remains of Staff Sergeant Tucker was denied access for 10 months, needlessly delaying the closure these families sought.

This is unacceptable and must change. My bill does just that. Once these bureaucratic hurdles were finally

cleared and these Good Samaritan search and recovery groups were allowed access to Park Service land, Mr. Goldberg's remains were recovered in less than 2 hours and the remains of Staff Sergeant Tucker's were recovered in less than 2 days.

As a former member of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's search and rescue team, I introduced this bill because unnecessary red tape simply must not continue to get in the way of providing closure for families faced with similar tragic circumstances.

A similar bill, H.R. 2166, passed the House in the 113th Congress with a unanimous vote of 394-0, showing real bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to take action on the measure.

We must pass this bill so that future families won't have to suffer the mental anguish that the families of Keith Goldberg and Antonio Tucker did. Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee for diligently working with me on H.R. 373.

I urge its adoption.

Ms. **TSONGAS**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in January 2012, when Keith Goldberg went missing, finding him was all his family wanted. Investigators presumed that he had been murdered and that his remains were somewhere in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a unit administered by the National Park Service.

After several months passed, local law enforcement was unable to recover Mr. Goldberg's remains, and they gave up the search. His family, wanting what any family would want, reached out to a private, nonprofit search and rescue outfit for assistance.

Unfortunately, it took 15 months for the professional search and rescue company to acquire the permits and insurance required to conduct this search. Within 2 hours of receiving the necessary credentials, Mr. Goldberg's body was recovered.

H.R. 373 will help speed up the process for granting private search and rescue companies access to Federal lands. The bill strikes a fair balance between guaranteeing safety, ensuring sufficient liability insurance for the American taxpayer, and improving the process. Under H.R. 373, private search and rescue operations, when appropriate, can have timely access to public lands.

The Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on this bill in the 113th Congress, and the National Park Service recommended some technical changes to the legislation.

I would like to thank the majority for working with us to incorporate those suggestions into the legislation that we are considering today. I also want to thank Mr. **HECK** for his leadership on this legislation.



Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 373 and urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have this assumption here that a suspension is simply an easy bill, one where everyone agrees to it, and it simply will happen. Last session, we were wise enough to pass this bill in committee and on the floor, and the House should be commended for the action that it took last year. The Senate did not and should not.

Mr. Speaker, this year, it is with us again, but sometimes, these suspension bills are far more significant than one would think. This is one of those bills that is extremely significant even though we simply label it as a suspension because it illustrates a problem, a larger problem that we have here in the Nation, one in the way we define public lands versus Federal lands.

Public lands are those lands which actually should be dedicated to the local people who live there, where their decisions should be tolerated, and their ideas should be respected. The land should be there to help people.

Federal lands, unfortunately, are lands where simply the government—the Federal Government—controls them, and the Federal Government has grown so big they can't actually see the value of those particular lands.

The government has become too big to be concerned, too big to be creative, and instead simply tries to cross bureaucratic T's and sometimes, to cover themselves for future action, too big simply to care about people. These two situations, which the good Representative from Nevada has shown, illustrate exactly how that happened.

The first family, trying to find the remains of their lost relative, was required—was required, along with the group that was trying to help them in recovering the body—was required to pay a high indemnity because the agency feared that there might be some potential harm done to the land, which would trump the ability of helping people do something for someone and to be creative in the process.

□ 1645

It took the family and this entity 15 months to raise the money to pay it off. Ultimately, they decided to waive it. And as has been stated, within hours, when they were actually allowed to do things, they found the body—15 months, 15 months of waiting, when it should have only taken a matter of hours to bring cloture to a family. And why? Because our agencies have become too big, too dogmatic, too bureaucratic to actually do things that help people. Instead, you have to follow the rule.

For the Air Force sergeant, it was the same situation. He was, unfortun-

nately, drowned. A company that is an expert in this kind of recovery system volunteered to go in there and find the body, and, once again, month after month, the agency rejected to try and help people who are there on public lands. Instead, they treated them as Federal lands and insisted that the bureaucratic rules were supreme because there might be some damage that could potentially happen, and, therefore, that is the most important goal to make sure does not take place.

That entity went to court and the court finally said that this is a ridiculous approach; let them go in there. Within months of their ability to go in there, once again, they found the body.

The bill that Mr. HECK is presenting to you is nothing more than common sense. This is the way all agencies should behave, and it is sad that we actually have to pass legislation to get our land agency to do what they should be doing in the first place.

Sometimes we are criticized here in Congress for having a lack of common sense, but it is sad that it is up to Congress to try to insist that our land agencies actually use common sense. The most important issue should be the issue with how we can actually help people; that is our first responsibility. In these two situations, it was an utter failure to actually realize that people are the most important element and, if we do have Federal lands, they better be used to help people or we shouldn't have them in the first place.

That is why this bill is not just a simple suspension bill. This is a significant piece of legislation that should set the standard for how agencies deal with people in the future.

I commend the good gentleman from Nevada for bringing this back up and giving it to us again, and I promise that we will continue to pass this bill until it becomes reality, until it becomes a standard by which people are treated by the Federal land agencies we have here in this Nation. I urge its adoption, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 373, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 984) to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 984

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(46) CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Standing Bear Trail, extending approximately 550 miles from Niobrara, Nebraska, to Ponca City, Oklahoma, which follows the route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal, and approximately 550 miles from Ponca City, Oklahoma, through Omaha, Nebraska, to Niobrara, Nebraska, which follows the return route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail Feasibility Study’, numbered 903/125,630, and dated November 2014.

“(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Department of the Interior.

“(C) COMPONENTS.—The feasibility study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include a determination on whether the Chief Standing Bear Trail meets the criteria described in subsection (b) for designation as a national historic trail.

“(D) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the feasibility study under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider input from owners of private land within or adjacent to the study area.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), the



chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), who is the ranking member on the committee, as well as the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), the chairman of the Federal Lands Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS), the ranking member on the subcommittee, for their outstanding work and help to me in bringing this legislation to the floor.

This is important. This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study for the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.

Now, Chief Standing Bear holds a very special place in Native American and U.S. history. Establishing a trail in his name would be an outstanding way to recognize his contributions to our great land. I would like to provide some additional background on this extraordinary individual, who prevailed in one of the most important court cases for Native Americans in our country's history.

Chief Standing Bear was a Ponca chief. In the 1800s, the Ponca Tribe made its home in the Niobrara River Valley area of Nebraska. In 1877, the United States Government forcibly pressured the Poncas from that homeland, compelling them to move to the Indian territory in Oklahoma. Not wanting to subject his people to a confrontation with the government, Standing Bear obliged and led them from their homes on a perilous journey to the territory of Oklahoma. That journey was harsh and the new land was inhospitable. Nearly a third of the tribe died along the way from starvation, malaria, and other diseases, including Chief Standing Bear's little girl and, later, his son, Bear Shield.

Before Bear Shield died, however, Standing Bear promised his son that he would bury him in their native land in the Niobrara River Valley. So Standing Bear embarked on the trip in the winter of 1878 to return to the homeland to bury his son, leading a group of about 65 other Poncas. When they reached the Omaha reservation, the United States Army stopped Standing Bear and arrested him for leaving Oklahoma without their permission. He was taken to Fort Omaha and held there until trial.

In the meantime, Standing Bear's plight attracted media attention, first in the Omaha Daily Herald, which was the forerunner of the present-day Omaha World-Herald, and the story became well-publicized nationally.

At the conclusion of his 2-day trial, Standing Bear was allowed to speak for himself. And then he raised his hand and he said this: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you will feel pain. The blood that will flow

from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. God made us both."

With these profound words in that late spring day of 1879, I believe Chief Standing Bear expressed the most American of sentiments: the belief in the inherent dignity and rights of all persons, no matter their color, no matter their ethnicity. Judge Elmer Dundy concurred, and he ruled that Native Americans are persons within the meaning of the law. Now, this is notable. This is 1879, and, for the first time, Native Americans are recognized as persons within the full meaning of the law.

The story of the Ponca chief is a story of strength and grace and determination. I think it is a story that we need to tell over and over again so that it is understood and cherished by all Americans of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, establishment of the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail would honor both the courage of this man and the great contribution to the freedom and the civil liberties of our Nation that he brought about. This bill is an important first step toward establishing the trail, and I look forward to continuing to work with the committee and the National Park Service to make this a reality.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 984 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas. The trail extends 550 miles, following the same route taken by Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people during Federal Indian removal in 1877 and their subsequent return to Nebraska.

Chief Standing Bear played an important role in American history as the first Native American recognized by the United States Government as a person under law, following his arrest and ensuing trial for leaving his reservation in Oklahoma without permission.

Chief Standing Bear was honoring his son's dying wish to be buried in the land of his birth and traveled with his son's remains, along with other members of his tribe, through harsh conditions from Oklahoma back to their ancestral lands in Nebraska. Unfortunately, at that time, leaving the reservation was a violation of the law.

At the very least, 135 years later, it is only right that we look into the feasibility of including this trail as part of the national historic trails system, to reflect on a not-so-proud period of history in our country when Native Americans were treated as second-class citizens and to honor the courage of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca people.

This bill passed the House last Congress. I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for advancing

this legislation again, and Representative FORTENBERRY for his leadership on this bill.

I support passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As was just mentioned before, this bill authorizes the study, which is the appropriate first step in all these types of procedures. Any designation of a trail would require additional action from this committee and this Congress.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is a very good bill. I appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska bringing it to our attention. I also appreciate him saying I am distinguished. It is obviously the new shirt that I am wearing.

I urge adoption of this particular bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 984.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1324) to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1324

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado is adjusted to incorporate the approximately 92.95 acres of land generally depicted as "The Wedge" on the map entitled "Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment" and dated November 6, 2013, and described as lots three, four, eight, and nine of section 13, Township 4 North, Range 76 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado. A lot described in this subsection may be included in the boundary adjustment only after the Secretary of Agriculture obtains written permission for such action from the lot owner or owners.

(b) **BOWEN GULCH PROTECTION AREA.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include all Federal land within the boundary described in subsection (a) in the Bowen Gulch Protection Area established under section 6 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j).

(c) **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.**—For purposes of section 200306(a)(2)(B)(i) of title 54, United States Code, the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest, as modified under subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest as in existence on January 1, 1965.

(d) **PUBLIC MOTORIZED USE.**—Nothing in this Act opens privately owned lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) to public motorized use.

(e) **ACCESS TO NON-FEDERAL LANDS.**—Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6(f) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j(f)) regarding motorized travel, the owners of any non-Federal lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) who historically have accessed their lands through lands now or hereafter owned by the United States within the boundary described in subsection (a) shall have the continued right of motorized access to their lands across the existing roadway.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1324 would adjust the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado to incorporate 93 acres. This land may be acquired only with the written permission of the landowners, and this bill preserves motorized access for the landowners within the new boundary.

An identical bill, H.R. 4846, passed this Congress by a voice vote last year. It is appropriate that it is with us again.

I am here to make sure that everyone mentions the fact that this is found in Colorado, not Colorado.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the name Colorado is a Spanish word. It means the color red. "Rado" is an archaic version of the better known "rojo." So Colorado—of course, the southern two-thirds of our State having been part of

Mexico prior to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded the southern two-thirds of our State to the United States after our troops took Mexico City.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I was proud to author, the Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015.

This legislation involves a parcel of 10 lots in Grand County, Colorado, nicknamed the "wedge."

As indicated by its name, this parcel of land is wedged between the Arapaho National Forest and the Rocky Mountain National Park, effectively separating the two. Although the wedge is integral to the successful management of both of these public spaces, it currently remains outside of the National Forest boundary. This parcel's beauty is enjoyed by millions of visitors who come by as they travel west from the 13,000-foot apex of the Rocky Mountains, along the Trail Ridge Scenic Byway, and into the destination Town of Grand Lake. The wedge is currently undeveloped, and 7 of its 10 parcels are already under management by the U.S. Forest Service.

The owners of each remaining parcel are all strongly in favor of this bill. Development of the wedge parcel would hurt the health of the Rocky Mountain National Park and harm the adjoining Colorado River headwaters and hurt our economy on both sides of the park. In recognition of these potential threats to the quality and character of the area and to protect the enormous number of recreation industry jobs, again, on both sides of Rocky Mountain National Park—in Estes Park in Larimer County and in Winter Park in Grand County—there has been enormous local support for this locally driven bill, including support from the Grand County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Grand Lake, the Headwaters Trails Alliance, Conservation Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Nature Conservancy.

H.R. 1324 simply responds to the wishes of my constituents, particularly those living in and around the wedge but also those with businesses and who operate in the tourism and construction industries on both sides of the Rocky Mountain National Park, by incorporating it into the Arapaho National Forest boundary and adding the lots owned by the Forest Service into the adjacent Bowen Gulch Protection Area.

This is a strong, bipartisan bill that has the express support of my Colorado colleagues in both Chambers. It was passed through the House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent in the 113th Congress, and it was voice voted out of the House shortly thereafter. While the clock ran out on moving this legislation through the

Senate in the 113th Congress, I am very confident that we can get that done here in the 114th. Hopefully, the sooner the better. I am grateful for the House Natural Resources Committee's quick consideration of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of its passage.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I encourage people's votes for this great bill from the gentleman from Colorado, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1324.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 373, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1324, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 373) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain

Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 174]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Cooper	Grijalva
Adams	Costa	Grothman
Aderholt	Costello (PA)	Guinta
Aguilar	Courtney	Guthrie
Allen	Cramer	Hahn
Amash	Crawford	Hanna
Amodei	Crenshaw	Hardy
Ashford	Crowley	Harper
Babin	Cuellar	Harris
Barletta	Culberson	Hartzler
Barr	Curbelo (FL)	Hastings
Barton	Davis (CA)	Heck (NV)
Bass	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
Beatty	Davis, Rodney	Hensarling
Becerra	DeFazio	Herrera Beutler
Benishkek	Delaney	Hice, Jody B.
Bera	DeLauro	Higgins
Beyer	DelBene	Hill
Bilirakis	Denham	Himes
Bishop (GA)	Dent	Hinojosa
Bishop (MI)	DeSantis	Holding
Bishop (UT)	DeSaulnier	Honda
Black	DesJarlais	Hoyer
Blackburn	Deutch	Hudson
Blum	Diaz-Balart	Huelskamp
Bost	Dingell	Huffman
Boustany	Doggett	Huizenga (MI)
Boyle, Brendan	Dold	Hultgren
F.	Doyle, Michael	Hunter
Brady (PA)	F.	Hurt (TX)
Brady (TX)	Duckworth	Hurt (VA)
Brat	Duffy	Israel
Bridenstine	Duncan (SC)	Issa
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (TN)	Jackson Lee
Brooks (IN)	Ellison	Jeffries
Brown (FL)	Ellmers (NC)	Jenkins (KS)
Brownley (CA)	Emmer (MN)	Jenkins (WV)
Buchanan	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Buck	Esty	Johnson (OH)
Bucshon	Farenthold	Johnson, E. B.
Burgess	Farr	Johnson, Sam
Bustos	Fattah	Jolly
Butterfield	Fincher	Jones
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Jordan
Calvert	Fleischmann	Joyce
Capps	Fleming	Kaptur
Capuano	Flores	Katko
Cárdenas	Forbes	Keating
Carney	Fortenberry	Kelly (IL)
Carson (IN)	Foster	Kelly (PA)
Carter (GA)	Fox	Kennedy
Carter (TX)	Frankel (FL)	Kildee
Cartwright	Franks (AZ)	Kilmer
Castor (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Kind
Castro (TX)	Fudge	King (IA)
Chabot	Gabbard	King (NY)
Chaffetz	Gallego	Kinzinger (IL)
Chu, Judy	Garamendi	Kirkpatrick
Cicilline	Gibbs	Kline
Clark (MA)	Gibson	Knight
Clawson (FL)	Gohmert	Kuster
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Labrador
Clyburn	Gosar	LaMalfa
Coffman	Gowdy	Lamborn
Cohen	Graham	Lance
Cole	Granger	Langevin
Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)	Larsen (WA)
Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)	Larson (CT)
Comstock	Graves (MO)	Latta
Conaway	Grayson	Lawrence
Connolly	Green, Al	Lee
Conyers	Green, Gene	Levin
Cook	Griffith	Lewis

Lipinski	Payne	Simpson
LoBiondo	Pearce	Sinema
Loeb	Perlmutter	Sires
Lofgren	Perry	Slaughter
Long	Peters	Smith (MO)
Loudermilk	Peterson	Smith (NE)
Love	Pingree	Smith (NJ)
Lowenthal	Pittenger	Smith (TX)
Lowey	Pitts	Smith (WA)
Lucas	Pocan	Speier
Luetkemeyer	Poe (TX)	Stefanik
Lujan Grisham	Poliquin	Stewart
(NM)	Polis	Stivers
Luján, Ben Ray	Pompeo	Stutzman
(NM)	Posey	Swalwell (CA)
Lummis	Price (NC)	Takai
Lynch	Price, Tom	Takano
MacArthur	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
Maloney,	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
Carolyn	Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)
Maloney, Sean	Reed	Thornberry
Marchant	Reichert	Tipton
Marino	Renacci	Titus
Massie	Ribble	Tonko
McCarthy	Rice (NY)	Torres
McCaul	Rice (SC)	Trott
McClintock	Richmond	Tsongas
McCollum	Rigell	Turner
McDermott	Roby	Upton
McGovern	Roe (TN)	Valadao
McHenry	Rogers (AL)	Van Hollen
McKinley	Rogers (KY)	Vargas
McMorris	Rohrabacher	Veasey
Rodgers	Rokita	Vela
McNerney	Rooney (FL)	Velázquez
McSally	Ros-Lehtinen	Wagner
Meadows	Roskam	Walberg
Meehan	Ross	Walden
Meeks	Rothfus	Walker
Meng	Rouzer	Walorski
Messer	Roybal-Allard	Walters, Mimi
Mica	Ruiz	Walz
Miller (FL)	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Miller (MI)	Rush	Schultz
Mooleenaar	Russell	Waters, Maxine
Mooney (WV)	Ryan (OH)	Watson Coleman
Moore	Ryan (WI)	Weber (TX)
Moulton	Salmon	Webster (FL)
Mullin	Sánchez, Linda	Welch
Mulvaney	T.	Wenstrup
Murphy (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta	Westerman
Murphy (PA)	Sanford	Westmoreland
Nadler	Sarbanes	Whitfield
Napolitano	Scalise	Williams
Neal	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Neugebauer	Schiff	Wilson (SC)
Newhouse	Schrader	Womack
Noem	Schweikert	Woodall
Nolan	Scott (VA)	Yarmuth
Norcross	Scott, Austin	Yoder
Nugent	Scott, David	Yoho
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
O'Rourke	Serrano	Young (IA)
Olson	Sessions	Young (IN)
Palazzo	Sowell (AL)	Zeldin
Palmer	Sherman	Zinke
Pascarella	Shimkus	
Paulsen	Shuster	

NOT VOTING—18

Blumenauer	Edwards	Pallone
Bonamici	Engel	Pelosi
Clarke (NY)	Garrett	Royce
Clay	Gutiérrez	Tiberi
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Visclosky
DeGette	Matsui	Wittman

□ 1858

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 174 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

# ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1324) to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 30, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 175]

YEAS—381

Abraham	Cooper	Grijalva
Adams	Costa	Grothman
Aderholt	Costello (PA)	Guinta
Aguilar	Courtney	Guthrie
Allen	Cramer	Hahn
Amodei	Crawford	Hanna
Ashford	Crenshaw	Hardy
Barletta	Crowley	Harper
Barr	Cuellar	Harris
Barton	Culberson	Hartzler
Bass	Curbelo (FL)	Hastings
Beatty	Davis (CA)	Heck (NV)
Becerra	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
Benishkek	Davis, Rodney	Hensarling
Bera	DeFazio	Hice, Jody B.
Beyer	Delaney	Higgins
Bilirakis	DeLauro	Hill
Bishop (GA)	Dent	Himes
Bishop (MI)	DeSaulnier	Hinojosa
Bishop (UT)	DesJarlais	Honda
Black	Diaz-Balart	Hoyer
Blackburn	Dingell	Huffman
Blum	Doggett	Hultgren
Bost	Dold	Hunter
Boustany	Doyle, Michael	Hurd (TX)
Boyle, Brendan	F.	Hurt (VA)
F.	Duckworth	Israel
Brady (PA)	Duncan (SC)	Issa
Brady (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Jackson Lee
Bridenstine	Ellison	Jeffries
Brooks (IN)	Ellmers (NC)	Jenkins (KS)
Brown (FL)	Emmer (MN)	Jenkins (WV)
Brownley (CA)	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Buchanan	Esty	Johnson (OH)
Bucshon	Farr	Johnson, E. B.
Burgess	Fattah	Johnson, Sam
Bustos	Fincher	Jolly
Butterfield	Fitzpatrick	Jordan
Byrne	Fleischmann	Joyce
Capps	Fleming	Kaptur
Capuano	Flores	Katko
Cárdenas	Forbes	Keating
Carney	Fortenberry	Kelly (IL)
Carson (IN)	Foster	Kelly (PA)
Carter (GA)	Fox	Kennedy
Carter (TX)	Frankel (FL)	Kildee
Cartwright	Franks (AZ)	Kilmer
Castor (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Kind
Castro (TX)	Fudge	King (IA)
Chabot	Gabbard	King (NY)
Chaffetz	Gallego	Kinzinger (IL)
Chu, Judy	Garamendi	Kirkpatrick
Cicilline	Gibbs	Kline
Clark (MA)	Gibson	Knight
Clawson (FL)	Gohmert	Kuster
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Labrador
Clyburn	Gosar	LaMalfa
Coffman	Gowdy	Lamborn
Cohen	Graham	Lance
Cole	Granger	Langevin
Collins (GA)	Graves (LA)	Larsen (WA)
Collins (NY)	Graves (MO)	Larson (CT)
Comstock	Grayson	Latta
Conaway	Green, Al	Lawrence
Connolly	Green, Gene	Lee
Conyers	Griffith	Levin
Cook		

Lewis  
Lipinski  
LoBlundo  
Loebback  
Lofgren  
Long  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer

Pascrell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Russell  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster

Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yarmuth  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

#### NAYS—30

Amash  
Babin  
Brat  
Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Collins (GA)  
DeSantis  
Duffy  
Farenthold  
Franks (AZ)

#### NOT VOTING—20

Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Calvert  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cummings  
DeGette

Gosar  
Graves (GA)  
Herrera Beutler  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Jones  
Loudermilk  
Lummis

Massie  
Perry  
Price, Tom  
Rokita  
Salmon  
Schweikert  
Smith (MO)  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Williams

#### □ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend this evening's rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 174: H.R. 373—"yea," rollcall No. 175: H.R. 1324—"yea."

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, a respected businessman, a decorated combat veteran, and a trusted mentor, former Third District of Arkansas Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, who passed away on April 1 at the age of 92.

John Paul believed that we are all put on Earth to serve others. This principle guided him even from an early age. After graduating from Harrison High School at 15 and spending a year at the Citadel, he forwent West Point and instead joined the Army Air Corps. As a second lieutenant during World War II, he piloted an incredible 217 combat missions and earned multiple medals and decorations.

After the war, he returned to his home in Harrison to run the family lumber business, and he continued his service as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1960. It was during this time that he also became engaged with local politics, and in 1966 he became the first Republican in 93 years to have been elected to serve Arkansas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his 26-year tenure in Congress, John Paul never spent a single day in the majority, but he didn't let that stand in the way of serving his constituents to the best of his ability. He worked with all colleagues—Democrat and Republican alike—to our State's benefit and is responsible for bringing the critical transportation infrastructure to northwest Arkansas that enabled its explosive growth.

However, he will truly be remembered for defining the gold standard of constituent service. Simply put, no one did it better than John Paul. Every day he prayed to our Lord for the strength to overcome pride and self-concern in order to always be mindful of the needs of others. Looking back on his life, I would say he was blessed with just that, and for it our State and our Nation will be forever grateful to him for his service.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, John Paul Hammerschmidt will be laid to rest. As we prepare to say our final good-byes, I would ask for a moment of silence to honor one of the finest examples of statesmen this Chamber has ever seen.

Rest in peace, John Paul.

#### HONORING JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, John Paul Hammerschmidt was truly a visionary champion for Arkansas' conservative values in Congress, but we will all remember him for his humble dedication to our country and to our State. His leadership inspired new generations of Arkansans, including all of us rising today to honor his memory.

A supremely successful ambassador for his district and, in fact, the entire State, John Paul helped build the airport and interstates that allowed northwest Arkansas to blossom into the success story it is today. Ten years ago John Paul said: "We are all put on Earth to serve others, and being a Congressman gives you a lot of leverage to really serve a lot of people."

Congressman Hammerschmidt truly embodied the spirit of public service, and his legacy is a powerful reminder for all public servants of why we are here and who we represent.

#### □ 1915

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great leaders—and my friend—former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt.

For the past three decades, I have known and admired Congressman Hammerschmidt, and I have long respected his commitment to public service.

One of his most important actions was his legislation that made the Buffalo River the country's first National River, ensuring the preservation and protection of that extraordinary treasure designed by God's own hand.

Before John Paul's engagement, the Buffalo had been slated for a Corps of Engineers dam project, which would have destroyed the natural majesty that generations of Arkansans continue to enjoy.

Arkansas' wilderness advocate and poet, Bill Coleman, captures the area's mystique:

Giant bluffs rise like medieval castles above this ancient river, sending us back to a time when all our land was wild.

Congressman Hammerschmidt also served as a freshman Congressman with my former boss, President George Herbert Walker Bush, and these two great men became fast friends from their time in the Air Force through being freshmen in this great body together.

They were close political allies, and Congressman Hammerschmidt was

quick to support President Bush in all of his Presidential runs. The two men shared victories, defeats, joys, and sorrows throughout their great decades of personal friendship.

President Bush once said of John Paul:

He did something I could never do; he beat Bill Clinton.

I am humbled to have had the opportunity to know and learn so much from Congressman Hammerschmidt. He will be greatly missed.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt began his service as a Member of this body from my home State of Arkansas in 1967, the year that I was born. He did so for 12 terms, long enough for me to grow up, graduate from college, get a job, and get married.

His love for Arkansas and America was evident in his service. He was a champion for his district and our State. He was a tireless advocate for all his constituents on both sides of the aisle and worked hardest to do what was right for the citizens of Arkansas.

He served his country and fellow man with honor, both in the military and in Congress, leaving a lasting legacy and setting the bar high for those of us who follow him in service.

Congressman Hammerschmidt was from the beautiful Ozark hills, and many times, the people of Arkansas and America were blessed by the leadership of a gentleman from the hills who served his Creator by serving others.

As we remember his service, may we all continue to look to the hills and be comforted by the words of the psalmist who wrote:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The Sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the Moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

#### PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I introduced the bipartisan Protecting Adopted Children Act, a response to the many problems and potential dangers associated with the term "rehoming" adoptive children.

Families involved in this underground practice are connecting online and making dubious or outright illegal arrangements to give away their children to strangers, often with forged or fake documentation. Some children are even transferred to individuals with a criminal history, including abuse or neglect.

Madam Speaker, my legislation provides States with the resources to help adoptive families receive pre and postadoption counseling, social skills training, and mental health services. It also expands the training of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, and I encourage the House to take swift action to protect these vulnerable children.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

(Mr. CRENSHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today as cochair of the Congressional Nepal Caucus to express my deepest condolences to the people of Nepal who are now recovering from a catastrophic earthquake that hit this prior Saturday.

When you see the devastation, you will find that—and all the final results are not in—early reports are that over 4,000 individuals lost their lives and several thousand were injured.

Whatever the damage, the United States stands ready to assist in any way. I want to say thank you to the leadership of our U.S. Embassy in Nepal and thank you to the Government of Nepal for their early and coordinated response.

To the people of that region, let me say that the United States stands with you in these difficult times. We will continue to pray for those of you who have lost your loved ones and continue to pray for the safe recovery of those who are still lost.

#### PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Adopted Children Act, which was introduced by Congressman JIM LANGEVIN this afternoon.

By now, we have all read the reports about adopted children who have been "rehomed" by their legal adoptive parents. These children usually end up in the custody of strangers through arrangements that are often illegally made online in hidden Internet groups.

In order to combat these transfers, Representatives JIM LANGEVIN, ROB WITTMAN, and I have crafted legislation that provides protections and support services for adopted children and their families.

This legislation provides a more stable home for children with pre and postadoptive support services, such as training and counseling for parents, mentoring, and treatment services specifically for adopted children.

The bill also expands the scope of the preexisting Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force under the Department of Justice to include combating the illegal transfer of a child.

I firmly believe that this measure gives law enforcement the tools it needs to combat illegal transfers, which we have learned through investigative reporting, typically take place online.

We must be committed to helping these children succeed in a family that they may call their own.

#### 2015 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I was thrilled to be at the Winkler Gallery of Fine Art in DuBois, Pennsylvania, for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony for my congressional district.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to recognize and encourage artistic talent among U.S. high school students. This year, I had the honor to serve as cochair of the annual national competition.

Madam Speaker, this year, I was blown away by the quality of work and the levels of creativity by the students in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

This year's first place winner, determined by an independent panel, is Leah Kleiner of Waterford, Pennsylvania. Leah, whose work is titled "Little Brother," attends Fort LeBoeuf High School in Erie County.

I am looking forward to hosting Leah in Washington this summer and displaying her award-winning work in the Halls of the Capitol Building.

This year's second and third place winners are Bethany Stoddard of DuBois and Madelyn Ostermann of Summit Township, respectively. Natalie Haupt of Oil City and Caitlin Cesa of Sandy Township both received honorable mentions.

I would like to congratulate all of this year's winners and thank everyone who participated in this fun and exciting competition.

#### STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, our thoughts are with the people of Nepal and their families.

My heart sank when I heard about the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its unthinkable devastation. It is estimated that thousands of people have died, and more are missing.

Three of those still missing are constituents of Washington's First District. These people are pillars of our community: retired special education teacher Doreen Richmond, retired Bellingham firefighter Jim Lane, and small-business owner Jeannie DeBari.

I want to do everything I can to assist and support their families during this difficult time. I will continue to pray for their safety and their return home. I was glad to see the State Department provide \$10 million in initial disaster assistance.

To the people of Nepal and those affected in the region or here at home, know that the United States stands with you during this tragic time.

#### FREE NADIYA SAVCHENKO

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, since July of last year, Nadiya Savchenko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament and a military veteran, has been unlawfully detained by Russian authorities—her crime, unsubstantiated charges stemming from her defense of her nation against Russian military aggression.

For months, Ms. Savchenko has been incarcerated in Russia, in clear violation of her human rights and international standards. As Russia tries to redraw the world's borders, Ms. Savchenko has become the face of both Russian lawlessness and Ukrainian resistance.

This evening, I join with the free people of Ukraine in demanding Russia free Savchenko and call on this body and this administration to utilize all legislative and diplomatic means to secure her long-overdue release.

That is why I have joined with other lawmakers in introducing H. Res. 50, which calls for an end to this injustice and reaffirms the United States' commitment to a democratic Ukraine free from Russian interference.

Together, we must free Savchenko and push back against Russia's continued threat to freedom.

#### COMMITMENT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we all watched with great concern and horror the tragic funeral of Freddie Gray and then the enormous outpouring of violence and young people taking to the streets in Baltimore.

We commend our colleague Congressman CUMMINGS and the many other citizens—pastors—who went to the streets and called for peace, but it is important for this Congress to stand up and call for criminal justice reform because, as we move into the summer, I express great concern as to the reactions of young people who are unemployed, who feel oppressed, and feel that no one cares.

I will be introducing—and have introduced—the Build TRUST bill; the CADET bill that collects data on lethal force between civilians and police; a bill on prison reform—giving good time, 1 day of incarceration, 1 day of good time—to provide for early release of nonviolent prisoners.

At the same time, I will be asking for legislation that will provide the same reporting requirements for private prisons as public prisons, as well as grand jury reform, among others.

The important point is that the Nation needs to hear this Congress make a statement of their commitment to criminal justice reform.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and introducing legislation that will draw bipartisan support so that we can respond to these tragedies and get America on the right footing and rebuild the trust between police and the community.

#### PROTECTING ADOPTED CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today, too many children are falling victim to a system of adoption that lacks necessary oversight.

Horrible stories have come to light about children being “rehomed” into the custody of strangers through dubious or even illegal arrangements. As a child of adoption myself, I am personally invested in this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting Adopted Children Act today to reduce that risk and better help these children find stable, loving homes and to improve support services for adoptive parents.

These support services—including counseling on potential parenting challenges, postadoption mental health services, and peer mentoring—can play a critical role in providing a healthy

environment for a child entering an adoptive home.

These initiatives will also foster an ongoing dialogue between the families and adoption service agencies that should last during and beyond the adoption process.

I would like to thank Representative LANGEVIN for his leadership on this issue. We must do all we can to prevent adoptive children from being placed in dangerous situations. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Protecting Adopted Children Act.

□ 1930

#### A MISSION OF MERCY

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy. The people of Nepal have suffered a tragedy. The bad news is that thousands have lost their lives and many are injured.

There is some good news in that the United States has, currently, disaster assistance teams on the way to Nepal. There is also additional good news. The Nepalese community in Houston, Texas, has organized, and they are working to make sure that they do their part to provide disaster assistance.

I am also proud to say that we are sponsoring legislation, H.R. 2033. H.R. 2033 would provide temporary protected status for those who are in this country, for those in this country on the 25th, the date of this tragedy, for a period of 18 months, so that they can stay here and not have to return home to circumstances that are untenable.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that many have cosponsored this legislation, and we are looking for more cosponsors, Mr. HONDA and I.

I would also add that the United States has sent \$10 million already allocated, and there is more to come. This is a time for us to show our friends where we stand, and we stand with them.

#### A LEGAL FICTION

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Madam Speaker, today I spoke on the steps of the Supreme Court as it heard arguments on whether more than 50 million Americans who voted to affirm marriage as between one man and one woman should have their voices snuffed out by as few as five unelected judges.

To argue that the Constitution demands the Supreme Court invalidate centuries of marriage laws is a claim of

legal fiction. Let me repeat; it is a legal fiction. There is no constitutional right to so-called same-sex marriage.

Marriage predates government and the nations that make these laws. No judge, no jury, no court nor government can legitimately redefine marriage to suit their personal preferences.

I implore the Supreme Court to do their job and correctly recognize that the people of every State are free to affirm or restore marriage as the union of one woman and one man.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, when the survivors of human trafficking are freed from their captors, they are often victimized again. This time they are abused by a system that does little to help them recover from years of rape and abuse.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would help change that. It would provide support and restitution to survivors, and it would clarify the law, helping to bring the demand side—the pimps, the sex traffickers, and the purchasers of women and girls—to justice.

I have been proud to work with Congressman TED POE on very similar legislation that passed this body overwhelmingly, unanimously, in January; but to become law, the House must now take up the Senate version and pass it here in the House.

I urge the leaders of the House to schedule a vote. Let's send a message: women and girls are not for sale in the United States of America. They cannot afford to wait any longer for this vital legislation.

#### FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions of Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, President of Florida Keys Community College in Key West, Florida.

Dr. G, as he is known, recently introduced me to a portal that connects students with jobs and serves as a guidance instrument for them while they are in school. I was particularly impressed with the component that informs students about the return on their educational investments, especially because financing is a fundamental aspect of the higher education debate today. This type of transparency is imperative in helping our

students navigate a massive amount of information in an easily accessible way.

I applaud Dr. G's work to ensure that students in the Keys are connected with opportunities that will help them achieve their professional goals, while also educating them about the financial responsibility that is inherent in pursuing higher education.

As we continue our work on higher education here in the House, I look forward to encouraging innovation in the way that we help students achieve success, and also promoting access to funding sources like flexible Pell grants.

Dr. G and his colleagues at Florida Keys Community College have made it their mission to offer the best tools to their students, and I hope that their efforts can serve as an example to be replicated throughout the country.

#### THERE IS NO POWER LIKE THE POWER OF A MOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, Mother's Day is soon approaching, and as we, our Nation, take time to honor our mothers, I would like to make a special appeal to African American mothers across this country that they begin to use their awesome powers to take back our streets from the daily violence that far too many of our youth, far too many of our families, and far too many of our communities are experiencing each and every day.

It is now time, time right now, for Black mothers to once again rise up to stop the unmitigated and endless violence that is occurring often—far too often—in our Nation's streets.

Madam Speaker, there is no power like the power of a mother. Beside me today is an image that many across the Nation have seen, and it is the subject of conversation all across our country. It is the image of a strong Black mother giving her son what I will call a "love whipping"—a "love whipping." Madam Speaker—to snatch him back from the grips of senseless violence that is currently plaguing the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

As this picture demonstrates, Madam Speaker, mothers can and mothers must be the mobilizing force to take back our streets. Mothers feel the pain of a loss of a child unlike any other. The primal scream of a mother at the sudden death and departure of her child is unlike any other outcry known to mankind.

As my own history has demonstrated, I am not one to excuse police brutality and police murder and police mayhem and police utter disrespect for the citi-

zens that they are pledged and sworn to serve and to protect. And as a former member of the Black Panther Party, we in the party have always said, and I quote, that "spontaneity is the art of the foolish."

What the Baltimore rioters and other rioters across this Nation fail to understand, particularly those who are in Baltimore, what they fail to understand and what they fail to consider is how many people in that neighborhood were depending on the CVS drug store, or how many older neighbors of those same young people were looking forward to the day that they could call that burned-down senior citizens home a home for themselves, and they were looking forward to it being completed. "When is the move-in date?" They were looking forward to the comfort of that senior home.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, senseless destruction of your own neighborhood is not protesting; it is pillaging. It is not political; it is pillaging—nothing more, nothing less. It is pillaging your own neighborhood.

That is unintelligent. That makes no sense. That is eating the wrapper and throwing the candy bar away. It makes no sense to pillage your own neighborhood and deny your own people.

Beyond Baltimore, Madam Speaker—yes, and there is a beyond Baltimore. Beyond Baltimore, we must look at the whole picture of violence in our Nation. The violence that has plagued Baltimore didn't come out of nowhere. It wasn't just a spark out of nowhere.

Instead, Madam Speaker, it was sparked by the frustration that so many African Americans feel with the reports of the death of yet another young African American man at the hands of our Nation's police. It was sparked by the flame of frustration that far too many of our Nation's youth are facing each and every day of their lives: unemployment, disrespect, broken-down homes, broken-down communities, failed education systems.

All these frustrations, frustrations that deny them a sense that there is a future for them in this Nation, these frustrations inflame all the fires in Baltimore or in other places across this Nation.

□ 1945

That said, Madam Speaker, from my friend Fred Hampton, my friend Michael Clark in 1969 to Michael Brown and Eric Garner and Tamir Rice and now Freddie Gray in 2015, we have seen far too many young men of color fall victim to the very same people who were sworn to serve and protect.

This mother is demonstrating the power of a mother's love and the power of a mother's courage. She walked into harm's way straightforward, directly to, located her son. And she is demonstrating a power that is beyond imagination and beyond all selflessness.



To honor her and the important role that all mothers, mamas, our mothers—including my own mother—to honor them and to honor the important role that they play in taking back our streets and ending the violence that plagues our communities all across this Nation, I humbly call on America's mothers, those in the African American community and outside of the African American community, those in urban areas and those in rural areas, all American mothers, to wear yellow, to wear yellow, to wear yellow on Mother's Day in a symbolic show of solidarity and to create a "Mothers in Yellow" movement to end the violence that plagues this Nation's cities, this Nation's communities, this Nation's neighborhoods.

Mothers, rise up now. Use this as an occasion to take back the streets. Your pain, the pain that you feel, your sense of loss of hope for your child, your sense of finality in terms of a future of your child, that pain must stop, and you have the power to stop it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Easter, Pope Francis focused his message on the worldwide persecution of Christians. Around the world, Christians are being imprisoned, tortured, and killed for their faith. According to the Pew Research Center, no religious group is persecuted in more countries around the world than Christians. Christians faced persecution in 102 countries out of about 190-plus that we have in the world. That was in 2013. So tonight I will mention only eight of those countries: Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Kenya. And I will also mention that terrorist group, ISIS.

Christian pastor and American citizen Saeed Abedini has been held in an Iranian jail for the last 2½ years because he is a Christian. Weeks before he turned 7, Pastor Abedini's son wrote to his imprisoned father, inviting him to come to his birthday party. In reply, Pastor Abedini wrote: "Daddy loves you so much. I long to be there for your birthday and to make this reunion happen, but my chains are keeping me from you." His son celebrated his 7th birthday last month. It was his third birthday without his dad. His dad is still in the jailhouse because he is a Christian.

According to the 2015 Open Doors World Watch List, North Korea is the worst persecutor of Christians in the whole world. Christians are sent to

prison camps for possession of Bibles, which is a crime. Some are even executed because they are Christians. The State Department estimates that 80,000 to 120,000 North Koreans are imprisoned in labor camps, many because of their religious beliefs. In November 2013, 80 North Korean Christians were reportedly executed for possession of Bibles and South Korean religious films.

Now to Pakistan. In Pakistan, two suicide blasts hit the Christ Church and Catholic Church last month, killing 17 Christians. A Pakistan Taliban splinter group claimed responsibility for the attack, which left another 80 people injured. Last week, two Muslims heading to Friday prayers at their mosque in the same city where the churches were bombed came across a 14-year-old Christian boy. They stopped him and asked him his religious affiliation. And the boy proudly said: "I told them that I am Christian. They started beating me," he said. "When I tried running, both boys started following me through the street." They caught me and "threw kerosene on me and set me on fire." This Pakistan boy, this Christian has burns covering more than 55 percent of his body.

In Egypt, over a 3-day period in 2013, Coptic Christians experienced the worst single attack against their churches in 700 years, with 40 Christian churches destroyed and over 100 other sites severely damaged. Thousands and thousands of Coptic Christians are estimated to have fled their homeland of Egypt because of religious persecution.

Most Coptic Christians in Egypt have a tattoo of a cross on their wrist, Madam Speaker. It is a sign of devotion to their Christian faith. When his Arabic language teacher told Ayman Nabil Labib to cover that tattoo in the classroom, Ayman pulled out the cross that was hanging around his neck for all in the classroom to see. The teacher was enraged. He choked Ayman and asked his Muslim classmates, "What are you going to do with him?" His classmates then beat Ayman to death. He was murdered in an Egyptian classroom because he was a Christian.

In Libya, ISIS captured and beheaded 21 people because they were Christians from nearby Egypt. When the victims' families wanted to build a church in their honor, they were attacked by another Muslim mob and beaten.

In Syria, the situation is even worse for Christians. In June 2013, a cluster of Christian villages were totally destroyed. The head of all Franciscans in the Middle East reported that "of the 4,000 inhabitants of the church village of Ghassanieh, no more than 10 people remain." In a village of 4,000 Christians, 10 are left.

In Syria, it is not just Assad's thugs killing Christians. Two Syrian bishops have been kidnapped by rebel groups. Militants expelled 90 percent of the

Christians in the city of Homs. Patriarch Gregorios III of Antioch says that, out of a population of 1.75 million, 450,000 Syrian Christians have fled Syria in fear.

Then to Iraq. In Iraq, the story is just as bleak. The number of Christian churches in Iraq has declined from 300 in 2003 to 57 today. A place that Christians have called their home since the time of Jesus, Iraq's Christian population has almost entirely disappeared. The population has dropped 90 percent since the first gulf war.

In Kenya, Christians are also persecuted. At 5:30 in the morning on April 2 of this year, the terrorist group al Shabaab attacked a school. Collins Wetangula, a student at the school, said when the gunmen arrived at his dormitory, he could hear them opening doors and asking the people who were hiding inside whether they were Christians or whether they were Muslims.

Here is what he said: "If you were a Christian, you were shot on the spot." A spokesman for the terror group told the BBC that it attacked the school because "it's on Muslim land colonized by non-Muslims." Of the 147 people who were slaughtered that day because they were Christians, many of them were students—teenagers, kids.

When the same terrorist group attacked a shopping mall in Kenya in 2013, they took a number of shoppers captive. One of them was Joshua Hakim. When Joshua got close to his attackers, he showed them his ID, but he covered up his Christian name with his thumb. "They told me to go," he recalled later. "Then an Indian man came forward, and they said, 'What is the name of Mohammed's mother?' When he couldn't answer, they just shot him" on the spot.

There are many more unnamed Christian martyrs who are persecuted for their faith, Madam Speaker. The persecution of Christians has been going on since Stephen was stoned for his faith in Acts 7. But what these current accounts show is that persecutions of Christians around the world are growing in number and are being tolerated more by governments and, in my opinion, encouraged by some non-Christian societies.

We cannot deny this reality. We must tell it like it is. People should not make excuses for or cover up the widespread persecution of Christians throughout the world. Governments, terrorist groups, and others should not get a pass and "tacit hunting permits" to kill Christians.

The problem is rogue States like Pakistan and Iran and rogue terrorist groups like ISIS who get their legitimacy and power from imprisoning and killing Christians. As a country, the United States needs to reexamine its relationship with States that persecute Christians. Maybe we should give these countries less American money until

they start protecting—instead of arresting—Christians. We need to be singularly minded when it comes to describing groups like ISIS and what they really are: They are evil; they kill in the name of their radical religion.

Madam Speaker, one of the pillars of our Nation and a foundation of our Republic is the principle of religious freedom, religious freedom for all faiths. It is constitutionally protected in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Of the five rights mentioned in the First Amendment, religious freedom and liberty is mentioned first. This is not by accident. Our forefathers were serious about the protection of religious liberty. It is a basic civil right, human right, and an inalienable right.

Since Pilgrims came to America to escape religious persecution in Europe, our Nation has stood as a bright beacon to the world for religious freedom for all faiths—Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Christians, and others. But the question before us today is: Will we remain a beacon of hope for persecuting Christians around the world?

It is properly written in Scripture, a parable by the good Lord. I will paraphrase. He said: A man was traveling down a road, and he fell among robbers. The man was beaten, and his property was stolen, and he was left for dead. Other people traveled down the same road, saw the victim, but they passed over on the other side of the road. They went their own way and avoided this victim.

Madam Speaker, we cannot pass on the other side while Christians worldwide are being beaten, beheaded, and brutalized because of their religious faith, being a Christian. We must be that beacon that shines brightly in proud protection of religious freedom for all, including Christians.

And that is just the way it is.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2054

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 8 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2029, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 4, 2015, THROUGH MAY 11, 2015

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-94) on the resolution (H. Res. 223) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from May 4, 2015, through May 11, 2015, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ROYCE (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and April 29 on account of attending the funeral of his father-in-law, Ronald Herbert Porter.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at 9 a.m.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 223. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from May 4, 2015, through May 11, 2015 (Rept. 114-94). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 2039. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 2040. A bill to designate the Atlantic striped bass as the National Fish of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 2041. A bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 2042. A bill to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 2043. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. HANNA, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 2044. A bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 2045. A bill to provide that certain bad faith communications in connection with the assertion of a United States patent are unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2046. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the participation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the prescription drug monitoring programs of the States; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2047. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FORBES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. TROTT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 2048. A bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2049. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign nationals from making contributions or donations in connection with State and local ballot initiatives and referenda; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr.

BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. DELAUNO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SIREs, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SEAN PAT-

RICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ESTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 2050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 2051. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. LEE, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 2052. A bill to amend section 242 of title 18, United States Code, to forbid the use of chokeholds by persons subject to that provision's prohibitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 2053. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the reserve components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive-duty training compared to members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 2054. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 2055. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on certain equipment purchased from foreign entities that could be manufactured in United States arsenals or depots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 2056. A bill to establish a grant program to promote the development of career education programs in computer science in secondary and postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2057. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to State educational agencies to develop comprehensive plans to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently deter-

mined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 2058. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for a certain effective date with respect to deemed tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr.

MEADOWS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KIND, Ms. HAHN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BERA, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOH0, Mr. PERRY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. POSTER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mr. SIREs, Ms. GRAHAM, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HOYER, Mr. RENACCI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. COMSTOCK):

H.R. 2059. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Edwin Cole "Ed" Bearss, in recognition of his contributions to preservation of American Civil War history and continued efforts to bring our nation's history alive for new generations through his interpretive storytelling; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 2060. A bill to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the areas of academic exchange, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure integration; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for

himself, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COOK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr.

FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RIBBLE, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YODER, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 2061. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2062. A bill to promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 2063. A bill to establish the National Center for the Right to Counsel; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 2064. A bill to amend certain provisions of the securities laws relating to the treatment of emerging growth companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2066. A bill to promote and expand the application of telehealth under Medicare and other Federal health care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 2067. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2068. A bill to ensure the safety and well-being of adopted children; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to create a National Neuromyelitis Optica Consortium to provide grants and coordinate research with respect to the causes of, and risk factors associated with, neuromyelitis optica, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 2070. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. ESTY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. REED, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 2071. A bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 2072. A bill to withdraw all Federal land located within the Rainy River Drainage Basin in Minnesota from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation of the mineral leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2073. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 2074. A bill to enhance rail safety and provide for the safe transport of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2075. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the

Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 2076. A bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to marijuana-related businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2077. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from increasing minimum financial responsibility requirements established by Congress for motor carriers of passengers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2078. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the imposition of employment taxes on wages in excess of the contribution and benefit base; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 2079. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education; and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 2080. A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 2081. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds,

the rotunda of the Capitol, and Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for official Congressional events surrounding the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H. Res. 222. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come from direct bilateral negotiations without preconditions and without interference from the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H. Res. 224. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2015 as "National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 225. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 226. A resolution calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations for the next 100 years based upon the two countries' common interests and the United States' significant security interests in the region; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 2039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes.

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 2040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 2041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation regulates commerce with foreign nations, between the states, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 2042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 2043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—this bill regulates Commerce among the several states.

Amendment V—the bill assures that citizens' liberty and property (their businesses and livelihood) are not deprived, that the government does not take property (market share, potential for profit and livelihood) without just compensation.

Amendment X—Nothing in the Constitution authorizes the Federal government to do anything other than those things enumerated (coin money, enter into treaties, conduct a Census—which are inherently governmental). Thus, under Amendment X, the right to carry out commercial activities is reserved to the people.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority granted to Congress to regulate patent and intellectual property law is derived from Article I, Section 8, clause 8 of the Constitution, providing the legislature with the power to "promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Further, the Necessary and Proper Clause found in Article I, Section 8, clause 18, provides Congress with the power to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 and Article 1, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Sec. 8, Clause 3: 'The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.'

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I—The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section VII, Clause III—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 2051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign Nations pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 includes the power to collect and report livestock market prices.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 2052.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 2053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 2054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 2055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 2058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which permits Congress to regulate commerce. This legislation would modify the manner in which tobacco products are regulated.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 2060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution

Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress  
Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, commonly referred to as the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 2066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 2068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 2069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 2070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and ex-

cises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 2071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 2072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 2074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 2076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 2077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 2079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 2080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 2081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.J. Res. 48.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 91: Mr. WELCH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 131: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 188: Mr. COLE and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 213: Mr. MESSER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 232: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KIND, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 235: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PAL-LONE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 242: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 249: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 304: Mr. KEATING, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 317: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 402: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 427: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 456: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 484: Mr. WELCH and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 499: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 500: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 501: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 510: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 511: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 546: Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 555: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 556: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 578: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 590: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 602: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 605: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 606: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 612: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 619: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 624: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 649: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 653: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 662: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 663: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 672: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 702: Mrs. LUMMIS and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 708: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 712: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 717: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 721: Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 745: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 748: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

- H.R. 751: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 762: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 767: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 774: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 785: Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 793: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 800: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 815: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SIMPSON.  
H.R. 817: Mr. MARCHANT.  
H.R. 818: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 829: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 831: Mr. NORCROSS.  
H.R. 835: Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 842: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DENT, Ms. MENG, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 846: Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 863: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. RIGELL.  
H.R. 868: Mr. DUFFY.  
H.R. 879: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 911: Mr. MACARTHUR and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 913: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
H.R. 921: Mr. BARR, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H.R. 923: Mr. GOWDY and Mr. WESTERMAN.  
H.R. 932: Mr. BERA, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.R. 953: Mr. DENT and Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 955: Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 971: Mr. PAULSEN.  
H.R. 981: Mr. ADERHOLT.  
H.R. 986: Mr. HARDY, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. WALKER.  
H.R. 990: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. NEAL.  
H.R. 999: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. HARDY.  
H.R. 1006: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1025: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 1027: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Ms. HAHN.  
H.R. 1034: Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 1057: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1062: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.  
H.R. 1078: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 1086: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
H.R. 1087: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. MACARTHUR.  
H.R. 1088: Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. HIGGINS.  
H.R. 1096: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 1111: Mr. FARR, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 1130: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 1131: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 1133: Mr. ROYCE.  
H.R. 1141: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1147: Mr. PALAZZO.  
H.R. 1149: Mr. RATCLIFFE.  
H.R. 1153: Mr. OLSON.  
H.R. 1174: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 1178: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 1188: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LEE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 1192: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 1197: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 1198: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 1202: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1211: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 1212: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 1234: Mr. OLSON, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. ZINKE.  
H.R. 1247: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1257: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 1258: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1269: Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H.R. 1284: Mr. KEATING, Ms. ESTY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 1286: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 1288: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 1289: Mr. BEYER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. POLIS, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.  
H.R. 1300: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 1301: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 1342: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.  
H.R. 1343: Mrs. BLACK.  
H.R. 1353: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.  
H.R. 1356: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1369: Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 1371: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1378: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1380: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
H.R. 1384: Mr. MESSER.  
H.R. 1391: Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 1394: Mr. WELCH.  
H.R. 1399: Mr. JONES, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 1401: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SIMPSON.  
H.R. 1411: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1415: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 1419: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1421: Mr. COHEN and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 1427: Mr. HARPER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1462: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.  
H.R. 1464: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. FARR.  
H.R. 1467: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. BARLETTA.  
H.R. 1475: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 1479: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 1500: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 1515: Mr. YARMUTH and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 1516: Mr. POCAN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. TIBERI.  
H.R. 1519: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1537: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 1546: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 1559: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 1567: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 1575: Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 1595: Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 1598: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MCDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1600: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. GRAYSON.  
H.R. 1602: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LEE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. WALZ.  
H.R. 1612: Ms. MCSALLY.  
H.R. 1613: Mr. STEWART.  
H.R. 1614: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. FLORES, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. ROSS.  
H.R. 1627: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 1629: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 1650: Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 1654: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 1664: Mrs. LUMMIS.  
H.R. 1666: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. SCHRADER.  
H.R. 1676: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1683: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HANNA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1699: Mr. FLORES.  
H.R. 1706: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1718: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 1728: Mr. HONDA and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.  
H.R. 1734: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. STIVERS.  
H.R. 1736: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 1737: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 1750: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 1752: Mr. ROKITA.  
H.R. 1769: Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 1775: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1779: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALZ, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1784: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.  
H.R. 1831: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.  
H.R. 1844: Mr. HUDSON.  
H.R. 1848: Ms. NORTON and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 1852: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.  
H.R. 1854: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. HANNA.



H.R. 1869: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 1875: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1876: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1884: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1885: Mr. AMODEI and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 1910: Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1924: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1926: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1933: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1935: Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 1943: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1948: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1974: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1986: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1993: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 1994: Mr. BABIN and Mr. LATTI.

H.R. 1995: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. CHABOT

H.R. 2001: Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 2016: Ms. LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2017: Mr. WOMACK and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2025: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2032: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2033: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.J. Res. 43: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.J. Res. 45: Mr. ROYCE.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. JONES, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. LAMALFA.

H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 54: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KIND, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. FATTAH.

H. Res. 119: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H. Res. 130: Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 154: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Res. 157: Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 158: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POLIS.

H. Res. 161: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 179: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H. Res. 183: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 209: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H. Res. 216: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. FUDGE.

## AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

### H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: Mr. ROTHFUS

AMENDMENT No. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to apply the report entitled "Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States", published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 32260), in any public interest determination under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

### H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: Mr. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

AMENDMENT No. 6: Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$36,306,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$36,720,000)".

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. ROTHFUS

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT No. 3: At the end of the bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. 514. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. GOSAR

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) enforce the memorandum from the Veterans Benefit Administration known as Fast Letter 13-10, issued on May 20, 2013; or

(2) create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, D.C.

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. RATCLIFFE

AMENDMENT No. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. ROE OF TENNESSEE

AMENDMENT No. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ Not more than \$4,400,000 of the funds provided by this Act under the heading "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration" may be used for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the amount otherwise provided under such heading is hereby reduced by \$1,500,000.

### H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: Mr. BYRNE

AMENDMENT No. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer any funds from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1802) to another account of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIERCE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Pierce County Labor Council and the celebration of labor standing in solidarity and fighting for workers' rights throughout our region.

The men and women who make up our labor force serve as the backbone of our communities. They are our folks at the port who handle the goods and products that keep Washington state's economy moving and make us a strong national and global trade partner; they are the men and women who make the best airplanes in the world; they are our government employees who help manage our cities, keep our service members safe, provide social services, and deliver our mail; they are the educators who prepare our kids for success in school and in life; they are our grocery store workers who make sure we have fresh food every day and in times of emergency; they are the folks who deliver goods to our homes and businesses; they are the fire fighters and police officers who keep our communities safe; and they are the people in the trades who build the roads and bridges and buildings that strengthen our economy.

For 125 years, the Pierce County Labor Council has fought to protect the rights of our labor force. They are on the frontlines fighting for fair wages, safe working conditions and quality health care benefits. And they are pushing to make sure our current and future retirees can spend their senior years in dignity, by receiving their hard-earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, leaders like Patty Rose and Vance Lelli have made labor a force in the South Sound region and throughout the state of Washington. In Pierce County, the Council has grown from eight labor groups to 90 affiliates representing 37,000 hard working families. I am proud to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Pierce County Central Labor Council here today and am honored to represent the hard working men and women throughout our region who will continue to fight for a strong workforce.

## HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 22 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 22 enlistees, three are Air Force enlistees, four are Army enlistees, three are National Guard enlistees, eight are Marine Corps enlistees, and four are Navy enlistees. These young men and women have demonstrated a tremendous sense of bravery and patriotism in their commitment to defend our nation. Therefore, it is important that they know they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, the American people, and their communities. The dedication of these individuals reminds us that in the face of a diverse set of challenges, the United States remains an example of freedom, justice, and perseverance throughout the world.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these 22 local graduating seniors for their commitment to our nation and their selflessness by naming them here today: Ricky De Los Rios, Andrew Hendrix, Justice Cooper, Bradley Monk, Carlton Morgan, Thomas Sebastyn, Jr., Nicholas Gunther, Cameron Manochi, Adrian Coomes, Nicole Harrison, Daniel Gonzalez, Jose Rivera, Blake Ashworth, Mikelli Dorcius, Marcelo Aguirre, Justin Lalonde, Joseph Venuti, Michael Garrity, Blake Boyle, Breanna Reinhardt, Dylan Samons-Knight, and Husani Sylvester.

All will be recognized on May 4, 2015 at the Our Community Salutes event in West Palm Beach.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who commit to defend our great nation by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we can all be proud of. For this reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

## HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2015. The Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame was created by The Times and Business magazine, and inductees are determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2015 Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees include Richard Schepel, Michael E. Schrage, Roy Berlin, Beth Wrobel, and Joe Coar, who was honored with the Partners in Progress Award. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel Celebrity Ballroom in Merrillville, Indiana, on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Roland Parrish, president, owner, and chief executive officer of 24 Parrish McDonald's Restaurants Ltd., was the guest speaker at this year's event.

Richard Schepel is the president of Schepel Buick-GMC, Inc. Although he has retired from the dealership's daily operations, Richard remains connected to the foundation of superior customer service upon which he built the dealership. In 1970, Richard built Schepel Buick on Route 30 in Merrillville. Within a few years, he was the number one Buick dealer in the Chicago zone. Under his outstanding direction, Schepel Buick-GMC, Inc. has succeeded for over 45 years. Richard devotes much of his time, effort, and support to charitable endeavors throughout Northwest Indiana, including area high school driver education programs, work-study programs for students, and American Red Cross blood drives, among others. He also has served as a member of several Chambers of Commerce throughout the community. Through his involvement in his church, Redeemer United Reformed Church, Richard has been able to help serve many families and individuals in need. Richard Schepel believes strongly in giving back to the community that has supported his business throughout the years. For his commitment to the citizens of Northwest Indiana and beyond, he is worthy of the highest praise.

Michael Schrage, president and chief executive officer of Centier Bank, became the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the First Bank of Whiting, which was renamed Centier Bank years later. This family-owned bank has grown throughout the years, and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

today Centier operates over fifty branches in Indiana. Under Mr. Schrage's leadership, Centier established an award-winning lender division, introduced a financial literacy program, and the company has been named one of Indiana's best places to work for the past nine years. This is indisputably due to Mike's value-based work ethic, and the significance he places on Centier's most important resource, its employees. In addition, Mike gives much of his time and effort to charitable endeavors including the Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few. Mr. Schrage is truly an inventive business leader, and his commitment to improving the community of Northwest Indiana is noteworthy.

Roy Berlin is the president and chief executive officer of Berlin Metals in Hammond. Berlin Metals is a value-added processor and distributor of thin metals, primarily tinplate, light gauge cold-rolled steel, and stainless steel, with much of the steel being manufactured in Northwest Indiana. Roy's career at Berlin Metals began in 1988 as a salesman. He became director of purchasing in 1992, executive vice president in 1995, and president in 1999. The continued success of the company can be credited to Roy's exemplary leadership skills and his focus on the needs of customers, suppliers, and Berlin Metal's employees. In addition, Roy Berlin and Berlin Metals are committed to educational efforts and have made numerous donations to the Acorn Foundation in Hammond, which provides scholarship funds to local high school students who have excelled in math and science. They also support the Metal Service Institute Center, which works to educate employees in the metal distribution business. For his outstanding contributions to the success of the Northwest Indiana community and his commitment to education, Roy Berlin is to be commended.

Beth Wrobel has been the chief executive officer of HealthLinc, Inc. since 2002. HealthLinc is a federally qualified health center with facilities in Mishawaka, Michigan City, Valparaiso, Knox, and East Chicago. The organization provides medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services. Under Beth's direction, HealthLinc has become a leader in the healthcare industry in Northwest Indiana due to her focus on each patient's unique experience. Beth and the exemplary staff at HealthLinc provide outstanding support and guidance to some of the most vulnerable residents of the region. Beth serves on the Indiana University Northwest School of Medicine's advisory board and on the boards of the United Way of Porter County and the Indiana Primary Health Care Association. She is also a member of the Valparaiso Human Relations Council and is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Valparaiso. For her lifetime of service to those in need and her dedication to the healthcare industry, Beth Wrobel is an inspiration to us all.

The final inductee, and this year's recipient of the Partners in Progress Award, is Joe Coar. Joe was the vice president of operations at Tonn and Blank Construction for 25 years before retiring in December 2014, and he currently serves as a consultant for the company. Joe began his career in 1967 as a carpenter apprentice and continued to work his way up

in the company into supervisory positions including superintendent, manager of operations, and ultimately, vice president of operations. Joe has worked on a variety of projects throughout his career for many companies including Urschel Laboratories, Sisters of Saint Francis, and Computer Services, Inc. Joe's heartfelt passion for the industry has been the driving force throughout his career. Mr. Coar also works very hard to support the community of Northwest Indiana and gives to many charitable organizations. He has served on the boards of the Construction Advancement Foundation, Ready Northwest Indiana Workforce Development, Northwest Indiana Forum, Northwest Indiana Business Round Table, and LaPorte County Redevelopment, among others. For his unwavering commitment to the building trades and to the community of Northwest Indiana, Joe Coar is truly worthy of the prestigious honor bestowed upon him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of this honor, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of them is worthy of our respect and admiration.

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HONORING THE TEXAS STATE  
CHAMPION CALHOUN HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS POWERLIFTING  
TEAM

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**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calhoun High School Girls Powerlifting Team. On Friday, March 20, 2015, the team, led by Head Coach Jason Bagwell and Assistant Coach Kellie Whitaker, won their 10th consecutive Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association's (THSWPA) Texas State Championship at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.

This is the first time this feat has been accomplished in the history of THSWPA, and I am sure this record breaking accomplishment will stand the test of time. I congratulate the coaches and these amazing young women on their hard work and dedication and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

Calhoun High School Sandies Team Members: Kassidy Colianni, Miranda Smith, Danielle Bacon, Marissa Martinez, Belinda Perez, Perla Resendiz, Brooke Downs, Abby McFall, Zoey Dierlam and Jeanette Olachia.

RECOGNIZING FRANK CORNELIUS  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. REID J. RIBBLE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to visit "Frank and Nancy's Marine Corps Museum" in De Pere, Wisconsin.

At the museum, I met Frank Cornelius, a 22-year Marine Corps veteran who seemed to do everything in twos. Frank was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant two times: First, in 1953 during Korea, and again in 1962 during Vietnam. He served two terms as a Drill Instructor: First, in San Diego, CA, and then in Parris Island, SC. Frank served two wars: First, in Korea and then, in Vietnam. He served in two different units, the infantry for the first 10 years and the air wing for the second. Frank was also an instructor two times: First in Division School in Camp Pendleton, CA, and second in electronics at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, TN.

Frank Cornelius has won many awards in recognition of his outstanding achievements. He received 2nd place in the West Coast Regional Technique of Instruction Competition in 1958 in the "Sergeant and Below" category. More recently, he was named a National Heritage Fellow on September 17, 2008 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

I urge anyone who comes to the area to visit Frank and his wife, Nancy, at their museum for a personal tour. There, you will find a patriotic veteran's personal contribution to his community and a very interesting story of the past.

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HONORING THE VENTURA COUNTY  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

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**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Ventura County Leadership Academy as they celebrate 20 years of promoting and cultivating the next generation of community leaders in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy was established in 1994 by the United Way of Ventura County as a pipeline for developing a strong, dynamic group of leaders. These leaders are driven with ambition and purpose to create a stronger community and to heighten the quality of life in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy has developed into a premier program, facilitating life-long friendships and bonds that draw graduates back to volunteer their time and skills in order to make the Ventura County Leadership Academy the best experience possible for future cohorts.

The diverse individuals that collectively make up the cohorts each year are provided a curriculum, which includes a focus on regional issues related to education, public safety, economic development, health care, and

more. Students have the unique opportunity to meet with key decision-makers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the county. This experiential learning environment brings participants to the forefront of critical issues in our community.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy instills the confidence and skillsets that comprise a well-rounded change agent. To date the Ventura County Leadership Academy has had 20 outstanding cohorts, and 430 successful graduates making strides across the county with what they have gained through the Ventura County Leadership Academy.

For the past two decades, the Ventura County Leadership Academy has contributed an invaluable service to our community by developing influential and effective leaders that continue to propel Ventura County into the 21st century and beyond. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer the Ventura County Leadership Academy my sincere congratulations in reaching this milestone, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating their 20th anniversary.

#### WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING PERSON

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Ms. Jeralean Talley, a resident of Michigan's 13th District for a truly extraordinary distinction: Being named the world's oldest living person by the Gerontology Research Group, which keeps global longevity records. Ms. Talley was born in 1899 in Georgia and moved to Michigan in 1935, where she has resided ever since.

An active member of her family and community, Ms. Talley bowled until she was 104 and mowed her own lawn until just a few years ago. According to the Gerontology Research Group, only one in 5 million people live to 110 years. Ms. Talley will turn 116 next month.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article from the Detroit Free Press from April 7, 2015 recognizing Ms. Talley for leading an extraordinarily full life and for achieving this unique distinction.

[Detroit Free Press, April 7, 2015]

INKSTER'S JERALEAN TALLEY IS OLDEST PERSON, GROUP SAYS

(By Bill Laitner)

The front door flew open as a reporter approached a brick ranch house in Inkster and a voice called out, "C'mon in—I've got Time magazine on the phone."

The speaker stood Thursday night over a placid figure dressed in a pale pink nightgown named Jeralean Talley, a bright-eyed elderly woman in spectacles who—despite her profound hearing loss—was fully aware, relatives said, that she'd just been declared by gerontology experts to be the oldest person in the world.

"It's truly incredible because Ms. Talley is very aware of what's going on. Her mental state is very sharp," said Michael Kinloch, 56, of Canton, a GM engineer and longtime family friend of Talley's through their church.

"It's unfortunate that other people passed away, but this has certainly elevated her.

She's feeling no pain. She just can't get around like she used to," Kinloch said, who sat on a couch as he gestured to the walker that stood before Talley's easy chair.

Talley, who will turn 116 on May 23, climbed to the top spot after Gertrude Weaver, the world's oldest person for just five days, died Monday in Arkansas. She was 116.

Weaver, who was born July 4, 1898, to sharecroppers near the Texas border, was also the oldest American. She died at 10:12 a.m. at the Silver Oaks Health and Rehabilitation in Camden, a spokeswoman told KTHV-TV in Little Rock.

She was crowned the oldest just Wednesday after the death of Misao Okawa in Japan. She was 117.

At Talley's Inkster home Monday, a religious tapestry hung on the wall and around the room were others signs of her devotion to God. Asked for the key to her longevity, she gave the answer she has given before:

"It's coming from above. That's the best advice I can give you. It's not in my hands or your hands," she said, pointing vigorously skyward with both index fingers.

Talley, born according to U.S. Census records in 1899 in Georgia, came to Michigan in 1935 and said, "I've been here ever since then."

Her advice to the world on the occasion of her having attained a new level of celebrity was a rephrasing of Christianity's Golden Rule: "I ain't got nothing more but to treat the other fellow like you want to be treated. You don't tell a lie on me so I won't tell a lie on you."

Talley is widely known among experts who chart those who monitor the members of a rare worldwide club—the one in 5 million humans to live at least 110 years. She bowled until she was 104 and still mowed her lawn until a few years ago, according to previous Free Press reports. Equally amazing, Talley lived alone until seven years ago, when she was joined in the small home under the flight path of Detroit Metro Airport jets by her daughter, Thelma Holloway, 77, and Holloway's daughter, 26, who has added an ever-smiling spark to the supra-centenarian's life—little Armmell, now 2 years old and a frequent visitor to his great-great grandmother's lap.

On Thursday night, Armmell showed his elder his child-sized computer.

"He's fifth-generation," Thelma Holloway said, as the two bent over the toy together.

Kinloch said he's looking forward to taking Talley, despite her advanced age, on their annual fishing trip.

"We go to a trout pond in Dexter. She really likes that," he said.

#### RECOGNIZING WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

### HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the recognition of World Hemophilia Day, which occurred on April 17.

Hemophilia is a rare disorder in which an individual's blood does not have enough clotting factor, causing them to potentially bleed longer than someone not affected by the disorder. As I have heard from my constituents, the health problems endured by those living with hemophilia can be debilitating. These problems can

lead to seizures, paralysis and in some cases death. Sadly, there is no known cure for the disorder but treatment options can reduce symptoms and save lives.

In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, I ask that we remain aware of the burden of blood disorders and their impact on American citizens. In addition, on this day we should commit ourselves both to ensuring our country has the best treatment options available and also to working for a cure.

#### WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the recognition World Hemophilia Day which occurred on April 17.

Hemophilia is a rare disorder in which an individual's blood does not have enough clotting factor, causing them to potentially bleed longer than someone not affected by the disorder. As I have heard from my constituents, the health problems endured by those living with hemophilia can be debilitating. These problems can lead to seizures, paralysis and in some cases death. Sadly, there is no known cure for the disorder but treatment options can reduce symptoms and save lives.

In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, I ask that we remain aware of the burden of blood disorders, their impact on American citizens, and work proactively to ensure our country has the best treatment options available, but that we also work for a cure.

#### HONORING G. OLIVER KOPPELL

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative for New York's 16th Congressional District, I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing and honoring an array of incredible public servants. But few, if any, have worked as hard and achieved as much as my dear friend Oliver Koppell has for the people of the Bronx, and all of New York State.

The son of refugees from Nazi Germany, Oliver moved to the Bronx when he was two years old, and began a lifelong love affair with the borough. He attended Bronx elementary schools, graduated from Bronx High School of Science, and, following his tenure at Harvard University, where he graduated Cum Laude as both an undergraduate and law student, he returned to the Bronx to begin his life of public service.

On March 30, 1970, Oliver was first elected to office as a Bronx Assemblyman, and served as a member of that legislative body for over 23 years. I spent many of those years as a colleague of Oliver's, and was always struck by his incredible intellect and undeniable passion for his constituency. His legislative record as a Member of the Assembly was sterling,

and showed the breadth of his interests and knowledge.

It was no surprise to me then in 1993 when Oliver was selected by his colleagues to serve in a higher capacity, as New York State Attorney General. As Attorney General, Oliver initiated dozens of public interest lawsuits, collected over \$100,000,000 for the state treasury, and negotiated the largest environmental settlement in the history of New York.

As a follow-up to his time in statewide office, Oliver returned to serve the local Bronx community, as Council Member for New York City's 11th District. From his election in 2001 to the end of his tenure in 2013, Oliver was a leading progressive voice in the Council and a tireless advocate for the constituents he represented in the northwest Bronx. To see the success of Oliver's tenure, look no further than his election results: he served three terms in office with overwhelming support from the community.

But for Oliver, no legislative accomplishment can compare to his greatest success, as a father and a husband. He is married to the love of his life, Lorraine, and has three amazing children, along with 5 beautiful grandchildren. I have had the privilege of getting to know all of the Koppells over the many years we have known each other, and they are all truly wonderful people.

This year, the Riverdale Temple is honoring Oliver with a tribute luncheon in celebration of his years of dedicated service to the community. There is no more fitting honoree than him. Oliver Koppell has been a true public servant, an advocate for people from all walks of life, a man of exceptional integrity. I honor Oliver along with the Riverdale Temple and wish to congratulate him on this wonderful, and incredibly well-deserved, honor.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Trinity United Methodist Church located in West Palm Beach, FL.

In October 2014, the Trinity United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Founded in 1914 by Reverend John H. Gordon, the church was organized along the Seaboard Railroad on Tamarind Avenue in West Palm Beach. Trinity was renovated following a fire and later modified after being heavily damaged during the Storm of 1928. In 1968, the church was sold and a new sanctuary was constructed on the corners of 9th Street and Golf Avenue in the Roosevelt Estates. Trinity's history is the story of faith, sacrifice and of a membership devoted to the community.

Since its founding, Trinity has served at the forefront of the community, working to enhance educational, social, and economic prosperity. Known as the "Civil Rights Head-

quarters," Trinity United Methodist Church served as the main meeting place to plan strategies in the fights for the right to vote, integration of schools, and equal access. Today, Trinity is still the headquarters for free rides to the voting polls, and often partners with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Urban League on various other important initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Trinity United Methodist Church is a true pillar of the community and I continue to applaud their efforts. I wish the Trinity United Methodist Church many more years of continued prosperity.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPPORTING COLORECTAL EXAMINATION AND EDUCATION NOW (SCREEN) ACT OF 2015

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act of 2015. This legislation promotes access to critical colorectal screening procedures by removing barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available. Simply put, colon cancer screening tests like colonoscopy save lives by detecting and preventing cancer, also reducing costs for individuals, their families, the Medicare program, and the health care system as a whole.

The likelihood of developing colorectal cancer is greater than one in twenty; meaning that 133,000 Americans will be newly diagnosed this year. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 2,550 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in my home state of Massachusetts this year and 930 Bay-Staters will die from this deadly disease. Among all cancers, colorectal cancer is the number two killer of Americans. This year alone, approximately 50,000 Americans will die from colorectal cancer.

Despite these daunting statistics, I am encouraged by the opportunities for improvement as colorectal cancer is among the most preventable of all cancers. Unlike most other cancer screenings designed to detect cancer at an early stage, colorectal cancer screenings can actually prevent cancer from occurring in the first place. If found early through screening tests like colonoscopy, pre-cancerous growths called polyps can be removed, thus halting the progression to colorectal cancer. Therefore the way to beat this deadly disease is to ensure Medicare beneficiaries are screened regularly through a variety of detection methods, including colonoscopy. In fact, a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die of colorectal cancer this year, screening colonoscopy could save more than 50 percent of these deaths.

The month of March was "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" and, I think, an appropriate time to reflect on some of the strides we have made as a nation in confronting colorectal cancer. While it remains

the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women combined, both the incidence and death rate have been steadily declining in recent years. This is a budding public health success story due to improvement in screening rates, demonstrating the power of preventive medicine. Yet there is much more to accomplish. The federal, state and local governments, as well as other stakeholders have come together and pledged their efforts to achieve the goal of 80 percent of eligible Americans screened by 2018.

The screening rate for those in the target populations has increased nearly 10 percent over the past decade. In Massachusetts, we can boast one of the highest screening rates in the country at 75 percent. However, that still means that one out of every four eligible people is not getting screened. Furthermore, screening rates for recommended tests remain unacceptably low across the country, highlighting the need for public policies to help us achieve this collaborative national goal of 80 percent screened by 2018. In particular, the Medicare-age population, which is at the greatest risk for developing colorectal cancer, has screening rates far below this goal. CMS should be commended for implementing policies to increase screening utilization rates. However, Medicare beneficiaries make up two-thirds of all new cases of colon cancer, and the number is expected to increase by more than 50 percent by 2020.

Accordingly, the SCREEN Act is designed to enhance Medicare beneficiaries' ability to access colorectal cancer screening by fixing coverage gaps and disincentives under the benefit. Medicare currently covers certain colon screening services, but Medicare beneficiaries are not appropriately using this benefit for various reasons, including out-of-pocket costs and fear of the procedure itself. Medicare waives cost-sharing for cancer screenings recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which assigns an "A" rating for colorectal cancer screening. However, if a doctor finds and removes a pre-cancerous polyp during a screening colonoscopy—the whole point of the procedure in the first place—Medicare no longer considers it a "screening" and the beneficiary is required to pay co-insurance. The SCREEN Act waives cost-sharing under this scenario, as well as the necessary follow-up colonoscopy upon a positive finding of other recommended colorectal cancer screening tests covered by Medicare. These changes will help achieve this "80 percent by 2018" goal and will ensure there are no financial barriers for Medicare beneficiaries across this screening continuum in colorectal cancer prevention. Relatedly, the SCREEN Act would stabilize Medicare reimbursement for screening tests for the next three years to encourage Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries and screening initiatives as we strive towards the "2018 goal." This bill would ensure that the Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit works for both patients and the physicians treating Medicare beneficiaries.

Unfortunately, fear of the screening colonoscopy test itself undermines the goal of increasing colorectal cancer screening utilization rates. This fear has also undermined

screening rates for another public health epidemic in Medicare, Hepatitis C. Medicare has concluded that our nation's veterans and baby boomers are most at risk for Hepatitis C. Baby boomers—who make up about 30 percent of the U.S. population—account for two-thirds of the people with Hepatitis C in the U.S. CMS also notes that roughly 85 to 90 percent of those infected with Hepatitis C are asymptomatic, meaning they have no outward signs of disease. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and USPSTF recommend age-based screening for both colorectal cancer and Hepatitis C, even if the Medicare beneficiary has no symptoms. Just like colorectal cancer screening, we must do more to increase screening for Hepatitis C.

The SCREEN Act recognizes the critical role that doctors play in providing information, alleviating fears, and encouraging patients to ask questions, and thus establishes a demonstration project to allow Medicare beneficiaries the opportunity to discuss these screening procedures with the provider performing the procedure. Thus, allowing the Medicare beneficiary the option to be screened for Hepatitis C at the same time the beneficiary is undergoing a screening colonoscopy. One recent study has demonstrated that more patients will agree to get a Hepatitis C screening while they are undergoing a screening colonoscopy.

In addition to raising awareness, now is the time to redouble our commitment to preventing and beating and preventing colorectal cancer. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SCREEN Act.

#### HONORING TERRY CLEMENTS

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our communities remain vibrant and strong thanks to volunteer leaders who maintain a high level of involvement. Terry Clements has been a shining example of that type of civic engagement.

Terry Clements was born in Chicago, Illinois, and began her esteemed tenure of service as a graduate of Antioch College with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, followed by a Masters in Elementary Education at Fordham University.

After earning her degrees, Terry resided in West Hollywood, California. She was a prominent talent manager and consultant in the entertainment business, working with such stars as Kenny Loggins, David Bowie, Iggy Pop, the Charlie Daniels Band, and Michael Jackson.

Terry became the co-principal of a recording studio in Chicago, and helped inspire the concept of Studio Jams, a live studio concert on NBC radio affiliate. Terry returned to West Hollywood to manage music producers, song writers, and other recording artists, providing crucial opportunities for actors in both the film and television industry.

Terry relocated to New Rochelle in 1981, becoming an indispensable member of the community. Involved in groups like the Jack and Jill of America Westchester Chapter, New

Rochelle FUSE, the New York State United Teachers, and the Westchester Alliance of Black Student Educators, Terry maintained a high standard for all of her community involvement.

As President of the New Rochelle Lions Club, she organized a benefit for the victims of the Haitian Earthquake fund, and partnered with the school district to get glasses for kids in need. Terry also is active as a former member to the Latino Advisory Board and the New Rochelle Advisory Committee on Boating and Marinas.

Terry has been involved in local politics, serving as a district leader for the New Rochelle Democratic Party, and as Vice Chair to the Westchester County Democratic Committee. She is a member of The Black Democrats of Westchester, Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, and is the former State Committee Woman for the 88th AD.

Currently, Terry is an educator at Columbus Elementary School in New Rochelle and a former adjunct professor at Fordham University. Terry's true pride and joy though is her family. She is married to her husband, George Clements, Jr., and they have two daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

The New Rochelle Democratic Committee is honoring Terry at their 2015 Victory Dinner this year. She is very deserving of this recognition, and I want to congratulate her on the wonderful honor.

H.R. 1560 AND H.R. 1731

#### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tepid support of H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731, which would bolster our cyber defenses by supporting information sharing between the private sector and government.

Public and private sector networks are under constant attack. Security experts and government officials alike have cautioned that as we become more interconnected and dependent on cyber networks for everyday aspects of life, the more susceptible we are to crippling cyber attacks. The attack on Sony Pictures, the major breach at Anthem that compromised personal information for nearly 80 million people, and the breaches at national retailers like Target and Home Depot demonstrate that information sharing legislation is needed. In the face of such extreme threats, Congress must enact robust protective measures that safeguard civil liberties.

The two bills we are considering this week make significant improvements compared to CISPA, which passed the House last Congress. While CISPA did not require the private sector to remove personal information before sharing that information with the government or other non-government entities, H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731 would require private entities to remove any personal information before sharing, after which the government would be required to conduct a second scrub.

While I will support H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731, improvements should be made in con-

ference with the Senate. As drafted, the bills could provide sweeping liability protections to operators of critical infrastructure that do not take adequate defensive measures or share information about attacks against their networks. The liability protections are currently so broad that they could even provide immunity to entities that act negligently.

Congress has not passed major cyber security legislation since 2002. While this week's bills are not perfect and should be improved, they would enhance our cyber defenses.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,939,363,157.16. We've added \$7,525,062,314,244.08 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS (ANZAC) DAY

#### HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day.

First held on April 25, 1916, ANZAC Day was originally dedicated to commemorating those Australian and New Zealand forces that fought in the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I.

Today, ANZAC Day is set aside to recognize all Australian and New Zealand forces who have "served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served." We call ours Veterans Day.

As the Delegate from the U.S. Territory that is geographically closest to New Zealand and the third closest to Australia, I am proud to recognize the servicemen and women from our partners in the region.

The long-standing relationship between the United States and our partners in the South Pacific cannot be understated. Whenever we have found ourselves standing to defend the spirit of freedom and democracy around the globe, we have always been able to rely upon our friends in New Zealand and Australia to be standing right beside us.

Our shared ideals and hopes for the planet ensure that our bond is strong and lasting,

and I want to recognize the servicemen and women of Australia and New Zealand for the sacrifices they have made to uphold these common traits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the sacrifices and dedication of the servicemembers of our friends in Australia and New Zealand.

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IN RECOGNITION OF DELBERT  
CEDERQUIST

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delbert Cederquist on his work as a school board trustee for the past 62 years.

Mr. Cederquist was born and raised in Fresno, California. In 1950, after completing his education, he launched a vineyard in Easton, California and became a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Mr. Cederquist is married to Denise Cederquist and has two children and three grandchildren.

In 1953, Mr. Cederquist became involved in education for the first time as a board member for the University Colony School District. Since then, he has been involved on the boards of several local, state, and national education associations in a variety of different roles.

Mr. Cederquist has been a member of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) since 1967. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors, the Delegate Assembly, and several committees, Mr. Cederquist has also served as Conference Chairman and President.

Currently, Mr. Cederquist is an active member of the Fresno County Board of Education. The Board has oversight over more than 190,000 students and 32 school districts throughout Fresno County. Mr. Cederquist was elected to Fresno County Board of Education for the first time in 1994 and is currently in his fifth term. Additionally, he has served as its President on three separate occasions.

While education may not have been his professional trade, it became a lifelong passion for Mr. Cederquist. Due to his extensive experience and dedication, Mr. Cederquist is widely recognized for his knowledge, expertise, and commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Delbert Cederquist for his 62 years of dedicated service to the students, teachers, and schools of the Central Valley and the State of California.

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IN HONOR OF THE 14TH ANNUAL  
WALTER AND LEAH RAND  
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 14th Annual Walter and Leah

Rand Scholarship Dinner and to recognize this year's honorees, J. Mark Baiada, Louis Cappelli, Jr., and Thomas A. Isekenegbe.

Founded in the year 2000 in honor of former New Jersey State Senator Walter Rand's legacy of public service, the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University serves as a research and public service center at the Camden campus. Each year, the institute awards members of the community whose tireless efforts improve the quality of life for South Jersey with the Walter and Leah Rand South Jersey of the Year Award.

The private sector honoree, J. Mark Baiada—an alumnus of Rutgers University—is the president and founder of Bayada Home Health Care. Bayada Home Health care is a health care company, located in Moorestown, that employs nurses from throughout the state and provides outstanding health services to South Jersey. Mark has already expanded his company to over twenty-five states, offering the same high quality health care to people beyond New Jersey's borders.

This year's public sector honoree, Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., has brought his keen legal mind and innovative ideas to a lifetime of public service. As a resident of Collingswood, New Jersey, Louis has been a dedicated servant of his community. He began by serving on the Collingswood School Board and was later elected to the Collingswood Board of Commissioners, where he played an instrumental role in revitalizing the town. Louis was first elected to the Freeholder Board in 2003 and has since worked to transform county government, delivering services more efficiently to constituents while reducing the costs of doing so.

The non-profit sector honoree, Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, is the president of Cumberland County College, and has used his knowledge of higher education to increase enrollment and graduation rates at the college. Coming to America in 1981 from a small village in Nigeria, Thomas' passion for education and helping minorities succeed in higher education has been an inspiration. At Cumberland, Thomas has provided leadership for increasing enrollment, developing new academic programs, revising courses for a seamless transfer to four-year universities, and developing learning communities that lead to student success.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Mark Baiada, Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., and Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe are the sort of inspirational and dedicated leaders that South Jersey needs and is proud to recognize. I join with the Walter and Leah Rand Institute for Public Affairs in honoring their talents and accomplishments that have made South Jersey an even better place to live.

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HONORING STUART GOLDSHEIN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, community partners who are truly dedicated to serving the public good are an invaluable asset to any elected official in government. As the Rep-

resentative of New York's 16th district, I have had the pleasure of working with some truly remarkable community leaders, none more remarkable than Stuart Goldshein.

A native of the Bronx and a life-long resident of New York City, Stu always retained a close affiliation with the Jewish community. While living in Manhattan, he involved himself and his family in Temple Israel of the City of New York, encouraging his children to attend religious school and partaking in the Jewish traditions.

In 2006, Stu and his family relocated to the North Bronx. Despite the move, Stu maintained his connection to the Jewish community, becoming a member of the Riverdale Temple. A year after becoming a member of the temple, he was elected to the synagogue's leadership. For the past eight years, he has served on the Temple's Board of Trustees, helping to establish the policies and procedures of the Temple, administering the Temple's business affairs, and monitoring the Temple's property and revenues. Additionally, he has been the synagogue's Treasurer for the past five years, utilizing his 35 years of business experience to manage the institution's finances. Through his service, Stu actively has sought to better the Riverdale community.

Aside from his involvement with the Riverdale Temple, Stu is a CPA who has spent his business career in accounting and finance. He worked for Price Waterhouse and Dun & Bradstreet. Recently, he retired as the Vice President and Corporate Controller of Nielsen Media Research.

In addition to his phenomenal career achievements, Stu has created an incredible legacy at home with his beloved wife, Jean, their two children, Jeff and Debra, and their four grandchildren, Ian, Evan, Emma, and Sammy. They are his true pride and joy.

This year, the Riverdale Temple is honoring Stu at its Student Sponsorship Breakfast for all he has done to better the Riverdale community. I am honored to be able to congratulate Stu on this incredible achievement.

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RECOGNIZING PAMELA RAINEY  
LAWLER

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, both in my district and around the globe, the name Pearl S. Buck is synonymous with enthusiastic activism and a deep commitment to humanitarianism.

Today, Pearl S. Buck International advances that legacy by providing opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, building better lives for children around the globe and promoting the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Landmark home. To honor the timeless work of Pearl S. Buck, the Pearl S. Buck International Woman of the Year Award was established in 1978 to recognize "women, who like Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning author and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck, have distinguished themselves in their career, devotion to family and pursuit of humanitarian goals."



This year, I am proud to congratulate Pamela Rainey Lawler as the recipient of this noble achievement.

Pamela launched her career as corporate writer in Philadelphia and later, as a mother of two children, realized how important food and nourishment were to growing children. Always the writer at heart, she took on a research project to find a solution to the domestic hunger problem in Philadelphia. Her research was the impetus to launch the non-profit organization, Philabundance in 1984. Today, Pamela is a social entrepreneur creating the Food Solutions Design Lab. She spends time giving back by mentoring and advising young social entrepreneurs and social impact start-ups. The first woman to run for the Mayor of Philadelphia, Pamela serves on the Board of Directors of Philabundance and Art-Reach, among others. Her influence within the food science and nutrition field, the non-profit community at Philabundance, the world of impactful social entrepreneurs and among women who are all about action will be felt for a long time.

There is no doubt that Pamela embodies the positive qualities of the late, great Pearl S. Buck and is worthy of the Woman of the Year Award. Her work in our community—and our world—expands the positive impact of Pearl S. Buck to meet new challenges for a new generation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on this day I would like to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. On this month 100 years ago, April 1915, the Ottoman Empire began a campaign of forced deportation, starvation, and massacres of over 1.5 million Armenians. This tragic event would later be used as an example for how we define and understand the word genocide.

The modern state of Turkey continues to deny the events of the past. Those who deny the Holocaust, the destruction of European Jewry, are met with outrage and disdain, as they should. Equally, the denial of the Armenian Genocide should elicit the same reaction. Denial of this atrocious event disrespects the lives of all those who perished. The Armenian Genocide is not a contested debate. It is not of varying opinion. It is an undisputed historical fact.

For decades our Armenian-American communities have urged the American government to rightly recognize the actions of the Ottoman Empire as genocide. President Obama recently characterized the actions of the Ottoman Empire as “the first mass atrocity of the 20th Century.” This is an accurate description, but it is truly disappointing that he decided not to use the word genocide. Armenians do not seek retribution for the acts of violence inflicted upon their ancestors. Armenians simply seek closure to a very dark and tragic chapter

of their otherwise proud and distinguished history.

HONORING THE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (MCFSC) OF IDYLLWILD, CALIFORNIA

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) of Idyllwild, California for their tireless dedication to keeping the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountain communities safe from devastating wild fires.

Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council of Idyllwild is the local chapter of more than 125 Fire Safe Councils of California. Since 2002, volunteers and staff from the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council have helped raise awareness among residents about the dangers of wild fires and helped residents take action to protect their land and property.

MCFSC has organized members of the community to reduce hazards that can spread the devastation of wildfires in our mountains. MCFSC volunteers known as the “Woodies” are the heart of the organization. These selfless volunteers donate their time, tools and equipment to decrease wildfire hazards and reduce fuel storage on properties owned by elderly, disabled and low-income residents. Since the organization’s inception, MCFSC volunteers have contributed more than 915 cords of firewood to the Idyllwild Help Center, and volunteered more than 24,107 hours.

In 2009, MCFSC received a U.S. Forest Service grant and worked to remove fuels from the areas surrounding structures in the Silent Valley Campground. Their extraordinary work in promoting fire preparedness and adaptation before the devastating 2013 Mountain Fire was credited by the U.S. Forest Service for reducing the severity of the fire and aiding firefighters.

I congratulate the extraordinary volunteers of the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council on their efforts and dedication to protecting our mountain communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY  
OF EARL C. HARGROVE JR.

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and a great Marylander, Earl Christian Hargrove Jr., who passed away on April 6 at the age of eighty-six. I’ve known Earl for many years, and I am certain that he will be missed by a great many people throughout the Greater Washington area.

Earl was a larger than life presence in Harwood, Maryland. His estate—Holly Springs Farm—attracts thousands of neighbors and residents from throughout the region each

Christmas with a captivating display of holiday lights and decorations. A graduate of Bladensburg High School in 1946, Earl served in the U.S. Marine Corps that same year and was honorably discharged in 1948. When the Korean War broke out, however, Earl re-enlisted and served his country in uniform until 1954. Following his military service, he returned to Maryland and to the business he had launched with his father, Earl Hargrove Sr., in the late 1940s creating parade floats and specialty decorations.

Known affectionately as “the President’s prop-man,” Earl provided event staging for every presidential inauguration since Harry Truman’s in 1949. In January 2013, his company, Hargrove Inc., did so once again for the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. Earl Jr. became president of the company after his father’s sudden death in 1971, and today the business is run by Earl’s daughter, Carla Hargrove McGill, and son-in-law, Timothy McGill. Hargrove Inc. continues to employ talented artists and craftspeople who design and plan some of Washington’s largest events and conferences, including the National Walk for Epilepsy, the annual AIPAC Policy Conference, and the White House Correspondents Dinner.

My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife of sixty years, Gloria Love Hargrove, his children Earl “Chris” Hargrove III, Kathleen Hargrove Kelly and her husband Clyde, Carla Hargrove McGill and her husband Timothy, Cynthia Diane Hargrove and her husband Michael Busada, and Carey Martin Hargrove and his wife Wendy Miller, and his seven grandchildren. May his memory continue to bring strength and comfort to them and to all of us who were fortunate to know and cherish Earl Hargrove Jr.

RECOGNIZING DAVE MCCONNELL  
ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY REPORTING FOR WTOP RADIO

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dave McConnell, WTOP’s Capitol Hill correspondent who is celebrating his 50th year of reporting for the Washington all-news radio station.

“A True Journalism Icon” was how the Merrell College of Journalism at the University of Maryland described Dave in a recent tribute. Members of Congress and media colleagues have heaped deserving praise on Dave in recognition of his 50-year milestone. Most recently, Dave was the recipient of the first ever Career Achievement Award from the Radio and Television Correspondents Association, and he has won other honors including the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame Award.

Dave has a voice that was made for radio. He has a delivery that is authoritative and commanding but at the same time reassuring and resonant. His voice is readily recognizable by several generations of radio listeners in the Washington region. He has earned the respect

of listeners and news sources because of his encyclopedic knowledge of Congress, his thorough and objective reporting on the complex issues that come before this body, and his professional manner and demeanor.

While many reporters have moved from station to station and city to city as they moved up the media ladder, Dave began his career in his hometown and has reported in Washington throughout his career, most of it from his third floor perch in the Capitol that he refers to as the "booth." As WTOP Senior News Director Mike McMearty joked in a recent tribute to Dave, "It's part of WTOP lore that Dave McConnell, while other kids were skipping school to go catch a baseball game and see the Senators, he was sneaking into the Capitol to hear the actual senators debate."

There are few reporters in Washington who can boast they have covered 12 presidential elections, five inaugurations, and many other milestones spanning a half-century of the nation's history. Dave McConnell is one of them, although he would never boast about it; it's not his style. He is all business and all about the news.

At a time when men of Dave's age are spending their Golden Years doting over their grandchildren (and Dave has seven), WTOP's Capitol Hill correspondent continues to use his vast institutional knowledge to give perspective on a daily basis to the comings and goings of Congress.

Dave McConnell's colleagues say Dave has no intention of retiring any time soon and that is good news for many Washington-area residents who have grown accustomed to getting their news about Congress over the radio from "a true journalism icon."

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave on this wonderful milestone and in wishing him continued success.

#### HONORING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Memorial High School in San Antonio for its exceptional music education program. This year, Memorial is one of just 120 schools in the nation to be awarded the prestigious SupportMusic Merit Award from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The school's outstanding commitment to music education is particularly evident in the spirited, talented, Memorial High band.

Music education is so important for our young people. Not only does it help students develop leadership skills, but new research shows that participation in music education programs can improve brain function, spark language development, and lead to increased academic success in subjects like reading and math.

Despite the proven benefits of music education, arts departments are often the first to suffer budget cuts, or to be eliminated altogether, when school funding is tight. Receiving

the NAMM SupportMusic Merit Award helps schools like Memorial High demonstrate the importance of music education to their students' overall success in school and draw attention to the need for further resources to sustain these vital programs in the future.

Again, I want to congratulate Memorial High School for this achievement and for giving San Antonio students the opportunity to experience the joy of music and all the other academic advantages music education affords.

#### INTRODUCING THE FDA DEEMING AUTHORITY CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2015

#### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation, the FDA Deeming Authority Clarification Act of 2015, to make a technical change to the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA). The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act provides the framework for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco products and products with nicotine derived from tobacco.

Under the FSPTCA, the FDA was provided immediate regulatory authority over cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco. Further, the FSPTCA allows FDA to regulate other tobacco products through a regulatory process.

The issue that my legislation seeks to remedy relates to a specific date—the predicate/grandfather date of February 15, 2007. The FSPTCA specifies that any cigarette, smokeless tobacco or roll-your-own tobacco product that was in the market before February 15, 2007 is grandfathered and can stay on the market without manufacturers submitting applications to FDA approval, but FDA is still able to regulate these products.

Manufacturers making changes to grandfathered tobacco products or introducing new tobacco products after this date are required to file an application with the FDA.

Further, a manufacturer is able to file a more abbreviated substantial equivalence application if the manufacturer can demonstrate that the modified or new tobacco product is substantially equivalent to a tobacco product that was on the market before this grandfather date. For this reason, this date is doubly important because it serves as both the grandfather date and the predicate date.

The FSPTCA further lays out that any products that came to market between February 15, 2007 and the date of enactment (June 22, 2009), or during the following 21 months (before March 22, 2011) were permitted to stay on the market, but the manufacturer was required to file a substantial equivalence (SE) for those products before the end of this transition period.

Finally, no product may be brought to market after this transition period without authorization from FDA.

Questions may be raised as to why the so-called predicate/grandfather date of February

15, 2007 was picked in the Act. If you look at the legislative history, February 15, 2007 was the date the Act was introduced in the 110th Congress. There was no other specific reason for the date chosen in the Act. Moreover, the 2007 date reflects the predicate/grandfather date for those immediately regulated products—not for products that FDA could choose to regulate at a later time.

On April 25, 2014, FDA released its proposed deeming regulation, which would grant authority for the agency to regulate cigars, vapor products and other products with nicotine derived from tobacco.

However, in the proposed rule, the agency stated it would maintain the February 15, 2007 as the predicate/grandfather date for newly deemed products even though the FDA has the regulatory discretion to choose a different date. Notably, the FDA provided for a two-year transition period, similar to the 21-month transition period contained in the Act.

The FDA claims that it lacks the legal authority to change the February 15, 2007 date even though it has used regulatory authority to make a number of decisions that were not spelled out in the initial Act. The agency should apply that same authority to altering the predicate/grandfather date for newly deemed tobacco products, while maintaining this important transition period.

Should the agency choose not to alter the date, the February 15, 2007 predicate/grandfather date will make it costly and create significant barriers for the industry and the FDA to bring innovative new products that may significantly reduce the harms associated with tobacco to market, and could force the withdrawal of many products that have come to market since February 2007.

The end result will be that newly deemed tobacco products would be treated much more harshly than immediately regulated products. Specifically, the "look back" period for cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco products was two years (June 2009 to February 2007) while the period for newly deemed products would be eight years (June 2015 to February 2007) if FDA meets its June 2015 target to publish a final deeming rule, and perhaps longer if FDA does not publish its final rule in time.

It makes no sense that immediately regulated products—which Congress decided were most in need of FDA regulation—get such an advantage over later regulated products.

In addition, applying the February 2007 predicate/grandfather date to newly deemed products or failure to provide for a transition period will immediately and dramatically add to FDA's enormous backlog of SE applications, which stands at thousands to date.

Even though the FDA already has this authority, the legislation I introduce today will underscore that FDA should choose a new grandfather/predicate date each time the agency deems new tobacco products. Specifically, the bill would make the grandfather/predicate date for newly deemed tobacco products the effective date of the final rule and mimic the 21-month transition period provided for cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco.

Accordingly, on the crucial issue of path to market, later regulated products would be

treated no better and no worse than immediately regulated products.

CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate and celebrate the 36th anniversary of the passing of the Taiwan Relations Act, the landmark piece of legislation that provides the legal basis for our bilateral relations with Taiwan, our close economic and security partner and friend with which we share so many principles and values.

Our relationship with the Republic of China dates back decades, but it is as important today as ever. Taiwan stands today as a symbol of what countries can accomplish when they commit themselves to democracy, free enterprise, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. The Taiwan Relations Act, accordingly, stands as a symbol of the United States' unwavering support for those values and its commitment to protect and uphold them wherever they take root.

The Taiwan Relations Act is also more than a symbol, however. It is a binding resolution that we in Washington will "consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States."

Today, the peace and security of that critical region is being undermined by a military buildup on the mainland and increasingly aggressive behavior in its littoral waters. In this strategic environment it is critically important that we reaffirm our support to countries that share our values and behave with respect to their neighbors and the norms of international behavior.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the nation's capital brings thousands of Americans to Washington, D.C. this tourist season despite recent security incidents, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2015. The bill is as timely now as when I first began working on it. I saw the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society after the Oklahoma City bombing, whose 20th anniversary we commemorated this year. I saw it again after 9/11. This bill grows even more urgent as the country is ensnared in wars that threaten our security, causing an increasing variety of se-

curity measures to proliferate throughout the country without due diligence and deep thinking about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and often without guidance from the government or bona fide security experts. Take the example of some ordinary government buildings. Security in some federal buildings bars tourists here for Cherry Blossom season from even getting in to use the restroom or enjoy the cafeterias. The security for some federal buildings has for too long been unduly influenced by non-security experts, who happen to work for an agency but do not have the expertise to take into account actual threats.

Another example is the District of Columbia's only public heliport, which the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shut down following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, without explanation or means to appeal the decision. Just days after the 9/11 attacks, however, helicopter service was restored in New York City, the major target of the attacks. Yet, even 12 years after the attacks, TSA and FAA and particularly the Secret Service still will not permit commercial helicopters to fly to D.C., unlike all other cities in the United States.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the president designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance that should be required between openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time at the same table, also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts should not alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, on an often ad hoc basis. Some federal buildings such as the U.S. Capitol have been able to deal with security issues, and continue their openness to the public. Others, like the new Department of Transportation headquarters, remain mostly inaccessible to the public. These examples, drawn from the nation's capital, are replicated in public buildings throughout the United States.

After 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against the frightening threat of terrorism. However, in our country, people also expect their government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their

personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and for the unprecedented challenges it has brought. Nevertheless, we must provide ever-higher levels of security for our residents and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. What we have experienced since Oklahoma City and 9/11 is no ordinary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. In the aftermath of the 2013 Navy Yard shooting, I wrote to the President of the United States requesting the establishment of an independent panel to investigate issues raised by that tragedy and to evaluate how to secure federal employees who work in facilities like the Navy Yard that are a part of a residential or business community. However, this bill seeks a commission that would act not in the wake of a tragedy but before a crisis and before erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither require nor are subject to civilian oversight or an analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th-century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
RAY SCHAAF

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ray Schaaf, U.S. Army, Retired of Round Rock, Texas as he celebrates his 90th birthday on April 24, 2015. Even with nearly a century of living behind him, he remains a vibrant part of his growing central Texas community.

Born in Colorado, LTC Schaaf entered the Army in June 1943. After rigorous training, he arrived in England the following year where he bravely flew combat missions with the 381st Bomb Wing over Europe. His post-war military career saw this brave aviator serve in Korea, China, Greenland, and numerous bases in the U.S. LTC Schaaf retired in 1970 and made his home in the Lone Star State.

Following his retirement, the warrior became an artist. A skilled handyman, LTC Schaaf makes jewelry and restores saddles. He's an avid painter and is especially adept in the centuries-old craft of knife making. This determination to live life to its fullest is a reminder to us all to make the most of every day.

Family remains at the center of his life. LTC Schaaf married his beloved Marge. They brought four children into the world and were united through feast and famine. Now a proud grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of fourteen, and great-great-grandfather of one, he has the pleasure of watching his beautiful family grow and prosper.

All should marvel at the extraordinary times LTC Schaaf has witnessed. In his nine decades of living, he defended freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of his dreams. He saw how America has been defined by extraordinary men and women who fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow.

LTC Ray Schaaf's patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of both the Greatest Generation and Central Texas. Let April 24 continue to be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy 90th birthday and all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SOCIAL  
SERVICES AGENCY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for 50 years, the Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency has been protecting the children of Bucks County.

Through investigating reports of child abuse and neglect, providing for the temporary care of children not able to remain with their own families and working to develop community-wide social service programs that empower kids and their families, Children and Youth has played a vital role in our community for decades—a fact we celebrate this anniversary.

As a former County Commissioner, I've had the opportunity to work side-by-side with the committed staff and leaders that make this agency the success it is. Their work has promoted safer, healthier communities and played a part in strengthening the lives of thousands of children.

Our children are our greatest resource. And, through the dedicated efforts of Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services, Bucks County's future is brighter.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD S.  
POWERS

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a notable Hoosier, Mr. Donald S. Powers, who passed away on April 21, 2015. I would like to express my gratitude for his community service and economic development in my hometown of Munster, Indiana. Most important to me, he was a friend and mentor who was always ready to provide sound guidance. He was among my very first supporters in my first run for Indiana Secretary of State, and he, Margo, and their family have been close friends for nearly my entire life. More than that though, many people who call Northwest Indiana home can rightfully claim the same kind of relationship with Don Powers.

Mr. Powers proudly fought for our nation during World War II as a Navy fighter pilot and was called into service again during the Korean War. I know it was an honor for him, as a member of the United States Navy to protect the country he loved, the greatest nation the world has ever seen. His fearless exploits as a fighter pilot on an aircraft carrier would shape his business approach leading to a willingness to take risks that others would not.

After his contributions to our nation, Mr. Powers moved to Munster from Kentucky, where he spent many years farming and managing farms for others. He was a graduate of Indiana's 4th District beloved Purdue University. He also helped develop Purdue University Calumet where he served on the university's board of trustees for 15 years, including several as president.

Mr. Powers went on to establish a real estate firm and developed much of Munster's residential neighborhoods. He also developed the golf course community of Briar Ridge that many of the region's families call home. His annual Purdue golf outings at the course were major fundraisers that brought Boilermaker coaches and athletes into town.

In 1973, Mr. Powers took part in the creation of Community Hospital in Munster, voted one of "America's 50 Best Hospitals" seven years in a row. In 1989, he developed the

Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, home to the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and South Shore Arts. His efforts in developing Munster led to nationwide accolades for the community, even making Forbes Magazine's "25 Top Suburbs for Retirement."

Mr. Powers was highly regarded in the community for his philanthropic and business endeavors. He served on the Board of Directors of the Munster Medical Research Foundation and most recently as the CE of Community Healthcare System. He personally funded nursing scholarships at Purdue University and Indiana University Northwest. Mr. Powers received many honors including the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award from the Northwest Indiana Small business Development Center. He was twice recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash recipient, by Indiana Governors.

Mr. Powers leaves behind his beloved wife Margo, daughter Frankie Fesko, three grandchildren, Heather, Donald and Timothy, and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Trena. Indiana and the nation lost a committed leader, but his legacy can be found in the hundreds of lives he positively affected over the years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 171, 172, 173 on April 23, 2015, due to my participation in the Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Armenia for the centenary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 171 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 172 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 173 I would have voted YES.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S.,  
JAPAN, AND KOREA

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. As we seek America's rebalance to Asia, I firmly believe that further cooperation between the U.S., Japan and Korea will play a pivotal role for peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region as well as the globe. To this end, we are working hard to promote cooperative efforts through the House Armed Services Committee.

Japan is a valued and trusted ally of the U.S. They have been a model world citizen for

70 years and is a leader in global foreign aid distribution. Japan and the U.S. have a bright future together and I welcome Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to address a Joint Session of Congress on April 29th.

One thing stands between this day and that bright future and Prime Minister Abe can eliminate that obstacle during his address to the Joint Meeting of Congress: He can make a formal apology to, and say that his government takes legal responsibility for, the more than 200,000 young women and girls from across Asia, but mainly from Korea, who were forced to become sex slaves during World War II by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan. These are the euphemistically termed "comfort women."

The scholarship on this topic and the personal testimonies of the surviving women is voluminous and settled. Everywhere, that is, except in the mind of Prime Minister Abe and his government. Previous Japanese officials and governments have accepted the country's responsibility for creating and maintaining the comfort women system, as well as Japan's colonial and wartime aggression.

He has denied that these women were coaxed, coerced and conscripted against their will to serve in "comfort stations," forced into sex slavery. He says they were ordinary prostitutes of the time. He has denied documented evidence of coercion. He has called the personal testimonies of the women "baseless, slanderous lies." He dispatched envoys to the United Nations, to ask it to overturn an exhaustive report affirming the coercion of the comfort women and recommending Japan take responsibility, and to McGraw-Hill Education publishers, to ask them to change textbook language about the comfort women. Thankfully, both bodies refused the Japanese attempts to whitewash the past.

Not only do these efforts defame the women, they destabilize the entire East Asia region. And these are not just issues relegated to history. Violence against women in wartime and military sexual assault continues to occur to this day. For these reasons, I hope the Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit and speech to the Joint Meeting of Congress will lay the foundation for healing and reconciliation, in particular in bringing closure to the pain and suffering endured by the Comfort Women who've waited with their very lives for an unequivocal apology.

More specifically, Mr. Abe must seize the opportunity of his Washington visit to reaffirm the 1995 Murayama Statement and 1993 Kono Statement as they were issued, and also uphold the previous Japanese government's positions and views on aggression, colonial rule and coerced sexual slavery by using clear, unequivocal and specific language.

This House has given a rare and special honor to the Prime Minister: An opportunity to address a critical ally on a grand stage. I hope Mr. Abe does the right thing.

# RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FEDERAL CHARTER

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Georgetown University during the bicentennial year of its federal charter. A 200 university year charter in the nation's capital is a special occasion to be celebrated not only for Georgetown alumni but also for the nation's capital, which has enjoyed countless educational benefits from having one of the nation's most distinguished universities in our city.

Founded more than two centuries ago by Bishop John Carroll, Georgetown became only the second school in the nation's history to acquire a federal charter from Congress. Today, the university remains true to its founder's Roman Catholic and Jesuit values. Georgetown graduates have gone on to not only change the nation but the world. The university continues to produce leaders at home and abroad. The list of its distinguished alumni is replete with public servants and foreign dignitaries, including former President William "Bill" Clinton. For the past two centuries, Members of Congress who have either been alumni or staff of the University are too numerous and noteworthy to name. I am proud to continue as a tenured member of the Georgetown Law School faculty, teaching one seminar each year, after having served as a permanent professor at the law school before my election to Congress. Currently, there are 15 Members of Congress, most of them alumni, who are affiliated with the university.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in applauding 200 years of the Georgetown University federal charter, and the university's outstanding contributions to the nation's capital and the nation itself. The university's esteem and success continue to grow and we anticipate its continued success for years to come.

## SISTER MARY JO MIKE

## HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Jo Mike, named 2015 Principal of the Year by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sr. Mary Jo, of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, has devoted more than 40 years to Catholic education and has led Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral Parish elementary school for the past 23 years, the longest serving principal in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi.

Sister Mary Jo soars beyond the call of duty, deeply involving herself in the life and ministry of her parish, school, local community, and the culture of the Gulf Coast, and en-

courages others to do the same. From their daily arrival to their departure, Sr. Mary Jo is dynamically present in the lives of her students' school setting. She inspires teachers to identify and nurture each student's strengths and to discover ways to help them overcome their challenges. Her ministry and leadership encompasses the healthy development of the whole student—mind, body, and soul.

True to her calling, Sister Mary Jo seeks and claims opportunities to improve life for those around her. Under her leadership, Nativity BVM now offers a broad range of programs for students of any ability, even including a Robotics team and a Lego® club. Clearly loved and highly respected by all, Sr. Mary Jo runs a tight ship in an environment of love, prayerfulness, justice, and peace. She is an example of always doing one's best and exceeding expectations in herself, her faculty, her students, and her community, believing that when children see their teachers and leaders doing their best, they, in turn, are inspired to do their best, too.

I proudly congratulate Sister Mary Jo Mike as the 2015 NCEA Principal of the Year.

## IN HONOR OF PETE PASQUALE

## HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a health care leader from Connecticut, Pete Pasquale, who will be retiring in July after 42 years with McKesson Corporation.

During his tenure with McKesson, the world's largest healthcare services company, Pete has capably led the many teams he developed in a career spanning roles from District Sales Manager in Albany, New York to Senior Vice President for the Northeast Region in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, with overall responsibility for McKesson's pharmaceutical sales and distribution activity in the Northeast market. McKesson's involvement in nearly every health care sector provided Pete with a unique understanding of health care policy and a platform to inform policymakers. I had the opportunity to visit McKesson's Rocky Hill offices last summer, where I was impressed by the incredible efficiency of McKesson's operations and the high morale of employees there who benefited from Pete's leadership.

When Pete began his career with McKesson as a Sales Trainee in 1973, many pharmaceutical products were shipped to pharmacies directly by the manufacturers, and Pete and his wife Deb spent every Sunday afternoon calling customers to take their orders. Pete would then bundle the orders by hand and personally drop off the shipments at the post office for Monday deliveries. Pharmaceutical deliveries may have evolved since then, but Pete's values of focusing each day on customers and patients have inspired his friends and coworkers throughout his career.

Pete and his wife Deb raised three kids—Timmy, Gina and Cara, together every step of the way. And, not surprisingly, Pete has saved his best role for last—that of Pop. He is the

proud grandfather to Stella, Pete, Gaetana, and Leo, who always bring a smile to his face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Pete Pasquale for his outstanding career in health care, and I personally want to thank Pete for his 42 years of dedication, leadership and commitment to patients, our community and our country. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

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HONORING EILEEN PACKER ON  
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT  
AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT  
RESOURCE CENTER

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**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Eileen Packer on her retirement after 9 years of service as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC).

During her tenure, Ms. Packer was instrumental in founding HARC and seeking the organization's nonprofit designation. She designed the organization's triennial needs assessment and was critical to building strong support for the organization across the community.

As a physician and a native of the Coachella Valley, I commend Ms. Packer's work to assess the health and wellness of Coachella Valley residents and improve access to critical health care services. To date, the data from these surveys has helped generate over \$7.1 million in funds for much-needed programs and services to improve the wellbeing of residents in our community.

As a Registered Dietitian and Certified Association Executive, Ms. Packer worked in the Los Angeles area as Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Tarzana Regional Medical Center. After 11 years there, she led as CEO of the 7,000-member California Dietetic Association located in Los Angeles.

As a volunteer, Ms. Packer currently serves on the Riverside County Office on Aging Advisory Council and is a member of the Gilda's Club Medical Resource Council. Previously, she served as President of the Southern California Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen's dedication to public service and health education is a true testament to her great work ethic and leadership. On behalf of all those who have benefited from HARC, the medical community and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Eileen for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING  
LONG LIFE SOCIAL ACTIVIST  
MARIAN LUPU

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**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my dear friend Marian Lupu; a visionary and warrior in the fight for fairness and social justice. Marian has never ignored the plight and needs of others. We celebrate her 90th birthday and relish in her work. I want to submit a profile of Ms. Marian Lupu that appeared in the Arizona Jewish Post, written by Shelia Wilensky; this, better than I, describes a life worth honor.

Marian Lupu, now 89, founded the Pima Council on Aging in 1965. She didn't retire as executive director until 2006, when she was 82. "If you love what you're doing, why not?" Lupu asked the AJP. A pioneer in her field, Lupu took one of the first courses ever taught on aging when she was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. "I soon decided," she says, "that all the research in the world wasn't going to help the aging population unless it provided services and advocacy."

In her elder years, Lupu practices what she preached. "The biggest thing I've learned is to use the supports I have," she says. "I take all the support I can get, use a walker or a cane, without having the resistance of many older people who drive and get into accidents or who fall down because they want to be independent."

Lupu started her career as a student working at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and later supervised the first study on aging Spanish-American War veterans. Her 1948 marriage to Charles Lupu, Ph.D., eventually brought the couple to Tucson in 1965, when he landed a job at the Tucson Medical Center. She started the Tucson Council on Aging as a volunteer. The agency later became the Pima Council on Aging.

"I recognized there were no services for the aging population here, whether they were Jewish or not. I learned a great deal," says Lupu, from Betty Brook, who was instrumental, with her husband, in helping to build Tucson's Jewish community, including Jewish Family & Children's Services and Dr. Ted Koff, the first director of Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging.

"Family counseling is very much a concern to the Jewish community," says Lupu, who grew up in "a very Orthodox family, and in a very kosher environment in Elmwood Park, Ill, a suburb of Chicago. Our Shabbos goy was our next-door neighbor. It was a very Italian neighborhood. In order to have services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we brought in a rabbinical student and rented a storefront."

Back in 1929, she recalls, "there was no telephone in the shul so a messenger would come get the Jewish doctor for an emergency. We had to wait till he returned for a minyan."

Years later, says Lupu, as an adult living in Tucson with her husband and three children, "our family always went to Seders at Handmaker when Ted Koff was the director. We watched as more and more synagogues came to Tucson. I remember when the Jewish Community Center [came about] through the great skills of Ben Brook. When we first

came here there was discrimination against Jews. There was only one country club and Jews weren't allowed."

That's changed, notes Lupu. "Mayor Jonathan Rothschild is so involved with the Jewish community and is now our mayor. There's much more acceptance now of a Jewish mayor than when George Miller was mayor" during the 1990s.

Still, "we discriminate against current immigrants," she says. "My own mother came from England through Canada and when she married an American citizen, at that time she didn't automatically become an American citizen," which happened later. "How do we know how legal our ancestors were?"

"It concerns me that [discrimination toward immigrants] could lead to discrimination against Jews. I also fear that discrimination could resurface in Tucson as it has in Europe over the conflict in Israel and the [negative] media coverage."

Lupu, whose husband died in 2002, still lives in the same home where they raised their family. "I love Tucson," says Lupu. In the city's future, "I would like to see more concern for others through increased assistance at all human levels and less segregation of different populations."

Since her 2006 retirement, Lupu has become president of the board of Dancing in the Streets, Arizona, which is a diverse performing arts organization, primarily for at-risk youth. The dance school, based in South Tucson, is run by Lupu's daughter, Soleste Lupu, and her husband, Joseph Rodgers, both of whom are professional dancers.

Seventy-five percent of the dance school's participants are on partial or full scholarships due to poverty in the region. Lupu attributes the poverty to both "our prejudice and the lack of jobs."

"I thought I saw poverty in the '60s and '70s when I was involved in bringing the needs of the elderly to the community," she says. "But you very rarely heard of the homeless elderly. For kids today it's different. I've never seen poverty among children the way you see it now."

As a lifelong social activist, it seems natural for Lupu to be taking on the plight of children. "Staying involved with what excites me challenges me to give meaning to my life beyond my own existence," she says. "That's why I'm so happy to be working with children."

In closing, I just want to thank Marian for her kindness, friendship, and guidance she has graciously given me. I remain humbled and privileged to know and call Marian Lupu my friend and ally.

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RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FINALISTS  
SELECTED IN THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT OF  
TEXAS ART COMPETITION

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**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following 30 high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as finalists from the 250 district entries in the Congressional Art Competition:

Erin Branscum, "Curly Hair";  
Tea Brooks, "Fawn";

Eunice Choe, "Change is Calling"; Julie Choi, "Monotonous Preparation"; Hannah Christensen, "Selfie"; Taylor Coughlin, "Fish"; Kathryn Deatherage, "Two Lions"; Amie Deng, "Fire"; Paloma Diaz, "Dallas"; Avani Gallo, "Man Horror"; Madeline Huang, "Nighttime Adventures"; Diane Huynh, "Humility"; Zhixin Jiang, "Driving the Herd"; Haley Justitz, "Sad Boy"; Jacob Kim, "Frozen Grass"; Allison Li, "A Spring Afternoon"; Joshua Martin, "Aluminum"; Elissa McCracken, "Rings of Life"; Duc Tran Nguyen, "Vitalygo"; Jeongho Park, "Horse and Rider"; JC Patino, "Adam"; Sydney Peel, "See No Poverty"; Britney Phan, "Diversion"; Hayley Rothballer, "Wisdom"; Nicole Schifferdecker, "Bluebonnets"; Kate Sheedy, "Ireland"; Anna Sim, "Japan in Texas"; Kaitlin Westbrook, "Street Side"; MacGregor Williams, "Tuskegee Airmen"; Arden Wolski, "Texas Impressionism."

The art competition was represented by a variety of high schools in the 24th District, and I am honored at this time to acknowledge the participating schools and the students' art teachers:

Summer Neimann and Eric Horn, Carroll Senior High School; Holly Hendrix, Carrollton Christian Academy; Tamera Westervelt, Coppell High School; Sarah Royce, Colleyville Heritage High School; Bob Thomas, Creekview High School; Jeff Nisbet, Grapevine High School; Melissa James, Newman Smith High School; Brenda Robson, Prestonwood Christian Academy; Caroline Kinlaw, Ranchview High School; Steve Ko, Steve Ko Art Studio; Carolyn Allen, Trinity High School; Sharice Williams, Uplift North Hills Preparatory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional high school artists on becoming finalists in the 24th Congressional District of Texas Art Competition.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 13; Tuesday, April 14; Wednesday, April 15; and Thursday, April 16, 2015, I was out on medical leave while recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 145 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1249),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 146 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1265),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 147 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1480),

"No" on roll call vote No. 148 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 189),

"No" on roll call vote No. 149 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 189),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 150 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 650, with instructions),

"No" on roll call vote No. 151 (on passage of H.R. 650),

"No" on roll call vote No. 152 (on passage of H.R. 685),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 153 (on the motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 11),

"No" on roll call vote No. 154 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 200),

"No" on roll call vote No. 155 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 200),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 156 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1562),

"No" on roll call vote No. 157 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1563, as amended),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 158 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 622, with instructions),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 159 (on passage of H.R. 622),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 160 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1105, with instructions), and

"No" on roll call vote No. 161 (on passage of H.R. 1105).

#### 24TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration Washington, D.C. on May 22–25, 2015.

DC Black Pride 2015 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, awards ceremony, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. The Center For Black Equity, the celebration's organizing body, chose "DC Black Pride 2015: 25! Inspiring a Movement, The Mission Continues" as the theme for this year's celebration. This theme reflects the 25

years of connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the African American LGBT community. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate our heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from a volunteer Advisory Board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of: Andrea Woody-Macko; Genise Chambers-Woods; Re'ginald Shaw-Richardson; Joseph F. Young; Cedric Harmon; Jeffrey Richardson; Angela Peoples; Thomas King; C. Hawkins; and Sonya Hemphill as well as scores of volunteers.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 25th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the American citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

#### PASS CHRISTIAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB-QATAR CENTER

#### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the State of Qatar for its continued support of the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast Qatar Center at Pass Christian, Mississippi. We welcome the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States, Mohammed Al-Juwari.

In 2005, the Mississippi Gulf Coast was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, resulting in the destruction of many of the Boys and Girls Clubs in South Mississippi. In June of 2009, through the generosity of a 5 million dollar donation from the people of Qatar, the Boys & Girls Club opened a new, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility in Pass Christian.

When the facility opened its doors in 2009, over 175 children enrolled in programs offered by the club. The staff has worked hard to provide the best care, programs and opportunities to benefit the children of the Gulf Coast.

The Qatar Center now serves well over 300 children daily, and it continues to grow, giving children the opportunity to reach their full potential. It helps allow the Boys and Girls Club to fulfill its mission to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

Today, with Boys & Girls Club locations all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Pass Christian location continues to provide the perfect model for other centers to follow.

Once again, I would like to thank the people of Qatar for their generosity to the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE HERBST, EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT, TEACHER, MOTHER, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of Marie Herbst upon her passing on April 23, 2015. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to describe the range of accomplishments Marie achieved during her amazing life. A wife of 63 years, a mother of 5, a schoolteacher for 37 years, and on top of that a record of public service at the state and local level that spanned decades.

As one of the most dedicated citizens of Vernon, Marie stood as an activist for her town's needs in the area of education. This commitment to the Vernon community was not limited to activism, as Marie saw the need to serve her constituents locally and ensure that her neighbors' voices were heard.

Marie was elected to the Board of Education, Town Council, as Mayor of Vernon and served for over eight years as a State Senator representing her friends and neighbors in Hartford. She demonstrated further dedication to her fellow citizens after she left the Connecticut General Assembly to resume her position on the Town Council.

During that time, Marie focused on her most abiding passion: the welfare of the Town of Vernon. During her tenure, the town saw new schools, fire stations, police headquarters, roads and bridges. Never one to duck controversy, she nonetheless had an extraordinary record of political success due in large part to her integrity and honesty. In a word, people trusted Marie, even if they did not always agree with her.

At the end of the day we can all look back on her life and marvel at her energy and passion for helping others through her service in public office. At the same time, she never shortchanged her husband Paul, her children Paul, Debra, Kate, Laura and Janet or the students that she taught in the East Windsor school system. She set a high bar of excellence that all citizens and public officials should strive to match.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Marie's life and expressing our deepest sympathies to Paul and to the Herbst family.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF  
JOHN KELLY HARRIS

### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of John Kelly Harris, who recently passed away at the age of 61. A respected leader in Central Florida, John will be remembered for his enthusiastic involvement in our community.

John was born in Owensboro, Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with

a BA in Elementary/Special Education and from Troy State University with a Masters in Public Administration.

John had a very active professional, political, and civic life. He worked for the Orange County Florida government for over 22 years. John was well known throughout Orange County as a community builder and for his ability to connect people. Some of his favorite projects included the Orange County Targeted Community Initiatives in South Apopka, Holden Heights, and Englewood. He also helped build the Taft Community Center.

The founding president of the Rotary Club of Lake Nona and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, John was always civically involved. He was active with the Greater Apopka Habitat for Humanity, Anthony House Homeless Shelter, American Society for Public Administration, Tiger Bay Club, County Watch, and countless other neighborhood, nonprofit, and community efforts.

John loved photography, telling jokes, and helping people. He leaves behind his wife and best friend, Susan Denton Harris, and his beloved daughter, Lee Collier Harris.

John Kelly Harris' integrity, vision, wisdom, and passionate outlook on life touched the lives of many and made Central Florida a better place. I am humbled to honor the memory, life, and outstanding achievements of John Kelly Harris.

MINNESOTA REMEMBERS THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on April 24th I was honored to be invited to join members of the Armenian-American community from across Minnesota for a service of remembrance at St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul. That evening we remembered the victims of the Armenian Genocide and it was my privilege to deliver the following remarks.

Today we join the people of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora around the world in commemorating a historic reality, a historic truth, a historic crime. One hundred years ago a campaign of cruelty was waged against Ottoman Armenians that resulted in suffering and death of such a profound magnitude that it continues to be felt today.

The entire world—all nations and peoples—need to stand with Armenians everywhere in commemorating the Armenian Genocide, acknowledging the horror of its cruelty, and recognizing the generations of pain it has caused. But this goal cannot be fully realized until truth triumphs over denial; until the historical horrors are acknowledged by the government of those responsible. We need to strengthen condemnations of the past and recognize the important relationship that the United States shares with Armenia today.

The Armenian people were exposed to torture, starvation, deportation, abduction, and massacre. In addition to mass killings, millions of Armenians were forced into deportation and

were expelled from their historic homeland. The framework for the United Nations Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was, in part, based on this unbelievable crime. Many survivors of this genocide have passed away now, and we are running out of time as an international community to move toward peace and reconciliation in the region. We are running out of time for the victims and those who remember the tragedy to come together and heal.

A clear recognition of this atrocity would affirm that the Armenian Genocide is not an opinion, but a widely documented fact supported by a body of historical evidence. Forty three states including Minnesota have recognized, by legislation or proclamation, the Armenian Genocide. Fortunately the Ottoman Empire no longer exists. However, people living in the region, and especially the descendants of the Armenian victims, deserve to have an accurate reflection of history acknowledged in order to move forward toward peace and reconciliation. As a Member of Congress, I want the United States to officially call the events of 100 years ago a genocide inflicted upon the ancestors of Armenian-Americans. Furthermore, our government should call on our NATO ally—Turkey—to acknowledge their historic responsibility.

On this 100th anniversary, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and ancestors of victims of this international crime against humanity. Let us remember and pray for the victims we never have met. Let us pray for those who survived and lived lives of courage. And, let us pray for the Armenian community in Minnesota, across the U.S. and all around the world who stand united in honoring your ancestors and in pursuing the truth with perseverance, honor, and dignity. As we reflect on this tragedy let us also reinforce our own resolve, as Americans, to prevent future genocides.

IN HOPES THAT JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE WOULD UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND ADDRESS COMFORT WOMEN ISSUES

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks an important year for the United States and Japan as August 15th will be the 70-year anniversary of the Japanese surrender and the end of World War II. This upcoming anniversary comes on the heels of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's historic address to a joint session of the United States Congress, the first time a Japanese head of state has delivered such an address. While our two countries have experienced the pains of war and peace, I am looking forward to this historic speech in order for Prime Minister Abe to not merely highlight our strong alliance built over since 1945 but also to deliver justice for women who have endured irreparable harm and trauma in the years before 1945.

In the past, the joint session on the House floor has been used as a platform to call for

peace by some of the world's greatest leaders such as Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle and Nelson Mandela. His speech on April 29 would be a great opportunity for Abe to do the same. In particular, it would be significant for him to acknowledge the pain and suffering of comfort women, a phrase used to describe hundreds of thousands of women, mostly Korean, whom former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton correctly pointed out were "enforced sex slaves" for Japanese soldiers during the war.

The plight of the comfort women was addressed by the U.S. Congress in 2007, when the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 121, which called upon the government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility for its coercion of young women into sexual slavery during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands in the 1930s and throughout World War II.

Eight years later, the Japanese government has not officially issued the apology, and there are only 53 Korean comfort women living. Among them is Lee Yong-soo, who had the courage to testify before Congress for the passage of House Resolution 121. I met her several times over the years and was moved to hear of her story of survival. Lee Yong-soo's journey is a reflection of the horrors of war but also demonstrates our collective need to make amends for the things that were committed.

In an effort to overcome the shadows of our past since World War II, the United States and Japan have built and maintained an unbreakable alliance. Japan's political and financial support has substantially strengthened the U.S. position on a variety of global issues, including countering the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and terrorism in all its forms; working to stop the spread of the Ebola epidemic; advancing environmental and climate change goals; maintaining solidarity in the face of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine; assisting developing countries; countering piracy; and standing up for human rights and democracy. Additionally, Japan is currently our 4th largest trading partner with \$204 billion in goods traded during 2013.

My recent visit to Japan reaffirmed my belief that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the cornerstone of our security interests throughout Asia and the world. Our bond is essential to regional stability and is based on our mutual values, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, respect for human rights and democratic institutions and securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community as a whole.

Japan is one of the world's greatest leaders and most reliable partners in the fight for peace. Prime Minister Abe's mention of this human rights violation would send a message to the world that the lingering pain of the comfort women is real and it would further convey Japan's commitment to human rights and peace in the region.

As a veteran myself, I know firsthand that war creates immeasurable pain and suffering on all sides. With so many Americans risking their lives in war, it is crucial for today's leaders to promote healing in order to continue to

make this world a better place for future generations. I hope that Prime Minister Abe would move history forward in advancing diplomacy and ensuring Japan remains a pillar of peace, stability and an advocate of human rights in the region and the world.

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RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILD CARE CONSORTIUM AND ITS PARTNERS ON THE 5TH ANNUAL DAY OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary work of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium and their partners on the success of the 5th Annual Day of the Young Child/Día de los Niños celebration.

The cities of Cathedral City, Coachella and La Quinta are proud participants of this important celebration. The planning committee of the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) in 2015 served our communities tirelessly and devoted themselves to raising awareness about the needs of young children and their parents and the importance of early childhood programs.

The Coachella Valley is home to more than 10,000 children under age six. More than half of these children are involved in Early Childhood Programs for at least part of their day in the over 4,300 licensed child care spaces in the Coachella Valley.

WOYC's annual celebration event is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This is the nation's largest early childhood association, with almost 80,000 members and over 300 affiliates, including Riverside County.

This event celebrates the contribution of organizations, community members and parents who support the well-being of our children and the future of our nation.

I would like to thank WOYC committee, the cities of Coachella, La Quinta, Cathedral City and the Riverside County Child Care Consortium for their efforts this year in making our community a better place for future generations.

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CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD LABORATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITIONS

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**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate four outstanding students from Springfield, Missouri's, Greenwood Laboratory School. Luke Ellickson received a National Merit Scholarship Commendation and Madelyn Stroder, Adam Brock and Matthew Woodward are National Merit Finalists.

Upwards of 1.5 million students compete for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship. Of those, 50,000 are identified as high achievers and receive a "commendation." 15,000 will be named as National Merit semi-finalists. Only 7,600 are chosen as National Merit Finalist. These students fall in approximately the top 3 percent of all high school students in the nation.

These four students represent 10 percent of the graduating class at Greenwood Laboratory School. This is a testament to the quality of education they have received, as well as a testament to their own personal work ethic and academic abilities.

These students' exceptional devotion to their academic careers should be an inspiration to us all. The Springfield community is justifiably proud of Mr. Ellickson, Miss Stroder, Mr. Brock and Mr. Woodward for all their accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them in this impressive achievement.

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IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL BRENT BOLANDER'S CHANGE OF COMMAND

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**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for the House's attention to recognize Colonel Brent Bolander who will have a change of command from Anniston Army Depot at the end of July.

Colonel Bolander was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer upon graduation from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. His later education includes the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course; Logistics Executive Development Course; the Florida Institute of Technology, where he earned his Master's Degree in Logistics Management; the Command and General Staff College; and the National War College, where he earned his Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Shop Officer, Battalion S4 and Headquarters Company Commander, 3rd Armored Division, 122nd Main Support Battalion, in Germany, deploying with the division to Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort; Battalion S4 of the 42nd Medical Field Hospital, Deputy Brigade S4, Commander of 156th Maintenance Company, Brigade Inspector General, and later as Chief Assistance Branch, United States Army Armor Center and Fort Knox Inspector General, Fort Knox, KY; Support Operations Officer, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas; Brigade S4, 101st Forward Support Battalion Support Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team (Mechanized), Fort Riley, KS; Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General and as the Secretary to the General Staff, United States Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, VA; Commander, 302d Brigade Support Battalion; Operational

Readiness Officer, Department of the Army G4 to include a three month deployment to Haiti; Support Operations Officer, Operation Unified Response.

His most recent assignment was Senior Logistics Advisor and Director for Strategic Operations for the Deputy Commander Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Included in his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 device, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Bolander is married to the former Donna McDonald. They have three children, Jessie, Katherine, and Austin. He led and commanded Anniston Army Depot from August 2012 to July 2015.

The Depot has 4,000 military, civilian and contractor employees with an annual budget of approximately \$750 million.

While at Anniston Army Depot, he safely helped execute millions of direct labor hours while helping overhaul and maintain our nation's critical combat equipment. His hands-on leadership for the workforce helped ensure our nation's military was provided the best possible equipment available to keep them as safe as possible while allowing them to accomplish their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Colonel Bolander in Anniston, but wish him the very best.

CONGRATULATING SISTER  
VIANNEY FOR 54 YEARS OF  
DEDICATION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE  
AND EDUCATION

### HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a prominent resident and educator in my congressional district, Sister Vianney, on her 54 years of dedication to Catholic religious life and education.

Sister Vianney first became a nun on July 7, 1961, with the Sisters of Mercy in Tullamore, Ireland, receiving the religious name "John Vianney". She arrived in Costa Mesa at the St. John the Baptist Parish and School and began her career as an educator on August 31, 1962. During her career at the school, she first served as a second grade teacher, then Director of Religious Education, and finally for 40 years was the principal of St. John the Baptist School.

Sister Vianney holds a Diploma in Religious Studies from the Pontifical University of Maynooth, Ireland and a Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

During her tenure as principal, she made a special point of assisting special needs students, instituting a full-time Learning Support program for them in 2000, which enabled hundreds of such students maintain their dignity and self-worth in the context of a mainstream educational program.

Sister Vianney was nominated for the Distinguished Principal of 1993 Award by the Diocese of Orange and received the Bishop Vann Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Education just a few months ago. In 2005, she was named one of the "100 Most Influential People who shaped Orange County in the last 25 years" by the Orange County Register (ranking 49th on the list), and in 2013 was honored for her long service by the Costa Mesa Mayor and City Council.

On June 19, 2015, the Mass of Farewell will be celebrated for her at St. John the Baptist Church.

There are few educators anywhere who have had as profound an impact on so many students over so long a time as Sister Vianney, and I know as she leaves St. John the Baptist School that she carries with her the appreciation and fond wishes for a happy retirement of the many whose lives were shaped by her long educational career.

### TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER

### HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of former Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier from Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District.

Bob Kastenmeier died on March 20 at his home in Arlington, VA at the age of 91. As we remember Bob's life and his service to our country, our thoughts are also with his wife, Dorothy; their three sons William, Andrew, and Edward; and two grandchildren.

Born on January 24, 1924 in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Bob later attended the University of Wisconsin Law School. During World War II, he interrupted his studies to serve in the U.S. Army in the Philippines. After the war, he returned to the University of Wisconsin to finish his law degree and practiced law in southern Wisconsin until he was first elected to Congress in 1958.

During his 32-year career in Congress, Bob was the standard bearer for Wisconsin's proud tradition of public service and progressive values. Looking back, it turns out Bob was on the right side of history more often than not.

As a courageous and principled public servant you could always count on Bob to speak truth to power. He opposed funding for the so-called House Un-American Activities Committee. He stood up to a president of his own party to criticize the Vietnam War. He continued to speak out as thousands of American

GI's, including more than 1,100 Wisconsinites, died in Vietnam.

Bob Kastenmeier served during a tumultuous period in our nation's history that includes passage of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Vietnam War, and the impeachment trials for President Nixon. Through it all, Bob was quintessential Bob, a calming presence in Congress who held the institution to its values and principles.

Bob leaves behind a long legacy as a champion for the people of Wisconsin and the United States. Through his leadership on the Judiciary Committee, Bob became a giant in the field of intellectual property law. Most notably, Bob helped draft and pass the landmark 1976 Copyright Act, the first overhaul of U.S. copyright law since 1909. He was also influential in the passage of several patent, trademark, and counterfeiting statutes.

I got my start in national politics working on Bob's campaigns while in college. I'll always remember how much all those who were touched by his life's work loved and admired him. His legacy of honest public service remains an inspiration to me and other elected officials in Wisconsin and across the country.

Bob was a leading voice for civil rights and civil liberties, an advocate for peace, and a leader in Congress during his 32 years as a U.S. Representative. He will always be remembered as one of Wisconsin's greatest legislators—among the likes of Bob LaFollette, Gaylord Nelson, and William Proxmire.

I ask my colleagues to join the people of Wisconsin to mourn the loss of a leader whose humility and dedication will forever serve as the model to every person who answers the call to public service. It was a privilege to know him as a friend. It is an honor to continue his legacy in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### RECOGNIZING HUNTER YEARGAN'S MISSOURI CLASS 3 STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hunter Yeargan of Willard, Missouri, for claiming the Missouri Class 3 high school wrestling title.

Hunter entered the title match with a height and reach disadvantage against his opponent in the state championship match. His opponent kept a solid hold on him until the second period. He only needed one shot to come back, and that one shot is exactly what he got. With only five seconds left, Hunter overcame the odds to pin his opponent and win the championship match.

Hunter had an amazing season with a record of 41-1. This is his second state placing after taking third in his class last year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hunter Yeargan for a strong finish to his season, and for bringing the state title home to Willard High School.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY  
ALYCE TRAYLOR HARRIS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris, a member of the first graduating class (1945) of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Harris was the third child of John and Ruby Traylor born on April 4, 1926, in Sylacauga, Alabama.

After graduating from East Highland High School, she moved to Birmingham and attended Miles College. She also attended nursing school at Western Olin High School (Now Jackson Olin) and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. In 1965, she started working at University Hospital and served as an LPN retiring in 1985.

She married Thomas Harris and had four children. Her husband passed away in 2003. She currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.

**HONORING THE WAGNALLS  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis, Ohio. The Wagnalls Memorial will be celebrating 90 years of serving the community this May.

The Wagnalls Memorial was dedicated by Mabel Wagnalls Jones in honor of her parents, Adam and Anna Willis Wagnalls, on May 30, 1925. The Wagnalls Memorial houses both a library and a community theatre where families, children and adults are able to learn, perform and volunteer.

In the time since being dedicated, nearly \$5 million in capital improvements have been made to The Wagnalls Memorial, allowing the community to enjoy the use of the library and other facilities for community events. Additionally, The Wagnalls Memorial has hosted events ranging from reading programs, to theatre and art classes for children and adults.

The Wagnalls Memorial continues to be an important cornerstone of the community today. Recently, the Wagnalls Board of Directors approved The Legacy Campaign in an effort to assure The Wagnalls Memorial is able to continue operating well into the future.

The Wagnalls Memorial has had a long history of service and bringing the community together. I offer my sincere congratulations to The Wagnalls Memorial on their 90th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I thank The Wagnalls

Memorial for all you do for our community and wish you the best in the future.

**THE UNITED STATES AND  
KAZAKHSTAN**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of the relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States. I recently had the honor of meeting with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov to discuss Kazakhstan and its contributions to the international community when the Prime Minister visited Washington to attend IMF and World Bank meetings.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is an important partner to the United States in Central Asia in many ways and is key to our interests in that region and globally. Led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan is a reliable partner on the world stage in the areas of energy and regional security, economic development and trade and political and regional stability.

With a population of 18 million people and a size nearly four times that of Texas, Kazakhstan sits at the heart of Central Asia. The country is bordered by Russia and China and is strategically located near Turkey, Iran, India and Eastern Europe. Kazakhstan was the first post-soviet State to lead the 56-country Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) in 2010. As a Member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and a Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, I have seen Kazakhstan's engagement and commitment firsthand.

Kazakhstan has been a global leader in nuclear non-proliferation for 20 years—an achievement reached soon after its independence in 1991. In 1993, it was the first nation to dismantle its nuclear weapons and secure its nuclear materials under the Nunn-Lugar nuclear nonproliferation program, led by former Senators Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN). Since then, it has remained a global leader and U.S. partner in non-proliferation efforts.

Kazakhstan is also an essential partner in assisting the United States in counter terrorism efforts by serving as a supply route and operational partner and supporting the reintegration of Afghanistan into Central Asia, committing millions of dollars. It plays a unique role in fostering and solidifying positive diplomatic relations with regional powers and maintaining economic stability.

The United States and Kazakhstan, among others, strongly support the Modern Day Silk Road initiative, which would revitalize the 2000-year-old Silk Road trading route that connected South and Central Asia to the Mediterranean. The New Silk Road would serve as a critical transportation, communications, trade, energy and cultural bridge between East and West, linking China and India with Europe and supporting the stability of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Kazakhstan is central to its development.

Domestically, Kazakhstan remains the melting pot of Central Asia, given its Kazakh, Russian, Turkish, Mongolian and many other cultural influences. Religious freedom and ethnic tolerance are key principles in its governance, with its diverse mix of people and traditions. In January 2015, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to initiate new national reforms for government ministries, the justice system, infrastructure development and green economy initiatives, political reform and human rights and democratic principles through transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that continuing to increase our relationship with the good people of Kazakhstan is important to our common interests, and I encourage my fellow members to participate in opportunities to travel to the region in order to become better acquainted with the progress that has been made in the country, and to encourage the continued political cooperation while taking advantage of the progress in opening the market to encourage joint investment.

**PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF  
SEX SLAVES—"COMFORT  
WOMEN"—OF WORLD WAR II**

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the unresolved issue of the World War II sex slaves. Also known as "comfort women," these 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These young women were coerced and suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. On the solemn occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the survivors of this horrific ordeal are still seeking their long overdue justice from the Government of Japan.

Today, we have one of these survivors in Washington, D.C. Her name is Yongsoo Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In 1944, 16-year-old Lee was forcibly taken to Taiwan, where she was victimized by multiple Japanese soldiers every day for a year. Her suffering was unimaginable and unspeakable. Sadly, she was not alone in this nightmare. And yet, out of the 200,000 of her sisters, today, she is one out of a handful of survivors from across the Asia-Pacific still alive.

When the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a Joint Meeting of Congress on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese government.

In 2007, in the very same chamber the Prime Minister will be issuing his address, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Japanese government by

unanimously passing House Resolution 121, which I authored. The resolution called on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery; publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the "comfort women" never occurred; and educate current and future generations about this horrible crime. We are still waiting for their government to comply.

Time is critical. Today, out of 200,000 survivors, there are fewer than 100 surviving women across the Asia-Pacific. Most of these women are in their 80s. They have been denied justice for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I will be in the House chamber when Prime Minister Abe delivers his address. Ms. Lee will attend as my guest. Both of us hope the Prime Minister will finally, and firmly, apologize, and commit to educating the future generation honestly and humbly. Ms. Lee and her sisters deserve no less.

**HONORING PFC IGNACIO SERVIN  
OF ARIZONA**

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Ignacio Servin. On September 23, 1944, the 321st RCT, 81st Infantry Division landed on Umurbrogol Mountain, also known as "Bloody Nose Ridge", in Peleliu to relieve the 1st Marines who suffered nearly 50% casualties during the first week of fighting. Their assignment was to decimate the Japanese resistance and capture a strategic airstrip on the island.

Marines discovered an ammunition storage cave on Bloody Nose Ridge, but a barrage of artillery and naval gunfire failed to neutralize the cave. Company "A" of the 154th Engineer Combat Battalion was dispatched. Commanding Officers 1st Lt. Schauer and 1st Lt. Werdine requested volunteers to crawl to the mouth of the cave, nearly 500 feet with 24 pounds of TNT and a Browning automatic .30 caliber rifle to destroy the stockpile.

PFC Ignacio Servin of Arizona and Charles Samario, (deceased) accepted the challenge.

PFC Servin stated he did not allow time to think of the risk or danger, but thought, "If I die, it will be for the greatest country in the world." Both soldiers survived violent explosions, leveled trees, and flying rocks. PFC Servin states that only "by the Grace of God we were not killed by the explosion or enemy gunfire making it safely back up the hill."

Today I honor the heroism, courage, and valor of PFC Ignacio Servin, who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the assault on Peleliu in the Pacific combat theater.

**RECOGNIZING THAD BEELER'S  
COMMUNITY SERVICE FOL-  
LOWING THE 2011 JOPLIN TOR-  
NADO**

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and public service of Thad Beeler in the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 Joplin tornado, and congratulate him on receiving the Missouri Humanities Council's Exemplary Community Achievement Award.

Many lives were lost or significantly changed in Joplin that tragic spring day. Many homes and businesses were leveled and thousands of memories captured in photos blew away in the storm. During a visit to his parents to clean up storm damage, Thad realized the need to recover and reunite the lost photos with families.

As the Carthage First Baptist Church's music minister and ministry outreach director, Thad was able to coordinate a group of 500 volunteers to recover, preserve and reunite Joplin families with lost photos and personal memorabilia. This group scoured the town in the search of documents and was able to recover some items from as far as Willard, Missouri—some 60 miles away. After 6,000 volunteer hours, more than 35,000 photos and items were recovered, retouched and stored at Carthage First Baptist in what became the "Lost Photos of Joplin" project. More than 17,600 photos and memories have been returned to Joplin residents since the project began nearly four years ago.

The project's success and notoriety led Thad to establish the National Disaster Photo Rescue, a non-profit supporting post-disaster photo rescue and restoration efforts. The national organization has been in communities across the country that have experienced loss from severe weather, including Moore, Oklahoma, and Washington, Illinois.

Thad Beeler has made it possible for storm victims to find documented history, that would otherwise be lost, and continue passing it down through generations to come. His dedication to his community and serving a special need across the country touches the lives of so many and eases the sting of devastation. I commend Thad for putting a novel idea to action and thank him for this uniquely meaningful service he has provided to Joplin residents and beyond.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANNIE  
PEARL WALL GODFREY**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey, a 1945 graduate of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Godfrey was born to Celophus and Annie Marzel Wall in Nixburg, Alabama, on May 18, 1924. She was a part of the first graduating class of East Highland High School. She has been married to Rev. Eratus Godfrey for the past 56 years and is a member of New Beginning Ministries where her husband serves as the pastor.

She is the mother of 10 children, three of which are deceased (Donald, Virgil and Gwendolyn) and three of whom are ordained ministers (Kenneth, DeForest, and Mary). She also helped raise the children of her late daughter. Mrs. Godfrey currently resides in Sylacauga.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.

**SENATE—Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, enthroned above all other powers, thank You for the masterpiece of another day. Lord, our hearts ache because of the pain in our world. We see the anger, the violence, the death, the tears, and the despair. Forgive us when we forget that You are still in control of our planet and that the hearts of humanity are in Your hands. Lord, help us to remember that Your power is far above any conceivable command, authority or control. As our lawmakers strive to contribute to peace in our time, bless those who support them in their work. Help us all to trust You without wavering.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

**IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, we were reminded yet again of Iran's determination to use every element of national power to expand its sphere of influence and undermine international law.

What we saw in the Strait of Hormuz simply underlines the danger posed by Iran, along with the pressing need for a clear-eyed understanding of the Iranian threat.

It is appropriate, then, that the Senate will resume consideration of the bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act later today. I encourage Members to come to the floor, offer amendments, and work with the floor managers to schedule votes.

We have voted on one amendment to this bipartisan bill. I am sure we will take votes on several more significant amendments before the week is over.

**WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later this morning we will welcome an important friend of the United States to the Capitol, Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

I am looking forward to hearing what he has to say. I know many of my colleagues feel the same way because Prime Minister Abe doesn't just lead one of the most important economies and countries in the Asia-Pacific region, he leads one of the most important countries and economies in the entire world. Abe has proposed to tackle some tough structural problems other leaders in his country might not touch, but he knows the Japanese people can be persuaded to reward their leaders for taking risks.

Abe previously served in the Cabinet of a free-market Prime Minister who grabbed hold of economic third rails of Japanese politics and then rolled to a landslide victory when others counted him out. Perhaps that is why Abe feels liberated to pursue new initiatives of his own.

On the domestic side, Abe has proposed structural reforms. On the international front, Abe has worked to enhance the role and influence of democratic nations, such as the two of us, in the Asia-Pacific. Just this week in Washington, he signed important agreements with the United States on both cyber security and defense.

This all serves to underline the enduring importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance. It also reminds us that the Obama administration must do its part, too, by investing in the platforms and capabilities needed to make its announced pivot to Asia real. That is the only way to both bolster democratic nations such as Japan in the region, while also effectively countering China's aggressive encroachment upon the territorial and navigational rights of its neighbors.

Trade is another way to advance our common values and strengthen our national security and our economy. For years, Japan and the United States had a difficult trading relationship. Today, though, the U.S. and Japanese negotiators actually appear close to reaching an agreement that could significantly lower existing barriers to trade, benefiting both of our economies.

That breakthrough is being negotiated as part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement between Pacific nations such as Japan, Australia, and the United States. That would help ensure the region and the world play by fair rules, instead of

ceding the fields to an increasingly aggressive China.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership could also, according to one estimate, support up to nearly one-quarter of a million new jobs in the United States, including more than 50,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector alone. But American and Kentucky workers and farmers will never be able to reap the rewards of selling more "Made in America" goods to the Pacific until Congress passes a bipartisan trade promotion bill.

Passing that bipartisan legislation is key to enhancing Congress's role in the trade process, while simultaneously ensuring Presidents of either party—because this is a 6-year TPA, it will apply to the next President—have the tools they need to secure a strong and enforceable trade agreement for American workers.

The bill recently passed the Finance Committee on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and I intend to take it up after we complete action on the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

But, for now, let me just say that Congress is pleased to have the Prime Minister join us today. We thank Prime Minister Abe and his country for their enduring friendship.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

**IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am grateful for the work done yesterday and during the entire process of working toward an agreement on the important Iran legislation.

Senators CORKER and CARDIN have done a magnificent job. They are both good managers. I would suggest everyone who is concerned about amendments should come and talk to the two managers before they lay down their amendments.

There is a process for moving amendments forward. It has been very well articulated by both Senator CARDIN and Senator CORKER, so we know what rules we can move under today.

We know there are difficult issues with this bill—and those are some of the things we do here, work on difficult issues—not always but some of the time.

## WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator McConnell and I love our jobs. We realize how important things are that we work on, but once in a while we take a minute and talk about one of our hobbies and that is watching baseball.

Because we are in Washington and have been for some time, we have been focused recently on the Nationals. They started off in a very bad fashion, losing, now—last night, they were in the process of a six-game losing streak. They brought in a pitcher because their star was injured. He gave up nine runs in two innings. So I think we were both fairly well going to acknowledge they were going to lose their seventh straight, but they won the game 13 to 12.

I admire the tenacity of the Republican leader because he watched the end of the game. I couldn't do that. I tried, but at the beginning of the ninth inning—they had given up more runs earlier—they were behind with one out, and I said: I am going to go to bed. I was surprised when I got up this morning and they had won. So we had a good laugh talking about the game today that they had won. As I indicated, I am sorry I didn't get to watch the last of the game. I decided I didn't have enough faith in the team, and I went to bed.

## THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, budgets should be about reality, not ideology. The reality of the budget today is that our middle class is being pushed to the edge of extinction, and that is the truth, while there is an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor. As I have said—I will continue to say—the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting much poorer. But perhaps the most brutal reality is that Congress is not doing its job, and the real brutal reality is that congressional Republicans don't even seem to care.

In the very near future, the Senate is expected to consider a conference report on the Republican budget resolution. It is a budget that is as irresponsible as it is immoral.

It is a budget based on the failed ideology of a political party out of touch with America's middle class, a political party that is out of touch with reality. It amounts to an all-out attack on working families, an attack designed to protect only the interests of millionaires, billionaires, and many special interests.

The Republican budget would deprive more than 16 million Americans of their health insurance. It allows big insurance companies to, once again, discriminate against women. It would cause people who have disabilities to be unable to get insurance—as it used to be before ObamaCare came into being. It threatens the coverage of

hard-working Americans who lose their jobs or suffer from, as I have indicated, preexisting medical conditions.

The budget that is proposed by my Republican friends would also make deep cuts to Medicare at the expense of our Nation's seniors. It would raise taxes on working Americans by allowing the expansion of the earned-income tax credit and allows the child tax credit to simply expire, go out of existence.

It would end key supports that help young Americans afford college. At a time when student debt is higher than credit card debt—we have tried to resolve it on the Senate floor, but the Republicans vote unanimously no. They are not going to cut parents—these young men and women who have debt—any slack.

The budget they propose would undermine job training—and certainly at a time when we need it with the changing technology that creates jobs—for Americans who are simply trying to better themselves and get a good job or a better job.

Meanwhile, Republicans refuse to close a single tax loophole to reduce the deficit—not one. They will not end tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas. They will not close loopholes for wealthy hedge fund managers. They will not do away with wasteful tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

Once again, Republicans are attacking the middle class, and they are attacking it forcefully, while protecting the superwealthy.

The budget is just wrong. It is also dishonest.

It claims to be balanced. There is no balance in this budget. That is a word. The budget is no more balanced than the earthquakes they have had in Nepal. It claims to reach balance, but the claim is laughable, based on gimmicks and massive cuts that are left unspecified.

When you have editorials from magazines such as *Forbes*, a conservative magazine, denigrating the Republican budget, you know it is wrong. One of the worst aspects of this budget is it uses sequestration to undermine America's middle class, to underfund the investments needed for our security and our future.

Let's talk about sequestration for a minute, these automatic cuts. The example is the National Institutes of Health. It becomes very personal when you see these issues that face Americans—diabetes, the flu. The Presiding Officer is a physician who specializes in eyes. But the flu kills tens of thousands of people in America every year, and the NIH was on the verge of a universal vaccine for flu, any type of flu. As we know, what they do now, they try to find out what the flu is going to be, the variety of flu in a given year, and then they try to mix and match. Last year, that was effective at less

than 50 percent. So if you got the flu shot—60 percent of people who got the flu shot got the flu anyway. But because of sequestration, they had to drop that. They have never gotten that money back—\$1.6 billion.

I mentioned eyes. I have become very concerned about eyes in the last couple of months, and there are all kinds of programs at the NIH that could be funded much better dealing with problems such as I have.

So it is simply wrong that they are going to go forward with this sequestration. It is wrong.

Sequestration was never intended to be implemented. It was designed with cuts so deep and so stupid that Congress would never let them happen. But my Republican colleagues let them happen. Republicans recognize that sequestration poses a threat to our national security, and their budget uses a gimmick.

I am not calling it a gimmick—or at least I am not alone. We have Republicans—the junior Senator from Tennessee is talking about how he won't support the budget because he thinks there are some gimmicks in it, and many editorials have been written using that term over and over again. Their budget is not balanced, and it uses gimmicks to pretend.

They do everything in this budget to protect the Pentagon, but it doesn't really because it is phony. They use the overseas contingency fund, which everybody knows is phony. They want to help the military. I want to help the military also. But, sadly, the Republican budget does absolutely nothing to provide similar protections for the middle class.

There is, however, some good news about the Republican budget, and it is this: The Republican budget isn't worth the paper it is written on. It is going to go nowhere. There is no chance of the budget actually being implemented. President Obama and the congressional Democrats are committed to the middle class, so we are not going to let it happen.

The administration has made it very clear that President Obama is not willing to lock in sequestration in any appropriations bill or in anything else. In a Statement of Administration Policy—the forerunner of a veto—the Obama administration said: "The President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto . . . any legislation that implements the current Republican budget framework." Nor will the President accept fixes to defense without also fixing nondefense budget items. For President Obama, it is simply a matter of principle, and congressional Democrats fully agree with his principle. So the Republican budget isn't going anywhere.

If Republicans insist on moving appropriations bills based on that budget, it is a waste of their time. It will not



happen. We will not let that happen. What we need is a budget that is based in reality, a budget that is fair to the middle class, fair to the American people, a budget that will only happen when Republicans abandon their extreme attacks on the poor and middle class and sit down and talk to us about the way forward.

I note that no one is seeking the floor, and I would ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally between the majority and the minority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about S. 615, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. This bill establishes a process to guarantee congressional review of any agreement reached between the P5+1 and Iran.

Like everybody else here, my goal is to ensure that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons. With that goal in mind, I have avoided supporting measures over the past 18 months that would impact the administration's on-

going negotiations. I believe it is incumbent upon us to explore every avenue of diplomacy to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

There have been suggestions that this legislation we are considering today will negatively impact the negotiations for a final agreement. To the contrary, I think this legislation will improve the chances of reaching a final accord. Most importantly, it will improve the chances that this accord will stand the test of time.

If approved, the President will have to negotiate knowing that Congress will ultimately review this agreement. That is only proper given that the terms of the agreement go far beyond—far beyond—the current administration.

In truth, Congress has always had a role here. It was the U.S. Congress that passed the sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table. It is only the U.S. Congress that can permanently lift the sanctions. Unfortunately, the administration would prefer to go it alone when it comes to the implementation of this agreement by using the waiver authority that was granted when these sanctions were passed.

There is no dispute that the President can lift these sanctions on a temporary basis. But since this agreement is slated to last well beyond the President's term and even the next President's term, any effective, enduring agreement has to have congressional buy-in. Let me repeat. If this legislation fails, the President will be able to sign a final agreement and have a nice signing ceremony, but an effective, enduring agreement to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon will require congressional buy-in.

We also need to recognize that we are not operating in a vacuum. Once an agreement that includes our allies is reached, the multilateral sanctions regime that has been so effective in bringing Iran to the negotiating table will be defunct. These sanctions have been effective because it has been Iran versus the West rather than Iran versus the United States. It is unreasonable to assume that such a united front can be reassembled before Iran obtains a nuclear weapon.

That is why the bill before us today is so important. It sets up a process for review by Congress of any agreement, preventing the administration from presenting Congress with a fait accompli. This legislation will not repeal any sanctions currently in place against Iran. Congress will still have to take action to lift these sanctions permanently. Its passage ensures that if Congress does repeal the sanctions, it does so because it chooses to, not because it has no other choice.

I would also like to take a moment to reflect on the process that brought this bill out of committee. Tough issues were thoughtfully worked out

and compromises were made to get this bill language to a place where the bill was voted unanimously out of committee with a recorded vote. Thanks to firm commitments made by the chairman and the ranking member to keep this bill bipartisan, the White House—which for weeks had threatened to veto the bill—reversed its position just hours before the markup. This about-face was likely due to the fact that there were so many Senators on a bipartisan basis lining up to support this bill.

This legislation signals to the administration that it needs to keep Congress in mind when it negotiates. And, without poison pill amendments being added, the President will be forced to sign it.

Most importantly, I am hopeful that the passage of this bill out of committee signifies a return to a time the Foreign Relations Committee is able to work across the aisle on foreign policy matters. I realize it cannot always happen, but the ideal is when partisan politics can—as Senator Vandenberg put it—stop at the water's edge.

The reality is that given the myriad of foreign policy challenges that confront us around the globe, we do not have the luxury of partisanship, and nowhere is this more evident than with the legislation we are considering today. I hope we can come together and pass it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:33 a.m., took a recess subject to the call of the Chair, and the Senate, preceded by the Secretary of the Senate, Julie E. Adams; the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, James Morhard; and the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address delivered by His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

(The address delivered by the Prime Minister of Japan to the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the Proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

At 12:16 p.m., the Senate, having returned to its Chamber, reassembled

and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SASSE).

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1191, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1191) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Corker/Cardin amendment No. 1140, in the nature of a substitute.

Corker/Cardin amendment No. 1179 (to amendment No. 1140), to require submission of all Persian text included in the agreement.

Blunt amendment No. 1155 (to amendment No. 1140), to extend the requirement for annual Department of Defense reports on the military power of Iran.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because I noticed that the minority leader, the Senator from Nevada, had some nice things to say about me on Monday in his remarks. He said that I was "relentless" in my "condemnation of ObamaCare." Those are his words. I appreciate the minority leader's kind remarks, because he is right. As a doctor, I am relentless in my condemnation of the President's health care law, a law that has done incredible harm to so many people all across this country.

Minority Leader REID also said that he had the facts about the law. Most of those facts seemed to come from a New York Times opinion column by the renowned liberal icon Paul Krugman.

So let me share some real facts with the minority leader. The insurance plans offered in the health care exchanges are so expensive that they are a horrible deal for most Americans. That is why the President had to give out subsidies—to help hide the costs. The Congressional Budget Office said

that Washington will spend \$850 billion on those subsidies over the next decade. That is a fact.

According to a new study by the health research company Avalere, ObamaCare plans are extremely unpopular among people who don't get the huge subsidies to buy the plan. Only 2 percent of the people who don't qualify for subsidies have actually bought insurance through the exchanges. That is a fact. It is an alarming sign of how high the cost of ObamaCare really is.

It is not just the premiums that are sky high. This year, the average deductible for ObamaCare's silver plan is almost \$3,000 for a single person and more than \$6,000 for a family. Now, that is according to something called HealthPocket, which is a Web site that helps people actually compare insurance plans. That is a fact, and \$6,000 is a lot of money for a hard-working family to pay for their deductible.

Now, the minority leader said that Paul Krugman's opinions should be treated like facts—not as facts but like facts—because as Senator REID said, "this isn't some high school teacher talking about the merits of ObamaCare." Well, I agree on that point. High school teachers are far more likely to have had actual experience with the damage that is done by the ObamaCare health care law than has this New York Times columnist.

That is what we learned from a report at KMOX TV in St. Louis on April 23. Their report talked about the Parkway School District in Missouri. It was Senator REID who said this isn't some high school teacher. Well, this report from St. Louis said ObamaCare is forcing the school district to outsource the employment of substitute teachers. Why would they want to do that? It is in the face of a \$4 million penalty for not offering health insurance to the part-time teachers. That is a fact. And those substitute teachers are real people who are being hurt by President Obama's health care law.

Here is another fact reported by Politico on Monday afternoon. This was their headline on April 27: "Study: ACA exchange enrollees take tax hit."

According to a new study by the tax preparers at H&R Block, almost two-thirds of people enrolled in ObamaCare exchanges had to pay back some of their subsidy with their taxes this month. The average amount people owed the IRS was \$729. That is a fact. It is a big hit to a lot of families who thought they were going to get help to pay for their ObamaCare premiums. It does not even count the people who decided that the insurance was just too expensive and decided not to buy it. According to H&R Block, those people paid the IRS an average tax penalty of \$178. That is a fact. It is only going to be higher next year when people sit down and fill out their taxes.

I remember another speech Senator REID gave on the floor on ObamaCare. On February 26, 2014, he said: "Despite all that good news, there's plenty of horror stories being told." "All of them are untrue."

That was Senator REID a year ago.

Republicans had been citing—this is Senator REID—examples of people being harmed by ObamaCare, and Senator REID said that all of them were "stories made up from whole cloth."

Well, here is a horror story from the minority leader's home State newspaper—Nevada—very recently. This was an article from earlier this month, the Las Vegas Review-Journal, April 7. The headline was "Past state ObamaCare sign-up glitches now haunt Nevadans at tax time."

Here is what the article says:

How did a Reno collections agent end up in collections himself?

The answer:

He bought coverage in 2014 through the state's health insurance exchange.

According to the article:

Rick Furst is still ironing out wrinkles in a plan purchased in May through the Nevada Health Link and its contractor, Xerox. His cascade of issues has included bad coverage dates, unpaid medical bills and an incorrect tax-credit form.

This man told the Las Vegas newspaper, "My credit was excellent, and now my credit is shot." His credit was excellent, and now his credit is shot. Does Senator REID think this man from his home State of Nevada made up his story out of whole cloth?

People are having their lives turned upside down by the disgraceful failure of these ObamaCare exchanges. That is a fact. It is a cruel and costly side effect of this terrible health care law. Paul Krugman of the New York Times did not talk about that fact in his opinion column in the New York Times the other day.

Another thing he and the minority leader are not talking about is the fact that many Americans now have less access to actual care because of the health care law. Well, they should have known about that fact; it was reported right there in the New York Times itself on Sunday, February 8, 2015, with the headline "Insured, but not covered." "New policies have . . . many Americans scrambling." The article talks about the narrow networks many insurance plans had to create. This was to try to meet the requirements of ObamaCare without the premiums going even higher.

The story starts off by talking about one woman in New York City. Her name is Karen Pineman. First, she lost her existing health insurance policy because it did not meet all of the mandates President Obama said a health insurance policy had to include.

The President calls those benefits "essential benefits." I call them excessive benefits. It is much more insurance than many people need, want, or can afford.

The article in the New York Times says that she accepted that she would have to pay a higher premium for a plan with a narrower network of providers and no out-of-network coverage. According to the article, she also accepted the fact that she would have to pay out of her own pocket to see her primary care physician because her doctor was not part of the narrow network that was now covered under her insurance. Well, she even accepted having copays of nearly \$1,800 to put a cast on her ankle after she broke it playing tennis. Finally, the article says, her frustration bubbled over when she tried to arrange a followup visit with her orthopedic surgeon. The nearest doctor available in her network who treated ankle problems was in Stamford, CT. Remember, she lives in New York City.

This woman finally had enough. She told the newspaper: It is ridiculous. Didn't they notice that I was in another State?

Well, that woman, as reported in the New York Times, did not make up her story out of whole cloth. Those kinds of narrow networks are a fact under President Obama's law.

It is a fact that there are people who now have coverage and can't have access to care. There is a difference between coverage and care. You do not have to take my word for it; it is right there in the New York Times.

So the minority leader is correct. Republicans have been relentless in condemning the horrifying costs of the President's health care law. Republicans have been relentless in condemning the intolerable damage the health care law has done to people's access to health care.

Republicans will continue to be relentless because this health care law has been bad for patients, it has been bad for providers, and it has been terrible for American taxpayers. Republicans will continue to come to the floor to offer the facts about how the health care law has harmed American families. We will continue to offer solutions that deliver the real reform people have been asking for all along—the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, if the Senator from Iowa is intending to speak, this Senator will only use about 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to embrace this package that the Sen-

ate Foreign Relations Committee has brought forth to the floor.

First, it is much needed bipartisan-ship which has been shown on the committee. That is a very good thing, given the fact that we have had so many contentious and divisive issues.

But, secondly, what it does is set up a process by which the Congress would express its approval or disapproval with regard to a future agreement that may be made between Iran and the United States to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

First is the process by which we would express that vote, and then if the agreement is concluded by the end of June, the actual vote on whether sanctions under the agreement should be lifted. So it is a two-step process, and it is often confused. That is why it is important to keep this committee bill clean.

As I have already expressed to the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee on the floor of the Senate 2 or 3 days ago, it is this Senator's intention that all of the amendments, which generally have a deleterious effect and that are generally considered poison pill amendments—this Senator will oppose them. It is my understanding that leadership of the Foreign Relations Committee will likewise oppose those amendments.

Then, I might say, assuming this legislation is passed and we have this process in place and the President has said he will sign it into law—if the framework, as announced a few weeks ago by the President, is fleshed out in the final details of the agreement, and those details, by the end of June, reflect the framework of the agreement that has been announced, it is this Senator's intention to support the agreement.

I do that, very simply, on what is in the best interests of the United States. If, in fact, this agreement, once completed—if the framework is fleshed out—prevents Iran from developing a nuclear weapon for at least a 10-year period—and there are other 15-, 20-, and 25-year period benchmarks in the framework—but if they are prevented from developing a nuclear weapon within 10 years, and we know there is a regime in place in order to detect that so we have the verification, and that because of the verification we have at least a year's advance notice so that appropriate action could be taken—if all of that is included within the agreement, it is this Senator's intention that I will support the agreement.

Why? Because if we keep Iran from having a nuclear weapon for 10 years at least, the world is going to be a very different place in 10 years. And what we will have done as a country is prevented Iran from going ahead and developing a nuclear weapon now, of which we would have to face those consequences with possible military action.

I do not shy away from supporting military action if that is necessary to prevent a nuclear weapon from being developed. But if we have a path to achieving the same thing, doing it diplomatically and having the guarantee of at least 10 years—if not 15 and 20—then, to this Senator, that seems to be in the interests of the United States.

I want to clearly state where this Senator is coming from. I happen to think that is in Israel's interests as well. The interests of the United States and Israel are inextricably entwined when it comes to the defense of that little democracy that is a beacon of democracy in that part of the world. I have some familiarity with the integration and the sharing of our military forces, as well as our intelligence apparatus.

It is clearly in the interests of the United States that we see that Israel's security is protected. From what I see of the framework of this agreement, if fleshed out, then I think that is in the interests of our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise to stress the importance of ensuring nuclear negotiations with Iran to preserve our national interests and our security, one that protects the security of our allies and partners in the region and maintains peace and stability in the world.

As a member of the Iowa Army National Guard and serving on the Armed Services Committee in the Senate, I am focused on strengthening our national security, developing strategies to confront terrorism, and discussing ways to support our exceptional military.

While I believe Iran's long-term goal is developing nuclear weapons, its most effective line of effort against us and our allies has been through its unwavering support of terrorism. The Obama administration should only accept a final deal which prohibits sanctions relief until Iran abandons its support of terrorism.

Providing Iran with sanctions relief would only enhance their opportunity to fund proxy groups which threaten our Israeli allies and whose activities have led to horrible consequences for millions of people in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

While the Obama administration has been seemingly eager to relieve sanctions in an effort to convince Iran to sign a nuclear deal, Congress cannot stand by and watch as a deal is negotiated that paves the way for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. We must take a step back and examine their actions,

and it is absolutely crucial we understand who is on the other side of the negotiating table.

Iran continues to be the world's lead sponsor of terrorism and a supporter of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is responsible for killing hundreds and thousands of his own people, creating the gravest humanitarian crisis in modern history, and who facilitates the continued rise of extremism and sectarianism across the region.

Iran has shown unwavering support of terrorism and has aligned itself with groups that are hostile to the United States, our allies, and partners in the region. In fact, Iran continues to fund groups that threaten our Israeli allies, who are very concerned about Iran amassing nuclear capabilities and the direct threat they pose to the region. After this longstanding pattern of behavior, I do not believe we can trust that Iran will curb its ambitions or support for terrorist activity on their own.

Despite any agreement Iranian President Hassan Rouhani may agree to, I believe Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will ultimately maintain his policy of attempting to obtain a nuclear weapon and may use any funds obtained through prematurely providing sanctions relief towards that end, as well as to support terrorists.

Iran's more than a quarter century long effort to obtain a nuclear weapon will not subside overnight. It is a faulty assumption to trust that Tehran is on the side of the rule of law. Iran has a very troublesome track record of deception when it comes to compliance and trustworthiness, which is why we need a deal that ensures America's and the world's ability to verify and enforce any agreement with Iran. This includes complete and open access at any time to all of Iran's facilities, to hold them true to their word and to verify their actions. We must also have the proper enforcement mechanism in place so that any broken promise garners an appropriate and immediate response.

This accountability can be enforced through renewed and strengthened congressional sanctions. Sanctions have been effective in the past, and we must keep this option on the table. In fact, these sanctions are what brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. So we must not be too quick to suspend them.

The ever-increasing and complex threats we face in the Middle East underscore how crucial it is that any longstanding agreement with Iran must go through Congress. This enables the American people to have a voice. Congressional review is supported by a bipartisan majority of my colleagues and a majority of Americans. It is common sense. We must have more oversight of this process and

the opportunity for thoughtful consideration to ensure we have been very clear about our demands and the framework of any final agreement.

There is no doubt the administration shares my concern and the concern of many of my colleagues regarding the hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have been murdered with barrel bombs, sarin gas, the indiscriminate shelling of cities, been in prisons or the millions more who have been forced to flee their homes.

We must stop Iran from supporting this criminal regime which has helped engulf the region. Sanctions relief without ensuring funds would not go to Assad or to terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, which are key to the survival of the regime, would do nothing to help achieve a favorable political or military solution in Syria.

With that in mind, I cosponsored the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which has bipartisan support and is before the Senate today. This legislation embraces fundamental and core principles that lay the foundation for a good deal with Iran. This deal ensures congressional review of a final agreement. It demands that no congressional sanctions be lifted during the review period, and it safeguards congressional oversight of Iranian compliance.

This bill is a good starting point, and I want to praise the good work by the chairman of the committee for continuing to push for congressional review. Our ultimate goal must be to curb all Iranian terror, and this will never happen if we do not confront and contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

I believe a final deal which does not address Iran's support of terrorism and other groups which subvert recognized governments is not in the best interests of our Nation, and an agreement without these assurances will miss an opportunity to provide stability in the region.

In closing, the bottom line is that Iran must never be allowed to develop a single nuclear weapon—not now or at any point in the future. A nuclear Iran presents one of the greatest threats to peace and stability in our time.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thought I would take this time—I know Senator CORKER is at a lunch with some of our colleagues and is going over some of the issues concerning how we are going to move forward, but I thought I would take this

time to at least tell our Members that we are working very hard to try to resolve some of the amendments Members want to offer.

I must point out that there have been no requests for amendments on the Democratic side. I know Senator CORKER is a little bit more busy than I am. He is trying to work with the number of amendments that have been filed by Republican colleagues. But we are trying to go through those amendments and see if there is a way consistent with the purpose of the bill that we can work out language that would accomplish what the author of the amendment is attempting to accomplish but consistent with the purpose of the bill—to make sure that we have an orderly way to review any agreement reached between the United States and our negotiating partners and Iran on its nuclear weapon program and that we get timely notice from the administration in regard to material breaches so that we can take action to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state. There are also provisions in the bill that provide notification by the administration and important information so that we can do our work.

We are taking a look at these amendments and trying to see whether we can work our way forward in order to move this bill in the same method that it moved through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As the Presiding Officer knows, we worked together to try to get that accomplished.

We started the debate yesterday, and we are going to continue it today. Senator BARRASSO brought an amendment forward, which he wants to have pending, that would change the certification requirements. We are trying to work out a way in which we will be able to take that issue up before the full Senate. Senator CORKER and I are trying to resolve that issue as to how we can bring that forward.

I talked about this issue yesterday and explained the certification requirement to all the Members of the Senate. The President has to certify on a regular basis that Iran is basically in compliance with the agreement. If they can't do that, then we get into an expedited process for imposing sanctions or to take action against Iran.

There are a lot of amendments that have been filed—they are not pending—that would require additional certifications by the administration, and if the administration cannot make those certifications, there is an expedited process. The problem with going beyond the terms of the nuclear agreement on any of those certifications is that it affects the bill itself, and that is why we call them poison pills. I will try to explain that.

Senator BARRASSO's amendment dealt with a certification that Iran will not be involved in terrorism against

the United States or any of our citizens. But there are several other amendments that have been filed that would change the certification requirements so that the President would have to make those certifications or it could trigger expedited procedures.

Why do we call those poison pills? First of all, it changes the balance of what we are trying to do, and it is highly unlikely that we are going to be able to get that bill to the President for his signature. It will compromise what we are trying to do, and we are not going to be able to get the bill done. We will end up losing the bill. We will lose the opportunity for the committee to get the information and consider it. The committee needs to have a period of time in order to go through the review process. And the administration will not be able to exercise its waiver power for additional sanctions relief. All of that hard work will be lost. It is really counterproductive to what the authors of these amendments are trying to do.

The second consequence that could happen, if this is in the bill, is that the President would not be able to make the certification and we would very likely never get an agreement. Therefore, what will happen is that the United States will be accused of walking away from trying to negotiate an agreement with Iran. We would be isolated, and our chances of preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state becomes that much less likely to happen.

The third reason why these amendments are problematic and are poison pills has to do with the fact that it becomes a negotiating objective for the United States. These are good objectives. We don't want Iran to be able to sponsor terrorism. It is certainly something that is part of our policy. But if we make it a negotiating objective, then the administration has to achieve that in order to prevent sanctions from going into effect in order to achieve our objective. That makes it much more difficult to achieve the primary objective, and the primary objective is to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state.

Although these amendments are well intended, they have the consequence of just the opposite. These amendments will make it less likely that we will prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state.

The same is true on any certification. One of the amendments that have been filed says that we have to certify that Iran recognizes Israel's right to its own sovereignty. I want Iran to recognize Israel's sovereignty. We put very strong language into this bill and made it clear that Israel's security is of prime concern to us. It is in the bill. If we make it a certification requirement—think about this for a moment—it means our negotiators will

have to figure out a way to negotiate with Iran something they don't want to do. And what will we have to give up in order to get that? What will they put on the table in regards to international recognition? It distracts us from objective to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state, which is critically important to the security of Israel. These amendments do just the opposite of what they are intended to do.

I mentioned that because we are trying to move forward with this legislation. I hope that we can do it very quickly and we can find a path forward. We are going to try to accommodate the fair considerations of these amendments. But I urge my colleagues to take a look at their amendments, to work with Senator CORKER, to work with me, and let's see whether we can accommodate, within the framework of the legislation, any concerns that the sponsors of the amendments may have. Then we can do what the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was able to do on a 19-to-0 vote. It makes the Senate much stronger, and it makes the United States much stronger when we can come together on these amendments.

Our objective is to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state, and the best way for us to do that is to speak with a united voice and the type of work we did in a bipartisan manner.

The people of Maryland and the people of this country want us to work together. They want us to resolve issues. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was able to do that.

I urge Members who have filed amendments to work with us so we can find a way forward to make sure this bill remains intact and gives Congress the best chance for an orderly review of the process and gives us the tools we need to make America's position even stronger to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

First, I wish to commend my colleagues, Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN, for their leadership on this important bipartisan legislation. Because of their crucial leadership, the Foreign Relations Committee recently passed this bill unanimously in a 19-to-0 vote. One thing that is so important to remember, as we debate this bill, is that

without this legislation, we would not have a say at all on the President's nuclear deal with Iran.

Now, I will be the first to say that an international agreement of this magnitude should have been considered the same as a treaty. But, unfortunately, the President chose to completely circumvent Congress in this process.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which I am a member, did all we could to ensure that the American people, by way of Congress, get a say in this deal. If we let the perfect become the enemy of the good, however, and fail to pass this bill, the President will be able to go ahead and implement any and all aspects of a nuclear deal with Iran. This bill prevents the President from having a total free hand with regard to this potential deal with Iran and from prematurely lifting sanctions.

According to CRS, this lifting of sanctions would mean an estimated \$130 billion in sanctions relief would start flowing to Iran. That is more than Iran's entire annual defense budget. Imagine what they could do with over \$100 billion. They could continue to fund terrorism. They could continue to prop up Assad's regime in Syria. They could continue to fuel the Houthi rebellion in Yemen. And, yes, they could further fund development of their nuclear weapons program.

Congress passed the very sanctions credited with bringing Iran to the table, and I firmly believe that Congress should play a role in any decision to lift those sanctions. While the President may be able to waive sanctions on Iran later this year, permanent sanctions relief can only come from Congress.

My colleagues and I still have many questions about this deal, and we must take this opportunity to get a period of congressional review so we can get answers to these questions and prevent the President from prematurely lifting sanctions. We are truly facing a global crisis, and the world is watching.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu recently said before Congress, a nuclear Iran is not just a threat to Middle East security, and it is not just a threat to U.S. security. It is a threat, indeed, to global security. There is no scenario in which a nuclear Iran would be anything but catastrophic. Indeed, a nuclear Iran would spark a wave of proliferation in the Middle East and potentially worldwide. And if we don't like Iran's behavior today, imagine what their actions will be like if they have a nuclear weapon with the missiles to deliver them. Under no circumstances can we allow Iran to become a nuclear weapon state—not now, not in 10 years, not ever.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I would like to talk about the important legislation we have pending right now on the Senate floor. I do not see a greater threat to our security interests in this country than a nuclear-armed Iran. Our national security interests require a permanent and verifiable end to Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Today, I come to the floor to support the legislation that I was proud to be an original cosponsor of that will ensure that Congress reviews this agreement if there is an agreement reached with the Iranians and that we will have a voice on this agreement because without Congress's involvement in this—I believe it would be a huge disservice to the American people to not have their elected representatives weigh in on such an important matter.

What matters most is, is this agreement one that is transparent, verifiable, and will actually end their nuclear program because the country of Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. We cannot give one of the most dangerous regimes in the world the most dangerous weapon.

Iran described the United States of America as the "Great Satan." Iran said it wants to annihilate or wipe out the State of Israel. Iran is a country that is supporting terrorist groups around the world. We can only imagine the devastation that could be wrought if Iran gets a nuclear weapon. So the stakes cannot be any greater with what is happening right now with the administration negotiating with this regime, which is not a regime we can trust, unfortunately. So the terms of this agreement matter.

The elected representatives of this country need to have a vigorous debate about this agreement in the Congress, and we need to make sure it is not an agreement that allows them to continue their march toward a nuclear weapon.

Some of the information that has been released so far about the framework the administration has put together has raised a number of red flags about where this agreement is going. It is my hope that this legislation passing will ensure that Congress is able to review the agreement to make sure it is one that ends their nuclear program.

Some of the concerns I already see with this framework agreement suggest that the administration is moving in a direction that would not fully force Iran to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure or require Iran to address its long history of deception regarding its nuclear program, including long-term questions about the program's

military aspects. The framework that has been released would not address Iran's support for terrorism, its intercontinental ballistic missile program, or its stated desire to knock Israel off the map.

In order to ensure that we have an agreement that would end Iran's nuclear program and hold them accountable, we cannot have a situation where Iran keeps so much of its infrastructure and then can run up to a nuclear weapon or walk to it instead of running to it.

Even worse, as we look at the framework of this agreement and the inspection framework the agreement would require, we cannot have an agreement that does not allow unlimited inspections of Iran's nuclear program at any time, unannounced, because this is a regime which is not a trustworthy regime. Yet, as I look at the terms of the framework that the administration has announced, it seems we have a "mother, may I" approach to asking Iran whether we should go in and inspect their facilities. Well, that is going to be unacceptable. We need to ensure that the terms of this agreement, if reached, make sure we can show up at any time, anywhere, without notice to Iran, to inspect their facilities to make sure they are adhering to the terms of the agreement.

In short, the framework of the agreement that has been released by the administration suggests that this potential deal could eliminate hard-fought sanctions on which we worked together in this Congress on a bipartisan basis—economic sanctions that brought Iran to the table, which would take years to restore—in return for concessions that have only reversed Iran's program by days or weeks. Iran would retain a massive nuclear infrastructure, and they don't seem to be answering the tough questions about their support for terrorism or their missile program.

Iran's activities during these negotiations in supporting terrorism have continued. As their diplomats sit at the negotiating table and smile for the cameras, their government continues to support terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and provide arms and funding to the murderous Assad regime in Syria that has murdered hundreds of thousands of innocent people. It has continued to destabilize Yemen. It is imprisoning innocent Americans and developing an intercontinental ballistic missile whose obvious purpose is to potentially deliver a nuclear weapon to the United States of America.

I intend to offer an amendment to the pending legislation that will address Iran's ICBM program because one of the concerns I have is that there doesn't seem to be any mention in these negotiations of Iran's development of ICBM capability that could be the delivery mechanism to deliver a nuclear weapon to hit the United

States. I will offer that amendment to indicate to this administration that this issue needs to be on the table. We need to not only stop their nuclear program, we need to stop Iran's ICBM program, which some of our intelligence estimates have indicated could be successful as soon as the end of this year.

That is the testimony we have heard in the Armed Services Committee. So there is real urgency that we stop not only their nuclear program but also their support for terrorism and their work on an ICBM that could deliver harm—very grave harm—to our country. In fact, in February, Iran had actually successfully launched a long-range missile system and used a space launch that could be the potential manner in which they would deliver a nuclear weapon capability to our country.

So this is a real concern that we address their missile program in the context of this agreement. In fact, on January 29, 2014, the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, testified that "we judge that Iran would choose a ballistic missile as its preferred method of delivering nuclear weapons" capability. One of the real important issues that we need to debate and address when it comes to their state sponsoring of terrorism is what is happening in Yemen right now.

As we stand here, we have had a situation where Iran has been harassing and threatening cargo ships in the region, challenging a core American national security and economic interest in the freedom of navigation, particularly in key chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

If you look at our interest in what has happened in Yemen, Iran has supported the Houthis that have undermined the Government in Yemen. Why is that important to us? It is important to us because we had to leave Yemen, in part, as a result of Iran's support of terrorism in Yemen. Who presides in Yemen? Who is one of the great presences in Yemen? Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a group that has vowed to attack our country, a group that has made attempts to attack us and our country. Iran is aiding the way, through their terrorism there, to give Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula more space to conduct attacks that can harm our interests and the interests of our allies.

So this legislation that is pending on the floor right now—if we were to not pass it, I think people need to understand the implications of it. The implications of not passing this legislation that is on the floor is that Congress would not have any say on these issues that are so important, would not have any say on whether the agreement that the administration is negotiating with Iran actually will end their program, actually will dismantle their nuclear program, actually will have a

verifiable inspection regime that allows inspectors to go anywhere unannounced at any time to ensure that they are not cheating on whatever agreement is reached between us and the Iranians.

So this bill could not be more important. I thank the sponsors of this bill. I certainly thank Senators CORKER and CARDIN for their leadership in the Foreign Relations Committee, to ensure that the people of this country, through their elected representatives, on something of such importance when it comes to the national security of the United States of America—that their elected representatives perform their important oversight role here.

So I am hopeful we will pass this legislation that the U.S. Congress—I hope the administration, with some of the concerns I have raised about this framework, really toughens what they are doing in this framework to end their program, to have a transparent, verifiable inspection regime to address the ICBM Program, to address Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism. I hope they will do that.

But I know that on behalf of my constituents, it is important, if any agreement is reached, that we have that debate here, that we have a voice in it on behalf of the American people. In doing so, we will protect the national security interests of this country to make sure that whatever agreement is entered into is really a good agreement, one that protects our country, which protects our allies, and ends Iran's nuclear program, as none of us can look in the mirror and think about one of the most dangerous regimes in the world having the most destructive weapon in the world. That is something that—as I think about all of the national security issues, this is on the top. So I cannot think of a more important debate we could have now or more important legislation that we could work on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### THE NEW CONGRESS AND PATENT REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the 114th Congress is just a little over 100 days old now, but we have actually seen what used to be called the world's greatest deliberative body actually get back to work and be producing results for the American people. Just a few months into this session, we have passed important legislation, from a budget—we will perhaps, as early as Tuesday, pass the first budget since 2009.

We repaired something called the doc fix, which maybe is inelegantly named but basically fixed a problem that had been lurking since 1977, when somehow we got the idea that we would be able to save money by cutting the reimbursement rates to doctors and hospitals. Then we were shocked, abso-

lutely shocked, that some doctors would not see Medicare patients and some hospitals could not afford to build or expand in rural areas and the like.

Well, we got that off the table as well. Then, I am glad to say, last week we were able to pass some major antitrafficking legislation which, of course, dealt with the victims of human trafficking, the profile of which is about a 12- to 14-year-old girl who is literally in human bondage. So we have done some, I think, good work. There is a lot more we need to do.

Of course, the present legislation that enjoys broad bipartisan support is the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015. I, too, commend the chairman and the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. I know this can be a frustrating process because other Members of the Senate now have ideas they want to offer by way of amendment. We are working through this. I think this will test their patience and ours in the process.

But this Chamber is poised to continue in the spirit of bipartisanship on other important issues as well: trade promotion authority, which, to me, is the essential link between us and the ability to pass important trade agreements.

Texas, as the Presiding Officer knows, is the leading export State in the Nation. We benefit from that because we understand that when you have markets for the things we grow or the livestock we raise or the manufactured goods we make, it is good for our economy, it is good for job creation. Well, trade promotion authority will be good for hard-working Texas families and families all across the country.

But there is another area that may not seem of great significance but I think is important, where I think we have another opportunity. That has to do with patent reform and particularly lawsuit abuse reform. Now, patents do not just affect the technology sector. They just do not affect the financial sector and Wall Street. It literally is a Main Street problem because you have restaurants now, you have real estate agents, you have hotels, motels, you have construction companies that have been sued by patent trolls, people who do not make anything, merely they hold a license to a patent and use that to file—frequently—frivolous litigation in order to literally shake down the defendant.

Many times it is people who cannot adequately defend themselves. Maybe they are a startup business, an innovator who has come up with a new idea or a better idea and they are thinly capitalized. Can you imagine what happens when they get sued by the patent trolls? Well, it is a sad and short story. Either they have to capitulate and pay the ransom or they go out of business entirely.

But patent reform is an issue whose time has come again. It is one I have been involved in for a number of years in the Senate. In 2011, after years of negotiations, Congress passed something called the America Invents Act. This is the first major patent reform in decades. This is something that makes America unique. You know, in Texas we believe in property rights. Well, what we are talking about is intellectual property rights. But when somebody smart or creative or innovative comes up with a better idea, our Constitution and our laws provide a means to protect that against people who would take it or steal it or infringe upon it. That is why patent law is so important.

But one of the issues left unaddressed was this rising tide of lawsuits and the threat of litigation, of which a wider and wider swath of stakeholders are now complaining loudly—again, not just the big technology firms but restaurants, hotels, motels, builders, real estate agents, and the like. So, in 2013, a number of Members of Congress began working on this legislation to address those frivolous claims, which really kill jobs because it kills innovation in the process.

Bills were introduced in the House and the Senate targeting the various aspects of this problem but focusing primarily on lawsuit abuse, lawsuits brought not to vindicate a legitimate claim by somebody who actually has lost something of value but merely somebody who is a holder of a license to sue, in essence, and uses it to shake down these small startup companies and innovators.

Well, we were able to see the passage, in December of 2013, of something called the Innovation Act in the House of Representatives. That legislation passed overwhelmingly, 325 to 91, with almost all Republicans and the bulk of Democrats supporting the bill. Here is the other thing. This is not just a Democratic or Republican issue. This is something the administration wholeheartedly supports.

In fact, this is one of the stories I told last year as I was traveling around Texas and elsewhere as evidence of the dysfunction, because, I asked: If Republicans are for something and Democrats are for something, if the majority of Congress is for it and the White House is for it, why is it we can't get it done? Well, the obstacle to getting it done was eliminated with the new majority in the Senate.

So I think we are poised to take good action here very soon. We are in a new Congress with a new leadership and a new majority. That is everything when it comes to reforming our broken patent system. Today, we had a broad bipartisan group of people, from the ranking member and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the former chairman, Senator HATCH, to Senator



SCHUMER, who is in the leadership of the Democrats in the Senate, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and Senator LEE.

All of us announced this broad, bipartisan support for a new piece of patent reform legislation designed to attack this problem of lawsuit abuse and the shakedown of America's innovators and job creators and technology creators. So Republicans and Democrats alike have come to realize that under the status quo, too many of our most promising innovators, not to mention other businesses, are wasting time and money in frivolous, costly litigation. This legislation takes a number of commonsense steps that ends the exploitation of these so-called patent trolls.

Many of those are not particularly earth-shaking, but the culmination of them, I think, will have a real positive impact on this problem.

First, it would require plaintiff's in patent cases to simply explain the substance of their claim when filing the initial lawsuit. What frequently happens is a lawsuit will be filed with no real detail as to the nature of the claim or the infringement of the patent. Then there would ensue costly and time-consuming discovery, until finally the plaintiff would figure out some claim they could make to hang their hat on. Well, we eliminate that by requiring upfront specific notice of what the infringement is in the nature of the claim.

Second, it would stay cases against the end users, including restaurants, motels, hotels, construction companies, and the like, and would give the party with the major incentive to defend the case the opportunity to do so. So the person who is actually responsible for the manufacture of a product—let's say a Wi-Fi device—the manufacturer would defend that case and not the hotel or motel that happened to deploy that Wi-Fi device in their hotel or their motel.

Third, the bill would bring greater fairness to the discovery process by limiting discovery until the court resolves threshold motions in the case. This is important because the court is going to have to make a decision whether this is a legitimate case that could go on and thus authorize the expensive and time-consuming discovery. If it is not a legitimate case, then that is the time for the court to address it by a motion to dismiss or some other legal device.

Fourth, it would curb the practice of sending abusive demand letters. What I have learned is that in patent litigation these days, there would be demand letters which literally would carpet bomb the people who were using some of this innovation, in an effort to shake them down. It causes a lot of expense, delay, and other consternation.

Fifth—and this is perhaps one of the most critical elements—it would allow

courts to shift responsibility for the cost of patent litigation more often to the losing party when the court finds that the claim was not a reasonable claim to be brought. In other words, it was a privileged claim. So no longer can you file a lawsuit and pursue it, even though it is a bogus case, without any fear of actually having to pay the costs of the other side that prevails in a case involving an unreasonable use of the legal process.

So I believe, as many of my colleagues do, that these are sensible reforms, and it is one way we can take a step to protect better the access to justice for plaintiffs with legitimate claims of infringement and to deter those who simply abuse the system.

This is another promising area where I think the 114th Congress can distinguish itself from the 113th and previous Congresses by showing we can actually work together to try to solve real problems in a bipartisan way that hopefully will improve life just a little bit for the people we represent.

Entrepreneurs in Texas and throughout the country need this legislation to protect them from abuse of patent litigation practices that have burdened America's private sector for far too long.

The last point I would make is that I saw this morning the news that, basically, America's economy did not grow in the last quarter. Basically, the gross domestic product was, I think, a 0.2 percent increase. That is simply too slow of an economic growth to create the jobs we need for the population increases we are seeing.

So if we are going to get our economy growing again, which is the best way to raise the wages of hard-working American families, we are going to need to do a number of things, such as reform our tax system. We are going to need to rein in overreaching regulation, which is a wet blanket on the private sector and on job creation, and we are going to need to do efforts such as patent reform, as in this litigation reform legislation I have just been talking about. That will unleash this sleeping giant of the great American economy for the benefit of all Americans once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the pending business before the Senate. Of all the things we will do, probably in our political lifetime, I can't think of anything more important than getting the Iran nuclear ambitions right.

I stand in two camps. I would love a good deal, and a bad deal would be a nightmare.

What is a bad deal? A bad deal would be one that would result in a North Korean outcome, where you lock in a ca-

capacity in the hands of the Iranians to be monitored by the international community. And one day they break out, you wake up, and you have a bomb.

A bad deal would be too much capacity in the hands of the Iranians. That would spook the Sunni Arabs who want to go buy a bomb of their own.

I cannot tell you the consequences to the world and to our Nation if you have a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. That is what a bad deal leads to.

A good deal allows us to wind down a hotly contested dispute between Iran and the world over the last 20 years without firing a shot. A good deal would be allowing the Iranians a peaceful nuclear power program, what they claim they want, with no real capability in a year—or any time—to make a bomb.

If all they want is a peaceful nuclear power program, I do not object.

I do object to the capability to enrich the uranium in a fashion that one day they could break out, as North Korea did—because I don't trust the Iranians.

So to Senator CARDIN and to Senator CORKER, you have navigated this very well. You have a Democratic President, who I think wants the deal way too badly, and we have a Congress who I think wants to have a say.

We created the congressional sanctions, and we should have a say as to whether they are waived based on the deal and the quality of the deal that they may negotiate with the Iranians and the P5+1. Since we created the sanctions, I don't think it is unfair to this President or to any other President to say: You need our vote. You need a debate to occur before we will agree to do that.

Now, is it a treaty? I don't think so. I would love it to be a treaty, but it is not.

The one thing I don't want to do, in the process of dealing with a very dangerous situation in the Middle East, is to turn the rules upside down in the Senate because I like a particular outcome.

Senator JOHNSON sincerely believes this is a treaty. I do not doubt his motivations at all. But I have come to conclude, right or wrong, that it doesn't meet the definition laid out by the Supreme Court and the precedents of the past.

When we did a deal with North Korea, it wasn't a treaty. Maybe it should have been, but it wasn't. So I don't think we are going to change the rules just because we have a very dangerous moment in American history, in world history, and a President some of us don't trust or like.

Condoleezza Rice says it is not a treaty. I don't think she would have said that if there had been any doubt in her mind.

I have had discussions with other Republicans who have served in prior administrations, and they have come to the same conclusion.

So we had a vote, which was a good thing, and the concept of it becoming a treaty was voted down. The debate was worthy of the Senate, and I applaud all those who were involved.

There are aspects of amendments that are pending that I would embrace in a New York minute, but I believe that some of these amendments—no matter how much I support the concept—would break apart a bipartisan coalition that has taken a year to form.

To Senator CARDIN and Senator CORKER, you have struck a balance that I think makes sense to me. A Democratic minority, I don't believe, is going to turn all the power regarding this deal surviving or being struck down to the Republican majority. If I were in your shoes, I would not do that.

And to my colleagues who ask that the Democratic minority with a Democratic President cede the entire process to us, as Republicans, that is probably a bridge too far.

I don't think a Republican President would like that outcome. I don't think a Republican minority would turn over to a Democratic majority the ability to act unilaterally on something of this consequence.

So what have Senators CORKER and CARDIN been able to do? They have brought the bill to the floor without a filibuster, allowing the debate and, hopefully, more votes.

To my Democratic colleagues, don't shut my Republican friends out. They all have a say, and I will vote with you against some of the amendments that I like but that I just think would break the deal apart. Let's get the Senate back in business in a reasonable fashion.

What I would say is that the construct of this bill makes perfect sense to me. You need 60 votes to disapprove the deal. Sixty votes are required for any major action in the Senate. That has been the historical precedent of the Senate. So the Democrats are not asking us to do something that hasn't been around as a concept for a long time.

What does it require? It requires the 54 Republicans, if we are together, to convince 6 Democrats that this is a bad deal.

I think, if it truly is a bad deal, our Democratic colleagues—for the good of the Nation—and the consequences of a bad deal are understood by them—would join with us and say: This is not what we want, Mr. President; try harder. Rejecting a bad deal does not mean that we want to end diplomatic efforts. It means that we believe the deal in question falls short.

To Senator CORKER, you did a good job, because I don't think anybody in your shoes could have convinced the Democratic Party basically to deal themselves out.

To Senator CARDIN, you made it possible, along with Senator MENENDEZ,

for us to have this debate and create, I think, a standard of disapproval consistent with the traditions of the Senate.

There may never be a deal, but if there is one, it has to come back here, and every American will get to hear the contents of the deal—while some think it is good, and while others think it is bad—and you will not have to wonder what we are doing with regard to the Iranians.

If the Republican Party cannot convince enough Members of the Democratic Party that it is a bad deal, then we will be disappointed, but that is democracy.

Israel is very worried about the framework. The Sunni Arab States are very worried about the framework. It is not a final deal yet.

Three things, I think, have to be there for me to be on board: anytime, anywhere inspections in Iran by international organizations of our choosing, including military facilities; no up-front signing bonus in terms of money until the Iranians comply with the initial phases of the deal, because they will take the cash and put it in their war machine; and whenever the inspection regime is supposed to terminate—10 years, 15 years or whatever date you pick—at that moment, the then-existing President, whoever he or she may be, has to certify that Iran is no longer a state sponsor of terrorism, because you would not want to end an inspection regime if they were still involved in state terrorist activity.

So the two leaders on this bill, from my view, have crafted a very good piece of legislation. People dislike it for different reasons, which means it is probably the balance we need—and I can't think of a better way to do this.

To those who think they have a better way, the only thing I can tell you is you better get some Democrats to agree with you. Because if you cannot, it is just all talk.

What BOB CORKER and BEN CARDIN have been able to do is they have given the Senate a voice that we wouldn't have otherwise. They have given the American people a chance to understand the deal better than any opportunity I know of, and they have given us the power that every Member of the House and Senate should want in this regard, a chance to have a say and to be recorded in history.

The outcome may not please you, but this is the best process I could think of, given the way the Senate works and the way democracy works, which means both parties are going to require a say in something this important.

So, well done. I look forward to voting for this deal. Any amendment you want to bring to the floor, I will vote for it if I think it is a good amendment that will not deconstruct the deal or unravel the deal. I will vote against the amendment if I think it will break the

deal apart, even though I am sympathetic to it, because my goal is to get this right, to make sure that any final deal with the Iranians is explained to the American people through the House and the Senate debate, and that can only happen if this bill becomes law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to say, while the Senator from South Carolina is on the floor, that at the end of the day, this bill is the Graham vision. I mean, the fact is that this is Graham-Corker, Corker-Graham. It has evolved so that we could have the kind of support that we need to pass this into law.

But I thank Senator GRAHAM for his pushing to make sure we got to this point. There is no question. Look, you have been on this issue for months. You have pursued this. You have sold this publicly. You have worked with us as we have caused this to evolve to get the number of votes that we may get actually to cause this to become law. I don't know of anybody in our caucus or anybody in the Senate that has more of a foreign policy national security background—no one.

I thank you for your efforts to ensure that we do everything we can to make sure we have a voice in this agreement that may happen on June 30 or a few days thereafter. We wouldn't be here without your continual pushing.

I yield the floor for Senator CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, before Senator GRAHAM leaves the floor, I wish to concur with Senator CORKER's observations.

It was several months ago that Senator GRAHAM grabbed me on the floor of the Senate to talk about this being the most important responsibility we have—to have an orderly way to oversight any potential agreement.

So I really thank Senator GRAHAM for his attention to this issue. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for his leadership on this issue, and I thank him for the manner in which he brought this issue forward so that we could find a way to get this done in a constructive manner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I, too, want to begin today by thanking the Senators from Maryland and Tennessee for the work they have put into this process. It is important. It is important that Congress have a role in reviewing any deal the President concludes with Iran.

This is an extraordinary threat to the world. This is a nation which is run not by the individual with whom they are negotiating; Iran is a country governed and run by a radical Shia cleric

who has ideas about the future of the world that are frightening.

What is more frightening is the information we have received from this administration about the framework they agreed to on April 2. It is a framework, for example, that would allow Iran to retain thousands of centrifuges and grant them the right to enrich uranium. It is an arrangement that would allow Iran to avoid dismantling its key facilities. It is an arrangement that allows Iran to continue to deny its past work on nuclear weapons. It is an arrangement that would allow Iran to retain a significant ballistic missile program, including efforts to develop a missile capable of hitting the very spot on which we stand right now. It is an arrangement that does nothing whatsoever on the cases of those Americans who are currently unjustly detained in Iran. It is an arrangement that does nothing to impact Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism or its brutal treatment of its own people. In fact, it is an arrangement that, if it goes through, will turn over billions of dollars into the hands of the chief state sponsor of terrorism on the planet. And it is an arrangement that will do nothing to bring an end to Iran's self-proclaimed support at the highest levels of its government for the destruction of the State of Israel.

Since April 2 of this year, by the way, the Iranians have made clear that they are not willing to do many of the things the White House itself has claimed are part of this deal. We are going to get to that in a moment, but understand that when the White House announced this deal, they put out a fact sheet. They said: This is what the deal is about. Iran is disputing it. They do not have the same fact sheet. In essence, what Iran is saying was agreed to and what the United States is saying was agreed to are, apparently at this moment, two very different things. That alone should be concerning.

In addition to that, this deal is going to be a dangerous deal, a bad deal not just for the United States and our allies in the region but especially for our allies in Israel.

That is why it is important that Congress take a stand and ensure that this deal is not implemented unless its fundamental flaws are addressed.

That is why I supported this legislation in the committee. I voted for it so we could be here on the floor to strengthen it—not in a committee of just 20 members but here with all of our colleagues—over a number of days, potentially weeks, so the country could see what is at stake.

The first amendment I will offer today and hope we can overcome objections to is pretty straightforward. Here is what the amendment says: It says to the President that no deal can go forward unless the President certifies that the Iranian leadership has accepted Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

Why is that important? Because we will hear the argument that this has nothing to do with nuclear weapons, that this has nothing to do with the nuclear capacity of Iran. I am going to make the argument that that is not true.

The first reason is—we have to understand why it is important for Israel to exist as a Jewish state. Israel is not just a country; it is a homeland for the Jewish people, created in the aftermath of the Holocaust with the belief that never again would there not be a place for the Jewish people to go and seek refuge and be able to live if they faced persecution—as they have for thousands of years and as they do even now but especially in the aftermath of the Holocaust. So Israel is not just a country. It has a special and unique purpose that sets it apart from any other nation on Earth. It was created as a homeland for a persecuted people who survived despite the deaths of 6 million human beings in the Holocaust, maybe more. It is now a homeland where they will be safe.

It is also important to remember that beyond that, it is in the national security interests of the United States. What is Israel? Israel is a pro-American, free enterprise democracy. I promise that if there were more pro-American, free enterprise democracies in the Middle East, our lives would be a lot simpler and the world would be a lot safer and a lot better. But there is one, and this country must always be firmly on the side of that one country, this free enterprise, pro-American democracy in the midst of a region full of chaos and uncertainty.

Why is that relevant to this deal? Here is why it is relevant. This is not just a deal about what Iran is allowed to do in its nuclear program; this is a deal that would lift billions of dollars' worth of sanctions off of the Iranian Government. And what is the Iranian Government going to do when they get access to those billions of dollars? Are they going to donate it to charity around the world to feed the hungry and house the homeless? No. Are they going to use it to substantially improve the rights of their people in their own country? No. They are going to use those billions of dollars to do what they are doing now with less money: export terrorism to every corner of the globe.

Today, Iran is an active sponsor of terrorism in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Latin America, and Europe. This is the same government that tried to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador here in Washington, DC. This is the same Iranian Government that blew up a Jewish center in Buenos Aires. This is the same Iranian Government that tried to detonate a bomb in Uruguay. They use terrorism the way normal countries use diplomacy. Yet, now we are going to turn over billions of dollars to them.

The reason why this has something to do with Israel is, what are they going to do when they have even more money to carry out these sorts of acts? They are going to invest it not just in their nuclear program, but they will invest it in their sponsorship of terrorism and they will invest it in their long-range rockets.

What have they told us they want to do with this increased capacity? What have they told us is the chief goal of this Government in Iran? Why do they need this terrorism? Why do they need those weapons? Why do they need those long-range rockets? Well, let's take them at their word. Here is why they need it. They need it because, according to a tweet put out by the Ayatollah in July of 2014, "This barbaric, wolflike and infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated."

In November of 2014, the Supreme Leader posted a chart on his Twitter account. It had "9 key questions about the elimination of Israel." I am holding it here, but it can be found online. Here are some of those questions:

"Why should the Zionist regime be eliminated?"

"What does elimination of Israel mean in the viewpoint of the Imam Khomeini?" Meaning him.

"What is the proper way of eliminating Israel?"

"How will the proposed referendum succeed?" Well, here he is talking about actually calling for a referendum in Israel, but the Jews can't participate in the referendum, according to him.

"Why do we oppose compromise proposals?"

The point is that this is a country led by a leader who has made it very clear repeatedly, time and again, that one of their main objectives is the destruction of Israel and ending Israel's existence as a Jewish state. When someone says that over and over again, we should believe them. This is not for domestic consumption to make him look good in Iran, the way some in the administration would argue. I believe they mean it. Do you know why I believe they mean it? Because they sponsor terrorism in an effort to kill Jews and Israelis.

In January of 2015, a suitcase full of explosives was found near the Israeli Embassy in Uruguay. The day after an individual left a suitcase bomb near the Embassy, a senior Iranian diplomat by the name of Ahmed Sabatgold left the country. Uruguayan authorities clarified a report claiming that he had been expelled from the country. They said no. They suggested that, in fact, he was a person of high interest with whom they would like to speak but that he left the country on his own.

So the reason why the existence of Israel as a Jewish state is directly tied to this deal is simple. We are about to

turn over billions of dollars into their hands, and we have every reason to believe they will spend a significant portion of that money to destroy our strongest and most important ally in the region and one of the most important allies in the world.

The first amendment I have offered is pretty straightforward. It calls for any deal to require that Iran recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

The second amendment I will propose is even more straightforward, even more on point. Here is what it requires. It requires that this final deal be the deal the President says it is. Here is what I mean by that. I filed an amendment that basically took the White House's own fact sheet—by the way, I have problems with that fact sheet. The deal as the President describes it is not a deal I believe will work. It is not a deal I believe will prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. But just to take them at their word, just to prove this point and to ensure we are building safeguards into what we are doing here, I took the White House's own fact sheet, what they said the deal was about, and I say in this amendment that the final deal must be about those points that the White House already says it is. For the life of me, I don't understand why that would be controversial. My amendment is basically this. It says the deal has to be what you say it is. That is all my amendment says. Yet, somehow I have been told this is going to box in the White House. If it does, it boxes them in with their own words.

But here is the reason I am doing it. Iran apparently negotiated a very different deal than the one the White House thinks we have. For example, the White House says this deal will impose permanent inspections on Iran. The State Department fact sheet says: "Iran's adherence to the Additional Protocol of the IAEA is permanent, including its significant access and transparency obligations." The Iranian fact sheet says: "Iran will implement the Additional Protocol on a voluntary and temporary basis for the sake of transparency and confidence building." That doesn't sound like the same deal to me.

How about the inspection of military sites? In an interview on CNN, Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said: "If we see a site that we need to inspect on a military facility, we can get access to that site and inspect it." But on April 9, Iranian Brigadier General Hossein Dehghan said: "Visiting military centers are among the red lines and no visits to these centers will be allowed."

How about the scope of the sanctions relief? The State Department fact sheet says: "United States and European Union nuclear-related sanctions will be suspended . . . All past U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Iran

nuclear issue will be lifted simultaneously with the completion, by Iran, of nuclear-related actions addressing all key concerns." But Iran says: "According to the reached solutions, after the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Joint Action, all of the U.N. resolutions will be revoked and all of the multilateral economic and financial sanctions by the EU and the unilateral ones by the U.S. will be annulled." So are the sanctions limited or total? We say they are limited; Iran says they are total.

There are three more differences. On the timing of the release, at a news conference on April 2, the President said:

In return for Iran's actions, the international community has agreed to provide Iran with relief from certain sanctions—our own sanctions and international sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. This relief will be phased as Iran takes steps to adhere to the deal.

So the President is basically saying that every time Iran complies with a portion of the deal, an additional sanction will be phased out; it will be in steps. If they do something, sanctions come off slowly. Trust but verify. That is what the American Government says. That is what the President said in his own words. But Iran says: "We will not sign any deal unless on the very first day of its implementation all economic sanctions against Iran are lifted all at once."

How about restrictions on enrichment? Are there restrictions for 10 years or for 15 years? The United States and the State Department Fact Sheet says:

Iran has agreed to not enrich uranium over 3.67 percent for at least 15 years . . . Iran has agreed to not build any new facilities for the purpose of enriching uranium for 15 years . . . Iran has agreed to not enrich uranium at its Fordow facility for at least 15 years . . . Iran has agreed to not conduct research and development associated with uranium enrichment at Fordow for 15 years.

That is a lot of 15 years.

What does Iran say? On April 4, on an Iranian state TV channel, its Foreign Minister said:

The limitations are for 10 years and then enrichment will continue its own scientific progress. We have accepted 10 years of limitations.

Last but not least, research and development—is it limited or not limited? The United States, in our fact sheet, says it is limited.

Iran will not use its IR-2, IR-4, IR-5, IR-6, or IR-8 models to produce enriched uranium for at least 10 years. Iran will engage in limited research and development with its advanced centrifuges, according to a schedule and parameters which have been agreed to by the P5+1.

The group that negotiated all this.

That is what the U.S. fact sheet says. But what does Iran say? Iran says no.

Iran will continue its research and development on advanced machines and will con-

tinue the initiation and completion phases of the research and development process of IR-4, IR-5, IR-6, and IR-8 centrifuges during the 10 year period of the Comprehensive Plan for Joint Action.

So these are at least six major points of difference where Iran is saying the deal says one thing and the United States is saying the deal says another. What my amendment does is it takes what we say the deal is and puts it in the bill and says: Any final deal must be what you told us it is, not what Iran says it is. Yet, somehow, apparently, that is controversial.

This is not a game. This is a very serious matter because this is a country—and I don't mean its people but its leaders—that has shown the willingness to sponsor terrorism and do atrocious things all over the world.

When you read in the newspaper about civilians being barrel-bombed and gassed and killed in Syria, do you know why Assad is able to do that? Because of the help he gets from Iran.

When you read about the rockets that flood into Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem and Haifa and cities all across Israel every couple years as Hezbollah launches attacks, hiding behind human shields while they are trying to kill Israelis, do you know how they are able to get them? Because of help from Iran.

When you read in the newspaper that yesterday the Iranian military hijacked a vessel in international waters, when you read that they tried to kill the Saudi Ambassador in Washington, DC, when you read that they tried to set off a bomb in Uruguay, when you read how in 1994 they did set off a bomb at a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, Argentina—this is who we are dealing with. Now they are on the verge of being able to enrich weapons-grade uranium and reprocess weapons-grade plutonium. Now they are headed quickly toward building a long-range rocket capable of reaching not just Israel but Europe and the United States.

This is a very significant moment because this President is about to sign a deal that will place in their hands billions of additional dollars. If this is the terrorism and the nuclear activity they are pursuing now with sanctions on them, imagine how much more they will be able to afford to do once the sanctions are lifted. That is why it is so relevant on this point of Israel but also on the details of this deal.

By the way, as I said, and I will repeat it, the State Department fact sheet, what the President says the deal is—I am not comfortable with that either. I don't think that will work. It is not as if I am celebrating what they say the deal is.

All I am asking is this: At a minimum, before you bring and sign a deal, at least let it be what you say it is. Don't come back here in 6 months and surprise us with "By the way, it was the Iranian's fact sheet that had it right and not ours."

So I hope we will be able to move on these amendments. I don't think they undermine this one bit. I think they are relevant to the debates we are having. I think they are relevant to the decision we are being asked to make. And it is about time this body takes this up. Congress has an important role to play. The people of Florida whom I represent speak on these issues on this floor through me and the senior Senator from Florida. We have a right to have these issues debated. This is not some minor issue we are talking about; this is the security not just of our strongest ally in the region but of our very own country.

So I hope we will have an opportunity to have debates on these amendments. When we hear people say: If these amendments pass, we are going to lose the support of the bill; the President might veto it—well, if you want to make that argument, make that argument, but let's have a vote on it. What is wrong with having a vote on an amendment? If you don't want to vote on the amendment because you disagree with me, stand up and say you disagree with the amendment and you vote no. If you agree with the amendment but you are going to vote against it because you think it unravels this process that is being put in place, then say that. But let's have a vote on it.

If you don't want to vote on things, don't run for the Senate. If you don't want to vote on things, don't run for office. Be a columnist. Get a talk show. Everyone who runs for office knows that what we are called to do here is vote on issues on which sometimes we are uncomfortable.

There is a microphone at your desk. Come to the floor and give a speech and explain to the world why you are voting against a deal that requires Israel to have a right to exist. And if you say you believe Israel has a right to exist but you are voting against it because you don't want to unravel the deal, people will respect it. You can make your argument, but vote. Don't tell me we can't have votes on these things. You can argue that we shouldn't pass it, and I will argue against you, but don't tell me we can't even vote on it because then what you are saying is you want to be protected from taking a position on it, you don't want to take a position that you think is tough, and that I find to be unacceptable.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up the two amendments I just described, amendment No. 1141 and amendment No. 1148, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me explain to my friend from Florida—a very valued member of the Senate Foreign Re-

lations Committee—that we have two pending amendments. We have also been working to get a vote on Senator BARRASSO's amendment dealing with terrorism. Senator CORKER and I are trying to work through many amendments that we can clear that Members have brought forward. They are working with us to get those amendments where we can consider them.

For an orderly process, since so many amendments have been filed—and, I might say, they have all been filed by Republican Members of the Senate—we need to make sure we have an orderly way to consider these amendments and vote on these amendments. For those reasons, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, just as a point of clarification, I am a member of the committee that heard these amendments, particularly the one on Israel's right to exist. They were available to me at the time. I chose not to offer them in consultation with the Senators who worked so hard to put them together. I could have offered my amendment in the committee. I did not in order to work in a cooperative way to move it from the committee onto the floor.

I will admit that I did not speak to Senator CARDIN about this in particular, but I was told by multiple Members that the right place and the right time for me to offer this amendment would be on the floor, not in the committee, because the hope was to get it to the floor as quickly as possible. So in an effort to move this issue to the floor, I held back on filing this particular amendment with regard to Israel's right to exist on the assurances and on the conversations that we had that, in fact, when we got to the floor, these amendments would be heard.

Now, if, in fact, it turns out that today is not going to be the day we vote on the amendment, I understand that. I know there are a lot of other people with ideas they want voted on.

My understanding is and I have been told that there is potentially the effort here to say we shouldn't have any amendment or just have three or four amendments, and I think that is an unfair position to take. I am not saying that is what the Senator from Maryland is arguing. But I hope that at some point, as the order is established—I will continue to make this motion in the hope that this amendment can not just be pending but can be part of this debate.

I respect the views of my colleagues, some who I think will come to the floor and say they agree with me on the substance of it but don't want to vote on the amendment because they think it endangers the agreement we have in place or the bill that is in place. But I do think it deserves a vote, and I do think it deserves that debate.

So I hope in this orderly process that is established, these two amendments—I have filed seven, but I prioritized these two—these two will get the consideration I believe they deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as Senator RUBIO pointed out, we had no discussions about this. I don't know what Senators he is referring to, but let me just talk briefly about some of the points Senator RUBIO mentioned because I think it is important that we respond to them.

First, the bill we are considering, S. 615, is a bill that doesn't deal with the merits of a potential deal. It deals with the right way for Congress to review a potential deal that is reached between the United States and our trading partners and Iran concerning its nuclear weapon program. That is what this bill does. It doesn't say whether the President's agreement is a good one, a bad one, et cetera. It is a process for us to review it and take appropriate action because we are the ones who impose the sanctions. Only the Congress can permanently change or eliminate the sanctions. Therefore, it is important that we have an orderly way to review the potential deal. That is what it does—nothing more, nothing less.

It also, by the way, gives us the opportunity to get notice of material breaches and be able to take action to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state if they, in fact, breach the agreement.

So the two points Senator RUBIO mentioned—the first is that there are different interpretations being given, one by the United States and one by the Iranians. Well, we think the first amendment we filed is going to help deal with that. It is pending right now. It requires us to get every official document of a potential deal in the language in which it is agreed to. So that amendment is pending—it is followed by Senator CORKER and me—for the reasons Senator RUBIO mentioned, and that is, we want to see the original text. We don't want to have the interpretation by the Iranians; we want to know what the language says. That is our responsibility. We are going to get that once we take up this first amendment—I hope it is approved—that will give us the original language text of every agreement and exhibit that is agreed to between the parties.

The second issue Senator RUBIO mentioned is Israel's right to exist and Iran acknowledging Israel's right to exist. I fully agree with Senator RUBIO. I don't think there is a Member of this body who doesn't want Israel legitimated by every country in the world. It is our key ally in the Middle East. It is a country that shares our values, that has a strategic relationship with the United States, and I could go on and on.

Since 1948, the United States and Israel have enjoyed a very close and important relationship, and we have taken so many actions in this body in order to protect Israel's right to exist. That is why we included your language and Senator BOXER's language in this bill where we say, "The President should determine that the agreement in no way compromises the commitment of the United States to Israel's security or its support for Israel's right to exist." We have that in the bill.

What Senator RUBIO's amendment would have us do—and let me explain this. What his amendment would have us do is require that the President certify to us before he could submit any agreement—enter into any agreement—that Iran has recognized Israel's right to exist.

This agreement we are negotiating with our negotiating partners and Iran is to deal with Iran's nuclear weapon program. I know from my conversations with the Israeli Government that they think that is the most important thing for their existence—the most important thing—that Iran not become a nuclear weapons state. That is what Israel needs, and that is what we are trying to get.

The Rubio amendment, although it is not intended to do that, would say: No, that is not the most important thing. The most important thing is to negotiate the language, what Iran says about Israel, not their nuclear weapons program, and that the President must achieve that.

When you are negotiating, the more things you put on the table, the weaker position you are in in achieving the most important point, and that is making sure we have a strong agreement that Iran can never become a nuclear weapons state.

That is why this amendment will accomplish just the opposite as far as Israel's security is concerned. Yes, it is a poison pill. Yes, it will defeat this bill. That also happens to be true. And, yes, it will mean it will be almost impossible for the President to negotiate a nuclear agreement with Iran.

I think most people in this body and most people in America believe that the best course is a negotiated agreement with Iran. The unintended consequences of this amendment would make it virtually impossible to have that agreement completed.

So, yes, we could get into debate on the specifics of your amendment. I am more than happy to do that. But we have an orderly process here, and there are a lot of amendments that have been filed, and we are trying to work out a way to do this. Senator CORKER and I have been on the floor now for 4 or 5 days debating this issue, and we will debate any Member who wants to come by because we want to make sure we do have an open debate. But we are going to follow an orderly process. And

this amendment, as well-intended as it is, is an amendment that would very much compromise what we have tried to do in a bipartisan way, and that is to make sure that this Senate and the House have an orderly way to consider any deal struck between our negotiating partners and the United States and Iran. That is our responsibility, and we are going to stay focused on that, and we are going to end with a bipartisan product that is in I think the best traditions of the United States Senate.

So I respect very deeply my colleague's commitment to Israel. I do.

All of us are committed to Israel, but let's think about what is the most important thing for Israel, and that is having a strong agreement that prevents Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state. Let's focus on that because that, I think, this bill helps us achieve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I appreciate the passion of the Senator from Maryland. He makes points that I think are very relevant to debate once we are on the amendment. That is all I am asking for, a vote on the amendment. He is making an argument right now why he thinks we should not pass this amendment.

I respect the orderly process. I did not necessarily recognize that coming to the floor and trying to get my amendment pending would somehow unravel this orderly process, but I am more than happy to work within the orderly process, whatever that process entails. I would be more than happy to have it explained to me, where I fit in, in this orderly process, and at the appropriate moment we will file the amendment. But I wanted a vote on the amendment, and then the argument you made here today can be made.

The only other point I would make is it is true, tragically, that there are a number of countries in the Middle East that do not recognize Israel's right to exist. The difference is those countries are not trying to build a nuclear weapon, nor are they building long-range rockets, nor do they use terrorism as an instrument of statecraft, nor do they every Friday hold ceremonies in which their top leader chants "Death to Israel" and "Death to America," nor do they actively support terrorist groups around the world that exist for the sole purpose of destroying Israel itself, nor do they have billions of dollars in sanctions that are about to be released.

At the end of the day, there is a big difference between what is happening in Iran and the billions of dollars we are about to turn over to them and these other countries that, unfortunately, do not recognize Israel's right to exist but are not going around actu-

ally actively trying to destroy the State of Israel.

The last point is on the differences in the details. Listen, I do not think the fact sheet the State Department put out is sufficient. I think the deal, as described by the President, is not good enough and will not lead to the prevention of a nuclear weapon. But all I am asking for in my amendment is for the deal he submits to be the one that he says he negotiated.

He has told us already we have reached a preliminary agreement. He has announced it to the world what that preliminary agreement is. All I am saying is what you submit to us must be what you told us it is. Here is why I say this: Because this negotiation has been going on for a while. Every month that goes by, Iran gains more concessions, and our position slips further and further.

If you look where we were at the beginning of this process to where we are today, it is a very different place from where we were not that long ago. We are in a very different place than we were in terms of what we had originally said. When this whole thing started 10 years ago, 12 years ago, the U.N. Security Council put sanctions on Iran and said you are not even able to enrich or reprocess. Now they are allowed to enrich and reprocess. They are even allowed to enrich and reprocess at an even higher rate for research purposes.

If these negotiations keep going on, we are going to end up building the bomb for them at the rate it is going, because every year and every month that goes by, they gain more and more concessions. All I am trying to do is, at a minimum, freeze this in place and say, Mr. President, you have told us that you have negotiated a deal. Mr. President, you put out a fact sheet that told us what the deal is. You have represented it to the American people as the deal, and now all this will say is what you submit to us must be what you told us you agreed to on April 2. Do not come back here in 6 months and submit to us a deal, and as it turns out the Iranian fact sheet is the one we should have been relying on.

All I am asking, even though I do not think that what he has agreed to is sufficient—all I am asking in my second amendment is that the deal he submits be the deal he says it is, nothing more and nothing less.

I hope that through this orderly process the moment will arrive, before we vote on passage of this, that my amendments can be heard and voted on. I respect the arguments that others make about why they cannot support them and what they think they will ultimately do to the process. All I am asking for are votes on these amendments, and then everybody is free to vote the way they want and for the reasons they want.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I can, quite frankly, share the Senator from Florida's frustration, and I urge us to fully debate and begin voting on important amendments to this bill. I am all for any productive, orderly process, but I want it to be productive, to be inclusive, and to get going. I share the frustration that has been expressed on the floor that that is not quite happening right now.

In light of that, I want to be assured of moving forward and getting a vote on a very important amendment for me. I send a second-degree amendment to the desk, Vitter amendment No. 1186, as modified. I ask that it be a second-degree amendment to Corker amendment No. 1179 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Corker amendment is not pending.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is amendment No. 1155.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1179

Mr. VITTER. In that case, I call for regular order with respect to the Corker amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment No. 1179 is pending.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1186, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 1179

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I send this second-degree amendment to the desk, Vitter amendment No. 1186, as modified, to be a second-degree amendment to Corker amendment No. 1179, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER] proposes an amendment numbered 1186, as modified, to amendment No. 1179.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To require an assessment of inadequacies in the international monitoring and verification system as they relate to a nuclear agreement with Iran)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

“(C) ASSESSMENT OF INADEQUACIES IN INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A report under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment by the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the heads and other relevant officials of agencies with responsibilities under this section, detailing existing inadequacies in the international monitoring and verification system to the extent such inadequacies relate to the

agreement transmitted pursuant to paragraph (1), as outlined and in accordance with findings and recommendations pertaining to verification shortcomings contained within—

“(I) the September 26, 2006, Government Accountability Office report, ‘Nuclear Non-proliferation: IAEA Has Strengthened Its Safeguards and Nuclear Security Programs, but Weaknesses Need to Be Addressed’;

“(II) the May 16, 2013, Government Accountability Office Report, ‘IAEA Has Made Progress in Implementing Critical Programs but Continues to Face Challenges’;

“(III) the Defense Science Board Study, ‘Task Force on the Assessment of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring and Verification Technologies’;

“(IV) the IAEA Report, The Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the IAEA Safeguards Statement for 2010;

“(V) the IAEA Safeguards Overview: Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols;

“(VI) the IAEA Model Additional Protocol; and

“(VII) the IAEA February 2015 Director General Report to the Board of Governors.

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The assessment required under clause (i) shall include recommendations based upon the reports referenced in such clause, including recommendations to overcome inadequacies or develop an improved monitoring framework and recommendations related to the following matters:

“(I) The nuclear security program's long-term resource needs.

“(II) A plan for the long-term operation and funding of the IAEA and relevant agencies increased activities in order to maintain the necessary level of oversight.

“(III) A potential national strategy and implementation plan supported by a planning and assessment team aimed at cutting across agency boundaries or limitations that impact its ability to draw conclusions—with absolute assurance—about whether Iran is developing a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

“(IV) The limitations of IAEA actors.

“(V) Challenges within the geographic scope which may be too large to anticipate within the sanctioned treaty or agreement or the national technical means (NTM) monitoring regimes alone.

“(iii) PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary of State submits a report under subparagraph (A), the President shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the President has reviewed the Secretary's shortfall assessment required under this subparagraph, including the recommendations contained therein, and has taken necessary actions to address existing gaps within the monitoring and verification framework.

“(D) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—A report under

Mr. VITTER. I would be happy to explain the substance of the amendment.

This is about verification, obviously a really crucial part of this debate. Many of us who have concerns about the President's proposed agreement do not think we have adequate means to verify any agreement in the context and the structure he has proposed. So, clearly, those verification issues are very, very important.

This amendment tries to address those in a substantive and significant

and meaningful way. What the amendment does is actually specifically lists documented reports from groups such as the IAEA, the U.S. Defense Science Board Task Force, and others, which have highlighted specific verification problems. The amendment would require the President to report in a very detailed, specific way on those documented verification problems and make certifications regarding making progress on and solving those verification problems.

Again, I think this is absolutely necessary because I believe the present deal, as it is being put together, does not have adequate verification capability. This would help fill that hole. I am not sure it would completely fill that gap, quite frankly, but this is a good-faith attempt to address those very real issues by, again, delineating specific documented verification problems and requiring the President and his administration to address them, to report on that, and to make certifications regarding how they are addressing those specific documented verification problems.

I urge strong support of this good-faith amendment. This would dramatically, in my opinion, improve this agreement by helping address those verification concerns. I believe they are very legitimate concerns shared by many people on both sides of the aisle. I urge strong consideration and, ultimately, approval of this verification enhancement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 1180.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I know the good Senator from South Dakota knows that we are working with the other side to get a number of amendments ready to vote on today, and we certainly appreciate his constructive effort in letting us know what he is doing.

I object to making it pending because the other side—I am doing this on their behalf—wants to work through the tranche that we have right now.

I hope he discusses his amendment and maybe we can make it pending later today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.



The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Tennessee, who is managing this bill. I know they are trying to find a way forward, and I hope that will include getting some votes on amendments, including this one. I think this is a very reasonable amendment and one that certainly fits within what we are trying to accomplish here.

The Senate is in the midst of an important debate. This week we began a discussion on the role of Congress in approving or disapproving a nuclear agreement with Iran. Any agreement we reach with Iran must ensure one thing, and that is that Iran will never be able to acquire a nuclear weapon. That should be everything that this discussion is about.

A nuclear-armed Iran would threaten the safety, stability, and security of the entire world. It would also pose a direct threat to the United States and to our allies in the region. Given the stakes of this debate, it is critical that Congress have a role in reviewing any agreement so that the American people's voices can be heard. That is really what this is all about—giving the American people a voice on something that is of critical importance to America's national security.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for forging together a bipartisan path forward to allow for such a congressional review.

While I support the underlying bill and appreciate the work of our bill managers, I do believe the bill could be significantly strengthened, and the amendment I am introducing today will help to do that.

My amendment, No. 1180, is one way that the Senate can strengthen the underlying bill. This amendment will require the Secretary of State to verify whether the International Atomic Energy Agency, or the IAEA, which would be in charge of inspections in Iran under any agreement, would have access to Iranian military bases. There have been recent reports that have indicated that the Iranian military is hostile to any inspection of military facilities.

General Hossein Salami, the deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, recently told Iranian media: "They [the inspectors] will not be permitted to inspect the most normal military site in their dreams." Again, that statement was made by General Hossein Salami, who is the deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

If the administration enters into an agreement that doesn't guarantee the inspection of Iranian military sites, the American people and our allies in the region will have very little reason to believe that Iran will comply with any agreement. Without such an agreement, Iran can conduct research on nu-

clear weapons systems on military bases outside the reach of international inspectors. That is not an acceptable scenario.

We must ensure that any deal with Iran is verifiable, enforceable, accountable, and promotes security and stability in the region and around the world. That goal is hard to achieve without a robust inspections regime that allows for international inspections of Iran's military sites.

Accordingly, I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment, which will help ensure that Iran cannot circumvent an agreement conducting research on nuclear weapons systems at military facilities. A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to the safety, security, and stability of the entire planet.

I hope that when an agreement about how to proceed with regard to amendments is reached, this amendment will be included among those amendments that will be debated and voted upon, because I do think it will strengthen the underlying agreement. I certainly look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides, not only to get this amendment adopted but also to ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. That is first, foremost, and what this always needs to be about.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am here on the floor this afternoon with my good friend from North Dakota, and I want to speak to an issue as it relates to the Iranian sanctions bill that we have on the floor in front of us.

This is about an issue that so many of us care deeply about—about our own domestic production here, about the strength of our economy, about the strength of our national security and how the United States in a global environment really stands toe-to-toe in good strong competition around the world. I want to speak today about U.S. oil—the ban on U.S. oil—and how this all intersects with Iran, Iranian sanctions, and specifically, the sanctions on Iranian oil.

I am submitting a bipartisan amendment to allow U.S. oil to compete with Iranian oil on the global market. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator HEITKAMP, Senator HOEVEN, Senator LANKFORD, and, hopefully, others, as this discussion progresses.

Iran's Government is largely dependent on its exports of oil for its revenue source. It sends oil to countries such as China, Japan, India, and South Korea.

The sanctions that have been imposed have really hurt Iran's economy. They have brought Iran to the table. The sanctions that have been in place have cost the government in Tehran some \$40 billion in lost export revenues in 2014 alone, according to the Treasury Department.

Under the sanctions regime and the Joint Plan of Action, countries are still able to purchase Iranian oil, and I don't think a lot of folks understand that. They think the sanctions are in place and Iran can't derive a benefit from the oil exports. But in fact, companies are still able to purchase Iranian oil, up to 1 to 1.1 million barrels per day and—no surprise—countries have purchased up to that limit nearly every month since the JPA was implemented in November of 2013. So sanctions are in place, but Iran is still deriving the benefit of being able to sell Iranian oil to other nations.

It is worth pointing out that this is only possible because the State Department does not include condensate in its definition of crude oil. If you include the condensate volumes, then the limit of 1.1 million barrels per day was breached back in January of 2014, in February, March, April, and May—not June—in July, September, October, and December, and also in February of 2015, according to reports that came out of the International Energy Agency.

It simply does not make sense for us to lift sanctions on Iranian oil while we keep them on American oil. It just doesn't make sense that we would tell Iran that we are going to allow these sanctions to be lifted over there, but by keeping our oil export ban in place, we are effectively imposing sanctions on U.S. oil producers. This is a de facto sanctions regime against ourselves.

Now, one can understand why we have imposed sanctions on certain places—on Tehran, Moscow, and Damascus. However, we are effectively talking about sanctions on the Permian, on the Utica, on the Niobrara, and on regions where we have the ability to produce a resource that helps this country, helps to create jobs, and helps with all aspects of our economy. We are going to say: Iran, OK, we are going to relieve sanctions on you, but we are going to keep in place sanctions on U.S. oil producers.

So what this amendment does is to add a third section to the Corker-Cardin Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015. It would require a DOE report on Iranian crude oil and condensate exports. It would then lift the de facto ban on U.S. crude oil and condensate exports. It still preserves the emergency authorities of the President to prohibit exports if it is warranted. So there is that safety valve there.

The deadline for submission of this report to Congress would be 60 days following the enactment of the act. It

would still be required even if an agreement with Iran were not reached. It would effectively address two issues—the relative ability of U.S. and Iranian oil producers to compete in the global market, which is pretty important out there, and the extent to which any agreement with Iran would increase Iranian oil exports through the lifting of sanctions.

As we know, American oil producers are generally prohibited from exporting overseas. Alaska is the one exception to the oil export ban. A very limited amount is exported over the years. Iran, on the other hand, currently exports over 1 million barrels per day of oil onto the global markets.

Now, we had a hearing in the energy committee a week or so ago. The Presiding Officer was there. We heard from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the EIA. They estimated that lifting the sanctions on Iran would increase Iranian volume by some 700,000 to 1 million barrels per day. So if we lifted that, EIA estimates that Iran would then be in a situation where they would be able to put out onto the market, basically to new purchasers, 1 million barrels per day.

Think about what that does—giving them new markets for their oil. As they have new markets for their oil, they get paid for it. EIA estimates that given the price of Brent being where it is in this range right now, it would be \$25 billion per year to Iran from the ability to put that out onto the market and gain new customers—an extra \$25 billion.

How comfortable are we with that? How much of that \$25 billion is going to fund terrorist organizations, terrorists, in areas that we are fighting directly and immediately today? What kind of sense does it make that we would say that we will remove sanctions on Iran, allowing them to move their product to new customers, gain potentially \$25 billion additionally into their treasury to do who knows what with it.

At the same time, what this does is it harms American producers who are unable to compete with Iranian oil due to this outdated ban on U.S. exports that was imposed 40 years ago. So we are going to let a 40-year-old policy sanction us, sanction our economy and benefit Iran's. Lifting the ban on U.S. oil exports would let American oil compete with Iranian oil. It would reduce Iranian revenue from oil exports. It would send a strong signal to U.S. allies that still depend on Iranian oil that alternative supplies are available and lower global oil prices which would decrease the price of gasoline and other consumer fuels.

A few hours ago, on the other side of the hallway here, over in the House of Representatives, we heard from the Prime Minister of Japan. Japan is currently purchasing and is able to pur-

chase oil from Iran. Don't you think that our friend Japan would much rather have security and diversity of supply if it were to come from their friend the United States? I sure think so.

The amendment that we have introduced lifts the ban by requiring, after 30 days have elapsed from the enactment of S. 615, that crude oil exports may be authorized on the same basis that they are currently authorized for petroleum products, whether it is gasoline, diesel, jet fuel or whatever it is. Currently, these petroleum products can be exported without a license. In fact, we are, here in this country, the largest exporter of petroleum products in the world. So think about this as you kind of shake your head and say: What is going on here? We are the largest exporter of refined products, but yet we impose a flat ban—an outright ban—on the crude itself.

So, again, we have a safety valve in the amendment that preserves the President's emergency authority, which is derived from the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the National Emergencies Act, and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. They prohibit exports, under these various proposals, if needed for the safety and security of the Nation. We do not touch those. We do not impact them in that amendment at all.

So it is important to recognize that what we are doing here is we are looking at an outdated policy that is 40-years old. We are moving into present time and space, where we have a situation with a country that we have tried desperately to bring to the table to be a nation that will work with us rather than against us. Yet part of what we are considering is an action that would remove sanctions on them and continue to keep in place sanctions on this country.

It makes no sense to me. I would hope that my colleagues would consider it. I know that my colleague from North Dakota has given great thought to this, has great understanding about the issue, and also has great passion about how we ensure that from a national security perspective we are covered in all corners.

So I would ask my colleague from North Dakota, as she has reviewed an antiquated and an outdated policy, and being from a producing State such as North Dakota, where she is working to advance the opportunities not only for North Dakotans but for people all over this country, how people in North Dakota feel when it is suggested that we are imposing, effectively, domestic sanctions on them, while at the same time we would relieve sanctions on Iran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend from

Alaska for giving me an opportunity to talk about this policy of sanctions that is wrong, wrong, wrong on so many levels. When we first looked at it, we need to understand that the embargo, or the limitation on the exportation of crude oil in this country, is a policy decision made by the President—initially, President Nixon—in response to a number of producers going around oil price support controls.

So this is a 1970's policy. Unfortunately, when we transitioned away from price supports for crude oil, we never removed this embargo, we never removed this restriction. That was a mistake at that time. It continues to be a colossal mistake for our growth towards energy independence in this country and our ability to use our energy and our oil for soft power and to actually provide a consistent and ready supply of crude oil to our allies so they are not beholden, not only to Iran, but to countries such as Russia.

So it is critically important that we examine some of the concerns that people have about lifting the embargo. Obviously, in North Dakota, we do not see any logic, because we are kind of a commonsense State. We do not see any logic behind not allowing crude oil to be exported but allowing every refined product that we could produce in this country access to a foreign market.

That makes absolutely no sense. If the logic behind this is to try and maintain stability and a lower gasoline price, then we should lock down gasoline and we should not export gasoline. The antiquated policy that we are talking about today did not have a lot of logic after we deregulated oil. It has even less logic in the dangerous world we live in. We know that so many of our foreign enemies rely on oil revenue basically to fund their terrorism activities, to fund their government, to supply the necessary government services that keep them in power.

We have an opportunity to say to our allies, whether it is Japan or in Europe, don't worry about whether someone is going to hold you hostage because you will not be able to heat your homes in the winter or provide gasoline to your communities and your consumers. Do not worry about that because we have your back.

But we cannot have their back if we don't have the ability to export our crude oil. The bottom line is that on every level, in terms of foreign policy, in terms of what we should be in this country—on every level—a policy of maintaining an embargo, a restriction against exports of crude oil makes no common sense—absolutely none.

But let's talk about domestic policy because I think some of the concerns that have been expressed to me by my colleagues, and I am sure Senator MURKOWSKI's colleagues, have been this: Well, won't this increase gasoline prices? I have to applaud Senator MURKOWSKI because very early on she heard

that, and she said: Let's have some real intellectual work done. Don't rely on my economics 101. How about we actually get economists from Brookings, economists from the Aspen Institute, economists from all over the country, who have come to one single conclusion, which is, that it will not raise gasoline prices.

In fact, the conclusion is quite the opposite—that allowing us access to an international market could, in fact, reduce gasoline prices. Why would that be, you wonder? Because of the fluke of how we refine crude oil in this country, most of our refineries are based on heavy sour crude. The crude we produce in North Dakota is light sweet crude. We don't have a big refining capacity for light sweet crude, so we have a price reduction in our country.

So how are gasoline prices established? They are based on that higher crude oil price, because they are refining crude oil that comes in from other places such as Saudi Arabia. They are refining crude oils that come in from Venezuela, and they are charging an appropriate price. Some people would say there is a little bit of price creep here as we are looking at gasoline prices.

The ability to get our crude to market is absolutely critical. Now, there are a lot of people who also think that we should keep a captive market on a lot of our resources. We have heard this argument in natural gas, and we heard this argument in crude oil. They said: We should have a captive market. I have a constant reply. I say: I have a lot of hog farmers who like low corn prices. The solution for low corn prices has never been not to export corn.

This is the only commodity that is traded on a global price that does not have the ability to find its market. Now, what is the consequence of that? I would tell you, to my friend from Alaska, and I think she sees this, one of the things I sincerely believe is that the ability to produce oil—our domestic production of oil—had a lot to do with driving Iran to the negotiating table.

They saw that we could, in fact, infiltrate the market and take market share. That is threatening to a lot of the former OPEC countries that are wanting that captive market. If we had access to that market, we would be sending a message. So why don't we do the right thing here? Why don't we understand how this export ban on American crude oil is restricting our ability to use crude oil as an appropriate soft power opportunity? Why don't we talk about how actually allowing for the export of crude oil could drive down gasoline prices in the United States of America and continue the energy renaissance?

If we cannot find our market, if we cannot find our market in North Dakota for this production, guess what

happens? It either goes into storage or it gets shut in where it is, which is in the field. Hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost. But more importantly, our energy security in this country will be jeopardized and harmed.

This policy of opening up this restriction is so right on so many levels. I applaud the Senator from Alaska for bringing it forth in this context. I think it is critical to talk about it in this context. But I also applaud her for all of the work she has done and we have supported, as she has built out the case—the economic case—for why this policy makes no sense at any level.

It is wrongheaded. It is time to change it. This is an opportunity. We will not end because it is only fair to every oilfield worker out there, it is only fair to every owner of a royalty or minerals in place, it is fair to every operator, and it is fair to the people of this country to engage in trade, level the playing field, and make sure we are telling our friends and allies that they don't have to buy their oil from countries that threaten their security every day. We have a supply of oil that can readily be exported and provided to them.

I thank my good friend from Alaska for her continued advocacy on behalf of consumers of this country and her continued advocacy on behalf of an energy-appropriate policy in the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Dakota. She has articulated the case so well not only from a domestic perspective but from the international perspective as well. We need to appreciate that as we are recognized as a nation, as that superpower when it comes to our military strength and all those who serve us have to offer, that we are also an energy superpower. We have not yet embraced that as a responsibility, as an obligation to use that not only to our advantage but to the advantage of our friends and allies around the globe. That is an important transition, transformation we need to make.

We are mired down in policies that are decades old, based on history that is no longer relevant given the geopolitics of today. We have an opportunity to wake up to where we can be, how we can lead from an international perspective. It can begin with the strength of our energy and our energy resources, but we have to believe in our own possibilities. Right now, I think we are lagging in that.

I appreciate all that my colleague is doing in this effort to help educate people. I recognize that it takes a little bit of time to recalibrate the thinking, but we are doing that, and we are doing it for the right reason, based on common sense, based on strength of the econ-

omy, and based on national security, which should be our primary consideration right now. We will never have sufficient boots on the ground or budget for defense to be everywhere many would like to be around the globe. What other assets do we have? What else can we contribute? It can begin with our energy resources.

So we have great opportunities, and I forward to further discussions about not only what we are proposing in this amendment but how we can lead as a nation in the energy sector.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The Senator from Oregon.

#### FDA TOBACCO DEEMING REGULATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to draw attention to the dangers of new and insidious tobacco products that are ensnaring our youth and to urge the FDA to take long overdue action to protect our children from these products.

First, I thank the Senators for coming to the floor today to join in making this critically important point. Senator BOXER is present, and she will be speaking next. Other Senators are planning to join us. So I appreciate their lifting their voices on this important issue.

Dr. Richard Wender, the chief cancer control officer for the American Cancer Society, said last year, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Surgeon General report on smoking and health, that “the single greatest threat to the future control of tobacco is complacency.”

We are here today to call attention to a dangerous complacency that threatens the lives of our children, a complacency in completing rules that are essential to protecting our children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction. We are on the floor of the Senate today because this week marks the 1-year anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration's proposed “deeming regulations” on tobacco. Deeming regulations essentially say the FDA has the power to do what the law gave them to do in 2009 when we passed the act. These critical regulations have yet to be finalized, and it appears that there are not going to be finalized regulations this month or next or the month after despite the fact that we are now 6 years into this rulemaking regulation process.

Six years is a very long time. In 6 years, a lot of young Americans have become addicted to nicotine products. In 6 years, the industry has made huge strides in inventing new products designed to attract our children. In 6 years, a lot could have been done, and nothing has been done.

These critical regulations have not been completed, and it is time for the FDA and the administration to make getting this done a priority. This is one of the things that can truly impact the health of the next generation.

The tobacco industry is, as Judge Kessler said in *United States v. Philip Morris*, “an industry . . . that survives, and profits, from selling a highly addictive product which causes diseases that lead to a staggering number of deaths per year, an immeasurable amount of human suffering and economic loss, and a profound burden on our national health care system.”

That is why, when it comes to tobacco and public health, the best way to save lives 20 or 30 or 40 years down the line is to prevent young Americans from becoming addicted to tobacco products today. But Big Tobacco knows this as well. They know that the best way to create a lifelong, reliable customer for their deadly product is to get our children hooked as young as possible. Now the industry refers to our children as “replacement smokers” to replace those who are dying. That is why they are working day and night to come up with new strategies and new products to keep kids in the pipeline, to keep new replacement smokers coming forward. They use cigars, cigarillos, tobacco candy, and snus.

Now they have the real winner—e-cigarettes. These products, such as flavored cigars, cost as little as 99 cents and are sold in colorful or cool packaging and come in flavors such as bubble gum, cotton candy, wild cherry, grape, candy apple, blueberry, chocolate, peach, and gummy bear e-cigarettes. Many of these products are cheaper and more accessible than cigars, and the candy-flavored versions are preferred overwhelmingly by young people.

This is a chart which shows the bottles of liquid nicotine that fuel these e-cigarettes. We have everything here from cotton candy to coffee. You name it, it is there. These are not flavors designed to appeal to adults; this is all about forming addiction in our children.

A new study released by the CDC this month found, alarmingly, that e-cigarette use had tripled among middle and high school students in just 1 year. In 2011, 1.5 percent; it doubled in the course of a year to 2.8 percent. It increased substantially in the year 2012 and 2013, and then we see it soared. E-cigarettes and vape shops have exploded across the country, and that has profound consequences for our children. Nearly one in seven high school students has used an e-cigarette in the last 30 years. That is 2 million teenagers nationwide, 2 million of our children responding to this very deliberate targeting by this demonic industry.

We have the power to do something about this. The FDA has power to do something about this because we, the legislature, gave it to them in 2009.

It is true that the long-term health effects of smoking e-cigarettes are yet to be fully calculated because it is a newer product, but there are some

troubling studies we should pay attention to. What we know today is that nicotine is highly poisonous and that this vast, unregulated market of nicotine liquids threatens public health immediately.

Since 2011, poison calls related to e-cigarettes have skyrocketed—271 in 2011 to 3,808 poison calls in 2014, again showing the exploding use of this product. This industry doesn’t even put this liquid nicotine into childproof containers. One brand called JJuice looks like little bottles of juice. It says “juice” on it. Yet, it is deadly if a child takes off that cap and drinks it. There were 14 times more poisonings in 2014 than in 2011, and yes, people die. A toddler died of nicotine poisoning just last December, and there were lots of close calls.

But tobacco companies see opportunities in these unregulated markets. They see opportunities to appeal to kids directly, market to kids more easily, and to sell to kids with fewer barriers.

There is no Federal law in place about the age at which children can buy e-cigarettes or the liquids that go into them. So it has been up to local communities to try to fill in those gaps, and they have been trying to do so, trying to catch up with the problem. The industry of e-cigarettes has exploited these opportunities.

This is where we are. Time is ticking. E-cigarette use is rising. And the rising numbers on this chart aren’t just numbers, they represent our children, kids who every day, when we don’t act, are more at risk for a lifetime of dangerous addiction. This is 100 percent unequivocally unacceptable.

So to the FDA, to Health and Human Services, and to the Obama administration, it is time to quit stalling. Children are getting addicted, children are dying, and children will die more from nicotine diseases in the decades ahead. It is unacceptable.

No more complacency. Let’s get it done, have it be the top item you wake up to fix every day. We expect more. I urge the administration to act quickly. Let’s get these rules done.

It is a pleasure to yield the floor to my colleague from California, who has been a tremendous champion on this topic and will provide her insights. I am so delighted that she is on the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank Senator MERKLEY for his leadership.

This is an issue which is not getting the attention it should be getting, and we hope today, with the series of speeches we will start to make now, to wake up America to this threat.

I have a bill that would ban the advertising of these cigarettes to children. Senator MERKLEY showed you and told you the names. Let’s take a

look at that again. Can anyone really tell you with a straight face that these marketers are not going after children? Cotton candy, gummy bear, and popsicle—those are the flavors. I mean, we really were not born yesterday. This is what they are doing.

This is a moment for us—parents, grandparents, loving aunts and uncles—to stand up and say no to this. There are ways to do it.

Before I get into those ways, I thank Senators CORKER and CARDIN for their extraordinary leadership on the underlying bill in Iran that is on the floor. I express my thanks to the entire committee, both sides of the aisle of the Foreign Relations Committee. I have been on that committee the longest of anyone else, and this was a tough time. Everyone had a different position, and everyone was in a corner. We all came together, and we crafted a delicate compromise that essentially allows the Senate and the House to vote on whatever agreement may emerge. I say “may.” We don’t know if there will be one from the administration on Iran’s nuclear weapons. We know that if we go down the path of poison pill amendments, this whole thing could be lost.

I will close this little part and get right to the e-cigarettes with this.

I was listening to Senator RUBIO, whom I work with on the committee, and I love to work with him on issues where we find agreement, but he got up here and he said: All I want is a vote on my amendment, and we all know his amendment will derail this very delicately balanced agreement. He said: All I am asking for is a vote. And he said very eloquently: If you don’t want to vote, don’t be a Senator. And I thought: You are right about that. Then I checked his voting record and he stopped us voting on nominees 18 times in December alone.

So I say to my friends: Don’t come down here and preach to us about the fact that we are trying to keep poison pills off this for the good of the world, to stop a war; OK? And don’t tell us we are stopping you, when you stopped a lot of us 18 times in December alone and once on Loretta Lynch—once on the new Attorney General. I had to say that.

Mr. President, when I turn on the television, I don’t know if it is 2015 or 1950. Tobacco companies are preying again on our youth. Just as we should be celebrating the decline of youth cigarette smoking rates, a new product is taking our high schools and middle schools by storm and they are called e-cigarettes.

As Senator MERKLEY so well explained, we are seeing a startling increase in the use of these cigarettes by our teens, with 2.5 million teens using them—2.5 million teens. If we do nothing, the CDC says that every year another 1½ million kids are going to be using e-cigarettes.

Now, what are they exposed to? Let us be clear, nicotine. We know nicotine is very dangerous to adolescent brain development. Let me say that again. Nicotine is very dangerous to adolescent brain development. In addition to nicotine, e-cigarettes have—and I hope young people are listening, including the ones right here—potentially dangerous chemicals, and chemicals we already know are dangerous, such as benzene, cadmium, formaldehyde, propylene glycol, and they also have nanoparticles that are present in traditional cigarettes—this all according to my health department in California.

Now, we already saw how these children are lured. They are lured by the cigarette companies. And by the way, the big cigarette companies—and I will finish in 1 minute and this is critical—have bought up the e-cigarette companies. I wrote to the executives and I said: Please, for the good of your children and my children and my grandchildren, don't advertise on television.

If you ever saw these ads on TV, Senator MERKLEY, and Mr. President, you would just think that e-cigarettes were curing all the illnesses of the world. Well, they are not. They are not, and the studies that are already coming out are quite alarming. Sales to minors should be banned, and 42 of our States have done so, but it is not nationwide. Online sales should be banned. Companies should not be advertising.

We have a potential crisis on our hands, and I will be working with Senator MERKLEY, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and all of my colleagues because we were not born yesterday. We have seen this movie before and we want our kids to be healthy. The FDA can take a stand by finalizing the proposed regulation today. Too many lives have been endangered while we stand here waiting.

Last month, more than 5,000 of my constituents signed a petition urging FDA to regulate e-cigarettes. Some of them told me why they were concerned, and I would like to share the words of Californian parents and teachers.

Susan from Long Beach wrote:

I am a 7th grade health teacher and it is clear that students think "vaping" is okay and a healthy alternative to smoking. Shops selling e-cigarettes have popped up in all the stores around their neighborhoods advertising their products. A clear message needs to be sent that e-cigarettes are not for children under the age of 18.

Judith from Fairfield wrote:

I teach high school, and too many students are using e-cigarettes, thinking they are safer than regular cigarettes. In the meantime, they are getting addicted to nicotine, and putting them at risk for a lifetime of impacts to their health.

Sondra from Corona wrote:

I have worked in our local high schools for almost 15 years. The e-cigarettes definitely need to be regulated for people under 18. I am consistently told by students that "these are

better" than traditional cigarettes. They don't realize the harm and the addictive qualities are still present.

Bob from Cathedral City wrote:

We need to know what health and/or safety dangers are associated with e-cigarettes.

And finally Julie from Huntington Beach wrote:

My 14-year-old son was offered an e-cig. They are too easy for children to get.

My constituents deserve Federal oversight of e-cigarettes. To protect the public health and our children, I join my colleagues and urge the Administration to finalize the pending regulation. I also call upon Congress to advance legislation that protects consumers from the health consequences of e-cigarettes. The data does not lie. We cannot wait another day.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from California for her kindness and my apologies for all the talking in the background.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we should be doing everything we can to ensure that our children are safe from products that harm their health. Thanks to life-saving public health interventions, and FDA regulation under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, we have seen reduced smoking rates among young people across the country. But, unfortunately, in recent years tobacco companies have found new ways to target children, through the promotion of e-cigarettes and other unregulated tobacco products.

Last year, the FDA took an important initial step toward regulating these products with its proposed tobacco deeming rule. But, we are here today, a full year later, without a finalized rule to help ensure tobacco companies aren't profiting off of selling our children an addictive, hugely harmful bill of goods.

Today, tobacco companies are marketing e-cigarettes with celebrity endorsements and cartoons that are geared toward a younger audience—using tactics that they are banned from using to promote traditional cigarettes. They are producing kid-enticing candy and drink flavored products, which we know children are more likely to use. In fact, because they are unregulated, children can go online and buy them without their parents knowing.

Mr. President, it is unacceptable that e-cigarette companies are using the same tactics that tobacco companies used for years to promote smoking. So we should be doing everything we can to right this wrong, and prevent our youngest generation from becoming a new generation of smokers.

We know just how harmful and addictive these products can be and I am proud my home State of Washington has begun to regulate these products and is taking strong steps towards combatting their use among children.

But, there is still much more work to do to across the country to keep e-cigarettes and other unregulated tobacco products out of the hands of our kids, and that work starts with making sure the FDA finalizes its deeming rule.

So I stand with all of my colleagues today to urge the FDA to move quickly to finalize and implement last year's proposed rule, and put in place restrictions that would:

Prevent marketing targeted to minors.

Eliminate the sale of flavored e-cigarettes that appeal to children,

And end online sales.

These would be strong steps to further protect our children and I look forward to working with my colleagues, and the FDA to ensure they are implemented as quickly as possible.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am glad to join with several of my colleagues to talk about electronic cigarettes and the Food and Drug Administration's, FDA, role in regulating these products.

Over the last year, e-cigarette use among high school students has tripled from 4.5 percent to 13.4 percent, according to recent CDC data. In fact, research from the University of Michigan's annual Monitoring the Future survey shows that in 2014 more teenagers reported using e-cigarettes than traditional tobacco products. One year ago, the FDA took an important initial step by proposing to regulate e-cigarettes, but more must be done to strengthen this rule and ensure that the same practices used by Big Tobacco for years to promote smoking are not used by e-cigarette companies to create a new generation of smokers.

I am pleased that the FDA has proposed prohibiting e-cigarette sales to minors, as well as prohibiting vending machine sales and free samples, to prevent sales and use by minors. Further, the proposed FDA rule requires e-cigarette manufacturers to list product ingredients and for tobacco products containing nicotine to carry an addiction warning label. While I commend FDA on proposing these important steps, the rule must be improved to address the marketing of these products to children and e-cigarette flavorings and be finalized as soon as possible. Indeed, I sent a letter last week with nine of my colleagues—many of whom are also speaking about e-cigarettes today—urging the FDA to strengthen and finalize this rule.

E-cigarette companies are taking a page out of the Big Tobacco playbook, using celebrity endorsements of their products, cartoons, and advertising in magazines with youth readership and at music festivals and sports events targeted at children. According to a 2014 study in the journal *Pediatrics*, exposure to e-cigarette marketing by children aged 12 to 17 increased by 256 percent between 2011 and 2013, exposing

24 million children to e-cigarette advertisements. In this context, it is unsurprising that youth use of e-cigarettes has skyrocketed during the same timeframe. It is well known that tobacco advertising influences consumer behavior, especially that of children, so it is my hope that the final e-cigarette deeming rule will address this issue.

As for the use of candy, soft drink, fruit, and other flavors in e-cigarettes, the FDA itself acknowledged in the proposed rule that children are the most likely to be attracted by and use these flavored tobacco products. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act prohibits these kinds of flavorings from being used in traditional cigarettes and that same scrutiny should be applied to e-cigarettes and refill liquids so that children are not attracted to these products.

We have come a long way since I proposed legislation in the late 1990s to deny tobacco companies tax deductions for advertising to children. I was an original cosponsor of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which became law in 2009 and incorporated the goals of my bill to keep the tobacco industry from targeting children as new customers. This law provides the FDA with the explicit authority to protect the public from deceptive cigarette advertisements, prevents the targeting of minors, and removes certain harmful ingredients from cigarettes.

This was an important effort. But we must be ever vigilant and continue to address new tobacco-related concerns as they arise, such as e-cigarettes. Until the deeming rule is finalized, e-cigarettes will continue to operate completely unregulated, with an increasing number of children taking up this addictive habit every day. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the issue and I join them in strongly urging the FDA to strengthen and finalize the e-cigarette deeming rule quickly so that the agency can begin regulating these tobacco products.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5:25 p.m. today be equally divided in the usual form and that it be in order to call up the following amendment: Barrasso No. 1147; further, I ask that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the amendment; that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment and that there be a 60-affirmative-vote threshold for the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1147 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1140

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator BARRASSO, I call up amendment No. 1147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. CORKER], for Mr. BARRASSO, for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SASSE, proposes an amendment numbered 1147 to amendment No. 1140.

Mr. CORKER. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a certification that Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world)

On page 17, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(v) Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world; and

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I certainly appreciate the hard work done by Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN and their efforts on getting this bill to the floor in a bipartisan way through the committee and bringing it up for a vote.

The amendment I am bringing today is something that was in the bipartisan agreed-upon bill that was introduced in the first place, with nine Democratic cosponsors. Then, this specific component, dealing with terrorism and the certification of terrorism, was removed in the managers' package as it went to committee. So I think it is important and there is bipartisan support for what I am doing. This amendment basically restores—restores—the terrorism certification that was in the original bipartisan Senate bill.

Every 90 days, the President will be required under this amendment to certify to Congress that Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or against an American citizen anywhere in the world. If there is evidence of terrorist activity by Iran against us, then Congress will have a more streamlined process to address it.

Right now there a number of different reports that have to be made to Congress as a result of this bipartisan legislation. This was the only one that was removed in the managers' package. I think it is very important the American people get regular certifications from the President on this important point. Congress and the American people need to know if Iran is directly supporting acts of terrorism against our country and our people. If they are, I believe Congress must have an opportunity to respond quickly.

There actually have been some changes in the legislation to require some additional reporting components with relation to terrorism. I agree it is an improvement, but reports to Con-

gress with information and evidence of Iran's terrorist activities are critically important, and I think it is even more critical for the President of the United States to acknowledge Iran's actions and for Congress to be able to have the opportunity to respond quickly. That is why I believe this amendment is so important.

Congress can always do more to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, but we must make it clear to Iran that Congress will be able to respond immediately to terrorist actions against us. I am restoring this opportunity with my amendment and recommending an “aye” vote.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator BARRASSO for the way he has worked with our committee, the way he has worked with us on the floor to get this amendment pending. We had a chance to debate this amendment yesterday, and today we have debated it. So I think the issue has been well debated.

I certainly agree with the intent of the sponsor of the amendment. As a result of his work in our committee, we have strengthened the reporting requirements on Iran's terrorist activities, which I have read into the RECORD before. It is very strong, and it has been strengthened as a result of the managers' amendment that Senator CORKER and I worked on.

We also have an assessment on Iran's human rights violations. We make it clear that nothing in an agreement would affect the sanctions imposed against Iran for its terrorist activities, its ballistic missiles or its human rights violations. So all those tools are available to us.

I object to this amendment because it affects the underlying bill itself. It jeopardizes the bill because it requires the President to make a certification that, in fact, he will probably not be able to make. Therefore, it not only jeopardizes the bill, it jeopardizes the ability to have a negotiated agreement and it weakens our position internationally and makes it less likely we can get Iran to give up its nuclear weapons program.

For all those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote no on the amendment. We have already covered this in the notice requirements that have been provided in S. 615. It is an issue we all care about. This amendment, though well intended, would not advance it, and I urge my colleagues to defeat the amendment.

I yield back all of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 168 Leg.]

#### YEAS—45

Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rounds
Burr	Hoehen	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johnson	Sessions
Collins	Kirk	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Vitter
Ernst	Paul	Wicker

#### NAYS—54

Alexander	Franken	Murphy
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Graham	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Perdue
Booker	Heinrich	Peters
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Coats	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Corker	McCain	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

Enzi

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, as we discuss the Iran nuclear agreement and the President's administration is attempting to negotiate the agreement, I come to the floor of the Senate to remind Coloradans, and indeed Americans, about some of the activities that have taken place in our relationship with Iran over the past several decades.

Following the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the ruling mullahs held 52 American diplomats hostage for 444 days, releasing them only on January 20, 1981, the day that President Ronald Reagan was sworn into office. Two years later, on April 18, 1983, a truck laden with explosives rammed into the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 17 Americans. On October 23, 1983, there was a similar attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut which killed 241 American servicemen. Overwhelmingly, the evidence led to Iran and its wholly owned subsidiary Hezbollah as the perpetrator of these attacks.

Several weeks ago, we had the opportunity to visit with Prime Minister

Netanyahu in Israel to discuss the negotiations that were taking place and the details of the negotiations. Those details have emerged in a couple of pages of documents which were released by the White House. But they are still lacking in great detail and in the specifics of the framework.

Prime Minister Netanyahu described the negotiations to be a dance of porcupines in the Middle East. There is concern about the negotiations and where they would lead. Indeed, the Prime Minister made the comment that Iran is now putting its finger on the jugular of the world. Over the past 24 to 48 hours, we have indeed seen that happen in the Strait of Hormuz and with the boarding by Iran of a cargo ship that falls under the protective umbrella of the United States of America.

So we continue to see an Iranian regime that has not changed in more than 30 years. It has not changed in the last 48 hours. They have targeted and killed Americans during the Iraq war, supported Shiite militias, and supplied deadly explosives that have been used to kill and target our troops. Iran continues to prop up the murderous Assad regime in Syria. They regularly threaten to wipe Israel off the map and abuse the human rights of their own people. They have imprisoned Americans, reporters, and refused to release them.

There is no doubt that we must avoid a nuclear Iran and do everything in our power to make sure that Iran doesn't possess a nuclear infrastructure. But the questions that we have today lead more and more to a conclusion that they will continue to maintain a nuclear infrastructure.

Secretary Schultz and Secretary Kissinger made it very clear in an op-ed they wrote for the Wall Street Journal several weeks ago. We have entered this negotiation and somehow siloed off or bifurcated the issue of political restraint with nuclear restraint. We have somehow decided we will have tunnelvision on one issue without acknowledging, admitting or negotiating the other acts of violence, death, and destruction that the Iran regime has pursued for not just 30 years ago, not just 15 years ago, and there is also what is happening around the world and in the Middle East today.

I hope we can emerge from these negotiations with a strong deal, a deal that allows us the inspection of military bases without question upon demand, and with the fact that we will remove their nuclear infrastructure, that we can assure that they are no longer a regime that is leading state-sponsored efforts to wipe Israel off the map, and that we can indeed protect Americans from the reign of terror that has been a state-sponsored effort.

There is nothing less that we should ask of this administration or any administration. We need to protect the American people. At the negotiating

table—when we sit 2 or 3 feet across from the people with whom we are negotiating—we cannot ignore what is happening through state-sponsored terrorism. We cannot ignore the cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz that have been stormed. We cannot ignore what has happened in Yemen or Hezbollah. We cannot ignore the reality that we face today of an Iran that has not changed in 30 years.

The fact is our sanctions have worked, and the fact is that increased sanctions could work as well. I hope before this negotiation is signed off and agreed to, they will realize who is making the negotiations happen and possible and that more needs to be done to protect Americans and protect the world from an Iran that simply doesn't have a dangerous threat posed to us from nuclear weapons but which poses the danger through state-sponsored terrorism which they continue to pursue today.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the time.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING MICHAEL W. DOWNING

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the exceptional service and the extraordinary life of Rockingham County High Sheriff Michael "Mike" W. Downing of Salem, NH, who passed away recently following his battle with cancer.

Sheriff Downing was a knowledgeable, respected and compassionate public safety professional, a problem solver, and a concerned community member. He was one of a kind, and was beloved by everyone who knew him.

Raised in Salem, Mike attended Saint Joseph's School and graduated from Salem High School in 1972. He went on to serve our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, after which Mike began what would be a long career of service to the State of New Hampshire, first as a N.H. State trooper after graduating from the 47th New Hampshire Police Academy. He continued his career in law enforcement service, joining the Salem Police Department where he rose to the rank of detective sergeant. Mike was a graduate of the Command Training Institute at Babson College, and earned an associate's degree from Southern New Hampshire University and a bachelor's degree from Franklin Pierce College.



After his retirement from the Salem Police Department, Mike continued his public service through his work in the State legislature. He served three terms as a State representative and then served two terms as a State senator, where he held the position of senate minority leader. In 2010, Mike returned to his law enforcement roots and was elected the High Sheriff of Rockingham County. Downing was serving in his third term as sheriff at the time of his passing.

In addition to his professional and elected service to the State of New Hampshire, Mike was very active in his local community. He gave generously of his time and energy as the 301st captain commanding of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, an ASA Salem softball coach, a NH Little League coach, a member of the Knights of Columbus, trustee of Amvets Post 2, a past president and board member of Salem Haven Nursing Home and Silverthorne Adult Daycare, a member of the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Association, Rockingham County Chiefs of Police Association, International Chiefs of Police Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the NH Sheriffs' Association and a founding board member of Isaiah 58, a nonprofit organization focused on helping the homeless population of Rockingham County.

Most recently, he was honored as the 2015 recipient of the Chief John P. Ganley Community Service Award which is presented to an individual "who has exhibited concern, involvement and leadership in the community of Salem; while providing inspiration to others, through his or her dedication, integrity and courage in the manner exemplified by Chief John P. Ganley during his life on earth."

Sheriff Downing leaves behind the love of his life, his wife Heidi Downing and their five children, Jennifer, Jessica, Kaitlin, Kelsey, and Michael along with six grandchildren, Charlotte, Bella, Jacob, Logan, TJ, and Max. He also leaves his parents, Delbert and Teresa Downing. We are all deeply saddened by the loss of our friend Mike, an extraordinary man and proud New Hampshire son who served our State and Nation with honor, courage, and dedication. He represented the very best of our State, and I ask my colleagues to join me in sending Heidi and her family our deepest condolences and our gratitude for Mike's life of service to the people of New Hampshire.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SANDERS and I be permitted to engage in a colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last week marked an important step as we worked in a bipartisan manner to improve the lives of survivors of trafficking. We were able to move the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act forward and help provide direct supports and services for these survivors, thanks to support from the Community Health Center Fund.

Community health centers are the safety net providers of our health care system. In my home State of Washington, they provide full health care services for working families across the State, and they work tirelessly to ensure that individuals get the supports and services they need. Community health centers help keep health care costs down and keep people out of the emergency room by improving health outcomes for the populations they serve.

Our community health centers were strengthened by the work in the Affordable Care Act, and I am proud that we were able to once again work together to strengthen them as part of the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act earlier this year.

This was a very unique circumstance, and it is not a precedent for Congress to draw on the Community Health Center Fund for other purposes. It is my hope and intention that this was the one and only time Congress draws money from the health center fund to pay for other programs. This funding was intended to keep the health centers program whole so that more than 1,300 health centers nationwide can continue to provide access to care for their patients for the next 2 years.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as you know, I have worked for many years to ensure all Americans have access to primary care. Community health centers are instrumental in providing that access to primary medical, oral, and mental health care. Right now, community health centers provide primary care to 24 million patients in 9,000 underserved communities in every State and territory across the country.

Until last month, health centers were facing a 70-percent reduction in funding this fall due to the expiration of the Community Health Center Fund. On an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, I was very pleased that Congress was able to extend the health center fund in the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act bill for 2 years to avert this massive cut to the program.

Although I supported legislation to provide funds for victims of trafficking, taking money recently allocated to community health centers in the SGR bill to pay for health care services for victims of trafficking was not a good solution. Both of these programs serve important populations with significant health care needs, and I understand from those who nego-

tiated this agreement that the funding transfer was a special circumstance as a way to move forward on this bill.

It is my hope and understanding from the bill sponsors that this was the one and only time Congress draws money from the Health Center Fund to pay for other programs.

Mrs. MURRAY. I am proud of the progress we have been able to make for survivors of trafficking and that we were able to use community health centers funding to help this very vulnerable population at a time when they need it the most.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CASEY and I be permitted to engage in a colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 63RD NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, earlier this year, Senator CASEY and I had the honor of serving as the cohosts of the National Prayer Breakfast. The annual event is a longtime tradition that celebrates the importance of faith and fellowship in our lives. This year's breakfast featured moving prayers, songs, and speeches from a number of notable guests, including race car legend Darrell Waltrip.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, Senator WICKER and I would like to thank all of the individuals who were involved in making the 2015 National Prayer Breakfast a great success. Thousands of people from across the country and world participated, including President Obama and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

On behalf of Senator WICKER and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the full transcript be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

63RD NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015, WASHINGTON, DC, CO-CHAIRS: SENATOR ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER

The Honorable ROGER F. WICKER: Good morning, everyone. I am Senator Roger Wicker from Mississippi, and together with my colleague, Senator Bob Casey from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we welcome you to the 63rd Annual National Prayer Breakfast.

It is an honor to serve with Bob as co-chairman this year, and we thank you for joining us this morning. Each year this event is one of the most special and memorable in Washington. Today, some 3,500 of us have gathered in this ballroom and in auxiliary rooms down the hall. We represent all 50 states and 130 nations. As the Psalm says, "Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for Thou shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations of the earth. Let the people praise Thee, oh God. Let all the people praise Thee." So, for the 130 nations represented in this room today—be glad, be joyful, and praise God.

Since 1953, the National Prayer Breakfast has exemplified and celebrated the power of prayer and fellowship in our lives. We come together as Ephesians 5:19 directs us, "Addressing one another in Psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart."

We have a truly remarkable program with guests and performers this morning. Like our weekly prayer breakfasts in the Senate and the House, we will have Scripture, prayers, songs, and speakers sharing their stories and reflections. Our hope is that you leave today with new blessings and perspectives about the strong community of faith in this country and around the world.

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.: My name is Bob Casey and I'm honored to be here this morning with my co-chair, Roger Wicker, my friend who has labored with us these two years. Roger, we're grateful for your work.

In just a few minutes we'll have the opportunity to give a warm welcome to the President and the First Lady when they arrive. And in the meantime, we hope you are enjoying your breakfast and getting to know those at your table, if you don't know them already. We're honored you're with us.

And now to lead us in our first prayer, I'm happy to welcome Rabbi Gregory Marx to the podium. For more than twenty-five years, Rabbi Marx has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. We are grateful that he is with us today. And he will do our prayer and then we'll have a break, and then we'll go to the second part of the program. Rabbi Marx.

Rabbi GREGORY S. MARX: Thank you, Senator. Good morning.

The Biblical prophet, Micah proclaimed: It has been told you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you, only to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Justice without mercy leads to harsh judgment. Mercy without justice creates a world where there's no accountability, no moral goodness. At this moment, may God bless us with both mercy and justice so that we may tenderly care for those in need of compassion and rejoice in the good of others. We celebrate this morning our uniqueness as well as our commonality. We come from our different faith perspectives, yet are united in a fervent desire to strengthen the hands and the hearts of those who seek to build an enduring society, which tolerates neither bigotry nor hatred. Master of the universe, inspire us to release those reservoirs of spirit and mind which make us truly partners with you. Grant us patience and hopefulness in our daily tasks. May we never give in to despair, despite their enormity. Give us love for truth above cleverness, for people above things, for God above all else. Remind us in the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, that religious devotion is not about having God on our side, which mistakenly prompts us to condemn the faith of others, but rather it is about being on God's side, which requires devotion to civic duty, tolerance, humility, justice, mercy, and peace. Be with us, oh God, as we seek to establish new ties of friendship across religious, racial, and ethnic boundaries, to create innovative opportunities of service, to rejoice in the growth of all of our children. And to lovingly and faithfully support our fellow men and women who are in need of God's care and affection. May God bless our beloved and noble country and those who defend her, so that each may one day sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid. Give us, oh God, the

good sense and understanding to buttress the moral fiber of American life, that we may gird ourselves with integrity, and to successfully meet the immense challenges before us. Keep us, oh God, from pride which prevents us from seeing the need for real change and steel us with a commitment to stay the course when necessary. Most of all, oh God, shield us from impatient judgment towards those who differ from us. May we always remember that you are exalted, oh God whenever and wherever men and women work together to fulfill Micah's prophetic vision of justice, mercy, humility. And let us say, Amen.

Senator WICKER: Thank you Rabbi Marx. At this point, continue enjoying your breakfast and the conversation with our table guests. The President and his party will be here in a few moments.

[Applause]

Senator CASEY: May everyone have a seat. Thanks very much everyone. We're honored that the President and the First Lady are with us. As Senator Wicker and I said earlier, we're honored you're with us this morning, and we're grateful for the folks who helped put this breakfast together every year.

I'm honored to share with everyone in this audience an excerpt from a message from Rome, by Pope Francis. This message is to all of us gathered here at this National Prayer Breakfast, and he writes in part, and I quote:

"Dear Friends, I send prayerful good wishes for you, for the fruitfulness of your work. I ask you to pray for me, and to join me in praying for our brothers and our sisters throughout the world who experience persecution and death for their faith. Upon you, your families, and those whom you serve, I cordially invoke God's blessings of wisdom, joy, and peace."

We're honored that the Holy Father would send us that message. The entirety of the message will be read at today's luncheon. While Pope Francis couldn't be with us today in person, His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, the Holy Father's representative in the United States is here today and we're honored by his presence.

All of us, as well have the extraordinary privilege today to be joined at this breakfast by another inspirational spiritual leader and peacemaker, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We're honored by his presence. [Applause]

When I was in state government in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I worked in the finance building, and right over the building in the front of the building, was an inscription that I think is a good summation of what it means to be in public service. And I'm quoting from that precept inscribed on the building—here's what it says: "All public service is a trust given in faith and accepted in honor." Senator Wicker and I, and those who are in the room who are elected officials, have accepted that honor to serve. We also feel privileged. I know this is true of Roger, and me, and so many others, but we're privileged to do our work in the Senate, but the excessive partisanship and politics that occurs in this town too often gets in the way and divides the Senate. That's why the weekly prayer breakfast on Wednesdays, on every Wednesday that the Senate is in session, is a way for us to have an oasis from the politics of the place. We gather at that breakfast for prayer and to share some time with each other every Wednesday morning—just as we're doing this morning with people from so many different states, different countries, backgrounds, faiths, and

beliefs. We're reminded this morning of the journey, the journey of faith that we're all on, and we believe that faith is a gift, and a gift that we're blessed by today and express gratitude. Senator Wicker. [Applause]

Senator WICKER: Thank you, Bob. The Senate prayer breakfast dates back to World War II when a group of legislators met in the Senate restaurant. We can only imagine the conversations that took place during those early days as the deadliest conflict in human history swept the globe. Then as now, the weekly meetings which occur when the Senate is in session have remained largely low profile. In January of 1943, an article from the Washington Post describes them as without fanfare, front-page publicity or ballyhoo, and that is still true. In many ways our prayer breakfast is a welcome sanctuary from the politics and the partisanship we hear about. Each week we sing a hymn, we hear prayer requests that we call the "sick and wounded report." We actually join hands and we pray together. And we hear a presentation from one of our members, but not before a very thorough introduction of that member by either Senator Mike Enzi or Senator Jim Inhofe. Now, Senator Inhofe and Enzi are here today, and I think it's high time that something be said about their introductions. Everything we do at the prayer breakfast is off the record, but this needs to be said about Senator Enzi and Senator Inhofe's introductions. Neither opposition research professionals nor the FBI have a thing on Enzi and Inhofe when it comes to background checks. Mike and Jim relentlessly call former classmates, teachers, old friends, and relatives to discover something a little unusual about each week's presenter. Sometimes I wince. Sometimes I cringe. But the introduction always ends on a high note with a verse of Scripture and the suggestion that our speaker is much like a Biblical character of old. Thank you for that, Jim. Thank you for that, Mike.

And then we hear from the Senator himself or herself, a Democrat one week, a Republican the next week. What we learn about each other is a lot. During my time in the Senate prayer breakfast, we've heard from our own American sniper, our own astronaut, he's here today, our own missionaries, and we've had several, and our own award-winning composer. From camp directors, to university presidents, we've heard the good and the bad. We've heard about difficult family backgrounds. We've heard about financial bankruptcy and home foreclosures, and we've heard about spiritual journeys, from the heights of achievement to really, really tough times. It has been said, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us," and that is true about the attendees in the Senate prayer breakfast. In short, on Wednesday mornings we learn we are a lot like you, and you, and every other child of God, and almost always I come away with a blessing. This morning, I acknowledge and thank the people who have gone before Bob and me in the Senate prayer breakfast leadership over the period of six decades, and along with Bob, I'm honored to continue in their tradition.

Now at this time, it is my pleasure to recognize a few distinguished guests at our head table who will not be given the opportunity to speak. And I'll ask the next three ladies to stand and remain standing, Mrs. Stevie Waltrip, Mrs. Therese Casey, and Mrs. Gayle Wicker. Thank you for joining us, ladies. Thank you so much, you may be seated.

And it is my very special honor at this point to ask each of you to give our appreciation and love to the First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Michelle Obama. [Applause]

And now, it is a special privilege for me as a Senator from Mississippi to introduce a familiar face from home. Jasmine Murray is from Columbus, Mississippi. She has been a broadcast communication major at Mississippi State University. She was a finalist on American Idol. And she was a finalist in the Miss America Pageant where she proudly represented my home state of Mississippi. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Miss Mississippi, Jasmine Murray. [Applause]

Ms. JASMINE MURRAY: [Singing]  
Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,

Why should my heart feel lonely, and long for heaven and home,

When Jesus is my portion? A constant friend is He:

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches over me;

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches over me.

I sing because I'm happy,

I sing because I'm free.

His eye is on the sparrow,

And I know He watches me.

His eye is on the sparrow,

And I know He watches, I know He watches, I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,

I sing because I'm free.

His eye is on the sparrow,

And I know He watches me.

His eye is on the sparrow,

And I know He watches me.

He watches me. I know He watches me. He watches me.

Ms. MURRAY: Thank you.

Senator WICKER: Thank you! Jasmine, that was wonderful. Thank you, that was just great. I'm delighted to introduce our next guest. He's a former Mayor of San Antonio and current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. As a member of the President's Cabinet, he represents the executive branch of the family while his twin brother, Joaquin, covers the legislative side as a member of the House of Representatives. Please warmly welcome to read from the Old Testament, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Julian Castro. [Applause]

The Honorable JULIAN CASTRO: Thank you. Thank you so much Mr. President for the great assist, good morning, and to Mrs. Obama, and to co-chairs Senator Casey and Senator Wicker, and to all of our distinguished guests. It's a great honor to join you on this day of prayer and of peace. Last week I had the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles where I met some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, men and women living every day with homelessness. Although they have endured incredibly difficult circumstances, it was clear to me that they have never let their hardship extinguish their hope. I spoke with an older woman who spends her nights on a tattered quilt over cold concrete. Night after night, that wears on a person's body, yet this woman's spirit was unbroken and her faith is a true testament of strength and of grace. And it was this angel in the City of Angels, who reminded me that the true measure of our progress is how we care for those with the least.

The passage that I will read speaks to the hope we must preserve, the needs we must meet, and the common humanity that we must always honor. A reading from the book of Isaiah:

Is this the manner of fasting I would choose, a day to afflict one's self, to bow one's head like a reed and lie upon sack cloth and ashes? Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is this not rather the fast I choose—releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke, setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and homeless into your house, clothing the naked when you see them and not turning your back on your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall be quickly healed. Your vindication shall go before you and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer. You shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the accusing finger and malicious speech, if you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom shall become like midday.

Thank you, and may God bless you. [Applause]

Senator CASEY: Thank you, Secretary Castro. Our prayer for the poor this morning will be offered by Sister Mary Scullion, a woman who has devoted her life to service, advocacy, and of course, God. She is one of the founders of Project HOME in Philadelphia; I'm proud to say that today. Project HOME is a truly exceptional organization that does the important work of providing housing, employment opportunities, and medical care and education for the homeless and the impoverished. For her work, Sister Mary was named one of Time Magazine's world's 100 most influential people in 2009. Sister Mary.

Sister MARY SCULLION: It's an honor to be here, Mr. President and Mrs. Obama, thank you very much, and all honored guests. And greetings to everyone from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

God of compassion and justice, we humbly come before you with gratitude and a clear understanding that it is in you that we all find our home. For when we are rooted in your truth and grace, we are empowered to pray: thy kingdom come. We recall how through the ages, you've been a God of compassion, justice, and liberation, with a special love for the poor and the oppressed. We remember your servant Moses leading your people out of bondage. We recall Jesus, healing the sick and proclaiming good news to the poor. We recall those times in our own nation's history when moved by the promise of liberty and empowered by Your Spirit, courageous leaders worked to end slavery, to enfranchise women, to welcome immigrants, and to expand economic opportunity for all. Your constant revelation, God, is one of non-violent liberation from anything that oppresses the human spirit. As we gather here, millions of your beloved children are suffering under the burden of poverty, oppression, and violence. Our prayers today can only be authentic if they compel us to act. Let us hear the cry of the loving parents struggling to provide for their children. Let us hear the cry of those all around our world impacted by violence, and those in our nation who suffer the wounds of gun violence. Let us hear the cry of millions of children whose magnificent gifts and possibilities are lost in under-resourced schools and economically plundered neighborhoods, condemning them to a life of persistent poverty. Let us hear the cry of our veterans suffering from the wounds of war, especially those who are homeless. Open our eyes, Lord, so we can see

suffering as a prophetic sign that calls us to radical transformation. God, we know that our faith does not give us answers; it gives us courage. As a people of faith, we pray for the courage to live truthfully, justly, and compassionately. Help us to see through our hypocrisy and falsehood, empower us to stand squarely on the side of those who are poor and struggling on the margins. Help us to move beyond our ideological polarizations and economic disparities. Form us into a united community that affirms each person's dignity and works towards a shared prosperity. Let us build a society free from the scourge of poverty, a society that truly reflects Your Kingdom. Most of all, let us understand that your ancient call for compassion and justice is in truth, an invitation to us for fullness of life, and richness of human community. As we meet the needs of those who are poor, we are healing ourselves and our nation. As we ensure that all families have enough to eat, we are building the banquet table for everyone. As we work to provide health care and education, we are making our whole society healthier and wiser. As we bring those living on our streets home, we are finding our own way home because none of us are home until all of us are home. Fill us with that same spirit of liberation that filled Jesus and the prophets. Fill us with that spirit of joy, of hope that inspired the prophet Isaiah in his powerful challenge. If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noon day. God of compassion, God of justice, fill us with this yearning and give us the strength, the grace, the courage to make it real each and every day as we pray: thy kingdom come. Amen. [Applause]

Senator WICKER: Thank you, Sister Mary. A few minutes ago when I said, "Perhaps someone within the sound of my voice could come to my assistance," I guess that did include you, Mr. President. Though I thought perhaps someone else would step forward, but thank you young man for figuring that out.

I first became involved in the Prayer Breakfast as a House member, and I'm delighted today to introduce to say a few words, the co-chairs from the House Prayer Breakfast. Congressman Robert Aderholt, serving his 10th term from Alabama, and Congressman Juan Vargas, serving his second term from California, are the co-chairs in the House, and by virtue of that, they will be the co-chairs of the next breakfast, the 64th Annual National Prayer Breakfast. Ladies and gentlemen, Robert Aderholt and Juan Vargas. [Applause]

The Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT: Good morning. It's a real honor for Juan and myself to be here on behalf of the House breakfast, which meets every Thursday morning at eight o'clock, about this time in the Capitol, when the House is in session. The House of Representatives weekly prayer group meets and we come together as Democrats and Republicans. We come together once a week, not promoting a party; we're not promoting a particular issue, or a particular agenda. I'm a Republican from Alabama, Juan is a Democrat from California but we come together that one hour during the week to promote Jesus.

We're told in John 3 that Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the son of man must be lifted up . . . that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." And that is what we promote during that week—Jesus of Nazareth. And we

are honored to be here this morning. We're glad to be here with our colleagues and all of our friends, and our family from literally around the world and it is an honor to work together in a bipartisan effort and to work as I say, with our colleagues and especially this year to work with my colleague, Juan Vargas from California. [Applause]

The Honorable JUAN C. VARGAS: Thank you, and greetings from the Prayer Breakfast. Mr. President, it was great to see the assist that you gave today. We went to law school together, played against him a couple times in basketball, he didn't assist like that. It was a little rougher out there. That was great to see.

We do come together every Thursday morning and we call it the best hour of the week. We come together as Democrats and Republicans. Who would have guessed—a California Democrat and someone from Alabama who is a Republican? But we come together and we pray, and we bring Jesus into our prayers and we lift up the country, we lift up the Congress. And we know that special things can happen, and they do. And because of that, I think we're all here today and appreciate very, very much the prayers that you all have for us. We know that you pray for us throughout the country. I've gone to many, many services where we hear that you pray for our leaders, you pray for the President, you pray for all of us in public office. And we love that and understand that, and we bring those prayers up too. So again, thank you very much. And for all of my colleagues, I invite you to come and pray with us every Thursday morning. It's the best hour of the week from eight in the morning until nine, and it really is something special. You get to meet people that you wouldn't otherwise. Who would have known that I would have loved Louie Gohmert? Louie Gohmert has been one of our leaders and it's just fabulous to come and pray with him. He brings us Jesus every Thursday, so thank you very much. It's an honor to be here. [Applause]

Senator CASEY: Thank you very much for the Members of Congress. I'm pleased to introduce The Honorable Deborah Lee James, the 23rd Secretary of the United States Air Force. She joins us today to offer a prayer for the leaders of our nation. Secretary James, of course is a distinguished leader in her own right for our nation's military, and has the responsibility of managing more than 690,000 Air Force personnel and a budget of 110 billion dollars. Please welcome Secretary Deborah Lee James. Madam Secretary. [Applause]

The Honorable DEBORAH LEE JAMES: Thank you so much, Senator Casey, Senator Wicker. It is truly an honor and a privilege for me to come before all of you today. Mr. President, Mrs. Obama, Senators, Congressmen, distinguished guests, friends and allies from around the world, may I please invite all of you to join me in a prayer for our national leaders.

Oh mighty God, it is in you that we trust. We ask for your blessings on our President, Barack Obama. Lord, grant him the wisdom and the vision to lead our nation toward a more just, peaceful, and prosperous world. Help him to keep the beacon of American freedom burning brightly as an inspiration to all who long to live free from fear, free from want, free to speak, and free to worship as they choose. We ask you also, Lord, to bless our First Lady, Michelle Obama. Strengthen her as she works to inspire all of America's children to reach higher and to live healthier lives, so that one day they will

be ready to build strong families of their own, compassionate communities, and contribute to a better world. Please guide our Vice President, Joe Biden, Lord, and all the members of the President's cabinet. Grant to these and all others who serve and advise our President the grace to lean not only on their own understanding, but also to trust in you with all of their hearts. Lord, bless our lawmakers sent from every corner of America to form our Congress. Grant them the priceless gifts of insight, courage, and unity. Shepherd them by your spirit to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Grant our Chief Justice and all of our judicial leaders across the nation your wisdom, Lord, that they may judge the law impartially as instruments of your will. And very close to my heart, Lord, please, please protect our men and women in uniform and all who stand in harm's way to preserve the freedoms we cherish for our children and grandchildren. And as you watch over those serving far from home, also please encourage those who wait for their return, and comfort those who have suffered unspeakable losses. Lord, may the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us, and the lives of the heroes who walk amongst us, let those individuals inspire the rest of us to give our country, and our communities, and our families the very best that we can with our wholeness of heart, particularly in these uncertain times. Being always mindful and grateful to you, Lord, for the many blessings that you have bestowed on us, Amen. [Applause]

Senator WICKER: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Thank you so much. As you can see from the program in front of you, our next speaker was to be King Abdullah II of Jordan. We all know the heartbreaking circumstances his country is experiencing at this point. They required that His Majesty King Abdullah return to Jordan. Our prayers are with the people of Jordan during this troubling time of crisis. The passage that King Abdullah was expected to read is from the New Testament, Luke 10, and I will read this passage at this point. Luke 10:

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply, Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was and when he saw him he took pity on him. He went to him and he bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, and then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he took out two denarii and gave them to the inn keeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hand of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

May God add His blessing to the reading of His Holy Word.

Senator WICKER: At this point it is my pleasure to introduce to you our next guest. He too has been recognized by Time Magazine. For 2014, he was one of the persons of the year of Time Magazine. Dr. Kent Brantly and his colleagues became known as the Ebola fighters for their work saving lives and caring for those affected by this deadly disease. As a doctor with the Christian relief organization, Samaritan's Purse, Dr. Brantly contracted Ebola in Liberia. Now fully recovered, he gives thanks to God and to the power of prayer. Today he is with us to offer a prayer for the leaders of the world, please warmly welcome Dr. Kent Brantly. [Applause]

Dr. KENT BRANTLY: Let us pray. Our Father who art in heaven. The Lord, the Lord, the God of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness, lover of all peoples of the earth, there is no God like you in all of heaven above or on the earth below. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. Hallowed by thy name. Remind us that all nations are as nothing before you, their governments but a shadow of passing age, all authorities are intended to be your servants, to do good to the people under their care and to ensure justice for those who have been wronged. But we all, including our leaders, will stand before your judgment seat, oh God, and as surely as you live, oh Lord, every knee will bow and every tongue confess and give praise to you. Thy kingdom come on earth. Grant to thy children throughout the world, and especially to the leaders of the nations the gifts of prayerful thought and of thoughtful prayer that following the example of our Lord, we may discern what is right and do it. Bless the leaders of the nations that they may not walk in the council of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. Bless the leaders of the nations that they might delight in the law of the Lord, that they might meditate on it day and night that Thy will might be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help us, Lord to protect and to provide for all who are hungry and homeless, especially those who are deprived of food and shelter, family and friends. For true religion that is acceptable to you, oh Lord, is this, to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to flee corruption. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us for neglecting to seek peace and pursue it, and finding ourselves in each new crisis more ready to make war than to make peace, for choosing violence and war over peace and reconciliation. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as our selves. Forgive us for neglecting the needs of our people, for choosing corruption and greed over integrity and generosity. Forgive us for oppressing the minority while the majority is filled with pride and self reliance. We have all sinned and fallen short of your glory, oh Lord. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Let us not seek revenge but reconciliation. Let us not delight in victory but in justice. Let us not give ourselves up to pride, but to prayer. Lead us not into temptation. Be present, Lord, to all your children. Be present to those who are killing, and to those who are being killed. Be present to the oppressed and to the oppressor. Be present to the leaders of the nations. Deliver us from evil. Subdue our selfish desires to possess and to dominate. Forbid us arrogance and victory, and self-pity, and defeat. Bless the leaders of the nations, Father,

that they might act justly and love mercy, and walk humbly with you, oh God. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen. [Applause]

Senator WICKER: Thank you Dr. Brantly, and please pass along our good wishes to our friends at Samaritan's Purse. Ladies and gentlemen, the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing, commonly known as NASCAR, is second only to the National Football League in terms of TV ratings in our country. NASCAR races are broadcast in over 150 countries. Our keynote speaker this morning is one of the best known figures in NASCAR. Simply put, Darrell Waltrip is one of the great race car drivers in history. In 1 Corinthians 9:24 we hear, "Do you not know that in a race, all runners run." (The internal combustion engine had not been invented back then.) "All runners run but only one receives the prize." Well, Darrell Waltrip has received that winning prize some 84 times. He's driven 809 races and 237,773 laps. His life story includes an important faith journey. I believe God has placed a message on Darrell's heart that can benefit us today. But first, let's see this clip from 1991 at the Daytona Speedway.

[Clip from Daytona Speedway, showing Darrell Waltrip's car crashing]

Senator WICKER: Well, he made it. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Darrell Waltrip. [Applause]

MR. DARRELL WALTRIP: Let's go racing boys. I always chuckle when I see that clip because my insurance man says, "Have you ever had an accident?" I've had a couple. But good morning, Mr. President, First Lady, all of the distinguished guests, Congress members, everybody that's here this morning. This is a huge honor for a kid that grew up in Owensboro, Kentucky, and now resides in Franklin, Tennessee.

So, I knew about the Prayer Breakfast. I'd heard about it. It's been going on since the early 1940s, so I'd heard about it for a long time. But I have to tell you a quick story:

When the "committee" called me and asked me, "Would I like to come have breakfast with the President?" I said, "Wow, they must know it's my birthday. What an honor to go to Washington, D.C., and have breakfast with the president. Oh, this is going to be great." "And by the way, we'd like for you to be the keynote speaker." "Ah, I'll get back to you on that." But I thought about it, prayed about it—and I've got a lot of really great friends that pray for me all the time—but I thought about it, Mr. President, and said, "I've got it. I'm not a brain surgeon, and I'm not running for office, so I'm the perfect guy to be here this morning." [Applause]

I hope that was okay. My wife told me maybe I shouldn't say that, but she's sitting down there shaking her head now. But anyway, I'd like to introduce my family. You've already met my beautiful, redheaded wife Stevie. Jessica and Sarah, my two daughters, and their husbands, Fausto and Matthew, are out there, and it makes me feel so good to have them here this morning with me. I love my family, and I love the Lord.

If the room should start vibrating just a little bit—don't get excited, don't get nervous—it's just all my friends back in Franklin, Tennessee, my Tuesday morning Bible study group, all my friends over in Charlotte, North Carolina, at Motor Racing Outreach, our ministry at the track. All my friends are praying for me right now. And I don't know if you can feel it or not, but I certainly can, and I'm thankful for it. So if

it starts shaking a little bit, it's okay. It's just the Lord. He's amongst us. [Applause]

Being here this morning reminds me of this: Before you start a big event as a driver, like the Daytona 500, which comes up in a couple of weeks on Fox, you go down on pit road, you get in your car—and quite honestly, I did it for 30 years but it never failed, always that adrenaline, those butterflies, being excited, nervous. Because when they dropped the green flag and they say, "Let's go racing boys," you didn't really know what was going to happen. And so, that's kind of how I feel this morning. I really don't know what's going to happen here, folks. They kept asking me, "Do you have an outline?" I said, "No, I've never really done an outline for a speech before." That's when they thought maybe I wasn't the right guy for this show.

I've got to tell you this. I probably shouldn't, but I'm going to: So, they call me up, and they tell me all the great speakers that have been here before. And as they went down the list, I said, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait just a minute, boys. I'm just not sure I'm qualified for this job." And they said, "Well, we kind of knew that going in." So, right away I knew I was in good company.

I think all of us in this room know that sometimes your biggest assets can be something that works against you. They can be a blessing and a curse, and that's really how racing was for me. It was sort of a blessing and a curse. I grew up in Owensboro, Kentucky. My dad drove a Pepsi-Cola truck. My mom was a cashier at the local grocery store. I had two brothers and two sisters. We didn't have a lot of money; we worked hard to put food on the table. And so, when I went to races as a six-year-old kid with my grandmother and came home and told Mom and Dad that someday I wanted to be a race car driver, they said, "Good luck, son." My dad was a believer in hard work. He said, "You know, if you really work hard, and that's what you want to do, then maybe someday you'll be successful." But that was about all the encouragement my dad gave me, because racing is expensive. It costs a lot of money to go racing, so we didn't have a lot of money. So, I had to figure out a way to make that happen. I became a self-promoter—in other words, I bragged a lot. God had given me a talent; there was no question about that. I don't know where it came from. There's no reason for me to be able to do what I did other than that was my passion, that's what I cared about. I tell kids every day—and Mr. President, you know this—there's nothing any more discouraging and disheartening when you ask a kid, "What are you going to do when you grow up?" "I don't know." "Really? Embrace something. You've got to have a passion." Well, my passion was racing, and quite honestly, I went at it all the wrong ways in the early years. I was just as aggressive off the racetrack as I was on. I didn't have a lot of friends. I didn't think I needed friends. I looked over in the car, and I was the only one ever in there, so I didn't need any friends to be with me. So, my relationships early on in my life were shallow. I didn't have any really close friends. Quite honestly, I looked back, and it's the hardest thing for me to do this morning—to look back—because when I look back, I see things that are disturbing to me. I can see things and say, "How could I have felt that way? How could I have acted that way? How could I have been that way?" But I was.

And you're going to love this. This is what people said about me: They said I was brash, ruthless—ruthless?—pushy, cocky, con-

ceited, aloof, boastful, arrogant, and just downright annoying. I hope you don't feel that way this morning, but if you do, I'm sorry. And I've got to tell you, those were people that liked me. You could imagine what people who didn't like me had to say about me. The fans booed me when we'd have driver introductions. It would be just like if I got up this morning to speak, and they started booing. Instead of hollering "boogity, boogity, boogity," they would start booing. Fans wore "Anybody but Waltrip" T-shirts to the track. They hated me. The drivers despised me. Richard Petty once told me: "I don't know how you keep a sponsor. You're so unpopular with the fans; I don't know how you keep a sponsor." And this is Richard Petty. He's the icon of our sport. He's the king of our sport. I wanted to be king, but I went at it all the wrong ways, for sure. I was always arguing with NASCAR. I didn't like the rules, mainly because they never worked in my favor, so I was always trying to change the rules. We know guys like that, right? Always wanting to change the rules. [Laughter, Applause.] I always like to say I fought the wall, [and] the wall won. I fought the law, and the law won. Those were the things that were going on at the track, and quite honestly, my personal life wasn't much better. I was so arrogant. I really was, and that's why I say it's the hardest thing for me to do. My kids are sitting out here for heaven's sake. But the hardest thing to do is to look back and see how you were. My personal life was a mess. I drank too much. I liked to go to the bars and hang out with the boys. I did everything to satisfy me. Whatever felt good to me, I did it; I didn't give it a second thought—that was my lifestyle, that's how I lived. Like I told you, I didn't have any great friends. I didn't have any close friends. Heck, I always figured if you wanted a friend, get a dog. I have several dogs.

But my wife, my beautiful wife, my red-headed wife whom I love dearly—we've been married 45 years. [Applause] That in of itself is a miracle. She was married to that guy I was telling you about. She lived it. My wife once described me as this: that she had lived with two different men with the same name. And that might be a little confusing to you, and so obviously I must explain. But that first guy that I told you about, that was the guy she was married to originally. I knew God had his hand on me when I met Stevie. I didn't acknowledge it. I didn't necessarily follow through, but it's one of the few times in the early years of my life that I felt like God spoke to me. God said to me, "I gave you this woman. I brought you this woman. Don't let her get away." And so, I tried to always be on my best behavior when I was around her, and certainly when I was around her mother and father, because they didn't think a whole lot about a race car driver. When her father asked me, "How are you going to support Stevie?" I said, "I'm going to be a professional race car driver." He was the president of Texas Gas, and he didn't quite understand how a race car driver could make a living and be able to support his daughter. He wasn't sold on the idea at first but he became a big fan as time went by.

So, Stevie would always pray for me. She is a Godly woman, and she loved the Lord way before I did. And she would always pray that someday, somehow we would get involved in a Bible study or that I would, that I would get involved in a Bible study, or a church, or something. And I'd always kind of blow her off, and I'd say, "Look honey, I race on Sundays. I don't have time to go to

church. I'm busy all through the week getting ready for the next race. I just don't have time for this church stuff and this God stuff. I just don't have time, okay." And you know what she said? "Well, I'll just keep on praying." And let me tell you, when somebody says they're praying for you, you better pay attention and don't take it lightly. People don't pray for you if they don't care about you and if they don't love you. [Applause.] Amen, amen. It used to happen to me at the track, and people would come up and say, "I'm praying for you." And I'd say, "Oh, thank you very much. I've got to go now." Don't ever do that. Embrace that person, because it's not a waste of time. It's them embracing you and caring about you, and that's the most important thing in the world is that we all care about each other.

I almost had us do this, and Stevie talked me out of it. At home when we pray, we hold hands. And in Bible study when we pray, we kind of lock arms or hold hands. I was going to ask everybody in the room to hold hands while we pray, but then I thought maybe you weren't that close just yet, so I kind of let that one go.

I got a great opportunity in 1983. I got a chance to drive for Junior Johnson. Junior Johnson was a childhood hero. He's the last American hero. They made a film about him. They wrote books about him. He was the last American hero. As a kid growing up in Owensboro, I listened to my little transistor radio, and Junior Johnson drove this white #3 Chevrolet with a 427 mystery engine. Junior Johnson, a moonshiner from Wilkesboro, North Carolina, car #3 with a mystery engine. I mean, that's hero material right there for a guy like me. So obviously, I thought maybe someday I'd get to meet him, but never thought that someday I'd get to drive for him. Those were the best years of my career—'81, '82 we won 24 races, 18 pole positions, 2 championships. But Junior was a no-nonsense kind of guy. He said, "Let me tell you something, boy: When you come to drive for me, you work your hands and not your mouth." I said, "Yes, sir." Because when Junior spoke, I listened. We had great times together. We won races together, but in 1983 I had a horrible wreck—worse than that one you saw there. I had a concussion. I went for a couple of weeks to the next couple of races, and I didn't even remember being there. And when I finally came to, or woke up, I realized that that wreck had knocked me conscious. It scared the hell out of me, and I mean that literally. I realized I could have been killed that day. What if I would have lost my life right there that day at Daytona? What would I have done? Would I have gone to heaven? Or would I have gone to hell? I thought I was a pretty good guy. But folks, let me tell you something: Good guys go to hell. If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, if you don't have a relationship, if He's not the master of your life, if you've never gotten on your knees and asked him to forgive you of your sins, you're just a pretty good guy or a pretty good gal. You're going to go to hell. Think about that. I did. And like I said, it was a wake-up call. It literally knocked me conscious.

Stevie and I started going to church. We met Dr. Cortez Cooper, one of the Godliest men—preached from the Bible, loved sports, a lot like the President. He could play any sport, he pretty much knew a little bit about every sport there was, and he knew me personally. And because of him, and him talking to me just like I'm talking to you this morning, every time I went to hear him preach, I

felt like he was talking directly to me. And so, we met in a high school in Hillsboro, just outside of Nashville there while they were building a big sanctuary. It was July; it was hot, kind of like being in a race car—no air conditioning. I got down off my high horse, I got down on my knees, and Dr. Cortez Cooper and Stevie and I prayed that the Lord would come into my life and forgive me of my sins and be my Lord and Savior. And that was the greatest day of my life. [Applause]

That changed everything. I'll never forget: We were going home from that night, and I told Stevie, "Man, I feel like the weight of the world has been lifted off of my shoulders. I feel like I've been born again. I feel like a new man." I felt different, and I knew I was different. When the Lord comes into your life, you're going to be different. You have to be different. If he comes into your heart, into your life, and you're not different, you better go back and try it again, because the Lord changes you. And He changed me, and it was for the better. And we left there that night, and did it fix all? Listen, you don't make a deal with the Lord: "Hey Lord, if you do this, I'll do that." It don't work that way, folks. He's there for you. He's there to walk with you. But you've got to do your part, too. So did my life, my personal life, change things on the race track? I still had wrecks. I still had problems. Things still happened, but I wasn't in it alone. Where I felt like I was always in it by myself, now I had somebody to pray with, talk with, to guide me, direct me—the wisdom of the Lord. I had it, and I needed to use it.

Stevie and I wanted to have a family. We were having trouble having kids. We had a couple of miscarriages, and we were praying, "God, can you give us a child?" And we'd gotten to the point where we thought we'd just adopt. We're not going to be able to have kids on our own, so we'll adopt. And then Stevie got pregnant, and we prayed, and the Lord gave us peace about it. He said, "Hang in there this time, I've got something special for you." And sure enough: Jessica Lee Waltrip. September the 17th, 1987, we had our first child. I, folks, was on cloud nine. I was so excited. I couldn't wait to get to the track. I left that weekend to go to Martinsville. I get to the racetrack, I'm a proud papa, and everybody's congratulating me because they knew how badly we wanted kids. I go over to my race car on Sunday morning, and in the seat of the car is a vase with one rose in it and a note. I pulled the note out, I opened it up, and it said, "Win this one for me, Daddy." That was quite a moment. I'd never been called Daddy before, and I'd never been a father before, and I was so happy. And I have to tell you: This is a fairy tale. I never led a lap of that race. I wanted so badly to win that race for Jessica—never led a dadgum lap, until the last one—and you won't believe what happened. People say, "Can you tell me a time when God showed up?" I don't think he was working against those other guys, but he sure was working for me—I know that. We go off the last lap, the white flag's in the air, and I thought, "Oh man, I'm running third." There's nothing I can do. Dale Earnhardt and Terry Labonte, they're a little bit quicker than I am. They go down the back straightaway into third turn at Martinsville, a little paperclip racetrack, and Terry bumps into the back of Dale. And when he does, both cars get a little loose, and they slide up the racetrack, and DW goes driving by. [Applause]

Daddy won that one. Same thing—1992, Sarah was born. Sarah Kaitlin Kerns

Waltrip. Same deal: Go to the racetrack. It had been kind of a tough year. I dominated that race, Bristol half-mile track, like being hung up in a salad bowl for 500 laps. Spinning around—your head's hurting, your eyes are burning. I get out of the car, and I can't remember my daughter's name. So, I'm trying really hard. I'm saying "Sarah, Sarah, Kaitlin"—she had a lot of names—"Kerns Waltrip." Because when I left the hospital, we really hadn't decided on exactly what her name was going to be. So, it took a little time, but it came to me, and certainly Sarah's never let me forget that I couldn't remember her name.

One final story for you, and it's about Dale Earnhardt Sr. And I don't know how many of you people knew the old intimidator. He was one tough customer and my biggest competitor. We were 'frenemies.' We were friends off the racetrack but not so much on the racetrack. And this beautiful redhead down here—she loved Dale, and Dale loved her. And she witnessed to him just as much as she witnessed to me. In 1994, Neil Bonnett lost his life at Daytona in a practice crash. Sunday morning, Stevie had always put Scriptures in my race car on a note card. Not good luck charms, just encouragement. Whatever happened that week, the Scripture sort of fit the events of that week.

We're standing on pit road praying with some of the chaplains from MRO, and Dale walks by. Now, Dale is one of those guys that you know he's a tough guy, so for him to pray or to acknowledge that he may have a relationship with the Lord was pretty hard for him to do. But he walks by, Stevie grabs him and says, "Come and pray with us." We all huddled up on pit road there, and when we finished praying, Stevie hands me the note card with the Scripture on it, and Dale grabs it, and he says, "What's that?" And he read it. And he looked at Stevie, and he said, "Where's mine?" Oh my gosh, she ran to the pit box, got a note card, wrote a Scripture, put it on the note card, and ran back to Dale's car, and Dale put it on his dash. And so from that day until 2001, when he lost his life at Daytona, he had a Scripture in his car just like I had in my car. You have to know something: Me and this guy, we were fierce competitors. He didn't like me, and I didn't like him when we were on that racetrack. That woman would make us pray together. Stevie would grab him and grab me and say, "I want you all to pray together," and we'd "[makes mumbling noises]." And then, and then to make it worse, she'd say, "Tell him you love him." [Laughter, Applause] So, as he was walking away and I was walking away: "I love you." [stated in perfunctory tone]

As I said, the hardest thing about being here this morning was, as I prepared—and I did prepare—was looking back and remembering how I was. But the good news this morning is I'm not that way anymore. I just share this: You don't have to walk alone. You don't have to carry all those burdens like it's you against the world. You have to do like I did. You've got to get off your high horse and get on your knees and ask for forgiveness. He's waiting for you. He was there all the time. I just didn't know it or acknowledge it. I told you when I got up here I wasn't running for anything, but I will tell you this: I am running to something. The Lord is a strong tower; the righteous will run to it and be safe. God bless you. God bless America. God bless our President, and thank you for letting me share with you this morning. [Applause]

Senator CASEY: Darrell, thank you for that great message. Darrell, I want to ask your

permission but I'll do this as I'm pretending to ask your permission. Your birthday is today?

Mr. WALTRIP: Yes.

Senator CASEY: It's also the same birthday as my mother-in-law, Nancy Foppiano, so I've just scored big points, Darrell, thank you very much. It's my honor now to introduce the President. Mr. President, First Lady Michelle Obama, we're honored you're with us, honored by your presence. And they've been here every year. So we're grateful to have them back. [Applause]

President Obama is a person of faith who has spoken often about his faith journey. His life has been, and continues to be, a life of service, public service, in the pursuit of justice here, at home, and around the world. My mother, Ellen Casey, (that way I've got my mother-in-law and my mother in the same remarks) always told us when we were growing up over, and over again, she would say, "Count your blessings." Count your blessings. And I've tried to do that; probably don't do enough of it. But I know that the President is one who follows my mother's advice, especially about the blessings of his family. So today as we gather to pray and to express gratitude for so much on a morning like today, I count as one of our blessings, Mr. President, your good work as our President and your abiding commitment to your family, to your faith, and to our country. Ladies and gentlemen, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. [Applause]

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. Well, good morning. Giving all praise and honor to God. It is wonderful to be back with you here. I want to thank our co-chairs, Bob and Roger. These two don't always agree in the Senate, but in coming together and uniting us all in prayer, they embody the spirit of our gathering today.

I also want to thank everybody who helped organize this breakfast. It's wonderful to see so many friends and faith leaders and dignitaries. And Michelle and I are truly honored to be joining you here today.

I want to offer a special welcome to a good friend, His Holiness the Dalai Lama—who is a powerful example of what it means to practice compassion, who inspires us to speak up for the freedom and dignity of all human beings. I've been pleased to welcome him to the White House on many occasions, and we're grateful that he's able to join us here today. [Applause]

There aren't that many occasions that bring His Holiness under the same roof as NASCAR. This may be the first. But God works in mysterious ways. [Laughter] And so I want to thank Darrell for that wonderful presentation. Darrell knows that when you're going 200 miles an hour, a little prayer cannot hurt. I suspect that more than once, Darrell has had the same thought as many of us have in our own lives—Jesus, take the wheel. Although I hope that you kept your hands on the wheel when you were thinking that. [Laughter]

He and I obviously share something in having married up. And we are so grateful to Stevie for the incredible work that they've done together to build a ministry where the fastest drivers can slow down a little bit, and spend some time in prayer and reflection and thanks. And we certainly want to wish Darrell a happy birthday. [Applause] Happy birthday.

I will note, though, Darrell, when you were reading that list of things folks were saying about you, I was thinking, well, you're a piker. I mean, if you really want a list, come talk to me, because that ain't nothing.

That's the best they can do in NASCAR? [Laughter.]

Slowing down and pausing for fellowship and prayer—that's what this breakfast is about. I think it's fair to say that Washington moves a lot slower than NASCAR. Certainly my agenda does sometimes. [Laughter.] But still, it's easier to get caught up in the rush of our lives, and in the political back-and-forth that can take over this city. We get sidetracked with distractions, large and small. We can't go 10 minutes without checking our smartphones—and for my staff, that's every 10 seconds. And so for 63 years, this prayer tradition has brought us together, giving us the opportunity to come together in humility before the Almighty and to be reminded of what it is that we share as children of God.

And certainly for me, this is always a chance to reflect on my own faith journey. Many times as President, I've been reminded of a line of prayer that Eleanor Roosevelt was fond of. She said, "Keep us at tasks too hard for us that we may be driven to Thee for strength. Keep us at tasks too hard for us that we may be driven to Thee for strength. I've wondered at times if maybe God was answering that prayer a little too literally. But no matter the challenge, He has been there for all of us. He's certainly strengthened me "with the power through His Spirit," as I've sought His guidance not just in my own life but in the life of our nation.

Now, over the last few months, we've seen a number of challenges—certainly over the last six years. But part of what I want to touch on today is the degree to which we've seen professions of faith used both as an instrument of great good, but also twisted and misused in the name of evil.

As we speak, around the world, we see faith inspiring people to lift up one another—to feed the hungry and care for the poor, and comfort the afflicted and make peace where there is strife. We heard the good work that Sister has done in Philadelphia, and the incredible work that Dr. Brantly and his colleagues have done. We see faith driving us to do right.

But we also see faith being twisted and distorted, used as a wedge—or, worse, sometimes used as a weapon. From a school in Pakistan to the streets of Paris, we have seen violence and terror perpetrated by those who profess to stand up for faith, their faith, professed to stand up for Islam, but, in fact, are betraying it. We see ISIL, a brutal, vicious death cult that, in the name of religion, carries out unspeakable acts of barbarism—terrorizing religious minorities like the Yazidis, subjecting women to rape as a weapon of war, and claiming the mantle of religious authority for such actions.

We see sectarian war in Syria, the murder of Muslims and Christians in Nigeria, religious war in the Central African Republic, a rising tide of anti-Semitism and hate crimes in Europe, so often perpetrated in the name of religion.

So how do we, as people of faith, reconcile these realities—the profound good, the strength, the tenacity, the compassion and love that can flow from all of our faiths, operating alongside those who seek to hijack religions for their own murderous ends?

Humanity has been grappling with these questions throughout human history. And lest we get on our high horse and think this is unique to some other place, remember that during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ. In our home country, slavery and

Jim Crow all too often was justified in the name of Christ. Michelle and I returned from India—an incredible, beautiful country, full of magnificent diversity—but a place where, in past years, religious faiths of all types on occasion have, on occasion, been targeted by other peoples of faith, simply due to their heritage and their beliefs—acts of intolerance that would have shocked Ghandiji, the person who helped to liberate that nation.

So, this is not unique to one group or one religion. There is a tendency in us, a sinful tendency that can pervert and distort our faith. In today's world, when hate groups have their own Twitter accounts and bigotry can fester in hidden places in cyberspace, it can be even harder to counteract such intolerance. But God compels us to try. And in this mission, I believe there are a few principles that can guide us, particularly those of us who profess to believe.

And, first, we should start with some basic humility. I believe that the starting point of faith is some doubt—not being so full of yourself and so confident that you are right and that God speaks only to us, and doesn't speak to others, that God only cares about us and doesn't care about others, that somehow we alone are in possession of the truth.

Our job is not to ask that God respond to our notion of truth—our job is to be true to Him, His word and His commandments. And we should assume humbly that we're confused and don't always know what we're doing and we're staggering and stumbling towards Him, and have some humility in that process. And that means we have to speak up against those who would misuse His name to justify oppression, or violence, or hatred with that fierce certainty. No God condones terror. No grievance justifies the taking of innocent lives, or the oppression of those who are weaker or fewer in number.

And so, as people of faith, we are summoned to push back against those who try to distort our religion—any religion—for their own nihilistic ends. And here at home and around the world, we will constantly reaffirm that fundamental freedom—freedom of religion—the right to practice our faith how we choose, to change our faith if we choose, to practice no faith at all if we choose, and to do so free of persecution and fear and discrimination.

There's wisdom in our founders writing in those documents that helped found this nation, the notion of freedom of religion, because they understood the need for humility. They also understood the need to uphold freedom of speech, that there is a connection between freedom of speech and freedom of religion. For to infringe on one right under the pretext of protecting another is a betrayal of both.

But part of humility is also recognizing in modern, complicated, diverse societies, the functioning of these rights, the concern for the protection of these rights calls for each of us to exercise civility and restraint and judgment. And if, in fact, we defend the legal right of a person to insult another's religion, we're equally obligated to use our free speech to condemn such insults—[Applause]—and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with religious communities, particularly religious minorities who are the targets of such attacks. Just because you have the right to say something doesn't mean the rest of us shouldn't question those who would insult others in the name of free speech. Because we know that our nations are stronger when people of all faiths feel that they are welcome, that they, too, are full and equal members of our countries.



So humility I think is needed. And the second thing we need is to uphold the distinction between our faith and our governments. Between church and between state. The United States is one of the most religious countries in the world—far more religious than most Western developed countries. And one of the reasons is that our founders wisely embraced the separation of church and state. Our government does not sponsor a religion, nor does it pressure anyone to practice a particular faith, or any faith at all. And the result is a culture where people of all backgrounds and beliefs can freely and proudly worship, without fear, or coercion—so that when you listen to Darrell talk about his faith journey, you know it's real. You know he's not saying it because it helps him advance, or because somebody told him to. It's from the heart.

That's not the case in theocracies that restrict people's choice of faith. It's not the case in authoritarian governments that elevate an individual leader or a political party above the people, or in some cases, above the concept of God Himself. So the freedom of religion is a value we will continue to protect here at home and stand up for around the world, and is one that we guard vigilantly here in the United States.

Last year, we joined together to pray for the release of Christian missionary Kenneth Bae, held in North Korea for two years. And today, we give thanks that Kenneth is finally back where he belongs—home with his family. [Applause]

Last year we prayed together for Pastor Saeed Abedini, detained in Iran since 2012. And I was recently in Boise, Idaho, and had the opportunity to meet with Pastor Abedini's beautiful wife and wonderful children and to convey to them that our country has not forgotten brother Saeed and that we're doing everything that we can to bring him home. [Applause] And then, I received an extraordinary letter from Pastor Abedini. And in it, he describes his captivity, and expressed his gratitude for my visit with his family, and thanked us all for standing in solidarity with him during his captivity.

And Pastor Abedini wrote, "Nothing is more valuable to the Body of Christ than to see how the Lord is in control, and moves ahead of countries and leadership through united prayer." And he closed his letter by describing himself as "prisoner for Christ, who is proud to be part of this great nation, the United States of America that cares for religious freedom around the world." [Applause]

We're going to keep up this work—for Pastor Abedini and all those around the world who are unjustly held or persecuted because of their faith. And we're grateful to our new Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Rabbi David Saperstein—who has hit the ground running, and is heading to Iraq in a few days to help religious communities there address some of those challenges. Where's David? I know he's here somewhere. Thank you David for the great work you're doing. [Applause]

Humility; a suspicion of government getting between us and our faith or trying to dictate our faiths, or elevate one faith over another. And, finally, let's remember that if there is one law that we can all be most certain of that seems to bind people of all faiths and people who are still finding their way towards faith but have a sense of ethics and morality in them—that one law, that Golden Rule that we should treat one another as we wish to be treated. The Torah says "Love thy neighbor as yourself." In Islam, there is

a Hadith that states: "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." The Holy Bible tells us to "put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Put on love.

Whatever our beliefs, whatever our traditions, we must seek to be instruments of peace, and bringing light where there is darkness, and sowing love where there is hatred. And this is the loving message of His Holiness Pope Francis. And like so many people around the world, I've been touched by his call to relieve suffering, and to show justice and mercy and compassion to the most vulnerable; to walk with the Lord and ask "Who am I to judge?" He challenges us to press on in what he calls our "march of living hope." And like millions of Americans, I am very much looking forward to welcoming Pope Francis to the United States later this year. [Applause.]

His Holiness expresses that basic law: Treat thy neighbor as thyself. The Dalai Lama—anybody who's had an opportunity to be with him senses that same spirit. Kent Brantly expresses that same spirit. Kent was with Samaritan's Purse, treating Ebola patients in Liberia, when he contracted the virus himself. And with world-class medical care and a deep reliance on faith—with God's help, Kent survived. [Applause.]

And then by donating his plasma, he helped others survive as well. And he continues to advocate for a global response in West Africa, reminding us that "our efforts need to be on loving the people there." And I could not have been prouder to welcome Kent and his wonderful wife Amber to the Oval Office. We are blessed to have him here today—because he reminds us of what it means to really "love thy neighbor as thyself." Not just words, but deeds.

Each of us has a role in fulfilling our common, greater purpose—not merely to seek high position, but to plumb greater depth so that we may find the strength to love more fully. And this is perhaps our greatest challenge—to see our own reflection in each other; to be our brother's keepers and sister's keepers, and to keep faith with one another. As children of God, let's make that our work, together.

As children of God, let's work to end injustice—injustice of poverty and hunger. No one should ever suffer from such want amid such plenty. As children of God, let's work to eliminate the scourge of homelessness, because as Sister Mary says, "None of us are home until all of us are home." None of us are home until all of us are home.

As children of God, let's stand up for the dignity and value of every woman, and man, and child, because we are all equal in His eyes, and work to end the scourge and the sin of modern-day slavery and human trafficking, and "set the oppressed free." [Applause]

If we are properly humble, if we drop to our knees on occasion, we will acknowledge that we never fully know God's purpose. We can never fully fathom His amazing grace. "We see through a glass, darkly"—grappling with the expanse of His awesome love. But even with our limits, we can heed that which is required: To do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

I pray that we will. And as we journey together on this "march of living hope," I pray that, in His name, we will run and not be weary, and walk and not be faint, and we will heed those words and "put on love."

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may He bless this precious country that we love.

Thank you all very much. [Applause]

Senator CASEY: Mr. President, thank you for your message, and we're honored by your presence here today. We close our program with one song and one prayer. Our last song this morning will be sung by a remarkable young man, and those words don't do justice to who this person is. A young man from Tennessee named Quintavious Johnson. If you're a fan of the television show, America's Got Talent, you might recognize him as one of last year's finalists. But today, singing at the National Prayer Breakfast in front of more than 3,500 at the age of 13. Just imagine that, that's going to be hard to top. And now to sing the Lord's Prayer, please welcome Quintavious Johnson. [Applause]

Quintavious Johnson [Singing]  
Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come  
and thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.

And give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our  
debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
And the glory, forever.

Amen.

[Applause]

Senator CASEY: Wow! Quintavious, thank you for your great performance, we're grateful you're with us this morning. And finally this morning, our last prayer at this breakfast will be offered by an extraordinary public servant who also happens to be a minister. He's a former Member of Congress, Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a well-known civil rights leader and friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our next speaker was instrumental in the civil rights campaigns in Selma, and in Birmingham that ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. [Applause] But of all of his many titles and accomplishments, he's most proud of his role as husband, father, and grandfather. Ladies and gentlemen, the Honorable Andrew Young. [Applause]

The Honorable ANDREW J. YOUNG: This morning I woke up to the hearings of the Senate committee on your new appointment as Secretary of Defense. And as they went around talking about all of the dangers and problems that he must confront, and that you must face every day, I realized that's why we need prayer. And I wondered, has the world ever been in this bad of shape? And I remember when I was about the age of Quintavious, even a little earlier, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and Germans were sinking ships, and America was far weaker then. We still had the same conflicts in Congress. We still had the same differences racially, and emotionally, and religiously, but somehow we pulled together and we heard the President say, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." And then a little while later, in fact quite a while later, the people with whom we had gone to war became our best friends and our trading partners. And this country of ours helped unite the world, and in thanks for that, President Eisenhower asked that we come together and form this prayer breakfast, to thank God—for only the spirit of Jesus can forgive as we forgave, can reconcile enemies to each other, and that same Jesus that walked with President Eisenhower and all the presidents since, therefore, with you Mr. President. And when I look at these young people from Mississippi, Senator, we have overcome so much.

[Applause] And we thank you, and we thank all of you, and we thank God. May we pray:

Be with us dear Father, as we take on the challenges of life, not just as government but as business, as private sector and nonprofit sector, as religious leaders, as community leaders, as volunteers, as fathers and mothers, as brothers and sisters, as mothers and sons, and fathers and daughters, bind us together, heal our wounds, calm our spirits and make us always mindful that you came into the world to say you would make all things new, but that you would be with us always. So as we go through many dangers, toils, and snares by your amazing grace, make us always mindful that your presence is in the midst of us. That each of us, because of you, know that we too are your children and that our Father loves us, forgives us, saves us by the mercy that we must share with each other and with the world in which we live. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen. [Applause]

Senator WICKER: Thank you, Ambassador Young. And as we conclude this, the 63rd Annual National Prayer Breakfast—depart with these words of God from the Book of Numbers: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” Amen.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION TO JAPAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to honor veterans from America’s “greatest generation” who were held captive as prisoners of war, POWs, by Japan during World War II and to recognize seven veterans—including three from California—who recently participated in a historic trip to Japan to promote reconciliation and remembrance.

At the invitation of the Japanese Government, the veterans were joined by their family members to become the 5th delegation of American POWs to visit Japan as part of the official Japanese-American POW Friendship Program that began in 2010.

These brave men fought in the historic first battles of World War II and endured years of hardship as POWs. This year, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, I want to recognize them and honor their service and sacrifice.

Anthony Costa, 95, from Concord, CA, was a private first class in the famed 4th Marine Regiment, also known as the China Marines, which arrived in the Philippines days before the Japanese invasion. He fought to defend the island of Corregidor in the Philippines from December 1941 to May 1942, before he was captured by the Japanese. As a POW, Private Costa was force-marched through Manila and taken to the Cabanatuan prison camp, where thousands of POWs died from starvation, dehydration and abuse. He was then moved to Japan to work as a slave dockworker in the freight yards in and around Osaka before being liberated in September 1945. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

William Sanchez, 96, from Monterey Park, CA, was an Army sergeant with the 59th Coast Artillery assigned to the island of Corregidor in the Philippines where he helped defend the harbor against the Japanese invasion. In May 1942, Sergeant Sanchez and the rest of his division were captured and paraded through the streets of Manila to Bilibid Prison. He was later transported to Japan in the hold of a Japanese hell ship, where he endured a 33-day oceanic journey plagued by dysentery, malaria and malnutrition before reaching Camp Omori. At the POW camp, he was forced to work as a slave laborer and dockworker at the railway yards in Tokyo prior to his liberation in August 1945.

Jack Schwartz, 100, from Hanford, CA, was a Navy lieutenant junior grade serving on Guam when the Japanese Navy attacked the island on December 8, 1941. When Guam fell to the Japanese, Lieutenant Schwartz was taken to a POW camp in Japan where he was repeatedly beaten, starved and provided insufficient clothing to endure the harsh winters. He was sent to several POW camps before being moved to Camp Rokuroshi, which was hidden in the Japanese Alps. After being liberated on September 8, 1945, he remained in the Navy and retired after a distinguished career in 1962.

My constituents were joined on their trip by Daniel Crowley, 92, of Connecticut, an Army Air Corps infantryman who participated in the defense of Bataan and Corregidor; Oral Nichols, 93, of New Mexico, who served as a civilian medic in the historic defense of Wake Island; Warren Jorgenson, 93, of Nebraska, a marine who defended Corregidor; and Darrell Stark, 91, of Connecticut, who served as an Army infantryman on the Bataan Peninsula.

This trip was part of a reconciliation process that, while undoubtedly painful, is critical to help provide closure to POWs and their families and continue building stronger relations between the U.S. and Japan. It is important that this reconciliation program continue so that this history is remembered and the families can continue to heal.

#### REMEMBERING PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS HEIDI FRIEDMAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I have the solemn duty of memorializing U.S. Navy PO2 Heidi Jo Friedman, a New Hampshire native who was tragically killed on April 12 at the age of 33. Petty Officer Friedman was serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS *George H.W. Bush* as an engineman, having transferred from Navy Operation Support Center Manchester in January. She entered the Navy in 2002, and previously served on the guided-missile destroyer USS *Ross* and in the Navy Reserve with Amphibious Con-

struction Battalion Two Detachment 101.

Heidi was born on June 28, 1981 to her father Robert, a retired Navy chief petty officer, and her mother Shari Murray. She graduated from Ledyard High School, in Ledyard, CT, and enjoyed volunteering as a mentor to children and with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. Heidi was also a lifetime Girl Scout with a passion for rugby and traveling. To those who knew her, Heidi was a loving and caring friend—someone who touched people in a positive way. I know there are many who feel her absence deeply.

Petty Officer Friedman is survived by her mother Shari L. Murray, her father and stepmother Robert B. and Laurie E. Friedman, her grandmother Arlene Canin, her brother Michael L. and wife Erin Friedman, three step-sisters: Jaime and wife Rochelle, Kara and Maria and fiancée Chris; three stepbrothers, Cito and fiancée Lyne, Quique and wife Amanda and Nolan; two nephews, Alexander and Ashton; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of PO2 Heidi Jo Friedman.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING SALLY WAGNER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, too often we forget or take for granted just how important teachers are. I try not to do that because I married one. But the positive impact teachers have on our youth and on society is incalculable. Today, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge one outstanding teacher who is retiring after a distinguished 40-year career—the last 34 years of which have been spent at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, ERHS, in Greenbelt, MD—Ms. Sally S. Wagner. Ms. Wagner is the chair of the Instrumental Music Department at ERHS. In 2005, a Washington Post article took note of Ms. Wagner’s extraordinary achievements as an educator noting, “The school [ERHS] has several legendary teachers, including band director Sally Wagner . . . and a 750-student musical juggernaut with so many ensembles and bands that one can barely keep count.”

For the past several years, we have been properly involved in an effort to improve so-called STEM education in this country. That acronym stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Bolstering STEM education is important for economic competitiveness, national security, and keeping America at the forefront of the technological changes that will make

life better for all of humanity. But too many schools, grappling with budget cuts, have scaled back or even eliminated their arts and music curricula. Fortunately, there is burgeoning awareness of the importance of these courses, too. And now people are talking about STEAM, where the “A” stands for arts and music. All of these subjects are interrelated and complementary. After all, it was Albert Einstein who said, “The greatest scientists are artists as well” and who would play the violin or piano for intuition or inspiration when he became “stuck” on one of his formulas or equations.

Fortunately for the students at ERHS, which is an outstanding science and technology school, by the way, the music program has always been robust, too, and Ms. Wagner has been in charge. Her career in music began when she was a child, with piano lessons. In the sixth grade, she started learning how to play the trombone. She ultimately earned her degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Delaware. Teaching and bands are her passion. In 2001, Ms. Wagner was cited in School Band and Orchestra Magazine as one of “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” and she received the Maryland Music Educators Association Outstanding Music Teacher Award. In 2006, Ms. Wagner received the National Honor Society Outstanding Teacher Award and the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction Award. Claes Nobel—the grand-nephew of Alfred Nobel—established the National Society of High School Scholars, which made the award.

Ms. Wagner is a Music Educators National Conference, MENC—now known as the National Association for Music Education, or NAfME, Nationally Registered Music Educator. She received the Prince George’s County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator Award, Excellence in Teaching Awards from Prince George’s County Public Schools, the County Council, the Maryland House of Delegates and the Governor of Maryland, and was recognized in 1994 by the University of Maryland Center for Teaching Excellence.

Ms. Wagner is a member of MENC/NAfME, the Women Band Directors International, the Maryland Music Educators Association, and the Maryland Band Directors Association. She is active as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor, and she writes articles for *The Woman Conductor* and *BandWorld Magazine*.

These are numerous accolades and tremendous accomplishments, to be sure. But what is most important is the love that Ms. Wagner has for her students—at least one of whom is a second generation ERHS band musician—and the love and respect and admiration they have for her in return. She built the ERHS instrumental music program

with incomparable care for every one of her students. Her love of music, teaching, and performing is evident in each and every interaction she has with her students, their parents, colleagues, and others in the community. She has touched and inspired thousands of students over her career with her talent, hard work, joy, dedication, sense of humor, intellect, leadership, kindness, and—above all—love. She has taught her students about responsibility, dedication, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence. Of course, these lessons aren’t just about music; they are important lessons about life.

Just a couple of comments posted by students on the ERHS Facebook page tell the story. One student wrote, “She is totally awesome. I swear, she is the most amazing teacher ever. She makes my day, every day. I’m just crossing my fingers and praying that she won’t retire before I graduate!” Another student wrote, “Ms. Wagner inspired me to do my absolute best in music and helped me discover how important music is in my life. She is my hero.” Another wrote, “Instrument rentals: \$25. Uniform fee: \$20. Being in her class: priceless.” Another student wrote, “She always encouraged me to excel. She pushed me and believed in me. I learned more from her than anyone. She was the greatest teacher! Her love for music shines through.” Finally, from an alumnus, “I had Ms. Wagner way back in 1985—she was great back then, and it is great to see that she is still well-loved.”

In 2004, the ERHS band community of students, parents, and alumni commissioned the score “Under the Magical Wing” as a tribute to Ms. Wagner in appreciation and recognition of her dedication to the ERHS music program. Now the ERHS community has established the “Sally Wagner Performing Arts Space,” a new black box theatre at ERHS.

U2’s Bono has said, “Music can change the world because it can change people.” If that is true, and I believe it is, think of the world-changing impact Ms. Wagner has had over the course of her career. Think of the joy she has brought to so many people. I would ask my colleagues here in the Senate to join me in thanking Ms. Sally Wagner for her extraordinary contributions and congratulate her on her retirement. Strike up the band.●

#### REMEMBERING SANDRA WISECAVER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor the life and legacy of Sandra Wisecaver, owner and operator of the Buhl Herald in Buhl, ID. Sandra leaves an enduring legacy of dedication to her community and deep personal strength.

Sandra is remembered as a remarkable journalist, who led the Buhl Herald as owner and operator since 2005

after working at the newspaper for many years. She started working at the paper as a senior at Buhl High School and worked for the paper while attending the College of Southern Idaho. After working in other fields, she became the Castleford correspondent for the paper in 1987, and returned to the Herald in 1992. She worked as reporter and editor before purchasing the newspaper 10 years ago. Sandra’s commitment to providing an outlet for stories about the achievements of area youth and a sound chronicle of community events will not be forgotten. She worked hard to ensure that the stories that mattered to her community reached her readership.

A native of Buhl, Sandra’s roots were firmly planted in the community she loved. She was born on August 30, 1949, to Jess and Vina Wilson of Buhl. In 1967, she graduated from Buhl High School and married Joe Wisecaver in 1969. In addition to her work at the newspaper, she also worked in Green Giant’s payroll department, worked at the Corner Merc in Castleford, and Sandra and Joe maintained the contract for the mail delivery to Roseworth. She was a community leader also, dedicating considerable time as a 4-H leader, Cub Scout den mother, and baseball and softball cheer mom and driver.

Sandra’s personal strength cannot be overstated. Beyond her role at the newspaper and in the community, Sandra was an example of fortitude. She overcame a stroke and persevered through stage IV kidney cancer to continue to publish the newspaper that had a central role in Buhl for more than a century. Her grit and determination was inspiring. She is an exceptional example of staying power and commitment to her community.

I extend my condolences to her husband Joe; her children, Angela and Joe Jr.; their families, including her three grandchildren; her many friends and the Buhl community. Sandra Wisecaver was an amazing woman who leaves behind a legacy of thoughtful and determined leadership.●

#### RECOGNIZING TANNER ARCHULETA, JACOB JAVORSKY, AND AMANDA BUXTON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize three outstanding Montana students who exemplified true bravery and heroism last week.

Tanner Archuleta and Jacob Javorsky from Flathead High School in Kalispell, MT, rushed to help when they saw smoke billowing from a house down the street from school. Tanner raced into the house and awoke Ryan Murray, who escaped the burning house safely with his dog. Separately, Amanda Buxton took action on her way to school and alerted authorities to the fire, providing fire crews much needed timely information.

Tanner, Jacob and Amanda deserve much recognition for their ability to act quickly and selflessly in an emergency. Their quick thinking saved the life of a fellow Montanan. They are admirable young Montanans and deserve endless thanks.●

#### MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, each year members of Congress are authorized, under title 10 of the U.S. Code, to nominate a number of young men and women from their district or State to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy. But receiving a congressional nomination is no guarantee of acceptance. To be admitted, each applicant must meet—on his or her own merits—the academies' rigorous standards.

I am proud to announce the names of 20 outstanding Utahns who have met these standards and who will attend one of the academies in the summer of 2015. This is more than twice as many accepted applicants than I have ever seen in my 5 years in the Senate.

Each of these 20 students is of sound mind and body. This will serve them well in Colorado Springs, West Point, and Annapolis. But to succeed, they will need more than this.

The journey these young men and women are about to begin requires more than intellectual and physical fitness. It also demands strong moral character—leadership, courage, honesty, prudence, and self-discipline. And it calls for a commitment to service and a love of country.

Today, I would like to recognize and congratulate each of these impressive students, all of whom embody, in their own unique way, the standards of excellence on which America's service academies are built.

Cole Bennett Biedermann will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cole will be graduating from Skyline High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the track team, and president of the physics club. Dedicated to helping those around him and serving his community, Cole tutored his high school classmates and volunteered at the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Jonsen Koy Crandall will be returning to the U.S. Air Force Academy after serving for two years in Taichung, Taiwan on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A graduate of South Summit High School, where he was a two-time State champion wrestler, Jonsen is currently attending Dixie State University, where he served as an outstanding intern in my St. George office.

Thomas Abram Davenport will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at

West Point. Thomas will be coming to West Point from Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where he participated in the ROTC. Originally from Draper, UT, Thomas earned his Eagle Scout, attended Boys State, was a member of the National Honor Society, and toured with the service, singing, and performing group Clayton Productions.

McKenna Elise Fox will be returning to the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she played on the women's soccer team, after serving in the Guayaquil North Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. McKenna graduated from Lone Peak High School, where she was recognized as an outstanding student and served as captain of the soccer team.

Stephen William Kelly, from Juan Diego Catholic High School, will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Excelling in music, athletics, and academics, Stephen played in the drum line and steel band, was an award-winning pitcher for the baseball team, and never missed an honor role while in high school. Stephen also participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition and served as a volunteer for the Knights of Columbus.

Paul Michael Lee will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. A graduate of Northridge High School, and currently enrolled in Northwestern Preparatory School, Paul participated in the Air Force JROTC and was a member of the National Honor Society. Having spent a portion of his childhood with his family on the Yongsan Garrison Army Base in South Korea, Paul would later become involved in Model United Nations. He is also an accomplished table tennis player.

Brandon Arthur Lloyd will be returning to the U.S. Air Force Academy after serving for 2 years in Berlin, Germany on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A graduate from Highland High School and the Air Force Academy Prep School, Brandon earned his Eagle Scout, attended Boys State, and was named Wrestler of the Year while serving as team captain.

Jace Aukela Miller, from American Fork High School, will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. A model student athlete, Jace was a member of the National Honor Society and captain, as well as most valuable player of the lacrosse team. In addition to working as a lifeguard at the American Fork Recreation Center, Jace volunteered his time teaching outdoor adventure skills to at-risk youth.

Tanner Scott Munson will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. Tanner will be graduating from Lehi High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the soccer team. An exemplar of community service and civic participation, Tanner served as a member of the Lehi City Youth Council, an intern with

Lehi Fire and Rescue, and a volunteer with special-needs children.

Julia "Genna" Genevieve Murray will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. A Utah State champion sprinter and captain of the track and field team, Genna will be graduating from Springville High School. In addition to serving as a volunteer with at-risk youth, Genna is an outstanding student and a member of the National Honor Society.

Taylor Mize Porges, from Park City High School, will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. Excelling in academics and athletics, Taylor was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the soccer team, and president of Park City Climbing Club. In addition to serving as a volunteer with Youthline in South America, he participated in the Park City Center for Advanced Professional Studies, where he helped create a 3-D model of the Heber Airport for flight simulation programs.

Joshua Dalton Proulx will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. A graduate of Bonneville High School, Joshua is currently attending Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University. In addition to being an Eagle Scout, Joshua was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the cross country and track and field teams. He also served as president of the Parent Teacher Student Association and participated in the Civil Air Patrol.

Mormon Joseph Ephraim Redd will be returning to the U.S. Air Force Academy after spending the past 2 years serving in the Japan Fukuoka mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Originally from Farmington, UT, Mormon is the seventh brother in his family to serve in the Armed Forces. He graduated from Viewmont High School, where he was captain of the wrestling team and an honor student. He has also volunteered with the Youthline humanitarian programs.

Corben David Ruf, from North Summit High School, will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. At North Summit, Corben distinguished himself in student government, as student body president; in academics, as a General Sterling Scholar and member of the National Honor Society; and in athletics, as captain of the football and wrestling teams. He also attended the Utah National Guard Freedom and Leadership Academy and won best supporting actor in the Utah Festival Opera.

Matthew Walker Schvaneveldt will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Currently attending the Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering and Science, as well as Weber State University, Matthew is an Eagle Scout, attended Boys State, and was captain of the wrestling team.

He also received the volunteer of the year award from McKay-Dee Hospital, and served as president of his school's National Honor Society.

Parker Dawson Sharp, a graduate of both Wasatch High School and North-western Preparatory School, will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. In addition to earning his Eagle Scout, Parker has excelled in music, as an accomplished cellist, pianist, and vocalist. He also participated in Model United Nations, and is a Krav Maga enthusiast. Parker is currently attending the University of Utah.

Dean Quentin Smith, from Timpanogos High School, will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As an Eagle Scout, captain of the wrestling and baseball teams, and president of the Chinese Club, Dean has been a leader in all of his pursuits. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, and he volunteered with special-needs children.

Dietrich Gregory Streuber will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Dietrich will be graduating from Morgan High School, where he was a member of the debate team and the National Honor Society, as well as captain of the football team. Dietrich also earned his Eagle Scout, attended Boys State, and participated in the Weber-Morgan Governing Youth Council.

Christopher Mark Vincent, from Skyline High School, will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. A recipient of the Kiwanis Hope of America Leadership Award, Christopher is an Eagle Scout and captain of the Skyline High School debate team. He also attended Boys State and the Utah National Guard Freedom and Leadership Academy.

Jacob Henry Witt, currently a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy. A graduate of Wasatch High School, Jacob was the captain of the tennis team and a member of the National Honor Society. He was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, FBLA, State championship team, and he received first place in the Marine Corps essay contest for his writing on the U.S. Constitution and The Federalist Papers.

It has been an honor and an inspiration to meet and to nominate each of these young men and women. Doing so has given me an unshakeable confidence in the future of this great Nation and the future of our armed services.

But to these 20 students, and to all their future classmates from around the country, do not forget: this is but the beginning of your journey.

You would not have arrived at this point were it not for your hard work and sacrifice. But what matters most now is not your accomplishments of the past, but what you have yet to achieve in the future.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON STATE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the National Association of Letter Carriers, especially its members in my home State of Washington.

On Saturday, May 9, letter carriers throughout Washington State will join their colleagues from around the country for their Stamp Out Hunger food drive, an annual event that has provided needed meals to so many. In more than 10,000 cities and towns across our country, letter carriers use our mail delivery network to collect donated food.

The food drive, now in its 23rd year, is a shining example of their commitment to our communities. In addition to the excellent service they provide as part of their daily work, these dedicated men and women will be picking up donated food on a Saturday to deliver to food banks and pantries in their communities. In 2010, the food drive reached an amazing milestone as it surpassed the 1-billion-pound mark for collections.

I thank the men and women of the National Association of Letter Carriers for their hard work and commitment to their communities, and I wish them the best with this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.●

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate John Jay College of Criminal Justice on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Located in the cultural heart of New York City, John Jay College is one of the Nation's leading liberal arts institutions of higher education with a mission of "educating for justice." For 50 years, John Jay College has produced leaders, scholars, and heroes in policing, including forensic science, law, fire and emergency management, social work, teaching, private security, forensic psychology, and corrections. As an international leader in educating for justice, John Jay offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum to upwards of 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 135 nations, including over 47 percent first-generation students and more than 500 veterans. John Jay College is ranked No. 3 in the Nation as a "Best for Vet" institution by Military Times in their 2015 national college rankings of 600 universities and colleges.

In the 1960s, a small and dedicated group of academic visionaries came together to develop a plan for a new college named the College of Police Science within the City University of New York. Within a year, the college

was renamed the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to reflect broader aspirations and achievements in criminal justice, leadership, and public service. John Jay was the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and served as Governor of our great State of New York. The college opened in 1965 with 1,000 students and one major.

The challenges and hard work envisioned when John Jay College was created continue today. John Jay College is a critical part of New York. The spirit of John Jay College of Criminal Justice can be found in its students, Pulitzer Prize-winning faculty, and enthusiastic administrators who form a civic-minded community of motivated and intellectually curious individuals committed to public service and global citizenship.

For example, earlier this year, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, NECO, established a scholarship at John Jay College in memory of New York City Police Department Detectives Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, who lost their lives in December 2014 while serving the citizens of New York. The scholarship was announced on March 11 during the college's NYPD alumni reception held in celebration of the longstanding partnership and collaboration with the NYPD. Of course, September 11, 2001 had a profound impact on the campus and served as a catalyst to honor the 67 students, faculty, and alumni who lost their lives that day. John Jay established a variety of initiatives, programs, research centers, scholarships, including the creation of the Center on Terrorism to study global terrorism and the Christian Regenhart Center for Emergency Response Studies, named after a probationary firefighter killed at the World Trade Center. As one of the leading institutions in the country in the field of criminal justice and public safety, John Jay College is one of the few institutions to offer M.A. students a certificate in the critical study of terrorism.

John Jay College's commitment to diversity is shown by the fact that it has the highest Hispanic enrollment of any 4-year college in the Northeastern United States, and it has ranked No. 1 in the Nation in awarding bachelor's degree in protective services, No. 3 in psychology degrees, and No. 7 in public administration. John Jay's undergraduate, graduate and doctoral forensic degree programs are top ranking. The College's Master of Public Administration programs recently received the Diversity and Social Equity Awards by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration. The nationally recognized Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math, PRISM, at John Jay College engages underrepresented students in careers in science and math by providing an opportunity for them to

participate in faculty-mentored scientific research in areas like molecular biology, toxicology, criminalistics and computer science, and partake in professional research conferences while completing their degree. Since its inception, graduation numbers from the College's science majors have tripled, and the number of students, and especially underrepresented minority students, moving on to doctoral and medical degrees has grown five-fold.

John Jay's faculty personify excellence—they include Pulitzer Prize winners, Presidential scholars, recipients of prestigious book awards, presidents of leading professional organizations, and editors of prominent scholarly journals. They have been recognized by their peers and even by the White House for their dedication to teaching, research, and mentoring. The college's students regularly win prestigious scholarships, including the Marshal Scholarship, internships, including the White House Internship, and fellowships, including Fulbright, JK Watson and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. They are also accepted to high-profile graduate and professional schools. Their alumni number more than 54,000, many of whom hold leadership roles in public sector agencies, including the United States Marshals Service, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Parks Service, the State Department, Peace Corps, the United Nations, and private companies in the United States and worldwide.

Affordability is an essential component of the college's core mission. At a time when over 37 million Americans are saddled with over \$1 trillion in student debt, John Jay College was recently named one of the top 10 colleges where students graduate with the least debt. Only 20 percent of John Jay students were compelled to borrow money to finance their college education, less than one-third of the national average. And the vast majority of John Jay students graduate debt-free—enabling them to become successful in service for others without having to spend years paying off their student loans. In fact John Jay College was recently ranked No. 4 in the “Best Bang for the Buck” in the Northeast rankings in Washington Monthly's College guide.

John Jay develops fierce advocates for justice—each committed every day to building a better democracy. I am proud to represent John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the values that it stands for and works for every day. Congratulations to John Jay College on this very important day and its 50-year record of fighting for justice.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 172. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 373. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 984. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1075. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the “Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry”.

H.R. 1324. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1690. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702 and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas of Columbus, Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 172. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 373. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 984. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1075. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the “Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1324. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1690. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant

Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1384. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safludenacil; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9923-57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1385. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Bicyclpyrone; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9926-66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1386. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Importation of Apples From China” ((RIN0579-AD89) (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1387. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Importation of Papayas From Peru” ((RIN0579-AD68) (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1388. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of the Air Force, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1389. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Department of the Navy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1390. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1391. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of



Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1392. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2015 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1393. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1394. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1395. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1396. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1397. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1398. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Bryce Canyon National Park, Bicycling" (RIN1024-AE23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1399. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0468); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1400. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0467); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1401. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting,

pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0466); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1402. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0465); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1403. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0470); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1404. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2015-0469); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1405. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a strategy for Support for Russia Democracy and Civil Society Organizations; a strategy for Assistance to Civil Society in Ukraine; and a strategy for Anticipated Defense Articles, Defense Services, and Training to Ukraine (OSS-2015-0471); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1406. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-129); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1407. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0032-2015-0035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1408. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation during fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1409. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska: Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program" (RIN0648-XD818) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1410. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan" (RIN0648-BE69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1411. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Restrictions Regarding the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, the Whale Shark, and the Silky Shark" (RIN0648-BD44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1412. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Fisheries; California Swordfish Drift Gillnet Fishery; Vessel Monitoring System and Pre-Trip Notification Requirements" (RIN0648-BE25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1413. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program" (RIN0648-BA61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1414. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; Framework Adjustment 8" (RIN0648-BE60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1415. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper" (RIN0648-XD734) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1416. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 32" (RIN0648-BE20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1417. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD844) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.



EC-1418. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD874) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1419. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Xterra Swim, Myrtle Beach, SC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1420. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0236)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1421. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Eastern Branch Elizabeth River; Norfolk, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0202)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1422. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Barge-based Fireworks, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0213)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1423. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Red Bull Helicopter Demonstration; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0137)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1424. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum Fireworks Display; Lake Erie, Cleveland, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0186)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1425. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Marina del Rey Fireworks Show, Santa Monica Bay; Marina del Rey, California" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1426. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sellwood Bridge Construction, Willamette River, Portland, OR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0187)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1427. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Red Bull Helicopter Demonstration; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0137)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1428. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Vessel Fire and Escort, Port of New York, NJ, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0189)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1429. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Delaware River; Marcus Hook, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0129)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1430. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tesoro Terminal Protest: Port of Long Beach Harbor; Pacific Ocean, California" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0163)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1431. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mantua Creek, Paulsboro, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0807)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1432. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Coquille River, Bandon, OR" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0213)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1433. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hoquiam River, Hoquiam, WA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1029)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1434. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Ontonagon River, Ontonagon, MI" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0082)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1435. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Taylor Bayou Outfall Canal (Joint Outfall Canal), TX" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0386)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1436. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Hebda Cup Rowing Regatta; Detroit River, Wyandotte, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0190)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1437. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Glass City Scrimmage; Maumee River, Toledo, OH" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0185)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1438. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1439. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Charleston Race Week, Charleston Harbor; Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1440. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; San Salvador Launch and Procession; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0138)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1441. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidation of Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection for Outer Continental Shelf Activities; Eighth Coast Guard District; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments" ((RIN1625-AB88) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0491)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1442. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Locations" ((RIN1625-AC00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0850)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1443. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Sagaponack, New York)" ((MB Docket No. 14-253) (DA 15-441)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1444. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy and Water Use Labeling for Consumer Products Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Energy Labeling Rule)" (RIN3084-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1445. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Labeling Rule" (RIN3084-AB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1446. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Cooling-Off Period for Sales Made at Homes or at Certain Other Locations" (RIN3084-AB10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1447. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Labeling Rule" (RIN3084-AB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1448. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Rules of Practice" (16 CFR Part 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1449. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Rules of Practice" (16 CFR Parts 2, 3, and 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1450. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Area Boundary Descriptions; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0618)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1451. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (81); Amdt. No. 3635" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1452. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (119); Amdt. No. 3638" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1453. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (62); Amdt. No. 3637" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1454. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (84); Amdt. No. 3636" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1455. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0123)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1456. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0908)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1457. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0627)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1458. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0621)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1459. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0825)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1460. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0132)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1461. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0920)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1462. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0904)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1463. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0839)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1464. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments” (RIN2120-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1465. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1466. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1467. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9926-19-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1468. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Feather River Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9924-77-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1469. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Visibility Protection” (FRL No. 9926-95-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1470. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle-York Nonattainment Areas to Attainment for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Correction” (FRL No. 9926-79-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1471. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated

by Reference for Montana” (FRL No. 9924-80-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1472. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Managing the Safety/Security Interface” (Regulatory Guide 5.74, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1473. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Finalizing Medicare Rules under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) for Calendar Year (CY) 2014”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1474. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Open Payments Program Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1475. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “IRC Section 5000C—Qualified Income Tax Treaty Countries” (Notice 2015-35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1476. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applicable Federal Rates—May 2015” (Rev. Rul. 2015-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1477. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members” (Notice 2015-34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1478. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities” (RIN1820-AB65) (Docket ID ED-2012-OSERS-0020) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1479. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022 and 29 CFR Part 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1480. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report

relative to the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1481. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use; Correction” (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1482. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Shelter Island, New York)” ((MB Docket No. 14-255) (DA 15-442)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1483. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-596, “Limitations on the Use of Restraints Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1484. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-48, “Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1485. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-49, “Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1486. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1487. A communication from the Chief Impact Analyst, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updating Certain Delegations of Authority in VA Medical Regulations” (RIN2900-AP17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-1488. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-492, “Student Nutrition on Winter Weather Days Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1489. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-37, “H Street, N.E., Retail Priority Area Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1490. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 21-38, "Wage Theft Prevention Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1491. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-39, "Public Charter School Priority Enrollment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1492. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-40, "Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools Salary Adjustment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1493. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-41, "Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1494. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-42, "Educator Evaluation Data Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1495. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-43, "At-Risk Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1496. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-44, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1497. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-47, "Testing Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1126. A bill to modify and extend the National Guard State Partnership Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1127. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1128. A bill to establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1129. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform and enforce taxation of tobacco products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1130. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve procedures for legal justice for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1131. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1132. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1133. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1134. A bill to address prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1135. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1136. A bill relating to the modernization of C-130 aircraft to meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1137. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1138. A bill to reclassify certain low-level felonies as misdemeanors, to eliminate the increased penalties for cocaine offenses where the cocaine involved is cocaine base, to reinvest in our communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 154. A resolution designating May 16, 2015, as "Kids to Parks Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 155. A resolution establishing May 2, 2015, as a Day of Recognition for Ebola Orphans to express support for the children and families affected by the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa by promoting awareness of the children of West Africa who have been orphaned by the 2014 Ebola epidemic, celebrating those who have recognized and are working to fulfill the needs of those children, and encouraging the people of the United States to continue to support the people of West Africa; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from

Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to establish a benefit calculation methodology with respect to currency under-valuation for purposes of countervailing duty investigations and reviews, and for other purposes.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarship Program.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to exempt certain class A CDL drivers from the requirement to obtain a hazardous material endorsement while operating a service vehicle with a fuel tank containing 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons) or less of diesel fuel.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jer-

sey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009.

S. 766

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to provide for appropriate designation of collective bargaining units.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from South

Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 871, a bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to establish an Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (EPIC) to assist energy policy innovation in the States to promote the goal of doubling electric and thermal energy productivity by January 1, 2030.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to establish a process for the consideration of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1138

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1138 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1145

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1145 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1146

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1146 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1147

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1147 proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1151 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1189

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1189 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1190

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1190 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1127. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act with my colleague, Senator BLUMENTHAL. This bill closes a loophole that allows publicly traded corporations to deduct an executive's pay that exceeds \$1 million from their tax bill.

Under current tax law, when a public corporation calculates its taxable income, it is generally permitted to deduct the cost of compensation from its revenues, with limits up to \$1 million for some of the firm's most senior executives. However, a loophole relating to performance-based compensation has allowed many public corporations to avoid such limits and freely deduct excessive executive compensation. To illustrate how this loophole works, if a CEO receives \$15 million in performance-based compensation in a given year, the public corporation's taxable income would decline by \$15 million. With the current corporate tax rate at 35 percent, the corporation in this case would receive a tax cut of \$5.25 million.

The Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act would instead allow a public corporation to deduct all forms of compensation up to only \$1 million per employee. Using the same example above, a profitable public corporation, after deducting only \$1 million from the \$15 million in CEO compensation, would then pay \$4.9 million in taxes. In short, instead of costing the government \$5.25 million, this public corporation will be paying \$4.9 million in taxes, reducing the burden on middle-class families and our national debt.

Indeed, over a 10-year window, the Joint Committee on Taxation, in their most recent assessment, estimated that closing this loophole would save U.S. taxpayers over \$50 billion.

First, our legislation extends section 162(m) of the Tax Code to apply to all employees of publicly traded corporations so that all compensation is subject to a deductibility cap of \$1 million. Publicly traded corporations would still be permitted to pay their executives as much as they desire, but compensation above and beyond \$1 million would no longer be subsidized through our Tax Code.

Second, our bill removes the exemption for performance-based compensation, which currently permits compensation deductions above and beyond \$1 million when executives have met performance benchmarks set by the corporation's board of directors. As a result, publicly traded corporations would still be able to incentivize their executives, but all such incentives would be subject to a corporate deductibility cap of \$1 million.

Finally, our legislation makes a technical correction to ensure that all publicly traded corporations that are required to provide quarterly and annual reports to their investors under

Securities and Exchange Commission rules and regulations are subject to section 162(m). Currently, this section of the Tax Code only covers some publicly traded corporations that are required to provide these periodic reports to their shareholders. Discouraging unrestrained compensation packages shouldn't hinge on whether a publicly traded corporation falls into one SEC reporting requirement or another, and our bill closes this technical loophole.

With this legislation, we aim to put an end to some of the extravagant tax breaks that exclusively benefit public corporations. This is simply a matter of fairness, ensuring that corporations—and not taxpayers who face their own challenges in this economy—are paying for the multimillion dollar bonuses they have decided to dole out.

I want to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for working with me on this issue, and I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1137. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the U.S. is the world's leader in innovation. Yet today, our patent system—which has allowed generations of inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs to thrive—is under attack from bad actors, also known as “patent trolls”.

Abusive patent litigation is stifling the innovation and entrepreneurship that our patent system has been designed to protect. Over the last decade, there has been an explosion in the growth of this type of harmful litigation as those who exploit abusive patent litigation tactics for financial gain have taken aim at businesses operating in every sector of our economy.

From Main Street to Wall Street to Silicon Valley, from start-ups to neighborhood restaurants to major retailers—businesses and consumers across the country are being harmed. Because of this abuse, innovative companies spend less time and resources on research and innovation, and often must have their talented workforce devote many man-hours to defending against baseless claims. This comes at the expense of discovering that next medical breakthrough or rolling out new technologies that will create jobs.

Patent trolls prey on businesses by filing frivolous lawsuits and employing an array of heavy-handed and deceptive tactics to scare plaintiffs into settlements. These bad actors send vague and overly broad demand letters, exploit loose pleading standards that provide little substance of the alleged in-

fringement claims, hide their identity behind shell companies, and use the threat of high cost patent litigation discovery as a weapon. This is a drag on our economy, costing an estimated \$80 billion annually in direct and indirect costs. This means fewer jobs created, less innovation, and higher costs for consumers.

To restore integrity to our patent system, today, along with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member LEAHY, and Senators CORNYN, SCHUMER, LEE, HATCH, and KLOBUCHAR, I am introducing the Protecting American Talent and Entrepreneurship Act, PATENT Act.

This builds upon the reforms made by the America Invents Act and will promote the intellectual property rights that our Founding Fathers recognized are key to American innovation. The provisions of the PATENT Act will promote more transparency in patent ownership, establish a clear, uniform standard for pleading in patent cases, and deter abusive litigation. I would like to note some of the key provisions in the bill.

The PATENT Act will require plaintiffs in a patent suit to identify each patent and each claim that is allegedly infringed, which products are infringing, and include a description of the alleged infringement. The current requirements for pleading in a patent litigation have been subject to scrutiny by the courts and amount to little more than notice pleading. By providing these congressionally enacted bright line rules across judicial jurisdictions, defendants will be able to better respond to claims and courts will be able to resolve litigation more efficiently.

This legislation will place reasonable limitations on discovery by requiring courts to stay discovery pending the resolution of specific preliminary motions, including motions to dismiss and transfer venue. It also calls on the Judicial Conference to develop rules and procedures to promote efficient and effective discovery, including examining to what extent each party is entitled to “core documentary evidence”.

While current law allows for fee shifting in patent cases, the reality is that bad actors are almost never subject to fee shifting, leading to an explosion in abusive litigation. The PATENT Act provides that reasonable attorney fees will be awarded if the prevailing party in litigation makes a showing, and the court finds, that the non-prevailing party's conduct was not “objectively reasonable,” unless special circumstances make an award unjust. This measure will help to deter the filing of frivolous claims. The bill also provides a process for the recovery of fees from an abusive litigant.

Further, the bill will help stop the widespread sending of fraudulent or materially misleading demand letters

by building on existing Federal Trade Commission authority to go after those who violate Section 5 of the FTC Act in connection with patent assertion by engaging in widespread demand letter abuse. This provision has been carefully constructed so that it will not impinge upon legitimate licensing activity or expand FTC authority. We worked on the language contained in this provision with Chairman THUNE and his staff, as the Commerce Committee also has jurisdiction over the FTC, and it was important to us to get their input.

The bill also will help to protect small businesses, who are being targeted for doing nothing more than using products which they bought off-the-shelf, by allowing a suit against an end-user to be stayed while the manufacturer litigates the alleged infringement.

This bipartisan legislation is the result of a careful and deliberative process in which we worked with many stakeholders representing almost every area of the economy, the judiciary, and the administration. Since the process started in the last Congress, we've listened and tried to be responsive to all the concerns raised from the different industries and constituencies. As a result, we have made great strides in addressing issues that have been raised along the way and getting stakeholders comfortable with the bill. So I believe the PATENT Act strikes a good balance. Our intent is to protect the rights of patent holders while addressing the problem of abusive litigation. The PATENT Act does that.

As we move forward, we also intend to try to address other concerns that have been raised more recently by patent holders about the Patent and Trademark Office's IPR process. We want to make sure that the PTO processes are not being abused, and instead are being utilized as envisioned by the America Invents Act.

I would like to especially thank Ranking Member LEAHY for being an outstanding partner on the Judiciary Committee on all things intellectual property, Senators CORNYN and SCHUMER for their sustained leadership on the patent troll issue, Senator LEE for his hard work on the demand letter provision, Senator HATCH for his valuable work on the recovery provision, and Senator KLOBUCHAR for her constructive involvement in moving the bill forward. Because of these efforts, we have a stronger bill and are closer to restoring the integrity of the patent system. I am hopeful that we can move in a deliberative and productive way through Committee so we can get to the floor in a timely manner.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:



S. 1137

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American Talent and Entrepreneurship Act of 2015” or the “PATENT ACT”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Pleading requirements for patent infringement actions.
- Sec. 4. Customer-suit exception.
- Sec. 5. Discovery limits.
- Sec. 6. Procedures and practices to implement recommendations of the Judicial Conference.
- Sec. 7. Fees and other expenses.
- Sec. 8. Requirement of clarity and specificity in demand letters.
- Sec. 9. Abusive demand letters.
- Sec. 10. Transparency of patent transfer.
- Sec. 11. Protection of intellectual property licenses in bankruptcy.
- Sec. 12. Small business education, outreach, and information access.
- Sec. 13. Studies on patent transactions, quality, and examination.
- Sec. 14. Technical corrections to the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and other improvements.
- Sec. 15. Effective date.
- Sec. 16. Severability.

# SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

# SEC. 3. PLEADING REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT ACTIONS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF FORM 18.—Not later than 1 month after the date of enactment of this Act, the Supreme Court, using existing resources, shall eliminate Form 18 in the Appendix to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (Complaint for Patent Infringement).

## (b) PLEADING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 281 the following:

## “§ 281A. Pleading requirements for patent infringement actions

“(a) PLEADING REQUIREMENTS.—In a civil action in which a party asserts a claim for relief arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents, a party alleging infringement shall include in a complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim for patent infringement, except as provided in subsection (c), the following:

“(1) An identification of each patent allegedly infringed.

“(2) An identification of each claim of each patent identified under paragraph (1) that is allegedly infringed.

“(3) For each claim identified under paragraph (2), an identification of each accused process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter (referred to in this section as an ‘accused instrumentality’) alleged to infringe the claim.

“(4) For each accused instrumentality identified under paragraph (3), an identification with particularity, if known, of—

“(A) the name or model number (or a representative model number) of each accused instrumentality; or

“(B) if there is no name or model number, a description of each accused instrumentality.

“(5) For each claim identified under paragraph (2), a description of the elements thereof that are alleged to be infringed by the accused instrumentality and how the accused instrumentality is alleged to infringe those elements.

“(6) For each claim of indirect infringement, a description of the acts of the alleged infringer that are alleged to contribute to or induce the direct infringement.

“(b) DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO MEET PLEADING REQUIREMENTS.—The court shall, on the motion of any party, dismiss any count or counts of the complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim for patent infringement if the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a) are not met with respect to such count or counts. The fact that a party pleads in accordance with subsection (c) shall not be a basis for dismissal if the party nonetheless states a plausible claim for relief sufficient under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

“(c) INFORMATION NOT ACCESSIBLE.—If some subset of information required to comply with subsection (a) is not accessible to a party after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, consistent with rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, an allegation requiring that information may be based upon a general description of that information, along with a statement as to why the information is not accessible.

“(d) AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS.—Nothing in this provision shall be construed to affect a party’s leave to amend pleadings as specified in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Amendments permitted by the court are subject to the pleading requirements set forth in this section.

“(e) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—A party required to disclose information described under subsection (a) may file information believed to be confidential under seal, with a motion setting forth good cause for such sealing. If such motion is denied by the court, the party may seek to file an amended pleading.

“(f) EXEMPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a civil action that includes a claim for relief arising under section 271(e)(2).

## “§ 281B. Early disclosure requirements for patent infringement actions

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘financial interest’—

“(A) means—

“(i) with regard to a patent or patents, the right of a person to receive proceeds from the assertion of the patent or patents, including a fixed or variable portion of such proceeds; and

“(ii) with regard to the patentee, direct or indirect ownership or control by a person of more than 20 percent of the patentee; and

“(B) does not mean—

“(i) ownership of shares or other interests in a mutual or common investment fund, unless the owner of such interest participates in the management of such fund; or

“(ii) the proprietary interest of a policyholder in a mutual insurance company or a depositor in a mutual savings association, or a similar proprietary interest, unless the outcome of the proceeding could substantially affect the value of such interest;

“(2) the term ‘patentee’ means a party in a civil action that files a pleading subject to the requirements of section 281A;

“(3) the term ‘proceeding’ means all stages of a civil action, including pretrial and trial proceedings and appellate review; and

“(4) the term ‘ultimate parent entity’ has the meaning given the term in section 261A.

“(b) EARLY DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section

299B, a patentee shall disclose to the court and each adverse party, not later than 14 days after the date on which the patentee serves or files the pleading subject to the requirements of section 281A—

“(1) the identity of each—

“(A) assignee of the patent or patents at issue, and any ultimate parent entity thereof;

“(B) entity with a right to sublicense to unaffiliated entities or to enforce the patent or patents at issue, and any ultimate parent entity thereof; and

“(C) entity, other than an entity the ultimate parent of which is disclosed under subparagraph (A) or (B), that the patentee knows to have a financial interest in—

“(i) the patent or patents at issue; or

“(ii) the patentee, and any ultimate parent entity thereof; and

“(2) for each patent that the patentee alleges to be infringed—

“(A) a list of each complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim filed by the patentee or an affiliate thereof in the United States during the 3-year period preceding the date of the filing of the action, and any other complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim filed in the United States during that period of which the patentee has knowledge, that asserts or asserted such patent, including—

“(i) the caption;

“(ii) civil action number;

“(iii) the court where the action was filed; and

“(iv) if applicable, any court to which the action was transferred;

“(B) a statement as to whether the patent is subject to an assurance made by the party to a standards development organization to license others under such patent if—

“(i) the assurance specifically identifies such patent or claims therein; and

“(ii) the allegation of infringement relates to such standard; and

“(C) a statement as to whether the Federal Government has imposed specific licensing requirements with respect to such patent.

## “(c) DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST.—

“(1) PUBLICLY TRADED.—For purposes of subsection (b)(1)(C), if the financial interest is held by a corporation traded on a public stock exchange, an identification of the name of the corporation and the public exchange listing shall satisfy the disclosure requirement.

“(2) NOT PUBLICLY TRADED.—For purposes of subsection (b)(1)(C), if the financial interest is not held by a publicly traded corporation, the disclosure shall satisfy the disclosure requirement if the information identifies—

“(A) in the case of a partnership, the name of the partnership, the address of the principal place of business, and the name and correspondence address of the registered agent;

“(B) in the case of a corporation, the name of the corporation, the location of incorporation, and the address of the principal place of business; and

“(C) for each individual, the name and correspondence address of that individual.

“(d) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.—Not later than 1 month after the date on which the disclosures required under subsection (b) are made, the patentee shall provide to the United States Patent and Trademark Office a filing containing the information disclosed pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

## “(e) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A patentee required to disclose information under subsection (b)

may file, under seal, information believed to be confidential, with a motion setting forth good cause for such sealing.

“(2) HOME ADDRESS INFORMATION.—For purposes of this section, the home address of an individual shall be considered to be confidential information.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 281 the following new items:

“281A. Pleading requirements for patent infringement actions.

“281B. Early disclosure requirements for patent infringement actions.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to any action for which a complaint is filed on or after that date.

#### SEC. 4. CUSTOMER-SUIT EXCEPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 299A. Customer stay

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered customer’ means a retailer or end user that is accused of infringing a patent or patents in dispute based on—

“(A) the sale, or offer for sale, of a covered product or covered process without material modification of the product or process in a manner that is alleged to infringe a patent or patents in dispute; or

“(B) the use by such retailer, the retailer’s end user customer, or an end user of a covered product or covered process without material modification of the product or process in a manner that is alleged to infringe a patent or patents in dispute;

“(2) the term ‘covered manufacturer’ means a person who manufactures or supplies, or causes the manufacture or supply of, a covered product or covered process, or a relevant part thereof;

“(3) the term ‘covered process’ means a process, method, or a relevant part thereof, that is alleged to infringe the patent or patents in dispute where such process, method, or relevant part thereof is implemented by an apparatus, material, system, software or other instrumentality that is provided by the covered manufacturer;

“(4) the term ‘covered product’ means a component, product, system, service, or a relevant part thereof, that—

“(A) is alleged to infringe the patent or patents in dispute; or

“(B) implements a process alleged to infringe the patent or patents in dispute;

“(5) for purposes of this section, the term ‘end user’ shall include an affiliate of such an end user, but shall not include an entity that manufactures or causes the manufacture of a covered product or covered process or a relevant part thereof;

“(6) the term ‘retailer’ means an entity that generates its revenues predominately through the sale to the public of consumer goods or services, or an affiliate of such entity, but shall not include an entity that manufactures or causes the manufacture of a covered product or covered process or a relevant part thereof; and

“(7) for purposes of the definitions in subparagraphs (5) and (6), the terms ‘use’ and ‘sale’ mean the use and the sale, respectively, within the meanings given those terms under section 271.

“(b) MOTION FOR STAY.—In a civil action in which a party asserts a claim for relief arising

under any Act of Congress relating to patents (other than an action that includes a cause of action described in section 271(e)), the court shall grant a motion to stay at least the portion of the action against a covered customer that relates to infringement of a patent involving a covered product or covered process if—

“(1) the covered manufacturer is a party to the action or a separate action in a Federal court of the United States involving the same patent or patents relating to the same covered product or covered process;

“(2) the covered customer agrees to be bound as to issues determined in an action described in paragraph (1) without a full and fair opportunity to separately litigate any such issue, but only as to those issues for which all other elements of the common law doctrine of issue preclusion are met; and

“(3) the motion is filed after the first pleading in the action but not later than the later of—

“(A) 120 days after service of the first pleading or paper in the action that specifically identifies the covered product or covered process as a basis for the alleged infringement of the patent by the covered customer, and specifically identifies how the covered product or covered process is alleged to infringe the patent; or

“(B) the date on which the first scheduling order in the case is entered.

“(c) MANUFACTURER CONSENT IN CERTAIN CASES.—If the covered manufacturer has been made a party to the action on motion by the covered customer, then a motion under subsection (b) may only be granted if the covered manufacturer and the covered customer agree in writing to the stay.

“(d) LIFT OF STAY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A stay entered under this section may be lifted upon grant of a motion based on a showing that—

“(A) the action involving the covered manufacturer will not resolve major issues in the suit against the covered customer, such as that a covered product or covered process identified in the motion to lift the stay is not a material part of the claimed invention or inventions in the patent or patents in dispute; or

“(B) the stay unreasonably prejudices or would be manifestly unjust to the party seeking to lift the stay.

“(2) SEPARATE ACTIONS.—In the case of a stay entered under this section based on the participation of the covered manufacturer in a separate action described in subsection (b)(1), a motion under paragraph (1) may only be granted if the court in such separate action determines that the showing required under paragraph (1) has been made.

“(e) WAIVER OF ESTOPPEL EFFECT.—If, following the grant of a motion to stay under this section, the covered manufacturer in an action described in subsection (b)(1)—

“(1) obtains or consents to entry of a consent judgment involving one or more of the issues that gave rise to the stay; or

“(2) fails to prosecute to a final, non-appealable judgment a final decision as to one or more of the issues that gave rise to the stay,

the court may, upon motion, determine that such consent judgment or unappealed final decision shall not be binding on the covered customer with respect to one or more of the issues that gave rise to the stay based on a showing that such an outcome would unreasonably prejudice or be manifestly unjust to the covered customer in light of the circumstances of the case.

“(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the

ability of a court to grant any stay, expand any stay granted pursuant to this section, or grant any motion to intervene, if otherwise permitted by law.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“299A. Customer stay.”.

#### SEC. 5. DISCOVERY LIMITS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 4, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 299B. Discovery in patent infringement action

“(a) DISCOVERY IN PATENT INFRINGEMENT ACTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), in a civil action arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents, discovery shall be stayed during the pendency of 1 or more motions described in paragraph (2) if the motion or motions were filed prior to the first responsive pleading.

“(2) MOTIONS DESCRIBED.—The motions described in this paragraph are—

“(A) a motion to dismiss;

“(B) a motion to transfer venue; and

“(C) a motion to sever accused infringers.

“(b) DISCRETION TO EXPAND SCOPE OF DISCOVERY.—

“(1) RESOLUTION OF MOTIONS.—A court may allow limited discovery necessary to resolve a motion described in subsection (a) or a motion for preliminary relief properly raised by a party before or during the pendency of a motion described in subsection (a).

“(2) ADDITIONAL DISCOVERY.—On motion, a court may allow additional discovery if the court finds that such discovery is necessary to preserve evidence or otherwise prevent specific prejudice to a party.

“(c) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY LIMITATION.—

“(1) VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION.—The parties to an action described in subsection (a) may voluntarily consent to be excluded, in whole or in part, from the limitation on discovery under subsection (a).

“(2) CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 271(e).—This section shall not apply to a civil action that includes a claim for relief arising under section 271(e).

“(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) TIMELINE FOR RESPONSIVE PLEADINGS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the time provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for the filing of responsive pleadings.

“(2) EXCHANGE OF CONTENTIONS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a court from ordering or local rules from requiring the exchange of contentions regarding infringement, non-infringement, invalidity or other issues, by interrogatories or other written initial disclosures, at an appropriate time determined by the court.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 4, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 299A the following:

“299B. Discovery in patent infringement action.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to any action for which a complaint is filed on or after that date.

# SEC. 6. PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.

(a) JUDICIAL CONFERENCE RULES AND PROCEDURES ON DISCOVERY BURDENS AND COSTS.—

(1) RULES AND PROCEDURES.—The Judicial Conference of the United States, using existing resources, should develop rules and procedures to implement the discovery proposals described in paragraph (2) to address concerns regarding the asymmetries in discovery burdens and costs that may arise in a civil action arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents.

(2) RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE CONSIDERED.—The rules and procedures to be developed under paragraph (1) should address each of the following:

(A) DISCOVERY OF CORE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.—To what extent each party to the action is entitled to receive core documentary evidence and should be responsible for the costs of producing core documentary evidence within the possession or control of each such party, and to what extent each party to the action may seek noncore documentary discovery as otherwise provided in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(B) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.—If the parties request discovery of electronic communication, how such discovery should be phased to occur relative to the exchange of initial disclosures and core documentary evidence, and appropriate limitations to apply to such discovery.

(C) ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT DISCOVERY.—The manner and extent to which the following should apply:

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each party to the action may seek any additional document discovery beyond core documentary evidence as permitted under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, if such party bears the reasonable costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, of the additional document discovery.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT DISCOVERY.—Unless the parties mutually agree otherwise, no party may be permitted additional document discovery unless such a party posts a bond, or provides other security, in an amount sufficient to cover the expected costs of such additional document discovery, or makes a showing to the court that such party has the financial capacity to pay the costs of such additional document discovery.

(iii) GOOD CAUSE MODIFICATION.—A court, upon motion and for good cause shown, may modify the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) and any definition under paragraph (3). Not later than 30 days after the pretrial conference under rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the parties shall jointly submit any proposed modifications of the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) and any definition under paragraph (3), unless the parties do not agree, in which case each party shall submit any proposed modification of such party and a summary of the disagreement over the modification.

(iv) COMPUTER CODE.—A court, upon motion and for good cause shown, may determine that computer code should be included in the discovery of core documentary evidence. The discovery of computer code shall occur after the parties have exchanged initial disclosures and other core documentary evidence.

(D) DISCOVERY SEQUENCE AND SCOPE.—The manner and extent to which the parties shall discuss and address in the written report filed pursuant to rule 26(f) of the Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure the views and proposals of each party on the following:

(i) When the discovery of core documentary evidence should be completed.

(ii) Whether additional document discovery will be sought under subparagraph (C).

(iii) Any issues about infringement, invalidity, or damages that, if resolved before the additional discovery described in subparagraph (C) commences, might simplify or streamline the case.

(3) SCOPE OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.—In developing rules or procedures under this section, the Judicial Conference should consider which kinds of evidence constitute "core documentary evidence".

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection the term "electronic communication" means any form of electronic communication, including email, text message, or instant message.

(b) JUDICIAL CONFERENCE PATENT CASE MANAGEMENT.—The Judicial Conference of the United States, using existing resources, should develop case management procedures to be implemented by the United States district courts and the United States Court of Federal Claims for any civil action arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents, including initial disclosure and early case management conference practices that—

(1) will identify any potential dispositive issues of the case; and

(2) focus on early summary judgment motions when resolution of issues may lead to expedited disposition of the case.

## SEC. 7. FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in patent cases, reasonable attorney fees should be paid by a non-prevailing party whose litigation position or conduct is not objectively reasonable. As the Supreme Court wrote in adopting this legal standard in the context of fee shifting under section 1447 of title 28, United States Code, this standard is intended to strike a balance; in patent cases, a more appropriate balance between protecting the right of a patent holder to enforce its patent on the one hand, and deterring abuses in patent litigation and threats thereof on the other.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 285 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

### "§ 285. Fees and other expenses

"(a) AWARD.—In connection with a civil action in which any party asserts a claim for relief arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents, upon motion by a prevailing party, the court shall determine whether the position of the non-prevailing party was objectively reasonable in law and fact, and whether the conduct of the non-prevailing party was objectively reasonable. If the court finds that the position of the non-prevailing party was not objectively reasonable in law or fact or that the conduct of the non-prevailing party was not objectively reasonable, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party unless special circumstances would make an award unjust.

"(b) COVENANT NOT TO SUE.—A party to a civil action who asserts a claim for relief arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents against another party, and who subsequently unilaterally (i) seeks dismissal of the action without consent of the other party and (ii) extends to such other party a covenant not to sue for infringement with respect to the patent or patents at issue, may be the subject of a motion for attorney

fees under subsection (a) as if it were a non-prevailing party, unless the party asserting such claim would have been entitled, at the time that such covenant was extended, to dismiss voluntarily the action without a court order under rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or the interests of justice require otherwise.

"(c) RECOVERY OF AWARD.—

"(1) CERTIFICATION; DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES.—

"(A) INITIAL STATEMENT.—A party defending against a claim of infringement may file, not later than 14 days before a scheduling conference is to be held or a scheduling order is due under rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a statement that such party holds a good faith belief, based on publicly-available information and any other information known to such party, that the primary business of the party alleging infringement is the assertion and enforcement of patents or the licensing resulting therefrom.

"(B) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 45 days after being served with an initial statement under subparagraph (A), a party alleging infringement shall file a certification that—

"(i) establishes and certifies to the court, under oath, that it will have sufficient funds available to satisfy any award of reasonable attorney fees under this section if an award is assessed;

"(ii) demonstrates that its primary business is not the assertion and enforcement of patents or the licensing resulting therefrom;

"(iii) identifies interested parties, if any, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subsection; or

"(iv) states that it has no such interested parties.

A party alleging infringement shall have an ongoing obligation to supplement its certification under this subparagraph within 30 days after a material change to the information provided in its certification.

"(C) NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTY.—A party that files a certification under subparagraph (B)(iii) shall, prior to filing the certification, provide each identified interested party actual notice in writing by service of notice in any district where the interested party may be found, such that jurisdiction shall be established over each interested party to the action for purposes of enforcing an award of attorney fees under this section, consistent with the Constitution of the United States. The notice shall identify the action, the parties, the patents at issue, and the interest qualifying the party to be an interested party. The notice shall inform the recipient that the recipient may be held accountable under this subsection for any award of attorney fees, or a portion thereof, resulting from the action in the event the party alleging infringement cannot satisfy the full amount of such an award, unless the recipient renounces its interest pursuant to subparagraph (E) or is otherwise exempt from the applicability of this subsection.

"(D) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INTERESTED PARTIES.—Any interested parties who are timely served with actual notice pursuant to subparagraph (C) and do not renounce their interests pursuant to subparagraph (E) or are not otherwise exempt from the applicability of this subsection may be held accountable for any fees, or a portion thereof, awarded under this section in the event that the party alleging infringement cannot satisfy the full amount of the award. If a true and correct certification under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) is timely filed with the court, interested parties shall not be subject to this subparagraph.

“(E) RENUNCIATION OF INTEREST.—Any recipient of a notice under subparagraph (C) may submit a statement of renunciation of interest in a binding document with notice to the court and parties in the action not later than 120 days after receipt of the notice under subparagraph (C). The statement shall be required to renounce only such interest as would qualify the recipient as an interested party.

“(F) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXCEPTION.—Any institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) or under equivalent laws in foreign jurisdictions), or a non-profit technology transfer organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate the commercialization of technologies developed by 1 or more institutions of higher education, may exempt itself from the applicability of this subsection by filing a certification that it qualifies for the exception provided for in this subparagraph with the court and providing notice to the parties.

“(G) INTEREST OF JUSTICE EXCEPTION.—Any recipient of a notice under subparagraph (C) may intervene in the action for purposes of contesting its identification as an interested party or its liability under this subsection, and a court may exempt any party identified as an interested party from the applicability of this subsection as the interest of justice requires.

“(2) INTERESTED PARTY.—In this section, the term ‘interested party’—

“(A) means a person who has a substantial financial interest related to the proceeds from any settlement, license, or damages award resulting from the enforcement of the patent in the action by the party alleging infringement;

“(B) does not include an attorney or law firm providing legal representation in the action if the sole basis for the financial interest of the attorney or law firm in the outcome of the action arises from the attorney or law firm’s receipt of compensation reasonably related to the provision of the legal representation;

“(C) does not include a person who has assigned all right, title, and interest in a patent, except for passive receipt of income, to an entity described in paragraph (1)(F), or who has a right to receive any portion of such passive income; and

“(D) does not include a person who would be an interested party under subparagraph (A) but whose financial interest is based solely on an equity or security interest established when the party alleging infringement’s primary business was not the assertion and enforcement of patents or the licensing resulting therefrom.

“(d) CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 271(e).—

“(1) APPLICABILITY.—Subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not apply to a civil action that includes a claim for relief arising under section 271(e).

“(2) AWARD IN CERTAIN CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 271(e).—In a civil action that includes a claim for relief arising under section 271(e), the court may in exceptional cases award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT AND AMENDMENT.—

(1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 285 of the table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“285. Fees and other expenses.”.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Section 273 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (f) and (g).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to any action filed on or after such date.

#### SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT OF CLARITY AND SPECIFICITY IN DEMAND LETTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 299C. Pre-suit written notice

“(a) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (b) shall not apply—

“(1) to written communication between parties—

“(A) regarding existing licensing agreements;

“(B) as part of an ongoing licensing negotiation, provided that the initial written notice complied with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section; or

“(C) sent after the initial written notice, provided that the initial written notice complied with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section; or

“(2) if the court determines it is in the interest of justice to waive the requirements of subsection (b).

“(b) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In a civil action alleging infringement of a patent in which the plaintiff has provided written notice of the accusation of infringement to the party accused of infringement prior to filing the action, the initial written notice shall contain the information required under paragraph (2) or be subject to paragraph (3).

“(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN INITIAL WRITTEN NOTICE.—The initial written notice described in paragraph (1) shall contain, at a minimum—

“(A) an identification of—

“(i) each patent believed to be infringed, including the patent number; and

“(ii) at least one claim of each patent that is believed to be infringed;

“(B) an identification of each product, process, apparatus, or chemical composition, including any manufacturer thereof, that is believed to infringe one or more claims of each patent under subparagraph (A);

“(C) a clear and detailed description of the reasons why the plaintiff believes each patent identified under subparagraph (A) is infringed;

“(D) notice to the intended recipient that the intended recipient may have the right to a stay of any suit in accordance with section 299A;

“(E) the identity of any person with the right to enforce each patent under subparagraph (A); and

“(F) if compensation is proposed, a short and plain statement as to how that proposed compensation was determined.

“(3) ADDITIONAL TIME TO RESPOND.—If the initial written notice provided to the defendant prior to the filing of the civil action did not contain the information required by paragraph (2), the defendant’s time to respond to the complaint shall be extended by an additional 30 days.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“299C. Pre-suit written notice.”.

(c) WILLFUL INFRINGEMENT.—Section 284 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first undesignated paragraph, by striking “Upon finding” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon finding”;

(2) in the second undesignated paragraph, by striking “When the damages” and inserting “(b) ASSESSMENT BY COURT; TREBLE DAMAGES.—When the damages”;

(3) by inserting after subsection (b), as designated by subparagraph (B), the following:

“(c) WILLFUL INFRINGEMENT.—A claimant seeking to establish willful infringement may not rely on evidence of pre-suit notification of infringement unless that notification complies with the standards set out in section 299C(b)(2).”; and

(4) in the last undesignated paragraph, by striking “The court” and inserting “(d) EXPERT TESTIMONY.—The court”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to any action for which a complaint is filed on or after that date.

#### SEC. 9. ABUSIVE DEMAND LETTERS.

(a) BAD-FAITH DEMAND LETTERS.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 8, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 299D. Bad-faith demand letters

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘affiliated person’ means a person affiliated with the intended recipient of a written communication.

“(b) CIVIL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH ABUSIVE DEMAND LETTERS.—A person who commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of section 5(a)(1) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(a)(1)), in connection with the assertion of a United States patent, and who engages in the widespread sending of written communications representing that the intended recipients, or any persons affiliated with those recipients, are or may be infringing, or have or may have infringed, the patent and may bear liability or owe compensation to another, shall be deemed to have violated a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice described under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)) if—

“(1)(A) the communications falsely—

“(i) represent that administrative or judicial relief has been sought against the recipient or others; or

“(ii) threaten litigation if compensation is not paid, the infringement issue is not otherwise resolved, or the communication is not responded to; and

“(B) there is a pattern of false statements or threats described in subparagraph (A) having been made without litigation or other relief then having been pursued;

“(2) the assertions contained in the communications lack a reasonable basis in fact or law, because—

“(A) the person asserting the patent is not a person, or does not represent a person, with the current right to license the patent to, or to enforce the patent against, the intended recipients or any affiliated persons;

“(B) the communications seek compensation on account of activities undertaken after the patent has expired;

“(C) the communications seek compensation for a patent that has been held to be invalid or unenforceable in a final judicial or administrative proceeding that is unappealable or for which any opportunity for appeal is no longer available;

“(D) the communications seek compensation for activities by the recipient that the

sender knows do not infringe the patent because such activities are authorized by the patentee;

“(E) the communications falsely represent that an investigation of the recipient’s alleged infringement has occurred; or

“(F) the communications falsely state that litigation has been filed against, or a license has been paid by persons similarly situated to the recipient; or

“(3) the content of the written communications is likely to materially mislead a reasonable recipient because the content fails to include facts reasonably necessary to inform the recipient—

“(A) of the identity of the person asserting a right to license the patent to, or enforce the patent against, the intended recipient or any affiliated person;

“(B) of the patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office alleged to have been infringed; and

“(C) if infringement or the need to pay compensation for a license is alleged, of an identification of at least one product, service, or other activity of the recipient that is alleged to infringe the identified patent or patents and, unless the information is not readily accessible, an explanation of the basis for such allegation.

“(C) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

“(1) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

“(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who engages in an act or practice described in subsection (b) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 8, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 299C the following:

“299D. Bad-faith demand letters.”.

#### SEC. 10. TRANSPARENCY OF PATENT TRANSFER.

(a) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 26 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 261 the following:

##### “§261A. Disclosure of information relating to patent ownership

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) PERIOD OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—The term ‘period of noncompliance’ refers to a period of time during which the assignee or the ultimate parent entity of an assignee of a patent has not been disclosed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with this section.

“(2) ULTIMATE PATENT ENTITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ‘ultimate parent entity’ has the meaning given such term in section 801.1(a)(3) of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(B) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION.—The Director may by regulation modify the definition of the term ‘ultimate parent entity’.

“(b) REQUIREMENT TO DISCLOSE ASSIGNMENT.—An assignment of all substantial rights in an issued patent shall be recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office—

“(1) not later than the date on which the patent is issued; and

“(2) when any subsequent assignment is made that results in a change to the ultimate parent entity—

“(A) not later than 3 months after the date on which such assignment is made; or

“(B) in the case of an assignment made as part of a corporate acquisition that meets the reporting thresholds under section 7A(a)(2) of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 18a(a)(2)), not later than 6 months after the closing date of such acquisition.

“(c) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—A disclosure under subsection (b) shall include the name of the assignee and the ultimate parent entity of the assignee.

“(d) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—In a civil action in which a party asserts a claim for infringement of a patent, if there was a failure to comply with subsection (b) for the patent—

“(1) the party asserting infringement of the patent may not recover increased damages under section 284 or attorney fees under section 285 with respect to infringing activities taking place during any period of non-compliance, unless the denial of such damages or fees would be manifestly unjust; and

“(2) the court shall award to a prevailing accused infringer reasonable attorney fees and expenses incurred in discovering the identity of any undisclosed entity required to be disclosed under subsection (b), unless such sanctions would be manifestly unjust.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to any patent for which a notice of allowance is issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 26 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“261A. Disclosure of information relating to patent ownership.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Director may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to establish a registration fee in an amount sufficient to recover the estimated costs of administering section 261A of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), to facilitate the collection and maintenance of the information required by the amendments made by this section and section 3(b) of this Act, and to ensure the timely disclosure of such information to the public.

#### SEC. 11. PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LICENSES IN BANKRUPTCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1522 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Section 365(n) shall apply to cases under this chapter. If the foreign representative rejects or repudiates a contract under which the debtor is a licensor of intellectual property, the licensee under such contract shall be entitled to make the election and exercise the rights described in section 365(n).”.

(b) TRADEMARKS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 101(35A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “or”;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by adding after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraph:

“(G) a trademark, service mark, or trade name, as those terms are defined in section 45 of the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the ‘Trademark Act of 1946’ (15 U.S.C. 1127));”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 365(n)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “royalty payments” and inserting “royalty or other payments”; and

(ii) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) in the case of a trademark, service mark, or trade name, the licensee shall not be relieved of any of its obligations to maintain the quality of the products and services offered under or in connection with the licensed trademark, service mark or trade name, and the trustee shall retain the right to oversee and enforce quality control for said products and/or services.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to any case that is pending on, or for which a petition or complaint is filed on or after, such date of enactment.

#### SEC. 12. SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND INFORMATION ACCESS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—

(1) RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS.—Using existing resources, the Director shall develop educational resources for small businesses to address concerns arising from patent infringement.

(2) SMALL BUSINESS PATENT OMBUDSMAN.—The existing small business patent outreach programs of the Office, in consultation with the relevant offices at the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency, shall provide education and awareness regarding resources available for those persons responding to allegations of patent infringement.

(b) IMPROVING INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE USERS.—

(1) WEB SITE.—Using existing resources, the Director shall create a user-friendly section on the official Web site of the Office to notify the public when a patent case is brought in Federal court and, with respect to each patent at issue in such case, the Director shall include—

(A) information disclosed under section 261A of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 10, and section 281B(b) of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 3; and

(B) any other information the Director determines to be relevant.

(2) FORMAT.—In order to promote accessibility for the public, the information described in paragraph (1) shall be searchable by patent number, patent art area, and entity.

#### SEC. 13. STUDIES ON PATENT TRANSACTIONS, QUALITY, AND EXAMINATION.

(a) STUDY ON SECONDARY MARKET OVERSIGHT FOR PATENT TRANSACTIONS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the heads of other relevant agencies, and interested parties, shall, using existing resources of the Office, conduct a study—

(A) to develop legislative recommendations to ensure greater transparency and accountability in patent transactions occurring on the secondary market;

(B) to examine the economic impact that the patent secondary market has on the United States;

(C) to examine licensing and other oversight requirements that may be placed on the patent secondary market, including on

the participants in such markets, to ensure that the market is a level playing field and that brokers in the market have the requisite expertise and adhere to ethical business practices; and

(D) to examine the requirements placed on other markets.

(2) **REPORT ON STUDY.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate on the findings and recommendations of the Director from the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) **STUDY ON PATENT SMALL CLAIMS PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Judicial Center and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall, using existing resources, conduct a study to examine the idea of developing a pilot program for patent small claims procedures in certain judicial districts within the existing patent pilot program mandated by Public Law 111-349.

(B) **CONTENTS OF STUDY.**—The study under subparagraph (A) shall examine—

(i) the necessary criteria for using small claims procedures;

(ii) the costs that would be incurred for establishing, maintaining, and operating such a pilot program; and

(iii) the steps that would be taken to ensure that the procedures used in the pilot program are not misused for abusive patent litigation.

(2) **REPORT ON STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate on the findings and recommendations of the Director of the Administrative Office from the study required under paragraph (1).

(c) **STUDY ON BUSINESS METHOD PATENT QUALITY.**—

(1) **GAO STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, using existing resources, conduct a study on the volume and nature of litigation involving business method patents.

(2) **CONTENTS OF STUDY.**—The study required under paragraph (1) shall focus on examining the quality of business method patents asserted in suits alleging patent infringement, and may include an examination of any other areas that the Comptroller General determines to be relevant.

(3) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the findings and recommendations from the study required by this subsection, including recommendations for any changes to laws or regulations that the Comptroller General considers appropriate on the basis of the study.

#### **SEC. 14. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.**

(a) Section 325(e)(2) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “or reasonably could have raised”.

(b) **PTO PATENT REVIEWS.**—

(1) **CLARIFICATION.**—

(A) **SCOPE OF PRIOR ART.**—Section 18(a)(1)(C)(i) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 321 note) is amended by striking “section 102(a)” and inserting “subsection (a) or (e) of section 102”.

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to any proceeding pending on, or filed on or after, such date of enactment.

(2) **AUTHORITY TO WAIVE FEE.**—Subject to available resources, the Director may waive payment of a filing fee for a transitional proceeding described under section 18(a) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 321 note).

(c) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—

(1) **NOVELTY.**—

(A) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 102(b)(1)(A) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “the inventor or joint inventor or by another” and inserting “the inventor or a joint inventor or another”.

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as if included in the amendment made by section 3(b)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29).

(2) **INVENTOR'S OATH OR DECLARATION.**—

(A) **REQUIREMENT TO EXECUTE.**—Section 115(a) of title 35, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by striking “shall execute” and inserting “may be required by the Director to execute”.

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as if included in the amendment made by section 4(a)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29).

(3) **ASSIGNEE FILERS.**—

(A) **BENEFIT OF EARLIER FILING DATE; RIGHT OF PRIORITY.**—Section 119(e)(1) of title 35, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “by an inventor or inventors named” and inserting “that names the inventor or a joint inventor”.

(B) **BENEFIT OF EARLIER FILING DATE IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Section 120 of title 35, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “names an inventor or joint inventor” and inserting “names the inventor or a joint inventor”.

(C) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this paragraph shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to any patent application, and any patent issuing from such application, that is filed on or after September 16, 2012.

(4) **DERIVED PATENTS.**—

(A) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 291(b) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “or joint inventor” and inserting “or a joint inventor”.

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall be effective as if included in the amendment made by section 3(h)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29).

(5) **SPECIFICATION.**—Notwithstanding section 4(e) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29; 125 Stat. 297), the amendments made by subsections (c) and (d) of section 4 of such Act shall apply to any proceeding or matter that is pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) **TIME LIMIT FOR COMMENCING MISCONDUCT PROCEEDINGS.**—

(A) **AMENDMENT.**—The fourth sentence of section 32 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “1 year” and inserting “18 months”.

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this paragraph shall take effect on

the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to any action in which the Office files a complaint on or after such date of enactment.

(7) **PATENT OWNER RESPONSE.**—

(A) **CONDUCT OF INTER PARTES REVIEW.**—Paragraph (8) of section 316(a) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “the petition under section 313” and inserting “the petition under section 311”.

(B) **CONDUCT OF POST-GRANT REVIEW.**—Paragraph (8) of section 326(a) of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking “the petition under section 323” and inserting “the petition under section 321”.

(C) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this paragraph shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **MANAGEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3(b)(1) of title 35, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “be vested with the authority to act in the capacity of the” and inserting “serve as Acting,”; and

(B) by inserting before the period “or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Director.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to appointments and vacancies occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### **SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply to any patent issued, or any action filed, on or after that date.

#### **SEC. 16. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce legislation with Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, SCHUMER, LEE, HATCH and KLOBUCHAR. As members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we have been working for almost 2 years to address abusive conduct in our patent system. Our legislation will deter abusive practices while preserving the strength of America's patent system. After months of negotiations, we have achieved a strong and fair balance that I strongly support.

America's patent system has fueled our Nation's greatest technological advances, creating jobs and spurring innovation. By promoting investment in new products and designs, our patent system drives developments that benefit us all. In recent years, however, bad actors have abused the patent system to extract money from unsuspecting companies through broad threats of patent litigation. Coffee shops have been threatened with patent suits simply for using a Wi-Fi router they purchased off the shelf, and website owners have faced costly litigation for using basic software in e-commerce. Instead of using patents to



drive new creations, some entities are holding up main street businesses and innovative companies simply to extort financial settlements.

The PATENT Act addresses this behavior through several important reforms. It will promote transparency to hold bad actors accountable; curb misleading demand letters; and empower customers who have been improperly targeted for simply using a product when the product's manufacturer should defend the suit instead. I have heard about the urgent need for these measures from businesses in Vermont and across the country, which is why I included them in the bipartisan legislation on patent abuses that Senator LEE and I introduced last Congress. This provision has earned widespread support and I am glad it is part of the bill we introduce today.

The legislation also addresses imbalances in patent litigation that make it unusually difficult and expensive to defend against frivolous lawsuits. These measures would require detailed allegations in legal complaints for patent infringement, establish reasonable parameters for document discovery to save costs, and ensure that litigants can be held accountable for the other side's attorneys' fees if their conduct or position is found by a court to be objectively unreasonable.

Drafting legislation that involves the enforcement of patent rights is a complex problem that requires time and balance. Congress spent multiple years developing what ultimately became the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011, and we were able to come together to find common ground and enact that major piece of legislation into law. Throughout our negotiations on this bill, I have emphasized the need to address concerns from major manufacturers, inventors, universities, and patent law practitioners who warned that, if taken too far, patent litigation reform proposals would harm legitimate patent holders' ability to protect their rights in court. The legislation we have introduced today is greatly improved as a result of their input.

It is worth highlighting some of the changes that have been made to the bill to respond to those concerns, changes which were personally important to me as we negotiated this legislation. The language in the PATENT Act provides for fee shifting only in cases where the court finds that the losing party was not "objectively reasonable." This is an important change from the approach of "presumptive loser pays" contained in the House's patent reform bill, the Innovation Act. It promotes judicial discretion and ensures the burden is on the party seeking fees to show that fees should be awarded. An additional exception allows the court to refrain from awarding fees if such an award would be unjust—for example, because it would

cause undue financial harm to an individual inventor or a public institution of higher education.

The PATENT Act simplifies the pleading requirements that are contained in the Innovation Act, and ensures that a plaintiff is not required to plead information if it is not accessible to them. I am grateful that the other authors of this bill worked with me to ensure that the standard of what a plaintiff is required to plead about infringement of their patent claims tracks Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, without creating a higher standard for plaintiffs to prove a plausible claim for relief.

I am also grateful for the significant work that was done to streamline the discovery provisions of the bill, to protect litigants from costly discovery while ensuring that legitimate plaintiffs are not prejudiced by unreasonable limitations on their ability to access information. Under the PATENT Act, discovery is stayed while the court resolves early, pre-answer motions about whether the case has been brought in the correct venue, against the correct defendants, and whether the complaint states a plausible claim for relief. Discovery is permitted if necessary to resolve those motions, to resolve a motion for preliminary relief, or if failure to allow discovery would cause specific prejudice to a party.

Taken together, these provisions will help promote efficiency in patent suits while ensuring that patent holders can fairly protect their rights in court. While the provisions are not perfect, they strike a meaningful balance that I am happy to support given the unusual complexities of patent litigation.

As this legislation proceeds to mark-up in the Senate Judiciary Committee next month, I look forward to considering additional amendments that will improve this bill. For example, in recent months, some companies and inventors have raised concerns about unfair practices that are taking place in the post-grant review proceedings through which patents can be challenged at the Patent and Trademark Office. Those proceedings were created by the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act as an important tool to improve patent quality, but if they are being misused or creating inaccurate perceptions in the marketplace, we should address those concerns. I look forward to working with the stakeholders who have already contributed meaningfully to this bill.

Abusive practices by bad actors are a discredit to our strong patent system, and it is in no one's interest that they continue. Businesses, innovators and customers that are victims of abusive conduct need us to come together to enact reform. I look forward to this bill's swift consideration in the Judiciary Committee.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 154—DESIGNATING MAY 16, 2015, AS "KIDS TO PARKS DAY"

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 154

Whereas the 5th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 16, 2015;

Whereas the goal of Kids to Parks Day is to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, empower young people, and encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and come together for a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 16, 2015, as "Kids to Parks Day;"

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces to the health and education of the young people of the United States;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

(4) encourages the President to issue a proclamation for Kids to Parks Day, calling on the people of the United States to observe Kids to Parks Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 155—ESTABLISHING MAY 2, 2015, AS A DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR EBOLA ORPHANS TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE 2014 EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA BY PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE CHILDREN OF WEST AFRICA WHO HAVE BEEN ORPHANED BY THE 2014 EBOLA EPIDEMIC, CELEBRATING THOSE WHO HAVE RECOGNIZED AND ARE WORKING TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF THOSE CHILDREN, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF WEST AFRICA

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:



## S. RES. 155

Whereas the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa reached epidemic proportions;

Whereas the World Health Organization reports that there have been over 14,800 laboratory-confirmed cases of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as of April 19, 2015;

Whereas the World Health Organization reports that there have been over 10,800 deaths from Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as of April 19, 2015;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that as of February 2015, nearly 11,000 children in West Africa have lost 1 or both parents due to the 2014 Ebola outbreak;

Whereas some families reject Ebola orphans out of fear of the disease;

Whereas the United States authorized \$750,000,000 to support up to 3,000 United States troops in Monrovia, Liberia to respond to the Ebola crisis; and

Whereas United States citizens have given time and resources to assist the people of West Africa, including Ebola orphans: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 2, 2015, as a Day of Recognition for Ebola Orphans, to promote awareness of the children of West Africa orphaned by the 2014 Ebola outbreak;

(2) supports the goals and work of those who are addressing the developing Ebola orphan crisis in West Africa; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider the needs of the children of West Africa who were orphaned by the 2014 Ebola epidemic.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1194. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1179 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1195. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1191, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1194.** Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1179 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the amendment SA 1140 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, of the amendment, insert after “, and annexes” the following: “, and a certification that the Government of Iran has released to the United States—

(i) Saeed Abedini of Idaho, who has been detained in Iran on charges related to his religious beliefs since September 2012;

(ii) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011;

(iii) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014; and

(iv) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007;

**SA 1195.** Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, strike line 1 and insert the following:

“(h) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM.—

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

“(A) The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to advance its intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) program.

“(B) On February 2, 2015, the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully launched its Safir long-range missile system to send a satellite into orbit.

“(C) In 2013, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center concluded that Iran could use space launch technology as a ‘test bed’ for ICBM technology development, stating, ‘Iran could develop and test an ICBM capable of reaching the United States by 2015. Since 2008, Iran has conducted multiple successful launches of the two-stage Safir space launch vehicle (SLV) and has also revealed the larger two-stage Simorgh SLV, which could serve as a test bed for developing ICBM technologies.’

“(D) On January 29, 2014, the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, testified, ‘We judge that Iran would choose a ballistic missile as its preferred method of delivering nuclear weapons.’

“(E) Iran continues to violate United Nations Security Council resolution 1929 (2010) by developing ICBM capabilities that could deliver a nuclear weapon.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

“(A) remains concerned about the threat posed by Iran’s ballistic missile development program to the security of the United States and its allies; and

“(B) calls on the President to urge the Government of Iran to comply with United Nations Security Council resolution 1929 regarding their intercontinental ballistic missile program.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

April 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Five Years After Deepwater Horizon: Improvements and Challenges in Prevention and Response.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, at 9:35 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, at 9 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Homeland Security Department’s Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2016.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015 at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “King vs. Burwell Supreme Court Case and Congressional Action that can be taken to Protect Small Businesses and their Employees.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in

room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "GAO's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION,  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Exploring Opportunities for Private Investment in Public Infrastructure."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LEAHY, I ask unanimous consent that Aaron Locke, an intern on his personal office staff, be granted Senate floor privileges for Thursday, April 30, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL  
30, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1191.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

FDA TOBACCO DEEMING  
REGULATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Food and Drug Administration issued its proposed tobacco deeming regulations. These regulations would give the Agency the same regulatory authority it currently has over traditional tobacco cigarettes to other unrelated tobacco products such as e-cigarettes and hookahs.

These regulations are critical for public health, especially for children. Yet, they have languished within the administration for more than a year. A year is too long to wait because we know what has been happening.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control—the FDA's own Center for Tobacco Products—in the past year, e-cigarette use has tripled among teens. Absent any regulation, more and more of these potentially dangerous products have found a way into the hands of our children.

After just a few years on the market, children's use of e-cigarettes has now surpassed the use of traditional cigarettes. Think back to the first time we heard about e-cigarettes. I didn't know what people were talking about. Now we see there are more children using e-cigarettes than traditional cigarettes. This is in large part because we have failed to regulate these addictive products.

Until these regulations are finalized, e-cigarette companies will be able to freely advertise their products to our children in Juneau and to our children in Cleveland.

What many people fail to realize is that often e-cigarette companies and big tobacco companies are now one and the same. Marlboro-maker Altria Group, the Nation's largest tobacco company, is making up for its loss in revenue as cigarette smoking has declined—and it is doing so among children too—making up its loss of revenue from combustible tobacco products by marketing its MarkTen electronic cigarette. Lorillard has acquired Blu e-cigarettes. Reynolds American, the maker of Camel and Pall Mall cigarettes, has a new e-cigarette called VUSE.

Much of Big Tobacco's behavior is driven by one giant and irrefutable fact: Tobacco in the United States kills 400,000 people a year. Think about that—400,000 Americans die prematurely from tobacco use every year. What does that mean? That means tobacco companies need to find 400,000 new customers a year. They are not going to market to people such as the Presiding Officer or me or the people staffing the Senate floor. They are going to people like the pages. They are going to people 16 and 17 years old to addict them to cigarettes. People my age rarely start smoking; people their age so often do.

Big Tobacco has to find these new customers. It used to be that they preyed on children with highly paid, sophisticated tobacco executives who spend their days figuring out how to entice teens to start smoking with characters such as Joe Camel. We think of Camel No. 5, some of the things they did. Now that they are no longer allowed to advertise traditional tobacco products to kids—and parathetically, that is one of the great public health victories in this country, what this body did, what the House of Representatives did, what Presidents did to alert public health and to change young people's behavior so young people did not start smoking in larger numbers. That was an effort by government and consumer groups and children's groups.

These tobacco companies now, though, are taking advantage of the new, unregulated world of e-cigarettes to advertise their products directly to children because they can. Joe Camel has been replaced by celebrities smoking e-cigarettes. These companies sponsor youth-oriented events and air ads on TV and radio aimed at teenagers. They are using new advertising platforms on social media to get to kids where parents typically are not looking.

The shameful e-cigarette marketing tactics employed by tobacco companies are encouraging this next new generation to use tobacco, and, as the CDC's study shows, their tactics are working—triple the use, triple the number of young people smoking these e-cigarettes.

Another recent study revealed that teens were able to purchase e-cigarettes online in 94 percent of the attempts they made. None of them were required to show proof of their age when the cigarettes were delivered.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine that examined the use of candy flavors in tobacco products found that—no surprise here—flavors drive increases in tobacco use among kids. E-cigarettes and their refill liquids come in thousands of different flavors, such as Gummi Bears, Sweet Tarts, and Fruit Loops. Just look at this photo of Gummi Bear-flavored e-liquid. The bottle is about this big.

As the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. James Perrin, said, "Because liquid nicotine comes in a variety of bright colors and in flavors appealing to children such as cotton candy and gummy bear, it is no surprise that these products have found their way into the hands of children."

I don't think they are making gummy bears to encourage people the age of the Presiding Officer, to get them to start smoking, or my age; they are getting young children to start smoking. Gummi Bears, Fruit Loops, and Sweet Tarts—those are candies

young children receive at Halloween. They are also flavors of highly toxic products.

The bottle in this photo contains two teaspoons of liquid nicotine. A single teaspoon of this e-liquid, even if it is highly diluted, can kill a small child if ingested. It is totally legal. People will see this sold at drugstores and at all kinds of places. Children are likely to pick it up if they see it around the house. There is a chance—there always is in a country of 300 million people—that some child will—attracted by this, looking at this, the cute little bottle—will drink it, and that child could die.

It is past time for the FDA to regulate these dangerous products before more children and more teenagers get hooked on e-cigarettes.

My colleagues and I, led by Senator MERKLEY, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator DURBIN, and others, have called on the FDA over and over again to finalize these proposed rules and reject efforts to weaken these proposed regulations. Every day the FDA waits is thousands

more children getting addicted to nicotine, thousands more children getting exposed potentially to drinking this very toxic liquid, and thousands more children smoking these e-cigarettes.

Tobacco companies are pushing to allow more products to be grandfathered out of the new rules. They want to exempt a huge range of e-cigarettes from any review to determine whether they are a threat to public health. That would mean these products would never be subject to review by the FDA. How stupid of a nation can we be? We have been so successful in the last 40 years as public health officials, as Members of Congress, as responsible adults, as consumer groups and advocates for children. We have been so successful in reducing the incidence of smoking, especially among young people. It has changed the whole next generation. Yet, now we are letting this happen.

E-cigarettes are still tobacco products. They are used by the tobacco industry—I haven't talked about this

yet—as a gateway cigarette for kids, and that doesn't stop. They see this, and they start smoking these e-cigarettes. Then a year or 2 years, 5 years, 10 years down the road, they will be smoking traditional tobacco and they will be addicted, and we know what addiction to cigarettes is for so many of our fellow Americans.

My colleagues and I urge the Food and Drug Administration to strengthen and finalize these regulations before any more of our children get hooked on potentially dangerous and addictive tobacco products.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:23 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Jimmy Jackson, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, You are our eternal hope and our present help. We come before You today as both needy and responsible people. You know us better than we know ourselves. You know the things that weigh heavily upon our hearts this morning—our families, our friends, our Nation, and our world. Nothing is hidden from You, and You care for each of us and our concerns.

You declared, “Look unto Me and be delivered, all the ends of the Earth; because I am God, and there is no one else.” We need Your help. Please move upon us and give us a deep longing for Your salvation, Your wisdom, and moral integrity. Let us see ourselves as You see us. Convince us of our utter dependence upon You. Open our eyes to the increasing corruption and blatant evil in our world.

O God, send a great spiritual awakening throughout our land, beginning right here and right now in this room and among these people.

We make our petition in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### WELCOMING REVEREND DR. JIMMY JACKSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I wel-

come Dr. Jimmy Jackson to the House of Representatives and thank him for serving as today’s guest chaplain.

Dr. Jackson is the senior pastor at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where he has served since 1978.

He and his wife, Bobbi, have been married for 54 years. They are parents of three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Jackson has held numerous leadership roles within the Southern Baptist Convention and has served as past president of the Alabama Pastors Conference and past president of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

I have personally known Dr. Jimmy Jackson for almost 35 years and appreciate him, admire him, and thank him for his long commitment to his congregation, to his community, to America, and to the lives of the tens of thousands he has touched during his lifetime of service to God.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, April 13, 2015, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

### JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY SHINZO ABE, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 o’clock and 59 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER);

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX);

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN);

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI);

The gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES);

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO);

The gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI);

The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO);

The gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI);

The gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE);

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT); and

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER);

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN); and

The Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO);

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of Palau.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

The Prime Minister of Japan, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister ABE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Back in June 1957, Nobusuke Kishi, my grandfather, standing right here as Prime Minister of Japan, began his address by saying, "It is because of our strong belief in democratic principles and ideals that Japan associates herself with the free nations of the world."

Fifty-eight years have passed. Today, I am honored to stand here as the first Japanese Prime Minister ever to address your joint session. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for inviting me. I have lots of things to tell you. But I am here with no ability, nor the intention, to filibuster.

As I stand in front of you today, the names of your distinguished colleagues that Japan welcomed as your Ambassadors come back to me: the Honorable Mike Mansfield, Walter Mondale, Tom Foley, and Howard Baker. On behalf of the Japanese people, thank you so very, very much for sending us such shining champions of democracy.

Ambassador Caroline Kennedy also embodies the tradition of American democracy. Thank you. Thank you, Ambassador Kennedy, for all the dynamic work you have done for all of us.

We all miss Senator Inouye, who symbolized the honor and achievements of Japanese Americans.

Ladies and gentlemen, my first encounter with America goes back to my days as a student when I spent a spell in California. A lady named Catherine Del Francia let me live in her house. She was a widow and always spoke of her late husband, saying, "You know, he was much more handsome than Gary Cooper." She meant it. She really did.

In the gallery, you see my wife, Akie, is there. I don't dare ask what she says about me.

Mrs. Del Francia's Italian cooking was simply out of this world. She was cheerful and so kind as to let lots and lots of people stop by at her house. They were so diverse. I was amazed and said to myself, "America is an awesome country."

Later, I took a job at a steelmaker, and I was given the chance to work in New York.

Here in the U.S., rank and hierarchy are neither here nor there. People advance based on merit. When you discuss things, you don't pay much attention to who is junior or senior. You just choose the best idea, no matter who the idea was from.

This culture intoxicated me. So much so, after I got elected as a member of the House, some of the old guard in my party would say, "Hey, you are so cheeky, Abe."

As for my family name, it is not "Eighb." Some Americans do call me that every now and then, but I don't take offense.

That is because, ladies and gentlemen, the Japanese, ever since they started modernization, have seen the very foundation for democracy in that

famous line in the Gettysburg Address. The son of a farmer-carpenter can become the President. The fact that such a country existed woke up the Japanese of the late 19th century to democracy.

For Japan, our encounter with America was also our encounter with democracy, and that was more than 150 years ago, giving us a mature history together.

Before coming over here, I was at the World War II Memorial. It was a place of peace and calm that struck me as a sanctuary. The air was filled with the sound of water breaking in the fountains.

In one corner stands the Freedom Wall. More than 4,000 gold stars shine on the wall. I gasped with surprise to hear that each star represents the lives of 100 fallen soldiers. I believe those gold stars are a proud symbol of the sacrifices in defending freedom; but, in those gold stars, we also find the pain, sorrow, and love for family of young Americans who otherwise would have lived happy lives.

Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Corregidor, Coral Sea, the battles engraved at the memorial crossed my mind, and I reflected upon the lost dreams and lost futures of those young Americans. History is harsh. What is done cannot be undone. With deep repentance in my heart, I stood there in silent prayers for some time.

My dear friends, on behalf of Japan and the Japanese people, I offer with profound respect my eternal condolences to the souls of all American people that were lost during World War II.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the gallery today is Lieutenant General Lawrence Snowden.

Seventy years ago in February, he landed on Ioto, or the island of Iwo Jima, as a captain in command of a company. In recent years, General Snowden has often participated in the memorial services held jointly by Japan and the U.S. on Ioto.

He said, "We didn't and don't go to Iwo Jima to celebrate victory, but for the solemn purpose to pay tribute to and honor those who lost their lives on both sides."

Next to General Snowden sits Diet Member Yoshitaka Shindo, who is a former member of my Cabinet. His grandfather, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, whose valor we remember even today, was the commander of the Japanese garrison during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

What should we call this, if not a miracle of history? Enemies that had fought each other so fiercely have become friends bonded in spirit.

To General Snowden, I pay tribute to your efforts for reconciliation. Thank you so very much.

Post war, we started out on our path bearing in mind feelings of deep remorse over the war. Our actions

brought suffering to the peoples in Asian countries. We must not avert our eyes from that. I will uphold the views expressed by the previous Prime Ministers in this regard.

We must all the more contribute in every respect to the development of Asia. We must spare no effort in working for the peace and prosperity of the region. Reminding ourselves of all that, we have come all this way. I am proud of this path we have taken.

Seventy years ago, Japan had been reduced to ashes. Then came each and every month from the citizens of the United States gifts to Japan, like milk for our children and warm sweaters and even goats. Yes, from America, 2,036 goats came to Japan.

And it was Japan that received the biggest benefit from the very beginning by the postwar economic system that the U.S. had fostered by opening up its own market and calling for a liberal world economy.

Later on, from the 1980s, we saw the rise of the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the ASEAN countries, and, before long, China as well. This time, Japan too devotedly poured in capital and technologies to support their growths.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Japan created more employment than any other foreign nation but one, coming second only to the U.K. In this way, prosperity was fostered first by the U.S. and second by Japan. And prosperity is nothing less than the seedbed for peace.

Involving countries in Asia Pacific whose backgrounds vary, the U.S. and Japan must take the lead. We must take the lead to build a market that is fair, dynamic, sustainable, and is also free from the arbitrary intentions of any nation.

In the Pacific market, we cannot overlook sweatshops or burdens on the environment, nor can we simply allow free riders on intellectual property. No. Instead, we can spread our shared values around the world and have them take root: the rule of law, democracy, and freedom. That is exactly what the TPP is all about.

Furthermore, the TPP goes far beyond just economic benefits. It is also about our security. Long term, its strategic value is awesome. We should never forget that.

The TPP covers an area that accounts for 40 percent of the world economy and one-third of global trade. We must turn the area into a region for lasting peace and prosperity. That is for the sake of our children and our children's children.

As for U.S.-Japan negotiations, the goal is near. Let us bring the TPP to a successful conclusion through our joint leadership.

As a matter of fact, I have something I can tell you now. It was about 20 years ago. The GATT negotiations for agriculture were going on. I was much younger and like a ball of fire and op-

posed to opening Japan's agricultural market. I even joined farmers' representatives in a rally in front of the parliament.

However, Japan's agriculture has gone into decline over these last 20 years. The average age of our farmers has gone up by 10 years and is now more than 66 years old.

Japan's agriculture is at a crossroads. In order for it to survive, it has to change now. We are bringing great reforms toward the agriculture policy that has been in place for decades. We are also bringing sweeping reforms to our agricultural cooperatives that have not been changed in 60 long years.

Corporate governance in Japan is now fully in line with global standards because we made it stronger. Rock-solid regulations are being broken in such sectors as medicine and energy. And I am the spearhead.

To turn around our depopulation, I am determined to do whatever it takes. We are changing some of our old habits to empower women so they can get more actively engaged in all walks of life.

In short, Japan is right in the middle of a quantum leap.

My dear Members of the Congress, please do come and see the new Japan, where we have regained our spirit of reform and our sense of speed. Japan will not run away from any reforms. We keep our eyes only on the road ahead and push forward with structural reforms. That is TINA: There Is No Alternative. And there is no doubt about it whatsoever.

My dear colleagues, the peace and security of the postwar world was not possible without American leadership. Looking back, it makes me happy all the time that Japan of years past made the right decision. As I told you at the outset, citing my grandfather, that decision was to choose a path. That is the path for Japan to ally itself with the U.S. and to go forward as a member of the Western world.

In the end, together with the U.S. and other like-minded democracies, we won the cold war. That is the path that made Japan grow and prosper, and even today, there is no alternative.

My dear colleagues, we support the "rebalancing" by the U.S. in order to enhance the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region, and I will state clearly: we will support the U.S. effort first, last, and throughout.

Japan has deepened its strategic relations with Australia and India. We are enhancing our cooperation across many fields with the countries of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. Adding those partners to the central pillar that is the U.S.-Japan alliance, our region will get stable remarkably more.

Now, Japan will provide up to \$2.8 billion in assistance to help improve U.S. bases in Guam, which will gain

strategic significance even more in the future.

As regards the state of Asian waters, let me underscore here my three principles: first, states shall make their claims based on international law; second, they shall not use force or coercion to drive their claims; and, third, to settle disputes—any disputes—they shall do so by peaceful means.

We must make the vast seas stretching from the Pacific to the Indian Oceans seas of peace and freedom, where all follow the rule of law. For that very reason, we must fortify the U.S.-Japan alliance. That is our responsibility.

Now, let me tell you. In Japan, we are working hard to enhance the legislative foundations for our security.

Once in place, Japan will be much more able to provide a seamless response for all levels of crisis. These enhanced legislative foundations should make the cooperation between the U.S. military and Japan's Self-Defense Forces even stronger, and the alliance still more solid, providing credible deterrence for the peace in the region. This reform is the first of its kind and a sweeping one in our postwar history. We will achieve this by this coming summer.

Now, I have something to share with you.

The day before yesterday, Secretaries Kerry and Carter met our Foreign Minister Kishida and Defense Minister Nakatani for consultations. As a result, we now have a new framework, a framework to better put together the forces of the U.S. and Japan, a framework that is in line with the legislative attempts going on in Japan. That is what is necessary to build peace, more reliable peace in the region. And that is, namely, the new defense cooperation guidelines.

Yesterday, President Obama and I fully agreed on the significance of these guidelines. Ladies and gentlemen, we agreed on a document that is historic.

In the early 1990s, in the Persian Gulf, Japan's Self-Defense Forces swept away sea mines. For 10 years, in the Indian Ocean, Japanese Self-Defense Forces supported your operation to stop the flow of terrorists and arms. Meanwhile, in Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Iraq, Haiti, and South Sudan, members of our Self-Defense Forces provided humanitarian support and peacekeeping operations. Their number amounts to 50,000.

Based on this track record, we are resolved to take yet more responsibility for the peace and stability in the world. It is for that purpose we are determined to enact all necessary bills by this coming summer. And we will do exactly that.

We must make sure human security will be preserved in addition to national security. That is our belief, firm and solid.

We must do our best so that every individual gets education, medical support, and an opportunity to rise to be self-reliant. Armed conflicts have always made women suffer the most. In our age, we must realize the kind of world where finally women are free from human rights abuses.

Our servicemen and -women have made substantial accomplishments. So have our aid workers, who have worked so steadily. Their combined sum has given us a new self-identity.

That is why we now hold up high a new banner that is "proactive contribution to peace based on the principle of international cooperation." Let me repeat. "Proactive contribution to peace based on the principle of international cooperation" should lead Japan along its road for the future.

Problems we face include terrorism, infectious diseases, natural disasters, and climate change. The time has come for the U.S.-Japan alliance to face up to and jointly tackle those challenges that are new. After all, our alliance has lasted more than a quarter of the entire history of the United States. It is an alliance that is sturdy, bound in trust and friendship, deep between us.

No new concept should ever be necessary for the alliance that connects us, the biggest and the second biggest democratic powers in the free world, in working together. Always, it is an alliance that cherishes our shared values of the rule of law, respect for human rights, and freedom.

When I was young in high school and listened to the radio, there was a song that flew out and shook my heart. It was a song by Carole King.

When you're down and troubled . . . close your eyes and think of me, and I will be there to brighten up even your darkest night.

And that day, March 11, 2011, a big quake, a tsunami, and a nuclear accident hit the northeastern part of Japan. The darkest night fell upon Japan. But it was then we saw the U.S. Armed Forces rushing to Japan to the rescue at a scale never seen or heard before. Lots and lots of people from all corners of the U.S. extended the hand of assistance to the children in the disaster areas. Yes, we have got a friend in you. Together, with the victims, you shed tears. You gave us something, something very, very precious. That was hope, hope for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, the finest asset the U.S. has to give to the world was hope, is hope, will be and must always be hope.

Distinguished representatives of the citizens of the United States, let us call the U.S.-Japan alliance an alliance of hope. Let the two of us, America and Japan, join our hands together and do our best to make the world a better—a much better—place to live.

Alliance of hope: together, we can make a difference.

Thank you so much.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m., His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1241

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 29, 2015 at 11 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 304.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2029, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 4, 2015, THROUGH MAY 11, 2015

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 223 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 223

*Resolved*, That (a) at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of any bill specified in section 2 of this resolution. The first reading of each such bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of each such bill are waived. General debate on each such bill shall be confined to that bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate each such bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in each such bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

(b) During consideration of each such bill for amendment—

(1) each amendment, other than amendments provided for in paragraph (2), shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in paragraph (2);

(2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate; and

(3) the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

(c) When the committee rises and reports any such bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on that bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The bills referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) The bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

(b) The bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SEC. 3. During consideration of H.R. 2028 and H.R. 2029 pursuant to this resolution—



(a) the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 27, as adopted by the House, shall have force and effect in the House as though Congress has adopted such concurrent resolution; and

(b) the allocations printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered for all purposes in the House to be allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day during the period from May 4, 2015, through May 11, 2015—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. If Members were listening to the Reading Clerk read this rule, we got into some housekeeping issues at the end. We have got a district workweek coming up next week. We needed to give the Speaker some authorities to continue to conduct the business of the House in a collaborative and a pro forma way. But it was the first part of that rule that is exciting.

I confess, I was talking to the Parliamentarian the other day, and he was telling me about the way the history of the rules had evolved, as folks stand on the House floor during Committee on Rules debate and actually go through line by line explaining to the House what is in the rule. It is not every day that I am excited about doing that, Mr. Speaker.

The Committee on Rules has a tough job. Sometimes the Committee on Rules' job is saying no. Sometimes the Committee on Rules' job is being that gatekeeper to the floor of the House, and we have to deliver some bad news to folks. I don't particularly enjoy reiterating that bad news on the floor of the House.

But today is good news. Today it is all good news for every Member of the House who has any ideas at all about how better to fund the responsibilities of this Nation. They are going to be able to have their voice heard.

Let me read, as the Reading Clerk did. We have two bills in this rule, Mr. Speaker: H.R. 2028 and H.R. 2029. I have them here. H.R. 2029 makes appropriations for military construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies. I daresay there is not a single Member on the floor of this House that has not grappled with how to better serve the veterans at home in our districts, that has not grappled with how to provide better accountability to the Veterans Administration that is tasked with providing those services. This rule provides that any Member of this Chamber—Republican or Democrat, senior or junior, freshman or retiring—has an opportunity to have their ideas heard. It is the best of what we do in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, and we are going to do it on H.R. 2029.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2028. That is the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, Mr. Speaker. Again, I daresay that there is anyone, particularly east of the Mississippi, that has a district that is not in some way impacted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers is funded in this legislation. Individual projects are funded in this legislation.

What this rule provides is that any Member of this Chamber that has an idea about how to better appropriate these dollars—these dollars that belong not to us as individual Members, but to the American taxpayer—how to better be accountable, be effective, be efficient with these tax dollars, Mr. Speaker, they can come to this floor and have their amendments heard.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard it said often that the Senate only has two rules: the unanimous consent and exhaustion. The Committee on Rules prevents us from having to have that structure here, but it is true that you can effectively filibuster in this Chamber as well: you can come down; you can move to strike the last word; you can have debate go on forever. I don't believe that serves us particularly well.

There is obviously an opportunity and a need to have your voice heard, to have your constituents' voices heard; but what this rule does do, which is why we are going to call it a modified open rule instead of a completely open rule, is it restricts what one might call dilatory amendments, what one might call clarifying conversation. It restricts these pro forma amendments, where you are not actually trying to change any language, you just want to come down here and talk, 10 on each side controlled by the subcommittee chairmen.

Mr. Speaker, what is so neat about these two bills that we are going to make in order under this bill is they both passed out of the Committee on Appropriations on a voice vote. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are some contentious things that we do in this institution and, arguably, appropriating is one of the hardest things that this institution has to do, but passing these bills out of committee on a voice vote tells us about the collaborative way in which these bills were put together.

Now, I can tell you, there are going to be folks on both sides of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, who disagree with the funding levels in these bills. There are going to be Republicans who wish that they funded less, Democrats who wish they funded more; there are going to be Democrats who wish they funded less, and Republicans who wish they funded more.

The funding levels of the total bill, that is not for debate today. That is set in the funding allocations. We call them 302(a) allocations, Mr. Speaker. That is my responsibility on the Committee on the Budget and others who serve on the Committee on the Budget. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we are this close—oh, golly, we are this close—to having conferred the first balanced budget for the United States of America in over 10 years—in over 10 years. The House and the Senate are about to agree on funding levels for this Nation. It is embarrassing that we don't do it every year, but it is wonderful that we have an opportunity to do it this year, and we will.

Ordinarily, Mr. Speaker, we would have done that first. And candidly, as a member of the House Committee on the Budget, a Member who proudly supported the budget that passed here on the floor of the House, I thought that conference report was going to be ready on Monday of this week. It is not. It is not. So this rule also deems those levels that the House has already passed, those levels that we absolutely expect to be the levels of funding in that conference report, to be the levels of funding for this Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, for this Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, as is appropriate.

We are beginning the appropriations process today, Mr. Speaker, at the earliest point in 40 years. How many of my colleagues are frustrated, disappointed, disillusioned when this Chamber cannot get its work done?

Oh, the list is long, Mr. Speaker, and there are legitimate reasons why we cannot accomplish some of the goals that we have set out to accomplish, but I promise you, Mr. Speaker, the funding clock waits on no Member. Come September 30 of this year, funding will expire for the entire Federal Government. The earlier we start to solve

that issue, the better chance we have of getting it done. And working together, collaboratively, voice votes out of subcommittee, big votes out on the budget bill, we are starting earlier than we have since 1973.

Good processes yield good results, Mr. Speaker; flawed processes yield flawed results. This is the kind of rule that I think every Member of this body wishes we could see more of here on the House floor. This is going to allow for the kind of debate that is not going to predetermine the outcome, but is going to allow Members to come down to the floor and make their case to their colleagues, have the kind of debate the American people expect, and let the chips fall where they may. You get 218 votes, you get to change this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I signed up to be on the Committee on Rules because I knew that we would have the opportunity to unleash this institution, the opportunity to allow every Member who comes from such diverse backgrounds, who have so much to contribute. Mr. Speaker, I just got here 4 years ago with my voting card lent to me by the Seventh District of Georgia. Folks in my class that came in 4 years ago, they are already in the top 50 percent of seniority in this institution. The American people have been turning folks out at record speed, which means we have been bringing in new talent like never before.

Sometimes folks think the system around here is geared towards those who have been here the longest. They think that only after you have achieved a subcommittee chairmanship or a committee chairmanship will you be able to have input on the process. The Committee on Rules says no. The Committee on Appropriations says no. On these bills in this process, every single Member has a chance to have their voice heard, a chance to come down here, make their case, and have an impact on the final product.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be carrying this rule today, and I urge strong support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we consider this bill throughout the afternoon and on final passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia, my good friend, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, totally unrelated to my assigned task, I do feel very strongly, as I am sure many Members of the House of Representatives and many American citizens feel, the horror of what transpired in Nepal, and I would just like to say, probably speaking for just about every Member, that our heartfelt condolences are with the Nepalese people, and our hope is that the world will rally to them, as have many, including America, and allow the in-

jured and the homeless to be taken care of.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2029, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 provides for a total of \$76.6 billion in discretionary funding, including overseas contingency operations, as well as \$7 billion for military construction and family housing projects, and \$163.2 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, provides a total allocation of \$35.4 billion for energy and water resource projects.

First, I find it important to mention, as did my colleague from Georgia, that this rule is a modified open rule, with time limits set to 10 minutes' debate per amendment, and not an open rule to allow all Members to have a full and robust debate on the House floor.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, who has been a continuing advocate for open rules, and I also recognize his explanation that the, in his words, restriction of time was to avoid what would amount to unnecessary debate.

But as has become custom under Republican leadership, we are once again limiting the amount of deliberation permitted on issues that are critically important to our Nation and our constituents. Nevertheless, I am proud, as is my friend from Georgia, that Republicans and Democrats—the word he used is “collaborated,” and I agree—were able to come together to draft H.R. 2029, the legislation that appropriates funds to military construction projects, improves the quality of life for veterans and military families, and allows for the continued operation of the essential functions of our Nation's governing body.

These measures include the implementation of stringent, but effective, reporting requirements for the Vista electronic health records system, as well as the continued efforts to eliminate the veterans' claims backlog by fully funding endeavors to implement digital scanning of health records and improvements to centralized mail.

□ 1300

These commendable provisions bring us another step closer to ensuring that those who have dedicated themselves to defending our Nation will receive the benefits they have rightly earned and deserve.

Despite reaching common ground on several important aspects, the Republican's fiscal year 2016 budget caps will have real and drastic cuts to essential programs that are necessary to support the brave individuals who served our great Nation in combat and who will bear the costs of those wars for decades to come.

As a result of the majority's FY 2016 budget resolution spending caps, polit-

ical maneuvering, and gimmicks—I remember when I was a child and I first learned about the magical terminology “hocus-pocus,” and it comes to mind that we are sort of in imaginary land here, with the political maneuvering and gimmicks—military construction funding stands to be slashed by \$1.2 billion, and the Department of Veterans Affairs comes in at \$1.4 billion below the amount requested.

Yesterday, in the Rules Committee, we had a lengthy proceeding, and every member on the Rules Committee had an opportunity to speak to this issue. Almost as a collective voice, there was criticism of Veterans Affairs and how it functions and its failures over a protracted period of time.

I raised a question for information about how many people work for VA, total; and I learned for the first time that there are 340,000 people that work in interrelated capacities for VA.

The arguments that were being made were made about people who are flawed and rightly should be criticized, but I don't feel all 340,000 people who work on behalf of veterans, particularly in areas that I am privileged to serve, have seen changes that are positive and helpful, although there is always room for improvement.

There was one measure for Veterans Affairs employees to receive the same 1.3 percent increase in their pay, and this measure disallows that, and I don't think that is right. I believe that many of those persons have rightfully earned what other Federal employees are to receive as a minimal increase in these very troubled economic times.

My Republican colleagues' efforts to shift \$532 million to the overseas contingency operations account—which, incidentally, does not count against the budget cap—creates the appearance that we have allocated the robust and necessary funding that our military requires when, in reality, we fail to do so.

Americans who currently serve and have served in our military, along with their families, deserve the very best our Nation has to offer. When it comes to investments in our infrastructure, our military, and our country, we all must recognize that not all spending is bad spending. We can and we must do better.

H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, is also an important piece of legislation. This bill provides funding for many critical defense and nondefense areas, from vital water resource projects to essential weapons, naval reactor, and nuclear proliferation funding. All of these funding projects enjoy largely bipartisan support.

That is why it is a shame, in my view, that my Republican friends have taken this opportunity to poison these bipartisan funding measures by attaching partisan policy riders, and I am

sure Members are going to be down here speaking loudly about some of them.

On the one hand, this bill provides very robust funding for the Army Corps of Engineers at \$5.6 billion in total. That is an increase of \$142 million from fiscal year 2015.

I applaud this strong funding effort. Unfortunately, my friends on the other side have elected to add an amendment to this funding that will allow guns to be carried on all Corps of Engineers land.

I spoke passionately last night about this, and I anticipate that, beginning in the month of May, I will speak more not just about this particular measure, but about the epidemic of gun violence in this society. I did not coin that phrase. The former Surgeon General, Mr. Satcher, pointed that out a decade ago—nearly—and it is as true today as at any other point.

Why would we add an amendment to an important appropriations bill that will allow more guns into recreational areas used by families? I just simply cannot understand that. Does anyone really believe an appropriations bill is the appropriate place to amend our gun laws?

It would appear that reasonable minds do not. Clause 2 of rule XXI prohibits members of the House Rules to legislate on an appropriations measure. Significantly and dangerously, Republicans have granted a waiver of this important rule.

I won't speak more about it. As I indicated, there will be more to come on this business of guns in our society, and I will make it very clear where I am coming from. I feel it is in the interest of society and not in opposition to the Second Amendment.

Here is another example. This bill allocates \$1.178 billion for the harbor maintenance trust fund, vital funding needed to help further usher our ports and harbors in the 21st century, but then my friends on the other side of the aisle saw fit to attach an amendment that will prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from taking commonsense steps to clarify which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act.

Why, in one instance, are we going to fully fund an agency as vital as the Army Corps of Engineers and then, in the next breath, tie their hands by preventing them from making commonsense determinations on what is widely acknowledged to be a state of confusion about the scope of the law's pollution control programs? Let the Corps do its job.

Why are my friends on the other side of the aisle trying to weigh down this important funding bill with unnecessary and partisan policy riders?

This bill funds essential nuclear proliferation activities—\$1.9 million worth—as well as environmental clean-up efforts. We should not be threat-

ening the funding to stop the spread of nuclear weapons or the preservation of our environment and construction of our harbors just so the Republicans can have a partisan fight over gutting the Clean Water Act or attempting to change our gun laws.

The American people deserve better. The funding of these projects is too important.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have an important responsibility in budgeting in this institution—again, one that has not been fulfilled, I would argue, in more than a decade, that will be fulfilled this year for the very first time.

We had a choice in the Budget Committee. I serve on the Budget Committee as well, Mr. Speaker. We had a choice in the Budget Committee about whether or not we were just going to pretend that we could fund at certain levels or whether we were going to actually follow the law.

Mr. Speaker, it may not surprise you that we have those conversations in Washington; but, yes, the conversation goes: Am I just going to do whatever I want to do? Or am I going to follow the law?

It is very striking to me that this conversation occurs at all. I would have said that that is kind of the definition of the law: you don't get whatever you want to do; you have to follow the law. I wish that we could drive that message home across so many different parts of our society. The law is the law.

The President absolutely sent some budget requests to us for these bills, as he will for other appropriations bills, Mr. Speaker.

In the case of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, the President requested a 5 percent increase in that funding. Now, had we passed that 5 percent increase without changing the law, we are going to roll around to October 1, at the beginning of the fiscal year, and the law is going to snap that 5 percent increase right back down to legally allowed levels.

The choice we had in the Appropriations Committee—and I so admire my friends on the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Speaker—we had a choice of either pretending we were going to spend a lot of money funding all of our priorities, only to have the law snap those down across the board, or we could be honest about how much money was available and make sure we were prioritizing every single dollar as best we could.

In the case of Energy and Water, the President asked for a 5 percent increase. The Appropriations Committee provided a 3 percent increase, as the law allows. In the case of Military Construction and the VA, the President asked for just over an 8 percent in-

crease. The Appropriations Committee provided a 6 percent increase, as the law allows.

I would challenge my friends on the other side of the aisle. I would challenge my friends on this side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker. Thirty years ago, two-thirds of what the Federal Government funded in this country was funded out of this institution. It was funded through the Appropriations Committee. It was this body making decisions and choices based on our constituents' needs and desires about how to use taxpayer dollars—not so today.

Today, it is exactly the opposite; instead of this institution funding two-thirds of the budget and one-third of it being mandatory spending, now, two-thirds is mandatory, and only one-third is available for this body to make decisions about.

I would challenge my colleagues: let's find that agreement that reforms mandatory spending, as every Member of this Chamber knows needs to happen, and let's reallocate those dollars to what was designed in the Budget Control Act of 2011 to allow us to fund these discretionary priorities at a higher level.

Mr. Speaker, I want to build things. I want to build things. For Pete's sake, in this Energy and Water Development bill, we do. We fund the Corps of Engineers in this bill.

We have the Savannah Harbor expansion project in the great State of Georgia. We are the fastest growing container port in the Nation, Mr. Speaker—the fastest growing in the Nation—trying to prepare for the new Panamax ships coming through the new Panama Canal.

The Corps of Engineers tells us that in order to maximize the use of taxpayer dollars, in order to make sure that taxpayers get the best bang for their buck on this project of national importance, we need to build it in 6 years, at the rate of \$100 million a year. Six years, \$100 million a year, is the way we maximize taxpayer dollars.

This bill funds that project at \$21 million. That is \$21 million. We are going to string that project out year after year after year, costing the taxpayer more.

Now, I don't blame my friends on the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Speaker. As it turns out, the rules of the House don't allow us to prioritize those projects. That is what the President asked for. The Appropriations Committee wasn't able to ask for any more than the President asked for.

This is the President's funding level, but that is not the right way to appropriate, and if we could work together to reallocate those dollars, I would do it tomorrow.

I challenge my friends to find a mandatory spending reform bill that I will not support. It is critical that we do it. It is critical to our seniors. It is critical to the young people. It is critical to the governance of this Nation.

But to the degree that I have complaints about this bill, my friends have complaints about this bill, with the passage of this rule, we are going to allow every single Member to come down here and make those improvements known. We will have up-or-down votes. Some amendments will lose; some amendments will win.

We will perfect this bill together. That is the way this bill was written, and that is the way this bill will be passed, and that should make us all very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I so much enjoy the passion of my good friend from Georgia. I am sure he feels the same as me. He kind of has an advantage over me today, in that he is on the Budget Committee. Happily, I would report to him I brought along some people from the Budget Committee that can take up the slack that I might offer.

I am delighted at this time to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), my good friend from the Budget Committee.

□ 1315

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend being willing to yield.

I rise in opposition to this rule which deems, as if passed, a budget resolution that, at best, is an economic fantasy and, at worst, does serious damage to our country.

The rule before us today is further proof that our Republican colleagues are continuing to rely on faith-based accounting in this budget. They are closing their eyes and praying that it works. But it doesn't work. The numbers don't add up, and this rule makes those shortcomings clear.

The funding levels deemed in this measure do not meet our moral obligation to move our country forward and help the American people. Not only do they fail to meet the needs of the people we represent, they fail to meet a basic standard of honest budgeting.

For example, we know that trickle-down economics doesn't work. We have seen that time and time again, unfortunately, in this century. Yet, this rule puts in place funding levels that are supposedly balanced by the unsupportable belief that tax cuts generate more revenue.

The Republican budget proposals will result in dramatic cuts to education, infrastructure, and innovation, cuts to investments that we know we need to prepare our children and grandchildren to lead the world in the new global economy and to grow our economy.

This deemed budget resolution pretends we can afford more tax cuts for the ultrawealthy who do not need them, while it increases taxes for mid-

dle class families that they can't afford.

This rule deems in place funding levels that will continue to use the overseas contingency operations account budget line as a slush fund, abandoning the Republicans' own commitments to maintaining sequester-level spending for our national defense, while cutting nearly every program that helps hard-working Americans get ahead.

At every turn, this measure misses the mark in fulfilling our obligation to adequately fund investments that will allow us to continue our economic recovery. Simply put, this budget falls woefully short.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the funding levels deemed in this rule and ensure that American families will not be forced to work harder and get less.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I enjoy serving on the Budget Committee with my friend from Kentucky. The budget is that first step of any accounting process for the year, and my friend is absolutely right.

If we could have, we would have passed that budget conference report first thing when we got into town this week. Anybody who is reading the newspaper knows it slowed down in the Senate. We have all the numbers worked out. There are some other issues going on. I won't bore folks with those details.

So this rule absolutely does, in the name of getting the people's business done, take those budget levels that have passed in this House, that have passed in the Senate, that are on their way back over here in a conference report, and sets those as the funding levels for this year.

Again, these are the levels that exist in law. That is the fantasy part of some of our funding debates. I could agree with all my colleagues that we need to triple funding on X, Y, or Z project, but the law won't allow it. We will pass that on the floor of the House, but as soon as the beginning of the fiscal year rolls around, the law will sequester those dollars, snap that funding back down.

We have an obligation to prioritize these dollars ourselves. Golly, when we have tough decisions to be made, I don't want to leave those tough decisions to an automatic sequestration process. I don't want to leave those tough decisions to some automatic process of law. I want to take responsibility for those decisions here. I want us to make these decisions together.

If we have to grapple with it, let us grapple together, but let's be honest with folks that there is no free lunch here. If we want it, we have to pay for it.

Now, to my friend from Kentucky's point, we are paying for a lot of it out the overseas contingency operations account. I voted "no" on that decision

when it came to the House floor, as my friend from Kentucky did as well. We lost.

That is the funny thing about this institution, Mr. Speaker. I told my constituents about all the amazing things I was going to get up here to do, I was going to do them on their behalf. It turns out, if I can't get 217 of my colleagues up to agree with me, I can't do squat.

We tried and we failed on that account. So now we have the numbers that we have; we have the bill that we have; we have the law that we have; and as much as we might want it to be different, it isn't.

That is why this open rule is so important, Mr. Speaker, because we have the bill that we have; we have the law that we have; and now we have a process that allows every Member of this Chamber to come down here and improve it.

We don't know what it is going to look like at the end of the process. It is not a foregone conclusion who has the votes and who doesn't, and I believe in my heart the bill will be better at the end than it was at the beginning because that is what the collective wisdom of this institution brings.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), another member of the Budget Committee, a dear friend of mine.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, before I start, may I make a parliamentary inquiry, sir.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. MOORE. My inquiry is, has the concurrent budget passed? Is it law?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot respond to a parliamentary inquiry on a non-pending measure.

Ms. MOORE. Well, the rule, Mr. Speaker, is really clear. It says that the provisions of the House Concurrent Resolution 27, as adopted by the House, shall have the force and effect in the House as though Congress has adopted such concurrent resolution. I am hearing that we have adopted it, so have we?

In order to take up these appropriations bills, we are supposed to have passed that. I am on the budget conference committee, and I didn't recall that we had passed it, sir.

So I renew my inquiry as to whether or not we are operating under a passed budget resolution that has passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman may consult the records of the House for that information.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule because, once again, here we are with all kinds of

flowery notions about the law and so forth, and we are actually deeming this budget as passed.

As a member of the Budget Conference Committee, I can tell you that the reason for the delay is not because there was an attempt to reach a bipartisan agreement. Oh, no. The Democratic budget conferees have been completely shut out of the budget negotiation process.

You would think that without these pesky Democrats in the way, it would not have been that hard for the majority-controlled House and the Senate to come up with an agreement of how best to shred the social safety net, drive more people into poverty, cut our investments in infrastructure, block grant Medicaid, slash SNAP, end the Affordable Care Act and then, of course, keep the money and the savings from the Affordable Care Act, and take 69 percent of nondefense cuts from low-income and moderate-income families. They could have done it.

So instead of the majority party governing, they have resorted to this plan B and deeming the budget as passed.

Now, you know, this Republican budget claims to balance in 10 years, but it doesn't do it. It gets the savings from the Affordable Care Act, which it eliminates. And also, to appease the war hawks in the Republican caucus, they throw this money into the overseas contingency operations, also known as a slush fund.

And in the underlying budget, we see the Republican Party doubling down on the same "cut our way into prosperity" approach. That is another charade claiming that block grants are just another form of enabling States to have more flexibility. When you hear the word "flexibility," think massive cuts. It means eviscerating the social safety net.

So I ask my colleagues to reject this rule.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I know the Speaker is constrained to just ruling on parliamentary issues. I have no such constraint here. I can opine on the budget process itself.

And I would say to my friend that I share her frustration. I absolutely do. I have been in this Chamber 4 years. We have had to deem appropriations levels every single year. Not once—not once—have we been able to agree on conference budget numbers in the 4 years that I have served in this House.

Now, for the previous 4 years, I confess, I pointed the finger at the Senate, and I pointed the finger at the Senate's leader who, at that time, was Senator REID from Nevada. Today we have a new Senate leader, and I can't point the finger at the other party. If we can't get this right, it is my leader in the Senate who can't get this right. But I believe we are. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are.

Open up any newspaper, look at any report. It was supposed to be done earlier this week. We have never had a shot at getting it done in the past. We are on the brink of that agreement. So what is happening here today, far from being an unusual circumstance, is the best we have done in 5 years.

Now, candidly, that is what I expect from new leadership in the Senate. I expect us to do better than we did last year; I expect us to do better than we did 2 years ago; and I expect us to be even better next year than we are this year. The first time in more than a decade, the first time in more than a decade we have had a shot at a governing budget document.

But to be fair, Mr. Speaker, I want to distinguish between the budget and the law. A lot of folks believe that the budget of the United States becomes the law of the land. It does not. The President never signs the budget of the United States. It is an agreement between the House and the Senate. That distinguishes it from the budget caps and the Budget Control Act, which are absolutely the law of the land, passed by the House and Senate, signed by President Obama.

So when we talk about what it is that we want to see in funding levels, we can decide anything we want to in this Chamber. But the law of the land is not what we decide in our budget document; it is what was decided back in August of 2011 when the budget caps from the Budget Control Act came into being.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to have this conference budget agreement, the opportunity to be working from the same sheet of budgeting music on both sides of the Hill, is amazing. I can't tell you, as a Budget Committee member, how hard we have worked to achieve it and how much I anticipate it. It wasn't yesterday; so far it is not today; but it is going to be soon.

I don't want that to stand in the way of getting the people's business done. We have two great appropriations bills here, again, passed by voice votes out of committee, composed in collaborative ways within the Appropriations Committee. These two bills deserve to be heard on the floor of the House; they deserve to be heard this week; and with passage of this rule, they will be.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida, the great State of Florida (Ms. BROWN), my very, very good friend who is an expert in veterans affairs, among other things.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House: dead on arrival. You know, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. I rise in strong opposition to this rule and to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

After taking a step forward with the new Choice Act program, this Republican budget takes two steps back with its cuts in veterans health care. Just another example of Republicans talking the talk but not walking the walk.

But you don't have to take my word for it. You can ask the veterans service organizations who represent the interests of our veterans. Every last one of them oppose this bill.

□ 1330

The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars said the following about the Republicans' veterans bill: "The VA cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding, but the House, for whatever reason, now wants to ration care, eliminate infrastructure projects, and stop improving upon the programs and services that the VA was created to provide. This bill is bad for veterans, and any vote for it is unconscionable."

We are going to vote on a Republican budget later this week that provides more money for the Department of Defense than the Pentagon requested, while cutting funds for health care and services for every veteran that is returning from battle.

George Washington, the first President of the United States, said: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our Nation."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Sadly, this bill truly fails the test of appreciation our veterans deserve.

Vote "no" on the rule, and vote "no" on the Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, and send this bad legislation back to the drawing board.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will cut 70,000 veterans from health care. I can't imagine any Democrat or any Republican voting for this bill.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

One of the things I love about this institution is the passion with which folks come to the floor of this House, and so often that passion is directed at improving the services for those who have served us.

My friend from Florida is absolutely right when he said in his opening statement that in the Rules Committee last night, the frustration with the VA and in trying to provide accountable services to our veterans was universal. This is not a partisan issue. Serving those who have served us is an issue that comes from the heart, and it comes from every Member of this Chamber.

But I will remind all of my friends, if you are wondering whether or not we

are fulfilling that commitment, this is the bill that this institution passed last year with only one dissenting vote. And this bill increases funding over last year by 6 percent.

Mr. Speaker, let no man and no woman question the commitment of our friends on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, our friends doing the Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill. I know the commitment to be universal, which is why in a time of budget cuts, which is why in a time when almost every account of the Federal budget is under strain, this account goes not down but up, and up by 6 percent over what this body passed almost unanimously last year.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire how much time remains for both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend from Georgia that I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am also prepared to close.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wish to place the Statement of Administration Policy, with reference to both these matters, in the RECORD.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2029—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

(Rep. Rogers, R-KY, Apr. 28, 2015)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. The bill fails to fully fund critical priorities, including veterans' medical care and military and VA construction. Furthermore, the legislation includes a highly problematic ideological rider that would constrain the President's ability to protect our national security. If the President were presented with H.R. 2029, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Moreover, enacting H.R. 2029 while adhering to the congressional Republican budget's overall spending limits for fiscal year (FY) 2016 would hurt our economy and short-change investments in middle-class priorities. Sequestration was never intended to take effect; rather, it was supposed to threaten such drastic cuts to both defense and non-defense funding that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both defense and non-defense for FY 2016 to the lowest real levels in a decade. Compared to the President's Budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start, more than two million fewer workers receiving job training and employment services,

and thousands fewer scientific and medical research awards and grants, adversely impacting the pace of discovery and innovation, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Maintaining sequestration would also negatively impact programs that provide important services to our Nation's veterans and are funded in appropriations bills where House Republicans propose to make even deeper cuts relative to the President's Budget than in H.R. 2029. For example, American Job Centers serve 1.2 million veterans annually, including 300,000 who receive intensive employment services. Transition assistance provides 200,000 service members each year with employment guidance and information as they prepare to enter the civilian workforce. And hundreds of thousands of veterans rely on a wide range of Department of Housing and Urban Development programs for housing support and homeless assistance each year.

Sequestration levels would also put our national security at unnecessary risk, not only through pressures on defense spending, but also through pressures on State, USAID, Homeland Security, and other non-defense programs that help keep us safe. More broadly, the strength of our economy and the security of our Nation are linked. That is why the President has been clear that he is not willing to lock in sequestration going forward, nor will he accept fixes to defense without also fixing non-defense.

The President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto H.R. 2029 and any other legislation that implements the current Republican budget framework, which blocks the investments we need for our economy to compete in the future. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to reverse sequestration for defense and non-defense priorities and to offset the cost with commonsense spending and tax expenditure cuts, as Members of Congress from both parties have urged.

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to share additional views regarding the Committee's version of the bill.

Veterans Affairs Medical Care. The Administration appreciates the Committee's support for our Nation's veterans; however, the Administration objects to the Committee's overall \$585 million reduction to the FY 2016 Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Care request. If enacted, this reduction would negatively impact medical care services for tens of thousands of veterans and reduce VA's ability to activate new and replacement facilities with sufficient staff and equipment and to adequately maintain facility infrastructure.

Veterans Affairs Construction. The Administration objects to the Committee's \$582 million reduction to the FY 2016 VA major construction request. This reduction would prevent building upgrades and renovations, including necessary expansions to medical facilities and national cemeteries that would improve services to our veterans. The bill would significantly constrain VA's ability to make progress on its highest priority capital projects.

Other Veterans Affairs Reductions. The Administration also objects to the Committee's other reductions to the overall VA request, including \$159 million in reductions for employee awards, bonuses, and the President's proposed 1.3 percent pay raise for Federal employees. As VA attempts to enhance staffing to deliver better care to veterans,

these reductions will hinder the Department's ability to recruit and retain personnel critical to the provision of benefits and services to veterans. The Administration urges the Congress to provide the proposed 1.3 percent pay increase for Federal civilian employees.

Military Construction. The Administration objects to the Committee's underfunding of military construction in the President's FY 2016 base defense budget by \$1.3 billion, which will delay or defer projects that serve critical needs for members of our Armed Forces and their families. The projects requested in the FY 2016 Budget reflect the highest priority projects for the Department of Defense, and the Administration requests full funding for each project.

Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Funds. The Administration strongly objects to the Committee's use of \$532 million of OCO funds intended for wars and not subject to the budget caps to pay for long-term infrastructure investments. Shifting long-term defense costs to OCO is bad budget policy and bad defense policy, since it undermines long-term planning. Moreover, the Administration has made clear that it will not accept attempts to fix defense without non-defense by using OCO as a mechanism to evade the defense budget cap.

Detainee Matters. The Administration strongly objects to section 512 of the bill, which prohibits the use of funds to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States to house individuals held in the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. This provision would constrain the flexibility that the Nation's Armed Forces and counterterrorism professionals need to best protect U.S. national security, intruding upon the Executive Branch's ability to carry out its mission.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress as the FY 2016 appropriations process moves forward.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2028—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

(Rep. Rogers, R-KY, Apr. 28, 2015)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. The bill drastically underfunds critical investments that develop American energy sources to build a clean and secure energy future; develop and commercialize the emerging technologies that create high-quality jobs and enhance the Nation's economic competitiveness; and improve resilience against current and ongoing climate impacts that threaten our economy, public health, and natural resources. As a result, it would put at risk U.S. competitiveness in new markets for clean energy industries such as advanced vehicles, advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency for homes and businesses, and domestic renewable energy such as wind, solar, and biomass. It would also harm efforts to implement the President's nuclear strategy and advance counter-proliferation objectives. Furthermore, the legislation includes highly problematic ideological riders, including provisions that threaten to undermine our ability to protect a resource that is essential to America's health: clean water. If the President were presented with H.R. 2028, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

In addition, enacting H.R. 2028, while adhering to the congressional Republican budget's overall spending limits for fiscal year



(FY) 2016 would hurt our economy and short-change investments in middle-class priorities. Sequestration was never intended to take effect; rather, it was supposed to threaten such drastic cuts to both defense and non-defense funding that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both defense and non-defense for FY 2016 to the lowest real levels in a decade. Compared to the President's Budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start, more than two million fewer workers receiving job training and employment services, and thousands fewer scientific and medical research awards and grants, adversely impacting the pace of discovery and innovation, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Sequestration levels would also put our national security at unnecessary risk, not only through pressures on defense spending, but also through pressures on State, USAID, Homeland Security, and other non-defense programs that help keep us safe. More broadly, the strength of our economy and the security of our Nation are linked. That is why the President has been clear that he is not willing to lock in sequestration going forward, nor will he accept fixes to defense without also fixing non-defense.

The President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto H.R. 2028 and any other legislation that implements the current Republican budget framework, which blocks the investments needed for our economy to compete in the future. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to reverse sequestration for defense and non-defense priorities and offset the cost with commonsense spending and tax expenditure cuts, as Members of Congress from both parties have urged.

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to share additional views regarding the Committee's version of the bill.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The Administration strongly objects to the \$1.6 billion provided in the bill for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Overall this level is \$1.1 billion below the FY 2016 Budget request. Relative to the FY 2016 Budget request, the bill reduces funding for renewable energy by 49 percent, sustainable transportation by 35 percent, and energy efficiency by 40 percent. The proposed reductions significantly underfund critical activities that support the development and commercialization of clean energy technologies. At this funding level, the number of research, development, and demonstration projects supported in cooperation with industry, universities, and the national labs would be reduced, limiting innovation and technological advancement, curtailing solutions to cut U.S. dependence on oil and reduce energy waste, and undermining the Nation's industrial competitiveness in the future global clean energy economy. The Congress is urged to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget request of \$2.7 billion. The Administration is also disappointed that the bill does not include transfer language necessary to support joint efforts with the Navy and the Department of Agriculture to develop advanced drop-in biofuels for military applications, a provision included in the FY 2015 enacted bill.

Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The Administration objects to the \$280 million provided in the bill for ARPA-E, which is \$45 million below the FY 2016 Budget request. This funding reduction would impact investments and delay improvements in technologies that reduce energy-related emissions, increase energy efficiency across multiple economic sectors, and reduce energy imports.

Fossil Energy and Nuclear Energy. The Administration notes that the bill includes funding above the FY 2016 Budget request in some areas that are already well established in the market, including for nuclear and fossil energy, and yet makes drastic reductions in those that are most crucial to the Nation's clean energy future and continued U.S. technology leadership. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund DOE's energy programs at the requested level, as this balances the portfolio among items of short, medium, and long-term progress and promotes U.S. leadership in these technology areas.

Office of Science. While the Administration appreciates the Committee's support for the Office of Science, the level of funding provided, which is \$240 million below the FY 2016 Budget request, is insufficient to maintain U.S. leadership in high performance computing as the United States moves into capable exascale systems to support discovery science, national security, and economic competitiveness.

Disposition of Weapons-Usable Plutonium. The Administration objects to language in the bill that requires the Secretary of Energy to continue construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. This language is unnecessarily restrictive and would preclude alternative, and potentially more cost-effective, approaches to implementing U.S. commitments in the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement and its 2010 annex to dispose of excess weapons plutonium. DOE contracted for an independent validation of costs for plutonium disposition alternatives in accordance with congressional mandates. The results of that analysis will inform the Administration's approach to plutonium disposition. Information on the first phase of that analysis was provided to the Congress on April 21st.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The Administration opposes the \$212 million level provided for SPR. In addition to base program activities, the FY 2016 Budget request of \$257 million includes resources to fund timely replacement of equipment and physical systems, to begin to address the backlog of deferred maintenance activities, and to enhance distribution flexibility and reliability.

Energy Information Administration (EIA). The Administration urges the Congress to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget request of \$131 million for EIA to support expanded domestic energy data and analysis, address critical energy data gaps (including monthly movements of crude oil by rail), and increase integration of EIA energy data with Canada and Mexico.

Yucca Mountain. The Administration objects to the funding provided in the bill for Yucca Mountain and is disappointed with the rejection of the practical solutions proposed in the President's nuclear waste strategy. As reflected in the FY 2016 Budget request, this strategy incorporates important and workable elements, such as consent-based siting, interim storage of waste, and program funding reforms that are essential to the success of a Nuclear Waste Program.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Yucca Mountain. The Administration objects to the funding provided in the bill for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue adjudication of the Yucca Mountain license application.

Office of the Federal Coordinator (OFC) for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. The Administration appreciates full funding for the OFC at the level of the FY 2016 Budget request, but is disappointed that the statutory amendment proposed in the FY 2016 Budget request is not included. The amendment is critical to the OFC's ability to fulfill its mission under current market conditions, which have changed the nature of projects being proposed.

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS (CORPS)

Overall Funding. The bill provides nearly \$5.6 billion for the Corps civil works program. The Administration believes the more appropriate overall funding levels proposed in the FY 2016 Budget request would limit wasteful spending on projects that provide a low or marginal return to the Nation and would avoid reductions in other priority areas, such as protecting the Nation's water resources and important investments in clean energy technologies.

Corps Regulatory Program. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund the Corps regulatory program at the requested level. A \$5 million reduction in funding would inhibit the Corps' ability to issue permits in a timely manner and to protect important aquatic resources, while undertaking needed programmatic improvements, including implementation of the pending Clean Water rulemaking.

Clean Water Act (CWA). The Administration believes that the CWA riders in the bill undermine efforts to protect America's clean water resources, which are critical to American families and businesses. The Administration strongly objects to section 105 of the bill in particular, which would disrupt the Administration's current efforts to clarify the scope of CWA, hamstringing future regulatory efforts, and create significant ambiguity regarding existing regulations and guidance.

Firearms Policy. The Administration objects to section 107 of the bill, which prohibits the Corps from enforcing its ban on firearms at a water resources development project. If enacted, this provision would prevent the Secretary of the Army from using the discretion now provided in law to enforce or revise the current Corps policy, based on considerations such as the security of critical infrastructure, public and employee safety, and the manner in which the firearm is carried (e.g., open vs. concealed). Corps rangers are not authorized to carry firearms and do not have full Federal law enforcement authority.

National Ocean Policy. The Administration objects to section 505 of the bill, which prohibits any funding provided in the bill from being used to implement the marine planning components of the National Ocean Policy. This rider would prohibit DOE and the Corps from participating in marine and coastal planning efforts, a process to better determine how the ocean, the Nation's coasts, and the Great Lakes are managed in an efficient manner.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Overall Funding. The bill provides nearly \$1.1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation and \$9.9 million for the Central Utah Project. The Administration appreciates the Committee's support for the Bureau of Reclamation water resources program.



The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress as the FY 2016 appropriations process moves forward.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased with the level of support provided in these pieces of legislation for essential military, veterans, defense, and water resources programs, they should not serve as vehicles to make substantive policy changes to our Nation's gun laws or gut important environmental protections; nor should we stand idly by while Republicans in Congress slash funding for critically important veterans and military services under the guise of a spending increase.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I talked about last night, I offered an amendment that would self-execute to the rule that would strike section 107 from the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This is one of the riders in H.R. 2028 that would allow guns to be carried on Army Corps land.

If enacted in its current form, this legislation would strip the Secretary of the Army from using the discretion currently provided to enforce or revise the Corps' policy prohibiting firearms on Corps land.

Removing the discretionary powers from law enforcement officials that allow them to determine what is best for the security of our Nation's infrastructure and the safety of public employees, in my judgment, is dangerous and wrong.

Substantive changes to our gun laws do not belong in an appropriations bill. And that could not have happened but for a waiver, which my friends tend to do for a variety of measures, and they wind up being poison pills in substantive legislation.

While I believe in the right of Americans to own firearms, last night I made it very clear: I own a gun. When I was a child, at age 7, I had a BB gun. When I was 12 years old, I had a single-shot rifle. And I was taught, as were all of my friends, to not point those guns at people unless you intended to do them harm.

We, as boys, had the same kinds of fights that I imagine occur at any of our institutions. But not one of us would run home and get a gun or carry a gun. To proliferate this society with the variety of gun laws that exist, where people can carry guns openly on Corps land or concealed in certain other States, that is just plain crazy.

Last night, I referenced a statement by then-Surgeon General Satcher that I used again today: "Youth violence is an epidemic." He delivered that in response to a report he commissioned in the year 2002. At the time, his study revealed that 13 children each day died as a result of guns.

Indeed, the gun violence epidemic that plagues our Nation has not diminished in recent years. In Riviera Beach last week, a child 2 years old was shot.

In the same constituency that I am privileged to serve, a mother was fatally shot by her 3-year-old that got her gun from her purse.

People, we need to pay attention to what is going on. And I intend in May to raise this issue in this body and around this Nation so that people can learn just how many people are dying in this way.

I want to make it very, very clear. The National Rifle Association does not control this body nor the Florida Legislature nor any other body. As I said, I don't mind arguing for the Second Amendment. But to carry it to the extent that it has gone is just plain wrong. Everybody in our society knows that, and I am going to try to make sure that they continue to know that.

Now, there is another thing about this bill. It locks in sequestration. The administration speaks to that subject in their Statement of Administration Policy.

The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both defense and nondefense to the lowest levels in a decade. Compared to the President's budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start; more than 2 million fewer workers receiving job training and employment services; and thousands fewer scientific and medical research awards and grants, adversely impacting the pace of discovery, any innovation, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Sequestration levels were never meant to put us in this unnecessary risk, and I would urge that we not go forward in this manner.

I would say to my good friend from Georgia that we may be on the brink of what excites him—and it would excite me as well—if we got ourselves a balanced budget, but a part of that has gimmickry in it as well. It is done on the reconciliation because the great majority of people over in the other body may not have the same sentiment as some who serve on the relevant committee at this point in time in the U.S. Senate.

Cliche allows that Yogi Berra be utilized here; that is, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

I was told last week that we were going to pass this thing, that it was going to come back from the Senate on Wednesday. Last time I looked, this was Wednesday. Or as my daddy used to say, It is Wednesday all day long unless it rains. I never did know what would happen if it rained. I guess it would just be a rainy Wednesday.

But it ain't here Wednesday. And now I am hearing from my good friend from Georgia that they are close. That is what happened when we set up this thing with this special committee,

superpeople, supercommittee that was supposed to bring us back a budget, and then missed out on opportunities with Erskine Bowles and brought us back this sequestration that has this body hamstrung and has us in the position of allowing that authorizers and appropriators are locked into the position that they are in because of sequestration.

We need to get rid of that. We need to return to earmarks. We need to do a number of things that will allow for this body—and not for the bureaucracy—to control many aspects of what is the implementation of policy that is made here.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this rule. I have stated a number of reasons. I will not go into every one of the riders. There are others, and I am sure people are going to speak about them. But I urge a "no" vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my friend from Florida says, It's not over 'til it's over.

I say to my friend, it is only just beginning. It is only just beginning with this rule today. With the passage of this rule today, Mr. Speaker, we are beginning the 2016 appropriations process. And we are doing it in ways that we have not done before since I received a voting card in this body.

Number one, we are beginning at the earliest date in 40 years. Not since 1973 has this Chamber gotten about the people's business as early as we are this year. The people deserve it. The people have earned it. And we are delivering on it today. I am proud of that fact.

Number two, Mr. Speaker, we are, in fact, on the brink of the first balanced budget conference report this body has seen since 2003. It is too long coming. We have had to deem appropriations levels year after year after year, not on just two bills, as we are today, but on the entire package. That report could be filed as early as this afternoon, and there is no question but that it is going to pass both of these bodies. It is good work from this institution and the Senate across the Hill.

But, Mr. Speaker, as you could hear in the passion in my friend from Florida's voice, not everyone is going to be happy with every line in these two bills.

□ 1345

I don't have to just look to the Democratic side of the aisle. I can look to the Republican side of the aisle. Not everyone is going to be happy with every line of this bill; but do you know what, any Member can come and change any line.

The Rules Committee protected no language in this bill. Any Member can come and change any line. Any Member can come and make these bills better. Any Member can come and have

their district's voice heard. All you have to do is find 217 of your friends to agree with you; we will pass it, and we will send it to the United States Senate for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, that is the way it ought to be. These are going to be some long nights we are going to have; these are going to be some lengthy amendment debates we are going to have; these are going to be some vote-a-ramas we are going to have, but America is going to be the better for it because the laws of the land that we pass are going to be better for it.

I have the Statement of Administration Policy here, Mr. Speaker. I have one for each one of the bills that this rule makes in order. The President has said in these Statements of Administration Policy that his senior advisers are going to recommend that he veto these bills. Why? It is because these bills and other legislation implement the current Republican budget framework which blocks the needed investments for our economy to compete in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is not the Republican budget framework. It is called the law of the land as signed by President Barack Obama. We can pretend the law doesn't exist, or we can confront the law as it exists. That is what these bills do, a 6 percent increase in veterans funding and a 3 percent increase in our energy and water investment. In a time of austere budgets, we are plussing up those accounts that are so important to our constituents back home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for this rule, I urge strong support for the underlying bills, and I urge strong support for beginning the process where every single Member will be able to have his or her voice heard.

It is the way this institution ought to be, and it is the way this institution will be if we pass this rule today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the resolution will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 651.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 186, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 176]

# YEAS—240

Abraham	Grothman	Perry
Aderholt	Guinta	Pittenger
Allen	Guthrie	Pitts
Amash	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Amodei	Hardy	Poliquin
Babin	Harper	Pompeo
Barletta	Harris	Posey
Barr	Hartzler	Price, Tom
Barton	Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe
Benishek	Hensarling	Reed
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Ribble
Black	Holding	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Hudson	Rigell
Blum	Huelskamp	Roby
Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Boustany	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Brat	Hurd (TX)	Rohrabacher
Bridenstine	Hurt (VA)	Rokita
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Roskam
Buck	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Burgess	Jolly	Rouzer
Byrne	Jordan	Russell
Calvert	Joyce	Ryan (WI)
Carter (GA)	Katko	Salmon
Carter (TX)	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Clawson (FL)	King (NY)	Schweikert
Coffman	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Cole	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	Knight	Sessions
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Shimkus
Comstock	LaMalfa	Shuster
Conaway	Lamborn	Simpson
Cook	Lance	Smith (MO)
Costello (PA)	Latta	Smith (NE)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Long	Smith (TX)
Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Culberson	Love	Stewart
Curbelo (FL)	Lucas	Stivers
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Denham	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
Dent	MacArthur	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marchant	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Marino	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	Massie	Trott
Dold	McCarthy	Turner
Duffy	McCaul	Upton
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Valadao
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Wagner
Ellmers (NC)	McKinley	Walberg
Emmer (MN)	McMorris	Walden
Farenthold	Rodgers	Walker
Fincher	McSally	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	Meadows	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Messer	Webster (FL)
Flores	Mica	Wenstrup
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Westerman
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Fox	Moolenaar	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Womack
Gibson	Neugebauer	Woodall
Gohmert	Newhouse	Yoder
Goodlatte	Noem	Yoho
Gosar	Nugent	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Nunes	Young (IA)
Granger	Olson	Young (IN)
Graves (GA)	Palazzo	Zeldin
Graves (LA)	Palmer	Zinke
Graves (MO)	Paulsen	
Griffith	Pearce	

# NAYS—186

Adams	Blumenauer	Capps
Aguiar	Bonamici	Capuano
Ashford	Boyle, Brendan	Cárdenas
Bass	F.	Carney
Beatty	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Becerra	Brown (FL)	Cartwright
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Castor (FL)
Beyer	Bustos	Castro (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Chu, Judy

Ciilline	Jeffries	Peterson
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Pingree
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Pocan
Clay	Jones	Polis
Clyburn	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Cohen	Keating	Quigley
Connolly	Kelly (IL)	Rangel
Conyers	Kennedy	Rice (NY)
Cooper	Kildee	Richmond
Costa	Kilmer	Roybal-Allard
Courtney	Kind	Ruiz
Crowley	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
Cuellar	Kuster	Rush
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Ryan (OH)
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	T.
DeGette	Lawrence	Sanchez, Loretta
Delaney	Lee	Sarbanes
DeLauro	Levin	Schakowsky
DeBene	Lewis	Schiff
DeSaulnier	Lieu, Ted	Schrader
Deutch	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Dingell	Loeb sack	Scott, David
Doggett	Lofgren	Serrano
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
F.	Lowey	Sherman
Duckworth	Lujan Grisham	Sinema
Edwards	(NM)	Sires
Ellison	Lujan, Ben Ray	Slaughter
Eshoo	(NM)	Smith (WA)
Esty	Lynch	Speier
Farr	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Fattah	Carolyn	Takai
Foster	Maloney, Sean	Takano
Frankel (FL)	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Fudge	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Gabbard	McDermott	Titus
Gallego	McGovern	Tonko
Garamendi	McNerney	Torres
Graham	Meeks	Tsongas
Grayson	Meng	Van Hollen
Green, Al	Moore	Vargas
Green, Gene	Moulton	Veasey
Grijalva	Murphy (FL)	Vela
Gutiérrez	Nadler	Velázquez
Hahn	Napolitano	Visclosky
Hastings	Neal	Walz
Heck (WA)	Nolan	Wasserman
Higgins	Norcross	Schultz
Himes	O'Rourke	Waters, Maxine
Hinojosa	Pallone	Watson Coleman
Honda	Pascrell	Welch
Hoyer	Payne	Wilson (FL)
Huffman	Pelosi	Yarmuth
Israel	Perlmutter	
Jackson Lee	Peters	

# NOT VOTING—5

## □ 1415

Messrs. PETERSON, MOULTON, and Ms. KAPTUR changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## □ 1415

### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

(Mr. ROSKAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 25, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal—the most powerful earthquake in the region in nearly a century. Estimates are that 5,000 people have perished and that thousands more are injured or are missing.

This week, here in Washington, the House Democracy Partnership is hosting a multilateral conference, which includes a delegation of parliamentary staff from Nepal.

On behalf of Congressman PRICE, who leads the House Democracy Partnership with me, and Congressman CRENSHAW and Congressman POLIS, who chair the Congressional Nepal Caucus, we wish to extend the condolences of the House to the people of Nepal and pledge our continued support and cooperation as they embark on the long road of rebuilding and recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members of the House now rise and observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the people of Nepal.

#### SISTER ANN KEEFE POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 651) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (JODY B. HICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 177]

YEAS—423

Abraham	Brooks (AL)	Collins (GA)
Adams	Brooks (IN)	Collins (NY)
Aderholt	Brown (FL)	Comstock
Aguilar	Brownley (CA)	Conaway
Allen	Buchanan	Connolly
Amash	Buck	Conyers
Amodei	Bucshon	Cook
Ashford	Burgess	Cooper
Babin	Bustos	Costa
Barletta	Butterfield	Costello (PA)
Barr	Byrne	Courtney
Barton	Calvert	Cramer
Bass	Capps	Crawford
Beatty	Capuano	Crenshaw
Becerra	Cardenas	Crowley
Benishkek	Carney	Cuellar
Bera	Carson (IN)	Culberson
Beyer	Carter (GA)	Cummings
Billirakis	Carter (TX)	Curbelo (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Cartwright	Davis (CA)
Bishop (UT)	Castor (FL)	Davis, Danny
Black	Castro (TX)	Davis, Rodney
Blackburn	Chabot	DeFazio
Blum	Chaffetz	DeGette
Blumenauer	Chu, Judy	Delaney
Bonamici	Ciциlline	DeLauro
Bost	Clark (MA)	DelBene
Boustany	Clarke (NY)	Denham
Boyle, Brendan	Clawson (FL)	Dent
F.	Clay	DeSantis
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	DeSaunier
Brady (TX)	Coffman	DesJarlais
Brat	Cohen	Deutch
Bridenstine	Cole	Diaz-Balart

Dingell	Katko	Paulsen
Doggett	Keating	Payne
Dold	Kelly (IL)	Pearce
Doyle, Michael	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
F.	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Duckworth	Kildee	Perry
Duffy	Kilmer	Peters
Duncan (SC)	Kind	Peterson
Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Pingree
Edwards	King (NY)	Pittenger
Ellison	Kinzie (IL)	Pitts
Ellmers (NC)	Kirkpatrick	Pocan
Emmer (MN)	Kline	Poe (TX)
Eshoo	Knight	Poliquin
Esty	Kuster	Polis
Farenthold	Labrador	Pompeo
Farr	LaMalfa	Posey
Fattah	Lamborn	Price (NC)
Fincher	Lance	Price, Tom
Fitzpatrick	Langevin	Rangel
Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)	Ratcliffe
Fleming	Larson (CT)	Reed
Flores	Latta	Reichert
Forbes	Lawrence	Renacci
Fortenberry	Lee	Ribble
Foster	Levin	Rice (NY)
Fox	Lewis	Rice (SC)
Frankel (FL)	Lieu, Ted	Richmond
Franks (AZ)	Lipinski	Rigell
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Roby
Fudge	Lofgren	Roe (TN)
Gabbard	Long	Rogers (AL)
Gallego	Loudermilk	Rogers (KY)
Garamendi	Love	Rohrabacher
Garrett	Lowenthal	Rokita
Gibbs	Lowe	Rooney (FL)
Gibson	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Roskam
Goodlatte	Lujan Grisham	Ross
Gosar	(NM)	Rothfus
Gowdy	Lujan, Ben Ray	Rouzer
Graham	(NM)	Roybal-Allard
Granger	Lummis	Ruiz
Graves (GA)	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Graves (LA)	MacArthur	Rush
Graves (MO)	Maloney,	Russell
Grayson	Carolyn	Ryan (OH)
Green, Al	Maloney, Sean	Ryan (WI)
Green, Gene	Marchant	Salmon
Grijalva	Marino	Sánchez, Linda
Grothman	Massie	T.
Guinta	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Guthrie	McCarthy	Sanford
Gutiérrez	McCaul	Sarbanes
Hahn	McClintock	Scalise
Hanna	McCollum	Schakowsky
Hardy	McDermott	Schiff
Harper	McGovern	Schrader
Harris	McHenry	Schweikert
Hartzler	McKinley	Scott (VA)
Hastings	McMorris	Scott, Austin
Heck (NV)	Rodgers	Scott, David
Heck (WA)	McNerney	Sensenbrenner
Herrera	McSally	Serrano
Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Sessions
Hice, Jody B.	Meehan	Sewell (AL)
Higgins	Meeks	Sherman
Hill	Meng	Shimkus
Himes	Messer	Shuster
Hinojosa	Mica	Simpson
Holding	Miller (FL)	Sinema
Honda	Miller (MI)	Sires
Hoyer	Moolenaar	Slaughter
Hudson	Mooney (WV)	Smith (MO)
Huelskamp	Moore	Smith (NE)
Huffman	Moulton	Smith (NJ)
Huizenga (MI)	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Hultgren	Mulvaney	Speier
Hunter	Murphy (FL)	Stefanik
Hurd (TX)	Murphy (PA)	Stewart
Hurt (VA)	Nadler	Stivers
Israel	Napolitano	Stutzman
Issa	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Jackson Lee	Neugebauer	Takai
Jeffries	Newhouse	Takano
Jenkins (KS)	Noem	Thompson (CA)
Jenkins (WV)	Nolan	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (OH)	Nugent	Thornberry
Johnson, E. B.	Nunes	Tiberi
Johnson, Sam	O'Rourke	Tipton
Jolly	Olson	Titus
Jones	Palazzo	Tonko
Jordan	Pallone	Torres
Joyce	Palmer	Trott
Kaptur	Pascrell	Tsongas

Turner	Walters, Mimi	Wilson (FL)
Upton	Walz	Wilson (SC)
Valadao	Wasserman	Wittman
Van Hollen	Schultz	Womack
Vargas	Waters, Maxine	Woodall
Veasey	Watson Coleman	Yarmuth
Vela	Weber (TX)	Yoder
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Yoho
Visclosky	Welch	Young (AK)
Wagner	Wenstrup	Young (IA)
Walberg	Westerman	Young (IN)
Walden	Westmoreland	Zeldin
Walker	Whitfield	Zinke
Walorski	Williams	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Bishop (GA)	Griffith	Royce
Cleaver	Loeb sack	Smith (TX)
Engel	Quigley	

□ 1425

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia submitted the following conference report and statement on the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025:

##### CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 114-96)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016.

(a) *DECLARATION.*—Congress declares that this concurrent resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016 and that this concurrent resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

#### TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

Sec. 1101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 1102. Major functional categories.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate.

Sec. 1202. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses in the Senate.

#### TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

Sec. 2001. Reconciliation in the Senate.

Sec. 2002. Reconciliation in the House of Representatives.

#### TITLE III—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

##### Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement in Both Houses

Sec. 3101. Point of order against increasing long-term deficits or direct spending.

Sec. 3102. Allocation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

Sec. 3103. Point of order against certain changes in mandatory programs.

Sec. 3104. Point of order against provisions that constitute changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund.

Sec. 3105. Fair-value credit estimates.

Sec. 3106. Scoring rule for currency modernization.

Sec. 3107. Long-term scoring of changes in spending limits and extension of highway programs.

Sec. 3108. Requiring clearer reporting of projected Federal spending and deficits.

Sec. 3109. Congressional Budget Office estimates of measures with significant outlay effects.

Sec. 3110. Prohibiting the use of guarantee fees as an offset.

Sec. 3111. Information for Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenues, and deficits.

Sec. 3112. Honest accounting: cost estimates for major legislation to incorporate macroeconomic effects.

##### Subtitle B—Budget Enforcement in the Senate

Sec. 3201. Extension of enforcement of budgetary points of order in the Senate.

Sec. 3202. Point of order against advance appropriations in the Senate.

Sec. 3203. Supermajority enforcement of unfunded mandates in the Senate.

Sec. 3204. Repeal of Senate point of order against certain reconciliation legislation.

Sec. 3205. Prohibition on agreeing to legislation without a score in the Senate.

Sec. 3206. Protecting the savings in reported reconciliation bills in the Senate.

Sec. 3207. Scoring rule for certain energy contracts in the Senate.

Sec. 3208. Adjustment for wildfire suppression funding in the Senate.

##### Subtitle C—Budget Enforcement in the House of Representatives

Sec. 3301. Limitation on measures affecting Social Security solvency in the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3302. Limitation on transfers from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund in the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3303. Adjustments for improved control of budgetary resources in the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3304. Limitation on advance appropriations in the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3305. Certain energy contracts in the House of Representatives.

##### Subtitle D—Other Provisions

Sec. 3401. Submission of findings for the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Sec. 3402. Budgetary treatment of administrative expenses.

Sec. 3403. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates.

Sec. 3404. Adjustments to reflect changes in concepts and definitions.

Sec. 3405. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

#### TITLE IV—RESERVE FUNDS

##### Subtitle A—Reserve Funds in Both Houses

Sec. 4101. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans.

##### Subtitle B—Reserve Funds in the Senate

Sec. 4301. Spending-neutral reserve fund to increase the pace of economic growth and private sector job creation in the United States.

Sec. 4302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen America's priorities.

Sec. 4303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect flexible and affordable health care choices for all.

Sec. 4304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving access to the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Sec. 4305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for other health reforms.

Sec. 4306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child welfare.

Sec. 4307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Sec. 4308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax reform and administration.

Sec. 4309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in the infrastructure in America.

Sec. 4310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for air transportation.

Sec. 4311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote jobs in the United States through international trade.

Sec. 4312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase employment opportunities for disabled workers.

Sec. 4313. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Higher Education Act reform.

Sec. 4314. Spending-neutral reserve fund for energy legislation.

Sec. 4315. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform environmental statutes.

Sec. 4316. Spending-neutral reserve fund for water resources legislation.

Sec. 4317. Spending-neutral reserve fund on mineral security and mineral rights.

Sec. 4318. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform the abandoned mine lands program.

Sec. 4319. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve forest health.

Sec. 4320. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reauthorize funding for payments in lieu of taxes to counties and other units of local government.

Sec. 4321. Spending-neutral reserve fund for financial regulatory system reform.

Sec. 4322. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal program administration.

Sec. 4323. Spending-neutral reserve fund to implement agreements with freely associated states.

Sec. 4324. Spending-neutral reserve fund to protect payments to rural hospitals and create sustainable access for rural communities.

Sec. 4325. Spending-neutral reserve fund to encourage State medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled.

Sec. 4326. Spending-neutral reserve fund to allow pharmacists to be paid for the provision of services under Medicare.

Sec. 4327. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve our Nation's community health centers.

Sec. 4328. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process.

Sec. 4329. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform, improve, and enhance 529 college savings plans.

Sec. 4330. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to securing overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States.

Sec. 4331. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Sec. 4332. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting manufacturing in the United States.

Sec. 4333. Spending-neutral reserve fund to prohibit aliens without legal status in the United States from qualifying for a refundable tax credit.

Sec. 4334. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for report elimination or modification.

Sec. 4335. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription opioid abuse.

Sec. 4336. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen our Department of Defense civilian workforce.

Sec. 4337. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Department of Defense reform.

Sec. 4338. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs.

Sec. 4339. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide energy assistance and invest in energy efficiency and conservation.

Sec. 4340. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end Operation Choke Point and protect the Second Amendment.

Sec. 4341. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the use of Federal funds for the bailout of improvident State and local governments.

Sec. 4342. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid.

Sec. 4343. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program.

Sec. 4344. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay.

Sec. 4345. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect and strengthen Social Security.

Sec. 4346. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option.

Sec. 4347. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to keeping the Federal Water Pollution Control Act focused on the protection of water quality.

Sec. 4348. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting Israel.

Sec. 4349. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to family and medical leave.

Sec. 4350. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who have geographic inaccessibility to care.

- Sec. 4351. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program.
- Sec. 4352. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing.
- Sec. 4353. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to carbon emissions.
- Sec. 4354. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty.
- Sec. 4355. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.
- Sec. 4356. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation.
- Sec. 4357. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.
- Sec. 4358. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.
- Sec. 4359. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.
- Sec. 4360. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to permanently eliminate the Federal estate tax.
- Sec. 4361. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sec. 4362. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.
- Sec. 4363. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations.
- Sec. 4364. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate.
- Sec. 4365. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers.
- Sec. 4366. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
- Sec. 4367. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring proper economic consideration in designation of critical habitat.
- Sec. 4368. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end "too big to fail" bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets).
- Sec. 4369. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- Sec. 4370. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Sec. 4371. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Sec. 4372. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Sec. 4373. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.
- Sec. 4374. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits.
- Sec. 4375. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication.
- Sec. 4376. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming Offices of Inspectors General and preventing extended vacancies.
- Sec. 4377. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security.
- Sec. 4378. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the competitiveness of the United States.
- Sec. 4379. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the conservation of northern long-eared bat populations and local economic development are compatible.
- Sec. 4380. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.
- Sec. 4381. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies.
- Sec. 4382. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies.
- Sec. 4383. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers.
- Sec. 4384. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the needs of women veterans.
- Sec. 4385. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy.
- Sec. 4386. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing access to marijuana edibles by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana.
- Sec. 4387. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas.
- Sec. 4388. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.
- Sec. 4389. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 4390. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program.
- Sec. 4391. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet.
- Sec. 4392. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid.
- Sec. 4393. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to preserve and protect the open Internet.
- Sec. 4394. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process.
- Sec. 4395. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program.
- Sec. 4396. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the modernization of the nuclear command, control, and communications architecture of the United States.
- Sec. 4397. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to BARDA and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund.
- Sec. 4398. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the nuclear forces and missions of the Air Force.
- Sec. 4399. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses and full funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for certain fisheries.
- Sec. 4400. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the definition of full-time employee.
- Sec. 4401. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process.
- Sec. 4402. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to expedite awards under the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program.
- Sec. 4403. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.
- Sec. 4404. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department.
- Sec. 4405. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community banks and credit unions.
- Sec. 4406. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Sec. 4407. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions.
- Sec. 4408. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote biomedical research.
- Sec. 4409. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing access to necessary equipment for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Sec. 4410. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prioritizing the construction of infrastructure projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors.

- Sec. 4411. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO.
- Sec. 4412. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the investigation and recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government.
- Sec. 4413. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving higher education data and transparency.
- Sec. 4414. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Native children.
- Sec. 4415. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to provide additional funding for international strategic communications.
- Sec. 4416. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for elementary and secondary education.
- Sec. 4417. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support research.
- Sec. 4418. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine.
- Sec. 4419. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to underground and surface mining safety research.
- Sec. 4420. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to saving Medicare.

**Subtitle C—Reserve Funds in the House of Representatives**

- Sec. 4501. Reserve fund for the repeal of the President's health care law.
- Sec. 4502. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for promoting real health care reform.
- Sec. 4503. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to the Medicare provisions of the President's health care law.
- Sec. 4504. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Sec. 4505. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for graduate medical education.
- Sec. 4506. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for trade agreements.
- Sec. 4507. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for reforming the tax code.
- Sec. 4508. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for revenue measures.
- Sec. 4509. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for transportation.
- Sec. 4510. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Federal retirement reform.
- Sec. 4511. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for national defense.

**TITLE V—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Sec. 5001. Direct spending.

**TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS**

**Subtitle A—Policy Statements in Both Houses**

- Sec. 6101. Policy statement on balanced budget amendment.
- Sec. 6102. Policy statement on Social Security.
- Subtitle B—Policy Statement in the House of Representatives**
- Sec. 6201. Policy statement on budget process and baseline reform.
- Sec. 6202. Policy statement on economic growth and job creation.
- Sec. 6203. Policy statement on tax reform.
- Sec. 6204. Policy statement on trade.
- Sec. 6205. Policy statement on repealing the President's health care law and promoting real health care reform.
- Sec. 6206. Policy statement on Medicare.
- Sec. 6207. Policy statement on medical discovery, development, delivery and innovation.

- Sec. 6208. Policy statement on Federal regulatory reform.
- Sec. 6209. Policy statement on higher education and workforce development opportunity.
- Sec. 6210. Policy statement on Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 6211. Policy statement on Federal accounting methodologies.
- Sec. 6212. Policy statement on reducing unnecessary, wasteful, and unauthorized spending.
- Sec. 6213. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the cancellation of unobligated balances.
- Sec. 6214. Policy statement on agency fees and spending.
- Sec. 6215. Policy statement on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
- Sec. 6216. Policy statement on "No Budget, No Pay".
- Sec. 6217. Policy statement on national security funding.

**TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS**

**Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses**

**SEC. 1101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.**

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025:

(1) **FEDERAL REVENUES.**—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$2,676,733,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,776,156,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,870,206,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$2,982,310,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,107,111,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,247,391,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,392,968,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,554,412,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,723,973,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$3,906,111,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$0.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$0.

(2) **NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.**—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$3,039,215,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,956,581,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,970,682,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$3,107,123,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,234,011,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,313,719,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,420,057,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,484,446,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,504,239,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$3,634,452,000,000.

(3) **BUDGET OUTLAYS.**—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$3,091,442,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$2,982,215,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$2,963,926,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$3,086,454,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$3,205,304,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$3,291,249,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$3,434,709,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$3,470,642,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$3,466,541,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025: \$3,610,342,000,000.

(4) **DEFICITS.**—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$414,709,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$206,059,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$93,720,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$104,144,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$98,193,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$43,858,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$41,741,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: —\$83,770,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: —\$257,432,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: —\$295,769,000,000.

(5) **PUBLIC DEBT.**—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$19,059,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$19,490,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$19,826,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$20,164,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$20,494,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$20,773,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$21,033,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$21,188,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$21,194,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$21,149,000,000,000.

(6) **DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.**—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$13,842,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$14,124,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$14,307,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$14,523,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$14,757,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$14,965,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$15,204,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$15,354,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$15,374,000,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$15,405,000,000,000.

**SEC. 1102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.**

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2025 for each major functional category are:

(1) **National Defense (050):**

Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$531,306,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$564,325,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$544,515,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$549,357,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$557,764,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$548,021,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$571,039,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$560,439,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$585,330,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$572,493,000,000.

Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$599,646,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$585,628,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$632,804,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$615,907,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$646,039,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$628,518,000,000.

Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$659,310,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$638,235,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$673,490,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$658,011,000,000.

(2) **International Affairs (150):**

Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,202,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$46,028,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:

(A) New budget authority, \$40,246,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$43,086,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$41,176,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,818,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$42,100,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,391,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$43,092,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,518,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$44,085,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$42,005,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$45,333,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$42,749,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$46,348,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$43,510,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$47,408,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$44,367,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$48,485,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$45,266,000,000.

(250):  
*(3) General Science, Space, and Technology**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$29,187,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$29,555,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$29,771,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$29,707,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$30,432,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$30,162,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$31,104,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$30,647,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$31,805,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$31,283,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$32,508,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$31,875,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$33,242,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$32,579,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$33,978,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$33,306,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$34,743,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$34,053,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$35,517,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$34,815,000,000.

*(4) Energy (270):**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$3,201,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,412,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$1,962,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$1,095,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$746,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$2,111,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$856,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,936,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$884,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,811,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$948,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,657,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$1,030,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,651,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$1,098,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,643,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$1,144,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,614,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$1,153,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$1,589,000,000.

*(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$36,374,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$39,499,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$37,654,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$40,016,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$38,325,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$39,595,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$38,923,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$39,465,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$40,388,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$40,563,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$41,191,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,461,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$41,650,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$41,770,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$42,496,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$42,726,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$43,935,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$43,453,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$45,039,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$44,409,000,000.

*(6) Agriculture (350):**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$19,098,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$21,572,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$22,846,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,376,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$21,964,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,853,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$20,652,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,875,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$19,681,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,132,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$19,545,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,025,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$19,509,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$18,979,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$20,119,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,590,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$20,253,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,699,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$20,540,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,028,000,000.

*(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$997,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$10,566,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$8,697,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$21,748,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$8,277,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$25,173,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$7,401,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$26,866,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$5,156,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$22,499,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$4,806,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$19,423,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$4,250,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$20,716,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$3,613,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$21,520,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$2,754,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$21,962,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, —\$2,278,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, —\$22,335,000,000.

*(8) Transportation (400):**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$72,055,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$87,153,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$72,715,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$82,838,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$73,262,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$79,648,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$73,696,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$78,845,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$74,070,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$78,268,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$74,409,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$77,871,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$55,154,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$73,378,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$56,254,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$66,074,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$56,798,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$62,874,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$57,190,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$61,710,000,000.

(450):  
*(9) Community and Regional Development**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$15,486,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,692,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$16,344,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,144,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*

(A) New budget authority, \$16,737,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,692,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2019:*

(A) New budget authority, \$16,973,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,450,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2020:*

(A) New budget authority, \$16,984,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,702,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2021:*

(A) New budget authority, \$16,903,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$20,682,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2022:*

(A) New budget authority, \$9,965,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$19,034,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2023:*

(A) New budget authority, \$9,947,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$15,892,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2024:*

(A) New budget authority, \$9,993,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$13,220,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2025:*

(A) New budget authority, \$10,077,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$11,515,000,000.

(500):  
*(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services**Fiscal year 2016:*

(A) New budget authority, \$83,315,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$93,293,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2017:*

(A) New budget authority, \$89,084,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$92,888,000,000.

*Fiscal year 2018:*



(A) New budget authority, \$91,432,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$91,193,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$90,189,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$89,369,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$92,597,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$91,891,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$93,900,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$93,562,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$95,502,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$95,022,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$96,984,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$96,608,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$98,820,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$98,362,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$100,785,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$100,297,000,000.  
(11) Health (550):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$433,064,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$430,917,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$397,209,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$394,211,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$387,638,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$397,302,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$398,203,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$399,888,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$420,326,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$411,116,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$426,184,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$426,218,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$442,681,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$442,701,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$461,378,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$461,378,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$476,599,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$476,631,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$493,913,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$494,059,000,000.  
(12) Medicare (570):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$579,430,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$579,361,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$571,876,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$571,830,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$566,754,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$566,656,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$628,736,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$628,652,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$667,036,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$666,951,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$711,198,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$711,111,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$800,458,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$800,363,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$812,590,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$812,496,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$815,240,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$815,139,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$923,187,000,000.

(B) Outlays, \$923,082,000,000.  
(13) Income Security (600):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$523,086,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$523,645,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$496,233,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$492,511,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$485,055,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$476,530,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$476,663,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$471,357,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$484,015,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$478,199,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$489,999,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$484,318,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$498,503,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$497,869,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$503,364,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$499,521,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$510,872,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$501,192,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$517,417,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$511,441,000,000.  
(14) Social Security Retirement and Disability (650):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$33,885,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$33,928,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$36,535,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$36,563,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$39,407,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$39,424,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$42,634,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$42,634,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$46,104,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$46,104,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$49,712,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$49,712,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$53,547,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$53,547,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$57,455,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$57,455,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$61,546,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$61,546,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$65,751,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$65,751,000,000.  
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$166,261,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$171,862,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$164,546,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$168,559,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$162,740,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$162,753,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$174,599,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$173,869,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$179,485,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$178,581,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$183,721,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$182,821,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, \$196,041,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$195,056,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$192,637,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$191,640,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$189,442,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$188,356,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$203,290,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$202,189,000,000.  
(16) Administration of Justice (750):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$50,976,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$56,455,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$57,639,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$56,693,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$55,885,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$54,562,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$57,582,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$56,699,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$59,324,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$61,755,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$61,247,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$62,635,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$63,791,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$63,748,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$65,688,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$65,589,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$67,626,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$67,266,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$69,425,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$68,892,000,000.  
(17) General Government (800):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$23,151,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$22,981,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$23,194,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$23,289,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$23,426,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$23,371,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:  
(A) New budget authority, \$24,000,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$23,685,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2020:  
(A) New budget authority, \$24,703,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$24,290,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2021:  
(A) New budget authority, \$25,202,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$24,878,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2022:  
(A) New budget authority, \$25,962,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$25,562,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2023:  
(A) New budget authority, \$26,698,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$26,272,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2024:  
(A) New budget authority, \$27,130,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$26,766,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2025:  
(A) New budget authority, \$27,881,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$27,435,000,000.  
(18) Net Interest (900):  
Fiscal year 2016:  
(A) New budget authority, \$367,542,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$367,542,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2017:  
(A) New budget authority, \$416,418,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$416,418,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2018:  
(A) New budget authority, \$479,446,000,000.  
(B) Outlays, \$479,446,000,000.  
Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, \$533,121,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$533,121,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$579,344,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$579,344,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$611,558,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$611,558,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$642,888,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$642,888,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$669,066,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$669,066,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$687,195,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$687,195,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$694,215,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$694,215,000,000.  
 (19) Allowances (920):  
 Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$25,256,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$45,538,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$21,661,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$5,856,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$50,890,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$40,133,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$60,624,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$53,987,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$72,620,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$65,480,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$104,010,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$98,128,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$119,157,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$111,033,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$131,418,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$122,924,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$168,306,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$160,427,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$204,728,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$186,150,000,000.  
 (20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):  
 Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$82,548,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$82,548,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$96,446,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$96,446,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$103,441,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$103,441,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$101,796,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$101,796,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$101,191,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$101,191,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$105,094,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$105,094,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$112,536,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$112,536,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$120,466,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$120,466,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$130,467,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$130,467,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, —\$143,591,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, —\$143,591,000,000.  
 (21) Overseas Contingency Operations (970):  
 Fiscal year 2016:

(A) New budget authority, \$96,287,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$48,798,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$64,598,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$65,684,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$62,593,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$63,758,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$57,586,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$60,653,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$49,578,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$54,095,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$47,569,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$50,191,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$0.  
 (B) Outlays, \$19,493,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$0.  
 (B) Outlays, \$7,554,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$0.  
 (B) Outlays, \$2,683,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$0.  
 (B) Outlays, \$892,000,000.

#### Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

##### SEC. 1201. SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE SENATE.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$793,987,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$826,098,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$858,899,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$892,421,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$927,413,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$963,896,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$1,002,225,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$1,041,673,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$1,082,208,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$1,124,298,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016: \$777,085,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017: \$822,772,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018: \$878,895,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019: \$937,383,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020: \$1,002,161,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021: \$1,070,556,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022: \$1,143,375,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023: \$1,221,800,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024: \$1,305,195,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025: \$1,393,212,000,000.

(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,146,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,205,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,296,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,296,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,469,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,440,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,645,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,614,000,000.

Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$5,827,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,795,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,012,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$5,980,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,205,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,172,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,399,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,365,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,600,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,565,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$6,805,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$6,769,000,000.

##### SEC. 1202. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2016:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$266,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$265,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2017:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$277,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$277,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2018:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$288,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$288,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2019:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$299,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$298,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2020:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$310,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$310,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2021:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$321,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$320,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2022:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$334,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$333,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2023:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$346,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$345,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2024:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$358,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$357,000,000.  
 Fiscal year 2025:  
 (A) New budget authority, \$371,000,000.  
 (B) Outlays, \$370,000,000.

#### TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

##### SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(2) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.—The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(3) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than July 24, 2015, the Senate Committees named in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

(b) LIMIT ON SENATE CONSIDERATION OF RECONCILIATION.—

(1) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution reported pursuant to subsection (a), or an

amendment to, conference report on, or amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, which would increase the public debt limit under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(2) **WAIVER.**—This subsection may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(3) **APPEALS.**—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on the point of order raised under this subsection.

## **SEC. 2002. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.**—The Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(2) **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.**—The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(3) **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.**—The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

(4) **SUBMISSION PROVIDING FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION.**—In the House of Representatives, not later than July 24, 2015, the committees named in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to carry out this section.

(b) **RECONCILIATION PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **ESTIMATING ASSUMPTIONS.**—

(A) **ASSUMPTIONS.**—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 631 et seq. and 651 et seq.), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall use the baseline underlying the Congressional Budget Office's March 2015 update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025 (January 2015) when making estimates of any bill or joint resolution, or any amendment thereto, amendment between the Houses in relation thereto, or conference report thereon. If adjustments to the baseline are made subsequent to the adoption of this concurrent resolution, then such Chairman shall determine whether to use any of these adjustments when making such estimates.

(B) **INTENT.**—The authority set forth in subparagraph (A) should only be exercised if the estimates used to determine the compliance of such measures with the budgetary requirements included in this concurrent resolution are inaccurate because adjustments made to the baseline are inconsistent with the assumptions underlying the budgetary levels set forth in this concurrent resolution. Such inaccurate adjustments made after the adoption of this concurrent resolution may include selected adjustments for rulemaking, judicial actions, adjudication, and interpretative rules that have major budgetary effects and are inconsistent with the assumptions underlying the budgetary levels set forth in this concurrent resolution.

(C) **CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.**—Upon the request of the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, the Congressional Budget Office shall prepare for any measure an estimate based on the baseline determination made by such Chairman pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(2) **REPEAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW THROUGH RECONCILIATION.**—In the House of Representatives, in preparing their submissions under subsection (a) to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, the committees named in subsection (a) shall—

(A) note the policies discussed in title VI that repeal the Affordable Care Act and the health care related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; and

(B) determine the most effective methods by which the health care laws referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be repealed in their entirety.

(3) **REVISION OF BUDGETARY LEVELS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the submission of a reconciliation recommendation to the House of Representatives or the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the submission of a conference report to the House of Representatives pursuant to this section, in which a committee is deemed to have complied with its directive by virtue of section 310(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641(c)), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may file with the House of Representatives appropriately revised allocations, aggregates, and functional levels.

(B) **REVISION.**—Allocations and aggregates revised pursuant to this paragraph shall be considered to be allocations and aggregates established by this concurrent resolution on the budget pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632).

## **TITLE III—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT**

### **Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement in Both Houses**

#### **SEC. 3101. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST INCREASING LONG-TERM DEFICITS OR DIRECT SPENDING.**

(a) **CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS.**—The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall, to the extent practicable, prepare an estimate of whether a measure would cause, relative to current law, a net increase in on-budget deficits in the Senate, and a net increase in direct spending in the House, in excess of \$5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-fiscal year periods beginning with the first fiscal year that is 10 fiscal years after the budget year provided for in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget—

(1) in the Senate, for each bill and joint resolution reported by a committee, other than the Committee on Appropriations, and amendments thereto, amendments between the Houses in relation thereto, conference reports thereon, and motions thereon; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for each bill and joint resolution reported by a committee, other than the Committee on Appropriations, and amendments thereto and conference reports thereon.

(b) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order—

(1) in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion that would cause a net increase in on-budget deficits in excess of \$5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-fiscal year periods described in subsection (a); and

(2) in the House of Representatives to consider any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would cause a net increase in direct spending in excess of \$5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-fiscal year periods described in subsection (a).

(c) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **WAIVER.**—In the Senate, subsection (b) may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) **APPEAL.**—In the Senate, an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (b).

(d) **LIMITATION.**—The provisions of this section shall not apply to—

(1) in the Senate, any bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, conference reports, or motions for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate has made adjustments to the allocations, levels, or limits contained in this concurrent resolution pursuant to section 4303(1); and

(2) in the House of Representatives, any bills or joint resolutions, or amendments thereto or conference reports thereon, for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of House of Representatives has made adjustments to the allocations, levels, or limits contained in this concurrent resolution pursuant to section 4501, 4502, or 4503.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS OF BUDGET LEVELS.**—For purposes of this section—

(1) the levels of net increases in deficits shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate; and

(2) the levels of net increases in direct spending shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(f) **REPEAL IN THE SENATE.**—In the Senate, section 311 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2009, shall no longer apply.

(g) **SUNSET IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—In the House of Representatives, this section shall remain in effect through September 30, 2017.

#### **SEC. 3102. ALLOCATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.**

(a) **SEPARATE OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM ALLOCATION.**—In the Senate and the House of Representatives, there shall be a separate allocation of new budget authority and outlays provided to the Committee on Appropriations for the purposes of Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, which shall be deemed an allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)). Section 302(a)(3) of such Act shall not apply to such separate allocation.

(b) **302 ALLOCATIONS.**—The separate allocation referred to in subsection (a) shall be the exclusive allocation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(b)). The Committee on Appropriations of the applicable House of Congress may provide suballocations of such separate allocation under such section 302(b).

(c) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of enforcing the separate allocation referred to in subsection (a) under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)), the “first fiscal year” and the “total of fiscal years” shall be deemed to refer to fiscal year 2016. Section 302(c) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 633(c)) shall not apply to such separate allocation.

(2) **ADDITIONAL SENATE ENFORCEMENT.**—In the Senate, section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)(2)(A)) shall apply with respect to the separate allocation to the Committee on Appropriations referred to in subsection (a).

(d) **DESIGNATIONS.**—New budget authority or outlays shall only be counted toward the allocation referred to in subsection (a) if they are designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(B)(A)(ii)).

(e) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—For purposes of subsection (a) for fiscal year 2016, no adjustment shall be made under section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if any adjustment would be made under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(B)(A)(ii)).

(f) **ADJUSTMENTS TO FUND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.**—The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels related to Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or the allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations set forth in the joint statement of managers accompanying this concurrent resolution to account for new information.

**SEC. 3103. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CERTAIN CHANGES IN MANDATORY PROGRAMS.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “CHIMP” means a provision that—

(1) would have been estimated as affecting direct spending or receipts under section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902) (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002) if the provision was included in legislation other than appropriation Acts; and

(2) results in a net decrease in budget authority in the budget year, but does not result in a net decrease in outlays over the period of the total of the current year, the budget year, and all fiscal years covered under the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

(b) **POINTS OF ORDER.**—

(1) **IN THE SENATE.**—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a full fiscal year, or an amendment thereto, amendment between the Houses in relation thereto, conference report thereon, or motion thereon, that includes a CHIMP that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a full fiscal year to be more than the amount specified in paragraph (3).

(2) **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A provision in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a full fiscal year that proposes a CHIMP that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a full fiscal year to be more than the amount specified in paragraph (3), shall not be in order in the House of Representatives.

(B) **AMENDMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS.**—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider an amendment to, or a conference report on, a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a full fiscal year if such amendment thereto or conference report thereon proposes a CHIMP that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a full fiscal year to be more than the amount specified in paragraph (3).

(3) **AMOUNT.**—The amount specified in this paragraph is—

(A) for fiscal year 2016, \$19,100,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2017, \$19,100,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2018, \$17,000,000,000; and

(D) for fiscal year 2019, \$15,000,000,000.

(c) **DETERMINATION.**—For purposes of this section, budgetary levels shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(d) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.**—In the Senate, subsection (b) may

be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (b).

(e) **REPEAL.**—In the Senate, section 314 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2009, shall no longer apply.

**SEC. 3104. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST PROVISIONS THAT CONSTITUTE CHANGES IN MANDATORY PROGRAMS AFFECTING THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section—

(1) the term “CHIMP” has the meaning given such term in section 3103(a); and

(2) the term “Crime Victims Fund” means the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

(b) **POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—When the Senate is considering a bill or joint resolution making full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2016, or an amendment thereto, amendment between the Houses in relation thereto, conference report thereon, or motion thereon, if a point of order is made by a Senator against a provision containing a CHIMP affecting the Crime Victims Fund that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all CHIMPs affecting the Crime Victims Fund in relation to fiscal year 2016 to be more than \$10,800,000,000, and the point of order is sustained by the Chair, that provision shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(2) **FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.**—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(3) **CONFERENCE REPORTS.**—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to paragraph (1), and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or House amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(4) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—In the Senate, this subsection may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(5) **DETERMINATION.**—For purposes of this subsection, budgetary levels shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(c) **POINTS OF ORDER IN THE HOUSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A provision in a bill or joint resolution making full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2016 that proposes a CHIMP affecting the Crime Victims Fund that, if enacted,

would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all CHIMPs affecting the Crime Victims Fund in relation to fiscal year 2016 to be more than \$10,800,000,000, shall not be in order in the House of Representatives.

(2) **AMENDMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS.**—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives to consider an amendment to, or a conference report on, a bill or joint resolution making full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2016 if such amendment thereto or conference report thereon proposes a CHIMP affecting the Crime Victims Fund that, if enacted, would cause the absolute value of the total budget authority of all CHIMPs affecting the Crime Victims Fund in relation to fiscal year 2016 to be more than \$10,800,000,000.

(3) **DETERMINATION.**—For purposes of this subsection, budgetary levels shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(d) **REVIEW OF PROCEDURES REGARDING CHIMPS.**—The Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall review existing budget enforcement procedures regarding CHIMPs included in appropriations legislation. These committees of jurisdiction should consult with other relevant committees of jurisdiction and other interested parties to review such procedures, including for Crime Victims Fund spending, and include any agreed upon recommendations in subsequent concurrent resolutions on the budget.

**SEC. 3105. FAIR-VALUE CREDIT ESTIMATES.**

(a) **FAIR-VALUE ESTIMATES.**—Upon the request of the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate or the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) of the cost of a measure shall include, when practicable, an additional estimate of the cost, measured on a fair-value basis—

(1) in the Senate, for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon.

(b) **ESTIMATES FOR HOUSING AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.**—Any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) of the cost of a provision in a measure relating to a housing, residential mortgage, or student loan program shall include an additional estimate of the cost, measured on a fair-value basis—

(1) in the Senate, for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon.

(c) **ENFORCEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—If the Director of the Congressional Budget Office provides an estimate pursuant to subsection (a) or (b), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may use such estimate to determine compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) and other budgetary enforcement controls.

**SEC. 3106. SCORING RULE FOR CURRENCY MODERNIZATION.**

In the Senate and the House of Representatives, for purposes of determining points of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution

on the budget, any provision contained in a measure relating to a transition from the \$1 note to a \$1 coin shall—

(1) in the Senate, for each bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion—

(A) record the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision in the first year in which the provision takes effect;

(B) determine the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision based on a net present value estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision over a 30-year period; and

(C) incorporate the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision due to behavioral changes; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for each bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon—

(A) record the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision in the first year in which the provision takes effect;

(B) determine the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision based on a net present value estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision over a 30-year period; and

(C) incorporate the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the provision due to behavioral changes.

**SEC. 3107. LONG-TERM SCORING OF CHANGES IN SPENDING LIMITS AND EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY PROGRAMS.**

(a) **SCORING OF LEGISLATION INCREASING THE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—Any estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office shall provide, in addition to such estimate, an estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues under the legislation over the period of fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2045—

(1) in the Senate, for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion that increases the discretionary spending limits under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)); and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that increases the discretionary spending limits under section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)).

(b) **SCORING OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.**—Any estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office shall provide, in addition to such estimate, an estimate of the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues under the legislation over the period of fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2045—

(1) in the Senate, for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion that transfers amounts from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that transfers amounts from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund.

**SEC. 3108. REQUIRING CLEARER REPORTING OF PROJECTED FEDERAL SPENDING AND DEFICITS.**

When the Congressional Budget Office releases its annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide a projection of Federal revenues, outlays, and deficits for the 30-year period beginning with the budget year, expressed in terms of dollars and as a percent of gross domestic product, as part of its annual update required under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).

**SEC. 3109. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES OF MEASURES WITH SIGNIFICANT OUTLAY EFFECTS.**

The Congressional Budget Office shall prepare, to the extent practicable, an estimate of the outlay changes during the second and third decade of enactment for any spending legislative provision—

(1) which proposes a change or changes to law that the Congressional Budget Office determines has an outlay impact in excess of 0.25 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the first decade or in the tenth year; or

(2) with respect to which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate or the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives has requested such an estimate.

**SEC. 3110. PROHIBITING THE USE OF GUARANTEE FEES AS AN OFFSET.**

In the Senate and the House of Representatives, for purposes of determining points of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget, any provision that increases, or extends the increase of, any guarantee fees of the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall not be counted in estimating the level of budget authority, outlays, or revenues—

(1) in the Senate, for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, conference report, or motion; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon.

**SEC. 3111. INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROJECTED FEDERAL OUTLAYS, REVENUES, AND DEFICITS.**

As part of the annual update to the Budget and Economic Outlook required under section 202(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)), and at any other time the Congressional Budget Office releases projections of Federal deficits over any term of years, the Congressional Budget Office shall publish with its projection a 1-page statement—

(1) summarizing and categorizing total outlays, receipts, surpluses, and deficits of the Federal Government on a unified basis for that same prospective time period; and

(2) categorizing and subtotaling separately—

(A) outlays for mandatory programs and for discretionary programs;

(B) outlays, payroll tax revenue, and offsetting receipts for Social Security and for Medicare;

(C) the surplus or deficit of revenues over outlays for Social Security and for Medicare; and

(D) revenues.

**SEC. 3112. HONEST ACCOUNTING: COST ESTIMATES FOR MAJOR LEGISLATION TO INCORPORATE MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS.**

(a) **CBO AND JCT ESTIMATES.**—During the 114th Congress, any estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) or by the Joint Committee on Taxation to the Congressional Budget Office under section 201(f) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 601(f)) for major legislation considered in the House of Representatives or the Senate shall, to the greatest extent practicable, incorporate the budgetary effects of changes in economic output, employment, capital stock, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from such major legislation.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Any estimate referred to in subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable, include—

(1) a qualitative assessment of the budgetary effects (including macroeconomic variables described in subsection (a)) of the major legislation

in the 20-fiscal year period beginning after the last fiscal year of the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget that sets forth budgetary levels required under section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632); and

(2) an identification of the critical assumptions and the source of data underlying that estimate.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **MAJOR LEGISLATION.**—The term “major legislation” means—

(A) in the Senate, a bill, joint resolution, conference report, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or treaty—

(i) for which an estimate is required to be prepared pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) and that causes a gross budgetary effect (before incorporating macroeconomic effects and not including timing shifts) in a fiscal year in the period of years of the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget equal to or greater than—

(I) 0.25 percent of the current projected gross domestic product of the United States for that fiscal year; or

(II) for a treaty, equal to or greater than \$15,000,000,000 for that fiscal year; or

(ii) designated as such by—

(I) the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate for all direct spending and revenue legislation; or

(II) the Senator who is Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation for revenue legislation; and

(B) in the House of Representatives, a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon—

(i) for which an estimate is required to be prepared pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) and that causes a gross budgetary effect (before incorporating macroeconomic effects and not including timing shifts) in a fiscal year in the period of years of the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget equal to or greater than 0.25 percent of the current projected gross domestic product of the United States for that fiscal year; or

(ii) designated as such by—

(I) the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives for all direct spending and revenue legislation; or

(II) the Member who is Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation for revenue legislation.

(2) **BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—The term “budgetary effects” means changes in revenues, direct spending outlays, and deficits.

(3) **TIMING SHIFTS.**—The term “timing shifts” means—

(A) provisions that cause a delay of the date on which outlays flowing from direct spending would otherwise occur from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year; or

(B) provisions that cause an acceleration of the date on which revenues would otherwise occur from one fiscal year to the prior fiscal year.

**Subtitle B—Budget Enforcement in the Senate**

**SEC. 3201. EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGETARY POINTS OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.**

(a) **EXTENSION OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 POINTS OF ORDER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any provision of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), subsections (c)(2) and (d)(3) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 note) shall remain in effect for purposes of Senate enforcement through September 30, 2025.

(2) **REPEAL.**—In the Senate, section 205 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent

resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, shall no longer apply.

(b) **OTHER POINTS OF ORDER.**—

(1) **PAY-AS-YOU-GO.**—Section 201(d) of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, is repealed.

(2) **SHORT-TERM DEFICITS.**—Section 404(e) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is repealed.

**SEC. 3202. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **POINT OF ORDER.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would provide an advance appropriation for a discretionary account.

(2) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “advance appropriation” means any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for fiscal year 2016 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2016, or any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2017.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(1) for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying this concurrent resolution under the heading “Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations” in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$28,852,000,000 in new budget authority in each fiscal year;

(2) for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

(3) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—

(1) **WAIVER.**—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) **APPEAL.**—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

(d) **FORM OF POINT OF ORDER.**—A point of order under subsection (a) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(e) **CONFERENCE REPORTS.**—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill or joint resolution, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or House amendment shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

**SEC. 3203. SUPERMAJORITY ENFORCEMENT OF UNFUNDED MANDATES IN THE SENATE.**

Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)) shall be subject to the waiver and appeal requirements of subsections (c)(2) and (d)(3), respectively, of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 note).

**SEC. 3204. REPEAL OF SENATE POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CERTAIN RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION.**

Section 202 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, shall no longer apply in the Senate.

**SEC. 3205. PROHIBITION ON AGREEING TO LEGISLATION WITHOUT A SCORE IN THE SENATE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to vote on passage of matter that requires an estimate under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653), unless such estimate was made publicly available on the website of the Congressional Budget Office not later than 28 hours before the time the vote commences.

(b) **SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.**—

(1) **WAIVER.**—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) **APPEAL.**—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

**SEC. 3206. PROTECTING THE SAVINGS IN REPORTED RECONCILIATION BILLS IN THE SENATE.**

In the Senate, section 310(d)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641(d)(1)) shall apply and may be waived in accordance with the procedures applicable to a point of order raised under section 310(d)(2) of such Act.

**SEC. 3207. SCORING RULE FOR CERTAIN ENERGY CONTRACTS IN THE SENATE.**

(a) **ESTIMATES.**—In the Senate, for purposes of determining points of order established under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget, any estimate by the Congressional Budget Office of a provision in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, conference report, or amendment between the Houses that directly or indirectly modifies the use of the authority to enter covered energy savings contracts shall—

(1) record in the first year in which the provision would become effective, the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues (as estimated in accordance with paragraph (2)) of any modifications to the use of the authority to enter the covered energy savings contracts;

(2) in estimating the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of the legislation, calculate the costs and savings arising from covered energy savings contracts, including required payments under the covered energy savings contracts, anticipated savings from reductions in energy use, and other anticipated costs and reductions in spending associated with the covered energy savings contracts, on a net present value basis; and

(3) classify the effects of the provision to be changes in spending subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to modify the methodology for estimating the changes in budget authority, outlays, and revenues of a provision that—

(1) does not relate to covered energy savings contracts in a bill, joint resolution, amendment,

conference report, or amendment between the Houses that contains a provision described in subsection (a); or

(2) provides appropriations.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “covered energy savings contract” means—

(1) an energy savings performance contract authorized under section 801 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287); and

(2) a utility energy service contract, as described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on Federal use of energy savings performance contracting, dated July 25, 1998 (M–98–13), and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal use of energy saving performance contracts and utility energy service contracts, dated September 28, 2012 (M–12–21), or any successor to either memorandum.

**SEC. 3208. ADJUSTMENT FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING IN THE SENATE.**

If a measure becomes law that amends the adjustments to discretionary spending limits established under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)) for wildfire suppression funding, which may include criteria for making such an adjustment, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may adjust the allocation called for in section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate, and may adjust all other budgetary aggregates, allocations, levels, and limits contained in this concurrent resolution, as necessary, consistent with such measure.

**Subtitle C—Budget Enforcement in the House of Representatives**

**SEC. 3301. LIMITATION ON MEASURES AFFECTING SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, upon its adoption until the end of fiscal year 2016, it shall not be in order to consider in the House of Representatives a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reduces the actuarial balance by at least 0.01 percent of the present value of future taxable payroll of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201(a) of the Social Security Act for the 75-year period utilized in the most recent annual report of the Board of Trustees provided pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a measure that would improve the actuarial balance of the combined balance in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for the 75-year period utilized in the most recent annual report of the Board of Trustees provided pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act.

**SEC. 3302. LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

In the House of Representatives, for purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.), and the rules or orders of the House of Representatives, a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that transfers funds from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund, amounts transferred shall be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year the transfer occurs.



**SEC. 3303. ADJUSTMENTS FOR IMPROVED CONTROL OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **ADJUSTMENTS OF DISCRETIONARY AND DIRECT SPENDING LEVELS.**—In the House of Representatives, if a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) reports a bill or joint resolution, or any amendment thereto is offered or any conference report thereon is submitted, providing for a decrease in direct spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) for any fiscal year and also provides for an authorization of appropriations for the same purpose, upon the enactment of such measure, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may decrease the allocation to such committee and increase the allocation of discretionary spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2016 by an amount equal to the new budget authority (and outlays flowing therefrom) provided for in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for the same purpose.

(b) **DETERMINATIONS.**—In the House of Representatives, for the purpose of enforcing this concurrent resolution, the allocations and aggregate levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for fiscal year 2016 and the period of fiscal years 2016 through fiscal year 2025 shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and such Chairman may adjust applicable levels of this concurrent resolution.

**SEC. 3304. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the House of Representatives, except as provided for in subsection (b), any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—An advance appropriation may be provided for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the report to accompany this concurrent resolution or the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this concurrent resolution under the heading—

(1) **GENERAL.**—“Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations”.

(2) **VETERANS.**—“Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations”.

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—The aggregate level of advance appropriations shall not exceed—

(1) **GENERAL.**—\$28,852,000,000 in new budget authority for all programs identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

(2) **VETERANS.**—\$63,271,000,000 in new budget authority for programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs identified pursuant to subsection (b)(2).

(d) **DEFINITION.**—The term “advance appropriation” means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution, or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making general appropriations or continuing appropriations, for the fiscal year following fiscal year 2016.

**SEC. 3305. CERTAIN ENERGY CONTRACTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House of Representatives shall assess the implementation of section 3207 of this concurrent resolution through a collaborative assessment with the Senate and the Congressional Budget Office of the appropriate scorekeeping methodology for evaluating the budgetary effects of energy savings performance contracts authorized under section 801 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287).

**Subtitle D—Other Provisions**

**SEC. 3401. SUBMISSION OF FINDINGS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the Senate and the House of Representatives, all committees are directed to review programs within their jurisdiction to identify waste, fraud, abuse, or duplication, and increase the use of performance data to inform committee work.

(b) **REVIEW.**—Committees are also directed to review the applicable matters for congressional consideration identified in the Office of Inspector General semiannual reports and the Office of Inspector General’s list of unimplemented recommendations and on the Government Accountability Office’s High Risk list and the annual report to reduce program duplication.

(c) **REPORT.**—After completing the oversight and performance reviews of programs within their jurisdiction under subsections (a) and (b), the committees are directed to include recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports submitted by the committees to the Committees on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(d)).

**SEC. 3402. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)), section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the report accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committee on Appropriations of the applicable House of Congress amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In the Senate and the House of Representatives, for purposes of enforcing sections 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)), estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any discretionary amounts described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 3403. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.**

(a) **APPLICATION.**—Any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) **EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.**—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as allocations and aggregates contained in this concurrent resolution.

(c) **BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.**—For purposes of this concurrent resolution the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(d) **AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS AND APPLICATION.**—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of this concurrent resolution and budget

enforcement, the consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives makes adjustments or revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or section 3101 of this concurrent resolution.

**SEC. 3404. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.**

Upon the enactment of a bill or joint resolution providing for a change in concepts or definitions, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress may make adjustments to the levels and allocations in this concurrent resolution in accordance with section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)).

**SEC. 3405. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.**

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to change those rules (insofar as they relate to that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate or House of Representatives.

**TITLE IV—RESERVE FUNDS**

**Subtitle A—Reserve Funds in Both Houses**

**SEC. 4101. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REDUCE POVERTY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITY AND UPWARD MOBILITY FOR STRUGGLING AMERICANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution—

(1) in the Senate, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, conference reports, or motions relating to programs or policies designed to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would neither adversely impact job creation nor increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025; and

(2) in the House of Representatives, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, or conference reports relating to programs or policies designed to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would neither adversely impact job creation nor increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.



**Subtitle B—Reserve Funds in the Senate****SEC. 4301. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE THE PACE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) growing the economy;
  - (2) lowering the after-tax costs of investment, savings, and work;
  - (3) reducing the costs to business and individuals from the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
  - (4) reducing the costs borne by economic activity in the United States stemming from Federal regulations, including the costs incurred by individuals in complying with Federal law when starting a business;
  - (5) reducing the costs of frivolous lawsuits;
  - (6) creating a more competitive financial sector to support economic growth and job creation while enhancing the credit worthiness of lending institutions; or
  - (7) improving the ability of policy makers to estimate the economic effects of policy change through the enhanced use of economic models and data in scoring legislation;
- without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S PRIORITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to enhanced funding for national security or domestic discretionary programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4303. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE CHOICES FOR ALL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger that are deficit-neutral over 11 years, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) full repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) and the health care related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152; 124 Stat. 1029); or
  - (2) replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) or the health care related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152; 124 Stat. 1029);
- by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4304. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving access to affordable health care for low-income children, including the State Children's Health Insurance Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4305. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR OTHER HEALTH REFORMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) the requirement to individually purchase, or jointly provide, health insurance;
  - (2) extending expiring health care provisions;
  - (3) the September 11th terrorism attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville Crash site, which may include legislation that extends medical monitoring and treatment services and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families;
  - (4) improvements in medical research, innovation and safety; or
  - (5) strengthening program integrity initiatives to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal health care programs;
- by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4306. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CHILD WELFARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) child nutrition programs;
  - (2) replacing ineffective policies and programs with evidence-based alternative that improve the welfare of vulnerable children; or
  - (3) policies that protect children from sexual predators in our schools or communities;
- by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4307. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the improvement of the delivery of benefits and services to veterans and servicemembers by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4308. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TAX REFORM AND ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) reforming the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- (2) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring tax relief provisions;
- (3) innovation and high quality manufacturing jobs, including the repeal of the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical device manufacturers; or
- (4) operations and administration of the Department of the Treasury;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4309. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMERICA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States, including programs that expedite the deployment of broadband to rural areas by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation shall not include transfers from other trust funds but may include transfers from the general fund of the Treasury that are offset, provided further that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4310. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal spending on civil air traffic control services, which may include air traffic management at airport towers across the United States or at facilities of the Federal Aviation Administration, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4311. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

- (1) suspending or reducing tariffs on miscellaneous imports;
- (2) reauthorization of trade related Federal agencies;
- (3) implementing international trade agreements;

(4) reauthorizing or extending trade adjustment assistance programs;

(5) reauthorizing preference programs; or

(6) enhancing the protection of United States intellectual property rights at the border and abroad;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4312. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the administration of disability benefits and the improved employment of disabled workers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4313. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4314. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) reform of the management of civilian and defense nuclear waste;

(2) reform and reauthorization of programs at the Department of Energy related to research and development of alternative or renewable forms of energy, fossil fuel exploration and use, clean coal technologies (including carbon capture and sequestration), nuclear energy, or the electricity grid;

(3) expansion of North American energy production; or

(4) reform of the permitting and siting processes for energy infrastructure;

without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4315. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reform of environ-

mental statutes to promote job growth by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4316. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR WATER RESOURCES LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving flood control, expanding opportunities for commercial navigation, and improving the environmental restoration of the nation's waterways, assisting the States in carrying out drought prevention plans, strengthening waterborne commerce in the Nation's ports and harbors, or relating to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to designate funds for rural water projects and Indian irrigation and water settlement projects, without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4317. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND ON MINERAL SECURITY AND MINERAL RIGHTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) reducing reliance on mineral imports; or

(2) the authority to deduct certain amounts from mineral revenues payable to States; without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4318. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM THE ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4319. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) increasing timber production from Federal lands and providing bridge funding to counties and other units of local government until timber production levels increase;

(2) decreasing forest hazardous fuel loads;

(3) improving stewardship contracting; or

(4) reform of the process of budgeting for wildfire suppression operations;

without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4320. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REAUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES TO COUNTIES AND OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which may include funding the payments in lieu of taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal land without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4321. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR FINANCIAL REGULATORY SYSTEM REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to regulatory relief for small financial firms, improvements in the effectiveness of the financial regulatory framework, enhancements in oversight and accountability of the Federal Reserve System, and expansions in access to capital markets without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4322. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FEDERAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the processing of earnings reports for the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4323. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the implementation of agreements between the United States and nations with whom it maintains a Compact

of Free Association without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4324. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT PAYMENTS TO RURAL HOSPITALS AND CREATE SUSTAINABLE ACCESS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting payments to rural hospitals and creating sustainable access for rural communities without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4325. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ENCOURAGE STATE MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LIVING AND INTEGRATED WORK FOR THE DISABLED.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging State Medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4326. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO BE PAID FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to payments to pharmacists for the provision of services under Medicare without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4327. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting and improving community health centers without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4328. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE SUBJECTING THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU TO THE REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4329. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REFORM, IMPROVE, AND ENHANCE 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reforms, improvements, and enhancements of 529 college savings plans by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4330. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SECURING OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the security of the overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4331. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO EXPANDING, ENHANCING, OR OTHERWISE IMPROVING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4332. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments,

amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to investment in the manufacturing sector in the United States, which may include educational or research and development initiatives, public-private partnerships, or other programs, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4333. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROHIBIT ALIENS WITHOUT LEGAL STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM QUALIFYING FOR A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to benefits for aliens without legal status in the United States, which may include prohibiting qualification for certain tax benefits without raising new revenue, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4334. DEFICIT-REDUCTION RESERVE FUND FOR REPORT ELIMINATION OR MODIFICATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports that achieve savings through the elimination, modification, or the reduction in frequency of congressionally mandated reports from Federal agencies, and reduce the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The Chairman may also make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger over 6 and 11 years to ensure that the deficit reduction achieved is used for deficit reduction only. The adjustments authorized under this section shall be of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

**SEC. 4335. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS HEROIN, METHAMPHETAMINE, AND PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to addressing efforts to combat heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription opioid abuse by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4336. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening our civilian workforce by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit

over the period of either the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4337. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REFORM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving Department of Defense financial management, which may include achieving full auditability or eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4338. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE FEDERAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, JOB TRAINING, AND REEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reducing inefficient overlap, improving access, and enhancing outcomes with Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4339. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND INVEST IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) energy efficiency, which may include weatherization and energy efficiency retrofit programs for low-income individuals;

(2) the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which may include seasonal assistance and crisis fuel assistance to low-income individuals;

(3) Federal programs for land and water conservation, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund; or

(4) the reduction of duplicative Federal green building programs;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4340. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END OPERATION CHOKE POINT AND PROTECT THE SECOND AMENDMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Department of Justice, which may include ending the Operation Choke Point program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase

the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4341. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE BAILOUT OF IMPROVIDENT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition, except in the case of Federal assistance provided in response to a natural disaster, on any entity of the Federal Government providing funds to State and local governments to prevent receivership or to facilitate exit from receivership or to prevent default on its obligations by a State government by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4342. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND LOWER THE COSTS OF CARING FOR MEDICALLY COMPLEX CHILDREN IN MEDICAID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the health outcomes and lowering the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid, which may include creating or expanding integrated delivery models or improving care coordination, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4343. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN VETERANS CARE THROUGH THE VETERANS CHOICE CARD PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to maintaining and enhancing access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4344. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING EQUAL PAY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal

years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4345. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO LEGISLATION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect current beneficiaries of the Social Security program and prevent the insolvency of the program by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4346. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO A SIMPLIFIED INCOME-DRIVEN STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT OPTION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to addressing student loan debt, which may include reducing overlapping student loan repayment programs and creating a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4347. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO KEEPING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT FOCUSED ON THE PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that Federal jurisdiction under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is focused on water quality, which may include limiting jurisdiction based on the movement of birds, mammals, or insects through the air or over the land, the movement of water through the ground, or the movement of rainwater or snowmelt over the land, or limiting jurisdiction over puddles, isolated ponds, roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, stormwater systems, wastewater systems, or water delivery, reuse, or reclamation systems, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4348. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING ISRAEL.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to United States policy toward Israel and the prevention of anti-

Semitism in Europe, which may include preventing the United Nations and other international institutions, including human rights organizations, from taking unfair or discriminatory action against Israel, and supporting efforts to prevent anti-Semitism in Europe, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4349. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efforts to improve workplace benefits and reduce health care costs, which may include tax credits for employers providing paid family and medical leave, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4350. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS WHO HAVE GEOGRAPHIC INACCESSIBILITY TO CARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4351. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME AMERICANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program, which may include allowing for 1 or more additional payment periods during the same award year, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4352. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH PREMIUM BILLING.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased disclosure of any Patient Protection and Affordable

Care Act (Public Law 111-148) tax in health insurance monthly premium statements by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4353. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO CARBON EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to carbon emissions, which may include prohibitions on Federal taxes or fees imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of emissions, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4354. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REQUIRING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW STATES TO OPT OUT OF COMMON CORE WITHOUT PENALTY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or coercing States to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other specific academic standards, instructional content, curricula, assessments, or programs of instruction and allowing States to opt out of the Common Core State Standards without penalty by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4355. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to initiatives to sell or transfer to, or exchange with, a State or local government any Federal land that is not within the boundaries of a National Park, National Preserve, or National Monument by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4356. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY PRIOR TO SENATE RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments,

amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding, which may include prohibiting funding for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat or any international organizations created to support the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4357. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REIMPOSING WAIVED SANCTIONS AND IMPOSING NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION OR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Iran, which may include efforts to immediately reimpose waived sanctions and impose new sanctions against the Government of Iran if the President cannot make a determination and certify that Iran is complying with the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4358. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, IRAN, BETWEEN NOVEMBER 3, 1979, AND JANUARY 20, 1981.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to supporting citizens of the United States held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4359. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efforts to increase employment opportunities and prevent employment discrimination, which may include measures to prevent employment discrimination against pregnant workers, to provide pregnant workers with a right to workplace accommodations, and to ensure that employers comply with requirements regarding such workplace accommodations for pregnant workers, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the

total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4360. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL ESTATE TAX.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to changes in the Federal income tax laws, which may include eliminating the Federal estate tax, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4361. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REGULATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4362. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING PRIVATELY HELD WATER RIGHTS AND PERMITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting communities, businesses, recreationists, farmers, ranchers, or other groups that rely on privately held water rights and permits from Federal takings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4363. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROHIBITING AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS BASED ON Awardees ENTERING OR NOT ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to a prohibition on the awarding of construction contracts on behalf of the Government based upon any solicitations, bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents that require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations or discriminate against or give preference to such bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors

based on their entering or refusing to enter into such agreements by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4364. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT AMERICAN JOBS FROM BEING MOVED OVERSEAS BY REDUCING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing American jobs from being moved overseas, which may include a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4365. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE WAGES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reaffirming the ability of States to adopt minimum wages higher than the Federal minimum wage level commensurate with the cost of living in the State, which may include the adoption of pro-employment and wage-increasing policies by providing pro-growth tax relief and eliminating excessive government mandates, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4366. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETERRING THE MIGRATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FROM EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to deterring the attempted migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras into the United States, which may include the expedited removal of unlawful entrants from noncontiguous countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4367. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING PROPER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION IN DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to critical habitat designations, which may include requirements that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

examine the cumulative economic effects of the designation, such as on land or property uses or values, regional employment, or revenue impacts on States and units of local government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4368. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO END "TOO BIG TO FAIL" BAILOUTS FOR WALL STREET MEGA-BANKS (OVER \$500 BILLION IN TOTAL ASSETS).**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to any bank holding companies with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets to better protect taxpayers, including such measures as capital or leverage requirements, restrictions on the growth, activities, or operations of a company, or divestiture of assets or operations of any company that is unable to present a credible plan to facilitate an orderly bankruptcy or resolution, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4369. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENDING WASHINGTON'S ILLEGAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that all Members of Congress, the President, the Vice President, and all political appointees of the Administration procure their health insurance on the individual exchange in the same way as Americans at the same income level by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4370. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increasing funding for United States embassies, which may include the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.



**SEC. 4371. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING THE RETURN OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LEGALLY ADOPTED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4372. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CRUISE MISSILE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4373. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE EQUITY IN THE TAX TREATMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER DEATH BENEFITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing tax equity for death benefits paid to the families of public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4374. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ELIMINATING THE BACKLOG OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits, which may include auditing the hidden backlog of untested sexual assault kits and ensuring that the collection and processing of DNA evidence by law enforcement agencies from crimes is carried out in an appropriate and timely manner, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4375. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4376. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL AND PREVENTING EXTENDED VACANCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to strengthening and reforming Federal Offices of Inspectors General, reducing vacancies in such Offices, and providing for improvements in the overall economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Inspectors General by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4377. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING RETIREMENT SECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving retirement security by making it easier for small businesses to provide retirement plans for their employees by easing the administrative burden and by encouraging individuals to increase their savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4378. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving basic science research and development programs in the United States by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4379. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT THE CONSERVATION OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT POPULATIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE COMPATIBLE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments,

amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), which may include requirements that State conservation plans relating to the northern long-eared bat are given maximum flexibility to be successful so as to preserve and protect local and rural economies before any Federal listing decision is made with respect to the northern long-eared bat, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4380. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to increased sharing of cybersecurity threat information while protecting individual privacy and civil liberties interests by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4381. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO ENTER INTO JOINT TASK FORCES WITH TRIBAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation entering into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4382. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING COST SAVINGS IN OFFICE SPACE USED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies, which may include encouraging Federal agencies to utilize office space unused by the Federal Government before purchasing or renting additional space, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4383. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES AND ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other



appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4384. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEET THE NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the needs of women veterans by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4385. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORTING EFFICIENT RESOURCING FOR THE ASIA REBALANCE POLICY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing funding related to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4386. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PREVENTING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA EDIBLES BY CHILDREN IN STATES THAT HAVE DECRIMINALIZED MARIJUANA.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to preventing access to edible marijuana products by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4387. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING MORTGAGE LENDING TO RURAL AREAS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4388. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARCTIC POLAR ICEBREAKERS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4389. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RESEARCHING HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES DURING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4390. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO RAISING THE FAMILY OF FUNDS LIMIT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Small Business Investment Company Program of the Small Business Administration, which may include raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4391. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF WEBSITES WHO KNOWINGLY ALLOW SUCH WEBSITES TO BE USED TO ADVERTISE COMMERCIAL SEX WITH CHILDREN OVER THE INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to online child sex trafficking, which may include the detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4392. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROTECTING THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or issuing any regulation that would reduce the reliability of the electricity grid by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4393. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE OPEN INTERNET.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to protecting the open Internet and promoting further innovation and investment in Internet services, content, infrastructure, and technologies by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4394. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO REFORMING THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to—

(1) creating an effective mechanism for the review of the existing Federal regulatory burden to identify rules for repeal or modification that—

(A) impose paperwork burdens that could be reduced substantially without significantly diminishing regulatory effectiveness;

(B) impose disproportionately high costs on small businesses;

(C) could be strengthened in their effectiveness while reducing regulatory costs;

(D) have been rendered obsolete by technological or market changes;

(E) have achieved their goals and can be repealed without target problems recurring;

(F) impose the greatest opportunity costs in terms of economic growth;

(G) are ineffective;

(H) overlap, duplicate, or conflict with other Federal regulations or with State or local regulations; or

(I) impose costs that are not justified by benefits produced for society within the United States;

(2) reforming the process by which new regulations are made by Federal agencies, including independent agencies, for the purposes of—

(A) prioritizing early public outreach in the rulemaking process;

(B) ensuring the use of the best available scientific, economic, and technical data;

(C) preventing the misuse of guidance documents to skirt public input;

(D) ensuring the use of best practices for regulatory analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, into each step of the rulemaking process;

(E) facilitating the adoption by Federal agencies of the least costly regulatory alternative

that would achieve the goals of the statutory authorization;

(F) ensuring more careful consideration of proposed high-cost rules;

(G) ensuring effective oversight of the Federal regulatory program, including independent regulatory commissions, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs;

(H) improving the consideration of adverse impacts on small businesses;

(I) providing greater transparency in the rule-making process; and

(J) improving compliance with section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2736A-153) (commonly known as the “Information Quality Act”), the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), and chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”);

(3) enhancing accountability by facilitating fair and effective judicial review of agency actions; and

(4) ensuring that Congress can effectively exercise its appropriate role in the regulatory process through legislation and oversight;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4395. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING COVERAGE OF VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPIES AS A COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TEST UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4396. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to modernizing the triad of strategic nuclear delivery systems, the nuclear command and control system, and the nuclear weapons stockpile, and supporting related infrastructure, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4397. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO BARDA AND THE BIOSHIELD SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or

conference reports relating to strengthening our national security, which may include fully funding the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4398. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE NUCLEAR FORCES AND MISSIONS OF THE AIR FORCE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the nuclear force improvement program of the Air Force by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4399. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND FULL FUNDING FOR AT-SEA AND DOCKSIDE MONITORING FOR CERTAIN FISHERIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to promoting economic growth and job creation by making it easier for small businesses to plan their capital investments and reducing the uncertainty of taxation, and supporting at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries that have received economic disaster assistance, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4400. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports related to the employer penalties under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), which may include changes to the definition of “full time employee” under that Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4401. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process by the amounts provided in such

legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4402. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO EXPEDITE AWARDS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the processing of award submissions, which may include the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4403. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE INCREASED USE OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4404. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO SUBSTANDARD HEALTH CARE, DELAYED AND DENIED HEALTH CARE, PATIENT DEATHS, OTHER FINDINGS THAT DIRECTLY RELATE TO PATIENT CARE, AND OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4405. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO ADDRESS THE DISPROPORTIONATE REGULATORY BURDENS ON COMMUNITY BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to alleviating disproportionate regulatory burdens on community

banks and credit unions by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4406. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the Corporation for National and Community Service by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4407. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENSURING THAT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEYS COMPLY WITH DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to ensuring that all Department of Justice attorneys comply with all legal and ethical obligations in criminal prosecutions, which may include legislation that ensures the disclosure to the defendant in a timely manner of all information known to the Government that tends to negate the guilt of the defendant, mitigate the offense charged or the sentence imposed, or impeach the Government's witnesses or evidence, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4408. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in precision medicine and biomedical research, which may include increasing funding to account for inflation, to support finding ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, and to provide long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4409. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to developing methods that ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to equipment like eye tracking accessories

for speech generating devices and speech generating devices by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4410. SPENDING-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PRIORITIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT ARE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PROJECTS IN HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDORS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the prioritization of the Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States on projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors of the National Highway System by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not raise new revenue and would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4411. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES' NATO ALLIES TO REVERSE DECLINES IN DEFENSE SPENDING AND BEAR A MORE PROPORTIONATE BURDEN FOR ENSURING THE SECURITY OF NATO.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4412. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to the investigation and to the extent practicable the recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government to ensure that such items are not in the possession of or used by radical extremist groups operating in the country by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4413. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a

committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to improving higher education data and transparency by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4414. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO NATIVE CHILDREN.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Native children or the construction of Bureau of Indian Education schools, which may include replacement school construction, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4415. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to funding for international counter-propaganda communications in order to combat misinformation, undermine ideologies of violence and hatred, and ensure moderate voices are heard by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4416. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to reforming and strengthening elementary and secondary education by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4417. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to Federal investments in scientific research and development, which may include supporting biomedical research to find ways to prevent, treat, and cure diseases or conditions like Alzheimer's and other life-threatening or chronic illnesses, providing long-term cost savings to the Federal Government, and supporting national security, basic energy research, innovative solutions, and

American competitiveness, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4418. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to providing support to the Government of Ukraine, which may include the provision of lethal defensive articles, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4419. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO UNDERGROUND AND SURFACE MINING SAFETY RESEARCH.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to underground and surface mining safety research by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4420. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO SAVING MEDICARE.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to extending the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, which may include the creation of a point of order against legislation that accelerates the insolvency of such Trust Fund, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**Subtitle C—Reserve Funds in the House of Representatives**

**SEC. 4501. RESERVE FUND FOR THE REPEAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that consists solely of the full repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the health care related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

**SEC. 4502. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR PROMOTING REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report there-

on, that promotes real health care reform, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4503. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO THE MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that repeals all or part of the decreases in Medicare spending included in the Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4504. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure extends the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4505. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms, expands access to, and improves, as determined by such Chairman, graduate medical education programs, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4506. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that implements a trade agreement, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4507. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REFORMING THE TAX CODE.**

In the House of Representatives, if the Committee on Ways and Means reports a bill or joint resolution that reforms the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any such bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4508. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REVENUE MEASURES.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that decreases revenue, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4509. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSPORTATION.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure maintains the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4510. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR FEDERAL RETIREMENT REFORM.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms, improves and updates the Federal retirement system, as determined by such Chairman, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**SEC. 4511. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.**

In the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure supports the following activities: Department of Defense training and maintenance associated with combat readiness, modernization of equipment, auditability of financial statements, or military compensation and benefit reforms, by the amount provided for these purposes, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit (without counting any net revenue increases in that measure) over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

**TITLE V—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**SEC. 5001. DIRECT SPENDING.**

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(A) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2016 is 6.8 percent.

(B) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2016 is 4.6 percent under current law.

(2) PROPOSED REFORMS.—The following reforms are proposed under this concurrent resolution by the House of Representatives for means-tested direct spending:

(A) In 1996, a Republican Congress and a Democratic President reformed welfare by limiting the duration of benefits, giving States more control over the program, and helping recipients find work. In the 5 years following passage, child-poverty rates fell, welfare caseloads fell, and workers' wages increased. This budget assumes the enactment of proposals to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence. Based on the successful welfare reforms of the 1990s, these proposals would improve work requirements and provide flexible funding for States to help those most in need find gainful employment, escape poverty, and move up the economic ladder.

(B) For Medicaid, this budget is predicated on a framework proposed by the chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction of the House of Representatives and the Senate, to modernize and improve the program while increasing State

flexibility and protecting the most vulnerable populations. This budget also assumes the repeal of the Medicaid expansions in the President's health care law.

(b) **NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(A) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2016 is 5.4 percent.

(B) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2016 is 5.5 percent under current law.

(2) **MEDICARE REFORMS.**—For Medicare, this budget advances policies to put seniors, not the Federal Government, in control of their health care decisions. Putting seniors in charge of how their health care dollars are spent will encourage providers to compete against each other on price and quality. Improvements to Medicare are necessary to extend the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and protect the program for future generations.

## TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS

### Subtitle A—Policy Statements in Both Houses

#### SEC. 6101. POLICY STATEMENT ON BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT.

It is the policy of this concurrent resolution that Congress should pass, and send to the States for their approval, a joint resolution amending the Constitution of the United States to require an annual balanced Federal budget.

#### SEC. 6102. POLICY STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

It is the policy of this concurrent resolution that the President and Congress should work together on a bipartisan basis to preserve Social Security for current and future generations. To achieve that goal—

(1) Congress should enact legislation to prevent the near-term insolvency of the Disability Insurance program, improve the administration and coordination of benefits, and increase employment opportunities for disabled workers; and

(2) the President should submit legislation to Congress addressing the long-term insolvency of both the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program and the Disability Insurance program, and such legislation should achieve a sustainable annual cash-flow balance between taxes and benefits over the foreseeable future, rather than temporarily increasing and then depleting the balance of Government securities held by each program's trust fund.

### Subtitle B—Policy Statement in the House of Representatives

#### SEC. 6201. POLICY STATEMENT ON BUDGET PROCESSES AND BASELINE REFORM.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—

(1) In 1974, after more than 50 years of executive dominance over fiscal policy, Congress acted to reassert its “power of the purse”, and passed the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act.

(2) The measure explicitly sought to establish congressional control over the budget process, to provide for annual congressional determination of the appropriate level of taxes and spending, to set important national budget priorities, and to find ways in which Members of Congress could have access to the most accurate, objective, and highest quality information to assist them in discharging their duties.

(3) Far from achieving its intended purpose, however, the process has instituted a bias toward higher spending and larger government. The behemoth of the Federal Government has largely been financed through either borrowing or taking ever greater amounts of the national income through high taxation.

(4) The process does not treat programs and policies consistently and shows a bias toward higher spending and higher taxes.

(5) It assumes extension of spending programs (of more than \$50 million per year) scheduled to expire.

(6) Yet it does not assume the extension of tax policies in the same way. Consequently, extending existing tax policies that may be scheduled to expire is characterized as a new tax reduction, requiring offsets to “pay for” merely keeping tax policy the same even though estimating conventions would not require similar treatment of spending programs.

(7) The original goals set for the congressional process are admirable in their intent, but because the essential mechanisms of the process have remained the same, and “reforms” enacted over the past 40 years have largely taken the form of layering greater levels of legal complexity without reforming or reassessing the very fundamental nature of the process.

(b) **POLICY STATEMENT.**—It is the policy of this concurrent resolution on the budget that as the primary branch of Government, Congress must:

(1) Restructure the fundamental procedures of budget decision making.

(2) Reassert Congress's “power of the purse”, and reinforce the balance of powers between Congress and the President, as the 1974 Act intended.

(3) Create greater incentives for lawmakers to do budgeting as intended by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, especially adopting a budget resolution every year.

(4) Encourage more effective control over spending, especially currently uncontrolled direct spending.

(5) Consider innovative fiscal tools such as: zero based budgeting, which would require a department or agency to justify its budget as if it were a new expenditure; and direct spending caps to enhance oversight of automatic pilot spending that increases each year without congressional approval.

(6) Promote efficient and timely budget actions, so that lawmakers complete their budget actions by the time the new fiscal year begins.

(7) Provide access to the best analysis of economic conditions available and increase awareness of how fiscal policy directly impacts overall economic growth and job creation.

(8) Remove layers of complexity that have complicated the procedures designed in 1974, and made budgeting more arcane and opaque.

(9) Remove existing biases that favor higher spending.

(10) Include procedures by which current tax laws may be extended and treated on a basis that is not different from the extension of entitlement programs.

(c) **BUDGET PROCESS REFORM.**—Comprehensive budget process reform should also remove the bias in the baseline against the extension of current tax laws in the following ways:

(1) Permanent extension of tax laws should not be used as a means to increase taxes on other taxpayers.

(2) For those expiring tax provisions that are proposed to be permanently extended, Congress should use a more realistic baseline that does not require them to be offset.

(3) Tax-reform legislation should not include tax increases just to offset the extension of current tax laws.

(d) **LEGISLATION.**—The Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives intends to draft legislation during the 114th Congress that will rewrite the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to fulfill the goals of making the congressional budget process more effective in ensuring taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

#### SEC. 6202. POLICY STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Although the United States economy technically emerged from recession more than 5 years ago, the subsequent recovery has felt more like a malaise than a rebound. Real gross domestic product GDP growth over the past 5 years has averaged slightly more than 2 percent, well below the 3.2 percent historical trend rate of growth in the United States. Although the economy has shown some welcome signs of improvement of late, the Nation remains in the midst of the weakest economic recovery of the modern era.

(2) Looking ahead, CBO expects the economy to grow by an average of just 2.3 percent over the next 10 years. That level of economic growth is simply unacceptable and insufficient to expand opportunities and the incomes of millions of middle-income Americans.

(3) Sluggish economic growth has also contributed to the country's fiscal woes. Subpar growth means that revenue levels are lower than they would otherwise be while government spending (e.g. welfare and income-support programs) is higher. Clearly, there is a dire need for policies that will spark higher rates of economic growth and greater, higher-quality job opportunities.

(4) Although job gains have been trending up of late, other aspects of the labor market remain weak. The labor force participation rate, for instance, is hovering just under 63 percent, close to the lowest level since 1978. Long-term unemployment also remains a problem. Of the roughly 8.7 million people who are currently unemployed, 2.7 million (more than 30 percent) have been unemployed for more than 6 months. Long-term unemployment erodes an individual's job skills and detaches them from job opportunities. It also undermines the long-term productive capacity of the economy.

(5) Perhaps most important, wage gains and income growth have been subpar for middle-class Americans. Average hourly earnings of private-sector workers have increased by just 1.6 percent over the past year. Prior to the recession, average hourly earnings were tracking close to 4 percent. Likewise, average income levels have remained flat in recent years. Real median household income is just under \$52,000, one of the lowest levels since 1995.

(6) The unsustainable fiscal trajectory has cast a shadow on the country's economic outlook. Investors and businesses make decisions on a forward-looking basis. They know that today's large debt levels are simply tomorrow's tax hikes, interest rate increases, or inflation and they act accordingly. This debt overhang, and the uncertainty it generates, can weigh on growth, investment, and job creation.

(7) Nearly all economists, including those at the CBO, conclude that reducing budget deficits (thereby bending the curve on debt levels is a net positive for economic growth over time. The logic is that deficit reduction creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and boosts investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation.

(8) CBO analyzed the House Republican fiscal year 2016 budget resolution and found it would increase real output per capita (a proxy for a country's standard of living) by about \$1,000 in 2025 and roughly \$5,000 by 2040 relative to the baseline path. That means more income and greater prosperity for all Americans.

(9) In contrast, if the Government remains on the current fiscal path, future generations will face ever-higher debt service costs, a decline in national savings, and a “crowding out” of private investment. This dynamic will eventually lead to a decline in economic output and a diminution in our country's standard of living.

(10) The key economic challenge is determining how to expand the economic pie, not how best to divide up and re-distribute a shrinking pie.

(11) A stronger economy is vital to lowering deficit levels and eventually balancing the budget. According to CBO, if annual real GDP growth is just 0.1 percentage point higher over the budget window, deficits would be reduced by \$326 billion.

(12) This budget resolution therefore embraces pro-growth policies, such as fundamental tax reform, that will help foster a stronger economy, greater opportunities and more job creation.

(b) **POLICY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to promote faster economic growth and job creation. By putting the budget on a sustainable path, this concurrent resolution ends the debt-fueled uncertainty holding back job creators. Reforms to the tax code will put American businesses and workers in a better position to compete and thrive in the 21st century global economy. This concurrent resolution targets the regulatory red tape and cronyism that stack the deck in favor of special interests. All of the reforms in this concurrent resolution serve as means to the larger end of helping the economy grow and expanding opportunity for all Americans.

#### **SEC. 6203. POLICY STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) A world-class tax system should be simple, fair, and promote (rather than impede) economic growth. The United States tax code fails on all three counts: It is notoriously complex, patently unfair, and highly inefficient. The tax code's complexity distorts decisions to work, save, and invest, which leads to slower economic growth, lower wages, and less job creation.

(2) Over the past decade alone, there have been 4,107 changes to the tax code, more than one per day. Many of the major changes over the years have involved carving out special preferences, exclusions, or deductions for various activities or groups. These loopholes add up to more than \$1 trillion per year and make the code unfair, inefficient, and highly complex.

(3) In addition, these tax preferences are disproportionately used by upper-income individuals.

(4) The large amount of tax preferences that pervade the code end up narrowing the tax base. A narrow tax base, in turn, requires much higher tax rates to raise a given amount of revenue.

(5) It is estimated that American taxpayers end up spending \$160 billion and roughly 6 billion hours a year complying with the tax code waste of time and resources that could be used in more productive activities.

(6) Standard economic theory shows that high marginal tax rates dampen the incentives to work, save, and invest, which reduces economic output and job creation. Lower economic output, in turn, mutes the intended revenue gain from higher marginal tax rates.

(7) Roughly half of United States active business income and half of private sector employment are derived from business entities (such as partnerships, S corporations, and sole proprietorships) that are taxed on a "pass-through" basis, meaning the income flows through to the tax returns of the individual owners and is taxed at the individual rate structure rather than at the corporate rate. Small businesses, in particular, tend to choose this form for Federal tax purposes, and the top Federal rate on such small business income can reach nearly 45 percent. For these reasons, sound economic policy requires lowering marginal rates on these pass-through entities.

(8) The United States corporate income tax rate (including Federal, State, and local taxes)

sums to slightly more than 39 percent, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Tax rates this high suppress wages and discourage investment and job creation, distort business activity, and put American businesses at a competitive disadvantage with foreign competitors.

(9) By deterring potential investment, the United States corporate tax restrains economic growth and job creation. The United States tax rate differential with other countries also fosters a variety of complicated multinational corporate behaviors intended to avoid the tax, which have the effect of moving the tax base offshore, destroying American jobs, and decreasing corporate revenue.

(10) The "worldwide" structure of United States international taxation essentially taxes earnings of United States firms twice, putting them at a significant competitive disadvantage with competitors with more competitive international tax systems.

(11) Reforming the United States tax code to a more competitive international system would boost the competitiveness of United States companies operating abroad and it would also greatly reduce tax avoidance.

(12) The tax code imposes costs on American workers through lower wages, on consumers in higher prices, and on investors in diminished returns.

(13) Revenues have averaged about 17.4 percent of the economy throughout modern American history. Revenues rise above this level under current law to 18.3 percent of the economy by the end of the 10-year budget window.

(14) Attempting to raise revenue through new tax increases to meet out-of-control spending would sink the economy and Americans' ability to save for their retirement and their children's education.

(15) This concurrent resolution also rejects the idea of instituting a carbon tax in the United States, which some have offered as a new source of revenue. Such a plan would damage the economy, cost jobs, and raise prices on American consumers.

(16) Closing tax loopholes to fund spending does not constitute fundamental tax reform.

(17) The goal of tax reform should be to curb or eliminate loopholes and use those savings to lower tax rates across the board not to fund more wasteful Government spending. Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

(18) Many economists believe that fundamental tax reform (i.e. a broader tax base and lower tax rates) would lead to greater labor supply and increased investment, which, over time, would have a positive impact on total national output.

(19) Heretofore, the congressional scorekeepers the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).

(20) Static scoring implicitly assumes that the size of the economy (and therefore key economic variables such as labor supply and investment) remains fixed throughout the considered budget horizon. This is an abstraction from reality.

(21) A new House of Representatives rule was adopted at the beginning of the 114th Congress to help correct this problem. This rule requires CBO and JCT to incorporate the macroeconomic effects of major legislation into their official cost estimates.

(22) This rule seeks to bridge the divide between static estimates and scoring that incorporates economic feedback effects by providing policymakers with a greater amount of information about the likely economic impact of policies under their consideration while at the same time preserving traditional scoring methods and reporting conventions.

(b) **POLICY ON TAX REFORM.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent

resolution that Congress should enact legislation that provides for a comprehensive reform of the United States tax code to promote economic growth, create American jobs, increase wages, and benefit American consumers, investors, and workers through fundamental tax reform that—

(1) simplifies the tax code to make it fairer to American families and businesses and reduces the amount of time and resources necessary to comply with tax laws;

(2) substantially lowers tax rates for individuals and consolidates the current seven individual income tax brackets into fewer brackets;

(3) repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax;

(4) reduces the corporate tax rate; and

(5) transitions the tax code to a more competitive system of international taxation.

#### **SEC. 6204. POLICY STATEMENT ON TRADE.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Opening foreign markets to American exports is vital to the United States economy and beneficial to American workers and consumers. The Commerce Department estimates that every \$1 billion of United States exports supports more than 5,000 jobs here at home.

(2) The United States can increase economic opportunities for American workers and businesses through the expansion of trade, adherence to trade agreement rules by the United States and its trading partners, and the elimination of foreign trade barriers to United States goods and services.

(3) Trade Promotion Authority is a bipartisan and bicameral effort to strengthen the role of Congress in setting negotiating objectives for trade agreements, to improve consultation with Congress by the Administration, and to provide a clear framework for congressional consideration and implementation of trade agreements.

(4) Global trade and commerce is not a zero-sum game. The idea that global expansion tends to "hollow out" United States operations is incorrect. Foreign-affiliate activity tends to complement, not substitute for, key parent activities in the United States such as employment, worker compensation, and capital investment. When United States headquartered multinationals invest and expand operations abroad it often leads to more jobs and economic growth at home.

(5) Trade agreements have saved the average American family of four more than \$10,000 per year, as a result of lower duties. Trade agreements also lower the cost of manufacturing inputs by removing duties.

(6) American businesses and workers have shown that, on a level playing field, they can excel and surpass the international competition.

(7) When negotiating trade agreements, United States laws on Intellectual Property (IP) protection should be used as a benchmark for establishing global IP frameworks. Strong IP protections have contributed significantly to the United States status as a world leader in innovation across sectors, including in the development of life-saving biologic medicines. The data protections afforded to biologics in United States law, including 12 years of data protection, allow continued development of pioneering medicines to benefit patients both in the United States and abroad. To maintain the cycle of innovation and achieve truly 21st century trade agreements, it is vital that our negotiators insist on the highest standards for IP protections.

(8) The status quo of the current tax code also undermines the competitiveness of United States businesses and costs the United States economy investment and jobs.

(9) The United States currently has an antiquated system of international taxation whereby United States multinationals operating abroad pay both the foreign-country tax and United States corporate taxes. They are essentially



taxed twice. This puts them at an obvious competitive disadvantage. A modern and competitive international tax system would facilitate global commerce for United States multinational companies and would encourage foreign business investment and job creation in the United States.

(10) The ability to defer United States taxes on their foreign operations, which some erroneously refer to as a "tax loophole," cushions this disadvantage to a certain extent. Eliminating or restricting this provision (and others like it) would harm United States competitiveness.

(11) This budget resolution advocates fundamental tax reform that would lower the United States corporate rate, now the highest in the industrialized world, and switch to a more competitive system of international taxation. This would make the United States a much more attractive place to invest and station business activity and would chip away at the incentives for United States companies to keep their profits overseas (because the United States corporate rate is so high).

(b) **POLICY ON TRADE.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to pursue international trade, global commerce, and a modern and competitive United States international tax system to promote job creation in the United States. The United States should continue to seek increased economic opportunities for American workers and businesses through the expansion of trade opportunities, adherence to trade agreements and rules by the United States and its trading partners, and the elimination of foreign trade barriers to United States goods and services by opening new markets and by enforcing United States rights. To that end, Congress should pass Trade Promotion Authority to strengthen the role of Congress in setting negotiating objectives for trade agreements, to improve consultation with Congress by the Administration, and to provide a clear framework for congressional consideration and implementation of trade agreements.

#### **SEC. 6205. POLICY STATEMENT ON REPEALING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW AND PROMOTING REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) The President's health care law put Washington's priorities first, and not patients'. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has failed to reduce health care premiums as promised; instead, the law mandated benefits and coverage levels, denying patients the opportunity to choose the type of coverage that best suits their health needs and driving up health coverage costs. A typical family's health care premiums were supposed to decline by \$2,500 a year; instead, according to the 2014 Employer Health Benefits Survey, health care premiums have increased by 7 percent for individuals and families since 2012.

(2) The President pledged, "If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan." Instead, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office now estimates 9 million Americans with employment-based health coverage will lose those plans due to the President's health care law, further limiting patient choice.

(3) Then-Speaker of the House, Pelosi, said that the President's health care law would create 4 million jobs over the life of the law and almost 400,000 jobs immediately. Instead, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the reduction in hours worked due to Obamacare represents a decline of about 2.0 to 2.5 million full-time equivalent workers, compared with what would have occurred in the absence of the law. The full impact on labor represents a reduction in employment by 1.5 percent to 2.0 percent, while additional studies show less modest results. A recent study by the Mercatus Center at

George Mason University estimates that Obamacare will reduce employment by up to 3 percent, or about 4 million full-time equivalent workers.

(4) The President has charged the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a panel of unelected bureaucrats, with cutting Medicare by an additional \$20.9 billion over the next ten years, according to the President's most recent budget.

(5) Since ACA was signed into law, the administration has repeatedly failed to implement it as written. The President has unilaterally acted to make a total of 28 changes, delays, and exemptions. The President has signed into law another 17 changes made by Congress. The Supreme Court struck down the forced expansion of Medicaid; ruled the individual "mandate" could only be characterized as a tax to remain constitutional; and rejected the requirement that closely held companies provide health insurance to their employees if doing so violates these companies' religious beliefs. Even now, almost five years after enactment, the Supreme Court continues to evaluate the legality of how the President's administration has implemented the law. All of these changes prove the folly underlying the entire program—health care in the United States cannot be run from a centralized bureaucracy.

(6) The President's health care law is unaffordable, intrusive, overreaching, destructive, and unworkable. Its complex structure of subsidies, mandates, and penalties perversely impact individuals, married couples, and families. The law should be fully repealed, allowing for real, patient-centered health care reform: the development of real health care reforms that puts patients first, that make affordable, quality health care available to all Americans, and that build on the innovation and creativity of all the participants in the health care sector.

(b) **POLICY ON PROMOTING REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that the President's health care law should be fully repealed and real health care reform promoted in accordance with the following principles:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Health care reform should enhance affordability, accessibility, quality, innovation, choices and responsiveness in health care coverage for all Americans, putting patients, families, and doctors in charge, not Washington, DC. These reforms should encourage increased competition and transparency. Under the President's health care law, government controls Americans' health care choices. Under true, patient-centered reform, Americans would.

(2) **AFFORDABILITY.**—Real reform should be centered on ensuring that all Americans, no matter their age, income, or health status, have the ability to afford health care coverage. The health care delivery structure should be improved, and individuals should not be priced out of the health insurance market due to pre-existing conditions, but nationalized health care is not only unnecessary to accomplish this, it undermines the goal. Individuals should be allowed to join together voluntarily to pool risk through mechanisms such as Individual Membership Associations and Small Employer Membership Associations.

(3) **ACCESSABILITY.**—Instead of Washington outlining for Americans the ways they cannot use their health insurance, reforms should make health coverage more portable. Individuals should be able to own their insurance and have it follow them in and out of jobs throughout their career. Small business owners should be permitted to band together across State lines through their membership in bona fide trade or professional associations to purchase health coverage for their families and employees at a

low cost. This will increase small businesses' bargaining power, volume discounts, and administrative efficiencies while giving them freedom from State-mandated benefit packages. Also, insurers licensed to sell policies in one State should be permitted to offer them to residents in any other State, and consumers should be permitted to shop for health insurance across State lines, as they are with other insurance products online, by mail, by phone, or in consultation with an insurance agent.

(4) **QUALITY.**—Incentives for providers to deliver high-quality, responsive, and coordinated care will promote patient outcomes and drive down health care costs. Likewise, reforms that work to restore the patient-physician relationship by reducing administrative burdens and allowing physicians to do what they do best—care for patients.

(5) **CHOICES.**—Individuals and families should be free to secure the health care coverage that best meets their needs, rather than instituting one-size-fits-all directives from Federal bureaucracies such as the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

(6) **INNOVATION.**—Instead of stifling innovation in health care technologies, treatments, medications, and therapies with Federal mandates, taxes, and price controls, a reformed health care system should encourage research, development and innovation.

(7) **RESPONSIVENESS.**—Reform should return authority to States wherever possible to make the system more responsive to patients and their needs. Instead of tying States' hands with Federal requirements for their Medicaid programs, the Federal Government should return control of this program to the States. Not only does the current Medicaid program drive up Federal debt and threaten to bankrupt State budgets, but States are better positioned to provide quality, affordable care to those who are eligible for the program and to track down and weed out waste, fraud and abuse. Beneficiary choices in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid should be improved. States should make available the purchase of private insurance as an option to their Medicaid and SCHIP populations (though they should not require enrollment).

(8) **REFORMS.**—Reforms should be made to prevent lawsuit abuse and curb the practice of defensive medicine, which are significant drivers increasing health care costs. The burden of proof in medical malpractice cases should be based on compliance with best practice guidelines, and States should be free to implement those policies to best suit their needs.

#### **SEC. 6206. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDICARE.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) More than 50 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health security.

(2) The Medicare Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Medicare's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Medicare becomes more precarious and the threat to those in or near retirement becomes more pronounced. According to the Medicare Trustees Report—

(A) the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2030 and unable to pay scheduled benefits;

(B) Medicare enrollment is expected to increase by over 50 percent in the next two decades, as 10,000 baby boomers reach retirement age each day;

(C) enrollees remain in Medicare three times longer than at the outset of the program;

(D) current workers' payroll contributions pay for current beneficiaries;

(E) in 2013, the ratio was 3.2 workers per beneficiary, but this falls to 2.3 in 2030 and continues to decrease over time;



(F) most Medicare beneficiaries receive about three dollars in Medicare benefits for every one dollar paid into the program; and

(G) Medicare spending is growing faster than the economy and Medicare outlays are currently rising at a rate of 6.5 percent per year over the next 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office's 2014 Long-Term Budget Outlook, spending on Medicare is projected to reach 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2043 and 9.3 percent of GDP by 2089.

(3) Failing to address this problem will leave millions of American seniors without adequate health security and younger generations burdened with enormous debt to pay for spending levels that cannot be sustained.

(b) **POLICY ON MEDICARE REFORM.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to preserve the program for those in or near retirement and strengthen Medicare for future beneficiaries.

(c) **ASSUMPTIONS.**—This concurrent resolution assumes reform of the Medicare program such that—

(1) current Medicare benefits are preserved for those in or near retirement;

(2) permanent reform of the sustainable growth rate is responsibly accounted for to ensure physicians continue to participate in the Medicare program and provide quality health care for beneficiaries;

(3) when future generations reach eligibility, Medicare is reformed to provide a premium support payment and a selection of guaranteed health coverage options from which recipients can choose a plan that best suits their needs;

(4) Medicare will maintain traditional fee-for-service as a plan option;

(5) Medicare will provide additional assistance for lower income beneficiaries and those with greater health risks; and

(6) Medicare spending is put on a sustainable path and the Medicare program becomes solvent over the long-term.

**SEC. 6207. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDICAL DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY AND INNOVATION.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) For decades, the Nation's commitment to the discovery, development, and delivery of new treatments and cures has made the United States the biomedical innovation capital of the world, bringing life-saving drugs and devices to patients and well over a million high-paying jobs to local communities.

(2) Thanks to the visionary and determined leadership of innovators throughout America, including industry, academic medical centers, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States has led the way in early discovery. The United States leadership role is being threatened, however, as other countries contribute more to basic research from both public and private sources.

(3) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicts that China, for example, will outspend the United States in total research and development by the end of the decade.

(4) Federal policies should foster innovation in health care, not stifle it. America should maintain its world leadership in medical science by encouraging competitive forces to work through the marketplace in delivering cures and therapies to patients.

(5) Too often the bureaucracy and red-tape in Washington hold back medical innovation and prevent new lifesaving treatments from reaching patients. This concurrent resolution recognizes the valuable role of the NIH and the indispensable contributions to medical research coming from outside Washington.

(6) America is the greatest, most innovative Nation on Earth. Her people are innovators, en-

trepreneurs, visionaries, and relentless builders of the future. Americans were responsible for the first telephone, the first airplane, the first computer, for putting the first man on the moon, for creating the first vaccine for polio and for legions of other scientific and medical breakthroughs that have improved and prolonged human health and life for countless people in America and around the world.

(b) **POLICY ON MEDICAL INNOVATION.**—

(1) In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to support the important work of medical innovators throughout the country, including private-sector innovators, medical centers and the National Institutes of Health.

(2) At the same time, the budget calls for continued strong funding for the agencies that engage in valuable research and development, while also urging Washington to get out of the way of researchers, discoverers and innovators all over the country.

**SEC. 6208. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL REGULATORY REFORM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Excessive regulation at the Federal level has hurt job creation and dampened the economy, slowing the Nation's recovery from the economic recession.

(2) Since President Obama's inauguration in 2009, the administration has issued more than 468,500 pages of regulations in the Federal Register including 70,066 pages in 2014.

(3) The National Association of Manufacturers estimates the total cost of regulations is as high as \$2.03 trillion per year. Since 2009, the White House has generated more than \$494 billion in regulatory activity, with an additional \$87.6 billion in regulatory costs currently pending.

(4) The Dodd-Frank financial services legislation (Public Law 111-203) has resulted in more than \$32 billion in compliance costs and saddled job creators with more than 63 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(5) Implementation of the Affordable Care Act to date has added 132.9 million annual hours of compliance paperwork, imposing \$24.3 billion of compliance costs on the private sector and an \$8 billion cost burden on the States.

(6) The highest regulatory costs come from rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); these regulations are primarily targeted at the coal industry. In June 2014, the EPA proposed a rule to cut carbon pollution from the Nation's power plants. The proposed standards are unachievable with current commercially available technology, resulting in a de-facto ban on new coal-fired power plants.

(7) Coal-fired power plants provide roughly 40 percent of the United States electricity at a low cost. Unfairly targeting the coal industry with costly and unachievable regulations will increase energy prices, disproportionately disadvantaging energy-intensive industries like manufacturing and construction, and will make life more difficult for millions of low-income and middle class families already struggling to pay their bills.

(8) Three hundred and thirty coal units are being retired or converted as a result of EPA regulations. Combined with the de-facto prohibition on new plants, these retirements and conversions may further increase the cost of electricity.

(9) A recent study by the energy market analysis group Energy Ventures Analysis Inc. estimates the average energy bill in West Virginia will rise \$750 per household by 2020, due in part to EPA regulations. West Virginia receives 95 percent of its electricity from coal.

(10) The Heritage Foundation found that a phase-out of coal would cost 600,000 jobs by the

end of 2023, resulting in an aggregate gross domestic product decrease of \$2.23 trillion over the entire period and reducing the income of a family of four by \$1,200 per year. Of these jobs, 330,000 will come from the manufacturing sector, with California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Indiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Georgia seeing the highest job losses.

(b) **POLICY ON FEDERAL REGULATORY REFORM.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that Congress should, in consultation with the public burdened by excessive regulation, enact legislation that—

(1) promotes economic growth and job creation by eliminating unnecessary red tape and streamlining and simplifying Federal regulations;

(2) requires the implementation of a regulatory budget to be allocated amongst Government agencies, which would require congressional approval and limit the maximum costs of regulations in a given year;

(3) requires congressional approval of all new major regulations (those with an impact of \$100 million or more) before enactment as opposed to current law in which Congress must expressly disapprove of regulation to prevent it from becoming law, which would keep Congress engaged as to pending regulatory policy and prevent costly and unsound policies from being implemented and becoming effective;

(4) requires a three year retrospective cost-benefit analysis of all new major regulations, to ensure that regulations operate as intended;

(5) reinforces the requirement of regulatory impact analysis for regulations proposed by executive branch agencies but also expands the requirement to independent agencies so that by law they consider the costs and benefits of proposed regulations rather than merely being encouraged to do so as is current practice; and

(6) requires a formal rulemaking process for all major regulations, which would increase transparency over the process and allow interested parties to communicate their views on proposed legislation to agency officials.

**SEC. 6209. POLICY STATEMENT ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.**

(a) **FINDINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) A well-educated workforce is critical to economic, job, and wage growth.

(2) Roughly 20 million students are enrolled in American colleges and universities.

(3) Over the past decade, tuition and fees have been growing at an unsustainable rate. Between the 2004-2005 Academic Year and the 2014-2015 Academic Year—

(A) published tuition and fees at public 4-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 3.5 percent per year above the rate of inflation;

(B) published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 2.5 percent per year above the rate of inflation; and

(C) published tuition and fees at private non-profit 4-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 2.2 percent per year above the rate of inflation.

(4) Federal financial aid for higher education has also seen a dramatic increase. The portion of the Federal student aid portfolio composed of Direct Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, and Perkins Loans with outstanding balances grew by 119 percent between fiscal year 2007 and fiscal year 2014.

(5) This spending has failed to make college more affordable.

(6) In his 2012 State of the Union Address, President Obama noted: "We can't just keep

subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money".

(7) American students are chasing ever-increasing tuition with ever-increasing debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student debt now stands at nearly \$1.2 trillion. This makes student loans the second largest balance of consumer debt, after mortgage debt.

(8) Students are carrying large debt loads and too many fail to complete college or end up defaulting on these loans due to their debt burden and a weak economy and job market.

(9) Based on estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the Pell Grant Program will face a fiscal shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2017 and continuing in each subsequent year in the current budget window.

(10) Failing to address these problems will jeopardize access and affordability to higher education for America's young people.

(b) **POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to address the root drivers of tuition inflation, by—

(1) targeting Federal financial aid to those most in need;

(2) streamlining programs that provide aid to make them more effective;

(3) maintaining the maximum Pell grant award level at \$5,775 in each year of the budget window; and

(4) removing regulatory barriers in higher education that act to restrict flexibility and innovative teaching, particularly as it relates to non-traditional models such as online coursework and competency-based learning.

(c) **FINDINGS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) 8.7 million Americans are currently unemployed.

(2) Despite billions of dollars in spending, those looking for work are stymied by a broken workforce development system that fails to connect workers with assistance and employers with trained personnel.

(3) The House Education and Workforce Committee successfully consolidated 15 job training programs in the recently enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

(d) **POLICY ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution to address the failings in the current workforce development system, by—

(1) further streamlining and consolidating Federal job training programs; and

(2) empowering states with the flexibility to tailor funding and programs to the specific needs of their workforce, including the development of career scholarships.

#### **SEC. 6210. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) For years, there has been serious concern regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) bureaucratic mismanagement and continuous failure to provide veterans timely access to health care and benefits.

(2) In 2014, reports started breaking across the Nation that VA medical centers were manipulating wait-list documents to hide long delays veterans were facing to receive health care. The VA hospital scandal led to the immediate resignation of then-Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

(3) In 2015, for the first time ever, VA health care was added to the "high-risk" list of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), due to management and oversight failures that have directly resulted in risks to the timeliness, cost-effectiveness, and quality of health care.

(4) In response to the scandal, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held several oversight hearings and ultimately enacted the Veterans' Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA) (Public Law 113-146) to address these problems. VACAA provided \$15 billion in emergency resources to fund internal health care needs within the department and provided veterans enhanced access to private-sector health care under the new Veterans Choice Program.

(b) **POLICY ON THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—This budget supports the continued oversight efforts by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives to ensure the VA is not only transparent and accountable, but also successful in achieving its goals in providing timely health care and benefits to America's veterans. The Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives will continue to closely monitor the VA's progress to ensure resources provided by Congress are sufficient and efficiently used to provide needed benefits and services to veterans.

#### **SEC. 6211. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGIES.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Given the thousands of Federal programs and trillions of dollars the Federal Government spends each year, assessing and accounting for Federal fiscal activities and liabilities is a complex undertaking.

(2) Current methods of accounting leave much to be desired in capturing the full scope of government and in presenting information in a clear and compelling way that illuminates the best options going forward.

(3) Most fiscal analysis produced by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is conducted over a relatively short time horizon: 10 or 25 years. While this time frame is useful for most purposes, it fails to consider the fiscal consequences over the longer term.

(4) Additionally, current accounting methodology does not provide an analysis of how the Federal Government's fiscal situation over the long run affects Americans of various age cohorts.

(5) Another consideration is how Federal programs should be accounted for. The "accrual method" of accounting records revenue when it is earned and expenses when they are incurred, while the "cash method" records revenue and expenses when cash is actually paid or received.

(6) The Federal budget accounts for most programs using cash accounting. Some programs, however, particularly loan and loan guarantee programs, are accounted for using accrual methods.

(7) GAO has indicated that accrual accounting may provide a more accurate estimation of the Federal Government's liabilities than cash accounting for some programs specifically those that provide some form of insurance.

(8) Where accrual accounting is used, it is almost exclusively calculated by CBO according to the methodology outlined in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA). CBO uses fair value methodology instead of FCRA to measure the cost of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, for example.

(9) FCRA methodology, however, understates the risk and thus the true cost of Federal programs. An alternative is fair value methodology, which uses discount rates that incorporate the risk inherent to the type of liability being estimated in addition to Treasury discount rates of the proper maturity length.

(10) The Congressional Budget Office has concluded that "adopting a fair-value approach would provide a more comprehensive way to measure the costs of Federal credit programs and would permit more level comparisons be-

tween those costs and the costs of other forms of federal assistance" than the current approach under FCRA.

(b) **POLICY ON FEDERAL ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGIES.**—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that Congress should, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office and the public affected by Federal budgetary choices, adopt Government-wide reforms of budget and accounting practices so the American people and their representatives can more readily understand the fiscal situation of the Government of the United States and the options best suited to improving it. Such reforms may include but should not be limited to the following:

(1) Providing additional metrics to enhance our current analysis by considering our fiscal situation comprehensively, over an extended time horizon, and as it affects Americans of various age cohorts.

(2) Expanding the use of accrual accounting where appropriate.

(3) Accounting for certain Federal credit programs using fair value accounting as opposed to the current approach under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990.

#### **SEC. 6212. POLICY STATEMENT ON REDUCING UNNECESSARY, WASTEFUL, AND UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is required by law to identify examples of waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs, and has so identified dozens of such examples.

(2) In its report to Congress on Government Efficiency and Effectiveness, the Comptroller General has stated that addressing the identified waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs could "lead to tens of billions of dollars of additional savings."

(3) In 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 the GAO issued reports showing excessive duplication and redundancy in Federal programs including—

(A) two hundred nine Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education programs in 13 different Federal agencies at a cost of \$3 billion annually;

(B) two hundred separate Department of Justice crime prevention and victim services grant programs with an annual cost of \$3.9 billion in 2010;

(C) twenty different Federal entities administer 160 housing programs and other forms of Federal assistance for housing with a total cost of \$170 billion in 2010;

(D) seventeen separate Homeland Security preparedness grant programs that spent \$37 billion between fiscal years 2011 and 2012;

(E) fourteen grant and loan programs, and three tax benefits to reduce diesel emissions;

(F) ninety-four different initiatives run by 11 different agencies to encourage "green building" in the private sector; and

(G) twenty-three agencies implemented approximately 670 renewable energy initiatives in fiscal year 2010 at a cost of nearly \$15 billion.

(4) The Federal Government spends more than \$80 billion each year for approximately 1,400 information technology investments. GAO has identified broad acquisition failures, waste, and unnecessary duplication in the Government's information technology infrastructure. Experts have estimated that eliminating these problems could save 25 percent or \$20 billion.

(5) GAO has identified strategic sourcing as a potential source of spending reductions. In 2011 GAO estimated that saving 10 percent of the total or all Federal procurement could generate more than \$50 billion in savings annually.

(6) Federal agencies reported an estimated \$106 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2013.

(7) Under clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each standing committee must hold at least one hearing during each 120 day period following its establishment on waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs.

(8) According to the Congressional Budget Office, by fiscal year 2015, 32 laws will expire, possibly resulting in \$693 billion in unauthorized appropriations. Timely reauthorizations of these laws would ensure assessments of program justification and effectiveness.

(9) The findings resulting from congressional oversight of Federal Government programs should result in programmatic changes in both authorizing statutes and program funding levels.

**(b) POLICY ON REDUCING UNNECESSARY, WASTEFUL, AND UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING.—**

(1) Each authorizing committee of the House of Representatives annually should include in its Views and Estimates letter required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives of programs within the jurisdiction of such committee whose funding should be reduced or eliminated.

(2) Committees of jurisdiction should review all unauthorized programs funded through annual appropriations to determine if the programs are operating efficiently and effectively.

(3) Committees should reauthorize those programs that in the committees' judgment should continue to receive funding.

(4) For those programs not reauthorized by committees, the House of Representatives should enforce the limitations on funding such unauthorized programs in the House rules. If the strictures of the rules are deemed to be too rapid in prohibiting spending on unauthorized programs, then milder measures should be adopted and enforced until a return to the full prohibition of clause 2(a)(1) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

**SEC. 6213. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) According to the most recent estimate from the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies were expected to hold \$844 billion in unobligated balances at the close of fiscal year 2015.

(2) These funds represent direct and discretionary spending previously made available by Congress that remains available for expenditure.

(3) In some cases, agencies are granted funding and it remains available for obligation indefinitely.

(4) The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 requires the Office of Management and Budget to make funds available to agencies for obligation and prohibits the Administration from withholding or cancelling unobligated funds unless approved by an Act of Congress.

(5) Greater congressional oversight is required to review and identify potential savings from canceling unobligated balances of funds that are no longer needed.

(b) POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—In the House of Representatives, committees should through their oversight activities identify and achieve savings through the cancellation or rescission of unobligated balances that neither abrogate contractual obligations of the Government nor reduce or disrupt Federal commitments under programs such as Social Security, veterans' affairs, national security, and Treasury authority to finance the national debt.

(c) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—The House of Representatives, with the assistance of the Govern-

ment Accountability Office, the Inspectors General, and other appropriate agencies should continue to make it a high priority to review unobligated balances and identify savings for deficit reduction.

**SEC. 6214. POLICY STATEMENT ON AGENCY FEES AND SPENDING.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) A number of Federal agencies and organizations have permanent authority to collect fees and other offsetting collections and to spend these collected funds.

(2) The total amount of offsetting fees and offsetting collections is estimated by the Office of Management and Budget to be \$525 billion in fiscal year 2016.

(3) Agency budget justifications are, in some cases, not fully transparent about the amount of program activity funded through offsetting collections or fees. This lack of transparency prevents effective and accountable government.

(b) POLICY ON AGENCY FEES AND SPENDING.—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that Congress must reassert its constitutional prerogative to control spending and conduct oversight. To do so, Congress should enact legislation requiring programs that are funded through fees, offsetting receipts, or offsetting collections to be allocated new budget authority annually. Such allocation may arise from—

(1) legislation originating from the authorizing committee of jurisdiction for the agency or program; or

(2) fee and account specific allocations included in annual appropriation Acts.

**SEC. 6215. POLICY STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) The budget for the House of Representatives is \$188 million less than it was when Republicans became the majority in 2011.

(2) The House of Representatives has achieved significant savings by consolidating operations and renegotiating contracts.

(b) POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that:

(1) The House of Representatives must be a model for the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and therefore must identify any savings that can be achieved through greater productivity and efficiency gains in the operation and maintenance of House services and resources like printing, conferences, utilities, telecommunications, furniture, grounds maintenance, postage, and rent. This should include a review of policies and procedures for acquisition of goods and services to eliminate any unnecessary spending. The Committee on House Administration should review the policies pertaining to the services provided to Members and committees of the House of Representatives, and should identify ways to reduce any subsidies paid for the operation of the House gym, barber shop, salon, and the House dining room.

(2) No taxpayer funds may be used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress.

(3) Retirement benefits for Members of Congress should not include free, taxpayer-funded health care for life.

**SEC. 6216. POLICY STATEMENT ON "NO BUDGET, NO PAY".**

In the House of Representatives, it is the policy of this concurrent resolution that Congress should agree to a concurrent resolution on the budget every year pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. If by April 15, the House of Representatives has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget, the pay-

roll administrator of the House of Representatives should carry out this policy in the same manner as the provisions of Public Law 113-3, the No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013, and should place in an escrow account all compensation otherwise required to be made for Members of the House of Representatives. Withheld compensation should be released to Members of the House of Representatives the earlier of the day on which the House of Representatives agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, or the last day of that Congress.

**SEC. 6217. POLICY STATEMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY FUNDING.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) Russian aggression, the growing threats of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in the Middle East, North Korean and Iranian nuclear and missile programs, and continued Chinese investments in high-end military capabilities and cyber warfare shape the parameters of an increasingly complex and challenging security environment.

(2) All four current service chiefs testified that the National Military Strategy could not be executed at sequestration levels.

(3) The independent and bipartisan National Defense Panel conducted risk assessments of force structure changes triggered by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) and concluded that in addition to previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, the sequestration of defense discretionary spending has "caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities".

(4) The President's fiscal year 2016 budget irresponsibly ignores current law and requests a defense budget \$38 billion above the caps for rhetorical gain. By creating an expectation of spending without a plan to avoid the BCA's guaranteed sequester upon breaching of its caps, the White House's proposal compounds the fiscal uncertainty that has affected the military's ability to adequately plan for future contingencies and make investments crucial for the Nation's defense.

(5) The President's budget proposes \$1.8 trillion in tax increases, in addition to the \$1.7 trillion in tax hikes the Administration has already imposed. The President's tax increases would further burden economic growth and is not a realistic source for offsets to fund defense sequester replacement.

(b) POLICY ON FISCAL YEAR 2016 NATIONAL DEFENSE FUNDING.—In fiscal year 2015, the House-passed budget resolution anticipated \$566 billion for national defense in the discretionary base budget for fiscal year 2016. With no necessary statutory change yet provided by Congress, the BCA statute would require limiting national defense discretionary base funding to \$523 billion in fiscal year 2016. However, in total with \$90 billion, the House of Representatives Budget estimate for Overseas Contingency Operations funding for the Department of Defense, the fiscal year 2016 budget provides over \$613 billion total for defense spending that is higher than the President's budget request for the fiscal year.

(c) DEFENSE READINESS AND MODERNIZATION FUND.—(1) The budget resolution recognizes the need to ensure robust funding for national defense while maintaining overall fiscal discipline. The budget resolution prioritizes our national defense and the needs of the warfighter by providing needed dollars through the creation of the "Defense Readiness and Modernization Fund".

(2) The Defense Readiness and Modernization Fund provides the mechanism for Congress to responsibly allocate in a deficit-neutral way the resources the military needs to secure the safety

and liberty of United States citizens from threats at home and abroad. The Defense Readiness and Modernization Fund will provide the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives the ability to increase allocations to support legislation that would provide for the Department of Defense warfighting capabilities, modernization, training and maintenance associated with combat readiness, activities to reach full auditability of the Department of Defense's financial statements, and implementation of military and compensation reforms.

(d) **SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.**—This concurrent resolution encourages an immediate reevaluation of Federal Government priorities to maintain the strength of America's national security posture. In identifying policies to restructure and stabilize the Government's major entitlement programs which, along with net interest, will consume all Federal revenue in less than 20 years, the budget also charts a course that can ensure the availability of needed national security resources.

And the House agree to the same.

TOM PRICE,  
TODD ROKITA,  
MARIO DIAZ-BALART,  
DIANE BLACK,  
JOHN R. MOOLENAAR,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

MICHAEL B. ENZI,  
CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
JEFF SESSIONS,  
MIKE CRAPO,  
LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
ROB PORTMAN,  
PATRICK J. TOOMEY,  
RON JOHNSON,  
KELLY AYOTTE,  
ROGER F. WICKER,  
BOB CORKER,  
DAVID PERDUE,

*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*

#### JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11), setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

#### Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee on Conference

The conference agreement between the Senate and the House on the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution is a statement of good faith to the American people that Congress can govern responsibly and effectively. This budget agreement achieves five important objectives:

It balances the budget within 10 years to address the problem of government overspending and rising debt.

It balances solely by limiting government spending, not by raising taxes, thereby boosting the private sector economy and job creation.

It provides a path through reconciliation to repeal the Affordable Care Act with its burdensome mandates and restrictions, a first step toward introducing real, patient-centered health care reform.

It makes national defense a priority and provides for the maximum allowable defense funding under current law, with a fiscally responsible path for further spending increases.

It calls for a return to regular order in Congress, allowing all committees to act fully and Appropriations Committees to consider spending bills on time.

It is well known that a budget is more than a set of numbers. It is a reflection of national priorities, a vision of the future. When developed in a responsible way, a sound Federal budget can provide a foundation for moving America in the direction of greater opportunity and economic growth and a safer and more secure Nation.

In writing this budget, Congress is restoring a priority neglected since fiscal year 2010. Moreover, in writing a 10-year balanced budget, the House and Senate Budget Committees have accomplished something the President's budget never does and that Congress last achieved in fiscal year 2002—nearly 15 years ago. Passing this budget will also let the congressional policymakers who actually allocate the dollars get to work and observe its spending limits to achieve the Nation's goals.

The agreement presents a responsible path forward to reduce the Nation's debt burden and expand economic opportunity for all Americans. In meeting the goals cited above, the budget aims to restore public trust by eliminating wasteful Washington overspending; making government truly more effective and more accountable; protecting America's most vulnerable citizens; and strengthening the health and retirement of the Nation's seniors. It ensures taxpayers' dollars are spent more wisely, and that Medicare, Medicaid, nutrition assistance, and other programs can deliver on their promises. While providing a sturdy and reliable safety net for those who need it, this budget also helps others break free of government dependency and pursue self-sufficiency.

The budget's deficit reduction also will have tangible benefits for the economy. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has analyzed how the funding changes contained in the conference report likely would affect U.S. economic performance, finding that the fully implemented spending levels of the budget resolution conference report would improve the economy. Specifically, the budget office found that: a) per capita real gross national product [GNP], a proxy for a country's standard of living, would be 1.4 percent higher in 2025 than it would be without the spending changes; and b) nominal GDP would be \$400 billion higher by fiscal year 2025 than it would otherwise be.

On the current fiscal trajectory, which is marked by rising debt levels as a share of the economy, government borrowing would eventually lead to a decline in national savings and a "crowding out" of private investment. Crowding out occurs when the Federal Government's borrowing competes successfully with that of private borrowers. Not only can the Federal Government command credit resources more readily, thanks to its generally superior rating for default risk when compared with private borrowers, but excessive borrowing can put upward pressure on interest rates that private borrowers must pay. Less credit available in private lending markets could mean higher prices for Americans as borrowers.

CBO's analysis of the conference agreement indicates that deficit reduction also creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and

boosts private investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation. CBO estimates that the conference agreement would maintain budget balance in the years beyond the budget window and significantly reduce Federal debt held by the public as a percent of GDP. To put this in perspective, publicly held debt to GDP currently stands at 74 percent, its highest level since 1951, and is projected to rise steadily in the decades ahead under CBO's extended current law baseline. CBO estimates that the conference agreement would reduce debt as a percent of GDP to 56 percent in 2025 and ultimately to about 20 percent in 2040.

A congressional budget develops in stages, of which a concurrent resolution on the budget agreed to by the House and Senate is the first. The resolution establishes a framework for fiscal policy and proposes an alignment of resources with Congress's governing priorities. It is the only legislative vehicle that reflects a global assessment of the governing majority's priorities and the demands on Federal resources. Subsequently, respective committees of jurisdiction develop, in accordance with their judgments, policy reforms needed to achieve the budget's fiscal aims, guided by the budget's aggregates and recommended function levels, as presented later in this statement.

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate of the conference on the votes in disagreement between the Houses on the concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 (S. Con. Res. 11) submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

The House amendment struck all of the Senate concurrent resolution after the resolving clause and inserted the text of H. Con. Res. 27.

The Senate recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the House with an amendment that is a substitute for the Senate concurrent resolution and the House amendment. The differences among the Senate concurrent resolution, the House amendment thereto, and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by agreements reached by the conferees, and minor drafting and clarifying changes.

Conferees on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 met in public session on Monday, April 20, 2015.

#### DISPLAYS AND AMOUNTS

The required contents of concurrent budget resolutions are set forth in section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The years in this document are fiscal years unless otherwise noted.

Each function discussion provides recommended function totals for budget authority and outlays, as well as a breakout of discretionary (annually appropriated) and direct (or mandatory) spending amounts for fiscal year 2016. These figures are not binding; they are intended to provide an overall accounting of estimated spending requirements and priorities according to major categories of government activities. Figures for the Senate resolution and the House amendment are based on CBO's January 2015 baseline; conference agreement numbers are based on CBO's March 2015 baseline, adjusted for the enactment of H.R. 2.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate concurrent resolution includes all of the items required under Section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment includes all of the items required as part of a concurrent budget resolution under section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act other than the spending and revenue levels for Social Security Retirement and Disability (which are used to enforce a point of order applicable only in the Senate). It also adds three additional separate budget functions: Government-Wide Savings (930); Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970); and Across-the-Board Adjustment (990).

Discussion of the governing principles underlying the budget's recommended policy reforms can be found in House Report 114-47 accompanying H. Con. Res. 27, the House Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement includes all of the items required under Section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, and adds one separate budget function: Overseas Contin-

gency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970).

## AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS

The following tables are included in this section:

Table 1.—Economic Assumptions for the Conference Agreement

Table 2.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Agreement Summary

Table 3.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Agreement Budget Aggregates

Table 4.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Agreement Discretionary Budget Authority

Table 5.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Agreement Mandatory Outlays

Table 6.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Agreement Aggregate and Function Levels

Table 7.—FY 2016 Budget Resolution as Passed by the Senate

Table 8.—Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution Total Spending and Revenue, as Passed by the House

Table 9.—Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution Discretionary Spending, as Passed by the House

Table 10.—Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution Mandatory Spending, as Passed by the House

## ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

Section 301(g)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act requires that the joint explanatory statement accompanying a conference report on a budget resolution set forth the common economic assumptions upon which the joint statement and conference report are based. The conference agreement is built upon the economic forecasts development by the Congressional Budget Office and presented in CBO's "Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2015," (March 9, 2015).

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution employed CBO's economic assumptions published in January 2015.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment uses CBO's economic assumptions published in January 2015.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement uses CBO's economic assumption published in March 2015.

TABLE 1.—ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

	[Fiscal year]											
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP):												
Billions of dollars .....	18,016	18,832	19,701	20,558	21,404	22,315	23,271	24,262	25,287	26,352	27,456	
Percentage change .....	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	
Real GDP:												
Billions of 2009 dollars .....	16,405	16,893	17,361	17,763	18,127	18,524	18,934	19,346	19,762	20,180	20,603	
Percentage change .....	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	
Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U):												
1982=84=100 .....	238.6	243.3	248.9	254.7	260.7	267.0	273.5	280.2	287.0	294.0	301.0	
Percentage change .....	1.1	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	
Price Index, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE):												
2009=100 .....	109.7	111.6	113.7	116.0	118.3	120.7	123.1	125.6	128.1	130.7	133.3	
Percentage change .....	1.1	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Unemployment Rate, Civilian, 16 Years or Older:												
Percent .....	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	
Employment, Total Nonfarm (Establishment Survey):												
Millions .....	141	143	144	146	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	
Percentage change .....	2.0	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	
10-Year Treasury Note:												
Percent .....	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	
Income, Personal:												
Billions of dollars .....	15,183	15,905	16,682	17,508	18,331	19,195	20,125	21,059	22,007	23,003	24,054	
Percentage of GDP .....	84.3	84.5	84.7	85.2	85.6	86.0	86.5	86.8	87.0	87.3	87.6	

## FUNCTIONS AND REVENUES

TABLE 2.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT SUMMARY

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
Conference Levels:												
Outlays .....	3,871	3,808	3,846	4,027	4,210	4,365	4,581	4,695	4,774	5,006	19,761	43,183
Revenues .....	3,471	3,602	3,729	3,875	4,035	4,211	4,395	4,596	4,806	5,030	18,711	41,750
Deficit(+)/Surplus(–) .....	400	206	117	152	176	153	186	99	–32	–24	1,050	1,432
Debt held by the public .....	13,842	14,124	14,307	14,523	14,757	14,965	15,204	15,354	15,374	15,405		
As a Share of GDP: <sup>a</sup>												
Outlays .....	20.6%	19.4%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%	18.7%	18.8%	18.5%	18.0%	18.1%	19.3%	18.8%
Revenues .....	18.5%	18.4%	18.2%	18.1%	18.0%	18.1%	18.0%	18.1%	18.1%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%
Deficit(+)/Surplus(–) .....	2.1%	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	–0.1%	–0.1%	1.0%	0.7%
Debt held by the public .....	73.6%	72.1%	69.8%	67.9%	65.9%	64.2%	62.3%	60.5%	58.0%	55.6%	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>a</sup> In 2016–20 and 2016–25 columns, percentages reflect five- and ten-year averages, respectively.

TABLE 3.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT BUDGET AGGREGATES

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
Discretionary:												
Defense (regular BA) <sup>a</sup> .....	523	536	549	562	576	590	623	636	649	662	2,746	5,906
Nondefense (regular BA) <sup>a</sup> .....	493	477	478	487	495	503	509	515	521	527	2,431	5,006
Total Discretionary:												
BA .....	1,120	1,085	1,097	1,113	1,128	1,148	1,132	1,151	1,170	1,189	5,542	11,332
OT .....	1,206	1,167	1,148	1,157	1,176	1,182	1,181	1,176	1,180	1,200	5,845	11,764
% change (BA) <sup>b</sup> .....	–0.2%	–3.1%	1.1%	1.5%	1.3%	1.8%	–1.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	0.1%	0.6%
Mandatory (OT) .....	2,390	2,316	2,311	2,431	2,559	2,667	2,853	2,943	2,997	3,196	12,007	26,662
% change <sup>b</sup> .....	4.8%	–3.1%	–0.2%	5.2%	5.3%	4.2%	7.0%	3.2%	1.8%	6.6%	2.3%	3.4%
Net interest (OT) .....	275	325	387	438	484	516	548	576	598	611	1,910	4,757
% change <sup>b</sup> .....	20.4%	18.0%	19.1%	13.3%	10.4%	6.5%	6.3%	5.2%	3.8%	2.1%	16.2%	10.3%
Total outlays .....	3,871	3,808	3,846	4,027	4,210	4,365	4,581	4,695	4,774	5,006	19,761	43,183
% change <sup>b</sup> .....	5.1%	–1.6%	1.0%	4.7%	4.6%	3.7%	5.0%	2.5%	1.7%	4.9%	2.7%	3.1%
Revenues .....	3,471	3,602	3,729	3,875	4,035	4,211	4,395	4,596	4,806	5,030	18,711	41,750

TABLE 3.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT BUDGET AGGREGATES—Continued

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
% change <sup>b</sup>	8.7%	3.8%	3.5%	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%
<b>Unified deficit (+)/surplus (–)</b>	400	206	117	152	176	153	186	99	–32	–24	1,050	1,432
On-budget	415	206	94	104	98	44	42	–84	–257	–296	917	365
Off-budget	–15	0	23	48	78	109	144	183	226	272	133	1,067
Unified deficit/surplus % of GDP	2.1%	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	–0.1%	–0.1%	1.0%	0.6%
<b>Total Federal debt</b>	19,072	19,503	19,840	20,178	20,509	20,788	21,048	21,203	21,209	21,165	n.c.	n.c.
Total Federal debt % of GDP	101.4%	99.5%	96.8%	94.3%	91.6%	89.2%	86.3%	83.5%	80.0%	76.4%	n.c.	n.c.
<b>Debt held by the public</b>	13,842	14,124	14,307	14,523	14,757	14,965	15,204	15,354	15,374	15,405	n.c.	n.c.
Debt held by the public % of GDP	73.6%	72.1%	69.8%	67.9%	65.9%	64.2%	62.3%	60.5%	58.0%	55.6%	n.c.	n.c.
<b>MEMORANDA:</b>												
Economic Growth Benefit <sup>c</sup> (OT)	38	20	0	0	0	–23	–24	–25	–53	–55	57	–124
Unified deficit (+)/surplus (–) without Economic Growth Benefit	362	186	117	152	176	177	210	125	21	31	993	1,557
Gross Domestic Product	18,800	19,600	20,500	21,400	22,400	23,300	24,400	25,400	26,500	27,700	102,700	230,000

<sup>a</sup> These amounts are subject to discretionary spending limits in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (the Deficit Control Act), as amended.

<sup>b</sup> Percentage change represents change from year prior. In 2016–20 and 2016–25 columns, percentage reflects average annual growth.

<sup>c</sup> CBO estimate of the effect on the deficit from the change in the economy attributable to the budget plan. In this table, the effect is included in the mandatory spending line.

n.c. = not computable.

TABLE 4.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
<b>Defense (regular BA):<sup>a</sup></b>												
Conference Agreement	523	536	549	562	576	590	623	636	649	662	2,746	5,906
CBO March Baseline	523	536	549	562	576	590	605	620	635	651	2,746	5,848
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16	14	11	0	58
<b>Nondefense (regular BA):<sup>a</sup></b>												
Conference Agreement	493	477	478	487	495	503	509	515	521	527	2,431	5,006
CBO March Baseline	493	504	515	529	543	555	569	583	598	613	2,584	5,503
Difference	0	–26	–37	–43	–47	–52	–60	–68	–77	–86	–153	–496
<b>Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO):</b>												
Conference Agreement	96	65	63	58	50	48	0	0	0	0	331	378
President's Budget	58	27	27	27	27	27	0	0	0	0	191	191
Difference	38	38	36	31	23	21	0	0	0	0	166	187
<b>Disaster Relief Funding:</b>												
Conference Agreement	7	7	7	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	34	41
President's Budget	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Difference	0	7	7	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	27	34

<sup>a</sup> These amounts are subject to discretionary spending limits in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (the Deficit Control Act), as amended.

TABLE 5.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT MANDATORY OUTLAYS

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
<b>CBO March Baseline:<sup>a</sup></b>	2,488	2,565	2,633	2,798	2,954	3,118	3,350	3,476	3,597	3,872	13,438	30,852
% change <sup>b</sup>	9.1%	3.1%	2.7%	6.3%	5.6%	5.6%	7.4%	3.8%	3.5%	7.6%	5.3%	5.4%
<b>Conference Agreement:<sup>c</sup></b>	2,390	2,316	2,311	2,431	2,559	2,667	2,853	2,943	2,997	3,196	12,007	26,662
% change <sup>b</sup>	4.8%	–3.1%	–0.2%	5.2%	5.3%	4.2%	7.0%	3.2%	1.8%	6.6%	2.3%	3.4%
<b>Difference</b>	–99	–249	–323	–367	–395	–451	–498	–533	–601	–676	–1,432	–4,189
<b>MEMORANDUM:</b>												
Gross Domestic Product	18,800	19,600	20,500	21,400	22,400	23,300	24,400	25,400	26,500	27,700	102,700	230,000
% change <sup>b</sup>	4.4%	4.3%	4.6%	4.4%	4.7%	4.0%	4.7%	4.1%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.4%

<sup>a</sup> Includes the effect of H.R. 2, which cleared Congress on April 14.

<sup>b</sup> Percentage change represents change from year prior. In 2016–20 and 2016–25 columns, percentage reflects average annual growth.

<sup>c</sup> Includes economic growth benefit.

TABLE 6.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS

	[Fiscal year, \$ billions]											
Function	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
<b>050—National Defense:</b>												
BA	531.306	544.515	557.764	571.039	585.330	599.646	632.804	646.039	659.310	673.490	2,789.954	6,001.243
OT	564.325	549.357	548.021	560.439	572.493	585.628	615.907	628.518	638.235	658.011	2,794.635	5,920.934
Discretionary:												
BA	523.091	536.068	549.073	562.080	576.088	590.097	623.000	636.000	649.000	662.000	2,746.400	5,906.497
OT	555.480	540.097	538.510	550.830	562.841	575.860	605.978	618.404	627.922	646.598	2,747.758	5,822.520
Mandatory:												
BA	8.215	8.447	8.691	8.959	9.242	9.549	9.804	10.039	10.310	11.490	43.554	94.746
OT	8.845	9.260	9.511	9.609	9.652	9.768	9.929	10.114	10.313	11.413	46.877	98.414
<b>150—International Affairs:</b>												
BA	40.202	40.246	41.176	42.100	43.092	44.085	45.333	46.348	47.408	48.485	206.816	438.475
OT	46.028	43.086	41.818	41.391	41.518	42.005	42.749	43.510	44.367	45.266	213.841	431.738
Discretionary:												
BA	40.094	40.745	41.629	42.522	43.468	44.417	45.417	46.416	47.461	48.527	208.458	440.696
OT	47.086	44.391	43.507	43.184	43.366	43.846	44.394	45.187	46.079	47.018	221.534	448.058
Mandatory:												
BA	0.108	–0.499	–0.453	–0.422	–0.376	–0.332	–0.084	–0.068	–0.053	–0.042	–1.642	–2.221
OT	–1.058	–1.305	–1.689	–1.793	–1.848	–1.841	–1.645	–1.677	–1.712	–1.752	–7.693	–16.320
<b>250—General Science, Space and Technology:</b>												
BA	29.187	29.771	30.432	31.104	31.805	32.508	33.242	33.978	34.743	35.517	152.299	322.287
OT	29.555	29.707	30.162	30.647	31.283	31.875	32.579	33.306	34.053	34.815	151.354	317.982
Discretionary:												
BA	29.087	29.664	30.332	31.004	31.705	32.408	33.142	33.878	34.643	35.417	151.792	321.280
OT	29.454	29.601	30.060	30.547	31.183	31.775	32.479	33.206	33.953	34.715	150.845	316.973
Mandatory:												
BA	0.100	0.107	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.507	1.007
OT	0.101	0.106	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.509	1.009
<b>270—Energy:</b>												
BA	–3.201	1.962	–0.746	–0.856	–0.884	–0.948	–1.030	–1.098	–1.144	–1.153	–3.725	–9.098

TABLE 6.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS—Continued

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]

Function	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
OT .....	1.412	1.095	– 2.111	– 1.936	– 1.811	– 1.657	– 1.651	– 1.643	– 1.614	– 1.589	– 3.351	– 11.505
Discretionary:												
BA .....	2.588	2.655	2.725	2.790	2.877	2.946	3.019	3.093	3.169	3.241	13.635	29.103
OT .....	3.233	2.740	2.612	2.736	2.820	2.885	2.961	3.033	3.107	3.183	14.141	29.310
Mandatory:												
BA .....	– 5.789	– 0.693	– 3.471	– 3.646	– 3.761	– 3.894	– 4.049	– 4.191	– 4.313	– 4.394	– 17.360	– 38.201
OT .....	– 1.821	– 1.645	– 4.723	– 4.672	– 4.631	– 4.542	– 4.612	– 4.676	– 4.721	– 4.772	– 17.492	– 40.815
<b>300—Natural Resources and Environment:</b>												
BA .....	36.374	37.654	38.325	38.923	40.388	41.191	41.650	42.496	43.935	45.039	191.664	405.975
OT .....	39.499	40.016	39.595	39.465	40.563	41.461	41.770	42.726	43.453	44.409	199.138	412.957
Discretionary:												
BA .....	34.439	35.329	36.359	37.431	38.506	39.603	40.772	41.913	43.108	44.343	182.064	391.803
OT .....	37.013	37.186	37.191	37.827	38.823	39.799	40.922	42.031	42.600	43.773	188.040	397.165
Mandatory:												
BA .....	1.935	2.325	1.966	1.492	1.882	1.588	0.878	0.583	0.827	0.696	9.600	14.172
OT .....	2.486	2.830	2.404	1.638	1.740	1.662	0.848	0.695	0.853	0.636	11.098	15.792
<b>350—Agriculture:</b>												
BA .....	19.098	22.846	21.964	20.652	19.681	19.545	19.509	20.119	20.253	20.540	104.241	204.207
OT .....	21.572	22.376	20.853	19.875	19.132	19.025	18.979	19.590	19.699	20.028	103.808	201.129
Discretionary:												
BA .....	5.998	6.152	6.330	6.513	6.699	6.884	7.084	7.278	7.487	7.699	31.692	68.124
OT .....	5.939	6.077	6.252	6.428	6.609	6.792	6.989	7.182	7.385	7.595	31.305	67.248
Mandatory:												
BA .....	13.100	16.694	15.634	14.139	12.982	12.661	12.425	12.841	12.766	12.841	72.549	136.083
OT .....	15.633	16.299	14.601	13.447	12.523	12.233	11.990	12.408	12.314	12.433	72.503	133.881
<b>370—Commerce and Housing Credit:</b>												
BA .....	– 4.010	– 11.014	– 10.671	– 10.096	– 8.181	– 7.989	– 7.587	– 7.204	– 6.601	– 6.379	– 43.972	– 79.732
OT .....	– 13.580	– 24.064	– 27.566	– 29.561	– 25.522	– 22.606	– 24.053	– 25.111	– 25.809	– 26.435	– 120.293	– 244.307
Discretionary:												
BA .....	– 10.605	– 13.301	– 13.279	– 12.114	– 9.774	– 8.848	– 7.588	– 6.382	– 5.319	– 4.680	– 59.073	– 91.890
OT .....	– 7.165	– 11.356	– 12.285	– 11.885	– 10.163	– 9.095	– 8.000	– 7.058	– 6.021	– 5.208	– 52.854	– 88.236
Mandatory:												
BA .....	6.595	2.287	2.608	2.018	1.593	0.859	0.001	– 0.822	– 1.282	– 1.699	15.101	12.158
OT .....	– 6.415	– 12.708	– 15.281	– 17.676	– 15.359	– 13.511	– 16.053	– 18.053	– 19.788	– 21.227	– 67.439	– 156.071
<b>370 on-budget:</b>												
BA .....	– 0.997	– 8.697	– 8.277	– 7.401	– 5.156	– 4.806	– 4.250	– 3.613	– 2.754	– 2.278	– 30.528	– 48.229
OT .....	– 10.566	– 21.748	– 25.173	– 26.866	– 22.499	– 19.423	– 20.716	– 21.520	– 21.962	– 22.335	– 106.852	– 212.808
Discretionary:												
BA .....	– 10.871	– 13.578	– 13.567	– 12.413	– 10.084	– 9.169	– 7.922	– 6.728	– 5.677	– 5.051	– 60.513	– 95.060
OT .....	– 7.430	– 11.633	– 12.573	– 12.183	– 10.473	– 9.415	– 8.333	– 7.403	– 6.378	– 5.578	– 54.292	– 91.399
Mandatory:												
BA .....	9.874	4.881	5.290	5.012	4.928	4.363	3.672	3.115	2.923	2.773	29.985	46.831
OT .....	– 3.136	– 10.115	– 12.600	– 14.683	– 12.026	– 10.008	– 12.383	– 14.117	– 15.584	– 16.757	– 52.560	– 121.409
<b>400—Transportation:</b>												
BA .....	72.055	72.715	73.262	73.696	74.070	74.409	55.154	56.254	56.798	57.190	365.798	665.603
OT .....	87.153	82.838	79.648	78.845	78.268	77.871	73.378	66.074	62.874	61.710	406.752	748.659
Discretionary:												
BA .....	30.083	30.772	31.607	32.465	33.352	34.247	35.168	36.106	35.506	36.451	158.279	335.757
OT .....	86.083	82.021	79.159	78.766	78.603	78.624	74.550	67.646	63.296	62.689	404.632	751.437
Mandatory:												
BA .....	41.972	41.943	41.655	41.231	40.718	40.162	19.986	20.148	21.292	20.739	207.519	329.846
OT .....	1.070	0.817	0.489	0.079	– 0.335	– 0.753	– 1.172	– 1.572	– 0.422	– 0.979	2.120	– 2.778
<b>450—Community and Regional Development:</b>												
BA .....	15.486	16.344	16.737	16.973	16.984	16.903	9.965	9.947	9.993	10.077	82.524	139.409
OT .....	20.692	19.144	19.692	20.450	20.702	20.682	19.034	15.892	13.220	11.515	100.680	181.023
Discretionary:												
BA .....	15.040	15.316	15.508	15.697	15.900	16.116	9.461	9.683	9.911	10.136	77.461	132.768
OT .....	19.627	18.125	18.037	18.487	18.617	18.481	16.680	14.192	12.495	11.002	92.893	165.743
Mandatory:												
BA .....	0.446	1.028	1.229	1.276	1.084	0.787	0.504	0.264	0.082	– 0.059	5.063	6.641
OT .....	1.065	1.019	1.655	1.963	2.085	2.201	2.354	1.700	0.725	0.513	7.787	15.280
<b>500—Education, Training, Employment:</b>												
BA .....	83.315	89.084	91.432	90.189	92.597	93.900	95.502	96.984	98.820	100.785	446.617	932.608
OT .....	93.293	92.888	91.193	89.369	91.891	93.562	95.022	96.608	98.336	100.297	458.634	942.459
Discretionary:												
BA .....	89.823	92.951	94.703	96.567	98.546	100.546	102.624	104.620	106.756	108.896	472.590	996.035
OT .....	93.797	95.174	93.014	94.795	96.655	98.659	100.670	102.690	104.746	106.863	473.435	987.063
Mandatory:												
BA .....	– 6.508	– 3.867	– 3.271	– 6.378	– 5.949	– 6.649	– 7.122	– 7.636	– 7.936	– 8.111	– 25.973	– 63.427
OT .....	– 0.504	– 2.286	– 1.821	– 5.426	– 4.764	– 5.097	– 5.648	– 6.082	– 6.410	– 6.566	– 14.801	– 44.604
<b>550—Health:</b>												
BA .....	433.064	397.209	387.638	398.203	420.326	426.184	442.681	461.378	476.599	493.913	2,036.440	4,337.195
OT .....	430.917	394.211	397.302	399.888	411.116	426.218	442.701	461.378	476.631	494.059	2,033.434	4,334.421
Discretionary:												
BA .....	57.727	58.919	60.296	61.691	63.146	64.602	66.126	67.651	69.242	70.844	301.779	640.244
OT .....	58.420	58.957	59.775	60.285	61.571	62.806	64.273	65.771	67.308	68.881	299.008	628.047
Mandatory:												
BA .....	375.337	338.290	327.342	336.512	357.180	361.582	376.555	393.727	407.357	423.069	1,734.661	3,696.951
OT .....	372.497	335.254	337.527	339.603	349.545	363.412	378.428	395.607	409.323	425.178	1,734.426	3,706.374
<b>570—Medicare:</b>												
BA .....	579.430	571.876	566.754	628.736	667.036	711.198	800.458	812.590	815.240	923.187	3,013.832	7,076.505
OT .....	579.361	571.830	566.656	628.652	666.951	711.111	800.363	812.496	815.139	923.082	3,013.450	7,075.641
Discretionary:												
BA .....	6.535	6.918	7.338	7.792	8.263	8.758	9.285	9.829	10.395	10.983	36.846	86.096
OT .....	6.492	6.894	7.269	7.719	8.188	8.677	9.198	9.742	10.305	10.887	36.562	85.371
Mandatory:												
BA .....	572.895	564.958	559.416	620.944	658.773	702.440	791.173	802.761	804.845	912.204	2,976.986	6,990.409
OT .....	572.869	564.936	559.387	620.933	658.763	702.434	791.165	802.754	804.834	912.195	2,976.888	6,990.270
<b>600—Income Security:</b>												
BA .....	523.086	496.233	485.055	476.663	484.015	489.999	498.503	503.364	510.872	517.417	2,465.052	4,985.207
OT .....	523.645	492.511	476.530	471.357	478.199	484.318	497.869	499.521	501.192	511.441	2,442.242	4,936.583
Discretionary:												
BA .....	63.235	61.219	61.398	60.997	62.339	63.675	65.591	66.390	67.163	67.655	309.188	639.662
OT .....	64.237	62.844	62.101	61.716	62.215	63.189	64.658	65.788	66.695	67.305	313.113	640.748
Mandatory:												
BA .....	459.851	435.014	423.657	415.666	421.676	426.324	432.912	436.974	443.709	449.762	2,155.864	4,345.545
OT .....	459.408	429.667	414.429	409.641	415.984	421.129	433.211	433.733	434.497	444.136	2,129.129	4,295.835
<b>650—Social Security Retirement and Disability:</b>												
BA .....	928.939	978.390	1,039.410	1,104.586	1,174.741							



TABLE 6.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS—Continued

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]

Function	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
OT	919.830	967.994	1,028.541	1,093.141	1,162.814	1,236.075	1,312.512	1,393.462	1,477.996	1,565.200	5,172.320	12,157.565
650 on-budget:												
BA	33.885	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.565	486.576
OT	33.928	36.563	39.424	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.653	486.664
Discretionary:												
BA												
OT	0.043	0.028	0.017								0.088	0.088
Mandatory:												
BA	33.885	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.565	486.576
OT	33.885	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.565	486.576
700—Veterans Benefits and Services:												
BA	166.261	164.546	162.740	174.599	179.485	183.721	196.041	192.637	189.442	203.290	847.631	1,812.762
OT	171.862	168.559	162.753	173.869	178.581	182.821	195.056	191.640	188.356	202.189	855.624	1,815.686
Discretionary:												
BA	68.575	70.512	72.705	74.963	77.290	79.647	82.102	84.593	87.145	89.767	364.045	787.299
OT	68.327	69.849	72.081	74.168	76.442	78.811	81.246	83.689	86.234	88.808	360.867	779.655
Mandatory:												
BA	97.686	94.034	90.035	99.636	102.195	104.074	113.939	108.044	102.297	113.523	483.586	1,025.463
OT	103.535	98.710	90.672	99.701	102.139	104.010	113.810	107.951	102.122	113.381	494.757	1,036.031
750—Administration of Justice:												
BA	50.976	57.639	55.885	57.582	59.324	61.247	63.791	65.688	67.626	69.425	281.406	609.183
OT	56.455	56.693	54.562	56.699	61.755	62.635	63.748	65.589	67.266	68.892	286.164	614.294
Discretionary:												
BA	51.172	53.352	55.105	56.918	58.784	60.676	62.647	64.646	66.694	68.607	275.331	598.601
OT	51.981	53.328	54.891	56.622	58.312	60.207	62.163	64.153	66.188	68.081	275.134	595.926
Mandatory:												
BA	−0.196	4.287	0.780	0.664	0.540	0.571	1.144	1.042	0.932	0.818	6.075	10.582
OT	4.474	3.365	−0.329	0.077	3.443	2.428	1.585	1.436	1.078	0.811	11.030	18.368
800—General Government:												
BA	23.151	23.194	23.426	24.000	24.703	25.202	25.962	26.698	27.130	27.881	118.474	251.347
OT	22.981	23.289	23.371	23.685	24.290	24.878	25.562	26.272	26.766	27.435	117.616	248.529
Discretionary:												
BA	16.958	16.932	17.217	17.703	18.337	18.738	19.417	20.105	20.710	21.413	87.147	187.530
OT	16.970	17.069	17.307	17.494	18.029	18.497	19.077	19.723	20.353	21.025	86.869	185.544
Mandatory:												
BA	6.193	6.262	6.209	6.297	6.366	6.464	6.545	6.593	6.420	6.468	31.327	63.817
OT	6.011	6.220	6.064	6.191	6.261	6.381	6.485	6.549	6.413	6.410	30.747	62.985
900—Net Interest:												
BA	275.302	324.912	387.001	438.431	483.884	515.508	547.736	575.992	597.779	610.540	1,909.530	4,757.085
OT	275.302	324.912	387.001	438.431	483.884	515.508	547.736	575.992	597.779	610.540	1,909.530	4,757.085
Discretionary:												
BA												
OT												
Mandatory:												
BA	275.302	324.912	387.001	438.431	483.884	515.508	547.736	575.992	597.779	610.540	1,909.530	4,757.085
OT	275.302	324.912	387.001	438.431	483.884	515.508	547.736	575.992	597.779	610.540	1,909.530	4,757.085
900 on-budget:												
BA	367.542	416.418	479.446	533.121	579.344	611.558	642.888	669.066	687.195	694.215	2,375.871	5,680.793
OT	367.542	416.418	479.446	533.121	579.344	611.558	642.888	669.066	687.195	694.215	2,375.871	5,680.793
Discretionary:												
BA												
OT												
Mandatory:												
BA	367.542	416.418	479.446	533.121	579.344	611.558	642.888	669.066	687.195	694.215	2,375.871	5,680.793
OT	367.542	416.418	479.446	533.121	579.344	611.558	642.888	669.066	687.195	694.215	2,375.871	5,680.793
920—Allowances:												
BA	25.256	−21.661	−50.890	−60.624	−72.620	−104.010	−119.157	−131.418	−168.306	−204.728	−180.539	−908.158
OT	45.538	−5.856	−40.133	−53.987	−65.480	−98.128	−111.033	−122.924	−160.427	−186.150	−119.918	−798.580
Discretionary:												
BA	−5.395	−29.258	−40.330	−45.080	−53.213	−60.121	−71.330	−81.369	−89.614	−99.341	−173.276	−575.051
OT	14.887	−17.027	−30.665	−38.828	−46.562	−54.135	−63.349	−73.092	−81.982	−91.116	−118.195	−481.869
Mandatory:												
BA	30.651	7.597	−10.560	−15.544	−19.407	−43.889	−47.827	−50.049	−78.692	−105.387	−7.263	−333.107
OT	30.651	11.171	−9.468	−15.159	−18.918	−43.993	−47.684	−49.832	−78.445	−95.034	−1.723	−316.711
950—Undistributed Offsetting Receipts:												
BA	−99.168	−113.627	−121.235	−120.230	−120.280	−124.851	−132.974	−141.599	−152.306	−166.153	−574.540	−1,292.423
OT	−99.168	−113.627	−121.235	−120.230	−120.280	−124.851	−132.974	−141.599	−152.306	−166.153	−574.540	−1,292.423
Discretionary:												
BA												
OT												
Mandatory:												
BA	−99.168	−113.627	−121.235	−120.230	−120.280	−124.851	−132.974	−141.599	−152.306	−166.153	−574.540	−1,292.423
OT	−99.168	−113.627	−121.235	−120.230	−120.280	−124.851	−132.974	−141.599	−152.306	−166.153	−574.540	−1,292.423
950 on-budget:												
BA	−82.548	−96.446	−103.441	−101.796	−101.191	−105.094	−112.536	−120.466	−130.467	−143.591	−485.422	−1,097.576
OT	−82.548	−96.446	−103.441	−101.796	−101.191	−105.094	−112.536	−120.466	−130.467	−143.591	−485.422	−1,097.576
Discretionary:												
BA												
OT												
Mandatory:												
BA	−82.548	−96.446	−103.441	−101.796	−101.191	−105.094	−112.536	−120.466	−130.467	−143.591	−485.422	−1,097.576
OT	−82.548	−96.446	−103.441	−101.796	−101.191	−105.094	−112.536	−120.466	−130.467	−143.591	−485.422	−1,097.576
970—Overseas Contingency Operations/ Global War on Terrorism:												
BA	96.287	64.598	62.593	57.586	49.578	47.569					330.642	378.211
OT	48.798	65.684	63.758	60.653	54.095	50.191	19.493	7.554	2.683	0.892	292.988	373.801
Discretionary:												
BA	96.287	64.598	62.593	57.586	49.578	47.569					330.642	378.211
OT	48.798	65.684	63.758	60.653	54.095	50.191	19.493	7.554	2.683	0.892	292.988	373.801
Mandatory:												
BA												
OT												
Total:												
BA	3,822.396	3,787.432	3,858.052	4,053.256	4,245.074	4,393.404	4,573.100	4,716.054	4,819.487	5,037.868	19,766.210	43,306.123
OT	3,870.597	3,807.959	3,845.860	4,026.756	4,210.237	4,364.602	4,580.919	4,695.216	4,774.454	5,006.223	19,761.409	43,182.823
Discretionary:												
BA	1,119.741	1,084.839	1,096.778	1,113.170	1,127.718	1,147.975	1,132.142	1,150.849	1,170.057	1,188.763	5,542.246	11,332.032
OT	1,205.786	1,166.970	1,148.023	1,157.158	1,167.439	1,181.849	1,180.554	1,176.206	1,179.911	1,199.760	5,845.376	11,763.656
Mandatory:												
BA	2,702.655	2,702.593	2,761.274	2,940.086	3,117.356	3,245.429	3,440.958	3,565.205	3,649.430	3,849.105	14,223.964	31,974.091
OT	2,664.811	2,640.989	2,697.837	2,869.598	3,042.798	3,182.753	3,400.365	3,519.010	3,594.543	3,806.463	13,916.033	31,419.167
Total on-budget:												
BA	3,039.215	2,956.581	2,970.682	3,107.123	3,234.011	3,313.719	3,420.057	3,484.446	3,504.239	3,634.452	15,307.612	32,664.525
OT	3,091.442	2,982.215	2,963.926	3,086.454	3,205.304	3,291.249	3,434.709	3,470.642	3,466.541	3,610.342	15,329.341	32,602.824
Discretionary:												
BA	1,114.466	1,079.266	1,091.021	1,107.226	1,121.581	1,141.642	1,125.603	1,144.104	1,163.099	1,181		

TABLE 6.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE AGREEMENT AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS—Continued

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]												
Function	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
OT .....	1,200.437	1,161.405	1,142.303	1,151.246	1,161.334	1,175.549	1,174.049	1,169.496	1,172.989	1,192.621	5,816.725	11,701.429
Mandatory:												
BA .....	1,924.749	1,877.315	1,879.661	1,999.897	2,112.430	2,172.077	2,294.454	2,340.342	2,341.140	2,452.865	9,794.052	21,394.930
OT .....	1,891.005	1,820.810	1,821.623	1,935.208	2,043.970	2,115.700	2,260.660	2,301.146	2,293.552	2,417.721	9,512.616	20,901.395
Revenues .....	3,470.720	3,602.254	3,729.105	3,874.731	4,034.524	4,211.287	4,395.193	4,596.085	4,806.181	5,030.409	18,711.334	41,750.489
Revenues on-budget .....	2,676.733	2,776.156	2,870.206	2,982.310	3,107.111	3,247.391	3,392.968	3,554.412	3,723.973	3,906.111	14,412.516	32,237.371
Surplus/Deficit (—) .....	–399.877	–205.705	–116.755	–152.025	–175.713	–153.315	–185.726	–99.131	31.727	24.186	–1,050.075	–1,432.334
On-budget .....	–414.709	–206.059	–93.720	–104.144	–98.193	–43.858	–41.741	83.770	257.432	295.769	–916.825	–365.453
Off-budget .....	14.832	0.354	–23.035	–47.881	–77.520	–109.457	–143.985	–182.901	–225.705	–271.583	–133.250	–1,066.881

TABLE 7.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]														
Function	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25	
<b>050—National Defense:</b>														
BA .....	593.277	620.263	544.506	557.744	571.019	585.310	599.627	600.634	615.997	631.771	648.836	2,878.842	5,975.707	
OT .....	590.190	605.189	576.934	558.049	564.685	573.614	586.038	596.103	603.051	611.920	632.992	2,878.471	5,908.575	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	585.833	612.020	536.067	549.071	562.079	576.087	590.096	590.848	605.970	621.469	637.356	2,835.324	5,881.063	
OT .....	582.690	596.886	568.349	549.213	555.646	564.355	576.503	586.322	593.026	601.623	621.580	2,834.449	5,813.503	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	7.444	8.243	8.439	8.673	8.940	9.223	9.531	9.786	10.027	10.302	11.480	43.518	94.644	
OT .....	7.500	8.303	8.585	8.836	9.039	9.259	9.535	9.781	10.025	10.297	11.412	44.022	95.072	
<b>150—International Affairs:</b>														
BA .....	53.012	47.791	41.839	42.802	43.749	44.754	45.276	46.553	47.593	48.681	49.786	220.935	458.824	
OT .....	48.796	48.227	45.656	43.642	42.565	42.437	42.795	43.424	44.153	45.023	45.943	222.527	443.865	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	53.905	48.342	41.853	42.761	43.678	44.650	45.625	46.653	47.678	48.753	49.846	221.284	459.839	
OT .....	50.378	49.522	47.046	45.407	44.430	44.355	44.703	45.134	45.897	46.804	47.763	230.760	461.061	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	−0.893	−0.551	−0.014	0.041	0.071	0.104	−0.349	−0.100	−0.085	−0.072	−0.060	−0.349	−1.015	
OT .....	−1.582	−1.295	−1.390	−1.765	−1.865	−1.918	−1.908	−1.710	−1.744	−1.781	−1.820	−8.233	−17.196	
<b>250—General Science, Space and Technology:</b>														
BA .....	29.803	30.007	30.596	31.286	31.981	32.706	33.433	34.192	34.953	35.745	36.545	156.576	331.444	
OT .....	29.286	30.007	30.529	31.165	31.712	32.400	33.022	33.756	34.512	35.290	36.084	155.813	328.477	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	29.704	29.900	30.496	31.186	31.881	32.606	33.333	34.092	34.853	35.645	36.445	156.069	330.437	
OT .....	29.187	29.902	30.427	31.065	31.612	32.300	32.922	33.656	34.412	35.190	35.984	155.306	327.470	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	0.099	0.107	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.507	1.007	
OT .....	0.099	0.105	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.507	1.007	
<b>270—Energy:</b>														
BA .....	5.369	−1.947	2.483	0.076	0.090	0.128	0.097	0.062	0.036	2.869	2.963	0.830	6.857	
OT .....	5.417	2.365	2.112	−0.731	−0.753	−0.668	−0.543	−0.465	−0.393	2.521	2.655	2.325	6.100	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	4.623	3.123	3.200	3.281	3.360	3.459	3.543	3.628	3.716	3.805	3.892	16.423	35.007	
OT .....	5.439	4.151	3.761	3.494	3.462	3.518	3.556	3.649	3.737	3.825	3.917	18.386	37.070	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	0.746	−5.070	−0.717	−3.205	−3.270	−3.331	−3.446	−3.566	−3.680	−0.936	−0.929	−15.593	−28.150	
OT .....	−0.022	−1.786	−1.649	−4.225	−4.215	−4.186	−4.099	−4.114	−4.130	−1.304	−1.262	−16.061	−30.970	
<b>300—Natural Resources and Environment:</b>														
BA .....	36.003	36.277	36.685	37.680	39.125	41.066	40.951	41.844	43.240	44.125	45.522	190.833	406.515	
OT .....	39.286	38.983	38.866	38.719	39.486	41.098	41.232	41.992	43.467	43.663	44.966	197.152	412.472	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	34.413	34.513	35.402	36.433	37.505	38.583	39.683	40.852	41.995	43.191	44.427	182.436	392.584	
OT .....	37.230	37.203	37.209	37.226	37.829	38.838	39.874	41.004	42.098	42.678	43.856	188.305	397.815	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	1.590	1.764	1.283	1.247	1.620	2.483	1.268	0.992	1.245	0.934	1.095	8.397	13.931	
OT .....	2.056	1.780	1.657	1.493	1.657	2.260	1.358	0.988	1.369	0.985	1.110	8.847	14.657	
<b>350—Agriculture:</b>														
BA .....	17.328	20.628	24.247	23.204	22.083	20.974	21.078	20.914	21.506	21.620	21.834	111.136	218.088	
OT .....	16.587	20.585	23.696	22.471	21.401	20.498	20.613	20.476	21.051	21.125	21.416	108.651	213.332	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	5.923	5.922	6.075	6.252	6.433	6.617	6.801	6.998	7.191	7.398	7.608	31.299	67.295	
OT .....	5.835	5.902	6.027	6.178	6.346	6.528	6.709	6.904	7.095	7.296	7.505	30.981	66.490	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	11.405	14.706	18.172	16.952	15.650	14.357	14.277	13.916	14.315	14.222	14.226	79.837	150.793	
OT .....	10.752	14.683	17.669	16.293	15.055	13.970	13.904	13.572	13.956	13.829	13.911	77.670	146.842	
<b>370—Commerce and Housing Credit:</b>														
BA .....	−18.404	1.948	−4.376	−1.858	−2.211	−1.170	−1.508	−0.296	0.511	1.401	1.969	−7.667	−5.590	
OT .....	−31.249	−11.678	−18.718	−16.688	−22.065	−21.790	−16.821	−17.426	−17.883	−18.298	−18.561	−90.939	−179.928	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	−3.508	−8.065	−10.512	−10.300	−9.018	−6.716	−5.647	−4.314	−3.056	−1.942	−1.252	−44.611	−60.822	
OT .....	−3.493	−7.943	−10.391	−10.273	−9.117	−6.832	−5.768	−4.439	−3.182	−2.075	−1.384	−44.556	−61.404	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	−14.896	10.013	6.136	8.442	6.807	5.546	4.139	4.018	3.567	3.343	3.221	36.944	55.232	
OT .....	−27.756	−3.735	−8.327	−6.415	−12.948	−14.958	−11.053	−12.987	−14.701	−16.223	−17.177	−46.383	−118.524	
<b>370 on-budget:</b>														
BA .....	−16.682	2.260	−3.959	−1.264	−1.316	0.055	−0.075	1.341	2.452	3.648	4.520	−4.224	7.662	
OT .....	−29.527	−11.365	−18.302	−16.095	−21.170	−20.567	−15.388	−15.789	−15.942	−16.051	−16.011	−87.499	−166.680	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	−3.767	−8.332	−10.789	−10.588	−9.317	−7.026	−5.968	−4.648	−3.402	−2.300	−1.623	−46.052	−63.993	
OT .....	−3.752	−8.209	−10.668	−10.561	−9.415	−7.142	−6.088	−4.772	−3.527	−2.432	−1.754	−45.995	−64.568	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	−12.915	10.592	6.830	9.324	8.001	7.081	5.893	5.989	5.854	5.948	6.143	41.828	71.655	
OT .....	−25.775	−3.156	−7.634	−5.534	−11.755	−13.425	−9.300	−11.017	−12.415	−13.619	−14.257	−41.504	−102.112	
<b>400—Transportation:</b>														
BA .....	85.889	71.528	72.392	73.286	74.077	74.826	75.549	76.221	76.840	77.506	78.208	366.109	750.433	
OT .....	91.361	88.436	83.756	80.329	79.437	78.935	78.708	78.973	79.123	79.123	79.426	410.893	806.351	
Discretionary:														
BA .....	31.428	29.118	29.744	30.558	31.396	32.261	33.134	34.033	34.948	34.324	35.246	153.077	324.762	
OT .....	90.181	87.205	82.496	79.055	78.178	77.686	77.469	77.735	77.973	76.290	76.533	404.620	790.620	
Mandatory:														
BA .....	54.461	42.410	42.648	42.728	42.681	42.565	42.415	42.188	41.892	43.182	42.962	213.032	425.671	
OT .....	1.180	1.231	1.260	1.274	1.259	1.249	1.239	1.238	1.255	2.833	2.893	6.273	15.731	
<b>450—Community and Regional Development:</b>														
BA .....	17.051	17.414	18.263	18.606	18.862	18.870	18.771	18.782	18.861	18.975	19.140	92.015	186.544	
OT .....	21.741	22.351	21.002	21.457	22.314	22.547	22.474	21.323	19.747	19.313	19.384	109.671	211.912	

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]

Function	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
Discretionary:													
BA .....	16.766	16.250	16.715	16.946	17.174	17.420	17.678	17.939	18.205	18.479	18.750	84.505	175.556
OT .....	21.812	20.956	19.622	19.331	19.852	19.980	19.974	18.566	17.964	18.225	18.501	84.505	192.971
Mandatory:													
BA .....	0.285	1.164	1.548	1.660	1.688	1.450	1.093	0.843	0.656	0.496	0.390	7.510	10.988
OT .....	−0.071	1.395	1.380	2.126	2.462	2.567	2.500	2.757	1.783	1.088	0.883	9.930	18.941
500—Education, Training, Employment:													
BA .....	91.688	86.251	87.848	90.703	89.535	91.991	93.353	94.970	96.575	98.439	100.362	446.328	930.027
OT .....	97.522	95.717	92.889	90.534	88.889	91.556	93.315	94.734	96.383	98.178	100.129	459.585	942.324
Discretionary:													
BA .....	91.783	91.399	93.004	94.915	96.838	98.851	100.872	102.975	105.077	107.271	109.472	475.007	1,000.674
OT .....	89.553	94.971	95.932	93.394	95.162	97.067	99.030	101.033	103.113	105.235	107.414	476.526	992.351
Mandatory:													
BA .....	−0.095	−5.148	−5.156	−4.212	−7.303	−6.860	−7.519	−8.005	−8.502	−8.832	−9.110	−28.679	−70.647
OT .....	7.969	0.746	−3.043	−2.860	−6.273	−5.511	−5.715	−6.299	−6.730	−7.057	−7.285	−16.941	−50.027
550—Health:													
BA .....	483.912	414.351	385.565	388.629	402.511	425.526	433.351	452.426	471.644	489.491	512.965	2,016.582	4,376.459
OT .....	476.985	424.736	389.710	390.503	403.324	415.791	433.395	452.523	471.719	489.587	513.163	2,024.064	4,384.451
Discretionary:													
BA .....	59.474	57.751	58.920	60.297	61.690	63.145	64.602	66.127	67.650	69.241	70.842	301.803	640.265
OT .....	57.073	58.434	58.958	59.792	60.302	61.592	62.827	64.296	65.794	67.331	68.903	299.078	628.229
Mandatory:													
BA .....	424.438	356.600	326.645	328.332	340.821	362.381	368.749	386.299	403.994	420.250	442.123	1,714.779	3,736.194
OT .....	419.912	366.302	330.752	330.711	343.022	354.199	370.568	388.227	405.925	422.256	444.260	1,724.986	3,756.222
570—Medicare:													
BA .....	529.733	567.213	562.941	562.143	619.228	657.658	698.284	776.034	787.879	797.075	902.467	2,969.183	6,930.922
OT .....	529.281	567.122	562.881	562.102	619.148	657.564	698.188	775.930	787.681	796.964	902.349	2,968.817	6,929.929
Discretionary:													
BA .....	6.618	6.605	6.994	7.424	7.888	8.368	8.875	9.412	9.967	10.547	11.145	37.279	87.225
OT .....	6.506	6.556	6.969	7.356	7.814	8.291	8.794	9.326	9.878	10.456	11.047	36.986	86.487
Mandatory:													
BA .....	523.115	560.608	555.947	554.719	611.340	649.290	689.409	766.622	777.912	786.528	891.322	2,931.904	6,843.697
OT .....	522.775	560.566	555.912	554.746	611.334	649.273	689.394	766.604	777.803	786.508	891.302	2,931.831	6,843.442
600—Income Security:													
BA .....	517.037	529.494	458.455	466.015	460.943	471.826	481.804	493.877	502.550	512.932	521.641	2,386.733	4,899.537
OT .....	512.945	528.778	455.293	458.848	457.388	467.468	477.132	493.223	498.468	504.310	517.044	2,367.775	4,857.952
Discretionary:													
BA .....	64.786	65.057	60.403	59.887	58.087	59.130	60.255	62.519	62.539	62.520	62.051	302.564	612.448
OT .....	65.111	65.371	61.746	61.803	60.204	59.861	60.057	61.269	62.579	63.463	63.242	308.985	619.595
Mandatory:													
BA .....	452.251	464.437	398.052	406.128	402.856	412.696	421.549	431.358	440.011	450.412	459.590	2,084.169	4,287.089
OT .....	447.834	463.407	393.547	397.045	397.184	407.607	417.075	431.954	435.889	440.847	453.802	2,058.790	4,238.357
650—Social Security:													
BA .....	891.618	929.956	981.220	1042.467	1107.220	1176.924	1249.477	1325.445	1405.708	1489.969	1577.505	5,237.787	12,285.891
OT .....	888.420	925.860	976.135	1037.038	1101.489	1170.893	1243.245	1318.712	1398.674	1482.735	1570.570	5,211.415	12,225.351
Discretionary:													
BA .....	5.555	5.026	5.175	5.345	5.518	5.699	5.881	6.072	6.266	6.462	6.665	26.763	58.109
OT .....	5.557	5.130	5.190	5.316	5.487	5.668	5.849	6.039	6.232	6.428	6.630	26.791	57.969
Mandatory:													
BA .....	886.063	924.930	976.045	1037.122	1101.702	1171.225	1243.596	1319.373	1399.442	1483.507	1570.840	5,211.024	12,227.782
OT .....	882.863	920.730	970.945	1031.722	1096.002	1165.225	1237.396	1312.673	1392.442	1476.307	1563.940	5,184.624	12,167.382
650 on-budget:													
BA .....	31.554	33.878	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.558	486.569
OT .....	31.662	33.919	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.599	486.610
Discretionary:													
BA .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OT .....	0.108	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.041
Mandatory:													
BA .....	31.554	33.878	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.558	486.569
OT .....	31.554	33.878	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751	198.558	486.569
700—Veterans Benefits and Services:													
BA .....	153.408	166.708	164.905	163.101	174.989	179.899	184.172	196.530	193.156	189.999	203.895	849.602	1,817.354
OT .....	162.804	170.152	164.449	162.477	174.175	178.942	183.222	195.502	192.124	188.884	202.761	850.195	1,812.688
Discretionary:													
BA .....	65.346	68.602	70.540	72.735	74.992	77.320	79.678	82.135	84.626	87.179	89.826	364.189	787.633
OT .....	64.235	68.316	69.857	72.097	74.198	76.474	78.841	81.279	83.723	86.267	88.853	360.942	779.905
Mandatory:													
BA .....	88.062	98.106	94.365	90.366	99.997	102.579	104.494	114.395	108.530	102.820	114.069	485.413	1,029.721
OT .....	98.569	101.836	94.592	90.380	99.977	102.468	104.381	114.223	108.401	102.617	113.908	489.253	1,032.783
750—Administration of Justice:													
BA .....	54.819	52.543	57.030	56.787	58.512	60.284	62.239	64.815	66.745	68.717	70.550	285.156	618.222
OT .....	55.088	56.757	58.576	57.929	57.973	59.888	61.690	64.224	66.238	68.091	69.922	291.123	621.288
Discretionary:													
BA .....	51.027	51.326	54.142	55.914	57.747	59.633	61.546	63.539	65.560	67.630	69.566	278.762	606.603
OT .....	50.542	51.999	53.623	55.353	57.179	58.946	61.010	62.988	64.995	67.050	68.999	277.100	602.142
Mandatory:													
BA .....	3.792	1.217	2.888	0.873	0.765	0.651	0.693	1.276	1.185	1.087	0.984	6.394	11.619
OT .....	4.546	4.758	4.953	2.576	0.794	0.942	0.680	1.236	1.243	1.041	0.923	14.023	19.146
800—General Government:													
BA .....	23.264	23.755	24.046	24.755	25.485	26.202	26.958	27.766	28.493	29.022	29.809	124.243	266.291
OT .....	23.510	23.708	23.958	24.573	25.089	25.782	26.551	27.375	28.114	28.671	29.399	123.110	263.220
Discretionary:													
BA .....	16.462	17.192	17.730	18.341	18.974	19.618	20.274	20.961	21.655	22.367	23.101	91.855	200.213
OT .....	16.784	17.149	17.651	18.210	18.580	19.200	19.847	20.522	21.205	21.903	22.629	90.790	196.896
Mandatory:													
BA .....	6.802	6.563	6.316	6.414	6.511	6.584	6.684	6.805	6.838	6.655	6.708	32.388	66.078
OT .....	6.726	6.559	6.307	6.363	6.509	6.582	6.704	6.853	6.909	6.768	6.770	32.320	66.324
900—Net Interest:													
BA .....	226.651	274.379	323.732	386.693	438.770	486.122	520.025	552.341	580.201	603.687	622.119	1,909.696	4,788.069
OT .....	226.651	274.379	323.732	386.693	438.770	486.122	520.025	552.341	580.201	603.687	622.119	1,909.696	4,788.069
Discretionary:													
BA .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OT .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mandatory:													
BA .....	226.651	274.379	323.732	386.693	438.770	486.122	520.025	552.341	580.201	603.687	622.119	1,909.696	4,788.069
OT .....	226.651	274.379	323.732	386.693	438.770	486.122	520.025	552.341	580.201	603.687	622.119	1,909.696	4,788.069
90													

TABLE 7.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION AS PASSED BY THE SENATE—Continued

[Fiscal year, \$ billions]

Function	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–20	2016–25
<b>920—Allowances:</b>													
OT .....	323.951	366.579	415.132	478.693	532.670	580.522	614.725	645.841	671.301	690.987	703.419	2,373.596	5,699.869
BA .....	—0.021	—12.322	12.975	—10.750	—15.199	—46.590	—54.803	—98.454	—112.036	—90.119	—250.580	—71.886	—677.878
OT .....	—0.011	—5.571	2.923	—14.755	—16.838	—44.799	—51.787	—80.798	—101.438	—83.225	—234.419	—79.040	—630.707
Discretionary:													
BA .....	—0.021	—15.155	8.461	5.677	4.428	—1.149	—6.600	—45.393	—55.229	—63.761	—72.999	2.262	—241.720
OT .....	—0.011	—11.461	—3.112	1.097	2.626	0.429	—3.224	—27.583	—44.414	—56.657	—66.541	—10.421	—208.840
Mandatory:													
BA .....	0.000	2.833	4.514	—16.427	—19.627	—45.441	—48.203	—53.061	—56.807	—26.358	—177.581	—74.148	—436.158
OT .....	0.000	5.890	6.035	—15.852	—19.464	—45.228	—48.563	—53.215	—57.024	—26.568	—167.878	—68.619	—421.867
<b>950—Undistributed Offsetting Re-</b>													
<b>ceipts:</b>													
BA .....	—128.564	—86.017	—95.444	—102.025	—101.613	—102.666	—106.530	—112.775	—120.779	—130.843	—143.932	—487.765	—1,102.624
OT .....	—128.564	—86.028	—95.459	—102.044	—101.634	—102.689	—106.555	—112.800	—120.805	—130.869	—143.959	—487.854	—1,102.842
Discretionary:													
BA .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OT .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mandatory:													
BA .....	—128.564	—86.017	—95.444	—102.025	—101.613	—102.666	—106.530	—112.775	—120.779	—130.843	—143.932	—487.765	—1,102.624
OT .....	—128.564	—86.028	—95.459	—102.044	—101.634	—102.689	—106.555	—112.800	—120.805	—130.869	—143.959	—487.854	—1,102.842
<b>950 on-budget:</b>													
BA .....	—112.410	—69.397	—78.263	—84.231	—83.179	—83.577	—86.773	—92.337	—99.646	—109.004	—121.370	—398.647	—907.777
OT .....	—112.410	—69.408	—78.278	—84.250	—83.200	—83.600	—86.798	—92.362	—99.672	—109.030	—121.397	—398.736	—907.995
Discretionary:													
BA .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OT .....	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mandatory:													
BA .....	—112.410	—69.397	—78.263	—84.231	—83.179	—83.577	—86.773	—92.337	—99.646	—109.004	—121.370	—398.647	—907.777
OT .....	—112.410	—69.408	—78.278	—84.250	—83.200	—83.600	—86.798	—92.362	—99.672	—109.030	—121.397	—398.736	—907.995
<b>Total:</b>													
BA .....	3,662.873	3,790.220	3,729.908	3,851.344	4,059.156	4,244.640	4,421.604	4,611.881	4,759.673	4,941.062	5,051.604	19,675.268	43,461.092
OT .....	3,656.046	3,820.075	3,758.920	3,832.311	4,026.555	4,195.589	4,385.939	4,599.122	4,724.292	4,886.693	5,013.383	19,633.450	43,242.879
Discretionary:													
BA .....	1,120.117	1,118.926	1,064.409	1,086.723	1,110.650	1,135.582	1,159.629	1,139.076	1,159.611	1,180.578	1,201.987	5,516.290	11,357.171
OT .....	1,174.609	1,180.249	1,151.360	1,135.114	1,149.790	1,168.256	1,188.973	1,187.700	1,192.125	1,201.332	1,225.431	5,784.769	11,780.330
Mandatory:													
BA .....	2,542.756	2,671.294	2,665.499	2,764.621	2,948.506	3,109.058	3,261.975	3,472.805	3,600.062	3,760.484	3,849.617	14,158.978	32,103.921
OT .....	2,481.437	2,639.826	2,607.560	2,697.197	2,876.765	3,027.333	3,196.966	3,411.422	3,532.167	3,685.361	3,787.952	13,848.681	31,462.549
<b>Total on-budget:</b>													
BA .....	2,917.985	3,003.274	2,894.221	2,958.672	3,107.799	3,228.534	3,337.729	3,455.558	3,525.594	3,624.025	3,646.263	15,192.500	32,781.669
OT .....	2,914.464	3,037.267	2,928.317	2,945.067	3,080.929	3,185.512	3,308.296	3,449.532	3,497.247	3,576.890	3,614.976	15,177.092	32,624.033
Discretionary:													
BA .....	1,114.303	1,113.633	1,058.957	1,081.090	1,104.833	1,129.573	1,153.427	1,132.670	1,152.999	1,173.758	1,194.951	5,488.086	11,295.891
OT .....	1,168.901	1,174.894	1,145.893	1,129.510	1,144.005	1,162.278	1,182.804	1,181.328	1,185.548	1,194.547	1,218.431	5,756.580	11,719.238
Mandatory:													
BA .....	1,803.682	1,889.641	1,835.264	1,877.582	2,002.966	2,098.961	2,184.302	2,322.888	2,372.595	2,450.267	2,451.312	9,704.414	21,485.778
OT .....	1,745.563	1,862.373	1,782.424	1,815.557	1,936.924	2,023.234	2,125.492	2,268.204	2,311.699	2,382.343	2,396.545	9,420.512	20,904.795
Revenues .....	3,188.539	3,459.531	3,587.670	3,715.285	3,864.756	4,025.170	4,204.151	4,389.325	4,590.782	4,803.620	5,029.396	18,652.412	41,669.686
<b>Revenues on-budget</b> .....	2,425.883	2,666.755	2,763.328	2,858.131	2,974.147	3,099.410	3,241.963	3,388.688	3,550.388	3,722.144	3,905.648	14,361.771	32,170.602
Surplus/Deficit (—) .....	—467.507	—360.544	—171.250	—117.026	—161.799	—170.419	—181.788	—209.797	—133.510	—83.073	16.013	—981.038	—1,573.193
On-budget .....	—488.581	—370.512	—164.989	—86.936	—106.782	—86.102	—66.333	—60.844	53.141	145.254	290.672	—815.321	—453.431
Off-budget .....	21.074	9.968	6.261	—30.090	—55.017	—84.317	—115.455	—148.953	—186.651	—228.327	—274.659	—165.717	—1,119.762

TABLE 8.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION TOTAL SPENDING AND REVENUE, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–2020	2016–2025
SUMMARY												
Total spending:												
BA .....	3,720,708	3,706,440	3,833,169	4,038,671	4,260,329	4,407,830	4,615,122	4,758,942	4,899,220	5,116,195	19,559,316	43,356,626
OT .....	3,789,766	3,721,791	3,810,949	4,004,105	4,211,731	4,372,536	4,597,890	4,720,746	4,843,916	5,079,217	19,538,341	43,152,645
On-budget:												
BA .....	2,936,989	2,874,003	2,944,067	3,091,104	3,248,181	3,328,045	3,463,044	3,529,161	3,586,560	3,715,369	15,094,345	32,716,524
OT .....	3,010,185	2,894,439	2,927,276	3,062,270	3,205,614	3,298,984	3,452,546	3,497,999	3,538,491	3,685,327	15,099,785	32,573,131
Off-budget:												
BA .....	783,719	832,437	889,101	947,567	1,012,148	1,079,785	1,152,078	1,229,781	1,312,660	1,400,826	4,464,971	10,640,102
OT .....	779,581	827,352	883,672	941,835	1,006,117	1,073,552	1,145,344	1,222,746	1,305,425	1,393,890	4,438,556	10,579,514
Revenues:												
Total .....	3,459,531	3,587,670	3,715,285	3,864,756	4,025,170	4,204,151	4,389,325	4,590,782	4,803,620	5,029,396	18,652,412	41,669,686
On-budget .....	2,666,755	2,763,328	2,858,131	2,974,147	3,099,410	3,241,963	3,388,688	3,550,388	3,722,144	3,905,648	14,361,771	32,170,602
Off-budget .....	792,776	824,342	857,154	890,609	925,760	962,188	1,000,637	1,040,394	1,081,476	1,123,748	4,290,641	9,499,084
Recommended Change in Revenues:												
Total .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
On-budget .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off-budget .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/Deficit (–):												
Total .....	–346,693	–152,211	–95,372	–139,326	–187,244	–169,288	–185,412	–105,526	12,408	32,791	–920,846	–1,335,873
Macroeconomic Fiscal Impact .....	–16,458	–18,090	291	22	–683	–903	23,153	24,437	52,704	82,611	–34,917	147,086
On-budget .....	–343,430	–131,111	–69,145	–88,123	–106,204	–57,021	–63,858	52,389	183,653	220,321	–738,014	–402,529
Off-budget .....	13,195	–3,010	–26,518	–51,226	–80,357	–111,364	–144,707	–182,352	–223,949	–270,142	–147,915	–1,080,430
Debt Held by the Public (end of year) .....	13,839,152	14,041,709	14,146,945	14,340,084	14,562,210	14,744,287	15,130,369	15,302,457	15,164,550	15,237,647	.....	.....
Debt Subject to Limit (end of year) .....	19,048,915	19,395,251	19,643,341	19,949,858	20,263,382	20,507,829	20,908,840	21,078,135	20,918,559	20,907,169	.....	.....
BY FUNCTION												
National Defense (050):												
BA .....	531,334	582,506	607,744	620,019	632,310	644,627	657,634	670,997	683,771	698,836	2,973,913	6,329,778
OT .....	564,027	572,025	586,422	604,238	617,553	630,610	648,269	656,389	663,936	683,350	2,944,265	6,226,819
International Affairs (150):												
BA .....	38,342	39,623	40,539	41,437	42,390	42,861	44,081	45,070	46,098	47,148	202,331	427,589
OT .....	42,923	40,821	39,736	39,214	39,564	40,108	40,868	41,633	42,470	43,349	202,258	410,686
General Science, Space and Technology (250):												
BA .....	28,381	28,932	29,579	30,227	30,904	31,584	32,293	33,003	33,742	34,488	148,023	313,132
OT .....	29,003	28,924	29,357	29,798	30,388	30,957	31,637	32,338	33,059	33,795	147,471	309,257
Energy (270):												
BA .....	–3,581	1,410	1,189	1,196	1,259	1,309	1,335	1,375	1,332	–964	1,473	5,860
OT .....	654	649	234	307	472	728	863	1,000	1,037	–1,215	2,316	4,729
Natural Resources & Environment (300):												
BA .....	35,350	36,047	36,385	37,206	38,171	38,367	39,221	40,108	40,962	39,095	183,159	380,912

TABLE 8.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION TOTAL SPENDING AND REVENUE, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE—Continued

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016– 2020	2016– 2025
OT .....	38,113	38,268	37,674	37,747	38,304	38,685	39,361	40,319	40,486	38,471	190,105	387,427
Agriculture (350):												
BA .....	20,109	23,064	21,987	20,907	19,835	19,296	19,245	19,821	20,020	20,256	105,901	204,538
OT .....	21,164	23,194	21,396	20,275	19,386	18,849	18,830	19,391	19,553	19,851	105,416	201,891
Commerce & Housing Credit (370):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	– 3,269	– 12,373	– 10,252	– 8,801	– 6,903	– 6,522	– 5,742	– 4,965	– 3,991	– 3,370	– 41,598	– 66,189
OT .....	– 16,617	– 26,620	– 24,998	– 28,587	– 27,479	– 21,769	– 22,819	– 23,306	– 23,635	– 23,845	– 124,301	– 239,674
Off-budget:												
BA .....	– 3,487	– 3,347	– 3,409	– 3,619	– 3,822	– 3,886	– 3,928	– 3,972	– 4,016	– 4,159	– 17,684	– 37,645
OT .....	– 3,488	– 3,347	– 3,409	– 3,620	– 3,822	– 3,887	– 3,929	– 3,973	– 4,017	– 4,160	– 17,686	– 37,652
Transportation (400):												
BA .....	36,743	69,381	70,298	76,397	77,763	79,149	80,613	82,128	83,709	85,335	330,582	741,516
OT .....	79,181	69,500	73,623	76,051	76,767	78,369	79,946	81,336	82,724	83,983	375,122	781,481
Community & Regional Development (450):												
BA .....	7,082	7,688	8,089	8,381	8,409	8,305	8,304	8,359	8,447	8,579	39,649	81,641
OT .....	19,928	16,753	15,383	13,789	12,567	12,095	10,937	9,345	8,890	8,930	78,420	128,617
Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):												
BA .....	80,620	84,746	87,029	85,514	87,901	88,908	90,148	91,237	92,744	94,400	425,810	883,247
OT .....	90,389	90,513	87,366	85,290	87,669	89,276	90,467	91,646	93,101	94,734	441,227	900,451
Health (550):												
BA .....	416,475	360,678	358,594	367,103	387,076	388,981	398,136	408,454	425,381	433,945	1,889,926	3,944,823
OT .....	426,860	364,823	360,468	367,916	377,341	389,025	398,233	408,529	425,477	434,143	1,897,408	3,952,815
Medicare (570):												
BA .....	577,726	580,837	580,782	639,293	680,575	726,644	808,204	825,577	834,148	927,410	3,059,213	7,181,196
OT .....	577,635	580,777	580,741	639,213	680,481	726,548	808,100	825,379	834,037	927,292	3,058,847	7,180,203
Income Security (600):												
BA .....	512,364	479,836	481,994	483,293	516,193	502,001	518,690	525,230	532,515	550,057	2,473,680	5,102,173
OT .....	513,709	475,234	471,951	477,470	510,603	496,856	518,542	519,391	521,105	543,361	2,448,967	5,048,222
Social Security (650):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	33,878	36,535	39,407	42,634	46,104	49,712	53,547	57,455	61,546	65,751	198,558	486,569
OT .....	33,919	36,535	39,407	42,634	46,104	49,712	53,547	57,455	61,546	65,751	198,599	486,610
Off-budget:												
BA .....	896,078	944,535	1,002,680	1,064,126	1,130,310	1,199,245	1,271,338	1,347,673	1,427,813	1,511,114	5,037,729	11,794,912
OT .....	891,941	939,450	997,251	1,058,395	1,124,279	1,193,013	1,264,605	1,340,639	1,420,579	1,504,179	5,011,316	11,734,331
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):												
BA .....	166,677	164,843	163,009	174,862	179,735	183,969	196,283	192,866	189,668	203,517	849,126	1,815,429
OT .....	170,121	164,387	162,385	174,048	178,778	183,019	195,255	191,834	188,553	202,383	849,719	1,810,763
Administration of Justice (750):												
BA .....	52,156	55,540	55,169	56,584	58,585	60,498	63,032	64,917	66,844	68,632	278,214	602,137
OT .....	56,006	57,547	56,659	56,572	58,392	59,992	62,485	64,355	66,264	68,051	285,177	606,325
General Government (800):												
BA .....	23,593	22,761	22,817	23,252	23,947	24,192	24,981	25,695	26,010	26,968	116,370	244,216
OT .....	23,576	23,202	23,279	23,084	23,602	24,309	25,114	25,840	25,878	26,825	116,743	244,709
Net Interest (900):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	366,542	414,802	477,785	531,097	578,726	612,198	642,470	667,176	684,394	696,025	2,368,952	5,671,217
OT .....	366,542	414,802	477,785	531,097	578,726	612,198	642,470	667,176	684,394	696,025	2,368,952	5,671,217
Off-budget:												
BA .....	– 92,252	– 91,570	– 92,376	– 94,506	– 95,251	– 95,817	– 94,894	– 92,787	– 89,298	– 83,567	– 465,956	– 922,318
OT .....	– 92,252	– 91,570	– 92,376	– 94,506	– 95,251	– 95,817	– 94,894	– 92,787	– 89,298	– 83,567	– 465,956	– 922,318
Allowances (920):												
BA .....	– 33,462	– 29,863	– 32,175	– 34,261	– 39,009	– 42,221	– 46,013	– 49,123	– 50,652	– 48,913	– 168,770	– 405,692
OT .....	– 17,275	– 24,277	– 28,249	– 31,078	– 35,136	– 38,438	– 42,205	– 45,430	– 47,736	– 48,058	– 136,015	– 357,882
Government-Wide Savings (930):												
BA .....	27,465	– 15,712	– 32,429	– 41,554	– 50,240	– 55,831	– 63,954	– 71,850	– 78,889	– 113,903	– 112,470	– 496,897
OT .....	18,416	– 3,005	– 20,148	– 32,383	– 42,168	– 50,276	– 57,849	– 65,124	– 71,689	– 93,929	– 79,288	– 418,155
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	– 73,514	– 83,832	– 90,115	– 90,594	– 92,193	– 96,623	– 99,437	– 104,343	– 111,213	– 117,896	– 430,248	– 959,760
OT .....	– 73,514	– 83,832	– 90,115	– 90,594	– 92,193	– 96,623	– 99,437	– 104,343	– 111,213	– 117,896	– 430,248	– 959,760
Off-budget:												
BA .....	– 16,620	– 17,181	– 17,794	– 18,434	– 19,089	– 19,757	– 20,438	– 21,133	– 21,839	– 22,562	– 89,118	– 194,847
OT .....	– 16,620	– 17,181	– 17,794	– 18,434	– 19,089	– 19,757	– 20,438	– 21,133	– 21,839	– 22,562	– 89,118	– 194,847
Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970):												
BA .....	96,000	26,666	26,666	26,666	26,666	26,666	0	0	0	0	202,664	229,330
OT .....	45,442	34,238	26,940	26,191	25,916	24,776	9,956	2,869	278	0	158,727	196,606
Across the Board Adjustment (990):												
BA .....	– 21	– 22	– 23	– 23	– 24	– 24	– 25	– 26	– 26	– 27	– 113	– 241
OT .....	– 17	– 20	– 21	– 22	– 23	– 23	– 24	– 25	– 25	– 26	– 103	– 226

## Notes:

1. Only on-budget amounts for fiscal years 2016–2025 are entered into the budget resolution legislative text. Off-budget amounts are shown for display purposes only.

2. The Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office do not separately track outlays for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) once funds have been appropriated. The budget, therefore, shows in function 970 GWOT outlays that result from new budget authority occurring in fiscal years 2016–2025 only. Outlays resulting from GWOT activity prior to fiscal year 2016 are included in budget functions 050 and 150.

TABLE 9.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION DISCRETIONARY SPENDING, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016– 2020	2016– 2025
<b>SUMMARY</b>												
Total spending:												
BA .....	1,112,582	1,060,530	1,078,106	1,095,980	1,114,158	1,132,646	1,124,781	1,143,903	1,163,349	1,183,126	5,461,356	11,209,161
OT .....	1,173,418	1,127,581	1,118,039	1,132,445	1,147,476	1,163,133	1,170,379	1,176,793	1,187,230	1,211,974	5,698,959	11,608,469
Base Defense (050):												
BA .....	523,091	574,067	599,071	611,079	623,087	635,096	647,848	660,970	673,469	687,356	2,930,395	6,235,134
OT .....	555,724	563,440	577,586	595,199	608,294	621,075	638,488	646,364	653,639	671,938	2,900,243	6,131,747
Base Non Defense:												
BA .....	493,491	459,797	452,369	458,235	464,405	470,884	476,933	482,933	489,880	495,770	2,328,297	4,744,697
OT .....	572,252	529,904	513,512	511,055	513,267	517,282	521,936	527,560	533,314	540,036	2,639,989	5,280,116
<b>BY FUNCTION</b>												
National Defense (050):												
BA .....	523,091	574,067	599,071	611,079	623,087	635,096	647,848	660,970	673,469	687,356	2,930,395	6,235,134
OT .....	555,724	563,440	577,586	595,199	608,294	621,075	638,488	646,364	653,639	671,938	2,900,243	6,131,747
International Affairs (150):												
BA .....	38,893	39,637	40,498	41,366	42,286	43,210	44,181	45,155	46,170	47,208	202,680	428,604

TABLE 9.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION DISCRETIONARY SPENDING, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE—Continued

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016– 2020	2016– 2025
OT .....	44,218	42,211	41,501	41,079	41,482	42,016	42,578	43,377	44,251	45,169	210,491	427,882
General Science, Space and Technology (250):												
BA .....	28,274	28,832	29,479	30,127	30,804	31,484	32,193	32,903	33,642	34,388	147,516	312,125
OT .....	28,898	28,822	29,257	29,698	30,288	30,857	31,537	32,238	32,959	33,695	146,964	308,250
Energy (270):												
BA .....	2,054	2,110	2,169	2,221	2,295	2,350	2,411	2,470	2,533	2,590	10,849	23,203
OT .....	2,435	2,284	2,243	2,290	2,375	2,433	2,498	2,561	2,622	2,688	11,627	24,429
Natural Resources & Environment (300):												
BA .....	34,366	35,256	36,284	37,357	38,429	39,524	40,692	41,831	43,025	44,260	181,693	391,024
OT .....	36,796	36,971	37,048	37,666	38,669	39,700	40,828	41,918	42,496	43,672	187,151	395,764
Agriculture (350):												
BA .....	6,073	6,229	6,409	6,593	6,781	6,968	7,169	7,365	7,576	7,790	32,085	68,953
OT .....	5,979	6,141	6,324	6,504	6,689	6,873	7,072	7,266	7,471	7,684	31,637	68,003
Commerce & Housing Credit (370):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	–13,410	–16,367	–16,546	–15,510	–13,141	–12,370	–11,196	–10,054	–9,054	–8,478	–74,974	–126,127
OT .....	–13,067	–16,159	–16,462	–15,566	–13,227	–12,459	–11,287	–10,146	–9,152	–8,575	–74,481	–126,099
Off-budget:												
BA .....	267	277	288	299	310	321	334	346	358	371	1,441	3,171
OT .....	266	277	288	298	310	320	333	345	357	370	1,439	3,164
Transportation (400):												
BA .....	31,049	31,800	32,656	33,535	34,444	35,360	36,304	37,264	38,688	37,656	163,484	346,756
OT .....	78,107	68,491	72,712	75,345	76,185	77,851	79,470	80,868	80,694	81,906	370,840	771,629
Community & Regional Development (450):												
BA .....	6,958	7,045	7,199	7,348	7,509	7,682	7,856	8,033	8,216	8,394	36,059	76,238
OT .....	19,577	16,283	14,037	11,996	10,565	10,081	8,591	7,908	8,083	8,268	72,458	115,389
Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):												
BA .....	88,248	92,897	94,491	96,297	98,241	100,227	102,273	104,164	106,241	108,321	470,174	991,400
OT .....	91,356	96,048	93,128	94,795	96,633	98,594	100,539	102,404	104,413	106,434	471,960	984,344
Health (550):												
BA .....	57,726	58,920	60,297	61,690	63,145	64,602	66,127	67,650	69,241	70,842	301,778	640,240
OT .....	58,409	58,958	59,792	60,302	61,592	62,827	64,296	65,794	67,331	68,903	299,053	628,204
Medicare (570):												
BA .....	6,605	6,994	7,424	7,888	8,368	8,875	9,412	9,967	10,547	11,145	37,279	87,225
OT .....	6,556	6,969	7,356	7,814	8,291	8,794	9,326	9,878	10,456	11,047	36,986	86,487
Income Security (600):												
BA .....	61,414	62,035	62,909	63,908	65,548	67,096	68,664	70,242	71,806	73,260	315,814	666,882
OT .....	63,626	62,685	62,928	63,555	64,825	66,229	67,708	69,218	70,758	72,174	317,619	663,706
Social Security (650):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OT .....	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	41
Off-budget:												
BA .....	5,026	5,175	5,345	5,518	5,699	5,881	6,072	6,266	6,462	6,665	26,763	58,109
OT .....	5,089	5,190	5,316	5,487	5,668	5,849	6,039	6,232	6,428	6,630	26,750	57,928
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):												
BA .....	68,602	70,540	72,735	74,992	77,320	79,678	82,135	84,626	87,179	89,826	364,189	787,633
OT .....	68,316	69,857	72,097	74,198	76,474	78,841	81,279	83,723	86,267	88,853	360,942	779,905
Administration of Justice (750):												
BA .....	51,019	52,562	54,296	56,089	57,934	59,805	61,756	63,732	65,757	67,848	271,900	590,598
OT .....	51,279	52,625	54,091	55,778	57,450	59,312	61,249	63,212	65,223	67,128	271,224	587,349
General Government (800):												
BA .....	16,724	16,134	16,093	16,433	17,057	17,202	17,874	18,556	19,054	19,726	82,441	174,853
OT .....	16,682	16,555	16,578	16,239	16,689	17,275	17,935	18,608	18,790	19,504	82,743	174,855
Allowances (920):												
BA .....	–27,758	–27,069	–29,787	–31,883	–36,240	–40,404	–43,857	–46,986	–48,549	–50,852	–152,737	–383,385
OT .....	–14,628	–22,704	–26,536	–29,263	–33,180	–36,961	–40,595	–43,876	–46,223	–48,425	–126,311	–342,391
Government-Wide Savings (930):												
BA .....	31,382	–13,188	–29,847	–36,010	–42,360	–46,582	–53,441	–60,571	–66,986	–74,962	–90,023	–392,565
OT .....	22,333	–1,581	–18,166	–27,139	–34,488	–41,127	–47,436	–53,945	–59,886	–67,063	–59,041	–328,498
Overseas Contingency Operations/Glob- al War on Terrorism (970):												
BA .....	96,000	26,666	26,666	26,666	26,666	26,666	0	0	0	0	202,664	229,330
OT .....	45,442	34,238	26,940	26,191	25,916	24,776	9,956	2,869	278	0	158,727	196,606
Across the Board Adjustment (990):												
BA .....	–21	–22	–23	–23	–24	–24	–25	–26	–26	–27	–113	–241
OT .....	–17	–20	–21	–22	–23	–23	–24	–25	–25	–26	–103	–226

TABLE 10.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION MANDATORY SPENDING, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016– 2020	2016– 2025
<b>SUMMARY</b>												
Total spending:												
BA .....	2,608,126	2,645,910	2,755,063	2,942,691	3,146,170	3,275,184	3,490,341	3,615,039	3,735,871	3,933,069	14,097,960	32,147,465
OT .....	2,616,348	2,594,209	2,692,910	2,871,660	3,064,255	3,209,403	3,427,511	3,543,953	3,656,685	3,867,242	13,839,382	31,544,176
On-budget:												
BA .....	1,829,700	1,818,925	1,871,595	2,000,941	2,140,031	2,201,601	2,344,669	2,391,870	2,430,031	2,539,279	9,661,193	21,568,643
OT .....	1,842,122	1,772,325	1,814,842	1,935,610	2,064,116	2,142,020	2,288,539	2,327,784	2,358,045	2,480,352	9,429,015	21,025,754
Off-budget:												
BA .....	778,426	826,985	883,468	941,750	1,006,139	1,073,583	1,145,672	1,223,169	1,305,840	1,393,790	4,436,767	10,578,822
OT .....	774,226	821,885	878,068	936,050	1,000,139	1,067,383	1,138,972	1,216,169	1,298,640	1,386,890	4,410,367	10,518,422
<b>BY FUNCTION</b>												
National Defense (050):												
BA .....	8,243	8,439	8,673	8,940	9,223	9,531	9,786	10,027	10,302	11,480	43,518	94,644
OT .....	8,303	8,585	8,836	9,039	9,259	9,535	9,781	10,025	10,297	11,412	44,022	95,072
International Affairs (150):												
BA .....	–551	–14	41	71	104	–349	–100	–85	–72	–60	–349	–1,015
OT .....	–1,295	–1,390	–1,765	–1,865	–1,918	–1,908	–1,710	–1,744	–1,781	–1,820	–8,233	–17,196
General Science, Space and Technology (250):												
BA .....	107	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	507	1,007
OT .....	105	102	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	507	1,007
Energy (270):												
BA .....	–5,635	–700	–980	–1,025	–1,036	–1,041	–1,076	–1,095	–1,201	–3,554	–9,376	–17,343
OT .....	–1,781	–1,635	–2,009	–1,983	–1,903	–1,705	–1,635	–1,561	–1,585	–3,903	–9,311	–19,700
Natural Resources & Environment (300):												
BA .....	984	791	100	–151	–258	–1,157	–1,472	–1,723	–2,063	–5,164	1,466	–10,112

TABLE 10.—FY 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION MANDATORY SPENDING, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE—Continued

[Fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016– 2020	2016– 2025
OT .....	1,317	1,297	625	81	–365	–1,015	–1,467	–1,599	–2,011	–5,200	2,955	–8,337
Agriculture (350):												
BA .....	14,036	16,835	15,578	14,314	13,054	12,328	12,076	12,456	12,444	12,466	73,816	135,585
OT .....	15,185	17,053	15,072	13,771	12,697	11,976	11,758	12,125	12,082	12,167	73,779	133,888
Commerce & Housing Credit (370):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	10,141	3,994	6,294	6,709	6,238	5,848	5,454	5,089	5,063	5,108	33,376	59,938
OT .....	–3,550	–10,461	–8,536	–13,021	–14,252	–9,310	–11,532	–13,160	–14,483	–15,270	–49,820	–113,575
Off-budget:												
BA .....	–3,754	–3,624	–3,697	–3,918	–4,132	–4,207	–4,262	–4,318	–4,374	–4,530	–19,125	–40,816
OT .....	–3,754	–3,624	–3,697	–3,918	–4,132	–4,207	–4,262	–4,318	–4,374	–4,530	–19,125	–40,816
Transportation (400):												
BA .....	5,694	37,581	37,642	42,862	43,319	43,789	44,309	44,864	47,021	47,679	167,098	394,760
OT .....	1,074	1,009	911	706	582	518	476	468	2,030	2,077	4,282	9,852
Community & Regional Development (450):												
BA .....	124	643	890	1,033	900	623	448	326	231	185	3,590	5,403
OT .....	351	470	1,346	1,793	2,002	2,014	2,346	1,437	807	662	5,962	13,228
Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):												
BA .....	–7,628	–8,151	–7,462	–10,783	–10,340	–11,319	–12,125	–12,927	–13,497	–13,921	–44,364	–108,153
OT .....	–967	–5,535	–5,762	–9,505	–8,964	–9,318	–10,072	–10,758	–11,312	–11,700	–30,733	–83,893
Health (550):												
BA .....	358,749	301,758	298,297	305,413	323,931	324,379	332,009	340,804	356,140	363,103	1,588,148	3,304,583
OT .....	368,451	305,865	300,676	307,614	315,749	326,198	333,937	342,735	358,146	365,240	1,598,355	3,324,611
Medicare (570):												
BA .....	571,121	573,843	573,358	631,405	672,207	717,769	798,792	815,610	823,601	916,265	3,021,934	7,093,971
OT .....	571,079	573,808	573,385	631,399	672,190	717,754	798,774	815,501	823,581	916,245	3,021,861	7,093,716
Income Security (600):												
BA .....	450,950	417,801	419,085	419,385	450,645	434,905	450,026	454,988	460,709	476,797	2,157,866	4,435,291
OT .....	450,083	412,549	409,023	413,915	445,778	430,627	450,834	450,173	450,347	471,187	2,131,348	4,384,516
Social Security (650):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	33,878	36,535	39,407	42,634	46,104	49,712	53,547	57,455	61,546	65,751	198,558	486,569
OT .....	33,878	36,535	39,407	42,634	46,104	49,712	53,547	57,455	61,546	65,751	198,558	486,569
Off-budget:												
BA .....	891,052	939,360	997,335	1,058,608	1,124,611	1,193,364	1,265,266	1,341,407	1,421,351	1,504,449	5,010,966	11,736,803
OT .....	886,852	934,260	991,935	1,052,908	1,118,611	1,187,164	1,258,566	1,334,407	1,414,151	1,497,549	4,984,566	11,676,403
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):												
BA .....	98,075	94,303	90,274	99,870	102,415	104,291	114,148	108,240	102,489	113,691	484,937	1,027,796
OT .....	101,805	94,530	90,288	99,850	102,304	104,178	113,976	108,111	102,286	113,530	488,777	1,030,858
Administration of Justice (750):												
BA .....	1,137	2,888	873	765	651	693	1,276	1,185	1,087	984	6,314	11,539
OT .....	4,727	4,922	2,568	794	942	680	1,236	1,143	1,041	923	13,953	18,976
General Government (800):												
BA .....	6,869	6,627	6,724	6,819	6,890	6,990	7,107	7,139	6,956	7,242	33,929	69,363
OT .....	6,894	6,647	6,701	6,845	6,913	7,034	7,179	7,232	7,088	7,321	34,000	69,854
Net Interest (900):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	366,542	414,802	477,785	531,097	578,726	612,198	642,470	667,176	684,394	696,025	2,368,952	5,671,217
OT .....	366,542	414,802	477,785	531,097	578,726	612,198	642,470	667,176	684,394	696,025	2,368,952	5,671,217
Off-budget:												
BA .....	–92,252	–91,570	–92,376	–94,506	–95,251	–95,817	–94,894	–92,787	–89,298	–83,567	–465,956	–922,318
OT .....	–92,252	–91,570	–92,376	–94,506	–95,251	–95,817	–94,894	–92,787	–89,298	–83,567	–465,956	–922,318
Allowances (920):												
BA .....	–5,704	–2,794	–2,388	–2,378	–2,769	–1,817	–2,156	–2,137	–2,103	1,939	–16,033	–22,307
OT .....	–2,647	–1,573	–1,713	–1,815	–1,956	–1,477	–1,610	–1,554	–1,513	367	–9,704	–15,491
Government-Wide Savings (930):												
BA .....	–3,917	–2,524	–2,582	–5,544	–7,880	–9,249	–10,513	–11,279	–11,903	–38,941	–22,447	–104,332
OT .....	–3,917	–1,424	–1,982	–5,244	–7,680	–9,149	–10,413	–11,179	–11,803	–26,866	–20,247	–89,657
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):												
On-budget:												
BA .....	–73,514	–83,832	–90,115	–90,594	–92,193	–96,623	–99,437	–104,343	–111,213	–117,896	–430,248	–959,760
OT .....	–73,514	–83,832	–90,115	–90,594	–92,193	–96,623	–99,437	–104,343	–111,213	–117,896	–430,248	–959,760
Off-budget:												
BA .....	–16,620	–17,181	–17,794	–18,434	–19,089	–19,757	–20,438	–21,133	–21,839	–22,562	–89,118	–194,847
OT .....	–16,620	–17,181	–17,794	–18,434	–19,089	–19,757	–20,438	–21,133	–21,839	–22,562	–89,118	–194,847

**National Defense: Function 050**

## FUNCTION SUMMARY

The National Defense function includes funds to develop, maintain, and equip the military forces of the United States. Historically, about 95 percent of the funding in this function goes to Department of Defense military activities; the remaining funding applies to atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and other defense-related activities.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$531.3 billion in regular budget authority and \$564.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Regular discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$523.1 billion, with \$555.7 billion in outlays; direct spending is \$8.2 billion in budget authority and \$8.3 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, regular budget authority totals \$5,886.8 billion, and outlays are \$5,821.5 billion.

As well, the function contains \$89.0 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$87.1 billion in related outlays for overseas contingency operations.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment abides by the Budget Control Act discretionary defense cap of \$523 billion for fiscal year 2016. In addition to this funding, the House amendment continues to prioritize national defense by providing needed dollars through the creation of the “Defense Readiness and Modernization Fund.” The fund will provide the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget the ability to increase the defense allocation, in a deficit-neutral way, to support legislation that would provide additional resources for the Department of Defense [DOD]. In total with \$90 billion, the House budget estimate for Overseas Contingency Operations funding for DOD, the fiscal year 2016 budget provides more than \$613 billion total for defense spending—higher than the President’s budget request for the fiscal year.

The House amendment includes a policy statement supporting national defense and the need to replace the defense discretionary sequester. Ultimately, the amendment fully supports U.S. troops, both at home and abroad, especially as the security environ-

ment becomes increasingly dangerous, complex, and unpredictable.

The House amendment specifies \$531.3 billion in budget authority and \$564.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016, per current law. Discretionary budget authority is \$523.1 billion, with \$555.7 billion in associated outlays. Direct spending for fiscal year 2016 totals \$8.2 billion in budget authority and \$8.3 billion in outlays. The 10-year function totals for budget authority and outlays are \$6,329.8 billion and \$6,226.8 billion, respectively.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement calls for \$531.3 billion in regular budget authority and \$564.3 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Regular discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$523.1 billion, with \$555.5 billion in outlays; direct spending is \$8.2 billion in budget authority and \$8.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, regular budget authority totals \$6,001.2 billion, and outlays are \$5,920.9 billion. Additional resources for national security are provided outside this budget function through overseas contingency operations funding in Function 970.



The agreement supports funding for national defense that is consistent with current law, thus removing the possibility of across-the-board reductions to the national security budget. The agreement makes clear that U.S. troops will have the resources and support they need to meet the challenges of a complex security environment. Taking into account both funding in this function and the Overseas Contingency Operations function, the agreement supports national security spending levels above the President's request over the next 5 and 10 years.

#### **International Affairs: Function 150**

##### **FUNCTION SUMMARY**

The International Affairs function contains spending on international humanitarian and development assistance; international security assistance; the conduct of foreign affairs; foreign information and exchange activities; and international financial programs. Major agencies with programs funded under this function include the Departments of State, Treasury, and Agriculture; the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Negative numbers in the descriptions below reflect receipts from foreign-military sales and financing programs.

##### **SENATE RESOLUTION**

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$40.7 billion in regular budget authority and \$46.6 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Regular discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$41.3 billion, with \$47.9 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is –\$551 million in budget authority and –\$1.3 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, regular budget authority totals \$451.8 billion, and outlays are \$437.1 billion.

The above figures exclude the \$7.0 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$6.8 billion in related outlays provided in this function for overseas contingency operations.

##### **HOUSE AMENDMENT**

Since 2001, funding for the international affairs base budget (excluding Global War on Terrorism/Overseas Contingency Operations funding) has increased by 45 percent, adjusting for inflation. Yet more spending has not yielded better results. Duplicative programs, programs unrelated to vital U.S. national interests, and inefficiencies are prevalent in the budget and should be addressed. This amendment represents a thorough re-evaluation of accounts in this category and prioritizes programs that are both integral to the core mission and that effectively and efficiently achieve desired outcomes. For this budget category, the House amendment proposes a total of \$38.3 billion in budget authority and \$42.9 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016. Most of the function's spending is discretionary, totaling \$38.9 billion in budget authority and \$44.2 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016. Direct spending amounts are –\$551 million in budget authority and –\$1.3 billion in outlays. Over 10 years the resolution provides \$427.6 billion in budget authority and \$410.7 billion in outlays.

##### **CONFERENCE AGREEMENT**

The conference agreement calls for \$40.2 billion in regular budget authority and \$46.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Regular discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$40.1 billion, with \$47.1 billion in outlays; direct spending is \$108 million in budget authority and –\$1.1 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, regular budget authority totals \$438.5 billion, with outlays of \$431.7 billion. Additional resources for inter-

national affairs are provided outside this budget function through overseas contingency operations funding in Function 970.

The agreement supports international affairs activities with the goal of promoting U.S. interests abroad and supporting humanitarian and development assistance overseas. It recognizes the need for review of programs in this function as many of them continue to receive funding despite expired authorizations. The agreement supports efforts by the committees of jurisdiction to reform U.S. foreign aid programs to ensure that foreign assistance is prioritized to deliver aid in a more effective and transparent manner.

#### **General Science, Space, and Technology: Function 250**

##### **FUNCTION SUMMARY**

The General Science, Space, and Technology function includes the National Science Foundation, programs other than aviation programs at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and general science programs at the Department of Energy.

##### **SENATE RESOLUTION**

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$30.0 billion in budget authority and \$30.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$29.9 billion, with \$29.9 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$107 million in budget authority and \$105 million in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$331.4 billion, and outlays are \$328.5 billion.

##### **HOUSE AMENDMENT**

The House amendment reduces excess and unnecessary spending, while supporting core government responsibilities. It preserves basic research, providing stable funding for the National Science Foundation to conduct its authorized activities in science, space, and technology basic research, development, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, while shifting the focus back to basic research. The amendment provides continued support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] and recognizes the vital strategic importance of the United States remaining the pre-eminent space-faring nation. The amendment aligns funding in accordance with the NASA core principles to support robust space capability, to allow for exploration beyond low Earth orbit, and to support the Nation's scientific and educational base. Total funding in the amendment is \$28.4 billion and \$29.0 billion in budget authority and outlays, respectively, in fiscal year 2016. Nearly all the function's spending is discretionary, with \$28.3 billion in budget authority and \$28.9 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016; direct spending is \$107 million in budget authority and \$105 million in outlays. The 10-year totals are \$313.1 billion in budget authority and \$309.3 billion in outlays.

##### **CONFERENCE AGREEMENT**

Function 250 consists almost entirely of discretionary funding. The largest component of this category—about half of total spending—is for NASA's space-flight, research, and supporting activities. The conference agreement recognizes and supports preserving the Federal scientific community's original role as a venue for groundbreaking basic science research discoveries and a driver of innovation and economic growth. The agreement calls for \$29.2 billion in budget authority and \$29.6 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 is \$29.1

billion, with outlays of \$29.5 billion; direct spending is \$100 million in budget authority and \$101 million in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$322.3 billion, and outlays are \$318.0 billion.

#### **Energy: Function 270**

##### **FUNCTION SUMMARY**

The Energy function concerns the production, development, and use of energy for the country. This function contains civilian energy programs at agencies including the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, Tennessee Valley Authority, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Negative numbers in the function mainly reflect the incoming repayment of loans and receipts from the sale of electricity produced by Federal entities, which are accounted for as negative spending.

##### **SENATE RESOLUTION**

The Senate budget resolution calls for –\$1.9 billion in budget authority and \$2.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$3.1 billion, with \$4.2 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is –\$5.1 billion in budget authority and –\$1.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$6.9 billion, and outlays are \$6.1 billion.

##### **HOUSE AMENDMENT**

A central aim of policies assumed in this function is to ensure that private sector capital is not crowded out by government overreach and bureaucratic waste. The policies also should protect taxpayers from poor government decision-making that wastes Federal dollars and increases energy prices. Finally, streamlining research and development activities across the Department of Energy will increase efficiency and consolidate operations, leading to reduced costs. These are the guiding principles for energy policy in the House amendment. For fiscal year 2016, the budget resolution provides –\$3.6 billion in budget authority, with \$654 million in related outlays. The discretionary figures for fiscal year 2016 are \$2.1 billion in budget authority and \$2.4 billion in outlays, with direct spending of –\$5.6 billion in budget authority and –\$1.8 billion in outlays. Ten-year function totals are \$5.9 billion in budget authority and \$4.7 billion in outlays.

##### **CONFERENCE AGREEMENT**

The conference agreement promotes abundant and affordable American energy production and use. It envisions policies that realign the size and role of government involvement in the private sector, while empowering the committees of jurisdiction to pursue legislation in pursuit of these broad goals. The agreement provides –\$3.2 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 and \$1.4 billion in outlays. These amounts include \$2.6 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$3.2 billion in discretionary outlays, with direct spending of –\$5.8 billion in budget authority and –\$1.8 billion in outlays. Spending over the next 10 years totals –\$9.1 billion in budget authority and –\$11.5 billion in outlays.

#### **Natural Resources and Environment: Function 300**

##### **FUNCTION SUMMARY**

The Natural Resources and Environment function focuses on the management, development, and maintenance of the Nation's natural heritage. This function includes conservation of land and water resources; development of water power and transportation infrastructure; and agencies and resources

associated with the management and regulation of pollution, public and recreational lands, and natural resources.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$36.3 billion in budget authority and \$39.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$34.5 billion, with \$37.2 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$1.8 billion in budget authority and \$1.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$406.5 billion, and outlays are \$412.5 billion.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment continues to support policies that will make America's natural resources available to producers who can provide a fair return to taxpayers. In addition to the receipts the Federal Government collects from royalties, rents, and bonus bids, the increased economic activity on Federal land will create jobs and boost economic output. The amendment supports reducing the Federal estate, and giving States and localities more control over the resources within their boundaries. The House budget provides \$35.4 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016, with \$38.1 billion in related outlays. The discretionary spending figures for fiscal year 2016 are \$34.4 billion in budget authority and \$36.8 billion in outlays. For direct spending in fiscal 2016, the House amendment provides \$984 million in budget authority and \$1.3 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the function totals are \$380.9 billion in budget authority and \$387.4 billion in outlays.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement promotes a safe and healthy environment that can accompany robust economic growth and job creation. It supports better management of the lands and resources overseen by the Federal Government, including potentially reducing the Federal estate, and a more responsible relationship between regulatory agencies and the private sector. The agreement provides \$36.4 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 and \$39.5 billion in outlays. These figures include \$34.4 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$37.0 billion in discretionary outlays, as well as \$1.9 billion in direct spending budget authority with \$2.5 billion in outlays. Spending through the 10-year budget window totals \$406.0 billion in budget authority and \$413.0 billion in outlays.

#### Agriculture: Function 350

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Agriculture function helps provide for the continued success of American agriculture and the agricultural industry. This function includes only programs and policies concerned with agricultural production, including direct assistance and loans to farmers; export assistance; agricultural research; and marketing, information, and animal and plant health inspection services.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$20.6 billion in budget authority and \$20.6 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$5.9 billion, with \$5.9 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$14.7 billion in budget authority and \$14.7 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$218.1 billion, and outlays are \$213.3 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment recommends that a higher priority be given to competitive

grant-based agricultural research. This type of research funding, in contrast to formula-based and other types, is most likely to spur agricultural productivity growth, which is important to enhancing the international competitiveness of U.S. agriculture over the longer term. Also, continued attention should be given to streamlining and, where possible, consolidating operations and activities across U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, including in its large network of county field offices.

The 2014 farm bill made a number of reforms to agricultural policies, most notably by eliminating direct payments, but significant declines in market prices over the past year are expected to result in increased levels of assistance under the farm bill's new price- and revenue-based programs. While it is important to continue to reform agricultural programs, weather and market challenges continue to highlight the importance of maintaining a safety net for farmers.

In this function, the amendment provides \$20.1 billion in budget authority and \$21.2 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal 2016 is \$6.1 billion; outlays are \$6.0 billion. The direct spending share of the fiscal year 2016 function totals are \$14.0 billion in budget authority and \$15.2 billion in outlays. For the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025, budget authority totals \$204.5 billion and outlays are \$201.9 billion.

##### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement empowers the Committees on Agriculture in the House of Representatives and Senate to build on the reforms in the 2014 farm bill to ensure American agriculture remains a vital part of the Nation's economy while supporting rural economies in a fiscally responsible way. The agreement provides \$19.1 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 and \$21.6 billion in outlays in this function. These amounts include \$6.0 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$5.9 billion in discretionary outlays, as well as direct spending amounts of \$13.1 billion in budget authority and \$15.6 billion in outlays. Total spending over the next 10 years in this function equals \$204.2 billion in budget authority and \$201.1 billion in outlays.

#### Commerce and Housing Credit: Function 370

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Commerce and Housing Credit function includes mortgage credit, the U.S. Postal Service, deposit insurance, and most of the activities of the Departments of Commerce and Housing and Urban Development. Negative figures in this function mainly reflect the negative subsidy rates applied to certain loan and loan-guarantee programs scored under the guidelines of the Federal Credit Reform Act, such as the Federal Housing Administration [FHA] and the Government National Mortgage Association (commonly known as Ginnie Mae) programs.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$1.9 billion in budget authority and -\$11.7 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals -\$8.1 billion, with -\$7.9 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$10.0 billion in budget authority and -\$3.7 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals -\$5.6 billion, and outlays are -\$179.9 billion. These figures reflect the combined on- and off-budget amounts associated with this function.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment envisions a Federal system that supports commerce and housing

and regulates in an efficient manner, providing sufficient oversight where necessary without wasting taxpayer monies or stifling free enterprise. The amendment calls for minimizing subsidies to commercial entities where possible and protecting taxpayers from the risk of future bailouts. Additionally, it envisions adjusting the budgets of Federal agencies to levels necessary to effectively and efficiently execute their missions, and creating a climate that supports rather than stifles commerce and free enterprise. The House amendment also recommends giving the Postal Service the flexibility that any business needs to respond to changing market conditions, including declining mail volume, which is down more than 25 percent since 2006.

In this function, on a unified basis, the amendment provides -\$6.8 billion in budget authority and -\$20.1 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016, of which -\$13.1 billion is discretionary budget authority, with -\$12.8 billion in outlays. Direct spending for fiscal 2016 is \$6.4 billion in budget authority and -\$7.3 billion in outlays. For fiscal years 2016 through 2025, the amendment provides -\$103.8 billion in budget authority and -\$277.3 billion in outlays.

##### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement supports policies that would reduce the risk of taxpayer bailouts and promote free enterprise. Additionally, the agreement aims to remove burdensome regulations so the economy can run more efficiently. Fiscal year 2016 budget authority totals -\$4.0 billion, and outlays total -\$13.6 billion. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals -\$10.6 billion, with -\$7.2 billion in related outlays. Direct spending budget authority is \$6.6 billion in fiscal year 2016, with -\$6.4 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority in Function 370 totals -\$79.7 billion, and outlays are -\$244.3 billion. These totals reflect combined on- and off-budget amounts.

#### Transportation: Function 400

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Transportation function focuses on aid and regulation for ground transportation (including roads and highways, railroads, and urban mass transit), air transportation (including aeronautical research conducted by NASA), and maritime commerce. The major agencies included in this function are the Department of Transportation (including the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Maritime Administration), the Department of Homeland Security (including the Transportation Security Administration, United States Coast Guard, and the Federal Air Marshal Service), and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$71.5 billion in budget authority and \$88.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$29.1 billion, with \$87.2 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$42.4 billion in budget authority and \$1.2 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$750.4 billion, and outlays are \$806.4 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The amendment prioritizes the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, aligns spending with incoming revenue, and ensures any general fund transfers will be fully offset. It provides the authorizing committees flexibility through a deficit-neutral reserve fund. It

also maintains essential funding for surface transportation, aviation, and safety—offset by reductions in other transportation activities of lower priority to the Federal Government.

For fiscal year 2016, the amendment provides \$36.7 billion in budget authority and \$79.2 billion in associated outlays. Those amounts consist of \$31.0 billion in fiscal 2016 discretionary budget authority and \$78.1 billion in outlays, and direct spending budget authority of \$5.7 billion, with \$1.1 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the function totals are \$741.5 billion in budget authority and \$781.5 billion in outlays.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement provides essential funding for surface transportation, aviation, and safety, offset by reductions in transportation activities of lower priority to the Federal Government. Through deficit-neutral reserve funds, the agreement gives the committees of jurisdiction flexibility in future legislation involving the Highway Trust Fund. The fund is put on more sound financial footing and its solvency reinstated. The agreement provides \$72.1 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 and \$87.2 billion in outlays. These amounts include \$30.1 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$86.1 billion in discretionary outlays, with direct spending of \$42.0 billion in budget authority and \$1.1 billion in outlays. Spending over the next 10 years totals \$665.6 billion in budget authority and \$748.7 billion in outlays.

#### Community and Regional Development: Function 450

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Community and Regional Development function includes Federal programs to improve community economic conditions, promote rural development, and assist in Federal preparations for and in response to disasters. This function provides appropriated funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program, Department of Agriculture rural development programs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other disaster mitigation and community development-related programs. It also provides direct funding for the National Flood Insurance Program.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$17.4 billion in budget authority and \$22.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$16.3 billion, with \$21.0 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$1.2 billion in budget authority and \$1.4 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$186.5 billion, and outlays are \$211.9 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

While supporting programs in this function related to emergency preparedness and critical needs, the House amendment urges streamlining non-essential community and regional initiatives that are not core functions of the Federal Government. The House amendment provides \$7.1 billion in budget authority and \$19.9 billion in outlays for the function in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary spending for the year is \$7.0 billion in budget authority and \$19.6 billion in outlays. Budget authority for direct spending in fiscal 2016 is \$124 million, with \$351 million in outlays. Over 10 years, the amendment provides \$81.6 billion and \$128.6 billion in budget authority and outlays, respectively.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement funds programs relating to emergency preparedness and crit-

ical needs. Most of this category's funding is discretionary; the main direct spending component of this function is the National Flood Insurance Program. The agreement supports a more efficient grant system, which includes strengthening oversight of the grant programs to reduce waste and improve effectiveness. The agreement calls for \$15.5 billion in budget authority and \$20.7 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 is \$15.0 billion, with outlays of \$19.6 billion; direct spending is \$446 million in budget authority and \$1.1 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$139.4 billion, and outlays are \$181.0 billion.

#### Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services: Function 500

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services function includes funding for the Department of Education, some social services programs within the Department of Health and Human Services, and employment and training programs within the Department of Labor.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$86.3 billion in budget authority and \$95.7 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$91.4 billion, with \$95.0 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$5.1 billion in budget authority and \$746 million in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$930.0 billion, and outlays are \$942.3 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Rather than foster a system that drives up tuition and presents too many students with the difficult choice between crippling debt and stopping short of their highest educational attainment, the House amendment envisions a framework that uses Federal dollars more efficiently, accounts for student loans in a way that reflects their true cost, and invests in a sustainable higher education system. The amendment also views Federal support for K-12 education as just that: It should support, not seize control from, State and local entities. Real gains in education result from the diversity and creativity of State and local educators, and the trend toward centralizing rules and standards in Washington risks smothering effectiveness and innovation.

Toward these ends, the amendment provides \$80.6 billion in budget authority and \$90.4 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016. Of those amounts, \$88.2 billion is discretionary budget authority, with \$91.4 billion in associated outlays. Direct spending in fiscal 2016 totals \$7.6 billion in budget authority and \$967 million in outlays. (The negative figures result mainly from the methodology used to score direct student loans under the Federal Credit Reform Act.) Over 10 years, the House amendment provides \$883.2 billion in total budget authority and \$900.5 billion in outlays.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement supports reforms to the current educational system in order to give the Nation's students the opportunity for a better, more affordable education. In addition, it encourages the enactment of policies that better equip Americans of all ages to excel not only in school but also in the workforce. Function 500 totals amount to \$83.3 billion in budget authority and \$93.3 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$89.8 billion, with \$93.8 billion in

related outlays. Direct spending budget authority is \$6.5 billion in fiscal year 2016, with \$504 million in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$932.6 billion, and outlays are \$942.5 billion.

#### Health: Function 550

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Health function contains spending on a variety of health care services administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. This function also includes health research conducted by the National Institutes of Health; public health and safety programs conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; primary health care services conducted by the Health Resources and Services Administration; and the regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and food products conducted by the Food and Drug Administration. The most significant drivers of spending in the function are the coverage provisions of the President's health care law and Medicaid.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$414.4 billion in budget authority and \$424.7 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$57.8 billion, with \$58.4 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$356.6 billion in budget authority and \$366.3 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$4,376.5 billion, and outlays are \$4,384.5 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The amendment calls for repealing the Affordable Care Act in full—its spending, taxes, regulations, and mandates—as a first step toward introducing real, patient-centered health care reform in America. The amendment contains a policy statement describing the contours of this strategy, emphasizing affordability, accessibility, quality, choices, innovation, responsiveness, and legal reforms. The amendment also supports major reforms to strengthen and secure Medicaid benefits, such as converting the Federal share of Medicaid into State Flexibility Funds that each State may tailor to its own needs. For fiscal year 2016, the amendment provides \$416.5 billion in budget authority in Function 550, with \$426.9 billion in associated outlays. For discretionary spending, the amendment provides \$57.7 billion in budget authority and \$58.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. The direct spending amounts for that year are \$358.7 billion in budget authority and \$368.5 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the totals are \$3,944.8 billion in budget authority and \$3,952.8 billion in outlays.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement calls for the repeal of the President's health care law. The agreement accommodates legislation from the committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate to continue to develop health care solutions that lower costs and improve access to care. It envisions Medicaid reform, based on a framework proposed by the chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction in the House and the Senate, to modernize and improve the program while increasing State flexibility and protecting the most vulnerable populations.

The conference agreement calls for \$433.1 billion in budget authority and \$430.9 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$57.7 billion, with \$58.4 billion in related outlays. Direct spending in fiscal year 2016 is \$375.3 billion in budget authority and \$372.5 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$4,337.2 billion, and outlays are \$4,334.4 billion.

**Medicare: Function 570**

## FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Medicare function includes only the Medicare program, which provides health insurance to senior citizens and certain persons with disabilities. Nearly 99 percent of spending in this function occurs on the direct side of the budget, and almost all of the direct spending consists of payments for Medicare benefits. The balance of spending is discretionary annual appropriations for the cost of administering and monitoring the Medicare program.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$567.2 billion in budget authority and \$567.1 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$6.6 billion, with \$6.6 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$560.6 billion in budget authority and \$560.6 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$6,930.9 billion, and outlays are \$6,929.9 billion.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The amendment recognizes the imperative of saving, strengthening, and securing the future of Medicare. The current spending trajectory of Medicare will result in an inability to provide the promised benefits to America's seniors in the not-so-distant future. The amendment pursues a responsible course to ensure the viability of the Medicare Program through a number of structural reforms, including transitioning to a premium support model bringing patient choices and helpful competition into the program, allowing for improvement in quality care, increasing accessibility and affordability, and a real check on wasteful practices. For fiscal year 2016, the function totals in the amendment are \$577.7 billion in budget authority and \$577.6 billion in outlays. The direct spending portion for fiscal 2016 totals \$6.6 billion in budget authority and outlays. Far more significant is the function's direct spending of \$571.1 billion in budget authority and outlays. Over 10 years, Function 570 spending is projected at \$7,181.2 billion in budget authority and \$7,180.2 billion in outlays.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement supports the repeal of the President's health care law, including the repeal of the Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board. The agreement proposes the same amount of Medicare savings reflected in the Senate-passed fiscal year 2016 budget as a target to extend the life of the Hospital Insurance trust fund and tasks the committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate with determining the specific Medicare reforms needed to bring spending levels under current law in line with the budget. Finally, the conference agreement accounts for the full cost of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

The conference agreement calls for \$579.4 billion in budget authority and \$579.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$6.5 billion, with \$6.5 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$572.9 billion in budget authority and \$572.9 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$7,076.5 billion, and outlays are \$7,075.6 billion.

**Income Security: Function 600**

## FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Income Security function covers a range of income security programs that pro-

vide cash or near-cash assistance to low-income persons, and benefits to certain retirees, persons with disabilities, and the unemployed.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$529.5 billion in budget authority and \$528.8 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$65.1 billion, with \$65.4 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$464.4 billion in budget authority and \$463.4 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$4,899.5 billion, and outlays are \$4,858.0 billion.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment proposes to continue the successful welfare reforms of the 1990s by improving work requirements for means-tested programs to help more people escape poverty and move up the economic ladder. It focuses resources on programs that deliver real results, restraining spending to reasonable levels, reducing improper payments, and allowing States more ability to improve programs through policy innovation. For fiscal year 2016, the amendment provides \$512.4 billion in budget authority, with \$513.7 billion in associated outlays. The amendment provides \$61.4 billion in fiscal 2016 discretionary budget authority, with \$63.6 billion in outlays, along with \$451.0 billion in budget authority and \$450.1 billion in outlays for direct spending. Over 10 years, the totals are \$5,102.2 billion in budget authority and \$5,048.2 billion in outlays.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement assumes the enactment of proposals to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence. Based on the successful welfare reforms of the 1990s, these proposals would improve work requirements and provide flexible funding for States to help those most in need find gainful employment, escape poverty, and move up the economic ladder. The agreement focuses resources on programs that deliver real results, reducing wasteful spending and empowering States to make key decisions and improve welfare programs through policy innovation. In fiscal year 2016, the agreement provides \$523.1 billion in total budget authority and \$523.6 billion in total outlays. Discretionary budget authority is \$63.2 billion, and outlays are \$64.2 billion. Direct spending is \$459.9 billion in budget authority and \$459.4 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the totals are \$4,985.2 billion in budget authority and \$4,936.6 billion in outlays.

**Social Security Retirement and Disability: Function 650**

## FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Social Security function consists of the payroll-tax-financed programs collectively known as Social Security: Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance. These programs provide retirement and disability benefits to approximately 56 million eligible retired workers, disabled persons, and their spouses, dependents, and survivors. This function includes both Social Security benefit payments and funds to administer the program and ensure program integrity.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$930.0 billion in budget authority and \$925.9 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$5.0 billion, with \$5.1 billion in related

outlays. Direct spending is \$924.9 billion in budget authority and \$920.7 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$12,285.9 billion, and outlays are \$12,225.4 billion.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

Absent structural reform, Social Security will fail to fulfill its promises to the Nation's retired and disabled persons—and that outcome will occur sooner than expected. With each year Congress delays, the policy changes needed to correct the program's fiscal trajectory will become larger and more wrenching to adopt, eventually leading to sudden, steep reductions in benefits. The House amendment calls for a bipartisan way forward, encouraging the President and Congress to begin the process of reforming Social Security. The budget provides \$930.0 billion in unified Function 650 budget authority in fiscal year 2016, and \$925.9 billion in outlays. The discretionary figures for fiscal 2016 are \$5.0 billion in budget authority and \$5.1 billion in outlays. Direct spending that year is \$924.9 billion in budget authority and \$920.7 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the totals are \$12,281.5 billion in budget authority and \$12,220.9 billion in outlays.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement presumes the President and Congress will work together on a bipartisan basis to preserve Social Security for current and future generations. It assumes enactment of legislation that will prevent the near-term insolvency of the Disability Insurance program; improve the administration and coordination of benefits; and increase employment opportunities for disabled workers. The agreement also assumes the President will submit legislation to Congress addressing the long-term insolvency both of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance program and the Disability Insurance program. In fiscal year 2016, the agreement provides \$928.9 billion in total budget authority and \$925.0 billion in total outlays. Discretionary budget authority is \$5.0 billion, and outlays are \$5.1 billion. Direct spending is \$923.9 billion in budget authority and \$919.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, the totals are \$12,278.2 billion in budget authority and \$12,216.7 billion in outlays. These figures reflect the combined on- and off-budget amounts associated with this function.

**Veterans Benefits and Services: Function 700**

## FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Veterans Benefits and Services function includes Veterans' Health Administration and health services (majority of the discretionary spending), veterans' pensions and disability compensation (majority of the direct spending), and other veterans services.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$166.7 billion in budget authority and \$170.2 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$68.6 billion, with \$68.3 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$98.1 billion in budget authority and \$101.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$1,817.4 billion, and outlays are \$1,812.7 billion.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment fully funds veterans' discretionary benefits and services by providing CBO's estimated funding level of veterans discretionary programs needs for fiscal year 2016, which is a 5 percent increase above last year's level. The House Budget Committee will continue to closely monitor

the Department of Veterans Affairs' progress to ensure resources provided by Congress are sufficient and efficiently used to provide benefits and services to veterans. The resolution calls for \$166.7 billion in budget authority and \$170.1 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016 for veterans' benefits and services. Fiscal year 2016 discretionary spending is \$68.6 billion in budget authority and \$68.3 billion in outlays, while direct spending totals \$98.1 billion in budget authority and \$101.8 billion in outlays. The 10-year totals for budget authority and outlays are \$1,815.4 billion and \$1,810.8 billion, respectively.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement fully funds veterans' discretionary benefits and services by providing CBO's estimated funding level of veterans discretionary program needs for fiscal year 2016, a 5-percent increase above last year's level. The House and Senate Budget Committees will continue to closely monitor the Department of Veterans Affairs' progress to ensure resources provided by Congress are sufficient and efficiently used to provide benefits and services to veterans. The agreement calls for \$166.3 billion in budget authority and \$171.9 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016 for Veterans benefits and services. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 is \$68.6 billion, with outlays of \$68.3 billion; direct spending is \$97.7 billion in budget authority and \$103.5 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$1,812.8 billion, and outlays are \$1,815.7 billion.

#### Administration of Justice: Function 750

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Administration of Justice function includes programs to provide judicial services, police protection, law enforcement (including civil rights), rehabilitation and incarceration of criminals, and the general maintenance of domestic order.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$52.5 billion in budget authority and \$56.8 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$51.3 billion, with \$52.0 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$1.2 billion in budget authority and \$4.8 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$618.2 billion, and outlays are \$621.3 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

With the risk of terrorism, as well as a tidal wave of debt, the House amendment focuses Federal taxpayer money for the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security on administering justice, arresting and prosecuting terrorists, investigating crimes, and seeking punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior. For fiscal year 2016, the House amendment provides \$52.2 billion in total budget authority and \$56.0 billion in outlays, focused on core Federal Government responsibilities and reducing duplication, excess, and unnecessary spending. The discretionary totals—the majority of the function's spending—are \$51.0 billion in budget authority and \$51.3 billion in outlays; direct spending is \$1.1 billion in budget authority and \$4.7 billion in outlays. Over 10 years the amendment provides \$602.1 billion and \$606.3 billion in budget authority and outlays, respectively.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The vast majority of this category's funding is discretionary and used for Federal law-enforcement programs, litigation and judicial activities, correctional operations, and border security. A small amount of direct spending funds certain immigration activi-

ties, the Crime Victims Fund, the Assets Forfeiture Fund, and the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, among other purposes. Federal taxpayer money for the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security should be focused on core responsibilities, with priority given to those activities that are most essential to the Federal Government in this area. The conference agreement calls for \$51.0 billion in budget authority and \$56.5 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 is \$51.2 billion, with outlays of \$52.0 billion; direct spending is \$196 million in budget authority and \$4.5 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$609.2 billion, and outlays are \$614.3 billion.

#### General Government: Function 800

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The General Government function includes the activities of the White House and the Executive Office of the President, legislative branch, and programs to carry out the administrative responsibilities of the Federal Government, including personnel management, fiscal operations, and property control.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$23.8 billion in budget authority and \$23.7 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$17.2 billion, with \$17.1 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$6.6 billion in budget authority and \$6.6 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$266.3 billion, and outlays are \$263.2 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment advances the idea that a government seeking greater efficiency in its programs should demand no less from its own operations. This should be achieved by eliminating waste across Federal Government branches and agencies wherever possible, in order to scale back government where it has expanded needlessly or beyond its proper role. The amendment provides \$23.6 billion in budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2016. The totals consist of \$16.7 billion in discretionary budget authority and outlays, and \$6.9 billion in direct spending budget authority and outlays. For fiscal years 2016 through 2025, the function totals are \$244.2 billion in budget authority and \$244.7 billion in outlays.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement supports policies that reduce waste and streamline government operations across all Federal Government branches and agencies. Function 800 totals amount to \$23.2 billion in budget authority and \$23.0 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority and outlays total \$17.0 billion in fiscal year 2016. Direct spending budget authority is \$6.2 billion in fiscal year 2016, with \$6.0 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority in totals \$251.3 billion, and outlays are \$248.5 billion.

#### Net Interest: Function 900

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Net Interest function contains the interest paid to private and foreign government holders of U.S. Treasury securities. This function includes interest on the public debt less the interest received by the Federal Government from trust fund investments and loans to the public. It contains direct payments, with no discretionary components.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$274.4 billion in budget authority and \$274.4

billion in outlays, all of which are direct spending, in fiscal year 2016. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$4,788.1 billion, and outlays are \$4,788.1 billion. These figures reflect the combined on- and off-budget amounts associated with this function.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment calls for \$274.3 billion of direct spending for net interest payments in fiscal year 2016. The proposed 10-year total for net interest payments is \$4,748.9 billion.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement calls for \$275.3 billion of direct spending for net interest payments in fiscal year 2016. The proposed 10-year total for net interest payments is \$4,757.1 billion. There are no budget policies for this function.

#### Allowances: Function 920

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Allowances function displays the budgetary effects of proposals that cannot easily be distributed across other budget functions. It contains CBO's estimate of the budgetary effects of the Budget Control Act's automatic enforcement provisions for non-defense spending. Function 920 also contains government-wide savings. For example, this function includes CBO's estimate of the macroeconomic feedback effect resulting from the deficit-reduction path assumed in the budget resolution conference agreement.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$12.3 billion in budget authority and \$5.6 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$15.2 billion, with \$11.5 billion in related outlays. Direct spending is \$2.8 billion in budget authority and \$5.9 billion in outlays. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$677.9 billion, and outlays are \$630.7 billion.

##### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment recommends no changes in this function, leaving it instead at the CBO baseline levels. The CBO baseline includes total savings of \$33.5 billion in budget authority and \$17.3 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016, and \$405.7 billion and \$357.9 billion in reductions for budget authority and outlays over 10 years, respectively, to reflect the impact of the Budget Control Act [BCA] on non-defense and non-Medicare spending. The following two components are included in the baseline:

1. A reduction of \$383.4 billion in budget authority and \$342.4 billion in outlays for non-defense activities, needed to comply with the discretionary spending caps set by section 101 of the BCA;

2. A \$22.3 billion and \$15.5 billion reduction in budget authority and outlays, respectively, to non-Medicare and non-defense direct spending programs necessary to comply with the automatic-enforcement procedure (the direct spending sequester) mandated by the BCA.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement calls for \$25.3 billion in budget authority and \$45.5 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. Discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2016 totals \$5.4 billion, with \$14.9 billion in related outlays. Direct spending budget authority and outlays each total \$30.7 billion. Over 10 years, total budget authority is \$908.2 billion, and outlays are \$798.6 billion.

#### Government-Wide Savings: Function 930

##### FUNCTION SUMMARY

This House category includes various policies that produce government-wide savings

in multiple categories rather than in a single, specific budget function.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution does not contain a Function 930.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The resolution calls for spending of \$27.5 billion and \$18.4 billion in budget authority and outlays, respectively, in fiscal year 2016. The 10-year totals for budget authority and outlay savings are -\$496.9 billion and -\$418.2 billion, respectively. (The figures appear in Function 930 in the summary tables.) As is true elsewhere, specific policies will be determined by the appropriate committees of jurisdiction.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement does not contain a Function 930.

### Undistributed Offsetting Receipts: Function 950

#### FUNCTION SUMMARY

The Undistributed Offsetting Receipts function comprises major offsetting receipts items that would distort the funding levels of other functional categories if they were distributed to them.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

All funding in this function is direct spending. The Senate budget resolution calls for -\$86.0 billion in budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2016 (The minus sign indicates receipts flowing into the Treasury.). Over 10 years, budget authority totals -\$1,102.6 billion, with -\$1,102.8 billion in outlays. These figures reflect the combined on- and off-budget amounts associated with this function.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment examines the management of Federal fleet vehicles, real-property, and lands among other assets in an effort to help taxpayers recoup billions of dollars devoted to unused government property. The House amendment calls for -\$90.1 billion in budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2016, all of which is direct spending. Over 10 years, budget authority and outlays total -\$1,154.6 billion.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement calls for -\$99.2 billion in budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2016. The negative figures reflect receipts flowing into the Treasury. Over 10 years, budget authority and outlays each total -\$1,292.4 billion. These figures reflect the combined on- and off-budget amounts associated with this function.

### Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism: Function 970

#### FUNCTION SUMMARY

This function includes funding for the prosecution of Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism and other closely related activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution does not have a Function 970.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The amendment assumes \$90.0 billion as a placeholder estimate of the budgetary resources necessary to fulfill the Department of Defense's war policy, with final decisions still pending assessment. Combined with the base resources for National Defense, the fiscal year 2016 budget provides more than \$613 billion in total defense spending for the Global War on Terrorism. The House amendment provides for higher total defense re-

sources than the President's request in fiscal year 2016, the President's 5-year plan, and the President's 10-year levels.

This function also estimates \$6 billion in funding for the activities of civilian agencies—primarily the State Department and USAID—as part of the integrated civil-military strategy for securing American objectives in the frontline states.

The House amendment provides \$96.0 billion in budget authority and \$45.4 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2016. The 10-year totals for budget authority and outlays are \$229.3 billion and \$196.6 billion, respectively.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The agreement supports overseas contingency operations funding at a level appropriate to meet the challenges posed by an increasingly dangerous security environment, and reflects a realistic ramp-down path for this funding over the budget window. Funding in this function will provide support for military and diplomatic operations to counter the danger from growing global instability and threats posed by those who challenge U.S. security interests at home and abroad. The agreement sets the overall allocation for overseas contingency operations funding. The committees of jurisdiction will determine the specific policies.

The conference agreement calls for \$96.3 billion in budget authority and \$48.8 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2016. There is no direct spending in this function. Over 10 years, budget authority totals \$378.2 billion, and outlays are \$373.8 billion.

### Across-the-Board Adjustment: Function 990

#### FUNCTION SUMMARY

This House function reflects the impact of an across-the-board rescission affecting the Department of Homeland Security that was included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235).

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution does not contain a Function 990.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The CBO baseline for Function 990 includes reductions of \$241 million in budget authority and \$226 million in outlays over 10 years. The resolution recommends retaining the baseline levels.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement does not contain a separate Function 990.

### Revenues

#### FUNCTION SUMMARY

Federal revenues are comprised of taxes and other collections from the public that result from the Government's sovereign powers to impose levies under Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution. Federal revenues include individual and corporate incomes taxes, social insurance taxes, excise taxes, estate and gift taxes, customs duties, and miscellaneous receipts.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate budget resolution calls for \$3,459.5 billion in revenues in fiscal year 2016 (\$2,666.8 billion on-budget, \$792.8 billion off-budget) and \$41,669.7 billion over 10 years (\$32,170.6 billion on-budget, \$9,499.1 billion off-budget).

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The U.S. tax code is notoriously complex, patently unfair, and highly inefficient. Its complexity distorts decisions to work, save, and invest, which leads to slower economic growth, lower wages, and less job creation.

The House amendment proposes to correct the notorious complexity, unfairness, and inefficiency of U.S. taxes by calling for a reformed tax code that is simpler and fairer and promotes growth. A revamped tax code could raise just as much revenue as the system in place today, but without the harmful tax policies embedded in current law, such as the Affordable Care Act. A restructured and more efficient tax code with a broader tax base and lower tax rates also would spark greater economic growth and create more jobs.

The amendment's revenue projections—\$3,459.5 billion in fiscal year 2016 and \$41,669.7 billion through fiscal year 2025—are built on such a tax reform model.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The U.S. tax code is overly complicated, inefficient, and archaic. The current structure hurts economic growth, frustrates working Americans, and pushes American businesses overseas. The conference agreement assumes that the tax-writing committees will adopt a tax reform proposal that reduces marginal rates but broadens the tax base to create a fair, efficient, competitive, and pro-growth tax regime that is revenue neutral. Any revenue-neutral tax reform would include a repeal of the harmful tax increases in the President's health care law.

The conference agreement calls for revenues of \$3,470.7 billion in fiscal year 2016 (\$2,676.7 billion on-budget, \$794.0 billion off-budget) and \$41,750.5 billion over 10 years (\$32,237.4 billion on-budget, \$9,513.1 billion off-budget). The difference between the conference agreement revenues and those of the Senate resolution and House amendment is due to CBO's March reestimate at projected revenues. The conference agreement contains no tax increases.

### RECONCILIATION AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS

The budget resolution conference agreement provides a path for the committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate through reconciliation to repeal the Affordable Care Act with its burdensome mandates and restrictions, a first step toward introducing real, patient-centered health care reform.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 201 of the Senate resolution instructs the Finance Committee and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions each to report, by July 31, 2015, changes in laws within their jurisdictions to reduce the deficit by no less than \$1 billion over the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 202 of the resolution prohibits a reconciliation bill reported under section 201 from including a provision that would increase the statutory debt limit. The prohibition is enforced with a point of order that, if raised, would require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senate to waive.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 201 of the House amendment instructs 13 authorizing committees to achieve specified amounts of deficit reduction by a deadline of July 15, 2015.

While the amendment instruction provides flexibility as to how the authorizing committees may achieve these savings, it assumes savings will be achieved through reductions in direct spending. The amounts reconciled are intended to serve as a floor on required savings, not a ceiling. The targets are for the total of the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. These targets will provide the committees maximum flexibility in their savings while ensuring the



budget is balanced within the 10-year window.

Each reconciled authorizing committee is directed to mark up legislation meeting its reconciliation target and submit legislation to the Committee of the Budget, consistent with section 310 of the Budget Act, instead of reporting it directly to the House. Other than submitting legislation to the Committee on the Budget, committees are expected to follow regular order in complying with House and Committee rules related to markup procedures and reporting requirements. The Committee on the Budget will then combine all submissions and report the legislation, without substantive revision, to the House.

Section 202 of the House amendment authorizes the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to: (1) use the baseline underlying the Congressional Budget Office's [CBO's] *Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025* (January 2015) when making estimates of any bill or joint resolution, or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon and (2) determine whether to use any adjustments to the baseline, if made subsequent to the adoption of this concurrent resolution, when making such estimates. When making such estimates and determining compliance of measures, the Chair of the Committee on the Budget should only exercise this authority if such estimates are inaccurate because the adjustments made to the baseline are inconsistent with the assumptions underlying the budgetary levels set forth in this concurrent resolution. Inaccurate adjustments may include selected adjustments for rulemaking, judicial actions, adjudication, and interpretative rules that have major budgetary effects and are inconsistent with the assumptions underlying the budgetary levels set forth in this concurrent resolution. CBO shall, upon the request of the Chair of the Committee on the Budget, prepare an estimate based on the baseline determination made by such Chair.

Section 202 also stipulates that the authorizing committees instructed to submit reconciliation legislation pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall, in preparing submissions, note and determine the most effective methods by which the President's health care law shall be repealed.

Additionally, section 202 authorizes the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to file with the House appropriately revised allocations under section 302(a) of the Budget Act and revised functional levels and aggregates upon: (1) an authorizing committee's submission to the Committee on the Budget of legislation complying with its reconciliation instructions pursuant to section 310(b) of the Budget Act and (2) the submission of a conference report to the House. Section 202 further stipulates that these revised aggregates and allocations shall be considered to be the allocations and aggregates established by the concurrent resolution on the budget pursuant to section 310 of the Budget Act.

Section 203 of the House amendment authorizes the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to submit additional information to help guide the authorizing committees, including suggested increases in the amount of deficit reduction reconciled to each authorizing committee.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement affirms the use of reconciliation for the sole purpose of repealing the President's job-killing health care law by instructing only those committees with jurisdiction over the health-care-related provisions in the Patient Protection

and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152). Specifically, the Senate Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the House Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce all received instructions to report changes in laws within their jurisdictions to reduce the deficit by no less than \$1 billion over the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

The instructions for Senate committees are as follows:

(Fiscal years 2016–25)

Committee	10-Year deficit reduction
Finance .....	\$1,000,000,000
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .....	\$1,000,000,000

The Senate retains the Senate-only rule against a reconciliation measure that increases the public debt limit. The provision applies to reconciliation bills pursuant to this concurrent resolution, and any amendment, amendments between the Houses, and conference report thereon. The rule may only be waived by two-thirds of the Senate.

The instructions for the House are as follows:

(Fiscal years 2016–25)

Committee	10-Year deficit reduction
Education and the Workforce .....	\$1,000,000,000
Energy and Commerce .....	\$1,000,000,000
Ways and Means .....	\$1,000,000,000

Reconciled committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives are instructed to submit their recommendations to their respective Budget Committees no later than July 24, 2015.

The House retains the House-passed provision clarifying that in the House, for purposes of budget enforcement, the Chairman shall use the baseline underlying the March 2015 update to CBO's *Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025*. It further grants the Chairman of the Budget Committee the authority to determine whether to reflect CBO's ad hoc adjustments to the baseline subsequent to the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

While committees determine the policies used to meet their reconciliation targets, the conference report retains the House position that the committees take note of the policy statement in the conference report relating to the repeal of the President's health care law.

The conference report provides authority to the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to make adjustments in this concurrent resolution for committees that submit reconciliation recommendations and meet their respective reconciliation targets.

#### BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

##### Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement in Both Houses

##### *Point of Order against Legislation Increasing Long-Term Deficits or Direct Spending*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 402 of the Senate resolution extends the current Senate point of order prohibiting the consideration of legislation that would increase the on-budget deficit by more than \$5 billion in any of the 4 consecutive 10-year periods beginning after the last year covered in the most recently agreed to budget resolution. The prohibition is enforced with a point of order that, if raised, could be waived with the affirmative vote of three-

fifths of Members, duly chosen and sworn. Paragraph (d) provides an exception for any legislation considered under the reserve fund in section 303(1)—repeal of the President's health care law.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 407 of the House amendment prohibits the consideration of any measure reported by an authorizing committee that increases direct spending by \$5 billion over the long-term. The prohibition is enforced with a point of order. Subsection (b) states the applicable periods for this section are any of the 4 consecutive 10 fiscal year periods beginning in fiscal year 2026.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3101 of the conference agreement extends the Senate-passed provision to the House and includes an exception in paragraph (d) for reserve funds in sections 4303(1), 4501, 4502, and 4503 of the conference agreement relating to repeal of the President's health care law. In the House the point of order lies against the bill increasing direct spending over the period.

##### *Allocation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 409 of the Senate resolution establishes a mechanism allowing the Senate to review the designation for overseas contingency operations [OCO] in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Designations that would cause the total amount of OCO spending in those years to exceed \$58 billion and \$59.5 billion, respectively, would be subject to a point of order, which—if raised—would require 60 votes to waive. If sustained, the offending provision of budget authority would be stricken from the text, but the rest of the measure would remain standing.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Subsection 408(a) of the House amendment provides the Committee on Appropriations with two separate OCO/GWOT allocations for the purposes of Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism under section 302(a) of the Budget Act, which are included in this report in the allocation tables.

Subsection (b) stipulates that, for purposes of enforcing the point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act, the "first fiscal year" and the "total of fiscal years" refer to fiscal year 2016 only. This separate allocation is the exclusive allocation for OCO/GWOT under section 302(a) of the Budget Act. It also stipulates that section 302(c) of the Budget Act does not apply to this separate allocation. Subsection (c) stipulates that new budget authority or outlays counting toward the allocation established by subsection (a) shall be designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Subsection (d) prohibits any adjustment under section 314(a) of the Budget Act if an adjustment would be made under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA for fiscal year 2016.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3102 of the conference agreement adopts an approach to Overseas Contingency Operations [OCO] funding similar to the House amendment. A separate 302(a) allocation is provided to each of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for the OCO/Global War on Terrorism. Any appropriation designated for OCO under Section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 would be scored against the 302(a) allocation



to the Committees on Appropriations. The OCO allocation may be subdivided into 302(b) sub-allocations and is enforceable under section 302(f) on the Congressional Budget Act. *Point of Order against Certain Changes in Mandatory Programs*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 406 of the Senate resolution phases out the use of certain “CHIMPs” (changes in mandatory programs) in appropriation bills that reduce budget authority but do not result in any net outlay savings. For fiscal year 2016, the limit on this type of CHIMP is \$19 billion, the amount contained in fiscal year 2015 appropriations measures. Thereafter, the limit is reduced by 20 percent per year until fiscal year 2021, when CHIMPs that fail to reduce net outlays are no longer to be permitted in appropriation measures. The limit is enforced with a point of order that, if raised, would require the affirmative vote of three-fifths of Members, duly chosen and sworn.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to CHIMPs.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3103 of the conference agreement gradually reduces the amount of certain changes in mandatory programs [CHIMPs] permitted in appropriations bills from a total of \$19.1 billion in fiscal year 2016 to \$15 billion in fiscal year 2019. This reduction would apply only to those CHIMPs that (a) would have been classified as affecting direct spending or receipts under section 252 of BBEDCA (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002) if the provision was included in legislation other than an appropriations bill or joint resolution, and (b) reduce budget authority but do not result in any net outlay savings over the 10-year budget enforcement window. The reduction in this type of CHIMP is enforced in the Senate with a point of order prohibiting consideration of a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a full fiscal year, (or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon that would cause the total amount of this type of CHIMP enacted in a fiscal year to exceed a specific amount:

Fiscal year 2016	\$19,100,000,000
Fiscal year 2017	\$19,100,000,000
Fiscal year 2018	\$17,000,000,000
Fiscal year 2019	\$15,000,000,000

The Senate point of order, if raised, would require the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, to waive. In the House the point of order lies against the individual provision except for an amendment or conference report in which case it lies against the entire amendment or conference report. For purposes of this section, the total budget authority of CHIMPs shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

*Point of Order against Provisions that Constitute Changes in Mandatory Programs Affecting the Crime Victims Fund*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 410 of the Senate resolution prohibits Senate consideration of any measure that includes CHIMPs that affect the Crime Victims Fund [CVF]. The prohibition would be enforced with a point of order that, if raised, would require the affirmative vote of three-fifths of Members, duly chosen and sworn, to waive. If sustained, the offending provision(s) would be stricken, but the rest of the measure would remain standing.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to CHIMPs affecting the Crime Victims Fund.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3104 of the conference agreement limits the use of CHIMPs that affect the CVF to \$10.8 billion in fiscal year 2016. This rule only applies to appropriations measures that provide full-year funding for a fiscal year. The reduction in the CVF CHIMP is enforced with a “surgical strike” point of order. If a point of order is raised and sustained against a provision containing a CHIMP affecting the CVF that would cause the total value of all such CHIMPs enacted in relation to a fiscal year to exceed the limit, the provision would be stricken from the measure, but the rest of the bill would remain standing. In the House, in the case of an amendment or conference report, the point of order would lie against the entire measure.

For purposes of this section, the absolute of the total budget authority of CHIMPs shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

Section 3104 of the conference agreement also directs the Committees on the Budget and Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate to work with other committees of jurisdiction to review the enforcement procedures for CHIMPs in appropriations bills—especially those affecting the CVF—and to make a joint recommendation that can be included in subsequent concurrent resolutions on the budget.

*Fair-Value Credit Estimates*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

For legislation affecting Federal direct loan and loan-guarantee programs, section 412 of the Senate resolution directs CBO to provide in its cost estimates an assessment using fair-value—alongside those estimates prepared under the Federal Credit Reform Act. In the Senate, cost estimates prepared using fair-value would be provided for informational purposes only.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

Subsection 406(a) of the House amendment requires, upon the request of the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on the Budget, that CBO estimates for any measure under the terms of Title V of the Budget Act to include an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the “fair value” of assets and liabilities affected by such measure.

Subsection (b) requires that, whenever CBO prepares an estimate of the cost of legislation with a cost related to housing, residential mortgage, or student loan programs, under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, the estimate include an estimate of the “fair value” of the assets and liabilities affected.

Subsection (c) permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to use these supplemental estimates to determine whether legislation is within the levels of the budget resolution and complies with other budgetary controls.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3105 of the conference agreement adopts an approach to fair-value estimates similar to the House amendment. At the request of the Chairman of the Budget Committee of the applicable House, CBO shall prepare, when practicable, a fair-value estimate of measures providing or modifying loan and loan guarantee programs scored under the Federal Credit Reform Act. Under

this section, CBO is required to provide these fair-value estimates for housing, residential mortgage, and student loan programs. This scoring rule applies to bills, joint resolutions, motions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, and conference reports. Section 3105(c) authorizes the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to use these supplemental estimates for the purposes of determining budget-related points of order. In the Senate, any fair-value estimates produced under this section may be used for informational purposes only.

*Scoring Rule for Currency Modernization*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 414 of the Senate resolution requires CBO to estimate the cost of transitioning from the dollar bill to the dollar coin using net present value and to incorporate the behavioral effects of that transition in its estimate.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to currency modernization.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3106 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate in adopting the Senate-passed scoring rule relating to currency modernization.

*Long-Term Scoring of Changes in Spending Limits and Extension of Highway Programs*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 416 of the Senate resolution directs CBO to provide long-term cost estimates for: (1) legislation that would increase the statutory discretionary spending limits, and (2) legislation that would transfer amounts from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund. Under this rule, CBO would provide estimates of the increased spending—and the offsets—for the scoring window (fiscal years 2016 through 2025) as well as the 20 years beyond (fiscal years 2026 through 2045).

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to long-term scoring of changes in spending limits and extension of highway programs.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3107 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate in adopting the Senate-passed rule.

*Requiring Clearer Reporting of Projected Federal Spending and Deficits*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 417 of the Senate resolution requires CBO to provide 30-year projections of three key budget aggregates—revenues, outlays, and deficits—in current dollars and as a percent of GDP when CBO publishes its annual Budget and Economic Outlook.

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to clearer reporting of projected Federal spending and deficits.

## CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3108 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate in adopting the reporting requirement.

*Congressional Budget Office Estimates of Measures with Significant Outlay Effects*

## SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 419 of the Senate resolution requires CBO to provide outyear estimates of legislation that would (1) increase or decrease outlays by more than 0.25 percent of

GDP over the 10-year period of the enforcement window, or (2) that would have the same significant impact on outlays, but in the 10th year alone. In the event that the budgetary effects of a measure are not sufficient to automatically trigger the outyear cost estimates, the Chairman of the Budget Committee has the authority to request an estimate.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to CBO estimates of measures with significant outlay effects.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3109 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate-passed rule regarding supplemental estimates.

#### *Prohibiting the Use of Guarantee Fees as an Offset*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 421 of the Senate resolution prohibits consideration of legislation that increases or extends an increase of any guarantee fees of the Federal National Mortgage Association [FNMA] and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation [FHLMC]. Guarantee fees are collected to offset prospective FNMA and FHLMC credit losses, and using these fees as an offset merely double-counts the funds collected.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to CBO estimates of measures with significant outlay effects.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3110 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate rule prohibiting the use of guarantee fees as an offset.

#### *Information for Congress and the Public about Projected Federal Outlays, Revenues, and Deficits*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 423 of the Senate resolution directs CBO to produce a one-page executive summary of its annual Budget and Economic Outlook that includes current-year and future-year projections of key budget aggregates (total outlays, tax expenditures, receipts, surpluses/deficits) and categories of spending (total mandatory spending and total discretionary spending; Social Security outlays, revenues, and surpluses/deficits; and Medicare outlays, revenues, and surpluses/deficits).

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain any provisions relating to information for Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenue and deficits.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3111 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate rule directing CBO to provide additional information in its annual Budget and Economic Outlook report to Congress.

#### *Honest Accounting: Cost Estimates for Major Legislation to Incorporate Macroeconomic Effects*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 413 of the Senate resolution directs the Joint Committee on Taxation and CBO to produce, alongside CBO's conventional estimates, cost estimates that incorporate the macroeconomic effects of major policy changes. These estimates would be provided for informational purposes only.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Sections 401(a) and (b) of the House amendment directs CBO and the Joint Committee

on Taxation, as applicable, to incorporate in the cost estimates for major legislation, to the extent practicable, the macroeconomic effects of such legislation during fiscal year 2016.

Subsection (c) stipulates that the macroeconomic estimates include, to the extent practicable, a qualitative assessment of the budgetary effects (including the variables referred to above) of major legislation in the 20-fiscal-year period beginning after the last fiscal year of the most recently agreed-to budget resolution and an identification of the assumptions and source data underlying the estimate.

Subsection (d) defines major legislation to include legislation that causes a gross budgetary effect in any fiscal year covered by the budget resolution equal to or greater than 0.25 percent of the current projected GDP of the United States for that fiscal year. Under this subsection, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House or Senate and the Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation, as applicable, may designate bills providing direct spending as major legislation for which estimates would incorporate macroeconomic effects.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3112 of the conference agreement directs the Joint Committee on Taxation and CBO to produce, alongside CBO's conventional estimates, cost estimates that incorporate the macroeconomic effects of major policy changes. Subsection (c) defines major legislation as a bill, resolution, conference report, or treaty causing an increase or decrease in revenues, direct spending, or deficits in any fiscal year covered by the budget resolution equal to or greater than 0.25 percent of the projected GDP for that year or equal to or greater than \$15 billion for that year for treaties. In applying these thresholds, CBO and JCT are required to look at the gross budgetary effects of the legislation before incorporating macroeconomic effects and not including timing shifts.

In carrying out this requirement, the managers intend that CBO and JCT review provisions that have a significant budgetary effect. Thus, the test is whether the absolute value of the effect of any provision in the legislation has a budgetary effect larger than the threshold, or if the sum of the absolute values of the effects of the provisions on revenues and on direct spending exceeds the threshold, rather than whether the legislation taken as a whole equals or exceeds such threshold values when all of the conventionally estimated costs of the provisions are netted out.

In the Senate, these estimates would be provided for informational purposes only. In the House, the Chair of the Committee on the Budget shall exercise the authority granted under subsection (c)(1)(B)(ii), in collaboration with the appropriate Chair or Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation, to designate a revenue measure as major legislation.

#### **Subtitle B—Budget Enforcement in the Senate**

#### *Extension of Enforcement of Budgetary Points of Order in the Senate*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 401(a) of the Senate resolution extends several supermajority points of order created in the Congressional Budget Act. These provisions will expire at the end of fiscal year 2016. Subsection (b) repeals the sunset of the Senate Pay-As-You-Go point of order established in section 201 S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the fiscal year 2008 con-

current resolution on the budget. Subsection (c) repeals the sunset of the short-term deficits point of order established in section 404 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the fiscal year 2010 concurrent resolution on the budget.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House-passed resolution does not contain a comparable provision on Senate enforcement of supermajority points of order.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3201 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language as a Senate-only provision.

#### *Point of Order against Advance Appropriations*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

As in past years, section 403 of the Senate resolution provides a supermajority point of order in the Senate against appropriations in fiscal year 2016 bills that would become effective in any year after fiscal year 2016, and against appropriation bills in fiscal year 2017 that would first become available in any year after fiscal year 2017. It does not apply to appropriations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration. It provides an exemption up to \$28.852 billion (the same level as provided for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, P.L. 113-67) for accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 405 of the House amendment provides a limit on appropriations that would become effective in fiscal year 2017. Subsection (a) prohibits the consideration of any general or continuing appropriations measure from making advance appropriations unless the appropriation is included in a list of exceptions.

Subsection (b) specifies the list of excluded accounts, which may receive advance appropriations, are referred to in this report or joint explanatory statement, as applicable, in the section designated as "Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations."

Subsection (c) sets an overall limit for allowable advance appropriations for fiscal year 2017. It permits advance appropriations of up to \$63.271 billion for fiscal year 2017 for the veterans accounts referenced in subsection (b) and referred to in this report. It also allows up to \$28.852 billion in advance appropriations for other accounts referenced in subsection (b) and referred to in this report.

Subsection (d) defines an advance appropriation as any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making general or continuing appropriations for a fiscal year following fiscal year 2016.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Under the conference agreement, the Senate (in section 3202) and the House (in section 3304) retain their respective limits on advance appropriations.

#### IN THE SENATE ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE

#### *Financial Services and General Government*

#### *Payment to Postal Service*

#### *Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education*

#### *Employment and Training Administration Job Corps*

#### *Education for the Disadvantaged*

School Improvement  
Special Education  
Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
*Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development*

Tenant-based Rental Assistance  
Project-based Rental Assistance

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUBJECT TO A GENERAL LIMIT OF \$28,852,000,000

*Financial Services*

Postal Service

*Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education*

Employment and Training Administration  
Education for the Disadvantaged  
School Improvement  
Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
Special Education

*Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development*

Tenant-based Rental Assistance  
Project-based Rental Assistance

VETERANS ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE LIMIT OF \$63,271,000,000

*Military Construction, Veterans Affairs*

Veterans Medical Services  
Veterans Medical Support and Compliance  
Veterans Medical Facilities

*Supermajority Enforcement of Unfunded Mandates*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 425(a) of the Congressional Budget Act prohibits the consideration of legislation in the Senate that would impose unfunded Federal mandates on State and local governments above a certain limit, enforced with a point of order. Section 404 of the Senate resolution increases the vote threshold needed to waive that point of order from a simple majority to three-fifths of Members, duly chosen and sworn.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain a comparable provision relating to unfunded mandates.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3203 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language relating to unfunded mandates as a Senate-only provision.  
*Point of Order against Certain Reconciliation Legislation*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 405 of the Senate resolution restores the equal treatment of all reconciliation bills consistent with budget law prior to 2008 by repealing the point of order prohibiting consideration of reconciliation bills that increase the deficit found in section 202(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 410(a)(3) of the House amendment would—for purposes of a reconciliation bill reported pursuant to this concurrent resolution on the budget—temporarily suspend the application of the point of order prohibiting consideration of reconciliation bills that increase the deficit, found in section 202(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3204 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language relating to the point of order against certain reconciliation bills.

*Prohibition on Agreeing to Legislation without a Score*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 407 of the Senate resolution prohibits a vote on passage of a bill or resolution unless the CBO cost estimate required for that measure (pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act) is available on CBO's website at least 28 hours before a vote on final passage. The prohibition is enforced with point of order that, if raised, would require the affirmative vote of three-fifths of Members, duly chosen and sworn, to waive.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not contain a comparable provision relating to agreeing to legislation without a score.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3205 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language relating to agreeing to legislation without a score as a Senate-only provision.

*Protecting the Savings in Reported Reconciliation Bills*

SENATE RESOLUTION

In the House, amendments to a reconciliation bill must be deficit-neutral with respect to the reported savings in the bill, not the instructed savings in the affiliated budget resolution. The House rule ensures that if a reconciliation bill exceeds its fiscal target, those "extra" savings will be used for deficit reduction, not to increase spending. Section 408 of the Senate resolution applies the House rule in the Senate.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House does not have a comparable provision relating to the reported savings in a reconciliation bill (the rule already applies in the House).

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3206 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language relating to the reported savings in a reconciliation bill as a Senate-only provision.

*Scoring Rule for Certain Energy Contracts*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 415 of the Senate resolution directs CBO to score energy savings performance contracts using net present value—a method that more accurately represents the economic value of these transactions.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not have a comparable provision relating to scoring energy savings performance contracts.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3207 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language on energy savings performance contracts as a Senate-only provision.

In section 3305 of the conference agreement, the House agrees to assess the implementation of section 3207 through a collaborative assessment, in conjunction with the Senate and CBO, of the appropriate scorekeeping methodology for evaluating the budgetary effects of this type of energy contract.

*Adjustment for Wildfire Suppression Funding*

SENATE RESOLUTION

If a bill becomes law that provides a new discretionary spending cap adjustment for wildfire suppression, section 424 of the Senate resolution gives the Senate Budget Committee Chairman the authority to adjust the 302(a) allocation to the Appropriations Committee accordingly.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment does not have a comparable provision relating to wildfire suppression funding.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3208 of the conference agreement adopts the Senate language as a Senate-only provision.

**Subtitle C—Budget Enforcement in the House of Representatives**

*Limitation on Measures Affecting Social Security Solvency*

SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution does not have a comparable provision relating to Social Security (a Senate point of order already exists in section 311(a)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act).

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Subsection 402(a) prohibits, during fiscal year 2016, consideration in the House of Representatives or the Senate of any legislation that reduces the actuarial balance of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance [OASI] Trust Fund by at least .01 percent of the present value of future taxable payroll for the 75-year period included in the most recent annual report of the board of trustees.

Subsection (b) provides an exception if such legislation would improve the actuarial balance of the combined balance in the OASI Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for the 75-year period utilized in the most recent annual report of the board of trustees.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The House point of order is not germane to a budget resolution in the Senate. Section 3301 of the conference agreement adopts the language of the House amendment as a House-only provision.

*Limitation on Transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund*

SENATE RESOLUTION

The reserve fund in section 309 of the Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the Senate to revise the allocations of one or more committees, the aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between Houses, or motions relating to Federal investment in the infrastructure of the United States, provided that such legislation shall not include transfers from other trust funds but may include transfers from the general fund that are offset, provided further that such legislation would not increase the deficit either over the period of the total of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, or the period of the total of the fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 404 of the House amendment stipulates that, for purposes of budget enforcement, transfers of funds from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year in which the transfer occurs.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Under the conference agreement, the Senate (in section 4309) and the House (in section 3302) retain their respective language on general fund transfers to the Highway Trust Fund.

*Adjustments for the Improved Control of Budgetary Resources*

SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution does not have a comparable provision relating to the improved control of budgetary resources.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Subsection 409(a) of the House amendment authorizes the chairman of the Budget Committee to reduce a committee's allocation (other than the Committee on Appropriations) and increase the Committee on Appropriations allocation of discretionary spending for fiscal year 2016 if a committee (other than Appropriations) reports legislation that decreases direct spending in any fiscal year and authorizes appropriations for the same purpose. Subsection (b) provides the Chair of the Committee on the Budget with the authority to determine and adjust, as applicable, the budgetary levels of this concurrent resolution on the budget.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3303 of the conference agreement adopts the House amendment language as a House-only provision.

*Point of Order against Advance Appropriations*

SENATE RESOLUTION

As in past years, section 403 of the Senate resolution provides a supermajority point of order in the Senate against appropriations in fiscal year 2016 bills that would become effective in any year after fiscal year 2016, and against appropriation bills in fiscal year 2017 that would first become available in any year after fiscal year 2017. It does not apply to appropriations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration. It provides an exemption up to \$28.852 billion (the same level as provided for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, P.L. 113-67) for accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 405 of the House amendment provides a limit on appropriations that would become effective in fiscal year 2017. Subsection (a) prohibits the consideration of any general or continuing appropriations measure from making advance appropriations unless the appropriation is included in a list of exceptions.

Subsection (b) specifies the list of excluded accounts, which may receive advance appropriations, are referred to in this report or joint explanatory statement, as applicable, in the section designated as "Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations."

Subsection (c) sets an overall limit for allowable advance appropriations for fiscal year 2017. It permits advance appropriations of up to \$63.271 billion for fiscal year 2017 for the veterans accounts referenced in subsection (b) and referred to in this report. It also allows up to \$28.852 billion in advance appropriations for other accounts referenced in subsection (b) and referred to in this report.

Subsection (d) defines an advance appropriation as any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making general or continuing appropriations for a fiscal year following fiscal year 2016.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Under the conference agreement, the Senate (in section 3202) and the House (in sec-

tion 3304) retain their respective limits on advance appropriations.

IN THE SENATE

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE

*Financial Services and General Government*

Payment to Postal Service

*Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education*

Employment and Training Administration

Job Corps

Education for the Disadvantaged

School Improvement

Special Education

Career, Technical, and Adult Education

*Transportation, Housing and Urban Development*

Tenant-based Rental Assistance

Project-based Rental Assistance

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUBJECT TO A GENERAL LIMIT OF \$28,852,000,000

*Financial Services*

Postal Service

*Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education*

Employment and Training Administration

Education for the Disadvantaged

School Improvement

Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Special Education

*Transportation, Housing and Urban Development*

Tenant-based Rental Assistance

Project-based Rental Assistance

VETERANS ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE LIMIT OF \$63,271,000,000

*Military Construction, Veterans Affairs*

Veterans Medical Services

Veterans Medical Support and Compliance

Veterans Medical Facilities

**Subtitle D—Other Provisions**

*Submission of Findings for the Elimination of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 431 of the Senate resolution directs Senate committees to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and duplication in Federal programs and to review matters identified by the Government Accountability Office, or GAO (in GAO's annual duplication report or its High Risk list) for consideration by Congress. In addition, the resolution asks committees to provide recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 301 of the House amendment includes reconciliation-like instructions to named House committees to submit to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives no later than October 1, 2015, changes in laws within their jurisdiction that would achieve a targeted amount of savings from the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse. Savings targets for each committee would be published in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3401 of the conference agreement adopts the language in the Senate resolution with some modifications. Subsection (a) of the conference agreement directs all committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to review programs within their

jurisdiction and identify waste, fraud, abuse, or duplication, and increase the use of performance data to inform each committee's work.

Section 3401(b) also directs all committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to review applicable matters for congressional consideration identified in the Office of Inspector General semiannual reports and the Office of Inspector General's list of unimplemented recommendations and on the Government Accountability Office's High Risk list and annual report to reduce program duplication.

Section 3401(c) further directs all committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, after completing the oversight and performance reviews required under this section, to include recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports submitted by the committees to the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and House of Representatives, as applicable, under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(d)).

*Budgetary Treatment of Administrative Expenses*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 432 of the Senate resolution requires the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on the budget resolution to include amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service—which are subject to the discretionary spending caps—in the allocation to the Appropriations Committee.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 403(a) of the House amendment declares that the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service are reflected in the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations even though both are technically off-budget. This language is necessary to ensure the Committee on Appropriations retains control over administrative expenses through the annual appropriations process. This budgetary treatment of administrative expenses is based on the long-term practice of the House and Senate Budget Committees.

Subsection (b) requires the administrative expenses to be included in the cost estimates for the relevant appropriations measure, which are used to determine if a measure exceeds the spending limits in the budget resolution and, as a result, subject to points of order.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3402 of the conference agreement adopts the language in the House resolution with a minor modification that strikes the reference to the point of order in section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act.

*Application and Effect of Changes in Allocations and Aggregates*

SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 433 of the Senate resolution directs that (1) adjustments of allocations and aggregates made under the authority of a reserve fund or other directive will apply while a measure is under consideration, take effect once the measure is enacted, and be published in the Congressional Record; (2) revisions to allocations and aggregates will be considered as if contained in this budget resolution, for enforcement purposes; and (3) Budget Committee estimates will serve as the basis for determining new levels of budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new

entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 410(a) of the House-passed resolution sets forth allocation and adjustment procedures required to accommodate legislation provided for in this concurrent resolution. It declares that these adjustments apply while the legislation is under consideration and become permanent upon enactment of the legislation. These adjustments must be printed in the Congressional Record.

Paragraph 410(a)(3) includes a provision temporarily suspending the Senate point of order against certain reconciliation bills.

Section 410(b) stipulates that in the House of Representatives, for purposes of this concurrent resolution and budget enforcement, any legislation for which the Chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives makes an adjustment or revision in the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives (CUT-GO).

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Section 3403 retains the Senate language but adopts House subsection 410(b) pertaining to Rule XXI of the House of Representatives (CUT-GO).

#### *Adjustments to Reflect Changes in Concepts and Definitions*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 434 of the Senate resolution declares that in the event Congress enacts a bill or joint resolution that changes concepts or definitions, the Senate resolution provides the Budget Committee Chairman with the authority to change levels and allocations in this resolution, accordingly.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 410 (a) of the House amendment declares that in the event Congress enacts a bill or joint resolution that changes concepts or definitions, the Senate resolution provides the Budget Committee Chairman with the authority to change levels and allocations in this resolution, accordingly.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Both the Senate and House resolutions include traditional language giving the Chairman of the Budget Committee the authority to make changes to the level and committee allocations in the event legislation becomes law that changes key budgetary concepts or definitions. In section 3404 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate language relating to changes in concepts and definitions.

#### *Exercise of Rulemaking Powers*

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 435 of the Senate resolution declares that the provisions in Title III of the resolution are promulgated under the Senate's rulemaking power and shall be considered part of the rules of the Senate.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 411 of the House amendment affirms that the adoption of the budget resolution is an exercise of the House's rulemaking power and that the House has the constitutional right to change these rules.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

In section 3405 of the conference agreement, the House joins the Senate language relating to rulemaking powers of this resolution.

#### PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE REFLECTING LEVELS FOR THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Period of the current fiscal year, the budget year, and the 4 fiscal years following the budget year: \$0.

Period of the current fiscal year, the budget year, and the 9 fiscal years following the budget year: \$0.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

The Budget Committee does not have the authority to authorize policy changes—that is the role of the authorizing committees. Committees often make some of their policy priorities known in their views and estimates letters, and reserve funds are a way to accommodate those requests when the specific spending and revenue contours of those policies are unknown.

Operatively, a reserve fund allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise committee allocations, budgetary aggregates, and other appropriate levels in the budget resolution to accommodate legislation described in the reserve fund, provided the budgetary effects of that legislation satisfy the requirements enumerated.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION

Section 301. Spending-neutral reserve fund to increase the pace of economic growth and private sector job creation in the United States.

Section 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen America's priorities.

Section 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect flexible and affordable health care choices for all.

Section 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving access to the children's health insurance program.

Section 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for other health reforms.

Section 306. Spending-neutral reserve fund for child welfare.

Section 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Section 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax reform and administration.

Section 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in the infrastructure in America.

Section 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for air transportation.

Section 311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote jobs in the United States through international trade.

Section 312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase employment opportunities for disabled workers.

Section 313. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education act reform.

Section 314. Spending-neutral reserve fund for energy legislation.

Section 315. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform environmental statutes.

Section 316. Spending-neutral reserve fund for water resources legislation.

Section 317. Spending-neutral reserve fund on mineral security and mineral rights.

Section 318. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform the abandoned mine lands program.

Section 319. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve forest health.

Section 320. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reauthorize funding for payments in lieu of taxes to counties and other units of local government.

Section 321. Spending-neutral reserve fund for financial regulatory system reform.

Section 322. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal program administration.

Section 323. Spending-neutral reserve fund to implement agreements with freely associated states.

Section 324. Spending-neutral reserve fund to protect payments to rural hospitals and create sustainable access for rural communities.

Section 325. Spending-neutral reserve fund to encourage State Medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled.

Section 326. Spending-neutral reserve fund to allow pharmacists to be paid for the provision of services under Medicare.

Section 327. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve our Nation's community health centers.

Section 328. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process.

Section 329. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for export promotion.

Section 330. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform, improve, and enhance section 529 college savings plans.

Section 331. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to securing overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States.

Section 332. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to achieve savings by helping struggling Americans on the road to personal and financial independence.

Section 333. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to conserving Federal land, enhancing access to Federal land for recreational opportunities, and making investments in counties and schools.

Section 334. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect taxpayers from identity fraud.

Section 335. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to career and technical education.

Section 336. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to FEMA preparedness.

Section 337. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Section 338. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote the next generation of NIH researchers in the United States.

Section 339. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting manufacturing in the United States.

Section 340. Spending-neutral reserve fund to prohibit aliens without legal status in the United States from qualifying for a refundable tax credit.

Section 341. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for report elimination or modification.

Section 342. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address heroin and prescription opioid abuse.

Section 343. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen Department of Defense civilian workforce.

Section 344. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Department of Defense reform.

Section 345. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs.

Section 346. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide energy assistance and invest in energy efficiency and conservation.

Section 347. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to enable greater collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and law school clinics serving veterans.

Section 348. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase funding for Department of Energy nuclear waste cleanup.

Section 349. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Department of Defense initiatives to bolster resilience of mission-critical department infrastructure to impacts from climate change and associated events.

Section 350. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end Operation Choke Point and protect the Second Amendment.

Section 351. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the use of Federal funds for the bailout of impropvident State and local governments.

Section 352. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts.

Section 353. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid.

Section 354. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect and strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs, hire more health care professionals for the department, and ensure quality and timely access to health care for all veterans.

Section 355. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program.

Section 356. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay.

Section 357. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect and strengthen Social Security.

Section 358. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option.

Section 359. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the protection of clean water using scientific standards while maintaining the traditional role of agriculture.

Section 360. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to keeping the Federal Water Pollution Control Act focused on the protection of water quality.

Section 361. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to saving Medicare.

Section 362. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting Israel.

Section 363. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time.

Section 364. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who have geographic inaccessibility to care.

Section 365. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program.

Section 366. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to consumer price transparency.

Section 367. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing.

Section 368. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to carbon emissions.

Section 369. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow States to opt out of Common Core without penalty.

Section 370. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to small business tax relief.

Section 371. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.

Section 372. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation.

Section 373. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.

Section 374. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.

Section 375. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

Section 376. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to permanently eliminate the Federal estate tax.

Section 377. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing climate change.

Section 378. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 379. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Section 380. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations.

Section 381. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service.

Section 382. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Section 383. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring equal treatment of married couples under the Social Security program and by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section 384. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers.

Section 385. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Section 386. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to middle class tax relief.

Section 387. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring proper economic consideration in designation of critical habitat.

Section 388. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen the national do-not-call registry.

Section 389. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end "too-big-to-fail" bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets).

Section 390. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Section 391. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Section 392. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to revise or repeal sequestration.

Section 393. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Section 394. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Section 395. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.

Section 396. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits.

Section 397. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication.

Section 398. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming Offices of Inspectors General and preventing extended vacancies.

Section 399. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security.

Section 399a. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Section 399b. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the conservation of northern long-eared bat populations and local economic development are compatible.

Section 399c. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Section 399d. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies.

Section 399e. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies.

Section 399f. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers.

Section 399g. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the needs of women veterans.

Section 399h. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy.

Section 399i. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing access to marijuana edibles by children in States that have decriminalized marijuana.

Section 399j. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas.

Section 399k. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.

Section 399l. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.

Section 399m. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to raising the Family of Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program.

Section 399n. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet.

Section 399o. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support State drought prevention plans.

Section 399p. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid.

Section 399q. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to preserve and protect the open Internet.

Section 399r. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process.

Section 399s. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program.

Section 399t. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening waterborne commerce in our ports and harbors.

Section 399u. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the modernization of the nuclear command, control, and communications architecture of the United States.

Section 399v. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to BARDA and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund.

Section 399w. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the nuclear forces and missions of the Air Force.

Section 399x. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses.

Section 399y. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the definition of full-time employee.

Section 399z. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process.

Section 399aa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expedite awards under the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program.

Section 399bb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

Section 399cc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the department.

Section 399dd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens of community banks and credit unions.

Section 399ee. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Section 399ff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions.

Section 399gg. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote biomedical research.

Section 399hh. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the heroin and methamphetamine abuse epidemic in the United States.

Section 399ii. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing access to necessary equipment for Medicare beneficiaries.

Section 399jj. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prioritizing the construction of infrastructure projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors.

Section 399kk. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO.

Section 399ll. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the investigation and recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government.

Section 399mm. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving higher education data and transparency.

Section 399nn. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs funded by the Older Americans Act of 1965.

Section 399oo. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to native children.

Section 399pp. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the personal information of consumers from data breaches.

Section 399qq. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for government reform and efficiency.

Section 399rr. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to medical treatment and compensation for first responders, survivors, and their families injured and made ill by the 9/11 attacks.

Section 399ss. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of Native American schools.

Section 399tt. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the guarantee threshold for Surety Bond Guarantee Program.

Section 399uu. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Indo-Pacific partner capacity building and strategy.

Section 399vv. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States.

Section 399ww. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Section 399xx. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the prevention and treatment of agricultural virus outbreaks.

Section 399yy. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of financial literacy education to allow individuals to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources.

Section 399zz. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to comprehensive mental health reform.

Section 399aaa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for children and pregnant women under Medicaid.

Section 399bbb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Park Service Centennial.

Section 399ccc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing college completion.

Section 399ddd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation, including rail, waterways, ports, and highways.

Section 399eee. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to providing for full funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for certain fisheries.

Section 399fff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to training and resources for first responders responding to hazardous materials incidents on railroads.

Section 399ggg. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the application backlog.

Section 399hhh. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing additional funding for international strategic communications.

Section 399iii. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for elementary and secondary education.

Section 399jjj. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in rural and tribal water infrastructure.

Section 399kkk. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to sexual assault at institutions of higher education.

Section 399lll. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education.

Section 399mmm. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to authorizing children eligible for health care under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain such eligibility until age 26.

Section 399nnn. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting workforce development through apprenticeship programs.

Section 399ooo. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the prioritization of broad-based criminal justice reform.

Section 399ppp. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the economy by accelerating the transfer of technologies from laboratories of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to the marketplace.

Section 399qqq. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry.

Section 399rrr. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption.

Section 399sss. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming student loan programs.

Section 399ttt. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the TIGER discretionary grant program of the Department of Transportation.

Section 399uuu. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts.

Section 399vvv. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a new outcome-

based process for authorizing innovative higher education providers.

Section 399www. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving community relations with law enforcement officers.

Section 399xxx. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support research.

Section 399yyy. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles.

Section 399zzz. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing funding to combat anti-Semitism in Europe.

Section 399aaaa. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide students and families with transparent, easily understood postsecondary education financial aid information.

Section 399bbbb. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing adequate funding for the Contract Tower Program of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Section 399cccc. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to underground and surface mining safety and health research.

Section 399dddd. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development.

Section 399eeee. Deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to foreign persons.

Section 399ffff. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies.

#### HOUSE AMENDMENT

Section 501. Reserve fund for the repeal of the President's health care law. Section 501 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise allocations of spending authority and other budgetary levels for a measure that fully repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 [HCERA 2010] (Public Law 111-152). These are the health care bills enacted into law in 2010.

Legislation repealing the health care laws must solely achieve that purpose and may not include extraneous language, whether such language has a budgetary effect or not. These adjustments would not be available for legislation that only partially repeals these laws. The reserve fund is intended to only apply to the health care provisions and would not apply to the repeal of the education-related provisions of HCERA 2010. The adjustments may be made for bills, amendments thereto, or conference reports. Multiple measures may take advantage of the reserve fund, as long as each is for the specified purpose.

An amendment (or a motion to recommit), if it qualifies under the terms of this reserve fund, may be offered to an unrelated measure, but should such a measure, as amended, be returned to the House as a conference report or an amendment between the Houses, no adjustments would be made if that measure contained text unrelated to the purpose of this reserve fund. Adjustments may be made for amendments meeting the criteria, but the adjustment would not cover provisions in the underlying bill unrelated to repealing these laws.

A measure receiving an adjustment under the terms of this reserve fund may be open for amendment, subject to the special rule providing for its consideration, but the amendment, if it does not meet the terms outlined in this section, must be compliant with the Budget Act and the Rules of the House without regard to the adjustments made to the underlying measure.



Section 502. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for promoting real health care reform. Section 502 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise allocations of spending authority, provided to committees of the House, and to adjust other budgetary levels for a measure that promotes real health care reform as long as the measure is deficit-neutral for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 503. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to the Medicare provisions of the President's health care law. Section 503 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise allocations of spending authority provided to committees of the House, and to adjust other budgetary levels for a measure that repeals the Medicare spending cuts in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), as long as the measure is deficit-neutral for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

A measure that repeals only part of these Medicare spending reductions is also eligible for these adjustments. A series of bills, joint resolutions, amendments, or conference reports may receive adjustments under this section, only limited by the cumulative amount of the Medicare spending reductions included in the public laws referenced, as estimated by the Chair of the Committee on the Budget. Once the limit is reached through enacted measures, no more adjustments may be made under this reserve fund. The amount necessary to repeal the Medicare spending cuts is a limit on the adjustments that may be made under this reserve fund, but as the House considers measures that meet these terms, the amount is not reduced until the enactment of such measure fulfilling this purpose.

Section 504. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Section 504 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to applicable committees and adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for a measure that extends the State Children's Health Insurance Program as long as such measure does not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 505. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for graduate medical education. Section 505 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to applicable committees and adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for a measure that reforms, expands, access to, and improves, as determined by such Chair, graduate medical education programs as long as such measure does not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 506. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for trade agreements. Section 506 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to the Committee on Ways and Means and to adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for legislation that implements a trade agreement, as long as such a measure does not increase the deficit in the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 507. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for reforming the tax code. Section 507 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to the Committee on Ways and Means and to adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for legislation that reforms the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 as long as such legislation is deficit-neutral for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 508. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for revenue measures. Section 508 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to the Committee on Ways and Means for legislation that causes a decrease in revenue. The Chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations and aggregates in this resolution if the measure does not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. This allows the Committee on Ways and Means to report legislation that reduces revenue below the level provided for in this resolution but only if it decreases outlays by an equal or greater amount in the applicable period.

Section 509. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility. Section 509 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to applicable committees and adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for a measure reforming policies and programs to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility as long as such a measure neither adversely impacts job creation nor increases the deficit in the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 510. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for transportation. Section 510 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority and to adjust other budgetary enforcement levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution to maintain the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, as long as such a measure does not increase the deficit in the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 511. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Federal retirement reform. Section 511 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to applicable committees and adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for a measure that reforms, improves and updates, as determined by such Chair, the Federal retirement system as long as such measure does not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Section 512. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for national defense. Section 512 permits the Chair of the Committee on the Budget to revise the allocations of spending authority provided to applicable committees and adjust other budgetary levels in this resolution for any legislation that supports the activities specified below as long as such legislation is deficit-neutral (without counting any net revenue increases in that measure) for the periods of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 or fiscal years 2016 through 2025. The activities that may be supported in legislation under this reserve fund include Department of Defense training and maintenance associated with combat readiness, modernization of equipment, auditability of financial statements, or military compensation recommendations.

#### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement contains the following reserve funds applicable in the Senate and the House:

Section 4101. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility for struggling Americans.

The agreement contains the following reserve funds applicable in the Senate:

Section 4301. Spending-neutral reserve fund to increase the pace of economic growth and

private sector job creation in the United States.

Section 4302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen America's priorities.

Section 4303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect flexible and affordable health care choices for all.

Section 4304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving access to the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Section 4305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for other health reforms.

Section 4306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child welfare.

Section 4307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

Section 4308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax reform and administration.

Section 4309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in the infrastructure in America.

Section 4310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for air transportation.

Section 4311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote jobs in the United States through international trade.

Section 4312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase employment opportunities for disabled workers.

Section 4313. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education act reform.

Section 4314. Spending-neutral reserve fund for energy legislation.

Section 4315. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform environmental statutes.

Section 4316. Spending-neutral reserve fund for water resources legislation.

Section 4317. Spending-neutral reserve fund on mineral security and mineral rights.

Section 4318. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reform the abandoned mine lands program.

Section 4319. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve forest health.

Section 4320. Spending-neutral reserve fund to reauthorize funding for payments in lieu of taxes to counties and other units of local government.

Section 4321. Spending-neutral reserve fund for financial regulatory system reform.

Section 4322. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal program administration.

Section 4323. Spending-neutral reserve fund to implement agreements with freely associated states.

Section 4324. Spending-neutral reserve fund to protect payments to rural hospitals and create sustainable access for rural communities.

Section 4325. Spending-neutral reserve fund to encourage state Medicaid demonstration programs to promote independent living and integrated work for the disabled.

Section 4326. Spending-neutral reserve fund to allow pharmacists to be paid for the provision of services under Medicare.

Section 4327. Spending-neutral reserve fund to improve our Nation's community health centers.

Section 4328. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the funding of independent agencies, which may include subjecting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the regular appropriations process.

Section 4329. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reform, improve, and enhance section 529 college savings plans.

Section 4330. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to securing overseas diplomatic facilities of the United States.

Section 4331. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding, enhancing, or otherwise improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Section 4332. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting manufacturing in the United States.

Section 4333. Spending-neutral reserve fund to prohibit aliens without legal status in the United States from qualifying for a refundable tax credit.

Section 4334. Deficit-reduction reserve fund for report elimination or modification.

Section 4335. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription opioid abuse.

Section 4336. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen our Department of Defense civilian workforce.

Section 4337. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Department of Defense reform.

Section 4338. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve Federal workforce development, job training, and reemployment programs.

Section 4339. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide energy assistance and invest in energy efficiency and conservation.

Section 4340. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end Operation Choke Point and protect the Second Amendment.

Section 4341. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the use of Federal funds for the bailout of improvident State and local governments.

Section 4342. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid.

Section 4343. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program.

Section 4344. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay.

Section 4345. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by the President of the United States to protect and strengthen Social Security.

Section 4346. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a simplified, income-driven student loan repayment option.

Section 4347. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to keeping the Federal Water Pollution Control Act focused on the protection of water quality.

Section 4348. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting Israel.

Section 4349. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation regarding family and medical leave.

Section 4350. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who have geographic inaccessibility to care.

Section 4351. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program.

Section 4352. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing.

Section 4353. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to carbon emissions.

Section 4354. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow States to opt out of Common Core without penalty.

Section 4355. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land.

Section 4356. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation.

Section 4357. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.

Section 4358. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens

held hostage in the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.

Section 4359. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

Section 4360. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to permanently eliminate the Federal estate tax.

Section 4361. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 4362. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Section 4363. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations.

Section 4364. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Section 4365. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers.

Section 4366. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Section 4367. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring proper economic consideration in designation of critical habitat.

Section 4368. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to end "too big to fail" bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over \$500 billion in total assets).

Section 4369. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Section 4370. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Section 4371. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the return of children who have been legally adopted by United States citizens from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Section 4372. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to development of a new nuclear-capable cruise missile by the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Section 4373. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits.

Section 4374. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating the backlog of sexual assault evidence kits.

Section 4375. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mixed oxide fuel fabrication.

Section 4376. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming Offices of Inspectors General and preventing extended vacancies.

Section 4377. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security.

Section 4378. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Section 4379. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the conservation of northern long-eared bat populations and local economic development are compatible.

Section 4380. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Section 4381. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter into joint task forces with tribal and local law enforcement agencies.

Section 4382. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging cost savings in office space used by Federal agencies.

Section 4383. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs through small business development centers.

Section 4384. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the needs of women veterans.

Section 4385. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting efficient resourcing for the Asia rebalance policy.

Section 4386. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing access to marijuana edibles by children in states that have decriminalized marijuana.

Section 4387. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing mortgage lending to rural areas.

Section 4388. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers.

Section 4389. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to researching health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.

Section 4390. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to raising the family of funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company program.

Section 4391. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to detection, investigation, and prosecution of the owners and operators of websites who knowingly allow such websites to be used to advertise commercial sex with children over the Internet.

Section 4392. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid.

Section 4393. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to preserve and protect the open Internet.

Section 4394. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process.

Section 4395. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing coverage of virtual colonoscopies as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program.

Section 4396. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the modernization of the nuclear command, control, and communications architecture of the United States.

Section 4397. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to BARDA and the BioShield special reserve fund.

Section 4398. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the nuclear forces and missions of the Air Force.

Section 4399. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses and full funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for certain fisheries.

Section 4400. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the definition of full-time employee.

Section 4401. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal regulatory process.

Section 4402. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to expedite awards under the Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program.

Section 4403. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

Section 4404. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the department.

Section 4405. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community banks and credit unions.

Section 4406. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Section 4407. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions.

Section 4408. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote biomedical research.

Section 4409. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing access to necessary equipment for Medicare beneficiaries.

Section 4410. Spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prioritizing the construction of infrastructure projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high-priority corridors.

Section 4411. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to encouraging the United States' NATO allies to reverse declines in defense spending and bear a more proportionate burden for ensuring the security of NATO.

Section 4412. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the investigation and recovery of missing weapons and military equipment provided to the Government of Yemen by the United States Government.

Section 4413. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving higher education data and transparency.

Section 4414. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to native children.

Section 4415. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to provide additional funding for international strategic communications.

Section 4416. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for elementary and secondary education.

Section 4417. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to support research.

Section 4418. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine.

Section 4419. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to underground and surface mining safety research.

Section 4420. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to saving Medicare.

The agreement contains the following reserve funds applicable in the House:

Section 4501. Reserve fund for the repeal of the President's health care law.

Section 4502. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for promoting real health care reform.

Section 4503. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to the Medicare provisions of the President's health care law.

Section 4504. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving access to the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Section 4505. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for graduate medical education.

Section 4506. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for trade agreements.

Section 4507. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for reforming the tax code.

Section 4508. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for revenue measures.

Section 4509. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for transportation.

Section 4510. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Federal retirement reform.

Section 4511. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for national defense.

## ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING IN THE HOUSE

### SENATE RESOLUTION

No provision.

### HOUSE AMENDMENT

This section is required under the Separate Orders of H. Res. 5 (114th Congress), which implements the Rules of the House of Representatives and is a requirement for the consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget in the 114th Congress. It provides the average and estimated average rate of growth in means-tested and non-means-tested direct spending for the 10-year periods before and after fiscal year 2016, respectively, and proposes reforms of these two categories and direct spending.

### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement includes the House provision for the House.

TABLE 11.—HISTORICAL MEANS-TESTED AND NON MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING

[Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars]

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Estimated		Average annual growth
										2014	2015	2006–2015
<b>Means-Tested Programs:</b>												
Health Care Programs:												
Medicaid .....	182	181	191	201	251	273	275	251	265	301	335	6.3%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies .....	0	11	17	17	19	21	24	20	22	22	24	(+)8.9%
Health insurance subsidies <sup>b,c</sup> .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	28	n.a.
Children's Health Insurance Program .....	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	9	10	7.3%
Subtotal .....	187	197	213	225	277	302	308	279	297	346	397	7.8%
Income Security:												
SNAP .....	33	35	35	39	56	70	77	80	83	76	78	9.1%
Supplemental Security Income .....	38	37	36	41	45	47	53	47	53	54	55	3.7%
Earned income and child tax credits <sup>c</sup> .....	49	52	54	75	67	77	78	77	79	82	83	5.3%
Family support and foster care <sup>d</sup> .....	31	30	31	32	33	35	33	30	32	31	31	0.3%
Child nutrition .....	13	14	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	20	21	5.1%
Subtotal .....	163	168	170	202	217	247	260	254	266	263	268	5.1%
Veterans' pensions .....	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	5.0%
Pell Grants <sup>e</sup> .....	0	0	0	1	2	4	14	12	16	8	11	n.a.
Subtotal, Means-Tested Programs .....	354	369	386	431	501	557	587	550	584	623	683	6.8%
Non-Means-Tested Programs <sup>f</sup> .....	1,094	1,188	1,242	1,349	1,787	1,553	1,648	1,710	1,752	1,757	1,847	5.4%
<b>Total Mandatory Outlays<sup>g</sup> .....</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>Memorandum:</b>												
Pell Grants (Discretionary) .....	13	13	13	15	13	20	21	21	17	23	20	4.3%

Source: Congressional Budget Office; staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Notes: The average annual growth rate over the 2006–2015 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount recorded in 2005 through the amount projected for 2015.

Data on spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; n.a. = not applicable.

Because October 1 fell on a weekend in 2006, 2007, and 2012, certain federal payments that were due on that date were instead made at the end of the preceding September and thus shifted into the previous fiscal year. Those shifts primarily affected outlays for Supplemental Security Income, veterans' compensation benefits and pensions, and Medicare.

a. The average annual growth rate reflects the program's growth from its inception in 2006 through 2015.

b. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 from The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2015 to 2025 because it does not include payments to health insurance plans for risk adjustment (amounts paid to plans that attract less healthy enrollees) and reinsurance (amounts paid to plans that enroll individuals who end up with high costs). Spending for grants to states to establish exchanges is also excluded.

c. Does not include amounts that reduce tax receipts.

d. Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.

e. Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.

f. Does not include offsetting receipts.

g. Does not include outlays associated with federal interest payments, which are not considered part of mandatory spending

TABLE 12.—PROJECTED MEANS-TESTED AND NON MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING

[Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars]

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average annual growth
												2016–2025
<b>Means-Tested Programs:</b>												
Health Care Programs:												
Medicaid .....	335	360	384	405	428	452	477	503	530	558	588	5.8%
Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies .....	24	28	28	28	32	34	37	44	46	46	54	8.4%
Health insurance subsidies <sup>a,b</sup> .....	28	55	75	86	89	91	97	102	105	109	112	15.1%
Children's Health Insurance Program .....	10	11	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	–5.9%
Subtotal .....	397	454	493	524	555	584	617	656	687	719	760	6.7%

TABLE 12.—PROJECTED MEANS-TESTED AND NON MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING—Continued

[Outlays by fiscal year, billions of dollars]

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average annual growth 2016–2025
Income Security:												
SNAP .....	78	78	76	75	74	74	74	73	74	74	75	–0.4%
Supplemental Security Income .....	55	60	57	54	61	63	64	71	68	65	72	2.7%
Earned income and child tax credits <sup>b,c</sup> .....	83	85	86	87	75	76	77	78	79	80	82	–0.1%
Family support and foster care <sup>d</sup> .....	31	32	32	32	33	33	33	34	34	34	35	1.0%
Child nutrition .....	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	4.3%
Subtotal .....	268	277	274	273	267	271	275	285	284	284	295	1.0%
Veterans' pensions .....	6	7	6	6	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	2.0%
Pell Grants <sup>e</sup> .....	11	6	7	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	–1.3%
Subtotal, Means-Tested Programs .....	683	744	781	811	838	871	909	957	988	1,019	1,072	4.6%
Non-Means-Tested Programs <sup>f</sup> .....	1,847	1,947	2,018	2,094	2,241	2,370	2,516	2,708	2,820	2,933	3,165	5.5%
Total Mandatory Outlays <sup>g</sup> .....	2,530	2,691	2,799	2,905	3,079	3,241	3,425	3,666	3,808	3,952	4,237	5.3%
Memorandum:												
Pell Grants (Discretionary) <sup>h</sup> .....	20	27	27	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	3.0%

Source: Congressional Budget Office; staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Notes: The projections shown here are the same as those reported in Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2015 to 2025 (January 2015). CBO recently updated its baseline projections as reported in Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015). Some of the projections are different in the March baseline, but at the request of the committee staff, the projections shown are from the January baseline.

The average annual growth rate over the 2016–2025 period encompasses growth in outlays from the amount projected for 2015 through the amount projected for 2025.

Projections of spending for benefit programs in this table exclude administrative costs that are classified as discretionary but generally include administrative costs classified as mandatory.

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Because October 1 will fall on a weekend in 2016, 2017, 2022, and 2023, certain federal payments that are due on that date will instead be made at the end of the preceding September and thus be shifted into the previous fiscal year.

Those shifts primarily affect outlays for Supplemental Security Income, veterans' compensation benefits and pensions, and Medicare.

a. Differs from the amounts reported in Table 3-2 from The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2015 to 2025 because it does not include payments to health insurance plans for risk adjustment (amounts paid to plans that attract less healthy enrollees) and reinsurance (amounts paid to plans that enroll individuals who end up with high costs). Spending for grants to states to establish exchanges is also excluded.

b. Does not include amounts that reduce tax receipts.

c. Differs from the amounts reported on Table 3-2 from The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2015 to 2025 because it does not include other tax credits that were included in that table.

d. Includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Child Support Enforcement program, the Child Care Entitlement program, and other programs that benefit children.

e. Includes mandatory spending designed to reduce the discretionary budget authority needed to support the maximum award level set in the appropriation act plus mandatory spending that, by formula, increases the total maximum award above the amount set in the appropriation act.

f. Does not include offsetting receipts.

g. Does not include outlays associated with federal interest payments, which are not considered part of mandatory spending.

h. The discretionary baseline does not represent a projection of expected costs for the discretionary portion of the Pell Grant program. As with all other discretionary programs, the budget authority is calculated by inflating the budget authority appropriated for fiscal year 2015. Outlays for future years are based on those amounts of budget authority and also reflect a temporary surplus of budget authority provided in 2015.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### SENATE RESOLUTION

The Senate resolution contains no policy statements.

### HOUSE AMENDMENT

The House amendment contains the following policy statements:

Section 801. Policy statement on balanced budget amendment.

Section 802. Policy statement on budget process and baseline reform.

Section 803. Policy statement on economic growth and job creation.

Section 804. Policy statement on tax reform.

Section 805. Policy statement on trade.

Section 806. Policy statement on Social Security.

Section 807. Policy statement on repealing the President's health care law and promoting real health care reform.

Section 808. Policy statement on Medicare.

Section 809. Policy statement on medical discovery, development, delivery and innovation.

Section 810. Policy statement on Federal regulatory reform.

Section 811. Policy statement on higher education and workforce development opportunity.

Section 812. Policy statement on Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section 813. Policy statement on Federal accounting methodologies.

Section 814. Policy statement on scorekeeping for outyear budgetary effects in appropriation acts.

Section 815. Policy statement on reducing unnecessary, wasteful, and unauthorized spending.

Section 816. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the cancellation of unobligated balances.

Section 817. Policy statement on agency fees and spending.

Section 818. Policy statement on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Section 819. Policy statement on "No Budget, No Pay."

Section 820. Policy statement on national security funding.

### CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement contains the following policy statements of the House and Senate:

Section 6101. Policy statement on a balanced budget amendment.

Section 6102. Policy statement on Social Security.

The conference agreement also contains the following policy statements of the House:

Section 6201. Policy statement on budget process and baseline reform.

Section 6202. Policy statement on economic growth and job creation.

Section 6203. Policy statement on tax reform.

Section 6204. Policy statement on trade.

Section 6205. Policy statement on repealing the President's health care law and promoting real health care reform.

Section 6206. Policy statement on Medicare.

Section 6207. Policy statement on medical discovery, development, delivery, and innovation.

Section 6208. Policy statement on Federal regulatory reform.

Section 6209. Policy statement on higher education and workforce development opportunity.

Section 6210. Policy statement on the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section 6211. Policy statement on Federal accounting methodologies.

Section 6212. Policy statement on reducing unnecessary, wasteful, and unnecessary spending.

Section 6213. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the cancellation of unobligated balances.

Section 6214. Policy statement on agency fees and spending.

Section 6215. Policy statement on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Section 6216. Policy statement on "No Budget, No Pay."

Section 6217. Policy statement on national security funding.

## ALLOCATIONS

As required under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the joint statement of managers includes allocations of budget authority and outlays, based on the conference agreement, to each of the authorizing committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate. This joint statement allocates to the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate a lump sum of discretionary budget authority assumed in the concurrent resolution and corresponding outlays for a single fiscal year. It also provides allocations for each of the authorizing committees in the House and Senate for fiscal year 2016, commencing on October 1, 2015, and the 9 ensuing fiscal years, fiscal years 2017 through 2025. These allocations are as follows:

TABLE 13.—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2016
Base Discretionary Action:	
BA .....	1,016,582
OT .....	1,156,644
Global War on Terrorism:	
BA .....	96,287
OT .....	48,798
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA .....	960,295
OT .....	952,912

TABLE 14.—ALLOCATION BY HOUSE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE

(On-budget amounts in millions of dollars)

	2016	2016–2025
<b>Agriculture:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	12,473	646,262
OT .....	12,775	640,246
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 1,645	– 302,149
OT .....	– 347	– 300,020
Total:		
BA .....	10,828	344,113
OT .....	12,428	340,226
<b>Armed Services:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	155,312	1,806,198
OT .....	159,556	1,804,314
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Total:		
BA .....	155,312	1,806,198
OT .....	159,556	1,804,314
<b>Financial Services:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	15,120	113,877
OT .....	4,182	– 44,506
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 7,334	– 62,254
OT .....	– 6,712	– 62,056
Total:		
BA .....	7,786	51,623
OT .....	– 2,530	– 106,562
<b>Education &amp; Workforce:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	– 3,756	40,769
OT .....	– 6,552	25,954
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 10,633	– 249,574
OT .....	– 5,017	– 229,658
Total:		
BA .....	– 14,389	– 208,805
OT .....	– 11,569	– 203,704
<b>Energy &amp; Commerce:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	444,289	5,721,695
OT .....	441,174	5,715,531
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 54,654	– 1,379,704
OT .....	– 49,173	– 1,369,488
Total:		
BA .....	389,635	4,341,991
OT .....	392,001	4,346,043
<b>Foreign Affairs:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	28,183	232,212
OT .....	27,177	230,830
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Total:		
BA .....	28,183	232,212
OT .....	27,177	230,830
<b>Oversight &amp; Government Reform:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	113,380	1,339,277
OT .....	112,234	1,320,222
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 9,188	– 193,961
OT .....	– 9,026	– 193,896
Total:		
BA .....	104,192	1,145,316
OT .....	103,208	1,126,326
<b>Homeland Security:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	1,988	23,061
OT .....	1,973	23,206
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 180	– 19,470
OT .....	– 180	– 19,470
Total:		
BA .....	1,808	3,591
OT .....	1,793	3,736
<b>House Administration:</b>		
Current Law:		
BA .....	41	353
OT .....	12	108
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 31	– 298
OT .....	– 2	– 53
Total:		
BA .....	10	55

TABLE 14.—ALLOCATION BY HOUSE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE—Continued  
(On-budget amounts in millions of dollars)

	2016	2016–2025
OT .....	10	55
Natural Resources:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	5,392	58,170
OT .....	6,020	60,458
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 569	– 32,678
OT .....	– 261	– 32,483
Total:		
BA .....	4,823	25,492
OT .....	5,759	27,975
Judiciary:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	22,544	116,624
OT .....	13,185	122,005
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 14,419	– 24,949
OT .....	– 868	– 23,055
Total:		
BA .....	8,125	91,675
OT .....	12,317	98,950
Transportation & Infrastructure:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	70,089	718,468
OT .....	16,407	184,208
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 12,114	– 197,706
OT .....	0	0
Total:		
BA .....	57,975	520,762
OT .....	16,407	184,208
Science, Space & Technology:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	101	1,017
OT .....	101	1,017
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Total:		
BA .....	101	1,017
OT .....	101	1,017
Small Business:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Total:		
BA .....	0	0
OT .....	0	0
Veterans Affairs:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	3,094	96,599
OT .....	9,188	109,687
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 31	– 1,925
OT .....	– 31	– 1,925
Total:		
BA .....	3,063	94,674
OT .....	9,157	107,762
Ways & Means:		
Current Law:		
BA .....	1,022,809	14,818,985
OT .....	1,021,784	14,817,368
Resolution Change:		
BA .....	– 60,004	– 1,594,908
OT .....	– 59,704	– 1,594,408
Total:		
BA .....	962,805	13,224,077
OT .....	962,080	13,222,960

TABLE 15.—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
(Fiscal year 2016, \$ billions)

Appropriations	Budget au- thority	Outlays
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority <sup>1</sup> .....	523.091	n/a
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority <sup>1</sup> .....	493.491	n/a
General Purpose Outlays <sup>1</sup> .....	n/a	1,156.644
Memorandum:		
Subtotal .....	1,016.582	1,156.644
On-budget .....	1,011.307	1,151.295
Off-budget .....	5.275	5.349
Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism <sup>2</sup> .....	96.287	48.798

TABLE 15.—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—Continued  
[Fiscal year 2016, \$ billions]

	Appropriations	Budget au- thority	Outlays
Mandatory .....		964.049	956.128

<sup>1</sup> The allocation will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in sections 251(b)(2)(A)(i), 251(b)(2)(B), 251(b)(2)(C), and 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.  
<sup>2</sup> The allocation may be adjusted pursuant to section 3102 of the conference report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

TABLE 16.—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY  
SENATE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS  
[Fiscal year 2016, \$ billions]

	2016	2016–2020	2016–2025
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:			
Budget Authority .....	128.680	654.944	1,322.686
Outlays .....	121.723	606.817	1,228.931
Armed Services:			
Budget Authority .....	159.207	848.760	1,851.710
Outlays .....	163.446	848.187	1,849.802
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs:			
Budget Authority .....	24.680	116.744	214.389
Outlays .....	3.848	— 7.666	— 42.938
Commerce, Science, and Transportation:			
Budget Authority .....	17.905	100.960	205.334
Outlays .....	14.188	77.987	154.802
Energy and Natural Resources:			
Budget Authority .....	4.454	24.474	48.985
Outlays .....	4.465	24.478	49.211
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority .....	41.672	211.645	420.414
Outlays .....	2.543	13.680	30.750
Finance:			
Budget Authority .....	2,179.304	12,340.566	29,433.590
Outlays .....	2,169.584	12,321.005	29,408.581
Foreign Relations:			
Budget Authority .....	28.342	125.601	233.802
Outlays .....	27.336	124.464	232.420
Homeland Security and Government Affairs:			
Budget Authority .....	134.948	729.195	1,577.588
Outlays .....	133.802	720.862	1,558.533
Judiciary:			
Budget Authority .....	24.816	79.449	143.856
Outlays .....	15.443	81.087	149.155
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:			
Budget Authority .....	12.137	87.301	174.372
Outlays .....	14.271	87.783	182.631
Rules and Administration:			
Budget Authority .....	0.067	0.334	0.666
Outlays .....	0.038	0.197	0.421
Intelligence:			
Budget Authority .....	0.514	2.570	5.140
Outlays .....	0.514	2.570	5.140
Veterans' Affairs:			
Budget Authority .....	97.631	483.601	1,026.432
Outlays .....	103.480	494.772	1,037.000
Indian Affairs:			
Budget Authority .....	0.491	2.191	4.741
Outlays .....	0.942	3.551	5.982
Small Business:			
Budget Authority .....	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays .....	0.000	0.000	0.000
Unassigned to Committee:			
Budget Authority .....	— 930.099	— 6,014.283	— 15,268.775
Outlays .....	— 884.618	— 5,887.158	— 14,949.026
Total:			
Budget Authority .....	1,924.749	9,794.052	21,394.930
Outlays .....	1,891.005	9,512.616	20,901.395

Includes entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts.

TOM PRICE,  
TODD ROKITA,  
MARIO DIAZ-BALART,  
DIANE BLACK,  
JOHN R. MOOLENAAR,  
*Managers on the Part of the House.*

MICHAEL B. ENZI,  
CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
JEFF SESSIONS,  
MIKE CRAPO,  
LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
ROB PORTMAN,  
PATRICK J. TOOMEY,  
RON JOHNSON,  
KELLY AYOTTE,  
ROGER F. WICKER,  
BOB CORKER,  
DAVID PERDUE,  
*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL  
SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid be-  
fore the House the following resigna-  
tion as a member of the Committee on  
Financial Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, April 27, 2015.*

Attn: Trevor Kolego,  
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It is a tremendous  
privilege to represent the people of the  
Tenth District of Illinois in the U.S. House  
of Representatives.

I have greatly appreciated the opportunity  
to serve on the Financial Services Com-  
mittee. However, due to my appointment to

the Committee on Ways and Means, I hereby  
resign my seat on the Financial Services  
Committee.

I believe that this new position will better  
allow me to represent the interests of my  
constituents, and I look forward to getting  
to work with my colleagues on the Ways and  
Means Committee.

Very truly yours,  
ROBERT J. DOLD,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without  
objection, the resignation is accepted.  
There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN  
STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction  
of the House Republican Conference, I



send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 229

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Walker.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Dold.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2029 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 223 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2029.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1430

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, it is my honor and privilege to bring H.R. 2029, the fiscal year 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, to the House of Representatives.

I present this bill alongside my good friend and ranking member on the subcommittee, SANFORD BISHOP from Georgia, who has been an essential partner all along the way. I greatly appreciate the participation and support of our committee members, both sides of the aisle, as we considered priorities and funding levels for the important programs in our bill.

We analyzed the budget request, developed questions, held oversight hearings to hear directly from members of all the services, the Department of Defense leadership, the Secretary of the VA, the VA inspector general, and the directors of four related agencies. We received over 700 requests from Members—again, from both sides of the aisle—and gave full consideration to each one. It has been a busy spring, and we did our best to accommodate those Member requests.

As we consider this bill, I can't proceed further without noticing that this subcommittee has a formidable level of support from the chair and ranking member of the full committee. Thank you, Chairman ROGERS and Mrs. LOWEY. Your attention to oversight and genuine care for the military and veterans has been inspiring.

To round out our team, we have some great support from our professional staff: Sue Quantius, Sarah Young, Tracey Russell, Maureen Holohan, and Matt Washington on the committee staff and Heather Smith, Drew Kent, and Sean Snyder on my personal staff. We couldn't do it without all of them.

H.R. 2029 demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting the Nation's veterans and servicemembers. Our investment of nearly \$77 billion for military construction and Veterans Affairs that is 6 percent—6 percent—over last year's level is unprecedented. This bill provides comprehensive support for servicemembers, military families, and veterans. It supports our troops with facilities and services necessary to maintain readiness and morale at bases here in the States and around the world.

It provides for Defense Department schools and health clinics that take care of our military families, and the bill funds our veterans health care systems to ensure that our promise to care for those who have sacrificed in defense of this great Nation continues as those men and women return home. We owe this to our veterans and are committed to sustained oversight so that programs deliver what they promise and taxpayers are well served by the investments we make.

On the military construction side, this bill provides a total of \$7.7 billion for military construction projects and family housing, including base and overseas contingency operations funding, an increase of \$904 million. That is nearly 12 percent above the enacted fiscal year 2015 level and \$755 million

below the President's request. This funding meets DOD's most critical needs, including priorities for the combatant commanders in EUCOM, CENTCOM, AFRICOM, and PACOM.

It provides \$607 million for military medical facilities, including the one at Landstuhl, Germany. It provides \$334 million for the Department of Defense education facilities, for construction or renovation of 10 schools. It supports our Guard and Reserve through \$512 million for facilities in 28 States. It fully funds military family housing at \$1.4 billion. And it provides \$150 million for the NATO security investment program, which is \$30 million over the budget request.

On the Veterans Affairs side, the legislation includes a total of \$163.2 billion in combined discretionary and mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Discretionary funding alone for veterans programs in the bill is \$68.7 billion. Total fiscal year 2016 discretionary funding is \$3.6 billion above 2015. It is a 5.6 percent increase and \$1.4 billion below the request. Three billion dollars of this increase was advance funded.

On the VA medical services side, the bill funds VA medical services at \$48.6 billion. That includes \$970 million that the VA came back and asked for on top of the advanced funding from last year. We stretched pretty far to do this, and we haven't funded this second bite in the House before. It is tough to find \$970 million in any budget environment, but this committee did, showing again the level of bipartisan commitment we have to our veterans.

For disability claims, we provide the full request for the Veterans Benefits Administration, which is a \$163 million increase over fiscal year 2015, and the full request for the Board of Veterans Appeals.

The bill will enhance transparency and accountability at the VA through further oversight and an increase for the VA Office of Inspector General's independent audits and investigations. I can assure you the inspector general's office has been very, very busy.

This legislation also contains \$233 million for the modernization of the VA electronic health record and includes language restricting funding until the VA demonstrates progress on the system's functionality and interoperability. This is a major concern to all of us on both sides of the aisle, and I know the chairman, in particular, has been outspoken about this matter, but it is something that all of us, Republican and Democrat, want to see fixed.

On construction issues, major construction within the VA is funded at \$562 million, which is the same level as fiscal year 2015. The bill provides funding for hospital replacement and allows the VA to continue to correct seismic safety issues and deficiencies. We did not fund the more-than-double budget

request for construction, as we face the impact of gross mismanagement of the Colorado VA Hospital construction, which resulted in a \$930 million cost overrun. That is not a typo: a \$930 million cost overrun, which is nearly twice the entire VA major construction line item. We have also cracked down on oversight with multiple restrictions.

We fund the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Arlington National Cemetery, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims at the requested funding levels.

In closing, this is a very solid bipartisan bill that is focused on the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and all their families. We are \$4.6 billion over the fiscal year 2015 level; again, a nearly 6 percent increase. Not a cut. We have provided for our military and veterans to the very best level we can.

Did we fund every last dime requested? No. Not every idea has merit, and not every project is mission critical. We did not fund some projects. We cut some requested increases, and we rescinded funds. These were fair decisions and part of our responsibility as appropriators.

We have received a lot of criticism for the actions we have taken very recently. It started with an email campaign from the VA legislative affairs office; then a Statement of Administration Policy; and last, some of the VSOs have joined in. Let me tell you, in my time, before I was chairman of the subcommittee, and certainly in my time since I took over this position, I can say with absolute certainty, the VA's problems stem from poor management, not too little money. Poor management, not too little money. I will say that again. The problems we encounter at the VA time after time—whether it is the Phoenix patient wait list scandal, the claims and benefits mess in Philadelphia, or the Denver hospital construction debacle—show that the VA's problem is management, not money, and for the VA to complain about a 6 percent increase rather than an 8 percent increase and to call a 6 percent increase a cut—they call that a cut.

Only in Washington, D.C., can someone call a 6 percent increase over last year a cut. Everywhere else in America it is a 6 percent increase, but not in this town. Amazing to me, and particu-

larly from a Department that has so many severe managerial problems at this time. We need to be diligent with oversight and at the same time be a helping hand to the Department. There is a way out of the morass, but more money without the necessary management reforms is not the answer.

I have talked to many Members about the VA, and just last night in the Committee on Rules, I got quite an earful there. Truly, Members are in agreement that we must help the VA transform because that transformation is crucial to serve veterans properly and to respect the taxpayers footing the bill. By the way, that frustration I have heard from Members is from both sides of the aisle, as was the case I heard last night in the Committee on Rules.

We will do a lot of good with this bill. It is fair, it is balanced, and, at a 6 percent increase over last year, it is generous. On behalf of our servicemembers, military families, and veterans, I urge your support of this legislation. Let's take care of those who sacrifice for our country. It is time to do the right thing and support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2016 (H.R. 2029)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military construction, Army.....	528,427	743,245	663,245	+134,818	-80,000
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,018,772	1,669,239	1,349,678	+330,906	-319,561
Military construction, Air Force.....	811,774	1,389,185	1,237,055	+425,281	-152,130
Military construction, Defense-Wide.....	1,991,690	2,300,767	1,931,456	-60,234	-369,311
Total, Active components.....	4,350,663	6,102,436	5,181,434	+830,771	-921,002
Military construction, Army National Guard.....	128,920	197,237	167,437	+38,517	-29,800
Military construction, Air National Guard.....	92,663	138,738	138,738	+46,075	---
Military construction, Army Reserve.....	103,946	113,595	104,295	+349	-9,300
Military construction, Navy Reserve.....	51,528	36,078	36,078	-15,450	---
Military construction, Air Force Reserve.....	49,492	65,021	65,021	+15,529	---
Total, Reserve components.....	426,549	550,669	511,569	+85,020	-39,100
Total, Military construction.....	4,777,212	6,653,105	5,693,003	+915,791	-960,102
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....					
	199,700	120,000	150,000	-49,700	+30,000
Family housing construction, Army.....	78,609	99,695	99,695	+21,086	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army.....	350,976	393,511	393,511	+42,535	---
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps....	16,412	16,541	16,541	+129	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	354,029	353,036	353,036	-993	---
Family housing construction, Air Force.....	---	160,498	160,498	+160,498	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force....	327,747	331,232	331,232	+3,485	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	61,100	58,668	58,668	-2,432	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	1,662	---	---	-1,662	---
Total, Family housing.....	1,190,535	1,413,181	1,413,181	+222,646	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide..	38,715	---	---	-38,715	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account.....	315,085	251,334	251,334	-63,751	---
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS					
Military Construction - fiscal year 2014 (Sec. 127)...	125,000	---	---	-125,000	---
Military Construction - fiscal year 2015 (Sec. 128)...	117,000	---	---	-117,000	---
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125).....	-49,533	---	-96,000	-46,467	-96,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 130).....	-25,522	---	---	+25,522	---
Defense Access Roads (Sec. 131).....	---	---	30,000	+30,000	+30,000
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 126).....	-41,392	---	-52,600	-11,208	-52,600
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec. 127).....	---	---	-134,000	-134,000	-134,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 132).....	-25,000	---	---	+25,000	---
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 128).....	-63,800	---	-103,918	-40,118	-103,918
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	36,753	---	-356,518	-393,271	-356,518
Appropriations.....	(242,000)	---	(30,000)	(-212,000)	(+30,000)
Rescissions.....	(-205,247)	---	(-386,518)	(-181,271)	(-386,518)
Total, title I, Department of Defense.....	6,558,000	8,437,620	7,151,000	+593,000	-1,286,620
Appropriations.....	(6,763,247)	(8,437,620)	(7,537,518)	(+774,271)	(-900,102)
Rescissions.....	(-205,247)	---	(-386,518)	(-181,271)	(-386,518)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions.....	79,071,000	79,124,675	79,124,675	+53,675	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	---	87,146,761	87,146,761	+87,146,761	---

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2016 (H.R. 2029)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Readjustment benefits.....	14,997,136	15,344,922	15,344,922	+347,786	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	---	16,743,904	16,743,904	+16,743,904	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities.....	63,257	77,160	77,160	+13,903	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	---	91,920	91,920	+91,920	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:					
(indefinite).....	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	160,881	164,558	164,558	+3,677	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account.....	10	31	31	+21	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,877)	(2,952)	(2,952)	(+75)	---
Administrative expenses.....	361	367	367	+6	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account..	1,130	1,134	1,134	+4	---
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....	94,293,775	198,695,432	198,695,432	+104,401,657	---
Appropriations.....	(94,293,775)	(94,712,847)	(94,712,847)	(+419,072)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2017.....	---	(103,982,585)	(103,982,585)	(+103,982,585)	---
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services:					
Advance from prior year.....	(45,015,527)	(47,603,202)	(47,603,202)	(+2,587,675)	---
Current year request.....	209,189	1,124,197	969,554	+760,365	-154,643
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	47,603,202	51,673,000	51,673,000	+4,069,798	---
Subtotal.....	47,812,391	52,797,197	52,642,554	+4,830,163	-154,643
Medical support and compliance:					
Advance from prior year.....	(5,879,700)	(6,144,000)	(6,144,000)	(+264,300)	---
Current year request.....	---	69,961	---	---	-69,961
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	6,144,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	+380,000	---
Subtotal.....	6,144,000	6,593,961	6,524,000	+380,000	-69,961
Medical facilities:					
Advance from prior year.....	(4,739,000)	(4,915,000)	(4,915,000)	(+176,000)	---
Current year request.....	---	105,132	---	---	-105,132
Advance appropriation, FY 2017.....	4,915,000	5,074,000	5,074,000	+159,000	---
Subtotal.....	4,915,000	5,179,132	5,074,000	+159,000	-105,132
Medical and prosthetic research.....	588,922	621,813	621,813	+32,891	---
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections.....	-2,456,000	-2,445,000	-2,445,000	+11,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite).....	2,456,000	2,445,000	2,445,000	-11,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out).....	(-276,251)	(-286,000)	(-286,000)	(-9,749)	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer).....	(276,251)	(286,000)	(286,000)	(+9,749)	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out).....	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer).....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Veterans Health Administration.....	59,460,313	65,192,103	64,862,367	+5,402,054	-329,736
Appropriations.....	(798,111)	(1,921,103)	(1,591,367)	(+793,256)	(-329,736)
Advance appropriations, FY 2017.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration.....	256,800	266,220	266,220	+9,420	---

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2016 (H.R. 2029)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Departmental Administration</b>					
General administration.....	321,591	346,659	336,659	+15,068	-10,000
Board of Veterans Appeals.....	99,294	107,884	107,884	+8,590	---
General operating expenses, VBA.....	2,534,254	2,697,734	2,697,734	+163,480	---
Information technology systems.....	3,903,344	4,133,363	4,038,363	+135,019	-95,000
Office of Inspector General.....	126,411	126,766	131,766	+5,355	+5,000
Construction, major projects.....	561,800	1,143,800	561,800	---	-582,000
Construction, minor projects.....	495,200	406,200	406,200	-89,000	---
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	90,000	80,000	80,000	-10,000	---
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries.....	46,000	45,000	45,000	-1,000	---
<b>Total, Departmental Administration.....</b>	<b>8,177,894</b>	<b>9,087,406</b>	<b>8,405,406</b>	<b>+227,512</b>	<b>-682,000</b>
<b>Administrative Provisions</b>					
<b>Section 226</b>					
Medical services.....	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	---	---
Medical support and compliance.....	100,000	100,000	100,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	---	---
Medical facilities.....	250,000	250,000	250,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-250,000	-250,000	-250,000	---	---
Bonus limit rescission (Sec. 233).....	-41,000	---	-101,000	-60,000	-101,000
JIF rescission (Sec. 238).....	-15,000	---	-15,000	---	-15,000
Contract disability exams.....	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
Payraise absorption (Sec. 240 and 241).....	---	---	-313,626	-313,626	-313,626
<b>Total, Administrative Provisions.....</b>	<b>-16,000</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-429,626</b>	<b>-413,626</b>	<b>-429,626</b>
<b>Total, title II.....</b>	<b>162,172,782</b>	<b>273,241,161</b>	<b>271,799,799</b>	<b>+109,627,017</b>	<b>-1,441,362</b>
Appropriations.....	(105,316,580)	(107,737,576)	(106,412,214)	(+1,095,634)	(-1,325,362)
Rescissions.....	(-1,806,000)	(-1,750,000)	(-1,866,000)	(-60,000)	(-116,000)
Advance Appropriations, FY 2017:					
Mandatory.....	---	103,982,585	103,982,585	+103,982,585	---
Discretionary.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations:					
Mandatory.....	---	---	---	---	---
Discretionary.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,377)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(+75)	---
Discretionary.....	(68,041,389)	(74,711,819)	(73,270,457)	(+5,229,068)	(-1,441,362)
Advances from prior year less FY 2017 advances	(-3,027,975)	(-4,608,798)	(-4,608,798)	(-1,580,823)	---
Net discretionary.....	(65,013,414)	(70,103,021)	(68,661,659)	(+3,648,245)	(-1,441,362)
Mandatory.....	(94,131,393)	(198,529,342)	(198,529,342)	(+104,397,949)	---
Advances from prior year less FY 2017 advances	---	(-103,982,585)	(-103,982,585)	(-103,982,585)	---
Net mandatory.....	(94,131,393)	(94,546,757)	(94,546,757)	(+415,364)	---
<b>Total mandatory and discretionary.....</b>	<b>159,144,807</b>	<b>164,649,778</b>	<b>163,208,416</b>	<b>+4,063,609</b>	<b>-1,441,362</b>
<b>TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES</b>					
<b>American Battle Monuments Commission</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	74,100	75,100	75,100	+1,000	---

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2016 (H.R. 2029)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Foreign currency fluctuations account.....	1,900	2,000	2,000	+100	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	76,000	77,100	77,100	+1,100	---
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses.....	31,386	32,141	32,141	+755	---
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses.....	65,800	70,800	70,800	+5,000	---
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund					
Operation and maintenance.....	62,400	63,300	63,300	+900	---
Capital program.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	63,400	64,300	64,300	+900	---
Total, title III.....	236,586	244,341	244,341	+7,755	---
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS					
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	---	---	244,004	+244,004	+244,004
Military Construction, Air Force.....	---	---	75,000	+75,000	+75,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	46,000	---	212,996	+166,996	+212,996
European Reassurance Initiative Military Construction.....	175,000	---	---	-175,000	---
Total, title IV.....	221,000	---	532,000	+311,000	+532,000
Grand total.....	169,188,368	281,923,122	279,727,140	+110,538,772	-2,195,982
Appropriations.....	(112,316,413)	(116,419,537)	(114,194,073)	(+1,877,660)	(-2,225,464)
Rescissions.....	(-2,011,247)	(-1,750,000)	(-2,252,518)	(-241,271)	(-502,518)
Advance appropriations, FY 2017.....	(58,662,202)	(167,253,585)	(167,253,585)	(+108,591,383)	---
Overseas contingency operations.....	(221,000)	---	(532,000)	(+311,000)	(+532,000)
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
(By transfer).....	(291,251)	(301,000)	(301,000)	(+9,749)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-291,251)	(-301,000)	(-301,000)	(-9,749)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,377)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(+75)	---

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, let me say that I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Chairman DENT of the subcommittee as well as the chairman and ranking member of the full committee.

Madam Chair, as you know, this bill has a strong reputation for common ground and bipartisanship. We are pleased with several aspects of the bill. For example, the bill maintains tough but fair reporting requirements for Vista modernization, which closely tracks the VA's development of its electronic health record.

The bill continues to prioritize the elimination of the veterans claims backlog by fully funding the fiscal year 2016 requests: \$18.3 million for a centralized mail initiative which consolidates inbound paper mail from regional offices to a centralized intake site, as well as \$140.8 million for the Veterans Claims Intake Program to scan and convert paper claims into a digital format. I believe that these are all positive steps to making the VA function better.

Furthermore, Chairman DENT has avoided including contentious legislative riders, which is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, however, the chairman was forced to write a bill under the majority's fiscal year 2016 budget resolution, which chose to lock in the Budget Control Act levels and to use gimmicks to boost defense funding. Because of the budget resolution's failure to provide relief from these budget caps—which were established in 2011 and later adjusted in 2013—the chairman was forced to make some tough choices due to the allocation that he was given.

While military construction is provided \$7.2 billion, an increase of \$593 million above 2015, it is still \$1.2 billion below the budget request. In an effort to avoid the defense budget cap, the bill shifts \$532 million to the overseas contingency operations funding stream, even though the fiscal year 2016 budget request did not include an OCO request. This is a gimmick, purely a gimmick to boost defense spending by pumping up the OCO budget, which is not limited by the budget law.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is funded at \$68.7 billion, and while it is \$3.6 billion above fiscal year 2015, the enacted level, it is also \$1.4 billion below the fiscal year 2016 budget request. The inadequate fiscal year 2016 allocation again forced the chairman to slice the request for military construction by \$582 billion. That is hospital construction.

Furthermore, the bill includes language that directs that only replacement, safety, and security projects can receive budgeted funding. This is troubling language, and it eliminates all national cemetery projects for fiscal year 2016 and puts several other projects in jeopardy.

□ 1445

The majority claims they reduced the construction account because the half-built Veterans Affairs Denver hospital project is drastically over budget and riddled with mistakes.

I certainly agree that the VA needs to be held accountable for the poor job in managing the Denver hospital project; however, no funds for the Denver hospital were allocated within the MILCON-VA bill.

Additionally, I am not aware of any similar issues with any of the other requested projects in the bill for FY12, including replacement, clinic construction, seismic improvements, or cemetery construction.

I believe the majority's budget caps and resulting inadequate allocation—not the problems in Denver—led to cutting construction in half. I am concerned that, if the reduction stands, it will further contribute to the gaps in access, utilization, and safety that were already identified in the VA's annual Strategic Capital Investment program process.

Madam Chair, this committee can no longer afford to function under the Budget Control Act caps. The reductions to VA will cause gaps in access, utilization, and safety and could lower the standard of care due our veterans.

Madam Chairman, as I pointed out during the MILCON-VA markup, the FY 2017 advance funding will consume \$4.6 billion of the nondefense discretionary cap next year, so this problem will only get worse. Certainly, the Department of Defense cannot be the only winner.

Using the FY 2016 budget levels will produce a long summer and an early fall, with no real progress on the FY 2016 bills. If so, it is inevitable that a continuing resolution or a series of continuing resolutions will be needed to keep the government open and running in place long past the new fiscal year starts on October 1.

We cannot continue to govern in this fashion. I believe that it is well past time to be strategic about how we handle our Federal budget, and now, we need to take the next step toward a more responsible budget process so we can eventually stop lurching from one crisis to the next.

I believe that Chairman DENT crafted the best bill he could with the allocation he was given. I also believe that this is the first step in a long process, and I am concerned about the impact these reductions to the VA construction account could have, and we believe they will have to be addressed before the process.

To that end, I am prepared to offer an amendment to the bill restoring the full funding of the request so that we can, in fact, do justice by our veterans and do what is necessary for our military construction without using budget gimmicks. At the appropriate time, I will offer an amendment to do that.

Madam Chairman, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the full committee chairman, and I want to thank him for all his support and leadership in putting this bill together.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding time.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this bill, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill for 2016. In doing that, I want to congratulate Chairman DENT, the new chairman of this subcommittee. This is his maiden voyage as chairman of this subcommittee. He is a cardinal now. He has done a great job putting together this bill.

I also want to thank Mr. BISHOP, the ranking member on the other side, for his cooperation in making this bill what it is today.

This is the first bill of the process, and I am pleased that we are off to a very early start—I am told the earliest start since 1974—continuing our good work from last year. I am optimistic that we are going to have a successful appropriations year, finishing on time and under regular order.

We are beginning the year on the right foot with a bipartisan bill, Madam Chairman, that I believe we can all get behind. The FY 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill includes, as has been said, \$76.6 billion in discretionary funding for important veterans benefits and services and for the infrastructure that supports the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces and their families.

This is a total of \$4.6 billion over last year. No one can call this a cut and be realistic about it. We have increased the funding by \$4.6 billion year-to-year. We can't say that for all the other bills. Yes, we went overboard with what we had to work with in providing funds for the veterans and for military construction. That is a demonstration of our commitment to our warfighters and to our veterans and their loved ones, who sacrifice so much to protect this great Nation.

Within the total, the bill includes \$7.7 billion for the DOD's construction projects in the U.S. and around the world, which provide our servicemembers with the infrastructure they need to remain at the ready.

The legislation also provides a total of \$68.7 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is a 5.6 percent increase over last year to guarantee the VA has the resources they need to care for every single qualified veteran, including meeting growing healthcare needs.

To that end, VA medical services are funded at \$3.8 billion above the current level. That will treat 6.9 million eligible patients, providing mental health



care, helping prevent suicide, and supporting research into prosthetics and traumatic brain injuries, among numerous other health initiatives. However, it is critical that we make sure the VA is being responsible with these taxpayer dollars.

It is clear that the VA is facing some considerable management challenges, and so this bill provides the oversight that will hold the Department accountable for its mistakes and takes the necessary steps to address and correct these problems.

For instance, the bill keeps a close eye on how the VA is spending its construction dollars by requiring reports on construction costs, savings, and changes in scope.

This is a good bill, Madam Chairman. I urge its adoption.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the full committee ranking member.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, before I begin, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP, who worked so well together, and full Committee Chairman ROGERS.

The House Republican “work harder for less” budget resolution was opposed by every Member on my side of the aisle, in part because it makes it impossible to provide the funding necessary in the 12 appropriations bills to grow our economy and give hard-working Americans the opportunity to succeed.

Democrats preferred the approach taken by the President, calling for an end to sequestration and more reasonable and realistic budgeting that can help families afford college, a home, and a secure retirement.

Refusing to adopt a sufficient overall allocation for discretionary investments has a significant impact on the initiatives in all the appropriation bills that grow the economy and create jobs.

The bill we consider today presents a false choice. The VA needs more resources in 2016 than 2015 to sustain its level of services for the brave men and women it serves. The majority invests a disproportionate share of the allocation’s nondefense funds in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill; yet it still falls far short of meeting VA’s actual needs.

The equivalent of 70,000 fewer veterans would receive medical care under this bill, compared to the President’s request. In addition, it further reduces funds available for priorities in the other spending bills for transportation infrastructure, job training, higher education, biomedical research, and clean energy, just as an example. All these initiatives are key to economic growth and creating opportunity for hard-working Americans, especially veterans.

Additionally, \$532 million in today’s bill would be shifted to overseas contingency operations in a gimmick to boost defense spending.

Even with these tricks, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill would have a profound impact on military families and veterans, forcing a \$2.7 billion cut below what the President says is necessary, including \$754 million less for military construction, \$155 million less for medical services, \$70 million less for medical support and compliance, \$105 million less for medical facilities, and \$582 million less for VA construction projects.

These cuts, which hurt those who have sacrificed for our country, are unacceptable. Not everything requested by the President is sacrosanct, and Congress has a duty—it is an important part of our responsibility—to evaluate each and every line item in a budget proposal. Such an assessment of this bill makes clear that many accounts are clearly underfunded.

Despite the abundant shortcomings, there are some positive aspects, including reporting requirements for electronic health records and prioritizing the elimination of the veterans claims backlog.

It is imperative that, as the bill progresses toward enactment, improvements are made and that, as the entire appropriations process continues, we reach an agreement that will ensure these bills invest in our hard-working families’ economic security.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY), who has been a tireless advocate for the needs of the veterans in her community in Alabama.

Mrs. ROBY. First, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work on this bill, and I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I am so grateful for this opportunity to stand here today in support of H.R. 2029, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This bill undeniably provides much-needed funding for both our veterans programs and military projects, while staying within the strict limits of our House-passed budget resolution.

I am especially proud because there is funding that we were able to secure in this bill for the folks in Alabama, right at home, including new school construction both at Fort Rucker, the home of Army aviation excellence, and \$33 million for new school construction at Maxwell Air Force Base, much-needed dollars for our military families at this post and this base, and also funding for a new squadron operations facility at Dannelly Field.

These are all extremely important to our critical military functions in Alabama. Anybody who has been on post

at Rucker or at the base at Maxwell knows that these schools are in disrepair and are in need of replacing.

Our military families deserve quality on-base facilities, and these projects are going to go a long way to help improve their quality of life right there in Alabama.

I want to address, though, what I was struck with—and everyone else in this institution—when I woke up this morning, Madam Chair. I was extremely disappointed, alongside my colleagues, to see that the President, yet again, has threatened to veto this bill.

This bill provides critical, much-needed funding for our military families and our veterans, and the President should not play around with that.

□ 1500

Under this administration we have failed our veterans miserably. And only in Washington, D.C., when you see an increase of \$3.6 billion for our VA to provide these critical needs for our men and women who have worn the uniform and put their lives on the line for the freedom and liberty that allow us to stand in this room today, only in Washington, D.C., will a \$3.6 billion increase on behalf of our veterans be called a cut.

You know why, Madam Chair?

It is being called a cut because it is the only way to shift the blame away from this administration’s failure to our veterans back to the Republican-led House. It is clearly politics that is driving us, and I am asking, Madam Chair, that the President seriously rethink his position.

The administration needs to take responsibility, and they are trying, once again, to point fingers at leadership in this House that is doing all that we can to ensure that our veterans get timely care and the best care that we can provide them. This is cynical, and it is shameful, and I believe—I believe—that the American people can see straight through it.

So I hope, again, Madam Chair, that the President will reconsider this position because there is no place—no place—here in this bill for political gamesmanship when it comes to our military families and our veterans.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

Ms. LEE. Madam Chairman, let me thank the ranking member for yielding, for his unwavering leadership for our veterans on this committee, and for your friendship. Thank you very much, Mr. BISHOP.

Let me also thank Chairman DENT, in addition to Ranking Member BISHOP, really for working very hard in a bipartisan way on a variety of issues facing our veterans, including empowering

our vets in their transition back to civilian life and ensuring adequate and accessible access to care.

As the daughter of a veteran, I understand the enormous sacrifices that our servicemembers and their families make to serve our Nation, so this subcommittee is extremely important.

I want to thank the ranking member and chair for working with me and my colleagues on the subcommittee to include important report language on the backlog at the Oakland VA regional office, which is, of course, one of the worst in the Nation.

I want to thank our ranking member, Congresswoman BROWN, who is here today, for her leadership on the committee in shedding some light also on what is taking place at the Oakland VA regional office.

This language will ensure that the Oakland office not only has to provide Congress with accurate information on what has happened with these backlogged claims, but it will require the Veterans Benefits Administration to outline the lessons learned and what the new protocols are to ensure that no veteran faces delays in accessing care.

Yet, of course, insufficient allocations in this bill leave much work to be done. The 2016 MILCON-VA approps bill includes a \$582 million cut from the major construction account. Now, that is half of the President's request of \$1.1 billion.

Simply put, the level of funds allocated in this bill is totally insufficient and, yes, it undermines the responsibility we have to provide our veterans with the best and most innovative care. As a result, the construction of vital medical facilities that will serve our veterans will be delayed. This includes the initial phase of construction for the state-of-the-art Alameda Point outpatient clinic in my own congressional district, which serves thousands of veterans in the northern California area.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

I just want to thank the ranking member and the chair for continuing to work with me to ensure that the limitation language in the report with regard to major construction funds for the VA does not preclude clinics like, for example, the Alameda Point outpatient clinic.

Addressing the limitation language and restoring funding to the President's request level for major construction is really vital to ensuring that our Nation keeps the promise that we have made to our brave veterans to give them access to the best care.

Madam Chair, we really can't afford what these cuts will do with our veterans. We can't afford to allow this dangerous and harmful impact of se-

questration now to be locked in by these allocations before us today. These dismal numbers, they directly affect our veterans' access to care that they need and that they have earned.

So I hope that, as this process moves forward, these insufficient allocations are resolved.

Mr. DENT. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for a colloquy.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Chair, every Member of this body recognizes the special obligation this House has to take care of our veterans. We also have an obligation to ensure that the funds we entrust to the Department of Veterans Affairs are actually properly spent.

The shocking waste of funds at the Aurora Hospital in Denver has rightly earned the outrage of both this body and the American public. The \$930 million in cost overruns in Denver will have to be paid for by taking funds that could otherwise have accelerated critical access projects across the country or assisted the Department as it attempts to tackle the backlog in claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration.

I am particularly concerned that the complete failure of project management of the Denver hospital is negatively impacting veterans in my district. They have already suffered from a lack of access to care.

Specifically, I am seeking clarity on what the committee intends with the major construction funding appropriated under this bill. The Committee report includes language requiring the funding provided for major construction to be used for new hospital construction and seismic corrections.

One of the projects included in this request is the Livermore Realignment and Closure project. This project would utilize FY 2016 funding to provide for the complete construction of a new medical facility at French Camp in the Central Valley. The facility would provide direct medical care to more than 87,000 veterans in its service area and dramatically reduce the nearly 6-hour commute faced by veterans in my district for even routine health care.

Madam Chairman, does the Livermore Realignment and Closure project, a project that was authorized more than a decade ago by this Congress, meet the criteria for funding set by the committee in the report accompanying this appropriations bill?

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DENHAM. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from California for offering this opportunity to clarify the meaning of our report language. I do share your concern about the mismanagement of construction projects by the VA. It is delaying vital projects such as Liver-

In this report, we simply made clear the priority for funding hospital construction and seismic corrections. Within the funds provided in the bill, unallocated major construction funding remains available, and the VA has the ability to allocate those funds towards French Camp as well as other projects in the budget request. The report instructs the VA to make that determination and provide a list of projects to this committee.

I have heard similar concerns from other Members, including the gentleman, Ms. LEE, who just spoke a few moments ago, who have projects included in this request, such as Alameda Clinic and a rehabilitative therapy clinic in St. Louis, which the administration could also choose to fund.

I appreciate these concerns and the opportunity to provide some clarity. I hope that is helpful. But nothing precludes funding.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), who is the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and a strong supporter of our veterans.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Chair and Members of the House, I rise in strong opposition to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

After taking steps forward with the new Choice Act program, this Republican budget takes two steps back with its cuts to veterans health care, just another example of Republicans talking the talk but not walking the walk. But don't take my word for it. If you ask the veterans service organizations who represent the interests of veterans, every one of them is opposing this bill.

The national commanders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars said the following about the Republican Veterans bill:

The VA cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding, but the House, for whatever reason, now wants to ration care, eliminate infrastructure projects, and stop improving upon the programs and services that the VA was created to provide. This is a bad bill for veterans, and anyone that votes for it should really take a second look.

And let me just say one other thing. I often say, if you are not in the room, you are on the menu, and I am sure that veterans never thought that Republicans would put them on the menu.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I just want to respond to the gentleman from Florida's comments.

You know, a lot of people have been saying that we cut spending in this bill. The President requested an 8 percent increase. We provided for a 6 percent increase.

You know, because the President makes a request does not mean that

Congress has to behave like potted plants and simply accede to every item that the President has asked for. That is not our role as Members of Congress.

Our job is to provide some real serious oversight over a department that has failed in many respects. And Members on both sides of the aisle agree with that, given the problems of Denver, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Oakland, and elsewhere. I can go through a long list.

But some of the oversight mechanisms in this bill, I should mention, include things like requiring a spending plan before construction dollars can be spent. We did that because of what has happened all across the country.

We prohibit increases in the scope of construction projects. We prohibit transfer of funds between construction projects. We fence 75 percent of funding until conditions are met, cut funding for poorly performing offices, require detailed quarterly reports regarding disability compensation claims. We have tightened restrictions on reprogramming. We have also rescinded \$415 million from VA pay accounts, that is pay and bonuses, limiting the amount of money available for pay increases and bonuses.

Should we reward failure at the VA?

I mean, there are management problems at the VA. It is not simply about money. We all know this. And given you can open up a newspaper every day, just 2 weeks ago in the city of Philadelphia, at the regional office there, a scathing inspector general's report about the failures, and to simply reward that would be unconscionable on our part.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DENT. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. My question is: Will you admit that this budget will deny 70,000 veterans from receiving health care?

Mr. DENT. Reclaiming my time, I will tell you that this budget adequately meets—more than adequately meets—the needs of our servicemembers and our veterans and their families.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, again, just urging all Members to support this important legislation. It is the right thing to do. We have no further speakers at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the FY2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. This legislation will go a long way to help facilities, such as the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office where thousands of my constituents have their cases managed, in improving

their care and treatment of our nation's Veterans. While this is another small step to address the larger problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs, this legislation continues to show The House's dedication to righting this ship. Some important provisions of this bill include:

"Strike force response teams" that would bring in experienced, high-performing managers to implement corrective actions at low-performing facilities and offices

A fully funded request for digital scanning and centralized mail, which will improve speed and accuracy issues

And, this fully funds the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) with a \$163 million increase over FY15, which will allow for more staffing for processing of appeals of claims in Philadelphia and other regional offices

I commend Chairman DENT and his subcommittee for prioritizing care of our Veterans. While South Jersey still has many challenges to be overcome in access to timely care, I am proud to support this bill which continues to fix the system-wide problems within the VA.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, today I rise in support of the over 180,000 brave veterans in Harris County, Texas who answered the call to duty when America needed them most and urge my colleagues to make much needed changes to the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that honor America's promise to all of our nation's veterans.

The MilCon-VA funding bill has traditionally been bipartisan and without controversy. Just last year MilCon passed the House by a margin of 416–1.

This year, unfortunately, this must-pass legislation fails to fully fund critical priorities for our veterans and the American people, including veterans' medical care and military and VA construction.

Nearly every major national Veteran Service Organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion, agree and have called on the House to reconsider this legislation and fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Yesterday, the national commander of the VFW said that "the nationwide crisis in care and confidence that erupted in the VA last year was caused in many ways by the lack of adequate resourcing that only Congress is authorized to provide. That's why the VFW is demanding that the House amend this bill to appropriate a funding level that fully funds VA."

The national commander for the American Legion voiced similar feelings last week when he called for Congress and the White House to put political gamesmanship aside and fully fund Veterans Affairs.

Madam Chair, I do not recall ever voting against a VA funding bill. Unfortunately, as currently written I cannot vote for this bill and call on my colleagues to demand that the VA be fully funded.

The current funding shortfall for our veterans and military construction, which have always been supported by Democrats and Republicans, further highlights the pressing need for Congress to end the sequestration cuts. We simply cannot continue suffocating essential programs that support our servicemembers and veterans protect working families and our most vulnerable.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2029

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$663,245,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$109,245,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

□ 1515

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF GEORGIA

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1) (increased by \$1)".

Page 27, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$154,643,000)".

Page 28, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$69,691,000)".

Page 29, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$105,132,000)”.

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$95,000,000)”.

Page 36, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$582,000,000)”.

Strike section 233.

Strike section 238.

Strike section 240.

Strike section 241.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, the amendment that I am offering should be supported by every Member of this House. Very simply, it would restore the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill to the full amount requested by the administration and to the full amount deemed necessary by the affected agencies.

Last night, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, one of the largest veterans service organizations in the United States, put out a letter calling this year's MILCON-VA bill “bad for veterans.” They oppose the bill.

The Independent Budget group, which consists of the AMVETS, the Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, expressed serious concerns with this bill. The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America also expressed their serious concerns with this bill. In their letter, they called on Congress to provide the entire \$1.5 billion that was cut from the budget request for the VA, which this House should do immediately.

Without this necessary funding, much-needed investments in veterans health care will be shortchanged, and important services will be compromised.

I understand that House rules make it difficult to add money to a spending bill's allocation, but I sincerely hope that we don't hide behind that as an excuse.

We should be doing the right thing on behalf of our Nation's veterans. We have the power to do it. We need to pass a law to change the law which limits us and puts this cap on what we can do to take care of our veterans and

our military construction. This amendment addresses that, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” and to demonstrate to the veteran community that the message has been received.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment, which increases funding for all the VA programs that the Republicans cut in this year's Mil Con-VA Appropriations bill.

Our troops continue the fight to keep our country safe and to ensure the blessings of liberty that we enjoy. And after their service in the military ends, many are in desperate need of quality health care to make a healthy transition to civilian life.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to make sure that the men and women who fought for our freedom have access to high quality, comprehensive health care services. One of our first obligations to meeting this demand is ensuring that the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) has the resources it needs to provide top-notch care to our veterans. Just a few months ago, President Barack Obama proposed a budget for 2016 which will help to meet the needs of the VA by providing \$70.2 billion in discretionary funding for VA, a 7.5 percent increase from 2015. This proposed budget would also provide \$3.2 billion in estimated medical care collections and \$95.3 billion for VA's mandatory benefit programs.

However, I am deeply disappointed in that H.R. 2029, the House MilCon, VA and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee's proposal cuts \$1.4 billion from the President's budget request. This is simply a desperate attempt to balance our nation's budget on the backs of our veterans, and it is not acceptable.

The Veterans have fought for our nation, and now is the time we need to fight for them.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me and the millions of our nations' veterans and support this amendment to appropriately fund the VA and provide services to our veterans that they earned from their years of service.

[April 28, 2015]

VFW CALLS NEW VA APPROPRIATIONS BILL  
‘BAD FOR VETERANS’

WASHINGTON.—The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said the U.S. House of Representatives is set to penalize disabled veterans this week if it votes to reduce the Department of Veterans Affairs budget request by more than \$1.5 billion.

“The nationwide crisis in care and confidence that erupted in the VA last year was caused in many ways by a lack of adequate resourcing that only Congress is authorized to provide,” said John W. Stroud, who leads the 1.9 million-member VFW and its Auxiliaries. “That's why the VFW is demanding that the House amend this bill to appropriate a funding level that fully funds VA.”

In its current form, the fiscal year 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill makes across-the-board cuts to all VA discretionary accounts, and drastically underfunds medical care, major construction and Information Technology accounts. Stroud said across-the-board cuts to discretionary spending is what Congress

created back in 2011, but by another name, sequestration. Now the House wants to impose its own sequester on a federal department whose sole mission is to care for wounded, ill and injured veterans.

“The VA cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding, but the House for whatever reason now wants to ration care, eliminate infrastructure projects, and stop improving upon the programs and services that the VA was created to provide,” said the VFW national commander. “This bill is bad for veterans and any vote for it is unconscionable, which is why we want veterans and advocates everywhere to get involved by urging their elected officials to fully fund the VA.”

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

VETERANS OF AMERICA,

April 28, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM MINORITY LEADER: On behalf of the 400,000 members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), we write to express concern over the House Committee on Appropriations' April 22, 2015 markup and vote on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

Over the expressed objections of the administration, the committee reduced the president's FY 2016 VA budget request by more than \$1.4 billion. If allowed, this cut could hamper the services tens of thousands of veterans receive, and impact VA's ability to activate new and replacement facilities with sufficient staff and equipment and to adequately maintain facility infrastructure.

Secretary McDonald has been upfront and, above all, realistic in asking for full funding of the president's FY 2016 VA request. Reform of the VA, its facilities and its infrastructure are monumental tasks. Unfortunately these challenges become almost unobtainable with a reduction in funding outlined in the House's mark.

During Congress' first 100 days, great strides have been made to address the needs of our nation's veterans. Passage of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act was a huge bipartisan victory in the House and Senate. It showed the American people what is possible if we work together.

In that same vein, we ask that you again work in a bipartisan manner and request the House, in making its final adjustments or as a part of a conference on this legislation, to find the means to fund the VA's realistic request so that the institution can meet its congressional mandate next year. To that end, we ask the leadership of the House to restore VA's overall funding at least to the level recommended by the administration in its FY 2016 budget.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW M. MILLER,  
*Chief Policy Officer, Iraq and*  
*Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA).*

THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET,

April 27, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,*  
*DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM MINORITY LEADER: As partner organizations in the

Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2016, we write to express our concerns about the results of the Committee on Appropriations' April 22, 2015 markup and vote on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

Over the expressed objections of the Administration, the Committee made a rushed determination to reduce the President's FY 2016 VA Medical Care request by over \$600 million. This reduction is equivalent to the cost of providing care for tens of thousands of veterans next year. If enacted, the bill would harm these services and others, including reducing VA's ability to activate new and replacement facilities with sufficient staff and equipment and to adequately maintain facility infrastructure.

In the separate capital infrastructure accounts (for major and minor projects as well as for state veterans home construction grants), the Committee reduced the Administration's request by \$582 million. We are deeply concerned that VA will not receive enough resources to enable the system to properly maintain its existing health care facilities, nor to build any new ones. Despite the VA's well publicized deficits in addressing the overdue and over-budget medical center construction project in Denver, dozens of other VA centers are much older and in poorer condition than the Colorado facility that is being replaced, but no funds would be made available in the FY 2016 appropriation to begin these priority projects. Also, lack of maintenance, repairs, and improvements in existing VA facilities now carrying backlogged projects costing billions of dollars would be much more expensive in future years due to funding inadequacies brought about by this bill. The Congress should note that over the past decade, Congress has funded VA infrastructure needs at a level that was \$7.9 billion less than what we collectively recommended in Independent Budgets over that period.

In the long run, Congress will be forced to appropriate much larger sums to enable VA to catch up to the deficits being created by this bill. In a related vein, please see VA's letter to the Speaker and President of the Senate, dated April 14, 2015, requesting several high priority construction authorizations and supportive appropriations, and the expenditure of unobligated balances from section 801 of Public Law 113-146, to be used to complete the construction of the Denver facility, and for other purposes that we strongly support.

Strangling the VA's appropriated accounts for infrastructure, but refusing to allow any flexibility in the use of funds already provided by Congress in prior acts, places VA in double jeopardy. It means VA simply cannot build, and cannot expand—even when funds are available and could be used. This barrier penalizes and denies care in some way to every veteran who relies on VA. As VA Secretary McDonald said last week, this situation will "harm veterans." We agree.

On the topic of VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program, we appreciate the Committee's approval of an amendment to match the Administration's request of \$622 million for FY 2016. Without these new funds, VA clinician-scientists would have needed to significantly reduce recruitment and analysis in the Million Veteran Program, delaying the benefits of precision medicine to veterans. Also, these funds will be used for completion of genetic studies on functional disability in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder; to initiate studies aimed at finding the root cause of a known genetic

susceptibility to post-traumatic stress disorder; and, to conduct new studies aimed at predicting susceptibility to opioid abuse. Despite this good news, as advocates we are concerned that these funds were shifted in an unprecedented manner from the VA information technology (IT) account—an appropriation that was already reduced \$80 million from the President's requested level during the Committee's consideration. Also, holding VA accountable for making significant progress in developing the next generation of electronic health records in coordination with the Department of Defense, while suppressing the IT funding to make that very progress possible, is deeply troubling.

In addition to these concerns, we note that in the bill's administrative provisions, the Appropriations Committee would further reduce VA funding, even when it appears that the bill would be providing higher levels at the top line. For example, if this administrative language is adopted by Congress, VA will find itself in the odd position come January 2016 of needing to decide (in the Committee's words, "if it chooses to do so") whether over 300,000 VA employees will be due a comparability increase, without any funding appropriated for it. We know of no statute that makes federal employee comparability increases discretionary once the President announces the comparability rate. In the research program, for example, the appropriation would be reduced by a rescission of over \$3 million even while the Committee voted to approve an amendment to restore the account to the Administration's full requested level. Other administrative provisions have similar effects, all deleterious to any VA flexibility in funding its many requirements in FY 2016. In fact the total rescissions from these administrative provisions would be more than \$400 million, with nearly \$200 million directed at the Medical Services account atop the \$600 million discussed above.

This is a particularly important moment in VA history, given the events of the past year. Suffocating the system now with a dearth of funding (well over \$1 billion less than requested by the Administration), and restricting or rescinding the use of available funds—even those to be appropriated in this bill—while demanding reforms, only proves to make VA's intended and ongoing efforts more challenging.

As indicated, we respectfully request the House, in making its final adjustments, or as a part of a conference on this legislation, to find the means to sufficiently fund these crucial VA accounts so that the institution can meet its Congressional mandate next year. To that end, we ask the Leadership of the House to restore VA's overall funding at least to the level recommended by the Administration in its FY 2016 budget, although even that level is almost \$1.4 billion below our joint recommendations in the Independent Budget for next year.

When the nation sends our soldiers and Marines into live combat in hostile territory, we do not skimp on their training, weapons, or ammunition for the fight. Now that these veterans are home, we should do no less.

On behalf of the millions of veterans who make up our memberships, we will appreciate the House Leadership and Members taking into account our concerns about funding levels needed by the VA in FY 2016, and acting to fully fund the VA system.

Sincerely,

STEWART M. HICKEY,  
National Executive Director, AMVETS.

HOMER S. TOWNSEND, JR.,  
Executive Director,  
Paralyzed Veterans  
of America.

GARRY J. AUGUSTINE,  
Executive Director,  
Washington Headquarters, DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

ROBERT E. WALLACE,  
Executive Director,  
Veterans of Foreign  
Wars of the United  
States.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DENT. Madam Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

Section 17 of chapter 2 of the House Practice book states in part:

"It is not in order to strike out or otherwise amend portions of a bill not yet read for amendment."

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mrs. LOWEY. I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized to be heard on the point of order.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the amendment.

The bill falls far short of providing the resources that the President requested and veterans earned. The National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has demanded that "the House amend the bill to appropriate a funding level that fully funds the VA." The gentleman from Georgia's (Mr. BISHOP) amendment does just that.

The VFW went on to say the bill "drastically underfunds medical care, major construction, and information technology accounts. . . . The VA cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding; but the House, for whatever reason, now wants to"—

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman will suspend.

The gentlewoman must confine her remarks to the point of order.

Does the gentlewoman wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mrs. LOWEY. Yes.

I just want to emphasize that the VFW strongly supports the amendment for the reasons that I suggested.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must propose only to transfer appropriations among objects in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia proposes also another kind of change in the bill, namely: striking sections from the bill, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I move to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIR. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee?

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

# RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 180, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 178]

# AYES—237

Abraham	Gibbs	Meehan
Aderholt	Gibson	Messer
Allen	Gohmert	Mica
Amash	Goodlatte	Miller (FL)
Amodi	Gosar	Miller (MI)
Babin	Gowdy	Moolenaar
Barletta	Granger	Mooney (WV)
Barr	Graves (GA)	Mullin
Barton	Graves (LA)	Mulvaney
Benishkek	Graves (MO)	Murphy (PA)
Bilirakis	Griffith	Neugebauer
Bishop (MI)	Grothman	Newhouse
Bishop (UT)	Guthrie	Noem
Black	Hanna	Nugent
Blackburn	Hardy	Nunes
Blum	Harper	Olson
Bost	Harris	Palmer
Boustany	Hartzler	Paulsen
Brady (TX)	Heck (NV)	Pearce
Brat	Hensarling	Perry
Bridenstine	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Brooks (AL)	Hice, Jody B.	Pitts
Brooks (IN)	Hill	Poliquin
Buchanan	Holding	Pompeo
Buck	Hudson	Posey
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Price, Tom
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Ratcliffe
Byrne	Hultgren	Reed
Calvert	Hunter	Reichert
Carter (GA)	Hurd (TX)	Renacci
Carter (TX)	Hurt (VA)	Ribble
Chabot	Issa	Rice (SC)
Chaffetz	Jenkins (KS)	Rigell
Clawson (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Roby
Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Cole	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Collins (GA)	Jolly	Rogers (KY)
Collins (NY)	Jones	Rohrabacher
Comstock	Jordan	Rokita
Conaway	Joyce	Rooney (FL)
Cook	Katko	Ros-Lehtinen
Costello (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Ross
Cramer	King (IA)	Rothfus
Crawford	King (NY)	Rouzer
Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Russell
Culberson	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Curbelo (FL)	Knight	Salmon
Davis, Rodney	Labrador	Sanford
Denham	LaMalfa	Schalise
Dent	Lamborn	Schweikert
DeSantis	Lance	Scott, Austin
DesJarlais	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Diaz-Balart	LoBiondo	Sessions
Dold	Long	Shimkus
Duffy	Loudermilk	Shuster
Duncan (SC)	Lucas	Simpson
Duncan (TN)	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)
Ellmers (NC)	Lummis	Smith (NE)
Emmer (MN)	MacArthur	Smith (NJ)
Farenthold	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Fincher	Marino	Stefanik
Fitzpatrick	Massie	Stewart
Fleischmann	McCarthy	Stivers
Fleming	McCauley	Stutzman
Flores	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Forbes	McHenry	Thornberry
Fortenberry	McKinley	Tiberi
Fox	McMorris	Tipton
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Trott
Frelinghuysen	McSally	Turner
Garrett	Meadows	Upton

Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall

# NOES—180

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.

Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)

Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)

Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascarella  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

# NOT VOTING—14

Beyer  
Cleaver  
Guinta  
Hastings  
Meeks

Palazzo  
Payne  
Peterson  
Poe (TX)  
Rangel

Roskam  
Royce  
Rush  
Smith (WA)

□ 1545

Mr. QUIGLEY changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Messrs. HURT of Virginia, MEADOWS, and LABRADOR changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the decision of the Chair stands as the judgment of the Committee.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$1,349,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$91,649,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,237,055,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$89,164,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

# (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$1,931,456,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$160,404,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this title may be used to construct any fiscal year 2016 special operations command military construction projects until the Commander of the Special Operations Command has certified in writing and submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) A definition of "Special Operations Forces-peculiar" as it applies to the use of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) funding to meet military construction requirements for facilities that provide healthcare services or support fitness activities.



(2) A description of the decision-making process used to determine whether a military construction project that provides healthcare facilities or supports fitness activities should be funded by the USSOCOM or the military departments.

(3) Provides a schematic of the human performance centers by installation, a listing of the planned equipment related to training and resiliency and a description of the mission-critical benefit of each item, an explanation of why the unique physical and psychological health services incorporated could not be provided by the Defense Health Agency or military services, and a planned staffing breakdown.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. STEFANIK

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

page 4, line 14, insert after the dollar amount “(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)” and insert on line 23, after the dollar amount “(increased by \$30,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Chair, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and his staff for allowing this important discussion of an east coast missile defense site, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) for his continued efforts and support.

Madam Chair, my amendment would provide for the planning, design, and construction of an additional missile defense site. Simply put, missile defense shields our Nation from hostile incoming warheads. And with the escalation of threats of rogue nations like North Korea and Iran, the United States must be ready not just to retaliate, but to actually stop an attack. We must be able to defend our Nation and shoot it down. North Korea does, indeed, have a nuclear weapons capability and is a real concern, given their unstable and erratic behavior. Iran has clearly demonstrated key technologies required for ICBM development.

This is about maintaining our Nation's readiness, and an east coast missile defense site provides increased battle space, more decision time, increased reliability, more inventory, and a different angle of intercept.

General Jacoby stated that a third site would give him an increased battle space and increased opportunity for him to engage threats from either Iran or North Korea. An east coast missile defense site would increase our Nation's defense capability against those very real threats.

Madam Chair, this amendment provides for the security and protection that our Nation needs.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Madam Chair, I want to thank Congresswoman STEFANIK and also Chairman DENT for their support for this amendment providing funding for the planning, design, and construction of an additional missile defense site capable of protecting the homeland from a long-range ballistic missile attack.

As Congresswoman STEFANIK is very well aware, we currently possess only two sites, both located on the west coast, limiting our ability to target and intercept incoming ICBMs either that are targeting the east coast or that are originating from the east.

Dating back to 2007, the United States Northern Command in charge of defending the homeland recommended the construction of the east coast site. One thing that we know: under President Obama's plan for missile defense, he canceled President Bush's third site that was to be located in Poland and provide ICBM coverage for the east coast of the United States continental. He then canceled phase 4 of his own phase adaptive approach that would have similarly provided that coverage.

The only opportunity that we have left with those two options gone is to look to the east coast site. Two Presidents and three Secretaries of Defense have all recognized the advantages of an additional missile coast defense site in order to provide further protection against long-range ballistic missile threats from regions such as the Middle East.

As China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea push for more advanced launch vehicles, the construction of an east coast site will dramatically improve the ability of our military to intercept incoming threats by increasing the opportunity to engage and defeat those threats.

I urge support for this amendment.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. STEFANIK. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentlewoman's amendment.

With advantages in launch capabilities, we should explore protecting the east coast from our adversaries, as Mr. TURNER and Ms. STEFANIK have stated. She has been very articulate and a great advocate for her district in Fort Drum.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, as the designee of the ranking member, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, I am first seeking clarity from Chairman DENT

on what the committee intends with the major construction account funding in this bill.

Included in the committee report is language that the funding provided for major construction be used for hospital construction and seismic corrections. One of the projects in the request is the Alameda Clinic. This clinic would provide direct medical care to veterans in my district.

Mr. Chairman, does the Alameda Clinic project meet the criteria for funding set by the committee in the report accompanying this bill?

Mr. DENT. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. It does, yes.

Ms. LEE. I want to thank the gentleman for this clarification, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$167,437,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$20,337,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$138,738,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$5,104,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$104,295,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$9,318,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the



Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$36,078,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$2,208,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$65,021,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$13,400,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

##### SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$99,695,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

##### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$393,511,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$16,541,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

##### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and

maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$353,036,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$160,498,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

##### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$331,232,000.

##### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$58,668,000.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$251,334,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be

used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for

such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in this provision shall also be applicable to amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts in section 2002 of Public Law 112-10.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10,

United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5-10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of February 2009, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 125. Of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Army", from prior appropriation Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$96,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 126. Of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Air Force", from prior appropriation Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$52,600,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 127. Of the unobligated balances available for "Military Construction, Defense-

Wide", from prior appropriation Acts (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$134,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 128. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$103,918,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 129. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 130. None of the funds made available by this title may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, and, unless and until the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that, based on operational requirements, Lajes Air Force Base is not an optimal location for the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex, none of the funds made available by this title may be used to construct phase two of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding section 124, for an additional amount for "Military Construction, Army" in this title, \$30,000,000 is provided for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$166,271,436,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$87,146,761,000 shall become available on October 1, 2016: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,562,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2016 and \$16,021,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2017 under this heading shall be reimbursed to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "Information Technology

Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

#### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$32,088,826,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$16,743,904,000 shall become available on October 1, 2016: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

#### VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$169,080,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$91,920,000 shall become available on October 1, 2016.

#### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2016, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$164,558,000.

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$31,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,952,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$367,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,134,000.

#### VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the

Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$969,554,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2015; and, in addition, \$51,673,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2016, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

□ 1600

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 27, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,031,000)”.

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,031,000)”.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment which seeks to provide additional resources for the mental health services for our Nation's veterans.

By way of background, the VA's budget justification for FY16 requests an increase of \$3,231,000 over the enacted fiscal year '15 levels for its Office

of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, but on the very next page of that document, the VA only mentions that it needs “\$1.2 million to address increased congressional and legislative workload.”

My amendment simply transfers the remaining \$2,031,000 unaccounted for from this request and prioritizes it to address the ongoing problems our veterans face from returning from combat.

Traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder have been consistently contributing to behavioral issues with our veterans, and, all too often, these ongoing mental health issues result in suicide. With an average of 18 to 20 veteran suicides per day, more resources are desperately needed. The Congressional Budget Office says the amendment would have no impact on the budget authority or outlays.

The VA does not need more money to hire more paper pushers to send letters to Capitol Hill to attempt to explain its inappropriate actions. Instead, let's appropriate the money to those whom the VA was created to serve, and let's help improve the mental health of our Nation's heroes.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment. I thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for their time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on the point of order.

The amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of

title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$6,524,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2016, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, \$5,074,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2016, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$621,813,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, exactly 2 weeks ago, the VA Office of the Inspector General released its report on the gross mismanagement and claims manipulation that has long corroded the Philadelphia VA Regional Office. The issues revealed through that report reflect some of the worst instances of neglect and lack of accountability I have seen. These issues are unacceptable for our Nation's veterans. I have personally seen the consequences firsthand through my constituency served by the Philadelphia VA.

This bill takes a number of steps to address the issues raised by the inspector general and help to ensure that they will not be repeated at any VA facility. I remain steadfast in my work to bring accountability and reform to the VA.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. I want to thank the gentleman, and I want to thank him for his hard work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania has put together a fiscally responsible piece of legislation that will support the U.S. military, the military families, and the veterans who have served our country.

As you have heard in the discussions that have taken place with other colleagues, particularly with those from Pennsylvania, when red tape and mis-

management stand between a veteran and his or her care, we all have a responsibility to blow the whistle and to call for appropriate reforms.

The inspector general for Veterans Affairs released a report 2 weeks ago on the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office, as my colleague identified, and the report was even more scathing than we were led to believe it would be. It confirmed our worst fears—that the Philadelphia VA Regional Office is rife with systematic mismanagement, poor morale, the deliberate manipulation of data, and individuals who are more focused on misleading the Nation than on serving our veterans.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for convening a hearing on these reports just last week in order to explore these matters in greater detail. Out of those hearings, we learned that the VA isn't planning on holding anyone responsible until after the completion of yet another report. This may be the nature of the process, but it is deeply troubling.

What the VA needs is not an endless loop of bureaucratic reviews and inquiries—it is competent management that is needed, management that will hold the employees and the other management accountable. While we wait for the next report, with this bill, Congress has an opportunity to take reform action with VA H.R. 2029, which will give the VA employees the tools they need to expedite the veterans benefits and care process.

One of the findings from the IG report that stuck out at me was that, in Philadelphia, the average response time for some 31,000 inquiries was 312 days. According to policy, that response should have happened within 5 days. I asked the Director of the VA: What do you tell the veterans? He had no answer. That response time is completely unacceptable. The funding in this bill will provide additional staff to expedite the processing of these claims and get those veterans the benefits they deserve.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) for his hard work on this bill. I look forward to continuing to work with him, as well as with other colleagues, to bring about the important reforms that are needed at the Philadelphia benefits office.

Mr. DENT. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his dedication and determination to right the situation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Chester County, Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today regarding Congressman DENT's fiscally responsible appropriations legislation and the positive impact it will have on the Philadelphia VA Regional Office.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Chester County, Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), who has been deeply concerned about this issue of the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today regarding Congressman DENT's fiscally responsible appropriations legislation and the positive impact it will have on the Philadelphia VA Regional Office.

As you know, the Philadelphia VA has been plagued with a dysfunctional and toxic work environment, with management purposefully and blatantly displaying managerial wrongdoing. Mr. Chairman, it is our duty to right these wrongdoings and to ensure that the best care is provided to our veterans. This appropriations bill is a great start, and it gives Congress the opportunity to act on behalf of our veterans. Let's talk about this appropriations bill and the specifics of it.

It fully funds the Veterans Benefits Management System, which will result in cutting the average processing time of a veteran's filed claim. It fully funds the Veterans Benefits Administration with an additional \$163 million to allow for more staffing for the processing of appeals claims. We have already heard about the backlog of the claims. This seeks to address that. It allocates funding for IT to permit the electronic modernization of appeals claims, and it allocates full funding for digital scanning and centralized mail. Lastly, this bill establishes strike force response teams to bring in experienced managers to implement corrective actions at struggling and low-performing VA facilities, like the Philadelphia VA.

Mr. Chairman, it is time for change at the Philadelphia VA RO, and I am fully committed to ensuring that there is a course correction of the wrongdoings there and that we effectively and expeditiously resolve the problems. I encourage my colleagues to do the same and support this bill.

I will also want to particularly thank Congressman DENT for his hard work on this bill. I look forward to continuing to work with you and with your respective committees to provide the best for the veterans in our Commonwealth and across the Nation.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor;

cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$266,220,000, of which not to exceed \$26,600,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$336,659,000, of which not to exceed \$10,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,068,000)".

Page 31, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$27,213,000)".

Page 32, lines 5 and 9, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$135,019,000)".

Page 36, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$177,300,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1615

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for all their hard work on this year's military construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill. I know that both of you had to make difficult decisions to get under the current financial constraints.

The President's budget included \$1.4 billion in funding for VA major construction projects. Unfortunately, this bill only includes \$561 million, which is \$582 million less than the request. This severely impacts access to care for veterans.

My amendment increases the VA major construction by \$177 million, although I would still prefer to restore full funding for major construction with the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request. The amendment is offset by reductions to the VA administration IT accounts, bringing them in line with the fiscal year 2015 enacted levels. In addition, the general operating expenses account would be reduced by \$27 million.

However, my amendment will ensure that more VA construction projects are

funded, including the outpatient clinic and national cemetery in Alameda, California, and a 187,000-square-foot community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California.

Without this funding, more than 87,000 veterans in and around my district will have to continue to wait for the quality medical care that they have earned. For example, I recently drove with a veteran to the nearest VA medical center. His appointment was only 30 minutes, but including travel, it took us 8 hours. It took all day. This cannot continue.

The VA buildings are an average of 60 years old. Since 2004, use of Department facilities has risen 80 percent to 120 percent, while the condition of these facilities deteriorated over the same period of time. There are more than 3,900 infrastructure gaps that will cost between \$54 billion and \$66 billion to close, including \$10 billion in activation costs.

Moreover, the Veterans Health Administration has over 21 major construction projects dating to 2007 that have been only partially funded. To complete existing projects and to close future gaps, the VA will need to invest at least \$23 billion over the next 10 years. At current requested funding levels, it will take more than 67 years to complete the 10-year capital investment plan of the Department.

Our brave men and women deserve access to the best healthcare system our Nation has to offer, and that is the VA healthcare system. Not adequately funding our future construction projects is a disservice to our Nation's heroes.

Now I share my colleagues' outrage at the VA boondoggle in Aurora, Colorado. This is unacceptable to taxpayers, to veterans and their families, and an embarrassment to the VA. While we are all frustrated with how this process has gone, further funding reductions to major construction does not help build additional facilities on schedule, fails to provide additional oversight of construction projects, and does nothing to reform VA construction processes. I am pleased that both the chairman and ranking member recognize the need to address this issue and have included important language to that effect, but there is still more work to be done, and that is something we plan to address in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In addition, the VA announced last week that it is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify projects in which the Corps will serve as the construction agent. The VA and the Corps are still working on the exact projects and criteria, but this is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the frustration, really, but cutting funding right now to these projects doesn't solve the problem. It is hurting our

veterans. We need to think outside of that box. Let's focus on improving our construction process and not punishing the veterans across the country because of what occurred in Denver. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I must rise reluctantly in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. I know the gentleman and others are disappointed that we did not provide the full administration request for major construction, but we felt that it was more important to provide necessary health services for veterans than to add to the poorly managed major construction account. This amendment, I believe, proves the wisdom of our choice.

To provide enough money for the French Camp project Mr. MCNERNEY is interested in, we would have to gut the VA IT program, which is already \$195 million below the request. I don't think many Members would be willing to accept the cuts that would need to be made to the electronic medical records system or the paperless disability claims processing system. We can't afford to sacrifice the good of the many veterans to accommodate a local or parochial project construction request.

I understand the gentleman's concern and frustration, but I do believe that this request would do a lot of damage to the IT program and affect a lot of things that all of us are deeply concerned about in terms of an A-rated health record, EMR, and other important disability issues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,000,000) (increased by \$8,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment that would transfer \$8 million within this bill to hire and train personnel for the purposes of reducing the veterans' disability claims backlog.

By way of background, the VA's budget justification for the fiscal year 2016 requests an increase of \$12 million

for its Office of General Counsel, but on the very next page of that document, it says it needs \$4 million to “address increases in the legal workload.”

The VA budget justification also says that the VA’s goal is to have an additional 45 full-time equivalent lawyers for its Office of General Counsel, which would take the total number of attorneys up to 757. According to the committee report for the last 5 years, the committee has fully funded the President’s budget request for additional full-time equivalents, and yet the claim backlogs remain.

My amendment seeks to reprogram money within the Veterans Benefits Administration from the Office of General Counsel and put it towards the hiring and training of personnel who will work to reduce the VA claims backlog. The Congressional Budget Office says this amendment has no score.

I think most of us can agree that the appropriations would be better spent on the VA claims backlog reduction rather than hiring more lawyers. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I agree with Mr. GOSAR that eliminating the backlog should be the VA’s highest priority. The bill provides the entire administration request for claims processing activities, and I would support your amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

Ms. TITUS. I rise to offer an amendment. It is at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000) (increased by \$500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from Nevada and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which is designed to focus the VA’s attention on a critical issue, the treatment of our female veterans.

The population of women veterans is rapidly growing. Today women constitute approximately 20 percent of new recruits, 14.5 percent of the Active Duty component, and 18 percent of the Reserve component. Almost 280,000 women have served post-9/11 in Afghanistan and Iraq. While the number of

male veterans is expected to decline by 2020, the number of women veterans is expected to grow dramatically to 11 percent of the veteran population.

From health care to child care, the needs of women veterans are different from those of their male counterparts. Unfortunately, the VA has faced challenges in meeting these needs. There are far too few OB/GYNs and a dearth of women’s healthcare clinics. Where clinics do exist, many lack sufficient privacy protections for the patient. The VA has also struggled to address shortages in mental health, child care, and housing services for female veterans.

Too many women who served either do not identify themselves as veterans or they lack sufficient information about the benefits and services that the VA provides. Fortunately, the VA has started to put an increased focus on this population. The VA Center for Women Veterans is charged with monitoring and coordinating VA’s administration of health care, benefits services, and programs for women veterans, as well as with raising awareness within the Department for their special needs.

In 2012 the Women Veterans Task Force published a report outlining strategies to meet the needs of our female veterans. The report highlighted barriers to providing services to women veterans, including a lack of data collection and analysis. Without knowing how to best serve and meet expectations of female veterans, the VA will never be able to give these heroes the care and support that they earned and deserve.

My amendment is designed simply to encourage the VA to fill the two unfunded data collection and analysis positions in the Center for Women Veterans to ensure that the VA is able to identify and fulfill the needs of our Nation’s female heroes.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for working with me on this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, thank you for allowing me to respond. I support the gentlewoman’s efforts to highlight the importance of women’s health. The VA women’s center has been underfunded for the last few years. As the gentlewoman correctly pointed out, their most recent working group recommends that they fill two statistician positions that have not yet been filled due to lack of budget.

Without these positions, it is challenging for the VA to get good data about female veterans, so many programs are shaped using faulty assumptions. I believe that these positions are very important for the VA when it

comes to providing care for our female veterans. I support these efforts, and I urge all Members to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I commend the gentlelady for her work to improve the services VA provides to our women veterans. You really ought to be commended. I know your work on the authorizing committee is very important to you. Since women comprise nearly 15 percent of the Active-Duty military forces, VA must improve its services and infrastructure to accommodate gender-specific needs. I certainly strongly support the gentlelady’s amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I just want to close by asking my other colleagues to support this amendment so we can send a strong message to our female veterans that the U.S. Congress is committed to ensuring that the VA is meeting their unique needs. It is critical that the VA is able to accurately look forward to the future and shape their programs so it is welcoming and supporting of all our veterans. I thank you for your support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 30, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1630

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer a straightforward amendment that would strengthen the ability of the Board of Veterans Appeals to reduce its backlog.

I applaud the committee for taking on the difficult task of prioritizing limited resources for our veterans. The committee rightfully recommends the budget request level for the Board of Veterans Appeals, but I will note that one of the primary concerns I hear from my casework staff and directly from the veterans is the need for increased resources to the Board of Veterans Appeals.



According to the committee report accompanying this bill, "appeals received by BVA are projected to increase from 49,611 in 2012 to 81,640 cases in 2016." That is a 65 percent increase in just 4 short years.

With our troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, it is no wonder why there is such a significant spike in the claims and appeals. I simply want to heed the call of the veterans in my district and across this country and ensure that the Board of Veterans Appeals has the resources necessary to address the seemingly endless backlog. CBO says this amendment would have no impact on budget authority or outlays.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their diligent efforts.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I agree with the gentleman from Arizona's emphasis on maximizing funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals. The board will be facing an enormous increase in caseload as the backlog of initial disability claims is cleared and veterans appeals those decisions.

We have provided a \$9 million, or 8.6 percent, increase in the board's funding, as well as additional information technology funds to help modernize the board's paperbound processing system.

I support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman and the ranking member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, which I will offer at this time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$50,000) (increased by \$50,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chairman, the Sinema amendment is a commonsense fix that helps improve the transparency of the VA and the quality of services provided to veterans.

I appreciate Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for all of the work that they are doing to pass this bill and for being so kind about this amendment.

The underlying bill requires quarterly reports on the financial status of

the Veterans Health Administration. My amendment requires the VA to include, as part of these quarterly payments, any outstanding payments owed to contracted entities older than 60 days and a justification for the delay in payments.

Over the last year, we have seen that the VA is unable to provide the timely, high-quality care our veterans deserve on their own. By leveraging community providers and creating a seamless relationship between internal VA care providers and external non-VA care providers, we can ensure that veterans receive the timely access to quality care they deserve.

That is what the Choice Act is trying to create. That is what the Secretary hopes to build through the MyVA initiative.

Unfortunately, the VA continues to struggle with paying its bills in a timely way. In my district, I have heard from large hospitals and small businesses alike who don't receive prompt payments from the VA.

A small business in my district, Interim HealthCare, provides home care, skilled medical care, and staffing services for the VA. Despite efforts by the Phoenix VA hospital, the larger VA system has failed to pay Interim HealthCare and others in a timely way. This threatens small businesses and the care that they provide to Arizona veterans. Ultimately, this undermines the seamless care we are attempting to provide to veterans.

Understanding why the VA struggles to provide timely payments to contracted service providers will help the VA address this issue and improve the quality of services for our veterans.

Additionally, we have learned that in 2014, over 55 percent of all veterans calling a national hotline for care never got through to a representative. Thus far, in 2015, that number has risen to 59 percent. This amendment would also allow the VA to provide a report on how many individuals who reached the call center are dropped and how many get the care they receive.

The Sinema amendment, Mr. Chair and others, which will improve oversight and accountability at the VA, is a step towards restoring the trust that we so dearly owe to our veterans.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for their support and their dedication to our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, but I am not opposed the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 30, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,200,000)".

Page 32, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,200,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to provide additional resources for the information technology systems at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Updates and upgrades to IT systems at the VA are paramount to meeting the goals of veterans claims backlog reduction.

I applaud the committee for recommending resources above and beyond last year's enacted levels, but the recommended levels are significantly beneath the President's budget request levels.

Last year, I offered an amendment to this same appropriation bill, House amendment 635, which transferred just over \$3.2 million from the general administration account at the VA to the IT systems account. That amendment was agreed to by a voice vote. Today, I offer essentially the same amendment.

I just want to note, as I have before, that many of our veterans are simply giving up. They are either giving up on trying to obtain the benefits they deserve or, worse, some of them are giving up on life altogether. It is a travesty, and this is an appalling trend that must be reversed.

I appreciate the committee's hard work and its acknowledgment of the importance of reducing the backlog in this bill. Having said that, I think we can do more and should focus on prioritizing funding for efforts that will lead to timelier care for our Nation's heroes, as opposed to administrative expenses.

My commonsense amendment proposes redirecting a fraction of the funds in the general administration account away from things like funding for conference expenses and bureaucrats and shifting those funds toward reducing the VA claims backlog.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple amendment to improve IT systems at the VA.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.



Mr. DENT. I understand the gentleman's focus on providing information technology resources for the VA in order to meet the goals of eliminating the backlog. I have no objection to the amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I certainly thank the distinguished chair and the ranking member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$107,884,000, of which not to exceed \$10,788,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,697,734,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed \$134,800,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I will start off by saying thank you to Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work on this appropriations bill.

I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2029, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2016. This amendment is for the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country, our veterans.

California is home to almost 2 million veterans, and I am proud to represent more than 54,000 veterans in my district alone. There are 40,000 veterans

expected to return to California every year for the next several years, including the fastest growing group of returning veterans, women.

As our troops come home and assimilate back into civilian life, it is critical that we do not abandon our veterans when they put down their weapons; instead, we must ensure they have timely access to the critical benefits they have earned and deserve.

Unconscionably, thousands of veterans who have sacrificed for our country are struggling to access benefits they have already earned. Due to the lingering claims backlog at the Veterans Health Administration, veterans across our Nation are waiting for pensions, prescription drugs, and even life-saving medical care.

Veterans are still waiting for the VA to process 448,000 benefit claims, and 176,000 of those veterans have been waiting longer than 125 days for a decision. Our work to clear this harmful backlog is not finished, and we owe it to these courageous men and women to do so as soon as possible.

These figures are staggering, but the people this is affecting are not mere statistics. They are men and women like retired Air Force Master Sergeant Andrew Walker and his family from Beaumont, California.

Mr. Walker and his family waited years on end without receiving the critical health care he was promised, earned, and desperately needed. While I am heartened that I was able to help resolve Mr. Walker's claim, the backlog remains an enduring nightmare for too many veterans across the country.

Reduced to a claim number and a seemingly endless line, veterans experience pain, frustration, hopelessness, and despair. Although the backlog has shrunk since Congress last passed a similar appropriations bill, we must not lose sight of the importance of getting veterans like Andrew Walker their hard-earned benefits as soon as possible.

As a member of the VA Committee, I am fighting to change the culture at the VA from the inside out. By focusing on veteran-centered care and ensuring that the VA continues working to eliminate this backlog, we can take much-needed steps in keeping faith with our veterans and getting them the benefits they have earned.

That is why I am offering this amendment to advocate for an additional \$5 million to fund the digital scanning of health and benefits files to reduce the backlog by redirecting funding within the general operating expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

This amendment simply directs funds toward the digital scanning of health and benefit files that will reduce the claims backlog without any new spending.

As an emergency medicine physician, I understand the importance of effi-

ciency in health care, and I know how dangerous such tribulations can be for a person with PTSD or depression.

By committing resources to digitizing health and benefits files, we will further increase VA's capacity to tackle the claims backlog, ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned in a timely manner.

Let us continue to bear in mind that these men and women have served this country and they have put their lives on the line. We must service them by making certain that Congress focuses on eliminating the claims backlog for good.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up for veterans and support my pragmatic amendment to reduce veterans claims processing times.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by thanking subcommittee Chairman DENT and Chairman ROGERS for their work in developing this legislation to address the current and future needs of our Nation's veterans.

I rise today to offer an amendment that highlights the need for veterans job training as part of this appropriations bill. Simply, my amendment would designate \$5 million within the general operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration account to support programs that help our veterans transition to the workforce.

Michigan is home to more than 660,000 veterans who contribute every day to the vitality of our communities.

□ 1645

These men and women have developed marketable skills, from technical training in mechanics, IT, and health care, to leadership qualities, ethics, and problem-solving abilities, yet too many of them struggle to find employment after they have completed their service.

Those veterans recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan face unique challenges to finding employment, as those who served in Active Duty since September 20, 2001, face a jobless rate

that is 1.7 percentage points higher—7.2 percent veterans versus 5.5 percent national—than the general population.

The House has taken a number of good steps toward helping veterans transition to the civilian sector, from passing the Hire More Heroes Act to remove costly ObamaCare mandates that discourage the hiring of veterans, to working with employers to help them understand the benefits of hiring veterans. We can certainly do more to ensure these brave men and women have the opportunity for gainful employment when they return to our communities.

The VA should use these designated funds to focus on difficulties veterans face translating their valuable skills to suitable employment in the civilian sector. For example, as the committee rightly highlights in their report, the VA should refine and upgrade its Military Skills Translator tool to more accurately reflect the transferable skills of transitioning military veterans. The VA should also increase public awareness and access to this tool for our Nation's employers.

If we are to develop the 21st century workforce, our Nation cannot afford to leave our veterans behind; and if we are to meet our obligation to those who have put their lives on the line in service to our country, we must work to improve the transition from military service to the career field.

I hope my colleagues will support this commonsense amendment to help our veterans get back to work.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALBERG. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I know the gentleman from Michigan has a deep commitment to providing job training and employment assistance for our returning veterans, and I support the amendment, which highlights the importance of VA programs that provide this assistance.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,038,363,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,115,757,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed \$34,800,000

shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That \$2,417,863,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$167,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That \$504,743,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a report that describes: (1) the status of and changes to the VistA Evolution program plan dated March 24, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan"), the VistA 4 product roadmap dated February 26, 2015 ("Roadmap"), and the VistA 4 Incremental Life Cycle Cost Estimate, dated October 26, 2014; (2) any changes to the scope or functionality of projects within the VistA Evolution program as established in the Plan; (3) actual program costs incurred to date; (4) progress in meeting the schedule milestones that have been established in the Plan; (5) a Project Management Accountability System (PMAS) Dashboard Progress report that identifies each VistA Evolution project being tracked through PMAS, what functionality it is intended to provide, and what evaluation scores it has received throughout development; (6) the definition being used for interoperability between the electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the metrics to measure the extent of interoperability, the milestones and timeline associated with achieving interoperability, and the baseline measurements associated with interoperability; (7) progress toward developing and implementing all components and

levels of interoperability, including semantic interoperability; (8) the change management tools in place to facilitate the implementation of VistA Evolution and interoperability; and (9) any changes to the governance structure for the VistA Evolution program and its chain of decisionmaking authority: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$131,766,000, of which not to exceed \$12,600,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$561,800,000, of which \$527,800,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, and of which \$34,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account, and funds provided for the purchase of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2016, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2016; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF  
CALIFORNIA

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

In the "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects" account, strike the aggregate dollar amount and insert "\$1,143,800,000".

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise this afternoon to offer an amendment to H.R. 2029. My amendment would restore the funding for major construction projects in the Department of Veterans Affairs to \$1.14 billion to meet the level that the VA has requested.

As ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I share the outrage of many of my colleagues over the unacceptable mismanagement of the VA's major construction program.

I agree that VA management must be held accountable for their failure to manage construction costs for the Denver hospital. Congress must reform the VA construction program so that it uses taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. However, we cannot continue to ignore the sad state of disrepair in VA hospitals and clinics across our country which are in desperate need of funding for modernization and health and safety improvements.

Most of the VA's medical infrastructure is old and outdated. The average building age is approaching 60 years. Many VA health facilities urgently need seismic retrofitting or emergency repairs. Others are too small to accommodate the growing population of veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and the aging population of veterans who served in Vietnam continues to put great stress on the VA.

Many veterans in underserved communities like Ventura County are counting on us, on Congress, to ensure that new construction projects are delivered and that their health care needs will be met. The funding levels in the bill would delay VA plans to expand health care facilities in many locations, harming VA's ability to provide care to veterans.

If the current funding level in this bill is made law, the VA would have to scuttle plans for a rehabilitative therapy building in St. Louis, Missouri, two outpatient clinics in Alameda and French Camp in California, and a community living center in Perry Point, Maryland. Delaying these projects is not the right way to honor our commitment to our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Chair, draconian funding cuts to the VA's major construction program are not the only way that veterans are being shortchanged in this bill before us today. The majority's bill also fails to meet the administration's budget requests in other areas, including medical services, medical facilities, and information technology.

For example, the VA estimates that at the bill's current funding level, over 70,000 fewer veterans will receive medical care compared to the administration's request. In addition, the VA will not be able to pay for cemetery expansions in St. Louis, Portland, Riverside, Puerto Rico, and Pensacola, which would have enabled the Department to serve 18,000 veterans and their family members annually.

Veteran advocates, including AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, agree that, in the long run, Congress will be forced to appropriate much larger sums to enable the VA to catch up on the deficits being created by this bill, not only in capital infrastructure, but in critical investments in other VA services in health care.

If we really want to change the culture of the VA and ensure that veterans everywhere can get the services and benefits they have earned, Congress must do its part by investing in our veterans.

When Congress cuts corners, we put the health and well-being of the men and women who have served this country at risk.

I realize, Mr. Chairman, that my amendment is subject to a point of order, so I intend to withdraw my amendment, but we must fix this bill before it moves forward.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$406,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, along with unobligated balances of previous

"Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE

##### EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$80,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2016 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or

both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2016 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2016 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative

expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$43,700,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,400,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No appropriations in this title shall be available to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental cost is more than \$1,000,000, unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits a request to enter into such lease to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and (1) the Committees approve the request; or (2) the Committees have not rejected the request before the date that is 15 days after the date on which the request is received.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to "Medical Services", to remain available until expended for the purposes of that account.

SEC. 216. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Indian

tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving rural Alaska which have entered into contracts with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands sited within the external boundaries of the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(1)–(4) and (7)–(12) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), and those lands within the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(5) and 7(a)(6) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough or the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 218. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to implement any policy prohibiting the Directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks from conducting outreach or marketing to enroll new veterans within their respective Networks.

SEC. 219. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "General Administration", and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2016 may be transferred to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 221. Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Facilities" account for non-recurring maintenance, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available shall be obligated during the last 2 months of that fiscal year: *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this requirement after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 for "Medical Services", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Construction, Minor Projects", and

"Information Technology Systems", up to \$266,303,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 223 of Title II of Division I of Public Law 113-235 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2016, for "Medical Services", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", up to \$265,675,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 225. Of the amounts available in this title for "Medical Services", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 226. (a) Of the funds appropriated in title II of division I of Public Law 113-235, the following amounts which became available on October 1, 2015, are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

(1) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Services", \$1,400,000,000.

(2) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Support and Compliance", \$100,000,000.

(3) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Facilities", \$250,000,000.

(b) In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, an additional amount is appropriated to the following accounts in the amounts specified to remain available until September 30, 2017:

(1) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Services", \$1,400,000,000.

(2) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Support and Compliance", \$100,000,000.

(3) "Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Facilities", \$250,000,000.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings for a major construction project within 15 days of being identified that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less.

SEC. 228. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report that contains the following information from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: (1) the average time to complete a disability compensation claim; (2) the number of claims pending more than 125 days; (3) error rates; (4) the number of claims personnel; (5) any corrective action taken within the quarter to address poor performance; (6) training programs undertaken; and (7) the number and results of Quality Review Team audits: *Provided*, That each quarterly report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the respective quarter.

□ 1700

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 53, line 2, strike "and" after the semicolon.

Page 53, line 3, insert the following before the colon: "; and (8) the number of informal claims that are unprocessed".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, each quarter the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must submit a report that includes several metrics from every VA regional of-

fice to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The report includes the average time to complete a disability claim, the backlog, error rates, and other important details.

With this amendment, the Secretary of VA must also include the number of informal claims that are unprocessed. This amendment allows Congress to receive a more complete picture of the regional office's workload.

We have seen troubling instances in Oakland and other VA regional offices of informal claims not being handled properly and even waiting decades for some of those claims to be processed.

Informal claims should be included in this quarterly report from the Secretary, and this amendment simply requires that that be done; therefore, giving Congress and veterans a better picture of what that load would be and then we can address that appropriately. So that is the amendment.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMALFA. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I support the amendment.

Mr. LAMALFA. Again, Mr. Chair, it is a very simple amendment, and it will make a clear picture of what the real backlog is of informal claims, which has not gotten enough attention in the work of the VA in recent years. Again, we keep finding that it is an issue of importance and one of great concern as we have discovered what some of the regional offices have to deal with.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA). The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a reprogramming request if at any point during fiscal year 2016 the funding allocated for a medical care program that is not estimated through the Enrollee Health Care Projection Model is adjusted by more than \$25,000,000 from the allocation shown in the corresponding congressional budget justification. Amounts may only be reprogrammed as requested under this section if (1) the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve the request; or (2) the Committees have not rejected the request before the date that is 15 days after the date on which the request is received.

SEC. 231. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 for "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance", a maximum of \$5,000,000 may be obligated from the "Medical Services" account and a maximum of \$154,596,000 may be obligated from the "Medical Support and Compliance" account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: *Provided*, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. (a) There is hereby rescinded an aggregate amount of \$101,000,000 from the total budget authority provided for fiscal year 2016 for discretionary accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs in—

(1) this Act; or  
(2) any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2016 in prior appropriation Acts.

(b) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report specifying the account and amount of each rescission not later than 20 days following enactment of this Act.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000.

SEC. 235. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 236. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the "Medical Services" account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2016 in this title (except appropriations made to the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2016, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member and also the chairman for providing me this time to speak on the floor.

I am going to go back. My congressional district is home to the Long Beach Veterans Affairs hospital; the American Gold Star Manor, which is a manor that provides affordable housing for mothers who have lost their sons to war and for veterans; and my district is also the home of Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

Providing outstanding service to our veterans has been a top priority throughout my career. That is why I am cosponsoring this amendment to address the disability claims and appeals backlogs and hopefully provide funding for more full-time employees to address these issues.

I want to share with you just quickly my concerns.

There are long delays in Aid and Attendance claims, particularly with regard to elderly, frail veterans with rapidly declining health issues. And approval is slow and sometimes comes, actually, too late, allowing the veterans to suffer for no reason.

This year, I had a 100 percent service-connected Purple Heart veteran with Parkinson's disease who filed for Aid and Attendance in July 2013. At that time, he needed caretaking assistance at his home but was initially denied.

In March of 2014, I received a call from his son who informed me that his father had fallen and broken his shoulder. During this time, my constituent had to produce multiple pieces of paper and doctor's confirmation of disability, even though he is an amputee. His son called my office and informed my caseworker in the district that he needed immediate assistance for his father. My caseworker called my staffer in D.C., who ran to the VA Congressional Liaison's office here at the Capitol to see what could be done during this emergency. I spoke to the VA about the situation, and my constituent received immediate assistance because I called. My constituent was finally awarded Aid and Attendance in May of 2014.

Mr. Chair, our veterans should not have to wait for medical care and suffer while they are waiting for months and years. Our veterans deserve better service than we are giving them. It is unnecessary for these types of emergencies to occur.

Last year, I encouraged the Department to use its funding to hire additional staff and stated that I do not believe that providing overtime pay for workers who are already stretched thin was enough. I am pleased to see there is funding to hire more full-time em-

ployees, but we still need more workers in order for the VA to respond faster. I am still concerned that the Veterans Benefits Administration is not requesting adequate resources to expeditiously handle the current backlog or new claims, which are expected to increase.

The VA is still contracting out claims to other regional offices rather than the home office. It is making progress. However, claims are still taking as long as 2 years for resolution. The VA is encouraging veterans to use electronic benefits, eBenefits, though many Vietnam-era veterans need assistance with this technology.

Mr. Chair, in closing, when we ask America's veterans to serve their country and sacrifice their lives on our behalf, our Nation needs to make a promise to take care of them throughout their lives. Ensuring that our veterans receive the best care after their years of service to our Nation is a moral responsibility which must happen. I pledge my continued support to work with Secretary McDonald and the Department of Veterans Affairs, my colleagues, stakeholder groups, and my constituents to address these issues.

Mr. Chair, I ask that you support this amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 237. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016, under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval from such Committees for such request.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 238. Of the unobligated balances available within the "DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund", \$15,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 239. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 240. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 113-235 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016, \$197,923,000 are rescinded from "Medical Services", \$42,272,000 are rescinded from "Medical Support and Compliance", and \$15,353,000 are rescinded from "Medical Facilities".

SEC. 241. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

(1) "Veterans Benefits Administration—Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund", \$3,098,000.



(2) "Veterans Benefits Administration—Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program Account", \$10,000.

(3) "Veterans Benefits Administration—Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account", \$25,000.

(4) "Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research", \$3,109,000.

(5) "National Cemetery Administration", \$1,654,000.

(6) "Departmental Administration—General Administration", \$3,877,000.

(7) "Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals", \$786,000.

(8) "Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", \$36,568,000.

(9) "Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems", \$7,958,000.

(10) "Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General", \$993,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 58, after line 25, insert the following: SEC. 242. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that describes the status, including the timeline for completion, of each Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to be established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, through construction or lease, that is not yet completed.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to have the Secretary of the VA report to Congress on the status of VA clinics currently in the leasing or construction process.

Our rural veterans deserve access to quality care without having to drive hundreds of miles. In many areas, like in northern Michigan, VA clinics can serve an important role in providing care to veterans in their communities. However, no one is served when the VA takes many years to approve and complete these projects.

In Traverse City, Michigan, an expansion for the VA clinic was approved and funded by Congress in 2013. After I sent letters to the Secretary asking for an explanation, the program was finally approved by the VA in August of 2014. To this day, the VA has yet to make measurable progress on this facility, and they have told me that it could be as many as 6 more years before this facility is completed.

Our veterans deserve to know how many facilities are facing similar delays. As we work to enforce some accountability at the VA, we can't ignore

our rural veterans that rely on VA clinics. The VA must be held accountable for these delays, and I want to know who in the agency is responsible.

My goal is for all veterans to have a choice in where they receive care. We have taken an important step towards that with the Choice Act, and I look forward to continuing to work to expand that program. However, it is critical that we do not allow the VA to hold veterans and taxpayers in limbo as critical, funded projects sit unfinished.

The money we provided in this bill is not for plush executive salaries and full retirement benefits for those that manipulate data. It is for our veterans. The VA must return to its focus, to its central mission and remove bureaucratic hurdles that keep veterans from the care they have earned.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment gives affirmative direction in effect.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### TITLE III

#### RELATED AGENCIES

#### AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be

necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

#### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7299 of title 38, United States Code, \$32,141,000: *Provided*, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

#### CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies" account.

#### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

#### TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Department of Defense—Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army", may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited during the current fiscal year into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

#### TITLE IV

#### OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$244,004,000 to remain available until September 30, 2020, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.



□ 1715

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike title IV.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from South Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to read something at the beginning of this:

"Abuse of the overseas contingency operation global war on terror cap adjustment is a backdoor loophole that undermines the integrity of the budget process."

It goes on to say that the Budget Committee will oppose increases above the levels the administration and our military commanders say are needed to carry out operations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such amounts are war related.

That is from last year's House-passed budget report. Last year, this body took a position that we were not going to use the OCO budget, the global war on terror budget, in order to get around the BCA caps.

The appropriations bill, as currently offered, does exactly that. It spends about \$532 million in the OCO budget for matters that the Department of Defense admits are not war related. These are matters that the Department of Defense included in its original base defense budget request, but for which there wasn't enough money under the BCA caps.

So what the appropriators have done is taken those requests which are admittedly not war related and buried it in this appropriations bill, using the OCO money in order to violate the caps.

By the way, the money goes to overseas bases, bases in Italy, Poland, Bahrain, Niger, Djibouti, and Oman, admitted by the Defense Department not to be war related, yet is in the war budget today.

All I ask, Mr. Chairman, is this: If we agree as a body that we cannot live within the BCA caps and we agree that the defense of the Nation takes more money than is permitted under the BCA caps, then let's break the caps. But let's do it honestly, let's do it openly, and let's tell the people here why we have to do it and where the money is going.

The OCO budget has been described by members of both the Democrat

Party and the Republican Party alike as a slush fund, as a bad way to do business. The Defense Department doesn't even like using this type of money because it does not allow them to budget properly. It is a desperate act, and it is a dishonest act when it comes to following the law.

The Budget Control Act is the law of the land. It passed in the House, it passed in the Senate, and it was signed by the President. And this appropriations bill seeks to break the law and seeks to do it in such a way that isn't even honest about how it is going forward.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully request that folks would support the Mulvaney-Van Hollen amendment and strike the OCO-GWOT money from this particular appropriations bill.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

Section 17 of chapter 2 of the House Practice book states in part:

"It is not in order to strike or otherwise amend portions of a bill not yet read for amendment."

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that this amendment seeks to strike title IV on page 62, which is exactly where we are when I was called to the podium.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I wish to be heard.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. My understanding of this is it strikes the provision and, therefore, meets the requirements. After all, this is the first bill we are debating since the budget was passed. The budget opens the door wide to this accounting scam that Republicans on the Budget Committee just last year said was a gross runaround of the budget rules.

I want to read, Mr. Chairman, from the report from the Budget Committee last year that said that abuse of the OCO cap adjustment is a backdoor loophole that undermines the integrity of the budget process.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman must confine his remarks to the point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that the Budget Committee itself has indicated that this violates the budget process.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland must confine his remarks to the point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So it is hard to understand how this could be a violation of the point of order if the Budget Committee says that what we are doing violates the budget process or undermines the budget process.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry as to the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MULVANEY. Is the point of order that we have not yet reached the appropriate time for making this particular amendment?

The Acting CHAIR. The point of order has been stated. The Chair has not yet ruled.

Mr. MULVANEY. Would the gentleman from Pennsylvania restate the point?

Mr. DENT. The point of order is that we are not at the appropriate point in the bill for this amendment to be considered.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that we are on page 62. That is the page I think on which title IV is printed. My amendment does nothing more than strikes all of title IV. So it seems like this is wholly the appropriate time to deal with that particular amendment and, in fact, may be out of order if I don't offer it right now.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The amendment strikes title IV. Only the first paragraph of title IV is pending.

It is not in order to amend portions of the bill not yet read for amendment.

The point of order is sustained.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, parliamentary inquiry, just so I understand the ruling.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, as I understood the ruling, because the amendment strikes all of this section, as opposed to the portion of the section we are currently on, it is being ruled out of order. Is that correct?

The Acting CHAIR. Only one paragraph is currently pending, and the amendment sought to strike the entire title.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Parliamentary inquiry: Is there going to be a point in time when that entire section is pending?

The Acting CHAIR. Only the first paragraph of title IV is pending.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the meaning of "is" is "is." I understand that we are on the first paragraph.

Parliamentary inquiry: Is there going to be a point in time when the

entire section is pending, such that this amendment would then be considered in order since the amendment is to strike the entire section?

The Acting CHAIR. The bill is being read paragraph by paragraph.

Mr. MULVANEY. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MULVANEY. Is the ruling without prejudice as to my ability to offer the amendment at a later time?

The Acting CHAIR. The paragraph that has been read is open for amendment at this time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I respect that, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that responds to my parliamentary inquiry.

Is the Chair's ruling with or without prejudice as to my ability to bring the same amendment at a later time?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair cannot give an advisory opinion on a future amendment.

Mr. MULVANEY. I respect that, Mr. Chairman. I am not asking the Chair for an advisory opinion. I am asking the Chair to clarify the ruling the Chair has already made. Is it with or without prejudice?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair has ruled and is ready for other business.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the pending paragraph.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman seek to offer an amendment?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent to offer an amendment at this point in time to strike the pending paragraph.

Mr. DENT. I object.

The Acting CHAIR. If the gentleman would send his amendment to the desk.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MULVANEY. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MULVANEY. Again, I am new at this. I understand that we are sort of working our way through this.

Here is my question: If this was the inappropriate time for me to bring this amendment, why was I summoned to the podium?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair was inquiring as to the purpose the gentleman was seeking recognition.

Mr. MULVANEY. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MULVANEY. My amendment was read.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. VAN HOLLEN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the pending paragraph.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman

from Maryland and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this amendment with my colleague, Mr. MULVANEY. And now that we have gotten beyond the sort of procedural objections, let's go to the substance of this.

This is the first appropriations bill that we have on the floor that raises the question about the budgets that were passed in both the House and the Senate. As I think our colleagues know well by this point, both those budgets engage in an incredible accounting scam with respect to how we fund the Department of Defense and how we fund our military operations.

For years, we have distinguished between the moneys that we spend on our ongoing defense programs, called the base budget, and the moneys set aside in the war account, the so-called overseas contingency account funds.

What has happened here is that the President, on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and our military leadership, has requested the amount that is necessary to address our overseas contingency operations. But instead of abiding by that request and what was necessary, the Republican budget does this end-run and ends up using our overseas contingency account as a slush fund for funds that have been in the base defense budget.

As I was indicating earlier, Mr. Chairman, this accounting scam, the sleight of hand, was something that the Republican Budget Committee just last year strongly objected to and indicated that it violated the budget process.

I am going to read another portion of the Republican Budget Committee report from last year on this issue where it says the Budget Committee will exercise its oversight responsibilities with respect to the use of the OCO, the overseas contingency account, designation in the budget process, and it will oppose increases above the level the administration and our military commanders say are necessary to carry out operations. And then it goes on, because those are not war related.

So what this House is doing now is engaging in this incredible sleight of hand, and it is only one big problem in the budget before us, along with many other problems.

But on this point, I would like to now yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) if he would like to say a word on this amendment.

Mr. MULVANEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, I will repeat what I said earlier on the amendment that was ruled out of order. The BCA is the law. We agreed that it is. I didn't vote for it. By the way, I didn't like it very much and was one of the few of my

party who did not vote for it. But it is the law passed in the House, passed by the Senate, and signed by the President.

We can change it. We absolutely can change it if we want to. And if that is the will of this body, then let's do it. But let's do it by changing the Budget Control Act. Let's not go around the BCA. Let's not use a back door. Let's not use a slush fund, something that is off-budget.

I hope my friends in the private sector understand the severity of it at this point. We have spending here that is off-budget that doesn't count towards the budget. And if we can use it for this, what else can we use it for? We are using it now for bases in Poland, Bahrain, Niger, Djibouti, and Oman, specifically not war related; yet it is in the war budget.

If we can use it for this, what is to stop us from using it for anything? If the law is going to have any meaning, let's respect it. And if we want to change it, let's change it. But let's be forthright about it.

Bring a bill to the floor to change the Budget Control Act and make the arguments for why we should do that. Let's not be disingenuous. Let's not be deceptive. Let's not be mischievous with the budget.

If we really think it is necessary for the defense of this Nation to spend \$532 million on base improvements in these overseas countries, then have folks come to the floor and tell us why. Let's not slip a line into the MILCON-VA budget and just say, Well, everybody always votes for VA anyway. Who can vote against the vets? Who can vote against MILCON? Let's put it in there. Nobody will notice it.

That is how we get \$18 trillion in debt.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment. In fact, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of Mr. VAN HOLLEN's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment may not have cosponsors.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent, since the original amendment was offered by Mr. MULVANEY, to make this the Mulvaney amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment may not have a cosponsor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I am asking unanimous consent to make the main sponsor Mr. MULVANEY.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman's request cannot be entertained.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am asking unanimous consent.

The Acting CHAIR. Is the gentleman seeking to withdraw the amendment?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I am willing to withdraw the amendment but only on the understanding—parliamentary inquiry—if I withdraw it and substitute the same amendment in the name of Mr. MULVANEY, can I do that?

The Acting CHAIR. Any Member may offer an amendment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, let's just keep it. This will be known as the Van Hollen-Mulvaney amendment.

I thank the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman's time has expired.

□ 1730

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Van Hollen-Mulvaney amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that there has been precedent to use OCO money on similar projects for similar purposes in previous years. Specifically, the Bahrain portion that is going to the U.S. Navy, there is a pier replacement, ship maintenance support facility. We used OCO funds in fiscal years '11, '12, and '13 for similar purposes then.

I should also note, too, that if we were to strike the OCO funding from this bill, the missile defense in Poland, the Aegis missile defense complex, would also be affected. Again, we had used OCO money for similar purposes in fiscal year '15.

I would argue that there is precedent for using OCO funds for the purposes contained in this bill. It is appropriate. I do not agree with the characterization that it is a scam, but it is used as precedent.

I would urge rejection of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will be postponed.

Mr. MULVANEY. I have an amendment at the desk to strike the second paragraph of title IV.

The Acting CHAIR. The reading will first progress to that next paragraph.

The Clerk will read the next paragraph.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Air Force" \$75,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2020, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 215(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. I am

moving to strike the second paragraph of title IV.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike pg. 62, line 15-22.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from South Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, unless Mr. VAN HOLLEN has anything to add, I believe the same arguments that we just made on his previous amendment stand for this one, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member seek time in opposition?

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just observe, in response to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania on the Appropriations Committee, that our military leadership has said that the funds that are requested for this purpose under OCO are not OCO funds, that they are not war-related funds. That is coming from the Department of Defense. That is coming from the folks who put together the budgets for the Department of Defense.

So to just claim that somehow these expenditures, which have been described by Mr. MULVANEY, are now somehow part of the war effort as opposed to the ongoing defense budget is to say to the military leadership that they don't understand how their budgets work. I think they do understand how their budgets work. We are trying to make sure that we protect the integrity of the process so that people can't be using the war account as a slush fund, which is exactly what this measure does.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. This amendment essentially would strike the OCO funds that would be provided to the Air Force, specifically in Oman for the airlift apron. I want to point out that the President of the United States requested funding for this same project under OCO in fiscal year 2011 for the airlift ramp. I am looking at the map actually of the work. It is on the same site.

What I am saying is OCO has been used for this at the request of the President in fiscal year '11. We are talking about using it on the same site for the same purpose. So, again, I would argue that the airlift apron in Oman is part of a facility that is very much part of our counterterrorism operations in that part of the world.

So again, I would urge rejection of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$212,996,000 to remain available until September 30, 2020, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike p. 62 line 23 thru page 63 line 6.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from South Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, as I understand this amendment, this would essentially eliminate OCO funding for our operation in Djibouti where we have infrastructure for fuel storage and distribution facilities.

Again, OCO funds were used for similar purposes in Djibouti in fiscal years '12 and '13 through OCO, I believe at the request of the President at the time. Again, Djibouti is a key facility for us strategically and one that is being used in our fight in the global war on terror. It is obviously very close to Somalia, a hotbed of Islamist extremism, as well as close to Yemen, where there is so much hostile action.

So, again, I would urge we reject this amendment because it will negatively impact our ability to conduct the global war on terror at a facility right in

that part of the world. And again, where precedent has been set, like in these other situations, precedent has been set for using OCO funds. We are doing it again this year, and I think it is appropriate.

I urge rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a portion of the language we are seeking to strike. It says: "For an additional amount for 'Military Construction Defense-Wide', \$212,996,000 to remain available until September 30, 2020."

So not only are we looking to spend the money today, we are looking to have the right to spend this money whenever we want over the next 5 years. I don't know of any other part of the budget where we do that.

If this is not a slush fund, Mr. Chairman, I don't know what it is. It was set up by a previous administration—an administration, by the way, of my party—and has been decried by Members of my party as being a slush fund. In fact, I think JOHN MCCAIN called it a slush fund, for goodness' sake. I believe Senator CORKER called it the same thing. This is one of the reasons. We have no idea why we are spending this money. It is available until 2020.

This is a great opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to say no. The money in the overseas contingency operation is there to support the troops who are overseas fighting a war. It is there to fight the global war on terror. It is not there for a slush fund for whatever bases we happen to think are convenient at the time and for which we can't find enough money under the base budget for that.

I hope we support not only Mr. VAN HOLLEN's first amendment, but my two subsequent amendments.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to respond to my friend from South Carolina. I do understand how construction is done.

I do want to point out that many of these projects are not all funded in one single fiscal year, but over a period of years, both domestically and internationally, as is the case here.

So, again, I would rise in opposition to the amendment and urge its rejection.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read the following:

#### TITLE V

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike section 512.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike section 512 of the bill, which prohibits the use of funds to construct or expand any facility in the United States to house any individual detained at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

□ 1745

Simply put, this section is designed to prevent the closure of Guantanamo.

Mr. Chairman, we are still holding 122 people at Guantanamo, 57 of whom have been cleared for release. These people have been found guilty of nothing, are believed to be guilty of nothing, and have been judged not to pose any danger. Nonetheless, they are not released. By what claim of right do we continue to imprison them?

As for the detainees who have not been cleared for release, this bill is designed to ensure that we will continue

to hold them at Guantanamo indefinitely. We don't know whether these people are enemy soldiers or not or are guilty of anything or not. Some of them may be, and some of them probably are not. Those facts must be determined in a fair proceeding of some sort, but, at Guantanamo, there are no proceedings. The military tribunal process at Guantanamo has been at a complete standstill for years, and we cannot hold civilian trials at Guantanamo, so we are holding people for no purpose with no proceedings, no hearings, no opportunity to determine their guilt or innocence, and we are holding them, essentially, forever.

I recall a briefing last year at which Representative and now-Senator COTTON said that these people had been determined to be guilty by Congress. Aside from the fact that Congress has not determined anybody to be guilty and aside from the fact, if Congress tried to determine someone to be guilty of a crime or of anything, that it would be a violation of the bill of attainder section of the Congress, it is simply not true. These people have been determined to be guilty of nothing, and they deserve, like anybody else, to have a day in court. How long will we let this shameful episode in American history continue?

To overcome this challenge to one of the founding principles of the United States, which is that no person may be deprived of liberty without due process of law and, certainly, may not be deprived of liberty indefinitely without due process of law, we must close the detention facility at Guantanamo now so that they can be properly charged and tried in a Federal court. This will afford the detainees no additional constitutional rights. The Supreme Court has already ruled that detainees at Guantanamo have the same constitutional rights as they would if they were to be brought to the United States.

The government should transfer to Federal court any detainee against whom it has evidence. The Federal courts, in contrast to the military tribunals, have an excellent record in prosecuting and convicting terrorists. Anyone not charged should either be classified as a "prisoner of war" and treated as such or should be released back to his home country or elsewhere if that prevents a problem to his life or safety. This is not a radical suggestion. It has been our tradition for the entire history of our country and has been our unbroken legal practice until now.

The President can and should without delay authorize the Secretary of Defense to use existing certification and waiver procedures to repatriate and resettle abroad all prisoners who have been cleared for release, and he should arrange trial in the United States for all prisoners who are not cleared for release.

We must close this facility. We must try and convict and sentence the peo-

ple who are guilty of acts of terrorism or aggression against the United States or, in accord with our moral and constitutional principles, release those who are not guilty of offenses against the United States. Only so can we restore our national honor. This amendment is necessary to start this process because without our bringing some of these prisoners to the United States for trial, we cannot try them. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, section 512 has been included in the MILCON-VA bill for several years, and it is part of the overall policy discussion involving Guantanamo Bay. Identical language is also carried in the 2015 appropriations bill. Again, I respectfully request that we reject this amendment.

I would also add that, at Guantanamo Bay, we have about 120 prisoners there. Among those who are at that facility are Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. I believe he is the man who also confessed that he decapitated Dan Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter. He was gruesomely executed by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. He is a high-value detainee, and there are other high-value detainees there. Many of the prisoners down in Guantanamo are Yemeni, but we certainly can't send them back to Yemen. It is also clear to me that many of these prisoners are very difficult to try and too dangerous to release, so I urge opposition to this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I note in his opposing this amendment that the gentleman simply said it is part of a larger policy discussion about Guantanamo. He is correct. He said that there is identical language in other bills. He is correct. He said that we should remove that language from the other bills, and he points out that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other high-value prisoners are at Guantanamo. He is correct.

We are to bring them to the United States. We are to try them and convict them and either sentence them to death or to life in prison without parole or whatever. That is our tradition. We don't simply declare someone is a bad guy and hold him forever without a trial. Our Federal courts in the United States have an excellent record of trying and convicting people accused of terrorism. In the military tribunals at Guantanamo, they can't even run a trial. It has come to a complete standstill.

It is really missing the point to say that there are some very bad people at

Guantanamo. Yes, there are. There are also some perfectly innocent people at Guantanamo. Those people ought to be released. The people who we think are guilty of something should be charged and tried. To simply say that someone is not going to be charged and tried but be held for life imprisonment without a trial is not what this country is about.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

I believe we need to set the conditions for the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo. It is in the United States national security interests to do so. Guantanamo has become a rallying cry. It serves as a recruitment tool for terrorists, and it increases the will of our enemies to fight while decreasing the will of others to work with America.

Part of the rationale for establishing Guantanamo in the first place was the misplaced idea that the facility would be beyond the law—a proposition rejected by the United States Supreme Court. As a result, the continued operation of this facility creates the impression in the eyes of our allies and our enemies alike that the United States selectively observes the rule of law.

There is no reason that we should impose upon ourselves the legal and moral problems arising from the prospect of indefinite detentions at Guantanamo. Working through civil courts since 9/11, hundreds of individuals have been convicted of terrorism or of terrorism-related offenses and are now serving long sentences in Federal prison. Not one has ever escaped custody.

For these reasons, I believe that the time is past due to take the actions needed to initiate the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to remind the Members that Bowe Bergdahl was exchanged for five detainees at GTMO who have been sent elsewhere outside the United States and outside of Guantanamo. It is hard to keep eyes on these folks who have been released in exchange for Bowe Bergdahl, who has actually been charged with desertion.

I also want to remind Members that, a few years ago, former Mayor Bloomberg of New York City agreed to allow certain detainees to be brought back to New York City for trial. Then, apparently, the mayor must have spoken to his police commissioner, who thought that that was a really bad idea because it would have choked off much of southern Manhattan, and it would have been extraordinarily expensive. It would have been a mistake.

Again, I urge that we reject this amendment and maintain the facility at Guantanamo Bay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 513. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BOUSTANY

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any bonus or monetary award under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, to an employee of the Chief Business Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is responsible for processing emergency medical care claims until the percentage of emergency medical care claims processed within 30 days reaches 90 percent.

(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit quarterly data to Congress on the following:

(A) The total number of emergency medical claims and the total number of billed charges for such claims.

(B) The total number of emergency medical claims and billed charges for such claims pending for more than 30 days.

(C) The number of veterans with unpaid claims under consideration in each Veterans Integrated Service Network.

(D) The percent of clean claims processed within 30 days.

Mr. DENT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, our veterans deserve better than long, drawn-out claims processes that inhibit access to high-quality care. This is just unacceptable.

Since the passage of last year's landmark VA reform legislation, the VA has demonstrated disturbingly little progress on addressing the emergency medical care claims processing backlog that is hurting our veterans.

I requested data earlier this year on the VA's progress in fiscal year 2015. I was shocked to find that, as of late March of this year, only 14 percent of the claims originating from VISN 16, including my home State of Louisiana, have been processed within 30 days. That is abysmal. No employee at any business in Louisiana or anywhere around this country would be given a bonus with such a poor success rate.

Mr. Chairman, it is high time the VA starts demanding a higher standard from its employees. My amendment is fairly simple. It prevents this agency from granting bonuses to its emergency medical care claims processing staff until the percentage of emergency medical care claims processed within 30 days reaches 90 percent.

This is just unacceptable behavior. Time and time again, we have asked the VA and have worked and legislated to get them to clean up their act. Our veterans are suffering, and this is no way to treat them. That is why I have offered this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman has a point of order raised against the amendment because it violates the House rules of legislating on an appropriations bill. I just feel compelled to speak out because of the plight of our veterans, who are at the mercy of an incompetent agency, and it has got to change.

I hope that all Members of this House on both sides of the aisle will work so that we clean up this mess and treat our veterans the way they should be treated because they have gone out and fought for us.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to my friend, the chairman of the subcommittee, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Information Technology Services" (and the amount specified under such heading for operations and maintenance), and by

increasing the amount made available for "Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services", by \$2,000,000.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, my first task is to thank the ranking member, Mr. BISHOP, and the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. DENT, both of whom I have worked with, and I consider them champions of veterans and champions of the legislation that we have before us in terms of the needs that are there.

□ 1800

However, there are many needs that should be addressed, Mr. Chairman. I hold in my hand a list of veterans who have fallen upon hard times, one in particular who has three grown daughters who are serving in the military. She, herself, served in the Navy for 5 years, had a divorce, and really needed to have housing assistance and medical care, but her options were insufficient.

My amendment is a simple amendment to, again, remind us of the importance of these individuals who still suffer. The Jackson Lee amendment makes a modest but important improvement to the bill by increasing the amount of funding for Supportive Services for Veteran Families account by \$2 million, offset by a reduction in the same amount to the \$4 billion allocated to the VA's information technology systems.

Today in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans, male and female, who are homeless on any given night, and perhaps twice as many—200,000—experience homelessness at some point during the course of the year.

All you need do, Mr. Chairman, is go home to your district and be able to engage with your veterans associations and your own constituents, and you will find that they will come up to you because they are homeless.

The VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program helps veterans and their families who may have fallen on hard times or hit a rough patch in life and need help from the country they selflessly risked their life to defend.

The veterans don't have to remind us that we owe them an obligation of support. They don't have to say it. We know that. When they put on the uniform, they ask no questions; they are selfless.



The SSVF program ensures that eligible veteran families receive the outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining veterans and other benefits. Many are suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury. They have lived, and we are grateful for it. Many Vietnam vets are just being diagnosed. This program is crucial to helping them get an extra step in life.

I would ask my colleagues to be reminded of the kinds of veterans whom we see every day who are willing to put on that uniform and sacrifice without asking one single question. I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, the Jackson Lee amendment will enable this vital program to serve more veteran families in need of help by providing a bit more funding for grants to provide nonprofit private organizations and consumer cooperatives the ability to provide supportive services.

The main point is that there is a need, and I would only say that we need to follow the words of a veteran who said, after getting services, "I have a home, and I enjoy being inside."

Let's give more of our veterans and veteran families that very important quote, "I have a home, and I enjoy being inside."

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, before I begin, let me express my appreciation and thanks to my good friends, Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP, for their hard and constructive work in shepherding this legislation to the floor.

Chairman DENT and I worked together constructively for many years on the Homeland Security Committee and has always distinguished himself as one of the most bipartisan members of the House.

And Ranking Member BISHOP has for years been one of the ablest Members of this body; I thank them both for commitment to the important work of ensuring that our veterans receive the care and support they have earned from a grateful nation.

The Jackson Lee Amendment makes a modest but important improvement to the bill by increasing the amount of funding for the "Supportive Services for Veterans' Families" account by \$2 million, offset by a reduction of the same amount to the \$4 billion allocated to the VA's "Information Technology Systems" account.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night.

And perhaps twice as many (200,000) experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year.

The VA's "Supportive Services for Veterans' Families" Program helps veterans, and their families, who may have fallen on hard times or hit a rough patch in life and need a little help from the country they selflessly risked their life to defend.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will enable this vital program to serve more veterans' fam-

ilies in need of help by providing a bit more funding for grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing.

The SSVF Program ensures that eligible veteran families receive the outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits.

These services may include health care, daily living, legal services, fiduciary and payee services, personal financial planning, child care, transportation, housing counseling.

The SSVF Program enables VA staff and local homeless service providers to work together to effectively address the unique challenges that make it difficult for some veterans and their families to remain stably housed.

Many homeless veterans, including in my own state of Texas, lack housing because they lost their job or could no longer afford rent; many suffer from an untreated mental illness that keeps them from working.

Every day the SSVF program makes a real difference in the lives of real people.

Veterans like the Air Force veteran who, hoping to utilize the skills he learned in the service, instead bounced from job to job after being discharged and found himself sleeping at night on the cold cement under a bridge in Chicago.

Through the Thresholds Veterans Project, funded through the SSVF, this hero received steady community service support and eventually was placed in his own studio apartment.

He now says, in his own words: I have a home. I enjoy bein' inside."

Veterans like the one in Texas who because he lost his job at a manufacturing plant and was unable to pay the bills, was forced to seek shelter for himself and his family at a homeless shelter.

Fortunately, the homeless shelter was a SSVF grantee and was able to assist the veteran obtain employment and his family in securing affordable low-cost housing.

There are thousands of similar success stories made possible by the SSVF Program that I could share but all of them share a common theme: they involve veterans who served their country proudly, fell down on their luck, picked themselves back up, and found affordable and sustainable housing for their families because of the assistance and support made possible by the SSVF program.

Ensuring that veterans have a place of their own to call home is the very least we can do.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JOLLY

Mr. JOLLY. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or transfer of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a very simple measure. It simply prohibits the relinquishment, the closure, or the transfer of Naval Station Guantánamo Bay out of the possession of the United States.

In 1903, as a result of the Cuban-American treaty, the United States began to occupy Naval Station Guantánamo Bay for at least as long as necessary or in perpetuity for naval operations. The treaty stated that the U.S. shall exercise complete jurisdiction and control of the base, while also recognizing the sovereignty of Cuba.

Today, Naval Station Guantánamo is a front line for our regional security in the Caribbean. It supports our Navy logistical work; drug interdiction; DHS migrant operations; and, importantly, disaster and humanitarian relief, including responding to the 1980s and 1990s mass migration, as well as the 2010 Haiti earthquake response.

Very importantly is what this measure does not do. This measure does not touch the detention facility and the politics of the detention facility. This focuses solely on the national security implications of maintaining the Navy station 90 miles off the shores of Florida. Importantly, it is an issue that has been brought right now as a result of the President's decision to begin to normalize relations with Cuba.

Also, importantly, this doesn't take a position on normalizing relations with Cuba. In fact, you could make the argument that normalizing relations with Cuba actually enhances and improves and increases our national security because it allows us additional operational units and boots on the ground at our Navy station there, engaging with the locals, improving our intelligence, improving our ability to respond.

The moment the President began to offer normalized relations, the Castro regime demanded the return of Guantánamo. This is a matter of our national security to maintain it. You need not make this political.

Simply look at the advice and opinions of the previous three commanders of U.S. Southern Command. Current General John Kelly has called GTMO indispensable to the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and State.

The commander before him, Admiral Stavridis, said it is of immense strategic value. Prior to him, General



Douglas Fraser, contemplating the eventual closure of the detention facility said, even absent a detention facility, the strategic capability provided by U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay remains essential for executing the national priorities of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of national security. We have a process for realigning and closing naval facilities. This legislation simply says, for purposes of national security, this amendment prohibits any transfer or closure of Naval Station Guantanamo.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I claim the time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I think sometimes people get confused about the role of Guantanamo Bay naval facility's mission. There is a joint task force on detainee operations, and there is the actual facility.

No one has ever floated the idea of closing the base and giving it back to Cuba, so when the detainee mission ends, which it will, we will still need to have this facility. It is the southernmost military facility of the Department.

I don't support detainee operations, but I do support the regular mission of the Guantanamo Bay naval facility, and therefore, I will not oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I yield the time I have remaining to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to state, too, that the underlying legislation does not include any funds to close the naval station at Guantanamo Bay, a facility I have visited.

I also should point out, as the distinguished ranking member just stated, Mr. BISHOP, that the naval station is a key strategic location for SOUTHCOM, and I would support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, ad-

minister, or enforce Veterans Health Administration directive 2011-004 (or directive of the same substance) with respect to the prohibition on "VA providers from completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a Veteran's participation in a State marijuana program".

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment. I haven't seen the amendment yet.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, 36 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide legal access to medical marijuana in some form, and over 1 million patients now use medical marijuana to treat conditions ranging from seizures, anxiety, chronic pain, nausea associated with chemotherapy, and post-traumatic stress at the recommendation of their physician.

Over 213 million people reside in those jurisdictions; yet, according to Directive 2011-004, the Department of Veterans Affairs prohibits its medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a veteran's participation in a State medical marijuana program.

The amendment I am offering ensures that no funds made available to the VA can be used to implement this prohibition. The amendment will not encourage doctors or patients to recommend or use medical marijuana. It would not authorize the possession or use of marijuana at VA facilities.

It would simply free up VA providers to have an honest conversation about treatment options and recommend medical marijuana in accordance with State law if they think it is appropriate. It would not force veterans to not work with their primary care provider.

I am joined in offering this bipartisan amendment by Congressman HECK from Nevada, Congressman ROHR-ABACHER, and a series of other Members, some of whom you will hear from.

Over 20 percent of the 2.8 million American veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD and depression. They should not be forced outside the VA system to seek a simple recommendation about a treatment that might help them manage these conditions.

I will say, while nobody has ever died from a marijuana overdose, we are watching veterans have prescriptions for opiates who suffer from PTSD, for example, more than others, and their suicide rate is high. There is real danger in not being able to provide balanced treatment.

Our VA physicians should not be denied their First Amendment right to have an honest conversation about options and offer a recommendation they think could bring relief and well-being to a patient. Our veterans should not be treated as second class citizens in the States that permit medical marijuana.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in opposition to my friend's amendment. We had a similar debate in the full committee just last week. The VA must comply with all Federal laws, including the Controlled Substances Act.

This act designates schedule I drugs, such as marijuana, as having no currently accepted medical use. There are criminal penalties associated with the production, distribution, and possession of these drugs.

The standing VA policy does not deny veterans who participate in State marijuana programs from also participating in VA substance abuse or clinical programs. It simply prohibits VA clinicians from completing forms for their participation in such State programs or for providing or paying for marijuana authorized by a State program.

Veterans are able to participate in State programs. They just cannot possess marijuana at VA facilities. Changing the VA directive does not change the DEA's interpretation of Federal law on marijuana.

DEA has advised VA that its doctors cannot issue anything that could be construed as a prescription or endorsement of medical marijuana, so the amendment won't change the situation for veterans unless the VA physicians are willing to risk prosecution.

At this point, again, I would have to urge opposition.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Just recently, in Georgia, Governor Deal signed legislation that immediately legalized the use of medical marijuana to treat serious medical conditions. Georgia became the 36th State, plus Washington, D.C., to legalize marijuana extracts to treat diseases.

I believe that we should not limit the Veterans Health Administration in providing optimal pain care for our

veterans. If medical marijuana is legal in the State, then the VA should be able to discuss that treatment option and allow the veteran to make his or her own choice.

I believe that the VA's published policy guidance related to the use of medical marijuana by veteran patients has become outdated. I believe supporting a veteran's right to use alternative methods to deal with pain is the right thing to do.

I support the amendment. I urge its adoption.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

□ 1815

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that you heard the amendment because it said nothing about the doctor's ability to issue a prescription for use of medical marijuana. This simply lifts a gag order.

Now, these doctors have taken an oath of office to do no harm. Their ability is to talk to patients. They can tell patients that there is medical marijuana available. They can also tell patients that you shouldn't try it, you shouldn't use it.

What you want is just an honest dialogue. You want to give doctors their professional capability to have a discussion with the veteran. That is all this bill does.

Our veterans are living in a civilian community. In 33 States, this is legal. When they walk in with admitted problems and they want medical attention, the doctor cannot have a thorough discussion with them.

That is all this amendment adds. It says, Let's let these doctors be like the civilian doctors in the same offices in the same States, only maybe those civilian doctors can issue prescriptions where the veteran doctor can't.

Because of the reasons that the chairman talked about of how this drug is listed, this is very limiting, so let's lift the gag order. We owe it to our veterans to give them complete information when they ask for it, even if it means discussing medical marijuana.

I ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in very strong support of this bipartisan amendment, which I am very proud to cosponsor with my colleagues.

This would finally put an end to the misguided VA policy that keeps our veterans from receiving the medicine that they need. To date, 23 States, the District of Columbia, and Guam have passed legislation allowing legal access to medical marijuana.

What is more, similar amendments saying that the Federal Government

should respect states' rights and the will of voters on this issue have passed the House with bipartisan support.

This amendment represents the will of more than 70 percent of voters who support patient access to medical marijuana and is supported across party lines.

Veterans should have the benefit of being able to know what the options are. So many of our veterans are suffering from PTSD and other medical problems, and possibly, this would help in terms of relieving their pain and providing for the quality of life that they so deserve.

This amendment would put an end to the policy that keeps our veterans from receiving the medicine, counseling, and care they so deserve, and I hope we have an "aye" vote on this.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. May I inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to say, very simply, that we shortchange our veterans if we don't give them the opportunity to have every possible medical treatment that is out there.

We know that certain States have legalized medical marijuana. In those States, our veterans deserve to have that as an option. To shortchange them would just be unconscionable, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) has 2½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chairman, the question we are discussing is simply whether Veterans Affairs physicians can recommend the use of marijuana or not recommend the use of marijuana to their patients.

As Republicans, we supposedly believe in the doctor-patient relationship, but apparently, some of my colleagues believe that that relationship is not relevant when it comes to VA doctors and their patients, the patients who happen to be our Nation's great heroes who went off to defend us in war.

It is criminal that we send our men and women off to war, where their minds and bodies are broken, and then deny them the ability to obtain a medical recommendation from a legitimate VA doctor upon their return home.

Why is it we have faith in the medical qualifications of Congress to determine the best medical practices rather than those people who are doctors in the Department of Veterans Affairs?

I would submit that perhaps marijuana is a better option for some patients—and maybe not—but we should stop this heavy-handed, top-down approach and allow the Department of Veterans Affairs physicians and their patients to determine for themselves the best use and the best treatment that they would be able to have.

Let's respect these people and their rights. I thought we Republicans believed in the doctor-patient relationship. Either you do or you don't. If you vote this down, you don't believe in the doctor-patient relationship for our veterans, of all people.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I understand my colleagues are very sincere in their attempt. I am sympathetic to at least listening to the arguments for medicinal marijuana, but this discussion must be driven by the science.

I would love to hear from the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, and the medical community formally about their views on this issue prior to us legislating on this matter.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, Dr. HARRIS.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, as a veteran and a physician and someone who has treated veterans, I appreciate the sacrifice our men and women in uniform have made and our duty to give them the best possible care.

That means care based on real science, not promise, not hope, not conjecture, not politics, not as part of an agenda, but real science.

The chairman says we should wait for good science and we should wait to hear from the experts. We don't need to wait. We have heard. Dr. Nora Volkow, the head of the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the NIH, says medical marijuana, in the current state of medical knowledge, is not a good idea.

There just isn't very good science behind what it works for and what it doesn't; so I agree, when good science is in hand, let's give doctors carte blanche to discuss that. That science isn't available.

Worse than that, Mr. Chairman, this bill does nothing to advance the knowledge of science on this issue because it doesn't say we are going to sign veterans up for research so they can help other veterans answer the question of whether or not it helps.

It doesn't do anything like that. It doesn't make it easier for them to enlist in research protocols to address the scientific questions. Now, the chairman of the subcommittee asked, Well, we should hear from the FDA; we should hear from DEA.

We hear from all of them. They say medical marijuana is not scientifically

based at this time. I have offered this to the Members, but the author of the amendment and I have been to the NIH. He knows my interest in getting to the bottom of what works and what doesn't.

At this point in time, we are not doing our veterans a service. We could. If we asked to engage in more scientific research, we could do them a service. If this amendment, in fact, encouraged in any way, shape, or form further research on what works and what doesn't, we could be doing them a service.

Sadly enough, Mr. Chairman, it doesn't; and that is why I oppose this effort—not helping our veterans, but this specific effort.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. DENT. At this time, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank my friend, the chairman, for yielding.

As a practicing physician and a veteran myself, the way we approach health care is not to just allow any healthcare provider to do whatever he or she wants to do at the time. That is simply not the way health care works.

Let's look specifically at the problem of PTSD, which is one of the worst problems that we are dealing with today among veterans.

What have we found just in the last year? Smoking pot increases psychotic episodes by a factor of two to four times normal. The conversion to schizophrenia, a permanent mental disorder, is enhanced by pot by a factor of two—double.

Why in the world would we give a drug that is addictive, that is prohibited under schedule I, that is not accepted for any specific mental disease or disorder and enhances psychosis and schizophrenia, why are we going to give that to our veterans, especially those with PTSD? That is just absolutely insane.

Mr. DENT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. First, it isn't just PTSD that medical marijuana is used for. There is a whole host of other conditions that were available.

Second, the marijuana medical train has left the station. A million Americans have a legal right to use medical marijuana, and they do so. You want to treat veterans differently.

Third, medical marijuana is nowhere near as addictive as what is happening to our veterans right now. Veterans seen by agency doctors are dying from prescription drug overdoses nearly twice the national average.

Nobody dies from an overdose of marijuana; and the VA doctors prescribe significantly more opiates, which are highly addictive, to patients with PTSD and depression than other veterans, even though those people suffering those conditions are more at risk of overdose and suicide.

Get your facts straight. I am happy to do more research; I have work coming forward, but, in the meantime, don't treat these veterans as second class citizens.

If you want to be concerned, be concerned about the explosion of addictive drugs that are being prescribed to people who we should be giving more care.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment, of which I am a proud co-sponsor.

As a Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I regularly speak with both VA medical professionals and patients about advances in care for our nation's heroes.

The limited research that has been allowed to be conducted has shown very promising results on the use of medical marijuana for the treatment of conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Nearly 1 of 5 veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is diagnosed with PTSD and we have seen a skyrocketing rate of overuse and addiction of powerful painkillers being used to treat such illnesses.

Giving medical professionals additional tools to treat these serious ailments is not just commonsense, it is the right thing to do.

Often times we hear elected officials come to the well of the House and speak about their commitment to our servicemembers and veterans. Today we have an opportunity to do more than offer platitudes, we can offer relief: relief from the pain and suffering associated with PTSD; relief from a medical system with little to offer as alternative treatments to powerful and addictive painkillers; relief from the fear of being penalized for using medical marijuana prescribed by a private doctor; and relief to VA medical professionals in the 36 states, including Nevada and Washington D.C. where medical marijuana is legal, allowing them to utilize their medical judgement to determine the best treatment options for their patients.

Forcing the 225,000 veterans who call Nevada home and millions across the country to go outside the VA health system to seek treatment, without the supervision and guidance of the medical professionals who understand the specific needs of our veteran community, is irresponsible.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan amendment and stand up for our brave men and women who bear the scars of war and who so desperately need our support.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BABIN

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the Appraised Value Offer program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to terminate the VA's abused Appraised Value Offer Program so that these funds can be used to better serve the needs of our Nation's veterans, rather than VA bureaucrats.

The VA spent nearly \$300,000 of taxpayer money to move a VA employee 140 miles, specifically from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia. That is \$300,000 that could have been used to care for numerous deserving veterans who have served this Nation in uniform, but instead was spent to move someone 140 miles.

At the request of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General is investigating this abuse, and here is what we have learned so far.

Under the VA's Appraised Value Offer Program, the VA paid more than \$80,000 to one of its government employees and \$211,000 to a Federal contractor that was tasked with selling that employee's home.

At a time when the VA is struggling to meet the medical needs of our veterans, it is unconscionable that the VA would waste \$300,000 in taxpayer money to move someone 140 miles.

Unfortunately, this is just another disturbing example of the lack of transparency and accountability at the VA. The folks at the VA are already under scrutiny for their shocking failure to properly care for veterans, and now, to spend \$300,000 on this is absolutely abusive. Clearly, the VA cannot be trusted to exercise common sense with this program, and it is time to end it.

As a military veteran and a father of a decorated Navy SEAL, I am deeply frustrated with the abuse and mismanagement at the VA. Our veterans must be the VA's first priority, not its bureaucrats.

I would like to thank House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman JEFF MILLER for shedding light on this

important issue and holding the VA accountable for failing to put veterans first.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to end this outrageous abuse within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

□ 1830

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BABIN. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I just wanted to state I do not object to the gentleman's amendment. He raised the Philadelphia issue. I am very much aware of it and certainly concerned about it, and I understand the purpose.

I also understand the purpose of the Appraised Value Offer Program, when a valued employee would otherwise stand to lose thousands in the sale of a house to move at the request of their employing agency. But sometimes the cost of the program seems a little excessive, in my view.

In conference, we may need to tweak the language to make sure that we aren't jeopardizing VA's efforts to move talented staff to areas where they are needed. But as I said, I do not object to the amendment.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), amounts made available under the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account for fiscal year 2016 may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide discretionary competitive grants for State and local governments to establish or expand technology systems that develop a coordinated network of private, public and nonprofit services and resources to better serve veterans and their family members. A State or local government awarded a grant under this section shall work with an entity that has experience working with comprehensive coordinated networks, protects privacy of veterans and their families, ensures the quality of providers, and has a metrics system to effectively measure success of the network.

(2) Amounts used as described in paragraph (1) may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate decrease in the total amount made available by this Act for the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account.

(3) Each grant made under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Mr. DENT (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Ms. ADAMS (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from North Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for allowing me to present my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight the need for better access to resources and services for our veterans and military families.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal agencies are providing a vast array of services and resources that our heroes deserve, but the Federal Government alone is not able to address every challenge our servicemen and -women and their families are facing and will face in years to come. Many community providers and local governments are starting their own initiatives to assist veterans in applying for benefits with VA and other organizations.

For those 37,000 veterans living in the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina, it is important that community-based groups work collaboratively with local, State, and Federal Government service providers so that recipients know where all of these different benefits and resources are and how to access them.

Additionally, we need to make sure we are holding service providers accountable and that performance measures are in place.

My amendment encourages the VA to assist with establishing and expanding technology systems at the local and State level to create a more unified network of veteran services. These networks would include private, public, and nonprofit partners who are qualified to serve veterans and their families.

My amendment directs funding to a grant program that has not yet been authorized by law, and will be subject to a point of order.

I look forward to working with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and with the Appropriations Committee to make this funding a reality for our community providers in the future.

The veterans in my district, in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Rowan, Davidson, Forsyth, and Guilford Counties, have noted that they have difficulties finding and accessing the services that are available to them and their families.

As more servicemen and -women come home from serving overseas, Congress must support innovation and local solutions to providing services for our Nation's veterans.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for allowing me to present my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ROTHFUS

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to stand with our Nation's veterans and their families. We owe these brave individuals and their loved ones a debt that can never be repaid. When our Nation called, they answered. Our veterans served bravely in theaters around the world, kept us safe, and helped to spread American values and the freedoms that we hold dear.

Our veterans made unimaginable sacrifices to their health, to their well-being, and to their families. They fulfilled their commitment to our great Nation, and we must now uphold the commitments we made to them. It is for that reason that I rise in strong support of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act under consideration today. It is also why this amendment is so important.

For the last 2 years, I have offered this amendment with the same simple message: VA senior executives need to take responsibility, fix the problems, and do their jobs. As public servants, these senior executives have a solemn obligation to ensure that veterans receive the respect, support, and care that they have earned.

But one only needs to take a quick survey of the tremendous investigative work that Chairman MILLER, Congressman MIKE COFFMAN, and the rest of my colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee have been doing to see that, despite our efforts to reform and improve the agency culture at the VA, little to nothing has changed.

The VA is still failing veterans in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Veterans still have difficulty accessing care, claims and appeals are still backlogged, whistleblowers are still being retaliated against, and reckless, wasteful spending has reached new levels.

For example, in my home State of Pennsylvania, the inspector general recently conducted an investigation at the Philadelphia regional office after receiving numerous complaints that there was data manipulation and that management was mistreating and retaliating against staff. The IG confirmed a number of these allegations and found tens of thousands of unanswered veteran inquiries.

Many of us are also familiar with the VA Hospital project in Aurora, Colorado. Over a decade ago, veterans in Denver were promised a new medical facility; yet, due to gross mismanagement, the project is well behind schedule and is now going to cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion over budget.

To his credit, Secretary McDonald has publicly recognized many of his Department's failings, has spoken of increased transparency and accountability, and acknowledges that a wholesale culture change will be necessary. But this transformation has not yet occurred, and accountability is certainly still lacking.

To date, only a few of the senior executives who have been found responsible for the misconduct at the VA have actually been terminated. Some have been placed on extended paid leave, some reassigned, while others have been promoted.

In fiscal year 2013, the VA shelled out some \$2.8 million in bonuses solely to its executives, an increase from the previous year, when the agency paid out \$2.3 million.

I have always maintained that taxpayer-funded bonuses to senior executives of an organization with this sort of abysmal performance record are ridiculous. These dollars would be better spent providing our veterans with the first-rate service and care they rightly deserve.

That is why I am offering this amendment again this year, to direct that none of the funds appropriated may be used to pay for senior executive bonuses. The amendment was adopted the last 2 years and was included in bills that passed out of this Chamber with wide bipartisan support.

Congress certainly has an important role to play in reforming the VA. We need to continue our oversight activities and pass the sorts of reforms that are included in bills brought to the floor by Chairman MILLER and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. However, while we do that, we also need to ensure that not a single dime is spent on paying bonuses to senior executives until the problems at the VA are fixed.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Congressmen FITZPATRICK, KELLY, TIPTON, CRAWFORD, and HUELSKAMP for their support.

I urge all of my other colleagues to stand with our Nation's veterans and support increased transparency.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROTHFUS. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I just want to say I rise in support of the amendment.

A number of Members have offered amendments relating to the VA performance bonus awards. The gentleman's amendment is the most comprehensive, and I would encourage other Members to join with Mr. ROTHFUS rather than offer their own amendments.

We have all certainly been outraged by the behavior of some VA employees and the consequences for veterans' health and well-being resulting from incompetence, deceit, and deception. A ban on all senior executive service performance bonuses is a needed wake-up call to the VA bureaucracy which, as we have seen, needs to change its culture to ensure veterans' needs are their top priority.

I support the amendment.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the chairman.

I yield my remaining time to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. I will make it quick, Mr. Chairman.

I rise in support of this amendment. Just last year, the House voted unanimously to strip out funding for bonuses to Senior Executive Service employees at the VA because we were appalled by the heinous treatment of our veterans. And even though I opposed the legislation, later, both Chambers voted to reinstate many of these bonuses. Some of these executives are the very people who contributed to the plight of our VA hospitals.

We can't allow this negligent behavior to continue to impact the care of those who sacrificed so much on behalf of our Nation's security. In fact, no award should be reinstated until significant improvements are made toward transparency.

I want to make this point. In my home State of Arkansas, \$8 million of Federal funds were used to build solar panels in a VA parking lot. But those panels have sat unplugged and inoperable for years, and now some of the panels are being torn down in order to make room for a parking garage that they knew in advance was coming, and yet they spent that money recklessly on another project. This is exactly the type of poor planning and behavior that shouldn't be rewarded, even though it has been.

This amendment makes sure that no Federal funds in the MILCON-VA Appropriations Act are used to pay performance awards to VA senior officials. I encourage its passage.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, we are all outraged with regard to the claims backlog and the incidences of poor quality health services and safety. The current claims backlog is unacceptable.

There is no question that the VA has struggled to successfully deliver one of its key missions: to provide timely ratings of disabilities. However, the VA has reduced the backlog by 44 percent.

Should we ignore that?

It is also clear that some VA health facilities have had serious issues that put the health, safety, and well-being of our veterans at risk. This, too, is unacceptable. Where these failures have occurred, it is hard to imagine how VA leaders of these facilities could have received high performance ratings and substantial bonuses.

However, this amendment will not provide any solution in the short-term and, in fact, may have long-term consequences and compound the very problems that it attempts to address. This amendment would make the VA a less attractive option than other agencies when it comes to recruiting and retaining quality executive leaders, and it will not have the very talent that it needs to solve the problems that it faces today, like the claims backlog and the healthcare deficiencies.

Furthermore, SES pay and bonuses are governed by title 5 of the United States Code and administered by the Office of Personnel Management. Any change to title 5 to address VA would then also apply to all other Federal agencies.

Attempting to do an across-the-board, one-size-fits-all fix will penalize those dedicated VA executives who are working hard and well to find solutions to the VA's problems. This is nonsense. I urge all Members to vote "no."

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act for benefits for homeless veterans and training and outreach programs may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in contravention of subchapter III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee again for the work, and I raise again a picture of three ladies who look attractive in this picture.

Mr. Chairman, and colleagues, these are homeless vets. These are vets who bonded with each other in a homeless shelter.

The good news is that we have made progress on providing services for homeless vets. But I want to emphasize, through this amendment, that we will continue to raise and focus on the needs of homeless vets.

I offer the Jackson Lee amendment because I believe reducing and eliminating homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should also be one of the Nation's highest priorities. I would like this bill to have it as its highest priority.

□ 1845

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States. We must be proactive in giving back to those who have given us so much.

Even though the administration has done an enormous job, has made great strides in bringing down the numbers of homeless vets, for those that they bring down, then, for some reason—whether it is the loss of a job or medical issues—vets are becoming homeless every day.

My amendment will help remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequately funding the program for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing and, as well, to be able to ensure those centers are there for our veterans.

Today in our country, we have mentioned the numbers of veterans that exist: 100,000 veterans, male and female, are homeless; 200,000 experience homelessness. In my hometown of Houston, for example, between the years of 2010 and 2012, the number of homeless vets increased from 771 to 1,162.

I want to acknowledge the city of Houston that has worked on their Homeless Veterans Project; the George Hotel that has worked on the Homeless Veterans Project; many other veteran organizations; U.S. VETS, who has worked on the Homeless Veterans Project; and a grant that came some years ago to the Houston Housing Authority to work on the Homeless Veterans Project.

But this amendment is to, again, establish in this important legislation the idea that we must fight for our veterans, and we must ensure that every year, we take the temperature of the Nation's homeless vets, the tempera-

ture that says, if it is high, the numbers have been going up; if it is low, we are doing our job because the numbers of homeless vets are going down.

Let me thank the many shelters that deal with our vets, and particularly in my district, St. John's United Methodist Church for the work they have done, along with many other entities that believe that cutting the numbers of homeless vets should be the end.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I just wanted to let the Gentlelady know that we support the amendment, which was accepted last year. I know the gentlelady is offering it to reaffirm the congressional obligation to provide veterans the assistance they need to avoid homelessness.

I accept the amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Reclaiming my time, let me thank the chairman. With that, I thank my colleagues and ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment to end homelessness for our veterans here in America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, none of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of Veteran Affairs—Benefits for Homeless Veterans and Training and Outreach Programs may be used in contravention of the title 38, Part II, Chapter 20, Subchapter II and III of the U.S. Code.

This amendment will help ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

I thank Subcommittee Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I offer the Jackson Lee Amendment because I believe reducing and eliminating homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should also be one of the nation's highest priorities.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us.

My amendment will help remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequately funding for programs Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) that provide case-management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veteran homelessness.

VASH is a jointly-administered permanent supportive housing program for disabled Veterans experiencing homelessness in which VA medical Centers provide referrals and case management while Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) administer the Section 8 housing vouchers.

Mr. Chair, our veterans deserve the best services available, and I believe that we could be doing much more for them.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night. And perhaps twice as many (200,000) experience

homelessness at some point during the course of a year.

Many other veterans are considered near homeless or at risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions in cheap hotels or in overcrowded or substandard housing.

While significant progress has been made, ending homelessness among veterans remains a big challenge.

In my hometown of Houston for example, between the years 2010 and 2012, the number of homeless veterans increased from 771 to 1,162.

We must remain vigilant and continue to fight for those who put on the uniform and fought for us.

Providing a home for veterans to come home to every night is the very least we can do.

Mr. Chair, programs like VASH have succeeded in changing lives. In 2012 alone, 35,905 veterans lived in the public housing provided by VASH.

I have seen the impact of such grants in my home state of Texas, and within my congressional district in Houston, and I am sure that this funding has positively impacted many communities across this country.

In Texas, there are committed groups in Houston, working to eradicate the issue of homelessness.

For example, the Michael E. DeBaakey VA Medical Center has been involved in changing veterans' lives in a mighty way by providing Veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet.

Mr. Chair, we cannot let this issue of homelessness continue.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ROE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Not more than \$4,400,000 of the funds provided by this Act under the heading "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration" may be used for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the amount otherwise provided under such heading is hereby reduced by \$1,500,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment that would cut \$1.5 million from the budget



of the VA's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, or OCLA. The OCLA is tasked with being the liaison between Congress and the VA. It is their job to provide information to Congress to help with casework and basic information.

What is unfortunate is that, even after the Committee on Veterans' Affairs' investigation into the largest scandal in VA history continues, it is still the perception that the VA will do everything in its power to withhold information to prevent negative news from being made public. Unfortunately, as many veterans can tell you, timeliness is not a word the VA understands or cares to learn.

In VA's budget submission, they assert: "The mission of OCLA is to improve the lives of veterans and their families by advancing pro-veteran legislation and maintaining responsive and effective communications with Congress."

As of April 24, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs had 78 outstanding requests for information with OCLA, and over half of these have been pending for over 60 days. On average, it is now taking the OCLA 69 days to respond to the committee's requests. There is one that dates back all the way to 2012. These numbers do not reflect responsive or effective communications. What is even more disappointing is that the requests have gone unanswered despite the fact that the OCLA's budget has gone up by 36 percent since fiscal year 2009.

I understand that other parts of the Federal Government, such as the Office of General Counsel, the Office of Management and Budget, and in some cases, the President's own staff may be delaying Congress' requests for months. However, OCLA is chartered with being Congress' connection to the rest of the VA, and, as such, they bear the burden of these untimely responses.

The current delays in getting information to Congress is not a new phenomenon, as the VA Committee has now held three separate hearings that have exposed VA's lack of transparency to Congress and showed that even when we do receive information we have requested, it is so old or so heavily redacted that it is basically useless.

These requests are critically important to Congress' role in providing meaningful oversight over the second-largest agency in the Federal Government. It is our duty to be a strong check on the executive branch. While Secretary McDonald is trying everything he can to change the culture at the VA, Congress must send a message that providing answers to our questions 69 days after we have requested it is simply unacceptable to us, unacceptable to the taxpayers, and, most importantly, it is unacceptable to the veterans. Passage of this amendment would send that message.

I thank Chairman DENT for his hard work on this bill.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment.

I certainly share Dr. ROE's frustration with the VA Congressional and Legislative Affairs Office stalling the delivery of important information Congress has requested to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.

Frankly, the only time I have seen that office act with lightning speed was in its delivery to all Members of the House last week in an inaccurate and critical portrayal of this appropriations bill.

So, again, I support your amendment.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) to speak on the amendment.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of Dr. ROE's amendment to address the lack of accountability and transparency at the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

As the gentleman from Tennessee mentioned, OCLA is meant to serve as a bridge between Congress and the VA to help facilitate access to information that we, as a legislative body, request in our oversight role.

Since I have been in Congress and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee all of 4 months, it is clear that more transparency is needed.

Let me give you a clear example of a pending request, an unusually long unfulfilled request that is still outstanding. Back in December, as part of the committee's continued investigation into malfeasance at the Philadelphia RO, the committee requested copies of all EEO complaints and MSBP files that have been filed at this location since 2008.

Late last year, we were told that the files were in boxes and ready to be shipped to Washington, D.C., for our review. It is now 5 months later, and after numerous requests, we have only received a few of the files we requested. The inability of the VA to provide these documents is mind-boggling. I don't know how else to describe it.

The bottom line is: ignoring reasonable, relevant requests is unacceptable. There has to be accountability. This amendment does that. It does not impact or diminish in any way the treatment and care of our veterans. I urge adoption of Dr. ROE's amendment to demand accountability.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I think that the concerns raised by the gentleman in offering the amendment are perhaps well taken from time to time. But I think this amendment is punitive. I think it is counter-productive. And I think it is going to make it much more difficult to get the results that the gentleman is seeking.

Because of that, I think that the amendment should be defeated. It is a bad amendment. And I think it would be bad for morale for the Department. And I think it would be bad generally for the public. I urge opposition and a "no" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POCAN

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to withhold any report of an Inspector General from any member of Congress in any case where the member of Congress has requested that such report be provided.

Mr. POCAN (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

Mr. DENT. I object to the unanimous consent. I don't know which amendment we are talking about here.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Subcommittee Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for all of their work on this bill.

This amendment is a simple amendment to make sure that Members of Congress have access to inspector general reports, should they request one.

We recently came across this issue when there was a bipartisan field hearing in Tomah, Wisconsin, regarding the Tomah VA facility.

The Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General had a report regarding the



overprescription of opiates resulting in multiple deaths in the area. And in this case, the VA Office of Inspector General completed a report that uncovered these practices, and they gave the recommendations to the local and regional manager. However, the report and these recommendations were never reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald, any congressional committees of jurisdiction, or the public, as the report was administratively closed. What is more, the initial report was requested by a Member of the House of Representatives, and the VA Office of Inspector General failed to even provide the completed report to the Member of Congress.

Ultimately, that Member of Congress had to do a Freedom of Information request, a very unusual request, in order to get a copy of that report. Instead, it was left largely to local facilities to implement the recommended changes without any oversight from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or from the Members of Congress who had specifically requested that report. It is all about sunlight. I think we function better if we could have that information. And we should make sure that those reports are available to every Member of Congress. This amendment would simply make sure that no funds can be expended in withholding a report, as this report was in the State of Wisconsin.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriations bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

Therefore, I would request a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair will rule.

As the Chair ruled on an analogous amendment on June 13, 2011, this amendment includes language requiring a new determination by the relevant executive branch official of the current membership of a body in the legislative branch. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

□ 1900

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. NOEM

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to end, suspend, or relocate hospital-based services with respect to a health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is—

(1) the subject of an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; and

(3) located in a highly rural area.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from South Dakota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Veterans Affairs is entrusted with the protection of a multitude of historic facilities. As I noted last year during debate on the VA's budget, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has found serious deficiencies in the manner in which the VA operates these facilities.

These VA facilities, especially the medical facilities, are more important than ever. We are seeing thousands of veterans returning home after fighting in conflicts abroad, many suffering from chronic service-related injuries. The last thing we want to do is to force these veterans to travel hundreds of miles to receive treatment, as is often the case in rural States like South Dakota.

The health of these historic medical facilities is directly connected to our veterans' health, and this amendment would prohibit the VA from curtailing healthcare services at the historic facilities located in rural areas.

I thank the chairman and his staff for all of their assistance on this amendment, and I urge everyone's support for this amendment as well.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. NOEM. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I am aware the South Dakota delegation has been struggling with the VA's determination to move services out of historic facilities into a new geographic area. We had language in last year's bill forcing the VA to do a full analysis of the consequences of the facility moving.

I have no objection to including the amendment Representative NOEM is offering this year.

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the gentleman. I appreciate those words of support. It certainly is important to the veterans in our State and in many States across the country that often find it very difficult to travel to local VA facilities, but now, with the closure of some of these facilities, they would have to travel hundreds of miles.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

The amendment was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POCAN

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act".

Mr. POCAN (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, hopefully, the second time is the charm. This is an amendment on behalf of myself, Representative ELLISON, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

This amendment would bar taxpayer dollars from going to companies that have recent wage theft convictions or civil penalties reported in the government's contracting database.

No hard-working American should ever have to worry that their employer will refuse to pay his or her work, overtime, or take money out of their paycheck, especially if they work for a Federal contractor.

As a small-business owner who has had previous contracts, it is not a right, but an earned responsibility and privilege to have these contracts, and any employer that would do wage theft—which is considered to pay less than the minimum wage, to be shorting someone their hours, being forced to work off the clock, not being paid overtime, or not being paid at all—should not be able to get these Federal contracts.

A recent National Employment Law Project survey found that 21 percent of Federal contract workers were not paid overtime, and 11 percent have been forced to work off the clock. Eighteen Federal contractors were recipients of one of the largest 100 penalties issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor between 2007 and 2012, and almost half of the total initial penalty dollars assessed for OSHA violations were against companies holding Federal contracts in 2012.

Overall, 49 Federal contractors responsible for large violations of Federal labor laws were cited for 1,776 separate violations of these laws and paid \$196 million in penalties and assessments; yet, just in fiscal year 2012, these same companies were awarded \$81 billion in taxpayer dollars.

The Federal Government cannot look the other way when Federal contractors take advantage of their employees. Those who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act deserve more than a slap on the wrist; they don't deserve to do business with the government anymore. Those contractors who engage in wage theft should not be rewarded with contracts to do business with the Federal Government.

This was included in last year's appropriation. We would appreciate consideration again in this year's appropriation, to make sure that we are protecting the workers for these Federal contractors.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I do have some concerns with this amendment. As I read it, it appears to be a "one strike and you are out" type amendment.

Mr. WALBERG. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DENT. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman. I appreciate the concern that my colleague has on this issue. I know it is sincere. I think there is every one in this Chamber that has concerns that our laborers, our employees, and individual citizens be treated fairly and treated with respect, safety, and all of the rest by their employers.

Mr. Chairman, we all agree that bad actors who deny workers basic protections, including wage and overtime pay, shouldn't be rewarded with government contracts funded by taxpayer dollars. That is a given.

There is a suspension and disbarment process already in place under current law. If an employer has a history of bad behavior, Federal agencies know about it and have the authority to deny that employer Federal contracts. My question is: Has anyone suggested the current process isn't working? I don't believe so, Mr. Chairman.

Earlier this year, we held a joint subcommittee hearing, in fact, on this issue in relation to the President's executive order that functions to blacklist Federal contractors for alleged Federal and State labor law violations, including the FLSA.

The committee received a substantial load of evidence regarding the inherent flaws of the President's execu-

tive order, which, like this amendment, supersedes agencies' current authority to exclude problematic contractors, causing significant delays and disruption to the Federal procurement system.

There is agreement on both sides of the aisle that the FLSA is the cornerstone of workers' wage and hour protections, but in many ways, the regulations implementing the law are flawed and outdated.

For that reason, we have asked for consideration with the President, with the administration, the Department of Labor, both sides of the aisle, to look at reforming and fixing the Fair Labor Standards Act that has been in place an awful long time before present practices and doesn't fit with the 21st century workplace.

A report by the Government Accountability Office found that litigation stemming from FLSA claims continues to be a significant problem. These aren't all from bad actors, but in many cases, it comes—if not most cases—from an employer trying to keep up with present law, present functions, and present regulations that don't even fit with FLSA.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to reject this amendment. We have in place opportunities now that can and should be used. We even have instances where the Labor Department has violated, and, under this amendment that is being offered, they would be held at risk as well.

It is not an amendment that is needed; it is an amendment that will disrupt the process, and it is an amendment that will not move us forward and really make changes with FLSA that can and should be made.

I urge rejection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say I agree with the gentleman. I was at the hearing, and I heard the conversation that was there. The difference we had is that the hearing—I understand there was a disagreement with the executive order, but I would hate for us to confuse the disagreement with the executive order with the action that we can do here in Congress.

We had concluded this last year in the appropriations bill, the exact same language, to the best of my understanding; and I know that, since then, there has been an executive order that we are trying to have a conversation with the executive branch about.

However, it is not fair to the contractors who abide by the law that, when you bid against someone who doesn't abide by the law because they are shortchanging their employees, that makes it an unfair practice.

We think the bottom line is we should be protecting those good contractors; we should be protecting the

employees who don't get their fair pay; and, despite any disagreement we might have with the executive branch, I think we should, at minimum, as a Congress, stand up for those workers and for those good contractors.

Mr. Chairman, I have been in business for 28 years as a small-business owner. I know that, when I bid on something, I want to know I am at a fair and even playing field.

We are not making a fair playing field when you have this number of people who are getting violations who already get Federal contracts and are really getting a slap on the hand, \$196 million in penalties versus 81 billion in taxpayer dollars in contracts awarded.

Clearly, there is an imbalance, and that becomes a cost to business for a bad company, but you are punishing the good companies and the good workers by doing that.

I would certainly hope that we would support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I will try to keep it brief.

I do have concerns about the amendment. There is an agreement on both sides of the aisle that the FLSA is the cornerstone of workers' wage and hour protections, but in many ways, the regulations implementing the law are flawed and outdated. A report by the GAO found that litigation stemming from the FLSA claims continue to be a significant problem.

These aren't all bad actors. Often, they are employers trying to do the right thing, but are simply tripped up by an overly complex regulatory structure.

I would urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. RATCLIFFE

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for their hard work on behalf of the 57,000 veterans in my district and on behalf of veterans and servicemembers across the country.

I am also grateful for the support of Congressmen MACARTHUR, HURD, and NORCROSS in offering this bipartisan amendment, one which would simply prohibit any funds made available in this act from being used to propose or execute a new or additional round of BRAC.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, home to the Red River Army Depot. The depot has supported the warfighters since 1941. Although the depot community has weathered many changes over the years, their commitment to mission remains the same. It is reflected on the placard placed in each of the vehicles there which reads, "We build it as if our lives depend on it. Theirs do."

The Red River Army Depot is a vital job creator in northeast Texas, and it is a critical component of our national defense.

Mr. Chairman, in this fiscal environment, we need to be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars and focus our limited resources on addressing critical national security objectives and military readiness. Having another round of BRAC won't help us achieve this goal.

In fact, the Government Accountability Office reports that the last round of BRAC in 2005 cost the American taxpayers \$35.1 billion, which was 67 percent more than the original cost estimate.

At the same time, the expected savings from the last round of BRAC were 73 percent less than was advertised. Starting another round of BRAC would weaken our capabilities and increase our vulnerability in the face of the critical threats facing our Nation.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have supported this amendment.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I want to let the gentleman know I support the amendment.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I thank the gentleman. I would like to yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR).

□ 1915

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

I have been fighting against BRAC since January, when I led a bipartisan letter urging then-Defense Secretary Hagel to not call for another round of base closures. But a BRAC was included in the President's budget, and here we are today.

Along with the gentleman from Texas, I am bringing this amendment and fighting against BRAC for two reasons:

First, BRAC is not cost effective. As was mentioned, the 2005 BRAC was supposed to cost \$21 billion. Just a few years later, it has now skyrocketed to \$35 billion. On top of that, the savings were reduced by 73 percent. So it cost the taxpayers more and saved them less. Once more, the Department of Defense won't even recoup its upfront costs until 2018, 13 years after it started.

And second, I oppose BRAC because it destroys local economies. I know this all too well as Fort Monmouth in my home State was shuttered in 2005. That area is still recovering from the loss.

My district is home to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, which is responsible for 105,000 local jobs in southern New Jersey. It is a \$7 billion impact on just one local community. Like so many other military bases around the country, it is the backbone of our community. If it is closed, the area would be devastated.

Spending more, saving less, ruining local economies, and reducing our military capability should not be done based on what we know today. In closing, I urge passage of this amendment.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to cosponsor this amendment alongside my colleague from Texas, the honorable JOHN RATCLIFFE, and my colleague from New Jersey, the Honorable TOM MACARTHUR.

Government action that both wastes the taxpayer dollars and hurts local economies just doesn't make sense, especially when the same action negatively impacts national security. But that is precisely what another round of base realignment and closures would do.

Laughlin Air Force Base, located near Del Rio, Texas, in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, is responsible for training more Air Force pilots than any other base in the world. It is an integral component of our Nation's military readiness, and they are a vital part of Del Rio's economy and community. Yet every year they wait to see if the powers that be up here have decided in their infinite wisdom to put Laughlin Air Force Base back on the chopping block, devastating Del Rio and endangering our Nation's air superiority.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, which will prohibit funds from being used to propose, plan, or execute another round of BRAC closures. Protecting our military readiness in communities such as Del Rio is vital.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to waive the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is identical to other amendments that were inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill that was considered under an open rule during the 113th Congress. My amendment expands the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting due to serious misconduct on the part of the contractors.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HURD OF TEXAS

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of subtitle D of title VIII of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, one thing we can all agree on is our veterans deserve better. For far too long, our Nation's veterans have failed to receive the health care they have earned and the health care they have needed.

One of the reasons is due to the VA's inability to join the 21st century when it comes to information technology. Something as simple as allowing a veteran's medical records to be available digitally to their health care providers shouldn't be something beyond the capabilities of the greatest Nation in the world.

My amendment ensures the Department of Veterans Affairs and their chief information officer will take the appropriate steps and get the VA moving in the right direction. It will create accountability with their acquisition and use of information technology.

Let's do what is right and make sure the VA is using the right technology to ensure that our veterans are getting timely, quality care.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay an award or bonus under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, to any employee of the Office of Construction and Facilities Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I am offering an amendment that would prevent bonuses from being awarded to the Office of Construction & Facilities Management, the branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs in charge of all construction projects costing more than \$10 million and which is perhaps the least deserving of

performance bonuses in the entire agency.

In January, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to examine the enormous shortcomings of this office. We found that construction of a VA hospital in Denver—Aurora, to be specific—is projected to outpace the budget by \$1 billion. This project that started supposedly in 2010 was supposed to be completed in 2013. The original budget was \$600 million, with a \$10 million change order. Now they estimate the completion date is 2017.

Mr. Chairman, the Romans built the Colosseum in 8 years, and I don't think they were \$1 billion over budget. That is \$1,700 a square foot to build this hospital. Can you imagine how many veterans the VA could have treated with \$1 billion. That is 1,000 million dollars.

How many doctors and nurses could have been hired with \$1 billion that the VA's Office of Construction & Facilities Management has set fire to? The answer is: a lot.

The Denver project, if that was just it, that would be fine, but it is not an isolated incident.

In Orlando, a hospital project initially estimated to cost \$254 million is almost 5 years behind schedule and projected to be \$372 million over budget. That is 143 percent overrun.

In New Orleans, a major hospital being built to replace a VA facility lost to Hurricane Katrina was initially estimated to cost \$625 million and is just over halfway completed, running 66 percent over budget at a cost of a whopping \$1.035 billion.

And in Las Vegas, a hospital initially projected to cost \$325 million is almost complete after being delayed for more than 7 years, coming in \$260 million over budget.

These four projects alone have wasted billions of dollars of taxpayer money and delayed the delivery of health care to veterans for almost 14 years.

If this is the performance we should expect, the VA really has no business being in the construction industry. My friend, Congressman COFFMAN, who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs Committee Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee and represents the Denver area, has introduced legislation that would allow construction to continue at Denver while placing the responsibility of any further future VA construction projects over \$10 million in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers, who have a great track record. I might add.

I hope that we are able to consider an approach like Mr. COFFMAN's and clean up this mess once and for all. But in the interim, it is critical that we send a message to this office that business as usual can't be tolerated.

The VA branch responsible for these cost overruns and delays should not have jobs in the construction realm,

much less receive performance bonuses. This amendment would see that the taxpayer does not pay for performance bonuses to an office that has caused more harm than good.

I urge adoption of this amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I think we are all very, very disturbed by what has happened with Denver, and we are also disturbed about the practices of the construction office. But I just wanted to take this opportunity to maybe kind of clarify what has happened in response to try to mitigate the situation.

In January, Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson announced the restructuring of the Office of Construction & Facilities Management, having them report directly to the Deputy Secretary through the Office of Management.

The VA also initiated an administrative investigative board in January to find the truth and to document the misconduct on the project. Secretary Gibson has included the VA Office of General Counsel in the review, and the administrative investigative board is expected to complete its review and make recommendations to the Deputy Secretary this month.

Additionally, the U.S. Corps of Engineers is conducting a separate review of the VA's Construction office to evaluate the structure and the processes so that changes can be made in the future.

I just thought that the RECORD ought to be set straight that everyone is disgusted with the way that these projects have been handled and that we are taking steps, and the Department is taking steps, to make sure that this bad situation is corrected.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I would say—and I agree with that; I am on the Veterans' Affairs Committee—I have been involved personally in four hospitals being built in my hometown. All came in on time, under budget.

When you have a bank, a lender, lending you money, they will stop you from going this much over budget. That is exactly what we didn't have here. I cannot imagine spending \$1 billion more to build a facility and then maybe offering someone a bonus.

There are some measures being put in right now, but right now I think—and I appreciate the gentleman not objecting to this amendment—we need to make sure this never happens again to waste the taxpayers' money.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STIVERS

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is a member of an Amputee Clinic Team (as described in VHA Handbook 1173.3, "Amputee Clinic Teams and Artificial Limbs", dated June 4, 2004) and who is not credentialed in accordance with VHA Directive 2012-030, "Credentialing of Health Care Professionals", issued on October 11, 2012.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

□ 1930

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would help ensure that VA orthotists and prosthetists, who are responsible for caring for our veterans, are fully qualified and are able to perform the duties entrusted to them.

This February, the CBS affiliate in Columbus, Ohio, ran a story exposing flaws at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center, which serves constituents from my district. The story revealed that dozens of veterans—and possibly many more—who have not come forward had received ineffective care by uncertified prosthetists. One veteran was even told that his fitting was supposed to be painful. After several unsuccessful visits, he turned to a non-VA provider, Willow Wood, which is near Columbus, Ohio, where he was immediately provided with a successful, pain-free fitting.

The VA does claim to be following a credentialing directive, which is VA directive 2012-030. Mr. Chairman, I will soon be introducing comprehensive legislation to address this issue, but in the meantime, this amendment would force the VA to honor its word by ensuring that no salaries are paid to uncertified prosthetists and orthotists. Our veterans have made tremendous sacrifices for our country, and they deserve the best.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STIVERS. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DENT. I support the amendment.

Mr. STIVERS. That was easy.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer any funds from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1802).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an important clarifying amendment that will help ensure our Nation's veterans have the choices they deserve when seeking medical care.

Last year, Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. In addition to many important reforms, this bill created a VA Choice Card program. Under the law, veterans who are experiencing wait times of more than 30 days or who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility can seek private care. This was great news for veterans all across the Nation who had been stuck in a backlog or who lived a significant distance from a VA clinic. Like many of my colleagues, I praised this legislation as a major step forward. Unfortunately, due to a self-serving interpretation, the VA has put up barriers that restrict veterans' access to private care.

First, the VA calculated the 40-mile requirement in a straight line, or as the crow flies, instead of calculating based on driving distance. After much pushback from veterans' organizations and from Members of Congress, the VA recently changed the interpretation to driving distance. I applaud the VA for making that change. However, the VA is still misinterpreting the law. The VA says, if a veteran lives 40 miles from a VA facility of any kind regardless of what services are offered, then he is not eligible for private care. My district paints a good picture of why this is problematic.

We have a VA outpatient clinic in Mobile that only provides minimal services, but the VA claims that, since that clinic is there, our veterans cannot seek private care even if the services they need are not provided by the local clinic. That is especially frustrating because Mobile is home to a number of large, first class hospitals which could provide adequate care to our veterans. For example, if a veteran needed orthopedic surgery, he would be forced to travel to Pensacola or to Biloxi to seek that care even though he

could get that surgery done right in his hometown. That is not how the legislation was intended to work.

Recently, VA Secretary Bob McDonald asked Congress for the ability to shift money away from the VA Choice Card program into other accounts. I am disappointed that the Secretary would already be giving up on this program while it is still in its infancy. It is even more frustrating considering that one of the biggest obstacles to the program's success is the VA's own self-serving interpretation. My simple amendment would clarify that the VA cannot move money out of the Choice Program account. We need to give this program time to work and allow veterans access to private care instead of forcing them to travel hundreds of miles out of the way to receive care.

Additionally, I have introduced stand-alone legislation, which is supported by Republicans and Democrats from 15 different States, that would correct the VA's interpretation and make clear that veterans are eligible for private care when they live more than 40 miles from a VA facility that provides the care the veterans need.

I am optimistic that the House will act on this commonsense bill. Today, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment. Let's prevent the VA from transferring funds away from the Choice Card program, and let's work together to give our veterans the choices they need and deserve when seeking medical treatment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

- (1) carry out the memorandum from the Veterans Benefit Administration known as Fast Letter 13-10, issued on May 20, 2013; or
- (2) create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, D.C.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, last year, in the midst of the explosive allegations about the Phoenix VA's keeping secondary unofficial records of claims and appointment requests, I offered a similar amendment that passed this body which prohibited funds from being used to create or to maintain unofficial recordkeeping systems at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This year, I

am proud, once again, to offer this commonsense policy with the support of my friend and colleague from Georgia.

As many of you know, several whistleblowers came forward with allegations that the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Healthcare System had been using secondary unofficial records of veterans claims and appointment requests to misrepresent the actual wait times that veterans faced as they sought health care. Some employees within the VA even received bonuses as a result of these manipulations. It is unfortunate that, over the past year, many of these once unthinkable allegations have become substantiated.

Recently, an inspector general's investigation uncovered actual memos from VA leadership that encouraged this type of behavior. This is outrageous. The memo I speak of is known as the "Fast Letter 13-10," and it was handed down directly from the Office of the Director of Veterans Benefits Administration to the Philadelphia VA Regional Office.

I am appalled but not totally surprised to learn of this memo. I have said this before, but it is sad that we have to pass amendments to prevent this type of behavior. When government bureaucrats don't use good judgment or common sense, Congress must address these issues. No matter what the investigation shows and no matter who was involved, this practice must be prevented in the future.

This amendment would prohibit the practice of altering or falsifying veterans wait-time data pursuant to the Fast Letter or any other purpose. We should have only one, uniform patient recordkeeping system within the VA in order to provide accountability as well as uniformity and to prevent employee manipulation.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I thank the distinguished Chair and ranking member.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I do not think any of us wants to allow the VA funds to be used in any way that would falsify records on the claims backlog. I have no objection to the amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the distinguished chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, veterans continue to be one of the most neglected groups in our country. These men and women have sacrificed their lives to ensure that our values and principles remain true; yet we still have people within the VA system who neglect these sacrifices and who disregard these men and women.

As my colleague from Arizona mentioned, this flawed guidance from the

VA headquarters is wrong and completely disrespectful to our country's veterans. The memo that was issued by the VA, commonly known as "Fast Letter 13-10," was a deliberate attempt to make VA bureaucrats appear as if they were delivering services and benefits to veterans faster than they really were. Through these internal actions, some VA offices were "eliminating" the backlog of benefit claims with a stroke of a pen.

Just because you lie about the details does not make the problem disappear. With one memo, the VA managers disregarded every performance measure that had been put in place to protect our veterans and their benefits. Mr. Chairman, I believe this brings up a large point—the problems within the Federal civil service and, as an employee within the VA stated, the dysfunctional culture of management corruption.

For the time being, we must address this issue. I join my friend from Arizona in offering this amendment. We must ensure that VA managers care for our veterans in a timely and effective manner. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HILL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) add the following new section:

SEC. 5. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out any new Key Renewable VA Energy Project under the Department's Green Management Programs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arkansas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chairman, in 2012, an award of \$8 million was provided to design and build a 1.8-megawatt solar system at the John L. McClellan VA Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. It has been almost 2 years since that planned activation was to begin operating. However, reports in our local media have indicated that there is additional engineering and that it is not functioning and not operational. Further, sections of the solar panels for this system are now being torn down in order to be relocated to make way for a parking deck that was planned before the installation had begun of the solar panels. Many questions remain unanswered about this

project and when the VA plans to fully implement this supposed cost-saving system to provide energy for the facility.

Further, I found from the VA's own Web site a list of 40 key energy projects that are designated as "works in progress" by the VA under its key renewable energy program. Some of these date back to 2010; yet they have not been completed and have not been made operational. There are over 90 solar projects that have been funded under this program and 198 projects that have been funded under the VA's Green Management Program. Some of these projects individually have cost the taxpayers up to \$20 million. The Little Rock project is only projected to save \$150,000 annually in energy costs, which would make the payback on that \$8 million investment some 50 years.

On April 8, I sent a letter to Secretary McDonald, asking for answers about these solar systems, in Little Rock particularly, about the relocation of the panels at the facility, and about the activation date. Senator JOHN BOOZMAN and I have called for an IG investigation into this project and into other aspects of the key renewable energy program to ensure that the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are safeguarded.

This amendment would simply prevent any new funding for these projects this fiscal year, allowing Congress the additional time to conduct oversight and allowing the VA to ensure that this program is effective.

□ 1945

It is essential that we demand accountability and transparency when utilizing taxpayer dollars for these kinds of government projects. I urge the passage of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I rise reluctantly in opposition to the amendment. I feel the gentleman's amendment is a bit too broad. It is overly broad, in my view. I understand the gentleman's frustration with the VA's delay in getting the Little Rock solar panel project up and running. I certainly support the inspector general investigation into the problems.

I am concerned that blocking all renewable energy projects, currently budgeted at \$86 million for fiscal year 2016, would have the unintended impact of blocking some worthwhile projects that would save money, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

I would respectfully suggest maybe the gentleman would consider withdrawing the amendment, and we will try to work with him to get this

amendment in a better form, one that we might be able to support. I just want to put that out there for his consideration at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL. I thank the chairman for his comments. I appreciate his consideration. I would be happy to work with the gentleman to revise my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I just want to speak to this amendment. The VA Green Management Program is a sustainability program that integrates energy and water conservation, environmental compliance, vehicle fleet management, sustainable building design and operation, greenhouse gas management, and climate change adaptation.

Since its inception in 2007, the VA Green Management Program has reduced VA's energy costs from \$504 million in 2010 to \$459 million in 2014, despite significant growth in mission. Additionally, the Green Management Program has put in place energy performance contracts requiring no appropriated funds that will save VA over \$9 million annually. Other significant achievements include it reduced VA energy use per square foot by 21 percent since 2003, reduced VA water consumption per square foot by 28 percent since 2007, increased VA's vehicle fleet to 55 percent alternatively fueled vehicles, and reduced VA-generated greenhouse gases 12 percent since the 2008 baseline.

In the absence of the Green Management Program funding, a number of programs, processes, and projects will not be carried out. These activities save taxpayers significant amounts of money; improve indoor and outdoor environments at VA facilities for the benefit of veterans, for visitors, employees, and surrounding communities; and help assure the VA compliance with Federal laws, with regulations, with executive orders, Presidential memoranda.

I would urge Members to oppose it. I am happy that the gentleman has withdrawn the amendment. I think his concerns are well placed, and I join the chairman in agreeing to work with him to see if we can't address those specific concerns in his location.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who received an unsatisfactory work performance review in fiscal year 2015.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very straightforward. If an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs has received a work performance review rated as unsatisfactory in the last fiscal year, he will not be able to receive a salary for this fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Chairman, there have been all sorts of media reports about how Secretary McDonald has been trying to reform the VA but has been having trouble getting rid of the bad apples. This is one way we could help him do that. For instance, the VA employees in the 27th Congressional District of Texas that I represent and across the Nation continue to provide vital care to our veterans. In the 27th District, our local medical center is well below the national standards for both customer service and phone standards.

Mr. Chairman, an official report from the VA inspector general found that about 1,700 veterans were in need of care and were at risk of being lost or forgotten after being kept off official waiting lists. Schedulers for the Veterans Affairs were instructed to change the dates for which veterans had requested an appointment in order to hide delays. At the Phoenix VA, official data showed that veterans waited an average of 24 days for an appointment when in reality the average wait was 115 days. That is absolutely unacceptable.

The VA OIG reported in May of 2014 that 17 veterans deaths had occurred while waiting for VA treatment in the Phoenix VA, and on June 5 of that same year, the VA reported they had identified an additional 18 deaths. People are dying because of unsatisfactory performance at the VA.

Earlier this month it was reported that out of 280,000 employees working for the VA, only eight had been "punished" for any of the offenses. In fact, the only person who has actually been fired is Sharon Helman. She wasn't fired immediately for unsatisfactory work performance. Instead, she was on paid administrative leave for over 7 months before they finally got around to firing her. She was that former VA person in Phoenix and was only fired after it was discovered she was accepting gifts from a lobbyist. We have no way of dealing with the problems, and we are looking for a solution to this.

Mr. Chairman, the VA OIG found that, under Ms. Helman's leadership, 35 veterans had died, and it took us 7 months to fire her for an unrelated offense. The VA still is struggling with this.

Clearly, Congress needs to find a better approach to help root out the bad apples in the VA. My amendment is one way we can do this. If you are receiving the worst possible performance review, you ought not to be getting paid with taxpayer money for your unsatisfactory work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, though I am not necessarily opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman for raising this important issue. I certainly share his concern about the service our veterans are receiving from VA employees. However, I do have some concerns with the breadth of this amendment. It seems, again, a little bit overly broad.

If the gentleman would withdraw his amendment, I will continue to work with him to ensure greater accountability for poor-performing employees. Again, I thank the gentleman for highlighting this important issue, but I just think the amendment is a little overly broad. The breadth is a bit more than I think is necessary at this moment, but we might be able to work this out.

Would the gentleman consider withdrawing the amendment?

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I understand the concerns that the chairman of the subcommittee has. The breadth was necessary in order to get by the requirement to not be legislating within an appropriations bill. If the chairman is willing to work with me on finding a scalpel rather than an ax to prune these bad apples out of the tree, I am willing to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. DENT. I will do that.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

Mr. LAMALFA. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. \_\_\_\_ For an additional amount for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Administration" is hereby reduced by, \$5,000,000.



The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me thank those who have helped with this legislation here, my colleagues from California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUIZ, and my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON, on helping bring this forward. I also thank the chairman and the members of the committee as well as the desk staff here tonight in helping to make this happen.

Again, this bill simply reduces the amount budgeted for the general administration of Veterans Affairs to instead be posted toward the Veterans Benefits Administration; therefore, helping to take a bite out of the huge backlog that we have of veterans waiting to have their claims processed after having served with us. This \$5 million shift, I think, will be helpful in that backlog, as we already know that the VA is at least 171,000 claims behind in their process. These 171,000 claims are behind by more than 125 days, which is unacceptable.

Of course, the VA's top priority should be making sure that veterans have their claims processed and are receiving the benefit they should be getting. Our veterans should not have had to return from fighting a war and have to instead fight a bureaucracy at home.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMALFA. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I do not oppose this amendment. I am prepared to accept it.

Mr. LAMALFA. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, again, this will be an important step towards helping reduce that backlog and getting our veterans claims processed and the service they deserve. I ask for an "aye" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JODY B. HICE OF GEORGIA

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will help our Nation's veterans increase efficiency in the Federal workforce and uphold the integrity of tax dollars. Title 5 of the U.S. Code allows for a practice in which Federal employees are permitted to engage in union-related activities while at work while not doing the job for which they were hired. This practice is known as official time, and it costs the taxpayers literally millions of man-hours every year and hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the agencies with the most egregious use of official time. This agency is singlehandedly responsible for almost one-third of all the reported official time usage in the entire Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, this one agency has more than 250 individuals who do nothing but operate on official time. That is to say, 100 percent of their time at work is used doing union activity rather than what they were hired to do, which is to help our veterans. That is unacceptable. It costs the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, as of April 1, there were some 431,000 veterans who have been waiting for over 30 days to get an appointment at a VA medical facility. In my home State alone, more than 20,000 veterans have waited more than 30 days for appointments, be it in Atlanta, Augusta, or Dublin. We have veterans literally begging for access to health care, and yet they are being told while waiting in line that people appreciate their service to our country, appreciate the fact that they have been willing to lay their lives down for our country, but when it comes to their medical conditions, they will have to wait because of lack of resources.

□ 2000

Mr. Chairman, to allow hundreds of VA employees to give 100 percent of their work hours to union activity while telling veterans that we do not have the resources to provide for their medical needs is inexcusable.

We need to stop this practice that allows VA employees to prioritize their union over our veterans. The day that veterans are put in second place to union activities is the day that Congress must get involved, and that has day come.

According to the most recent OPM report, the VA spends over \$45 million taxpayer dollars every year on this practice. That is \$45 million that could go to serve the medical needs of our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, what we have before us is a tremendous opportunity to help our veterans while, at the same time, saving taxpayer dollars and increasing the overall efficiency of our Federal

workforce. This amendment cuts through all the bureaucratic red tape and the sweetheart deals for unions and helps our Nation's deserving veterans.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is an opportunity to put our veterans first, above special interests, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I believe that this amendment really serves no purpose but to erode collective bargaining rights for civil service Federal employees, and it may violate collective bargaining agreements that have been negotiated between workers and these agencies.

The VA employs some 342,000 people, and to complain because 200 of them spend their time representing and making sure that the conditions of employment within the scope of employment of their coworkers under collective bargaining agreements are maintained, I believe, is just punitive.

Federal unions are legally required to provide representation to all members of a bargaining unit, whether or not the workers elect to pay voluntary unions dues. Representation for employees working their way through administrative procedures is a cost-effective process for administering and adjudicating agency policies.

The alternative to official time is for government agencies to pay for costly third-party attorney and arbitrator fees. Eliminating official time would increase cost, time, and effort for the agencies, the workers, and the taxpayers.

Official time is essential to maintaining workplace safety. Union representatives use official time to set procedures to protect employees from on-the-job hazards. Official time is also used to allow employees to participate in work groups with the management team to improve the processes.

Under current law, official time may not be used to solicit membership, to conduct internal union meetings, elect union officers, or to engage in any partisan political activities. The notion that official time is used for these purposes is just false.

I would urge a "no" vote on this amendment. I think that it is punitive, and it has no purpose but to erode collective bargaining rights for civil service Federal employees.

I think that is not consistent with the laws of the United States of America.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I understand my colleague's concerns, but to say it is unnecessary is a bit beyond my understanding.

Yes, there are some 259 individuals at the VA that dedicate 100 percent of their time to union activity when they were hired to do veterans work, but there are hundreds of others who don't give 100 percent of their time, but hundreds of additional hours on a regular basis.

We have reached out. After I introduced H.R. 1658, the Federal Employee Accountability Act, we literally heard from veterans all across the country. Many of these fine men and women, being veterans now, also were and are employees at the VA. With one unified voice, they expressed that they had deep frustration and disappointment with how they have seen veterans treated.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote just one of those individuals who served in our Air Force and is a current employee at the VA. He said, "The union is the number one obstacle to providing care to vets."

I just see, ultimately, Mr. Chairman, that the choice before us is clear. Members of this body can stand with union bosses, or they can stand with the people who have stood on the front line to defend our liberties and our freedom, the Nation's veterans.

I choose to stand with our brave veterans, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that many of the employees—as a matter of fact, I think the number is 34 percent—at the Department of Veterans Affairs are, indeed, veterans.

They are people who, in fact, put their lives on the line and have given and served and sacrificed for this country. Of course, they are now continuing to work for their colleagues and their coworkers on the job in their capacity as bargaining representatives in the VA.

I would point out that, under the law, they have the right to do this. The law supports them in doing this. We should not interfere with that because too many of them—34 percent—are, in fact, veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. 514. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Iowa and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is an amendment that I brought up in previous appropriation cycles.

What it does is defunds and eliminates the Davis-Bacon federally mandated wage scale components in the construction of MILCON on this underlying bill. It recognizes a whole series of history that has been built since the early thirties on the Davis-Bacon Act.

I have spent my life in the construction business, Mr. Chairman. I started a construction business in 1975. We are celebrating our 40th year in business, and, almost every one of those 40 years, we have dealt with Davis-Bacon wage scales. I have made out, personally, that payroll over and over again.

I have also seen the inefficiencies that are created. The net effect is a de facto union scale. It is not a prevailing wage, but a de facto union scale. The net effect is it creates inefficiencies, and it increases and inflates the cost of our construction projects.

Our records, over the years that I have been in business, show that Davis-Bacon wage scales—the federally mandated wage scales—range between an additional 8 percent up to 38 percent; so I just bring that back to a bit of a moderate, careful average, and we have a 20 percent increase.

The bottom line on this is that, if you want to build 5 miles of road, repeal Davis-Bacon. If you are willing to accept 4 miles of road, accept a federally mandated union scale. That is true with whatever else we might be doing in all of our military construction and everything else.

This is a substantial savings on this bill, and I would point out that this is the last Jim Crow law that I recall that is still on the books. It was designed to lock Black construction workers out of the construction work in New York back in the thirties during the Great Depression.

When there was a Federal building contract that was let and the con-

tractor went to Alabama and brought in African Americans to do that work, undercutting the essentially White labor union forces within New York, two New Yorkers—both of them Republicans, Davis and Bacon—got together and brought this Jim Crow law. Now, we are dealing with union scale mandates.

I would point out I used to have this debate with the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Frank. He would make the argument that two consenting adults should be able to agree to whatever it is those two can do.

I would say I agree, and there is no reason for the Federal Government to be involved in a relationship between an employer and employee that agree to a wage scale.

We pay prevailing wages. They are not union scale wages, as a rule; but they are prevailing wages. We do that because we want to hire the best people. We do the best work that we can do under the plans and specifications offered to us—government work and private sector work altogether—for 40 years.

We are about to hear that the quality of the work isn't that, that the government knows best, and government should intervene between a relationship between two consenting adults. We are about to hear some kind of response on why we shouldn't get rid of the last Jim Crow law on the books.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, Davis-Bacon is a pretty simple concept and a fair one. What the Davis-Bacon Act does is protect the government, as well as the workers, in carrying out the policy of paying decent wages on government contracts.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers on federally funded construction projects be paid no less than the wages paid in the community for similar work. It requires that every contract for construction to which the Federal Government is a party in excess of \$2,000 contain a provision defining the "minimum wages" paid to various classes of laborers and mechanics.

Mr. Chairman, the House has taken numerous votes on this issue, and on every vote, this body has voted to maintain Davis-Bacon requirements because it makes good sense, it saves the taxpayers money, and it is useful.

Last year, we avoided including divisive language like this, and it is my hope that we stop attacking the working class and defeat the amendment before us today and move on to more important matters.

I urge all Members to vote "no" on this, as we have repeatedly year after year.

At this point, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, we have been through this fight before. Thankfully, we have been able to prevail with help on both sides of the aisle.

The gentleman referred to the 1930s. Anybody who is a student of history and a student of the U.S. economy knows that it was the period following the 1930s that we finally saw a steady progress toward greater wage equality in this country and we saw the middle class emerge and the strongest period of economic growth and income equality in our history, a period which is at risk right now.

I would urge the gentleman to take a look at the period that followed the enactment of Davis-Bacon, how the middle class was born, and I would also urge us to consider that, if not the Federal Government, who can we expect to set the example that a decent wage should be paid for a decent day's work. That is all this law does, and I support it wholeheartedly and urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Again, let's avoid including divisive language like this. This is a policy rider that is unnecessary. We have defeated it over and over again.

Davis-Bacon saves the government money. It requires quality work and quality labor be done on Federal contracts, and it pays a fair day's wages for a fair day's work.

I urge all Members to vote "no" and reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, first, in response to the gentleman's argument of a fair wage for a fair day's pay, that is determined by supply and demand in the marketplace. This is the United States of America, and on the flashcard the USCIS puts out, they say: What is the American system of America? It is free enterprise capitalism.

You have to pay the going rate to get the people to do the job. That has been the case for a long time. I have done that for 40 years, and the quality of the work is there, and we are proud of the work that we do.

I don't know how anyone argues that the Federal Government has got to intervene in setting the marketplace for wages on construction projects \$2,000 or more, but not intervene in the price of gas or the price of electricity or the price of some of the commodities that we are dealing with on a regular basis.

If we are going to have a robust economy, we have got to get a value re-

ceived for the work that is done, and that value received is determined by supply and demand in the marketplace, not by a de facto mandated union scale. I know how these scales are reached. I know how these conferences go.

Mr. Chairman, we want to save the taxpayers money. We want to build 5 miles of road, not 4. We want to build five bases, not four. We want to put five different components out there, instead of four, and get a return on the taxpayers' dollar so that we maximize the utilization of the hard-earned tax dollars that come from some of the people that are working on these projects.

□ 2015

They want a return on their investment, too. You can't argue that there is fiscal responsibility in this country if we are going to impose an additional 20 percent on every dollar that is spent to produce construction projects on MILCON in America.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman I yield to my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for a colloquy.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for your work on this bill. And congratulations to Congressman DENT on the work he has done on H.R. 2029, his first bill as chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

I admire Chairman DENT's and Ranking Member BISHOP's commitment to our veterans of America. They have demonstrated day-to-day that they are here for our people in the armed services.

I would like to especially acknowledge this bill's provisions relating to the importance of early detection and treatment of colorectal cancer. As the bill notes, the VA has made screening patients for colorectal cancer a priority, and I am encouraged by the steps that this bill would take to ensure that the VA continues to dedicate the re-

sources and attention to this important issue which it deserves.

Almost every family in America, including our veterans, including Members of Congress, including people all over this Nation, have been touched by cancer. My father, former Congressman Donald Payne, who served New Jersey's 10th Congressional District for 23 years, prior to me coming here and taking his place, succumbed to this preventable and treatable disease.

Chairman DENT, thank you for your partnership on this issue. I am looking forward to continuing to work together to advance the fight against colorectal cancer and lessen the needless loss of life.

The committee report encourages the VA to support additional research and development in the field, including investigating a less costly blood test for colorectal cancer. I applaud this language, and I also understand that both the FDA and CMS have approved a new DNA, noninvasive, stool-based colorectal cancer screening test that is pending review with the Federal supply services for availability in the VA health system.

For clarity, does this committee also encourage the VA to consider and review such stool-based test screening?

Mr. DENT. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE, for your shared interest in this very important topic.

Mr. Chairman, I commend my colleague for his steadfast support of colorectal cancer awareness research, prevention, and treatment efforts. As the second leading cause of death in men and women in the United States, we have both seen the personal toll that colorectal cancer can have on family members and loved ones. Congressman PAYNE obviously lost his father; I lost my brother-in-law. It was very painful for all of us. We lost them all too soon.

It has been a privilege to work together with you on an issue that has raised awareness and increased preventive screenings. This is an issue that affects far too many of our veterans and, as you mentioned, this bill takes steps to support the VA's prevention and treatment efforts.

The report's language should not be misconstrued as only focusing on blood tests, and I certainly encourage the VA to expedite its review of alternative colorectal cancer screening tests, including DNA stool-based noninvasive tests. We certainly want to encourage the VA in that regard.

I look forward to continuing to work with on you these important matters. Again, I want to really commend Congressman PAYNE for his determination and steadfast interest in advancing therapies and treatments for colorectal cancer.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1732, REGULATORY INTEGRITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 43, DISAPPROVAL OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NON-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-98) on the resolution (H. Res. 231) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1732) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2028, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 223 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2028.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 2022

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for the first time.

The gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my distinct honor to bring the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water bill before you today.

Before I go into the details, I would like to recognize the hard work of Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY on this bill and the appropriation process. I would also like to thank my ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR. I appreciate her help, and with it, this bill is better because of it.

The bill provides \$35.4 billion for the activities of the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and other agencies under our jurisdiction. This is a \$1.2 billion increase from last year's funding level, and \$633 million below the request.

This is a responsible bill that recognizes the importance of investing in our Nation's infrastructure and na-

tional defense. As we do each year, we worked hard to incorporate priorities and perspectives from both sides of the aisle.

The administration's proposal to cut programs of the Army Corps of Engineers by \$750 million would have led to economic disruptions in our ports and waterways as they filled in, and would have left our communities and businesses vulnerable to flooding.

Instead, this bill recognizes the critical work of the Corps and provides \$5.6 billion for those activities, \$865 million above the request and \$142 million more than last year. The bill makes use of all estimated annual revenues from the inland waterways trust fund, for a total of \$340 million.

The bill takes a strong stand against the administration's regulatory overreach with regards to the Clean Water Act and includes three provisions that prohibit changes to the definition of "fill material," the definition of "waters of the United States," and the permit requirement for certain agricultural activities.

The nuclear weapons program run by the Department of Energy is funded at \$8.7 billion, which is \$526 million more than last year. This increase will support full funding for the stockpile life extension programs, and includes an additional \$100 million above the request to address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance and physical security projects.

The recommendation for Naval Reactors is \$1.3 billion, an increase of \$86 million, and includes full funding for the *Ohio* class replacement submarine.

This bill makes strong, balanced investments in our energy sector to ensure that our constituents continue to have reliable, affordable energy.

Fossil energy, which provided more than 67 percent of our electricity production in 2014, received \$605 million, a \$34 million increase above fiscal year 2015.

Nuclear energy is increased by \$23 million above last year. The bill also includes \$40 million more than last year to ensure an electric grid that is both reliable and resilient now and into the future.

This is a strong bill that will advance our national security interests and our economy. I urge everyone to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2016 (H.R. 2028)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
-----					
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL					
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY					
Corps of Engineers - Civil					
Investigations.....	122,000	97,000	110,000	-12,000	+13,000
Construction.....	1,639,489	1,172,000	1,631,000	-8,489	+459,000
Mississippi River and Tributaries.....	302,000	225,000	275,000	-27,000	+50,000
Operations and Maintenance.....	2,908,511	2,710,000	3,058,000	+149,489	+348,000
Regulatory Program.....	200,000	205,000	200,000	---	-5,000
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).....	101,500	104,000	104,000	+2,500	---
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.....	28,000	34,000	34,000	+6,000	---
Expenses.....	178,000	180,000	180,000	+2,000	---
Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).....	3,000	5,000	4,750	+1,750	-250
General Provisions					
Title I Rescission.....	-28,000	---	---	+28,000	---
=====					
Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil...	5,454,500	4,732,000	5,596,750	+142,250	+864,750
Appropriations.....	(5,482,500)	(4,732,000)	(5,596,750)	(+114,250)	(+864,750)
Rescissions.....	(-28,000)	---	---	(+28,000)	---
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Central Utah Project Completion Account					
Central Utah Project Completion Account.....	9,874	7,300	9,874	---	+2,574
Bureau of Reclamation					
Water and Related Resources.....	978,131	805,157	948,640	-29,491	+143,483
Central Valley Project Restoration Fund.....	56,995	49,528	49,528	-7,467	---
California Bay-Delta Restoration.....	37,000	37,000	37,000	---	---
Policy and Administration.....	58,500	59,500	59,500	+1,000	---
Indian Water Rights Settlements.....	---	112,483	---	---	-112,483
San Joaquin River Restoration Fund.....	---	35,000	---	---	-35,000
Bureau of Reclamation Loan Program Account (Rescission).....	-500	---	---	+500	---
Total, Bureau of Reclamation.....	1,130,126	1,098,668	1,094,668	-35,458	-4,000
=====					
Total, title II, Department of the Interior.....	1,140,000	1,105,968	1,104,542	-35,458	-1,426
Appropriations.....	(1,140,500)	(1,105,968)	(1,104,542)	(-35,958)	(-1,426)
Rescissions.....	(-500)	---	---	(+500)	---
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
Energy Programs					
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.....	1,937,000	2,722,987	1,657,774	-279,226	-1,065,213
Rescissions.....	-13,065	---	---	+13,065	---
Subtotal, Energy efficiency.....	1,923,935	2,722,987	1,657,774	-266,161	-1,065,213
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.....	147,306	270,100	187,500	+40,194	-82,600
Nuclear Energy.....	805,000	772,413	810,000	+5,000	+37,587
Defense function.....	108,500	135,161	126,161	+17,661	-9,000
Rescission.....	-80,000	---	---	+80,000	---
Subtotal.....	833,500	907,574	936,161	+102,661	+28,587
Fossil Energy Research and Development.....	571,000	560,000	605,000	+34,000	+45,000
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves.....	19,950	17,500	17,500	-2,450	---
Elk Hills School Lands Fund.....	15,580	---	---	-15,580	---
Strategic Petroleum Reserve.....	200,000	257,000	212,030	+12,030	-44,970

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2016 (H.R. 2028)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	---	---
Rescission.....	-6,000	---	---	+6,000	---
Subtotal.....	1,600	7,600	7,600	+6,000	---
Energy Information Administration.....	117,000	131,000	117,000	---	-14,000
Non-defense Environmental Cleanup.....	246,000	220,185	229,193	-16,807	+9,008
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund.....	625,000	542,289	625,000	---	+82,711
Science.....	5,071,000	5,339,794	5,100,000	+29,000	-239,794
Nuclear Waste Disposal.....	---	---	150,000	+150,000	+150,000
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.....	280,000	325,000	280,000	---	-45,000
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.....	---	20,000	---	---	-20,000
Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program. Offsetting collection.....	42,000 -25,000	42,000 -25,000	42,000 -25,000	---	---
Subtotal.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	---	---
Tribal Indian Energy Loan Guarantee Program.....	---	11,000	---	---	-11,000
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans program.....	4,000	6,000	6,000	+2,000	---
Clean Coal Technology (Rescission).....	-6,600	---	---	+6,600	---
Departmental Administration.....	245,142	270,682	247,420	+2,278	-23,262
Miscellaneous revenues.....	-119,171	-117,171	-117,171	+2,000	---
Net appropriation.....	125,971	153,511	130,249	+4,278	-23,262
Office of the Inspector General.....	40,500	46,424	46,000	+5,500	-424
Total, Energy programs.....	10,232,742	11,554,964	10,324,007	+91,265	-1,230,957
Atomic Energy Defense Activities					
National Nuclear Security Administration					
Weapons Activities.....	8,231,770	8,846,948	8,713,000	+481,230	-133,948
Rescission.....	-45,113	---	---	+45,113	---
Subtotal.....	8,186,657	8,846,948	8,713,000	+526,343	-133,948
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.....	1,641,369	1,940,302	1,918,000	+276,631	-22,302
Rescission.....	-24,731	---	-10,394	+14,337	-10,394
Subtotal.....	1,616,638	1,940,302	1,907,606	+290,968	-32,696
Naval Reactors.....	1,238,500	1,375,496	1,320,394	+81,894	-55,102
Rescission.....	-4,500	---	---	+4,500	---
Subtotal.....	1,234,000	1,375,496	1,320,394	+86,394	-55,102
Federal Salaries and Expenses.....	370,000	402,654	388,000	+18,000	-14,654
Total, National Nuclear Security Administration.....	11,407,295	12,565,400	12,329,000	+921,705	-236,400
Environmental and Other Defense Activities					
Defense Environmental Cleanup.....	5,010,830	5,055,550	5,055,550	+44,720	---
Rescission.....	-10,830	---	---	+10,830	---
Subtotal.....	5,000,000	5,055,550	5,055,550	+55,550	---
Defense Environmental cleanup (Legislative proposal).. Defense Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning.....	---	471,797	---	---	-471,797
	463,000	---	471,797	+8,797	+471,797

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2016 (H.R. 2028)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Other Defense Activities.....	754,000	774,425	767,570	+13,570	-6,855
Total, Environmental and Other Defense Activities.....	6,217,000	6,301,772	6,294,917	+77,917	-6,855
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities.....	17,624,295	18,867,172	18,623,917	+999,622	-243,255
Power Marketing Administrations /1					
Operation and maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration.....	7,220	6,900	6,900	-320	---
Offsetting collections.....	-7,220	-6,900	-6,900	+320	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---
Operation and maintenance, Southwestern Power Administration.....	46,240	47,361	47,361	+1,121	---
Offsetting collections.....	-34,840	-35,961	-35,961	-1,121	---
Subtotal.....	11,400	11,400	11,400	---	---
Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration.....	304,402	307,714	307,714	+3,312	---
Offsetting collections.....	-211,030	-214,342	-214,342	-3,312	---
Subtotal.....	93,372	93,372	93,372	---	---
Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund.....	4,727	4,490	4,490	-237	---
Offsetting collections.....	-4,499	-4,262	-4,262	+237	---
Subtotal.....	228	228	228	---	---
Total, Power Marketing Administrations.....	105,000	105,000	105,000	---	---
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	304,389	319,800	319,800	+15,411	---
Revenues applied.....	-304,389	-319,800	-319,800	-15,411	---
General Provisions					
Title III Rescissions:					
Department of Energy:					
Energy Efficiency and Energy Reliability.....	-9,740	---	-16,677	-6,937	-16,677
Science.....	-3,262	---	-4,717	-1,455	-4,717
Nuclear Energy.....	-121	---	-1,665	-1,544	-1,665
Fossil Energy Research and Development.....	-10,413	---	-12,064	-1,651	-12,064
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.....	-331	---	-900	-569	-900
Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy.....	-18	---	---	+18	---
Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration..	-1,632	---	-4,832	-3,200	-4,832
Weapons activities (050).....	-6,298	---	---	+6,298	---
Office of the Administrator (050).....	-413	---	---	+413	---
Departmental Administration.....	-928	---	---	+928	---
Defense Environmental Cleanup (050).....	-9,983	---	---	+9,983	---
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (050).....	-1,390	---	---	+1,390	---
Naval Reactors (050).....	-160	---	---	+160	---
Other Defense Activities (050).....	-551	---	---	+551	---
Subtotal.....	-45,240	---	-40,855	+4,385	-40,855
=====					
Total, title III, Department of Energy.....	27,916,797	30,527,136	29,012,069	+1,095,272	-1,515,067
Appropriations.....	(28,152,876)	(30,527,136)	(29,063,318)	(+910,442)	(-1,463,818)
Rescissions.....	(-236,079)	---	(-51,249)	(+184,830)	(-51,249)
=====					



ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2016 (H.R. 2028)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
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TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Appalachian Regional Commission.....	90,000	95,000	95,000	+5,000	---
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.....	28,500	29,150	29,900	+1,400	+750
Delta Regional Authority.....	12,000	14,936	12,000	---	-2,936
Denali Commission.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Northern Border Regional Commission.....	5,000	5,000	3,000	-2,000	-2,000
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.....	250	---	250	---	+250
Nuclear Regulatory Commission:					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,003,233	1,020,119	1,003,233	---	-16,886
Revenues.....	-885,375	-899,971	-862,274	+23,101	+37,697
Subtotal.....	117,858	120,148	140,959	+23,101	+20,811
Office of Inspector General:					
Salaries and expenses.....	12,071	12,136	12,136	+65	---
Revenues.....	-10,099	-10,060	-10,060	+39	---
Subtotal.....	1,972	2,076	2,076	+104	---
Total, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.....	119,830	122,224	143,035	+23,205	+20,811
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.....	3,400	3,600	3,600	+200	---
Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects.....	---	1,000	1,000	+1,000	---
=====					
Total, title IV, Independent agencies.....	268,980	280,910	297,785	+28,805	+16,875
Appropriations.....	(268,980)	(280,910)	(297,785)	(+28,805)	(+16,875)
=====					
Grand total.....	34,780,277	36,646,014	36,011,146	+1,230,869	-634,868
Appropriations.....	(35,044,856)	(36,646,014)	(36,062,395)	(+1,017,539)	(-583,619)
Rescissions.....	(-264,579)	---	(-51,249)	(+213,330)	(-51,249)
=====					

1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman SIMPSON for his bipartisan approach in preparing this bill. We have a good committee, and we work together.

I want to thank also our entire staff, Donna Shahbaz and Taunja Berquam, the Republican and Democratic Clerks, as well as the rest of the Committee staff: Matt Anderson, Angie Giancarlo, Loraine Heckenberg, and Perry Yates; and in the personal offices, Sarah Cannon and Ryan Steyer. Their countless long hours, late nights, and thoughtful insight are so critical to help us prepare this legislation.

Thirty-seven years ago, President Jimmy Carter, after the first Arab oil embargo, as gasoline prices exploded and the U.S. fell into deep, deep recession, championed the creation of a U.S. Department of Energy. He equated the struggle for America's energy independence as the moral equivalent of war, and he was right. He set a goal to steer the United States toward energy independence by 1985.

Today, America still struggles to meet that challenge set out nearly four decades ago: reducing our imported energy dependence, curbing our voracious appetite for foreign oil, and growing a diverse domestic energy portfolio that invests in a self-reliant America and the job creation here at home that goes with it.

Containing our ballooning consumption topped President Carter's agenda. But while he successfully reduced consumption during his Presidency, his successors lost focus. Demand for gasoline increased by 40 percent in the 25 years after he left office, a troubling reality, as every economic recession since World War II has come on the heels of a sharp spike in gasoline prices. I have a chart here that so dramatically shows every time gasoline went over \$4 a gallon, America, in the late seventies, in the early nineties, and then of course in 2008, fell into deep, deep recession.

Our work is important. Under the current administration, partnerships between the Department of Energy labs and automotive companies have finally helped level out demand for gasoline with increasing fuel efficiency.

President Carter also envisioned a new energy horizon for our Nation, including renewable energy and conservation. Solar electric capacity currently operating in our country is enough to power more than 3.5 million homes, on average.

Today, 90 percent of homes in our country are insulated. These are important achievements, milestones for our country, and America must push onward.

On the critical issue of reducing foreign oil dependence, President Carter's initiative strikingly reduced imports below the target of 6 million barrels a

day, a cut of nearly a third, but imports, again, after his Presidency, went on the rise in subsequent decades. Vast energy imports continue to represent the single largest component of our overall trade deficit.

□ 2030

I brought a chart down here tonight that shows America has been in the depths of deficit in trade, but the portion of it that deals with petroleum is its most significant percentage, and it has been for a very long time.

That translates into millions and millions of forfeited jobs here at home. Still at \$47 billion last year, crude oil imports were roughly equal to the next four largest trade deficit categories.

Around the world, the war over energy rages on. Look only to Europe's compromised position toward Ukraine and, of course, oil-rich but unstable Iraq. We must position our own Nation to a secure energy future.

Our bill's priority is to strengthen our Nation's energy foundation. This bill does responsibly invest in that effort, as well as in our nuclear security as well as our water infrastructure. But I must ask: At what cost does our bill do this? Our bill is among the first two to be considered. There are 10 bills that will follow, and, frankly, they were raided to pay for ours.

This Republican budget will mean that additional funding for this bill—1 of 12 appropriation bills on which Congress must act—comes at the expense of other vital national needs that will be shortchanged as subsequent appropriation bills are brought forward; in total, 12 of them.

For example, our bill funds incredible advanced scientific research. But it does so at the expense of the Health and Human Services bill that shorts support for our students who will be the next generation of scientists.

Our bill provides for the Department of Energy labs, whose new technologies will power our future. But why is the National Institutes of Health shortchanged in the Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill? Its discoveries will save and improve millions of lives.

In our bill, nuclear weapons funding will increase by \$500 million. Meanwhile, in the Transportation, Housing bill, crumbling cities will lose even more resources, elderly housing will remain unfunded, and our poorest families will continue struggling to put food on the table.

Nuclear nonproliferation and environmental cleanup efforts in our bill will make our world safer. But on America's streets, police and fire departments will remain understaffed, insufficiently trained, and underequipped because the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill is shorted.

In our bill, there are no new starts for the Army Corps of Engineers infra-

structure, whose \$60 billion backlog of unfinished projects is astounding. But to fund the Corps in our bill, America's roads will be shortchanged and remain pothole-ridden, the rail lines clogged, with more bridges on the brink of collapse because the Transportation, Housing bill has been shortchanged too.

In our bill, the Bureau of Reclamation will continue to help our 17 Western States cope with record drought, yet severe underfunding of the clean water and drinking water funds in the Department of Interior-EPA bill will further threaten the fresh water supply of thousands more communities across our country. No amount of duct tape can fix all the leaking pipes.

This bill sacrifices the long-term strength of our Nation by raiding other bills that are essential appropriation responsibilities, but that is the game plan of the overall Republican budget that has been handed us. It is not a prescription for an American success story.

The Appropriations Committee's discretionary programs, at only 6.8 percent of our Nation's total economy, or GDP, are too thin a reed on which to balance our Nation's accounts.

The Ways and Means Committee must put its cards on the table too and open its vast jurisdiction to scrutiny. Mandatory programs must be put on the table. And then the preparation of America's budget will have an engine in which all pistons are firing and engaged.

We want to produce an appropriation bill here tonight, but I find myself guilty in a way because I know what is being taken from those other subcommittees so vital to our Nation's future.

Though this Energy and Water bill is respectable, it is only one oar in the water pushing our ship of state forward. We can't reach our destination without the other 11 oars in the water too. For that reason, I urge my colleagues, as we move forward, to consider a "no" vote on this measure in hopes that a message will be sent strongly. The American people deserve all hands on deck and all oars in the water.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2028 and would like to take this opportunity to talk about the importance of investing in American infrastructure.

This legislation provides support for critical national and regional waterways. The Soo Locks, located in my district, are a critical point in our Nation's infrastructure. Over 80 million tons of commercial commodities travel

through the Soo Locks each year, including the vast majority of the iron ore mined in the United States. The value of the cargo traveling through the Soo Locks represents approximately 3.2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product each year.

Recently, the Army Corps completed a sensitivity analysis on the Soo Locks and has indicated that they may begin a new benefit-cost ratio in the future.

This lip service isn't good enough. The impact on our economy, should there be a failure of the lock, is too great.

The study must be completed, and I am confident that it will show a need for a replacement lock and construction can get underway.

I urge the Corps to continue to work with Congress in an efficient and transparent fashion so that we can continue to move this process forward and get this project going.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would like to inquire of the Chair, how much time do we have remaining on this side, please?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 22 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Idaho has 26 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield 4 minutes to the very distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I thank subcommittee Chairman SIMPSON, Ranking Member KAPTUR, and full committee Chairman ROGERS for their work on this bill.

The House Republican "work harder for less" budget resolution was opposed by every Member on my side of the aisle in part because it makes it impossible to provide the funding necessary in the 12 appropriations bills to grow our economy and give hard-working Americans the opportunity to succeed.

Democrats much preferred the approach taken by the President, calling for an end to the sequester and more reasonable and realistic budgeting that could help families afford college, a home, and a secure retirement.

The proposed funding level for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is dismal and would curtail innovation in clean and renewable energy and make us less competitive. This type of investment grows our economy and provides opportunity to hard-working Americans. But under the Republican proposal, funding would be slashed by \$266 million compared to the 2015 level.

A number of other areas fall far short of the President's proposal, including \$82.6 million less to modernize and secure the electric grid and \$240 million less for scientific research critical to addressing long-term energy needs.

These levels are above the current enacted levels; but by failing to address sequestration, the majority is missing

an opportunity to further invest in critical initiatives that create jobs and make American families more secure.

Given the difficulty in resolving funding disputes, I am deeply disappointed that the majority also, once again, needlessly included controversial policy riders.

An annual appropriations bill is not the place to make sweeping changes to environmental protection or gun laws.

Despite the fact that it streamlines existing activities to protect 2.8 million ocean industry jobs and \$282 billion in GDP generated by ocean industries in coastal States, the National Ocean Policy would be blocked. I do not understand how any public good is served by thwarting efficiency measures that bring together the best ecological, economic, and stakeholder-driven data.

There are egregious attacks on the Clean Water Act, including locking in place a state of confusion about the scope of pollution control programs and sacrificing water quality for small streams and wetlands that contribute to the drinking water of one in three Americans.

I should not have to remind my majority colleagues that similar provisions have imperiled this bill in the past. The administration is, once again, on record with veto threats of nearly identical language, and leading environmental groups have stated that these and other riders are bad policies that will put Americans' health and safety at risk.

I am truly amazed that the majority would willfully go down this path again. Despite the many shortcomings, there are positive aspects, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers. In its most recent report card, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. a D-plus and estimated that \$2.6 trillion in investments are needed by 2020.

I am very grateful that Chairman SIMPSON included \$142 million more than the current level and \$865 million more than the President requested for the Army Corps.

While a number of priorities in the bill receive sufficient funding, due to major shortcomings, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chair, I was elected to fight for the people of the Third Congressional District. That is what I am doing, and that is what this bill does.

As members of the Appropriations Committee, we are using the power of the purse. This bill provides full funding for key Army Corps of Engineers projects in my district, nearly \$26 million for projects in southern West Vir-

ginia—East Lynn, Summersville, Bluestone, and Beech Fork lakes—all critically important.

This bill supports the excellent work of the Appalachian Regional Commission, making a real difference in real people's lives. This bill actually adds an additional \$5 million over last year's funding.

And this bill also says no to funding for the administration's war on coal, no to expanding the definitions of the "waters of the U.S.," and no to new regulations on fill material.

This is a good bill, and I urge its passage.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the very, very able gentleman from the State of California (Mr. HONDA), a distinguished member of our subcommittee.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chair, this was my first year serving on the subcommittee. And I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their leadership throughout this process, for the collaborative way they had worked with the members of the subcommittee on this bill.

I support the increases in the bill for the important investigations and construction accounts of the Army Corps of Engineers, which are increasingly important for dealing with the effects of climate change and have been underfunded for too long. I hope we can fully address the Corps' budgetary needs as this bill moves forward.

I am pleased that the bill includes language I sought to help us increase access to solar and other renewable energy sources for low-income families. This inclusiveness is critically important if we are going to transform to a 21st century energy economy that benefits all Americans.

I also appreciate the inclusion language supporting development of new photonics technologies to enable exascale computing breakthroughs.

Funding DOE's Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists program at the President's request level is essential for programs to develop K-12 STEM educators, including the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, now in its 25th year.

□ 2045

The funding level in this bill should allow for continued growth of the Einstein Fellows program, which brings exceptional STEM educators to Washington for a year to work in Federal agencies and in Congress helping to shape STEM education programs. There are, however, damaging cuts to some programs and others funded below the President's budget request.

These decisions will take us in the wrong direction. We need to boost the funding levels for renewable energy programs that are our path to a clean energy future. We also must address the shortfalls in the Science Laboratories infrastructure funding that will

hamper operations at user facilities such as light sources and science and nanoscience centers and engineering centers.

I want to voice my disagreement with several of the policy riders in the bill. We shouldn't be blocking work to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act, and we should be fostering collaboration between the Federal, State, and local agencies and ocean stakeholders about how to share this vital resource and not hindering it.

I know my chairman was faced with a difficult task, and his approach to developing this bill has shown these issues, which are important for our Nation and for our planet, the respect they deserve.

I look forward to working with Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR, as this bill moves forward, to resolve some of these issues in a bipartisan fashion so we can send a bill to the President that all of us can support.

Mr. SIMPSON. It is my pleasure to yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), a good friend of mine, for the purpose of colloquy.

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, as we continue to cut, squeeze, and trim the Federal budget, we have a responsibility to ensure that our Federal agencies operate as efficiently as possible.

I know that we both have examples in our district where multiple Federal, State, and local agencies overlap in their management authority, often causing unnecessary bureaucratic red tape, which ends up costing taxpayers more money while accomplishing less.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to work with you as we move this bill forward to improve the transparency and efficiency of Federal agencies. They need to talk to each other and work together so that our constituents are not forced to sort through conflicting requirements. I hope you can help me.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from California for inviting me to speak on this important matter. I agree that the Energy and Water Appropriations bill should strive to make our Federal agencies work more efficiently with each other and work together.

I look forward to working with the gentleman on this issue.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a very, very hard-working and passionate member of our Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE. Let me thank our ranking member, first of all, for yielding, but secondly, for her unwavering leadership on this subcommittee, but also on each and every issue that we are addressing in this bill and for her leadership just in general, in terms of making sure that people who have been marginalized and who really have been

victimized by this terrible recession really have opportunities into the middle class. Thank you very much, Congresswoman KAPTUR.

Let me thank the Chair for including language to recognize the importance of workplace diversity in the Department of Energy's National Laboratories and encouraging the Department to develop and broaden partnerships with minority-serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Chairman, however, I am concerned that not only does this bill maintain harmful sequester levels for funding, it also continues the pattern of inserting unnecessary policy riders into spending bills, including allowing guns to be carried on all Corps of Engineers lands. These riders are harmful and further complicate the already difficult appropriations process.

Mr. Chairman, instead of trying to roll back vital environmental protections, we need to be proactive about preserving our environment for the next generation. We need to make more investments in clean energy like solar, wind, and geothermal.

We need to do this to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels that release harmful, toxic methane and carbon. Pollution and smog must not be a normal way of life for our children and our children's children.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would like to yield 30 seconds to myself to just thank the gentlewoman very much for her comments and to say how very much I enjoyed visiting the Berkeley lab with her out in California and knowing the work that they are doing not just for California, but for the whole country.

It has been really a pleasure to work with you and to support that lab and its activities.

Ms. LEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. I just thank the gentlewoman, first of all, for her visit, but also for really understanding very deeply what our labs are about and what they are really conducting not only for my district and for California, but for the country and for the world in terms of their research.

I just really want to thank you because the feedback, of course, from my lab is how smart and how committed you are.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), a good friend of mine and a member of the Appropriations Committee. He is the chairman of the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Before yielding to Mr. DIAZ-BALART from Florida, I would like to thank the gentleman for all his tireless work on

behalf of the Everglades, truly a remarkable spot. He is a true leader on these issues, and he continues to restore the Everglades to their natural state.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chairman, I actually came here to thank Chairman SIMPSON for putting together this great bill, a responsible bill and, again, for putting up with me and working with me on issues dealing with Everglades restoration. I don't have to tell anybody here that is a national treasure. It is important not only for southern Florida's drinking water, but also for our economy.

I also want to specifically thank the chairman for his help in the Herbert Hoover Dike, which is crucial, again, for the folks in that area.

Again, Mr. Chairman, this is a great bill. Chairman SIMPSON has a very difficult task. He has done a spectacular job. Again, thank you, sir, for working with me on these important issues.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Once again, congratulations on bringing this important bill to the floor.

I wanted to thank you for the chance to really engage and for your willingness to address an issue of critical importance to the Nation's innovation and competitiveness, that is the full utilization of the Department of Energy's radiation light source national user facilities.

Unfortunately, the funding level in this bill for DOE's light source scientific user facilities would not utilize our Federal investment to the fullest effect. This would lead to facilities temporarily shutting down and laying off and furloughing scientific staff.

The fiscal year '15 enacted level for this program was \$447 million. Now, the President has requested \$477 million, but the House mark is \$443 million.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with you to address this issue in conference and with the Senate and to work toward a higher mark for this account, at least higher than fiscal year '15 and hopefully closer to the President's budget.

Again, I want to thank you for your leadership and for your willingness to work with us on this important issue.

Mr. HONDA. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member KAPTUR, I echo my colleague's comments and thank you for your collegial leadership of the subcommittee.

Funding the synchrotron light sources adequately is a competitiveness issue for the Nation's economic well-being. Companies from my district, throughout Silicon Valley and

around the Nation, utilize these unique, large-scale scientific facilities to advance next generation technologies and to grow our Nation's economy.

Other nations are catching up. We must make sure to make the investments that retain our leadership. Thank you for your willingness to address this issue.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank you for bringing this important issue to the subcommittee's attention. I look forward to working with Ranking Member KAPTUR and all of you to support the Nation's light source user facilities as we move forward into conference.

Ms. KAPTUR. I also appreciate the Members bringing this to our attention, having visited more than one of these facilities and look forward to working with the chairman to support this very worthy activity.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), a new Member of Congress who has been very active and who has been newly appointed to the Rules Committee for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, Hanford is the Nation's largest and most complex Department of Energy defense nuclear cleanup site. I have greatly appreciated your willingness to work with me to ensure funding for this important effort.

The restoration of funds for cleanup along the Columbia River Corridor, which is legally required and a priority for the mid-Columbia region, puts those projects on a very strong path forward.

I also appreciate the funding provided for the Office of River Protection. As the final bill is developed for fiscal year '16, I would like to continue working with you to ensure that all of the work that the Federal Government is legally obligated to do is realized.

I am particularly concerned with ensuring that work is able to progress on retrieving Hanford's tank waste and preparing to feed an operational waste treatment plant while providing sufficient resources to meet near-term regulatory requirements in the tank farms.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington for his strong advocacy for these important cleanup activities. I agree they are probably the most important in this country.

I look forward to working with him to ensure that activities at Hanford's

tank farms and at the waste treatment plant receive the funding required to move forward safely, efficiently, and in a timely manner.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I thank the gentleman and look forward to working with him, as well as the ranking member from Ohio, in the future.

Ms. KAPTUR. I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time in the interests of moving forward with the bill.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

Not only does the underlying bill support funding for critical infrastructure in our country, but also includes several important provisions a majority of the Members in this body are concerned with.

Section 105 provides an excellent backstop for ensuring the EPA's controversial waters of United States rule does not go forward in its current state. This rule is nothing more than a Federal power grab for the EPA and it flies in the face of two Supreme Court decisions. The agencies themselves have admitted to Congress, in multiple hearings, that the proposed rule has created confusion and uncertainty.

I want to thank the chairman for including this necessary backstop provision that will help stop this rule from wreaking havoc on farmers, businesses, families, and the entire regulated community. This rule could potentially roll back the progress we have made in our Nation's water quality by instituting burdensome permitting costs and unnecessary red tape.

Another important provision prohibits the Corps from using funds for open lake placement of dredge material in Lake Erie, unless the material is approved under the State water quality certification program. We all know the benefits of dredging and how vital it is to the Great Lakes system's ecosystem, businesses, recreation, and tourism.

We must ensure dredged material is safely repurposed for beneficial use or placed in a confined disposal facility. If dredged sediment is placed in Lake Erie now, research shows increased PCB levels in the fish could cause significant setbacks to the recreational community.

In a time where our Great Lakes' water quality is threatened by algae and other contaminants, we must ensure we do not add to the problem.

I am also pleased to see my common-sense legislation included in the underlying bill to grant law-abiding gun owners the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights when they

are legally camping, hunting, and fishing on Army Corps property.

I thank Representative SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for recognizing the importance of these provisions and for putting together a bill that sets appropriate levels.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SIMPSON for providing me time to engage in this colloquy.

Through working with the chairman and others, the House was able to pass the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act last year, and the legislation was signed into law.

□ 2100

This legislation is designed to bring manufacturing in our country to the next level by increasing global competitiveness and training the workforce of tomorrow through the establishment of centers throughout the country.

As some of these centers lie within the purview of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I want to take this opportunity to thank the chairman for working with me on this issue and to clarify that this bill we are considering today funds the establishment of at least one new center that can be coordinated with the Department of Commerce.

With that, I thank the chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. I appreciate my friend's leadership on the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act and can confirm that this bill funds the establishment of at least one new center. I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future and as this bill moves forward.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SIMPSON. With that, Mr. Chairman, I believe we have no more requests for time on general debate and look forward to moving forward on the bill.

Like my colleague from Ohio, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank the Appropriations Committee and the Chairman for acting to impose greater discipline on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We know that the future of nuclear power in the United States depends on having a credible nuclear safety regulator, and depends on the industry continuing to perform at a high level of safety. We feel strongly that the agency must continue its core mission of protecting public health and safety, but NRC must do so in a manner that does not add to the economic headwinds the industry faces.

I support the Committee's direction to require the NRC's rulemaking process to be Commission-driven in order to provide greater discipline, transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I rise to congratulate Chairman MIKE SIMPSON and Ranking Member MARCY KAPTUR for their

leadership in preparing the FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Both of you deserve thanks for your hard work putting together a bill that supports programs critical to our nation's security, safety, and economic competitiveness. Your bill prioritizes investments in our critical nuclear security enterprise, and creates more opportunities to advance American competitiveness, and assumes the key role of the Army Corps of Engineers in resolving so many issues important to every state and Congressional District in the nation: navigation and flooding emergencies.

To my mind, the defense programs included in your bill are its single most critical responsibility. The bill funds Weapons Activities at the National Nuclear Security Administration to ensure that the Secretary of Energy has the investments he needs to certify to the President that our nuclear stockpile is reliable. It is essential that we provide the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. These weapons are a vital part of our national defense postures and they are essential to meeting our commitments to our allies, even if they are never used. They are a deterrent.

The bill also funds Naval Reactors, which supports our U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered Fleet including the Ohio class replacement submarine and our aircraft carriers and other submarines.

The Appropriations committee has always provided vigorous support for these national defense priorities and I thank Chairman SIMPSON for his work in this area.

Additionally, scientific research at the Department of Energy strengthens American competitiveness and enables true breakthroughs in the energy sector, and the bill preserves and protects it, especially in fusion energy, nuclear and fossil energy, and areas that will bolster our nation's electric grid. The bill also protects public safety and keeps America literally open for business by providing for the Army Corps of Engineers to meet the need for navigable rivers and open and accessible ports.

Finally, a word about Yucca Mountain. Many Members of Congress have been advocates for Yucca Mountain as we consider it essential to our nation's energy independence. Decades of analysis, millions of documents, and billions of taxpayer dollars have been put towards the scientific examination of Yucca Mountain as a safe and secure geologic repository for nuclear waste. Your bill includes funding to keep the license processing for Yucca Mountain moving forward and it also prohibits the Administration from moving ahead with any other plan not authorized by Congress. This will ensure that we keep Congress in the driver's seat for nuclear waste policy.

Mr. Chair, former chairman of this subcommittee, I know the challenge that you and Ms. KAPTUR faced crafting this bill. I commend you on the fine bill that you put together. This is a fiscally conservative bill, which funds critical national security, jobs, and infrastructure priorities. This bill deserves our support.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. BEYER, for his leadership on this issue.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle are once again attempting to substitute Congress'

will outside its purview, this time by prohibiting the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA from finalizing their Waters of the U.S. rule.

This is nothing new.

Earlier this year they tried to get into the local permitting process by forcing states to accept the Keystone XL pipeline. As a former local government official you can imagine how shocked I was at that effort.

And let us not forget how often they seek to tell the District of Columbia, and its residents, how they should be governed.

Now, my friends wish to halt federal rule-making prescribed under the Clean Water Act, almost a decade in the making and after more than a million public comments and numerous public hearings and stakeholder meetings, just before a final rule is released.

Remember, it was Congress and the Supreme Court who asked for clarification for what should be defined as "navigable waters."

Today, nearly 60 percent of our nation's streams and millions of acres of wetlands currently lack clear protection from pollution under the Clean Water Act. Current loopholes put at risk 2 million miles of our streams, threatening the drinking water of 117 million Americans, and jeopardizing 20 million acres of wetlands.

The proposed rule would provide an estimated \$388 million to \$514 million annually of benefits to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater. The public benefits significantly outweigh the costs for mitigating impacts to streams and wetlands, and taking steps to reduce pollution to our waterways.

Why don't we let the rulemaking process finish and then we can see if it needs to be fixed. The Beyer-Connolly amendment will do that. But let's not jump to judgement.

Congress has a role to play. But it shouldn't be as an intransigent obstacle.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I am concerned that the Fiscal Year 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill limits investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency at the expense of increased investment in fossil fuels, risking the future of America's clean energy future. It is vitally important that the United States continue to make strong investments in clean energy technologies, so that we can move away from reliance on dirty and expensive fossil fuels. By adhering to sequester level caps for non-defense spending risks the future of an American clean energy economy.

In addition to the spending cuts, I am deeply concerned about misguided rider included in the bill that would prevent funding of the National Ocean Policy, which permits better coordination among federal agencies responsible for coastal and ocean planning.

In 2011, ocean industries supported 2.8 million jobs and \$282 billion in GDP. Our 21st century economy depends on our oceans, but there is increasing pressure on and competition for resources. Ocean planning seeks to reduce these conflicts and strengthen the resilience of ocean communities and ecosystems.

In the Northeast, our Regional Ocean Council has allowed our states to pool resources and businesses to have a voice in decision-making and has coordinated with federal part-

ners to ensure all stakeholders have a voice in the process.

Allowing federal agencies to coordinate implementation of over 100 ocean laws and giving state and local governments a voice in the ocean planning process is smart public policy, and I hope that as the Appropriations process moves forward we will remove this harmful provision from the Energy and Water Bill.

I would like to note that this year's Energy and Water bill includes \$10 million for environmental infrastructure projects within the Army Corps of Engineers' General Construction account. These funds are vitally important to communities that desperately require improvements to their water and sanitation infrastructure, and may require additional funds to do so.

We require, quite rightly, water and sewage treatment plants to maintain federally mandated standards to keep our water supply safe and sustainable. About 72% of the population is served by sewage treatment plants, but 3.8 million of those people are served by facilities providing less than secondary treatment, which is a basic requirement by federal law. Often, the financial burden to meet these requirements falls on state and local governments. This can leave communities experiencing financial distress with outdated infrastructure and facing down huge costs to bring them in line with requirements. And this affects all of us, as aging wastewater management systems discharge billions of gallons of untreated sewage into U.S. surface waters each year.

For example, in my home state of Rhode Island a large-scale restoration is underway to improve the 143 year old waterworks infrastructure that runs through Cranston and Providence and serves a majority of the state. According to local news reports the project may take up to 40 years. In the northern part of our state, Woonsocket is planning its own major reconstruction of its water infrastructure, built in the 1930s, as they grapple with aging equipment that can no longer comply with environmental regulations.

I applaud the excellent planning and fundraising being done in Rhode Island to meet the needs of our aging water infrastructure, and I note the benefit that having access to Army Corps of Engineers expertise and funds adds to local governments striving to meet the infrastructure needs of their communities.

I urge my colleagues to include robust funding for Army Corps environmental infrastructure programs in the final Energy and water spending bill.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees

may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2028

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$110,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment which will help reduce the large backlog of important Army Corps of Engineers projects.

This amendment transfers \$1 million from the Department of Energy's Departmental administration budget to the Corps of Engineers' investigations budget to bring it closer to the fiscal year 2015 enacted appropriation level.

The investigation account funds the planning and environmental studies required under law for important Corps projects prior to construction. There is a large backlog of worthwhile Corps projects throughout the country that are essential to improving infrastructures for communities, improving ecosystem restoration, providing clean water, and expanding much-needed water storage. These projects are especially critical to the drought-stricken communities in the West and many other parts of the Nation.

The committee showed great insight in recognizing that the administration's request for the Corps' investigation budget was much too low. Having said that, the amount appropriated in this bill is still \$12 million below the fiscal year 2015 levels. At a time of historic drought and major water challenges, we shouldn't be reducing investigation dollars that will allow worthwhile community projects to move forward.

The committee has provided significant safeguards in the report to ensure the funds transferred by this amendment will go to the studies in planning for the most viable projects. Thus, support for this amendment is a definitive action we can take to directly support timely development of critical infrastructure projects.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I thank the distinguished chair and ranking member for their work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,631,000,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer another commonsense amendment that will help reduce the large backlog of important Army Corps of Engineers' projects by providing additional resources to the Corps' construction budget.

I applaud the committee for recommending resources for the Corps of Engineers' construction budget above the President's budget request, but the recommended level in this bill for construction is still \$8.5 million beneath the fiscal year 2015 level.

A devastating drought is currently plaguing the West. CRS estimates that more than 93 percent of the State of California is experiencing severe drought. Other scientists have claimed this is the worst drought for some Western States in more than 100 years and that approximately 60 percent of the West is “experiencing moderate drought or worse, affecting 52 million people.”

At a time of historic drought and major water challenges, we shouldn't be reducing construction dollars for Corps projects that improve infrastructure for local communities, improve ecosystem restoration, provide clean water, and expand much-needed water storage.

The committee report on this bill raised some important concerns about the draconian cuts proposed by this administration to the Corps of Engineers' construction budget.

From the committee report: “The construction account would see the largest dollar reduction (\$467,489,000) and largest percentage reduction (29 percent) . . . As mentioned above, the budget request is woefully inadequate for meeting the critical water resource infrastructure needs of this Nation. Numerous continuing studies and construction projects will be suspended or slowed, leaving many communities vulnerable to floods and coastal storms longer than necessary and hindering economic growth and international competitiveness . . . Once again, the administration's claims to understand the importance of infrastructure ring hollow when it comes to water resource infrastructure investments . . . Once again, however, the committee rejects the low priority placed on infrastructure in the budget request.”

The committee has provided significant safeguards in the report that will



ensure that the funds transferred by this amendment go to the best projects, including those that will prevent future flooding and storm damage, create jobs, and enhance national, regional, or local economic development.

Support for this amendment is definitive action that we can take to directly support timely development of critical water projects that benefit communities throughout the Nation.

I thank the distinguished chair and ranking member.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. But I will tell you it is easy to draft amendments and take money out of the department of the administration—who is not going to be in support of that—and put it to other things.

I can tell you this committee has worked hard to address the issues. We know about the drought in California and other places, and we have done a good job in trying to fund this. If the gentleman wants to do this in here and take money out of the department of administration and the committee wants to do it, it is kind of meaningless, but I understand what the gentleman is trying to do.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$1,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chair and ranking member for their extremely hard work on the underlying bill and their ongoing commitment to Everglades restoration.

I rise because, at this very moment in my district in Florida, toxic blue-green algae is threatening the environment in our area. The amendment I am offering, along with the gentleman

from Florida, Mr. CLAWSON, will enhance the Army Corps' environmental restoration efforts in south Florida and help put a stop to this vicious cycle once and for all.

The Everglades watershed stretches as far north as Orlando, where runoff eventually flows into Lake Okeechobee. Due to rapid development, the natural flow of water from north to south in the system has been severely disrupted, and we are inundated with freshwater discharges that harm our communities to the east and to the west of the lake.

Meanwhile, Florida Bay desperately needs freshwater to restore its natural ecology. However, moving clean water south to restore the entire ecosystem is no small feat.

I had the chance to explain to President Obama last week on his first trip to the Everglades how freshwater discharges are hurting our community while freshwater is desperately needed in the Florida Bay, and how critical the Everglades restoration efforts are throughout the whole system.

Supporting the Corps' ongoing work in the Everglades is key for water quality in the Caloosahatchee River watershed, which includes Ft. Myers and Cape Coral, the St. Lucie River watershed in the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches that I represent, and throughout Florida.

Right now, a toxic blue-green algae bloom pictured here is threatening waterways in the most biodiverse estuary in all of North America. When toxic blooms hit our water, health advisories like this are posted—right here—warning people do not touch the very water that is the center of their livelihoods.

Supporting the Corps' Everglades work can help move restoration projects closer to completion, like the C-44 reservoir in Martin County, which will help hold water back from further harming the local population and ecologically fragile areas.

This is not the first time I have come to the House floor to address this issue. Every year, our communities face this same threat. And to the people that I represent, it is unsustainable, and it is time to stop this before lasting damage is done.

I, along with many people committed to protecting our water and our community, will not rest until the health advisories posted along our rivers and estuaries disappear once and for all. These aren't just our precious Everglades in Florida. This ecosystem is America's River of Grass with no place like it in the world. It must be protected at all costs.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON), who has been a tireless champion on Everglades restoration.

□ 2115

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Thank you to Representative MURPHY for his great

leadership on this issue, and particularly thank you to the chairman, Mr. SIMPSON, for his leadership and success in this endeavor.

Mr. Chairman, my first steps towards Congress began one summer day 2 years ago while I was wading in the Gulf of Mexico with my father, who is in the autumn of his lifetime. Walking beside my dad in knee-deep depth, the old vet and I couldn't see our own toes because of the dirty water. Dad looked at me, and he said, "Son, do something about this."

The Gulf had been contaminated by the discharge from Lake Okeechobee. The algae was in full bloom—toxic algae in our Gulf. Two years later, I humbly stand here and ask you: Please join me. Let's do something about this.

Clean water is both an environmental issue and a business issue. The dirty discharges damage our tourism, our economy, our drinking water, our beaches, our businesses, and our national treasure, the Everglades. The Federal Government and the State of Florida are already working to restore the Everglades with a larger freshwater supply, but we can do more.

I am asking you to help here by voting "yes" on this Murphy-Clawson amendment in order to help expedite projects like the critical South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to offer this amendment and to speak in support of a program that is important to my constituents and to all of those around the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration, also known as "GLFER," is responsible for the planning, design, and construction of projects to protect and restore the fisheries and aquatic habitat of the Great Lakes. These projects include the restoration of riverside and wetland habitats, the construction of fish passages, and improving spawning and nursery habitats. A critical part of this program is that it requires a 35 percent

cost share from a local sponsor. So it is not just Federal money. It is local money as well to fund this project.

GLFER is widely supported by those with a stake in the Great Lakes, including the Great Lakes Commission, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the Great Lakes fishing community.

Al House of Washburn, Wisconsin, one of my constituents and a board member of the Apostle Islands Sport Fisherman's Association, recently shared with me the importance of this program. He recounted: "In recent discussions with groups in Lake Superior's basin, sport fishermen are in unanimous agreement that the GLFER program offers invaluable support to fishery habitat and ecosystem restoration projects that maintain and restore the health of our Great Lakes."

This program has broad bipartisan support and the backing of environmental, industry, and recreational groups. Not often in this House do we see this kind of support across the spectrum.

It is authorized under WRRDA, similar to other regional restoration programs in south Florida and the Louisiana coastline, which are funded by the Army Corps of Engineers in this bill. Unfortunately, for the past several years, the Corps has chosen to include no funding for this program in the budget request. This is despite the calls from Congress to do so. In fact, language in the final funding bill for fiscal year 2015 urged the Corps to "budget for this aquatic habitat restoration program in future budget submissions as it is important to the overall Great Lakes Restoration effort." Again, they didn't include it in their budget.

This amendment is intended to ensure that the Army Corps actually provides the \$10 million necessary for the GLFER program in this fiscal year. This program should not have to rely on funding from other Great Lakes programs or wait for the leftovers of the Corps' to fund this very important project. I would hope that the Corps would follow the advice of Congress and actually account for this program in next year's budget request—actually listen to us.

I want to thank Chair Simpson and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this legislation and for their support on this issue. I would urge my colleagues to support our Great Lakes, to support our fish, and to support this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say to my fellow Great Lakes member that I appreciate his coming down here tonight at this late hour and representing the interests of the Great Lakes. We need stronger voices, and you, obviously, are one of those.

I am so glad that you are calling the Corps to task to pay attention to our region and to all of the improvements that are necessary to deal with the most vital body of freshwater on the face of the Earth and, certainly, in our country. I want to thank you very much, Congressman DUFFY, for your proposal. I think that the Corps will hear you. Many of us want to work with you and to do what we can to help not just this generation but those that follow in having access to this globally critical, precious freshwater resource that we call the Great Lakes. Thank you so very much for coming down this evening.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ms. KAPTUR for her support of this amendment and for all of her work on the Great Lakes.

It is remarkable that we have such a wonderful bipartisan group that has a wide variety of opinions in this Chamber but that comes together to support the health and well-being of our Great Lakes and of our fisheries. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$275,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$27,000,000)".

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$96,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arkansas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. First, let me thank the committee chairman and the staffs for their hard work in putting this bill together. I know it has taken a lot of time and the work of a lot of people to get it here today.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment restores funding for the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, which is the largest flood control project in the world, to its FY15 enacted levels. The MR&T is critical in preventing widely devastating floods and to ensure this waterway remains open and able to carry the massive stream of trade that is so vital to American commerce. The Mississippi River is a thriving economic thoroughfare in the United States, with billions of tons of cargo being transported up and down the river each year.

The MR&T has played an integral role in protecting the lower Mississippi valley from floods and enabling continuous navigation along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Since its inception in 1928, our Nation has received \$45 for every dollar invested while preventing \$612 billion in flood damages and protecting 4 million residents of the lower Mississippi River valley. The success of the project was on display in 2011, when the system withheld historic flooding that exceeded the benchmark set by the very 1927 flood which spurred the creation of the MR&T.

Not only does the MR&T protect lives and property in the lower Mississippi valley, but it also promotes navigation along the river and its tributaries, and it helps support a vibrant agriculture economy. Over 500 million tons of cargo move on the Mississippi River system each year, saving billions of dollars in domestic transportation costs and giving U.S. businesses a natural advantage.

At a time when the fiscal environment forces us to carefully evaluate where every dollar goes, I believe it is prudent to sufficiently fund projects like those covered under MR&T, which give taxpayers a return on their investment. I urge the support of this critical project.

I thank the chairman for his consideration, and I look forward to continuing to work with the committee and the chairman through the appropriations process on this critical investment in the Midsouth region.

Mr. Chair, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and

harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$3,058,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$36,306,000)”.

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$36,720,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to offer an amendment, along with my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), to ensure that the Federal Government meets its obligations to our ports, to our harbors, and, frankly, to the American people.

Just last year, this body overwhelmingly passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, WRRDA, by a vote of 412-4. It was later then

signed into law by President Obama. WRRDA includes a glide path to increase harbor maintenance funding to a level collected through the harbor maintenance tax, directing Congress this fiscal year to spend 69 percent of all of the funds collected from the user fee of that harbor maintenance. Now, that is just 69 percent this year with a 10-year glide path, and we are pleased that we are going to be able to use all of that funding for its intended purpose.

While I was hoping to achieve full expenditure for the trust fund right away, I was willing to compromise on this glide path as a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, the current version of the Energy and Water bill falls short of the mark by just over \$36 million.

I would like to thank the chairman for working with us on a bipartisan and, I should say, a bicoastal way with my coming from the west side of Michigan, the west coast of Michigan—and we have got the West Coast of the country with California—and for finding a bipartisan solution to hit the target and offset the cost by reducing spending elsewhere.

We can hit this WRRDA target, and we believe that this will ensure that the 140 federally maintained commercial and recreational ports and harbors in the Great Lakes will be adequately maintained. These Federal harbor channels, like Pentwater, White Lake, Ludington, Muskegon, Holland, and Grand Haven, in my district, are the lifeblood of these very communities. Let's keep our promise to these communities and to the taxpayers who support this and allow their ports and harbors to be engines of economic growth and create jobs for American workers, farmers, and manufacturers.

Again, thank you for working with us, Mr. Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. HAHN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I join my colleague and good friend from Michigan in offering the Huizenga-Hahn amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill in order to utilize the harbor maintenance trust fund at the target set forth in the recently passed Water Resources Reform and Development Act. As my colleague said, this is a very important part of what we compromised on in the WRRDA bill.

As a Representative of the Nation's busiest port complex in Los Angeles, along with Long Beach, and as the co-founder of the Ports Caucus, along with TED POE, I have fought so hard

since the first day I came to Congress to increase the funding for our Nation's ports and to fully utilize this harbor maintenance trust fund to ensure that the money that is collected at our ports goes back to our ports.

□ 2130

After working for months with my colleagues, we reached a plan to finally put the harbor maintenance trust fund to work and fully utilize it by 2025, but this bill on the floor today fails to follow the law we passed just last year with an overwhelming vote of 404-4. This bill is \$36 million behind our targets. For our Nation to remain globally competitive, we need to fund our port infrastructure.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers, we need to fully fund our harbor maintenance tax for 5 years to fully dredge our ports. Ports are crucial across this country. Americans expect to go to Target and have tennis shoes or toys on its shelves; our farmers need efficient ports to export our agriculture products, and we cannot let America's infrastructure crumble. That is unacceptable.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment because it is critically important that we provide the necessary funding to ensure that our ports are fully dredged and properly maintained. The port in Wilmington, North Carolina, plays a vital role in helping our State's farmers and other businesses export their goods to foreign markets.

In fact, a recent study showed that Wilmington's port contributes \$14 billion toward North Carolina's economy and supports, both directly and indirectly, nearly 77,000 jobs in our State. Without the proper funding, our ports will continue to deteriorate, and we risk putting our farmers and local industry—indeed, America—at a competitive disadvantage.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of the Huizenga and Hahn amendment. First, I would like to commend our Committee on Appropriations' efforts on the increased Army Corps of Engineers budget on the navigation safety and efficiency.

The committee's work this year, despite very low numbers from the budget, has been difficult. I would like to thank the chair, ranking member, and staff for your hard work in working with us.

In Texas, we have serious energy and water infrastructure needs. Representing a large part of the Port of

Houston, our need for operation and maintenance, as well as construction money, is significant. I greatly appreciate the committee's efforts to fund our needs by appropriating more than \$32 million for harbor maintenance, but this amount does not reflect the amount the Port of Houston needs or the amount of revenue it generates. The Port of Houston is the second largest port in the country by tonnage. The Port of Houston ranks number one in foreign tonnage.

For dredging operations alone, the Port of Houston requires more than \$50 million annually. Currently, the Port of Houston has a backlog of projects with the Corps of Engineers totaling almost \$100 million.

The Port of Houston generates significant tax revenue, both for the State and Federal Government. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, the Port of Houston needs the funding allocated from the harbor maintenance trust fund.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act, WRRDA, requires that 69 percent of harbor maintenance trust fund fees be spent on related activities. While the energy and water appropriators have done great things with limited resources, this bill shortchanges the Port of Houston and many other ports across the country.

I support the Huizenga-Hahn amendment. The approximately \$37 million shortfall significantly impacts the ability of the Port of Houston to receive larger ships, and it is our job to meet these demands.

I ask my colleagues to support the Huizenga and Hahn amendment.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM).

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON for putting the money for the whole E and W bill.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to ensure that Congress remains faithful to its obligation to fund important infrastructure projects. The harbor maintenance trust fund takes in enough revenue each year to provide the necessary maintenance of our harbor ports and channels.

However, for years, expenditure of these funds has failed to keep up with the annual revenues. This amendment would simply keep us on schedule to hit the harbor maintenance target authorized by law in the Water Resource Reform and Development Act.

This fund helps the Army Corps of Engineers provide dredging and maintenance for critical ports and channels throughout the country. In my district alone, these funds have been used to provide needed dredging at the Lake Providence Harbor, the Madison Parish Port, and ensure that the Ouachita and Black Rivers and the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway remain open to transportation and commerce.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment that will keep our Nation's critical arteries open for business.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I just really want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for allowing us to offer this amendment tonight. I really want to thank my colleague, Mr. HUIZENGA, for his incredible passion and his ability to move this forward in a way that was acceptable tonight.

I think our ports and waterways across this country will thank the gentleman, but more importantly, I really believe that, when our ports and waterways are strong, this country will be strong, and I thank the gentleman very much for that.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Huizenga-Hahn amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I, too, want to thank my colleague, Ms. HAHN, for her work on the Huizenga-Hahn amendment. It has been a pleasure to work with her over a few years as we have gone to battle over this issue and for this issue; and ultimately, as she pointed out, having a port system that is functional, that is usable, is critical to the economy of our Nation.

I, too, want to thank Chairman SIMPSON for his work and willingness to sit down and work through some issues with us. I pledge to the chairman—and I know Representative HAHN does as well—that, as we are going through this process, we will continue to refine how the harbor maintenance trust fund works, and I look forward to having this amendment be passed.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan and the gentlelady from California for working with us on this.

What a lot of people may not understand is the challenge that presents us with the harbor maintenance trust fund and the way it is scored and the way it is counted for. I am one who believes that, if you have got a problem and you are going to tax people in order to address that problem, you ought to spend the money that you are receiving to address the problem.

Instead, what happens is we spend—as I think the gentleman said, 69 percent is the target—we will only spend 69 percent of what came in this year in the harbor maintenance trust fund on actually dredging the harbors and so forth. That seems rather silly. I think we ought to be able to spend it all if we have got a problem. If we are not going to spend it all, we shouldn't tax it.

The problem is the way we score things and the budget around here is

that we are given an overall cap in the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations. We have to have our total bill come in under that cap.

If we spend more money in the harbor maintenance area, even though we have that money in a trust fund, then we have to decrease spending in everything else, such as the other energy portions of the bill or something like that, so increasing it even more decreases what we can spend in other needed areas. That is the challenge we face.

What I would like to do is work with all of the supporters of the harbor maintenance trust fund to find a way that we can address this issue—it is really an issue created by us—but address this issue so that the funds that we collect in the harbor maintenance trust fund can actually go out and do what we expect them to do.

I do appreciate the gentlelady from California and the gentleman from Michigan and the others that are interested. I should mention the other gentleman from Louisiana that is not here that has been an advocate for this for many years and many Congresses, Mr. BOUSTANY. I do thank you for working on this and working with the committee to try to address this to see if we can get up to the target.

The other thing is it was said that we didn't reach the target in this. While it depends on kind of how you look at it, there are, as you know, other purposes for which the harbor maintenance trust fund is spent, Saint Lawrence Seaway and also for one of the other accounts in transportation for border security and stuff.

If you count those in the total spending of WRRDA, it probably does come close to reaching the target, as long as those committees appropriate what was requested. I don't know whether they will or not, but if they do.

I think working in a bipartisan way, we have come up with the best we can do to address this. I know it is of high importance to all Members of Congress. I thank the gentlelady and the gentleman for working with the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support and as a cosponsor of the Huizenga-Hahn Amendment to increase funding in the 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance Account by \$36,306,000. This modest increase, offset by reducing funding for the Department of Energy, Departmental Administration, by \$36.7 million, will benefit Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund related projects.

I have the good fortune to represent the city of Boston and its Port. Like many ports in this country, the port of Boston is vital to the local and regional economies, generating \$2.4 billion in economic benefits annually and supporting 34,000 jobs.

In fact, every one of our 50 states relies on seaports for imports and exports, totaling some \$3.8 billion worth of goods moving through U.S. seaports each day, supporting more than 13 million jobs across the country.

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was created in 1986 to ensure that we could maintain and expand our ports and harbors in order to facilitate commerce and drive our economy. For too long Congress has engaged in budgetary shell games, starving the fund and hampering our ability to undertake dredging projects critical to maintaining this vital infrastructure.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013, which the House passed overwhelmingly last year by a vote of 412–4, moved to rectify this situation by setting incremental target expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that reaches 80% in 2020.

Mr. Chair, our amendment is simply in line with the amount overwhelmingly supported by my colleagues, increasing from \$1.178 billion to \$1.25 billion the amount allocated from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, in order to support the critical needs of our nation's ports. The balance in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund at the beginning of fiscal 2016 will be approximately \$8.9 billion. The money is there. With the re-opening of the Panama Canal slated for next year we need to re-double our efforts to make certain that U.S. ports are prepared for increased commercial opportunities and will remain competitive.

All of our constituents benefit from the success of U.S. ports. It is time that we provide the resources to ensure that success. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,500,000)”.

Page 6, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,500,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from South Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, so many things we do here in Washington are nonsensical. Our tax system is not competitive; our immigration system is not competitive; our regulatory system is not competitive, and our infrastructure is deteriorating. Our ports are certainly a very, very critical part of our infrastructure.

When we have a situation where it takes 15-plus years to get environmental permitting done for the Port Everglades, when we are on the fourth

year of studying the Charleston port—one of the most efficient ports on the East Coast—and when it has been 10 years since we have had dredging funds for the small Port of Georgetown in my district, our infrastructure continues to deteriorate; the country becomes less competitive, and thousands more American jobs are lost.

With limited funds, it is increasingly difficult for small harbors to compete with larger projects. Given this competition for scarce funds, very few small projects make the President's budget and receive funding.

What my amendment proposes to do, Mr. Chairman, is to remove \$4.5 million from the Army Corps' regulatory budget, which the regulatory division of the Army Corps of Engineers continues to grow and promulgate more regulations that make our country even less competitive, such as the expansion of the Clean Water Act that are currently proposed.

This would take money from that regulatory division and put it into the operating and maintenance division so that these moneys can be used to actually make our ports work again.

The bottom line is our harbors are showing, and we need to increase money to maintenance accounts so that our harbors can compete. In my district, the Port of Georgetown has not received maintenance dredging in over a decade. This is a port that handled 1.7 million tons of cargo in the year 2000. The economy in the area is largely dependent on the port, and the port is getting more and more shallow each year.

The State of South Carolina has pledged \$18 million for port dredging. The ports authority in South Carolina has pledged \$5 million, and even the Georgetown County voters have passed a referendum that will apply \$6 million to dredge the harbor. Currently, Georgetown is waiting for the President or the Army Corps of Engineers to realize its importance and fund the Federal portion of this project.

It is vitally important for the Corps' maintenance account to be sufficient, which is why my amendment transfers \$4.5 million from regulatory activities to maintaining our harbors.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2145

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. It is my understanding the gentleman is going to withdraw the amendment after speaking on it.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. If the chairman is going to oppose my amendment, I will withdraw it out of respect for the chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand the desire and the

need for sufficient funding for harbor maintenance. That was a debate we just had here on the floor, but this House adopted an amendment from my colleague from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) to meet the annual target set for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. We hit the target we all agreed to.

Additionally, while I certainly take issue with some of the regulatory changes this administration is pursuing, the Corps does need funding for processing permits in a timely manner.

The underlying bill already eliminates funding for the changes to the waters of the United States. We do not want to slow down other necessary activities.

For these reasons, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment, but I certainly understand his concern and his desire with this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this good piece of legislation.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Are there further amendments?

If not, the Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 6, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$424,000)”.

Page 28, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$424,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment which seeks to ensure the adequate resources for the Department of Energy's inspector general's office.

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I am a firm believer in oversight of the Federal Government. The more sunlight on Federal activity, the more honest and efficient it will be. I am also a strong proponent of our inspector general community.

Since the Inspector General Act was passed into law, the IG community has saved taxpayers billions of dollars and

has uncovered countless examples of wrongdoing in the Federal Government.

I just read a GAO investigation report yesterday that found that loans currently in the Department of Energy portfolio are expected to cost the taxpayers more than \$2.2 billion. The report went on to state that \$807 million of the \$2.2 billion is a result of bad loans that have already defaulted. In fact, five major DOE loans have already defaulted from the agency's 2014 portfolio.

The report also noted that the cost to the taxpayers from these flawed DOE loans could even exceed the \$2.2 billion estimated figure. "The final credit subsidy cost of a given loan or loan guarantee will not be known until the life of the loan is complete . . . Both DOE loan programs can expose the government and taxpayers to substantial financial risk if borrowers default."

Further, this committee noted in the committee report accompanying this bill: "The committee is also concerned that the Department is failing in its responsibility to ensure that DOE contracts with incurred costs valued at billions of dollars per year are audited in a timely manner."

Clearly, there is a lack of oversight and accountability within DOE that needs to change. It is the responsibility of the DOE inspector general to report to Congress on these issues so that we can rectify these problems and ensure taxpayers aren't exposed to another Solyndra.

I applaud the committee for recommending resources above and beyond last year's enacted levels, but the recommended level is still beneath the President's budget request.

Let's give the inspector general's office the resources it needs. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$104,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 6, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$400,000)".

Page 22, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$22,661,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$34,000,000)".

Page 24, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$227,000)".

Page 25, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$32,262,000)".

Page 25, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,000)".

Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,119,000)".

Page 35, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,632,000)".

Page 49, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 51, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$23,101,000)".

Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$128,920,000)".

Mr. SIMPSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment continues the effort to stop or, at least in this case, to freeze appropriations that are made for agencies whose legal authorizations lapsed many years and even decades ago.

Ever since 1835, the rules of the House have forbidden spending any money for purposes unauthorized by current law; yet today, about one-third of our discretionary spending is for unauthorized programs.

Why is that? Well, it is because the rule against unauthorized spending cannot be enforced because it is always waived by the resolutions that bring these bills to the floor.

The bill before us today contains \$25 billion in unauthorized spending for programs that have not been reviewed by the authorizing committees since as far back as 1980, Jimmy Carter's last year in office.

I am sure that some—even many—of these programs are valuable and worthy of taxpayer dollars, but surely others are not. The fact that they have not been authorized in as many as 35 years ought to warn us to at least be a little more careful in continuing to fund them.

Rather than review our spending decisions and making tough choices about spending priorities, Congress simply rubberstamps these programs out of habit, year after year. It is no wonder we are so deeply in debt with so little to show for it.

My amendment does not defund these unauthorized programs, as the House rules require. It simply freezes spending on them at last year's level.

The cuts contained in this amendment total \$129 million, or about thirty-six one-hundredths of 1 percent of the total spending in this bill.

This House has a responsibility to examine these programs, reauthorize the ones that work, and modify or end the ones that don't. It has a responsibility, but it has no incentive, as long as we keep funding them and, worse, increasing the funding that these programs receive.

In a sense, this is a token. It is a symbol. Reducing this bill by thirty-six one-hundredths of 1 percent will have no appreciable effect on the \$35.5 million in this appropriation or the \$3.8 trillion the Federal Government plans to spend this year, but I hope that it will send a subtle but clear message that the Members of this House insist that the Congress reassert its constitutional responsibility to authorize Federal spending and to enforce its own rules that prohibit spending blindly on unauthorized programs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I have to tell you, in all honesty, I understand what he is trying to do, and I agree with him in many ways; but, when he says we have to observe the rules of the House, the rules of the House also allow for the Rules Committee to write a rule that overrides the rules of the House. If it is approved by a majority, guess what, that is what happens. We are following the rules of the House, but he raises a point that is of concern—and should be.

When I was chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, we tried to defund the Endangered Species Act and designations of critical habitat because the Endangered Species Act had not been reauthorized for something like 23 or 26 years.

We lost an amendment on the floor to put the money back into it, but we were trying to make a point—and I was supported by the chairman of the Resources Committee—but we were trying to make the point that the authorizing committees need to get busy and do their job. I fully believe that.

That was 8 years ago. We still haven't done anything to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, and the chairman at that time supported what we were trying to do. I haven't seen any reauthorization bills come up.

Now, if you look at what is not authorized in the Federal Government right now—or where authorizations have expired—I think there is a reason for an expiration date. It is so that you go in and review the program and see if the need is still there, can we do it better, do we need to make changes, is there still a justification for the program.



The problem is the authorizing committees have failed in many respects in that responsibility. If we were to simply defund everything where authorizations have expired—I think the Department of State authorization has expired; I am not sure we want to defund the Department of State; some people might want to—but there is an awful lot. I think, in most senior programs, the authorizations have expired, and you can go through the list.

While the gentleman raises a very valid point and one that I would like to help work with him on trying to address, the Appropriations Committee is trying to do our job of oversight. That is why we have hearings.

Is it the best place to do oversight of the need for the programs? We do oversight on how the money is spent and so forth, but the authorizing committees are the best place to look at the programs and see in their totality if they are still needed or not.

While I sympathize—and I know that is not what the gentleman from California wants—while I sympathize with what the gentleman is trying to do—and even agree with what he is trying to do—I have to rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, but I thank him for bringing a very important subject to this floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I, as well as the chairman, appreciate the gentleman coming to the floor and pointing out some of the inadequacies of process here, but I wanted to just state for the record that a couple of the items that the gentleman targets, I think, would do damage to the country.

For example, the accounts that deal with cleaning up the cold war legacy, that means that communities across our country that sacrificed in the name of the country would have to wait even longer for a resolution to the contamination that exists.

It is astounding how much there is from coast-to-coast. When you start looking, you almost want to close the book because there is so much, and I think that the communities that have been dealing with these remediation problems over the years would not appreciate the gentleman's amendment this evening.

□ 2200

In addition to that, I wanted to say something about ARPA-E, where we have our advanced energy research going on. You know, the United States is not energy secure. We are still too vulnerable here at home on many levels, and ARPA-E provides us with a real global advantage.

I don't think we need to shave anything from ARPA-E because if I look

at some of the competition that is coming at us from China, for example, it is even coming in very unfair ways, such as hacking into our intellectual property that any of our private companies hold.

We view ARPA-E as essential to our future, really, with what we are doing within the global marketplace. So I think the gentleman is very well-intentioned in trying to have regular order. I wish that it all worked so perfectly, but I don't think that we should hurt communities across this country nor the long-term energy interests of the Nation, because I think that is what would be done if the gentleman's amendment were to pass.

I just wanted to put that on the RECORD and rise in opposition, but I respect the gentleman for coming down here and for trying to perfect the way that we conduct the affairs of the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I appreciate the gentlelady's kind words.

I would point out that this defunds nothing. All that it does is to freeze spending of those unauthorized programs at last year's level until the authorizing committees actually sit down and review them and revise them and reauthorize them. Nor is anything in the NDAA affected by this freeze.

I appreciate my friend from Idaho's sympathy, but I would trade it in a moment for his support. And I would point out that this amendment, the whole point of this amendment is that authorizing committees have got to review, reauthorize, revise, or repeal these measures. They have got to do one of those things.

But why should they, why would they want to go to all of the fuss and bother of reviewing these programs, taking on entrenched interests, asking hard questions, making people cranky in the process, when all they have to do, under our current practice, is sit there, do absolutely nothing, and the funding, just like the mighty Mississippi, just keeps rolling along.

We cannot continue down this course responsibly. We have a responsibility to the American people to do that heavy lifting, to go through these programs with a fine-tooth comb, to make the revisions that are necessary according to our own experience and, in the most important mandate this Congress has been given, to stop wasting people's money.

This measure is a very small step. To suggest that it is going to have dire consequences, cutting thirty-six one-hundredths of 1 percent of the total funds in this bill, is a measure of how out of control our thinking on spending has gotten.

So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I would ask for this single token, that we take a stand and at least freeze the unauthorized spending.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have left?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for his comments and for proposing this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The CHAIR. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. I would hate to get the idea, when he says stop wasting taxpayer money that, just because we are funding these programs that haven't been reauthorized, we are wasting taxpayer money. We actually look at these programs very deeply when we do the appropriations process.

And, in fact, I wouldn't want to suggest to the American people that we never eliminate any program that authorizations have expired on or whose need we have deemed has run out. When I was chairman of the Committee on the Interior, I think we eliminated something like 59 different programs that we no longer needed. So it is not that we sit here and just continue to fund things, but we do look at the programs, the need for the programs.

I fully agree with the gentleman about the need to somehow change this so that the authorizing committees can do their—or will do their—authorizations work. But the Appropriations Committee holds probably more hearings than any other committee in this body and looks at these programs very deeply.

There may be differences about what is necessary and what is appropriate for funding between Members of this body, but what we come out with is a bill that we think a majority of the Members of this body can support.

So I look forward to working with the gentleman from California to try to address what is a real problem that he brings up, but I would hope my colleagues would oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs,



and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$34,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$180,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$4,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That not more than 25 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in this title (as designated under such heading in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act) to specific programs, projects, or activities.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;
- (4) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act;
- (5) increases funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or
- (6) reduces funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity authorized under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, or

section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992.

(c) The Corps of Engineers shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 103. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$4,700,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definitions of the terms "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, beginning on line 10, strike section 104.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is very simple. It strikes section 104 of this bill.

Section 104 would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from updating regulations pertaining to the definitions of "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Clean Water Act.

When Congress first enacted the Clean Water Act, and for nearly 35 years after its passage, the law kept America's lakes, rivers, and streams safe from mining pollution, protecting our wildlife and our drinking water. That is no longer the case today.

My amendment would remove this anti-Clean Water Act rider. Current and future administrations should have the flexibility to change the definitions of "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" should they wish to.

When Congress first enacted the Clean Water Act, the 404 permit process was supposed to be used for certain construction projects like bridges and roads where raising the bottom elevation of a water body or converting an area into dry land was unavoidable.

Under a 2002 rule change, the definition of "fill material" was broadened to include: "rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, and overburden from mining or other excavation activities." The revised rule also removed regulatory language which previously excluded "waste" discharges from section 404 jurisdiction, a change that some argue allows the use of 404 permits to authorize certain discharges that harm the aquatic environment.

The Clean Water Act, section 404(b)(1) guidelines are not well-suited for evaluating the environmental effects of discharging hazardous wastes such as mining refuse and similar materials into a water body or wetland.

In sum, the net effect of the 2002 rule change was to alter the Corps permit process in ways that Congress never intended. It was not congressional intent to allow mining refuse and similar material, some of it hazardous, to qualify as "fill material" and thereby bypass a more thorough environmental review and meet Federal pollution standards. Downstream water users have every right to be concerned that the section 404 process fails to protect them from the discharge of hazardous substances.

Lower Slate Lake in Alaska is the perfect example. A permit allows the discharge of toxic wastewater from a gold ore processing mill to go untreated directly into the lake, despite the fact that the discharge violates EPA's standards for the mining industry.

Mining waste can contain toxic chemicals known to pose health risks to humans and aquatic animals, and continuing the practice of dumping this waste into our Nation's streams and rivers is dangerous and irresponsible. EPA estimates that 120 miles per year of headwater streams are buried with the chemical-laden discharge as a result of surface mining operations under the existing definitions of "fill."

Equally important, a 2008 EPA study found evidence that mining activities can have severe impacts on downstream aquatic life and the biological conditions of a stream. That same study found that 9 out of every 10 streams downstream from surface mining operations were impaired based on assessments of aquatic life.

Mr. Chairman, this provision is a preemptive strike against protecting our drinking water, and since there is no time limit on the provision, it would not only block the current Obama administration, but any future administration from considering changes.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and to strike section 104 from this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. It seems like old times. You just changed your appearance.

Mr. Moran and I, your colleague before you, he and I had this discussion many, many times on the Clean Water Act and waters of the United States and fill material and so forth, and it seems like you just look different than he used to.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The language in the bill is intended simply to maintain the status quo regarding what is "fill material" for the purposes of the Clean Water Act.

The existing definition was put in place through a rulemaking initiated by the Clinton administration and finalized by the Bush administration. The rule aligned the definitions on the books of the Corps and the EPA, so that both agencies were working with the same definition.

Changing the definition again, as some have proposed, could effectively kill mining operations across much of this country. For that reason, I support the underlying language in the bill. That is why we put it in the bill, and I oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations and guidance in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including the provisions of the rules dated November 13, 1986, and August 25, 1993, relating to such jurisdiction, and the guidance documents dated January 15, 2003, and December 2, 2008, relating to such jurisdiction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, beginning on line 19, strike section 105.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would simply strike sec-

tion 105. As it stands, section 105 would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing its proposed regulation clarifying the limits of Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

This language is not new. I understand we have seen it a number of times. The difference is that the conversation has since progressed, and almost everyone agrees that clarity is needed. Calls for the EPA to issue a rule even came from such notable organizations as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Western Business Roundtable, and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Prohibiting EPA from finalizing the rule, as section 105 would direct, would perpetuate this confusion, and there are countless cases that reiterate this point.

For example, the EPA acknowledged enforcement difficulties in a case in which storm water from construction sites carried oil, grass, grease, and other pollutants into tributaries to the San Pedro River, which is an internationally recognized river ecosystem supporting diverse wildlife but where the waters in question only flow for part of the year. The Agency stated that it "had to discontinue all enforcement cases in this area because it was so time-consuming and costly to prove that the Clean Water Act protects these rivers."

We need to end the confusion and, through a public comment process and appropriate congressional oversight, allow the administration to move forward and complete a formal rulemaking.

It also needs to be said that the opponents of the Clean Water rule have it wrong. The proposed rule respects agriculture and the law by maintaining all of the existing exemptions for agricultural discharges and water. It identifies specific types of water bodies to which it does not apply, areas like artificial lakes and ponds, and many types of drainage and irrigation ditches. It does not extend Federal protection to any waters not historically protected under the Clean Water Act, and it is fully consistent with the law and the decisions of the Supreme Court.

The administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans.

If Congress blocks this proposal to protect clean water, 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk. Stopping this proposal will also impact the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

American businesses need to know when the Federal Government has authority and when it doesn't, and without updated guidance, businesses will often not know when they need Army Corps of Engineers permits. This uncer-

tainty could subject them to civil and criminal liability and will certainly cost them extra money.

□ 2215

The clean water rule will largely restore but not expand historic coverage of the Clean Water Act at no direct cost to the public. EPA estimates that the clean water rule would provide up to \$514 million annually in benefits to the public.

Updating the rules and guidance is essential. We need to allow EPA and the Corps to do their job and clarify their rules and guidance. If they fail to do it in accordance with existing law, more lawsuits will ensue.

Overall, these anti-Clean Water Act riders are part of an effort to return us to a time when we had no uniform national minimum clean water standard and States had conflicting policies or no policies at all. That was a time when rivers were so polluted, they caught fire, and responsible downstream States suffered the consequences of lax or weak upstream States' policies.

Today we have cleaner, more drinkable waters precisely because of the Clean Water Act.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this clean water rider and support our amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Last spring, the administration proposed a rule that would greatly expand the Federal jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act to include waters that were traditionally understood to be under State jurisdiction.

Let me repeat that. Many people believed that if the waters were not regulated under the Clean Water Act, they were unregulated. Not true. They were regulated by the States. And that is where it should remain.

Now, there became a question of, under the Clean Water Act, under "navigable waters," what the heck does that mean? It was very confusing. Does it mean navigable by a steamship, navigable by a boat, a canoe, an inner tube? And the Court said, You need to clarify this.

Well, the EPA essentially said, Well, we can clarify that. We will just control all the waters and take them out of State control.

I think that is a problem, and I can tell you that it is a real problem for States in the West, particularly.

The administration's proposed rule is inconsistent with two separate Supreme Court decisions that clearly said the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency had gone too far in that Federal jurisdiction

under the Clean Water Act was not as broad as they had claimed.

Deciding how water is used should be the responsibility of State and local officials who are familiar with the people and local issues.

Under the rule provided by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, they are saying intermittent streams. Any streams that don't have water running in them, but maybe a month or two a year, now fall under their jurisdiction.

And under the connectivity rule, which is what this is—you know, the hip bone is connected to the leg bone is connected to the knee bone sort of thing—under the connectivity rule, while they say that this is not their intent, there is no way that you cannot eventually say that we are going to control groundwater also—not just surface water but groundwater also—because it is connected to the surface water also.

So while there may be a desire for clarity on the issue of Federal jurisdiction, providing clarity does not trump the need to stay within the limits of the law. The proposed rule would expand Federal jurisdiction far beyond what was ever intended by the Clean Water Act. The provision in the Energy and Water bill does not weaken the Clean Water Act. It stops the administration from expanding Federal jurisdiction.

For those reasons, I strongly oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.) for the activities identified in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 404(f)(1) of the Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A), (C)).

SEC. 107. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SEC. 108. No funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative of dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341.

## TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

#### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$9,874,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,300,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

#### WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$948,640,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$22,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$5,899,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, before I begin, I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their hard work and collaboration on this important bill.

I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, that provides additional, critical resources for the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake projects that address the historic and severe drought conditions across the West.

Mr. Chairman, one of the worst droughts in modern history is ravaging our Nation's crops, choking our fragile economic recovery, and placing our water supply in unprecedented jeopardy.

Last year, more than 60 percent of the contiguous United States suffered drought conditions, and the West continues to bear the brunt of this burden. In the Olympic Mountains of northwest Washington State, the snowpack contained just 7 percent of the average. In California, the drought is the worst to hit the State since record-keeping started in 1895. 2013 was the driest year on record, and 2014 was the hottest.

The impacts of this severe drought are harsh and far-reaching, threatening public health, degrading the environment, increasing the risk of wildfires, and hampering a wide range of industries.

In 2012, California's agriculture industry contributed over \$45 billion to the United States economy. Last year, because of the drought, hundreds of thousands of acres were left fallow because sufficient water was unavailable. According to a University of California study, this cost the State \$2.2 billion in direct economic output and the devastating loss of 17,100 seasonal and part-time jobs.

These effects will be felt by Americans across the country. This year, the price of fruits and vegetables is expected to rise 3 percent, in part due to the severe drought conditions in California.

Furthermore, continuing to draw down groundwater supplies in California will have dangerous public health impacts. In rural communities, where residents rely on wells for drinking water, reduced groundwater levels result in higher concentrations of contaminants, including dangerous nitrates and arsenic.

Stagnant pools have also created breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The California Department of Public Health announced in April that the State had a record-breaking number of deaths related to the mosquito-borne West Nile virus in 2014.

In addition to West Nile, the arid conditions could also increase the number of cases of valley fever, a potentially fatal disease caused by a fungus called *Coccidioides* that can grow in

the soil and becomes airborne if the soil dries out. While the majority of people exposed to the spores do not exhibit symptoms, people who start to develop the disease can have cough, fever, headache, and, in rare cases, it can lead to death.

It is time for action at all levels of government to address the dangerous economic and public health impacts of ignoring this drought.

Back home in the southern California desert, local water agencies are working to help residents, businesses, and municipalities convert their lawns and landscaping into water-efficient desert landscapes.

At the Federal level, the Bureau of Reclamation is investing in public-private partnerships to help improve the delivery of water for agricultural users, which in turn allows them to invest in more water-efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation.

The Bureau can also help communities whose wells have run dry due to excessive groundwater pumping install relief wells that provide, in some cases, the only source of freshwater for an entire town. And through one of the most successful water conservation grant programs, the WaterSMART program, the Bureau has helped local water agencies, tribal governments, irrigation districts, and State agencies implement water conservation techniques that have conserved over 860,000 acre-feet of water since 2009.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, my amendment would simply shift funding away from taxpayer-subsidized fossil fuel research that benefits the wealthiest oil companies that can pay for the research themselves and redirect it toward critical Bureau of Reclamation activities to address the impacts of this devastating drought and help mitigate future droughts.

We must put the American economy, our constituents, and the public's health above politics and Big Oil. I urge my colleagues to come together to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I understand the gentleman seeks to show support for additional funding for projects that are drought-related in California and other places, but we must be mindful of the balancing and competing priorities across this bill.

The gentleman would take \$20 million out of the fossil energy account. As I have said before, fossil fuels—such as coal, oil, natural gas—provide nearly 85 percent of the energy used by the Nation's homes and businesses and will continue to provide for the majority of our energy needs for the foreseeable future.

The bill rejects the administration's proposed reductions to fossil energy and, instead, funds these programs at \$605 million, \$34 million above last year. With this additional funding, the Office of Fossil Energy will research how heat can more efficiently be converted into electricity in a cross-cutting effort with nuclear and solar energy programs, how water can be more efficiently used in power plants, and how coal can be used to produce electric power through fuel cells.

This amendment would reduce funding for a program that ensures that we use our Nation's abundant fossil fuel resources as well and as cleanly as possible. Therefore, I must oppose the amendment and urge other Members to do so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their leadership and hard work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to come together in a bipartisan fashion and support my amendment to ensure the Bureau dedicates essential resources towards projects that will help keep American-made food on the table and prevent a dangerous rise in food prices across the country, again, just taking money from taxpayer-subsidized research that they can afford on their own and putting it to combating our drought.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their collaborative effort in bringing together this bill.

I appreciate very much Chairman SIMPSON's support of my floor amend-

ment last year, reprogramming funds within the Bureau of Reclamation's water conservancy and delivery fund to advance and complete ongoing work that would provide efficient delivery of clean drinking water from an existing multipurpose reclamation project, as authorized by Congress in 1962.

Mr. Chairman, water is the lifeblood of the Western United States and is absolutely critical to the vitality of our communities and local economies.

Today I am offering a simple amendment that will bolster the Bureau of Reclamation's water and related resources account by \$2 million, allowing the Bureau of Reclamation to proceed with ongoing water supply delivery projects at a more efficient pace to reach our shared goals in meeting increased water demands by developing and maximizing clean water supplies.

In Colorado, as is the case throughout the West, we have similar needs to move forward with engineering design work on the authorized features of existing reclamation projects. These projects improve water supply quality, address water shortage issues, improve conservation measures, and stabilize water supplies.

□ 2230

In the Western United States, water is an economic driver. In order to attract more economic growth, either in business or agriculture, every industry in the West is dependent upon an ample and safe water supply.

This amendment will provide Bureau of Reclamation increased funding to continue with these types of projects while simultaneously improving public health and protecting the environment. These projects are critically important during drought years so that water is appropriately allocated for both municipal and agricultural uses.

The Bureau's budget has been previously used for the California Central Valley Project, the Washington State Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, the Arkansas Valley Conduit in Colorado, and the Lewiston Orchards Project in the chairman's home State of Idaho.

It is our hope that this bill gives the Bureau of Reclamation the resources it needs to advance vital projects that resolve water shortage issues in the West while enhancing regional development and promoting job growth.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK), the coauthor of this amendment and my colleague.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment from my colleague from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

Mr. Chairman, we have a history of borrowing for the future in this country. We have borrowed for fighting wars, for building roads, and for building space programs. Now, we are borrowing from the future, as opposed to

for the future. We have \$18 trillion of debt, and we will add to that debt this year.

This project was authorized in 1962, and it is required more recently by the EPA's interpretation of the Clean Water Act. We have 40 communities in southeast Colorado who are in violation of the Clean Water Act because of naturally occurring elements. This amendment offers those communities a future.

If we have to incur debt, let it be an investment for our children's future.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to Chairman SIMPSON.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentlemen from Colorado, both of them, for offering this amendment and bringing this issue before the committee. We have no objection with the amendment and would be happy to accept it.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$49,528,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

#### CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$37,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further*, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

#### POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2017, \$59,500,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimburs-

able as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: *Provided*, That not more than 25 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until Reclamation complies with congressional and statutory direction related to Technical Memorandum 8140-CC-2004-1 ("Corrosion Considerations for Buried Metallic Water Pipe") and the associated pipeline reliability study: *Provided further*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits—

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$300,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category; or

(7) transfers, when necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "transfer" means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the "Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan" and the "SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan" described in the report entitled "Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995", prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall—

(1) complete the feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(I) and (ii)(II) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108-361 (118 Stat. 1684) and submit such studies to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than December 31, 2015;

(2) complete the feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(II) and (ii)(I) of section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108-361 and submit such studies to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than November 30, 2016;

(3) complete the feasibility study described in section 103(f)(1)(A) of Public Law 108-361 (118 Stat. 1694) and submit such study to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than December 31, 2017; and

(4) provide a progress report on the status of the feasibility studies referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3) to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and each 180 days thereafter until December 31, 2017, as applicable. The report shall include timelines for study completion, draft environmental impact statements, final environmental impact statements, and Records of Decision.

#### TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS

##### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,657,774,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$150,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

##### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

Mr. GRIFFITH. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount insert "reduced by \$50,000,000".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, over the past 6 years, the policy of the current administration has been to wage a war on coal that has crippled the coal industry and left areas like Virginia's Ninth District economically devastated, and I believe it has put our access to reliable, affordable electricity in jeopardy.

The onslaught of harmful, burdensome, and unreasonable regulations on coal-fired power plants is continuing in the President's Clean Power Plan. States must come up with a plan for CO<sub>2</sub> in 13 months after the final rule is released, which is supposed to be that summer. That State plan is then to begin by 2020 and completed by 2030.

There are a number of clean coal technologies currently in development, but according to the testimony from the Department of Energy, these new technologies are not likely to be ready for prime time until 2025. That is 9 years after the States have to come up with a plan and 5 years after the States have to begin implementing that plan and halfway through the time to come into compliance.

This is not right. If we are to avoid rolling brownouts, coal will have to continue to be used; but, if we don't take action, it will be illegal to use coal.

While I fight and will continue to fight more for more reasonable regulations, we must take action to ensure that we can still use coal, should the next administration also be unreasonable and anticoal.

Mr. Chairman, to bend the curve of development and bring the new coal technologies to market, we must spend some money. My amendment will simply add \$50 million for fossil energy research and development from energy efficiency and renewable energy for the purpose of aiding the development of these new clean coal technologies so we can continue to have reliable, affordable energy.

The very least we can do is to make sure that coal-fired power plants have access to these new technologies in a timely fashion so that they can meet these extremely burdensome regulations.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the underlying bill provides a 6 percent increase in fossil fuel energy research. However, when districts like mine are seeing mine after mine shut down and power plants shut down because of numerous regulations on coal, it is clear that more needs to be done.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the gentleman from Virginia's amendment. I wanted to point out—perhaps he doesn't have the full numbers—but the figure that we have, we had a request from the administration of \$560 million, and we actually increased the administration's request by \$45 million to a level of \$605 million for fossil energy research, which is more than we spent in this fiscal year of 2015. We are spending \$571 million this year, so I would say that the fossil energy accounts have been rather well provided for.

I also want to say to the gentleman that you are taking the funds from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account, and that account is not above last year. It is \$266 million below last year. What is in the account, what remains there, is focused on American manufacturing—which is important in Virginia—and vehicle technology, which are really not partisan interests.

My own view is that, if you were to take the amount of funds that you are proposing out of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account, you would decimate these programs and further erode manufacturing which has taken such big hits.

Let me also mention that since 2003, our country has spent \$2.3 trillion importing foreign petroleum. This shifts vast amounts of wealth abroad and squelches thousands upon thousands of jobs in our country in the energy sector.

I agree with the gentleman that a diverse energy portfolio is necessary to eliminate our reliance on imported energy, and we need an "all of the above" strategy. Our bill provides that in terms of not just fossil energy, but renewable energies. We should be leading investment in these technologies across the board and expanding jobs in our country.

Though I appreciate the gentleman's interest—and I know Virginia has coal deposits, so does Ohio—but I really feel that the bill that we have worked out on a bipartisan basis provides very, very well for fossil energy, certainly better than the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy accounts fared.

I would oppose the amendment, and I would ask our colleagues to join us in doing the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

My colleague's amendment would increase funding for the Fossil Energy research and development program and decrease the EERE account by the same amount as an offset.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague's concern to protect the fossil

fuel industry against overreach by this administration's Clean Power Plan proposal.

This amendment would advance research and development in allowing robust utilization of our abundant natural resources in a safe and efficient way. Therefore, I support the amendment and urge Members to do the same.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Using the remainder of my time, Mr. Chairman, I would have to say that I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments, and I appreciate the chairman's support.

The bottom line is that we are losing thousands of jobs in the central Appalachian region, and according to the Bristol Herald Courier in a recent article, 1,000 jobs have been lost in the last year alone in the coal fields. That is one concern.

We are shutting down this month several coal-powered power plants in my district, and we are going to have serious problems if we don't do something. If we are going to continue down this path, we have to help the industry. We have to help make sure that we are burning the coal in a clean manner, and this is the way to do it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$266,161,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$355,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$266 million, to simply restore it to last year's levels, with an offset from the fossil energy account.

My amendment will boost energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives across America that have a proven return on investment for taxpayers. This amendment is paid for by reducing—but not by eliminating—accounts that do not have the same return on investment for taxpayers.



Unless we adopt this amendment, America's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy will be slashed by \$266 million below the 2015 enacted level and over \$1 billion below the budget request.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish that we could meet the budget request this year, but that doesn't appear possible, but we should at least restore the money back to last year's levels, which is still a very modest investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy for America.

Investments in energy efficiency create jobs and help make our businesses more competitive compared to businesses all across the globe. In addition, energy efficiency reduces costs for consumers. Wouldn't that be revolutionary, that we put money back into the pockets of our neighbors back home?

The amount proposed for energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Republican bill is so low that America will have to reduce the number of research, development, and demonstration projects with industry, with our universities, and in our national labs. America should be a leader in innovation and technological advancement, but instead, the Republican bill says America should take a back seat.

Well, Mr. Chairman, America should take a back seat to no one. We are in the midst of a technological revolution when it comes to energy. Look at what is happening across our great country. We have an incredibly diverse energy portfolio and a growing clean energy and efficiency sector. This is especially important as we tackle the challenges of the changing climate.

Yet the Republican bill reduces investment in solar energy technology R&D within the Solar Energy Technologies Office by \$81 million, or 35 percent, from last year. That means the Department of Energy's exciting SunShot Initiative goal of enabling cost-competitive solar electricity without subsidies by 2020 will be delayed for years.

That is extremely detrimental to the U.S. solar industry and the jobs it creates that currently employ over 174,000 Americans. It will send an unfortunate signal to the Chinese and foreign competitors that we are ceding this clean energy industry to them.

The Republican bill also would result in a significant reduction in core solar R&D and the national labs, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, necessitating reductions in force.

The Republican bill will also eliminate support for solar industry job training for students and military veterans at more than 400 community colleges across 49 States. This network has been a critical source of trained employees in an industry that is grow-

ing and is expected to grow even more with over 200,000 jobs by the end of 2015.

Finally, the recently piloted Solar Ready Vets program would be at risk, and the planned expansion from 3 to 10 military bases would be affected and canceled. Veterans currently make up 10 percent of the solar industry.

□ 2245

If we do not unleash American ingenuity now, our neighbors back home will face increased costs of the changing climate, such as increases in property insurance, increases in flood insurance, all of this from extreme weather events, increased property taxes from having to protect drinking water supplies, and storm water infrastructure. I would say instead, let's invest in America.

My amendment shifts a little bit, not all, from older technologies into cutting-edge energy efficiency and clean energy that are so vital to America's future.

I appreciate Ranking Member KAPTUR's vision. She understands that this is our future. We are talking about American jobs in American manufacturing. I appreciate her work. And I appreciate Chairman SIMPSON's work on the appropriations bill.

I ask for an "aye" vote on the Castor amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman from Florida says we should invest. We are investing. This amendment would increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy by \$266 million, restoring it to last year's level, by using the fossil energy account as an offset.

This year, funding for EERE is \$1.66 billion, \$266 million below last year, and \$1.1 billion below the budget request. The recommendation strategically focuses funding on three main priorities: helping American manufacturers compete in the global marketplace, supporting weatherization assistance programs, and supporting basic research into renewable energy sources. These are all areas with broad bipartisan support.

The House recommendation for this year was the result of a focused effort to ensure taxpayer funds are spent on the most advanced research projects within these priorities. Increasing funding for EERE by diverting funds from research into fossil energy strikes the wrong balance when considering the Nation's electricity needs.

Fossil fuel, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, provide the vast majority of the energy used by the Nation's homes and businesses and will continue to provide our energy needs for the foreseeable future. For example, fossil

fuels produce nearly 11 times more electricity than renewable energy fuel sources.

I am not against renewable energy. I think they are an important part of the mix. They are cute, but they don't provide the majority of energy that is needed in this country.

This amendment would decimate funding for a program that ensures we use our Nation's fossil fuel resources as well and as cleanly as possible. Therefore, I must oppose the gentlewoman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would say that the burgeoning jobs being created in American manufacturing and energy efficiency and renewable energy are more than just cute. They are the jobs of the future in America, a clean energy future.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the Castor amendment: vote for America, vote for American jobs, and vote for the future.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000) (increased by \$4,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the funding for the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation program from the current \$2 million to \$4 million. This critical program allows companies across the U.S. to develop cutting-edge technologies with new partners in Israel in order to advance America's energy goals.

Furthermore, the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement facilitates greater cooperation and sharing of knowledge between American and Israeli universities on alternative energy. Collaboration between the American and Israeli private sector and academia will significantly enhance U.S. efforts to develop alternative technologies and increase energy efficiency to the benefit of our national security, our economy, and the environment.

Let me be clear, this is not an aid program, but instead a cooperative agreement designed to connect the U.S.



and Israeli private sectors in the development of innovative technologies to strengthen our energy security and independence. Reauthorized in 2014 through 2024, the cooperative energy program mandate was expanded to cover collaborative research and development into renewable technologies, natural gas, and water—key areas of interest for the United States.

The program is also designed to leverage matching contributions from both the Israeli and American private sectors; thus, for every dollar Congress appropriates, \$3 are invested, contributing to our economy in addition to our energy security. The program has already leveraged over \$27 million in private sector investment. This is an excellent way to leverage a modest investment into critical energy innovation to the benefit of both countries.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment to make a greater investment in America's and Israel's energy future and to support an important bilateral energy cooperation agreement with one of our Nation's closest allies.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SWALWELL OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,500,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$34,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which I offer along with Representatives PERLMUTTER, WELCH, LIEU, TONKO, MATSUI, and CONNOLLY, which would cut the increase provided to the fossil Energy Research and Development account back to its fiscal year 2015 level and put that money toward the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, also known as EERE, account.

My amendment presents a question for the Congress this evening: Are we going to invest in the future of energy or are we going to continue to look backwards?

We are certainly an all-of-the-above country when it comes to where we get our energy; however, that does not

mean we have to be an all-of-the-above country when it comes to how we spend our Federal research dollars.

For decades, we have relied on fossil fuels, fuels that dirty our environment, that are fundamentally changing our environment, that keep us dependent on foreign sources of energy and are a finite resource. Reliance like this is simply not sustainable over the long-term.

Energy that is clean and renewable is where our future lies. To put this in perspective, this budget proposes to cut the investment in renewable energy by \$266 million from last year, and increase investments in fossil fuel by \$34 million.

My colleagues on the other side often ask: Why can't we run government like a business? This would be similar to a business cutting its cell phone, iPhone, laptop, iPad budget and increasing its pager and landline budget. It is time that we start running government like a business and making investments in renewable energy because they will pay off for our future and also for health and jobs that will be created around them.

Young people understand this choice well. I have the opportunity to lead a group in the Congress called Future Forum, and we have gone across the country from New York to Boston to San Francisco talking to young people about what issues matter to them. And across the country the issue is always the same: Why can't this Congress be more forward looking as to where we get our energy?

Millennials know that they are a generation who will be living with the consequences of the energy choices we make here today. It is their environment that will be damaged. It is their climate that will be altered, and their energy choices that will be limited if we fail to invest in renewable clean sources of energy now.

I know the budget is tight and we have to make difficult choices about how to allocate scarce resources, and I understand and appreciate that some of the money supported by the Fossil Energy research and development account are seeking to improve how we use fossil fuels.

But how can we take limited resources to increase spending in any way to support fossil fuels and encourage their use over fiscal year 2016 by \$34 million while cutting renewable energy by \$266 million? This makes no sense.

Look at what other countries are doing. Germany right now receives 30 percent, 30 percent of its energy from renewable sources. Can we not do better than Germany? The only way we can is if we invest in the future. We shouldn't be increasing funding to continue to use energy sources of the past.

I urge all Members to support my amendment, to undo this increase and

redirect that money towards supporting the energy of the future—renewable energy.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is the same debate we used on the other amendment, so I could just say repeat the same debate. The fact is we are investing in what we use: 85 percent of electricity produced in this country is produced by fossil energies. We invest in that to try to make it more clean. We are the Saudi Arabia of coal. Why would we walk away from that? We can do it cleaner. We can do it more efficiently, and that is what we are investing in.

We are still investing in renewable energies. It is not that we are just ignoring those other things. In fact, we are investing \$1.66 billion in those things. Fossil energy that we use much more than we do renewable energies, only investing \$605 million in it.

So our priorities, I believe, in this bill are in the right place. And while I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, I think it would unbalance the bill, and I would urge the rejection of his amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$22,300,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$22,300,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by thanking Chairman SIMPSON for working on the bill and being willing to listen to this issue.

This amendment seeks to highlight the fact that the Water Power Program

is vitally important to reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

This bill, the underlying bill, cuts hydropower by over \$22 million. What the amendment I am offering does is restores that funding and offsets it with Department of Energy administrative costs.

Hydropower is the Nation's most available, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy source. Requiring only the power of moving water—rivers, streams, and ocean waves and tides—hydropower is domestic and renewable.

Hydropower is available in every region of the country. A range of technologies exist or are under development to tap the power of waves, tides, and river flows. Thousands of megawatts of potential are available from ocean energy projects from New England to the west coast and Alaska, and from in-river hydrokinetic projects proposed along the Mississippi River and others. 2,200 hydropower plants provide America's most abundant source of clean, renewable electricity.

The United States produces more electricity from hydropower than from any other renewable electricity source. It accounted for 56 percent of renewable generation in 2012 and 7 percent of the Nation's overall electricity generation.

New technology employed at existing hydro sites represents an opportunity for new sources of power. By installing more efficient turbines and enhancing performance, existing hydropower infrastructure can generate even more power, sustainably. Harnessing more of this energy will create a truly renewable and green energy source.

There are advantages over wind and solar. Hydro has a predictable year-round output, while solar and wind output can be variable in some areas and necessitates the use of large battery banks and/or alternate power sources.

□ 2300

Even routine, minor maintenance on a windmill can be difficult on the top of a wind tower, while hydropower provides relatively low maintenance. Hydropower facilities are quiet and often can be made unobtrusive, while many people report that considerable noise is generated by wind power.

Hydropower also faces a comprehensive regulatory approval process. It involves too many participants, including FERC, the Federal and State resource agencies, local governments, tribes, NGOs, and the public. Currently, there are 60,000 megawatts of preliminary permits and projects awaiting final approval or that are pending before the Commission in 45 States.

Pennsylvania, where I come from, is in the top 10 for hydropower potential, and, according to the Department of Energy, of the 80,000 total dams in the United States, 600 have the immediate capability to produce energy.

This amendment seeks to highlight the lost and underutilized capacity of abundant, economical, and clean energy right here within our communities while we irresponsibly spend hard-earned tax dollars on less viable options.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment from consideration while simultaneously asking for favorable consideration on the bipartisan hydro amendment to be offered very shortly.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$9,000,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$9,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentlewoman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today because of the power and potential of water and in support of a bipartisan amendment that I am pleased to offer with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman PERRY, and with my colleague from Maine, Congresswoman PINGREE.

Mr. Chairman, our amendment would increase funding to the Department of Energy's Water Power Program by just \$9 million, which is a small price tag that will yield a huge return on investment. This increase is offset by an equal amount by the departmental administration account. The modest increase that we are proposing will support hydropower and also the development of innovative hydropower technologies, along with marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies.

The development of these new technologies can offer the United States a chance to lead the world in an emerging area of abundant renewable energy. Marine and hydrokinetic energy—in particular, energy from waves, currents, and tides, which, unlike the Sun and wind, do not stop—is an exciting frontier in the renewable energy sector.

Currently, Oregon State University, the University of Washington, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are using Federal funding from the Water Power Program to support the testing and research activities of the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, a center that will provide visionary entrepreneurs a domestic location to test wave energy devices, along with other technology, rather

than traveling to Scotland to use the European test center. Without continued Federal investment, Europe will remain the leader.

When fully developed, wave and tidal energy systems could generate a significant amount of total energy used in the United States. As Congress promotes technologies that can help lower our constituents' energy bills, we must embrace new and innovative solutions, like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy. With this modest increase, the Water Power Program can do that while continuing to support a Federal investment in conventional hydropower technology.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of the bipartisan amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I see the amendment as a reasonable, bipartisan approach and agreement which has seen favorable consideration in this House in the past.

As I said just previously, hydropower is the Nation's most available, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy source. It seems to me, while we spend a lot of money, time, and energy on unproven resources, this is one that has stood the test of time. As a matter of fact, it is one of the beginning sources of energy not only in the United States but around the globe, and if we should be spending any of our resources, this is one that we know. This is one that is in every community. This is one that is clean. This is one that doesn't create too much noise for people, and it doesn't hurt fish. All it does is produce power without doing anything else, so it is hard to argue why we wouldn't be in support of this amendment and this program.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his cosponsorship of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, again, this is a modest increase in the Water Power Program, which supports hydropower technology as well as new and innovative solutions, like hydrokinetic renewable energy.

I urge the support of this bipartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would increase funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$2 million for the SuperTruck II program.

The SuperTruck program was initiated by the Department of Energy to improve freight and heavy-duty vehicle efficiency. The Appropriations Committee acknowledged the success of the SuperTruck I in their committee report, but, unfortunately, it recommended only \$8 million of the requested \$40 million for the SuperTruck II program to further improve the efficiency of these vehicles. SuperTruck II will continue dramatic improvements in the freight efficiency of heavy-duty Class 8 long-haul and regional-haul vehicles through system level improvements. These improvements include hybridization, more efficient idling, and high efficiency HVAC technologies.

By increasing the funding for the SuperTruck program by just \$2 million, it will allow the Department of Energy to better achieve their freight efficiency goals. It will be good for the environment. It will be good for the trucking community. It will be good for America. This amendment is offset via a decrease in the departmental administration account.

I would like to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their hard work on the bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, Line 5

In the “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy” account, after the aggregate dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,657,774,000)”.

Page 21, Line 6

In the “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy” account, after the dollar amount relating to program direction, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)”.

Page 57, Line 11

In the spending reduction account, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,657,774,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from Ala-

bama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to strike all funding of the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program.

This program, under the Department of Energy, allows the government to invest millions—indeed, over \$1 billion—of taxpayer money in high-risk research and development schemes for green energy projects. The government should not be in the business of subsidizing the research and development initiatives of individual companies. Let’s be clear. Competition and innovation have been key aspects of the private sector’s success in our country from day one, and the government should not take the role of a private investor.

Every business has a bottom line, which is itself a direct incentive for developing methods for becoming more energy efficient and innovative. By subsidizing this small sector of the energy economy, we are essentially allowing the Department of Energy to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on unconventional energy initiatives and projects that place taxpayer dollars at risk and that are not likely to produce a return on investment.

We as a Congress have continuously stated the need for an all-of-the-above energy strategy, but continued investment into the EERE program focuses on the small portion of a largely unproductive portion of the energy sector at the expense of more traditional energy sources, such as fossil fuels and nuclear, which have a proven, reliable track record.

I do want to applaud Chairman SIMPSON and the entire committee for their work on this bill. I know they face many tough choices when it comes to preparing these bills, and I do appreciate their hard work.

Ultimately, the American people are sick and tired of a Federal Government that continues to recklessly spend taxpayer dollars. They want to see Congress make the tough choices and rein in wasteful spending. I believe that eliminating funding for the EERE program would be a step in the right direction. It would be a small step toward restoring fiscal sanity in Washington. At a time when many Americans and small businesses continue to struggle, we must focus on reasonable energy strategies that allow for the most affordable and reliable energy resources for consumers and businesses alike.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, we have now seen amendments to put

more money into the EERE and amendments to take money out of the EERE and now an amendment to eliminate the EERE.

I have to rise in opposition to this amendment. This bill supports an all-of-the-above approach to utilize our abundant natural resources and advance energy in new technologies to increase our energy security. A part of that approach includes strategic investments in the EERE accounts.

I agree that there are many activities in this program that could use a closer and more critical look. That is why this bill focuses funding on basic technological research and manufacturing advancements in this account. The bill reduces the EERE by \$266 million over last year’s level, but this amendment, I believe, would go too far. I must support the strategic balance of this bill. Therefore, I must oppose my colleague’s amendment, and I urge others to do the same.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I appreciate the chairman’s yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I first want to invite the gentleman from Alabama to Ohio to see part of the new energy sector in our country. It is absolutely incredible, and it does involve high-level research to produce new energy technologies. I support nuclear, and I support fossil-based research, but I also support coal and tidal energy and wind and biofuels and geothermal—all of them—because we need them.

New investment in clean energy in our country in 2013 totaled \$36.7 billion. The leading company in solar in our country and, frankly, globally is a U.S.-born company—born in Ohio—called First Solar. You mentioned non-productivity. Their stock is sold on Wall Street. They benefited early on in that company’s life by photovoltaic research beginning back in the 1970s and 1980s at the U.S. Department of Energy. It is really incredible to see the future being born, and I am hoping Alabama can take advantage of that kind of technology.

What concerns me, and one of the reasons I am on my feet at this point, is that they have competition from China. The first and second companies in the world that are being subsidized by the Chinese Government are in tough competition with the U.S.-born company, and we can’t ignore the fact that global venture capital and private equity in new investment in clean energy increased from \$1.4 billion in 2004 to \$4.4 billion in 2013. The question is: Where is that going to be invested—in our country or someplace else?

□ 2315

So I would just say that we have made tremendous progress in an all-of-

the-above strategy. Renewable sources now account for 23 percent of all electricity generation globally. That is amazing progress. We are learning how to work in conjunction with the Earth.

Who would ever have guessed that ethanol would now consume 10 percent of what you put in your tank? People said you can't even get to 1 percent. Now they are looking to 15 percent. It is unbelievable what is happening in these fields.

I appreciate the gentleman wanting to be responsible. I think we are being responsible in providing an all-of-the-above bill, including new energy technologies that will help our country in future generations so we no longer have to be dependent on imported energy, which I view as our chief strategic vulnerability.

I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in strong opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. I rejoice with the gentlewoman from Ohio that there is a company there that is making money. We should always be about American companies making money. But if they are making money, they don't need a subsidy from the government. I would like you to come to Alabama, where coal miners are losing their jobs because we have a war on coal in this country.

We give lip service to all-of-the-above, and then the administration has a deliberate policy of attacking coal as a means of energy for our country and putting people out of work. So I would invite you to come down and see the suffering of our people because of that one-sided strategy: we are going to attack coal, but we are going to give money to alternative energy. There is something wrong with that.

So I understand the gentlewoman wants to stand up for a great company in Ohio—I would love to come see it—because I think an all-of-the-above strategy is good for America, but we are picking winners and losers with this money, and the administration is picking losers by attacking coal as a source of energy and a source of jobs for our American people. So I would hope that we would care as much about those coal miners in West Virginia and Kentucky and Alabama.

Ms. KAPTUR. And Ohio.

Mr. BYRNE. And Ohio as we do about these alternative energy programs that we are subsidizing. No one is subsidizing those coal miners; no one is subsidizing their families that have lost their means of living, but we are going to subsidize all these other companies—maybe they are doing good things, maybe they are not—because we have a lopsided understanding about how to produce energy in this country.

Let the energy sector go. Let oil and natural gas and coal go. Look what we

have done to the price of oil and the price of gas just over the last year because they have innovated on their own. They don't need the government to innovate for them. They need the government to get out of their way.

If the gentlewoman wants to respond, I would be happy to yield to her.

Ms. KAPTUR. I just wanted to say Ohio is a major coal-producing State.

Mr. BYRNE. Then you understand what I am saying.

Ms. KAPTUR. We will have more coal-fired utilities shut down in Ohio than almost any other State, so I identify with what the gentleman is saying. Frankly, I think that we, as a country, have to be much more responsive to our miners and to coal country USA. I represent the largest coal shipping port on the Great Lakes. I fully appreciate what you are saying.

I supported that industry from the day I got here. I have supported research into the clean coal program and continue to do so. I just want you to know that. We don't disagree on harming any sector. We need them all.

Mr. BYRNE. Reclaiming my time, I would just say I wish we could put money into that program like we do into this.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, lines 5 and 6, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 22, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$691,886,000)".

Page 22, lines 20 and 21, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,954,660,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 223, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is similar to the previous one, except this one requires energy companies of all kinds to fund their own research and development programs rather than continuing to require taxpayers to subsidize their activity to the tune of almost \$3 billion. It does not affect the funds set aside

for nuclear waste disposal or national defense projects.

For too long we have suffered from the conceit that politicians can make better energy investments with taxpayer money than investors can do with their own money. It is this conceit that has produced a long line of scandals best illustrated by the Solyndra fiasco. This research doesn't even benefit the common good by placing these discoveries in the public domain. Any discoveries, although financed by the public, are owned lock, stock, and barrel by the private companies that receive these public funds. Public costs, private benefit; this is nothing but corporate welfare, and that is what these energy subsidies amount to.

My amendment protects taxpayers from being forced to pay the research and development budgets of these companies. It gets government out of the energy business and requires all energy companies and all energy technologies to compete equally on their own merits and with their own funds.

Last year when we debated similar amendments, we heard of all the technological breakthroughs financed by the Federal Government, from railroads to the Internet. We heard promises of future breakthroughs from this massive expenditure of public funds. I freely recognize that if you hand over millions of dollars of public subsidies to a private corporation, perhaps in Ohio, that corporation will do very well. Some of these dollars might even produce a breakthrough that will then be owned by that private corporation, and then it will do extremely well.

But what the advocates of these subsidies fail to consider is Bastiat's dilemma between the seen and the unseen. We see the politically well-connected company that makes out like a bandit. What we don't see are the sacrifices that struggling families and small businesses must make as these taxes are taken away from them. You don't see small companies struggle by having to compete against their own tax dollars given to their corporate competitors by a dotting friend in government. Nor do we see the breakthroughs and discoveries that these dollars might have purchased if they had been made by investors using their own money, making investments based on the highest economic return of these dollars.

Politicians using other people's money make investments based on the highest political return of these dollars. That is the principal difference between Apple Computer and Solyndra or between FedEx and the post office. These public subsidies, in effect, take dollars that would have naturally flowed into the most effective and promising technologies and divert them into those that are politically favored. Dollar for dollar, this minimizes

our energy potential instead of maximizing it.

For example, hydraulic fracturing has revolutionized the fossil fuels industry, and it offers us the very real potential of becoming energy independent. After the 1973 oil embargo, the Federal Government spent \$1.5 billion on oil and gas production research, much of it on shale production, and accomplished nothing. The government lost interest.

But private investors renewed research with their own money in the 1990s and began producing the technologies that are used in today's boom. Public investment failed miserably; private investment succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. In short, if the technology is promising, it does not need our help; and if it isn't promising, it doesn't deserve our help. In either case, we have no business taking from the earnings of struggling families and small businesses that pay the research and development budgets of big corporations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment. Hydraulic fracturing has been going on for 40 or 50 years in this country, by the way.

This year the committee continues its responsibility to reduce government spending, and we have done that. We have worked tirelessly to that end. The bill already cuts energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by \$266 million below last year's request and \$1.1 billion below the budget request.

The fossil and nuclear energy programs receive targeted increases of \$34 million and \$23 million, respectively. The increase to fossil energy targets advanced research that will increase the efficiency of power plant turbines and conserve water usage during electricity generation.

The increase to nuclear energy will support security upgrades for the Idaho National Laboratory to protect the Nation's nuclear energy materials and a range of nuclear security programs at the NNSA, Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies.

Although my colleague asserts the amendment would keep the government from intervening in the private markets, these applied energy programs are strategic investments for our energy independence. I appreciate my colleague's desire to reduce the size of the government. I agree with him. This amendment goes too far by eliminating the strategic investments we need to make for our future. I therefore oppose this amendment and ask my colleagues to oppose it also.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I would simply respond to my friend

from Idaho that he is right to point with pride to the fact that the Committee on Appropriations has reduced EERE spending by 16 percent. He is certainly on the right track. He is just building a little slowly in that regard.

We want to help him by doing what is right and restoring to the private investors the responsibility of using their own money to research and develop these energy breakthroughs and leave the Federal Government to doing what it does best, and that is staying out and letting the private sector succeed.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery and energy reliability activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$187,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$27,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction.

#### NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$936,161,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$80,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for program direction including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$10,000.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water de-

velopment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 304. An act to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information; to the committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1298. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Cecil County, MD, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8377] received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1299. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use; Correction [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0365] received April 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1300. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rules — Revisions to Rules of Practice received April 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1301. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rules — Revisions to Rules of Practice received April 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1302. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1303. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1304. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1305. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1306. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Corp's FY 2014 annual report, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1307. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0236] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1308. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Xterra Swim, Myrtle Beach, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0019] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1309. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mantua Creek, Paulsboro, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0807] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1310. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Taylor Bayou Outfall Canal (Joint Outfall Canal), TX [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0386] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1311. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Consolidation of Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection For Outer Continental Shelf Activities; Eighth Coast Guard District; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0491] (RIN: 1625-AB88) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1312. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Coquille River, Bandon, OR [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0213] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1313. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket No.: USCG-2014-1011] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA08) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1314. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland

Security, transmitting the Department's interim temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; San Salvador Launch and Procession; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0138] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1315. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Glass City Scrimmage; Maumee River, Toledo, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0185] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1316. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Hebdia Cup Rowing Regatta; Detroit River, Wyandotte, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0190] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1317. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Advisory Small Business Size Decisions (RIN: 3245-AG59) received April 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 308. A bill to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts (Rept. 114-95). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Committee of Conference. Conference report on S. Con. Res. 11. A resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 (Rept. 114-96). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Committee on Appropriations. Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2016 (Rept. 114-97). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 231. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1732) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014 (Rept. 114-98). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2082. A bill to provide for loan forgiveness for STEM teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mrs. TORRES):

H.R. 2083. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 2084. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to add certain tax-related crimes to the definition of aggravated identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 2085. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations with interested local water and power providers for the transfer of ownership, control, and operation of the New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 2086. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, with the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, California, to develop and conduct a pilot program to remove nonnative predator fishes from the Stanislaus River, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BLUMENAUER,



Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 2087. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 2088. A bill to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to improve inspection services performed at export elevators at export port locations, to reauthorize certain authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 2089. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to lower the cost of college education by establishing pilot programs to expand student access to digital course materials; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 2090. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 2091. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2092. A bill to require operators that provide online and similar services to educational agencies or institutions to protect the privacy and security of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 2093. A bill to preserve American space leadership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 2094. A bill to repeal titles I and II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee

on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2095. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote family unity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 2096. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GOSAR, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 2097. A bill to facilitate and streamline the Bureau of Reclamation process for creating or expanding surface water storage under Reclamation law; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 2098. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 2099. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop a model form for a disclosure notice that shall be used by depository institutions and credit unions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 2100. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 2101. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for expedited review of drugs and biological products to provide safer or more effective treatment for males or females, to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the consideration of sex differences in basic and clinical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2102. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence

of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 2103. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2104. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2105. A bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in secondary school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle grades models for struggling students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 2106. A bill to provide exclusive funding to support fisheries and the communities that rely upon them, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens and streamline Federal fisheries management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 2107. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of certain Medicaid enrollment brokers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2108. A bill to require reports submitted to Congress under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to also be submitted to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. HARDY):



H.R. 2109. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to conform citizen suits under that Act with other existing law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2110. A bill to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services that were the subject of the contract; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2111. A bill to eliminate certain programs of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 2112. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for North Plainfield, New Jersey; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2113. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a corporate responsibility investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 2114. A bill to direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance for individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2115. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and make permanent rules related to investment by non-resident aliens in domestic mutual funds and business development companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2116. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish the Virgin Islands visa waiver program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2117. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the amount of distilled spirits taxes covered over to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2118. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to extend to 2027 the production certificate program that allows refunds of duties on certain

articles produced in United States insular possessions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHIMKUS:

H.R. 2119. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that State applications for State plan waivers under the Medicaid program be approved only if such applications are budget neutral, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2120. A bill to encourage States to expand the protections offered to victims of sex offenses who are not in a familiar or dating relationship with the perpetrators of such offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MESSER, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 2121. A bill to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Lending Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 227. A resolution condemning the murder of Boris Nemtsov, offering condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues, expressing solidarity with the people of Russia, and calling for an international investigation into this crime; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 228. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 7, 2015, as a "National Day of Reason" and recognizing the importance of reason in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. FOXX:

H. Res. 229. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. LUMMIS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 230. A resolution encouraging State-by-State adoption of a sexual assault survivors' bill of rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. TIBERI):

H. Res. 232. A resolution encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. ROSLEHTINEN):

H. Res. 233. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release the three United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 234. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that telephone service must be improved in rural areas of the United States and that no entity

may unreasonably discriminate against telephone users in those areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MARINO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COOK, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BLUM, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CAPUANO, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BASS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SIREN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MENG, Mr. YOHO, Mr. KEATING, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PITTEGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BARR, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LEE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GOSAR):

H. Res. 235. A resolution expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas introduced a bill (H.R. 2122) for the relief of Enrique Soriano and Areli Soriano; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 2083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 2084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 2085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 2086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 2087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 2088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, Congress has the authority to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 2089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8, Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 2091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;" as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 2092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 2093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I. Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 2094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have power to regulate the regu-

late Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 2095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 2096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 2098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 2099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 2101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce, as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 2103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 2104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 2106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article: I Section: 8 Clause: 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause

The Congress shall have Power. . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 2107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 2109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 2112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have the power to . . . establish Post offices and post Roads"

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 2113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 2114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause)

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Territories Clause)

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Interstate Commerce Clause)

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Territories Clause)

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause)

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Territories Clause)

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. SHIMKUS:

H.R. 2119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 2121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.J. Res. 2122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 169: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 187: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 303: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 379: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 427: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 430: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 448: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 484: Mr. KILMER and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 504: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 511: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 512: Mr. BOUSTANY and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 588: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 592: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 600: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 602: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 664: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 692: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 699: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 704: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 712: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 721: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 727: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 767: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 775: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 776: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 793: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 801: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 822: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 825: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 828: Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 835: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 845: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 864: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 879: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 891: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BARTON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 907: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 913: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 920: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 921: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 928: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. MACARTHUR, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 932: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 985: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 989: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1062: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1086: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1087: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 1089: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1171: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1188: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1194: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1233: Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1247: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1266: Mr. BABIN, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1272: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1275: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1276: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1278: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1288: Mr. HUDSON and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1300: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1309: Ms. MENG, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1321: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1344: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1365: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1384: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1393: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1399: Mr. ROSS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1411: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1413: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1431: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1432: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1448: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1465: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1475: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1478: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BLUM, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1479: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. LUETKE-MEYER.

H.R. 1516: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COLE, and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 1523: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1528: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 1530: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1550: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1559: Mr. BENISHEK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1572: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1574: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1594: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1605: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 1607: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 1608: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HARPER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1610: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1613: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. YOHO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1624: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1655: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1660: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1661: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1664: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 1666: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1674: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1684: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1699: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 1706: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1713: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 1726: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1739: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1741: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1743: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1752: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1759: Mr. BARR and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1763: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1769: Mr. ROSS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1782: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1846: Mr. BUCSHON and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1861: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 1882: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1887: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 1926: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1956: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VELA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1957: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VELA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1958: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VELA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1959: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VELA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1977: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1982: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1985: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1986: Mr. BLUM and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1993: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1994: Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1998: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 2025: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2032: Mr. TIPTON and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 2033: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MENG, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 2044: Mr. BLUM and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2048: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2050: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2058: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 2079: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.J. Res. 43: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HILL, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. SERRANO.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. DOLD.

H. Con. Res. 43: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 26: Mr. BABIN.

H. Res. 28: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 130: Mr. LATTA and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.

H. Res. 159: Mr. CROWLEY and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 186: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 194: Mr. GIBSON.

H. Res. 208: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. VARGAS.

H. Res. 214: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SABLON, and Mr. VARGAS.

H. Res. 225: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. KILMER.

## CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

## AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. ENGEL

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, or any other Federal agency to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. WEBER OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MS. BONAMICI

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$9,000,000)".

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$9,000,000)".

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. GOSAR

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Department of Energy's Climate Model Development and Validation program.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. BARTON

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall accept from the Trinity River Authority of Texas, if received by October 31, 2015, \$30,191,026 as payment in full of amounts owed to the United States, including any accrued interest, for water supply storage space in Joe Pool Lake, Texas (previously known as Lakeview Lake), under contract number DACW63-76-C-0106.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 13: At the end of the bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, promulgate, or enforce the Department of Energy's proposed rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces" (80 Fed. Reg. 48: March 12, 2015).

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 14: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for attendance at, or participation in, the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France, in 2015.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. DENT

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of title III, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Standards Ceiling Fans and Ceiling Fan Light Kits" and identified by regulation identification number 1904-AC87.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. LUETKEMEYER

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to continue the study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 5018(a)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114).

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. SWALWELL OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,500,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$34,000,000)".

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 18: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. For an additional amount for "Corps of Engineers-Civil—Expenses" for the Water Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program, as authorized in section 5014 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 33 U.S.C. 2201 note), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise made available by this Act for "Corps of Engineers-Civil—Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works" is hereby reduced by, \$2,375,000.

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 21, line 5, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$266,161,000)".

Page 22, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$355,000,000)".

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT NO. 20: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee to carry out section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 16421a; added by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5)).

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. PITTINGER

AMENDMENT NO. 21: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to issue loans under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511 et seq.).

H.R. 2028

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 22: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. O'ROURKE

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act, including the funds made available for "CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS", may be used to increase the funding for any Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility project, as defined in paragraph (3)(A) of subsection (a) of section 8104 of title 38, United States Code, that is under construction as of the date of the enactment of this Act, above the amount specified in the prospectus for such project submitted under subsection (b) of such section and the detailed estimate of costs for such project submitted under paragraph (1) of such subsection.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. ENGEL

AMENDMENT NO. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other Federal agency to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connec-

tion with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. BOUSTANY

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any bonus or monetary award under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, to an employee of the Chief Business Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is responsible for processing emergency medical care claims until the percentage of emergency medical care claims processed within 30 days reaches 90 percent.

(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit quarterly data to Congress on the following:

(A) The total number of emergency medical claims and the total number of billed charges for such claims.

(B) The total number of emergency medical claims and billed charges for such claims pending for more than 30 days.

(C) The number of veterans with unpaid claims under consideration in each Veterans Integrated Service Network.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. BENISHEK

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 58, after line 25, insert the following:

SEC. 242. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that describes the status, including the timeline for completion, of each Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to be established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, through construction or lease, that is not yet completed.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MS. ADAMS

AMENDMENT NO. 13: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), amounts made available under the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account for fiscal year 2016 may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide discretionary competitive grants for State and local governments to establish or expand technology systems that develop a coordinated network of private, public and nonprofit services and resources to better serve veterans and their family members. A State or local government awarded a grant under this section shall work with an entity that has experience working with comprehensive coordinated networks, protects privacy of veterans and their families, ensures the quality of providers, and has a metrics system to effectively measure success of the network.

(2) Amounts used as described in paragraph (1) may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate decrease in the total amount made available by this Act for the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account.

(3) Each grant made under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. POCAN

AMENDMENT NO. 14: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to withhold any report of an Inspector General from any member of Congress in any case where the member of Congress has requested that such report be provided.

H.R. 2029

OFFERED BY: MR. POCAN

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act".

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING ARTHREX, INC.  
ON BEING NAMED A FORTUNE  
TOP 100 COMPANY TO WORK FOR

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arthrex, Inc. on being named a Fortune Top 100 company to work for, and to commend its exemplary service to the Naples community.

Arthrex is a global medical device company in Naples, FL. Their mission is to help surgeons treat their patients as best as possible, and they have more than surpassed that goal. The company is a leader in new product development and medical education in orthopedics. More than that, Arthrex is a pioneer in the field of arthroscopy and has developed more than 8,500 innovative products and surgical procedures to advance minimally invasive orthopedics worldwide.

Fortune uses an expert firm that has developed a methodology to evaluate workplace cultures, and a 58-question employee survey to measure trust. Two-thirds of a company's score is based on the employee survey, while one-third is based on a culture audit. Hundreds of companies apply to be on the list, making Arthrex's accomplishment that much more special. However, by looking at their company, it is clear to see why they made the list.

Under the leadership of Mr. Reinhold Schmieding, Arthrex continues to grow and thrive in the community. Having visited their facility in Naples, I saw firsthand the important work they are doing and the impact the company has in the area. Not only does Arthrex provide countless jobs, it also fosters a culture of personal and professional growth, with excellent benefits and services. These services include tuition reimbursement, internships, apprenticeships, and a comprehensive benefits package.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Arthrex, Inc. on their accomplishment, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their outstanding achievement.

ANGELEE DAVIS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelee Davis on her honorable mention in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more

about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Angelee and her project, 'Should Space Exploration and Travel be Publicly Funded?', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Angelee on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, last week, on April 21–23, I missed Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #162, 163, 164, 167, 170, 171, and 173. I would have voted "NAY" on #165, 166, 168, 169, and 172.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21; Wednesday, April 22; and Thursday, April 23, 2015, I was out on medical leave while recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 162 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 25),

"No" on roll call vote No. 163 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 212),

"No" on roll call vote No. 164 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 212),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 165 (on agreeing to the Kuster Amendment to H.R. 1195),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 166 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1195, with instructions),

"No" on roll call vote No. 167 (on passage of H.R. 1195),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 168 (on agreeing to the Mulvaney Amendment to H.R. 1560),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 169 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1560, with instructions),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 170 (on passage of H.R. 1560),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 171 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 1731),

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 172 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1731, with instructions), and

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 173 (on passage of H.R. 1731).

KASANDRA PETERS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kasandra Peters for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kasandra Peters is a 10th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kasandra Peters is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kasandra Peters for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

### IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM A. NACK

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William A. Nack for a life and career dedicated to hard work, justice and integrity. Bill Nack recently retired as the head of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO after a long and successful career in union construction.

Bill left his mark all over the San Francisco Peninsula. Even people who don't know him see the results of his work every day. Some of the most prominent buildings in the county were developed during his tenure, including SFO, Mills Peninsula Hospital, Sequoia Hospital, Palo Alto Medical Center, Bay Meadows, San Mateo Public Library, San Mateo Union High School District, San Mateo Community College District, Millbrae BART Transit Village, Crossings in San Bruno, Redwood City Redevelopment, Brisbane Baylands Development, Genentech, Gilead and Facebook.

Even this breathtaking list is not complete. Bill negotiated a total of 45 Project Labor Agreements and Letters of Commitment representing more than \$16 billion of construction projects. For the last 16 years, he worked with developers, environmentalists, contractors and neighborhood groups advocating for environmentally responsible projects, good union wages and safe working conditions.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Bill was born in St. Louis, raised in San Francisco, and has lived on the Peninsula for the last 50 years. In 1966, he was hired by United Airlines as an Aircraft Jet Engine Mechanic in Journeyman status. The following year he started his service in the U.S. Naval Reserve which he continued for six years, ably serving his country. While working for United, he earned an Associate Degree in Aeronautics and began his remarkable union career with Machinist Local Lodge 1781. He was the Union Shop Steward for 15 years fighting for the rights of his coworkers. He was elected to the Local's Executive Board, IAM Legislative Committee, and the Building Corporation. Bill was one of the people who founded a highly effective coalition between the machinists, flight attendants and pilots.

In 1987, Bill became the Assistant Business Manager for the Santa Clara and San Benito counties Central Labor Council. He developed and implemented a public policy program for 100 affiliated unions.

In 1989, he became Deputy Executive Officer for the Santa Clara and San Benito Building and Construction Trades Council where he was responsible for public policy, corporate research, and the monitoring of construction contractors and projects. Within a year, he was tapped for the top position at the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County and became Business Manager/Executive Officer. He was ideally qualified to advocate for environmentally and socially responsible projects utilizing top-quality labor, materials and construction methods. He led a vibrant council of 26 unions and 14,000 justifiably proud, middle-class workers.

In addition to his impressive achievements at the council, Bill is a man of enormous compassion and empathy, a fact demonstrated by his extensive community engagement. He serves on a long list of boards, including the Boy Scouts of America, United Way, Rebuilding Together, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Advisory Council, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Advisory Council, and the San Mateo County Housing Leadership Council. Bill is passionate about housing people, recognizing that the dignity of a person is nurtured by housing. It is sometimes said of a generous person that he would give someone the shirt off his back. Bill Nack has likely done that many times, and in addition he's directly and indirectly helped to place a roof over the heads of tens of thousands of people.

Bill was also appointed by the Governor to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and to the Board of Directors of the Cow Palace.

As you may surmise from the diversity of issues that Bill is engaged in, he cares deeply about helping others and improving the quality of life for everyone. I can say without hesitation that his heart is in the right place and he gives of himself generously and freely. He is a devoted husband to Rayna Lehman, another great labor leader in San Mateo County. They raised two wonderful sons, Patrick and Benjamin, their most important life achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor my friend and colleague of over 30 years, William A. Nack,

on the occasion of his retirement as the leader of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County. He leaves behind an impressive legacy of construction projects, compassion, and a ready smile that welcomes every honest man or woman to work with him in pursuit of a better America.

**FBISD SECONDARY TEACHER OF  
THE YEAR**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stacy Vinson of Baines Middle School on being named Fort Bend Independent School District's 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Vinson has been a teacher for the past eight years. She is committed to helping her students find their passion and believes a keen interest in a subject leads to success in the classroom. Beyond the classroom, she takes interest in her students' lives and teaches them that no matter their circumstances, they have the power to create a fruitful future for themselves. I wish Ms. Vinson the best of luck in her teaching career and am thankful for teachers like her that truly have a passion for her students and profession. Great teachers help develop future leaders.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Stacy Vinson for her commitment to teaching and for earning the Fort Bend ISD 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

**PAUL PROUTY**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Paul Prouty for his accomplishments and distinguished career with the General Services Administration (GSA).

Paul began his 42-year career with the GSA in 1971 as a real estate intern and has since risen through the organization to become one of the most respected leaders. Paul's accomplishments include providing key strategic direction regarding design, construction, management and maintenance of federal and leased properties, including 18 million square feet of office, laboratory and warehouse space.

A key property in his portfolio is the Denver Federal Center located in Lakewood, Colorado—one of the largest concentrations of federal real estate property outside Washington D.C. Paul's vision for a more inclusive federal community led to major changes at the Denver Federal Center. Through Paul's leadership, the Denver Federal Center evolved into one of the most exciting campuses in the Denver metro area. The campus hosts the new St. Anthony's hospital, intermodal transportation

hub and a focus on the campus becoming a sustainable federal and community center.

I extend my deepest congratulations on your retirement from federal service. Thank you for your dedication to our community.

**IN HONOR OF RONALD HERBERT  
PORTER**

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald H. Porter of Pomona, California, who passed away peacefully on April 18, 2015, at the age of 82.

Ron served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. He graduated from Claremont Men's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, and was a successful businessman with real estate offices in Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, and Pomona.

An active member of St. Joseph's Church in Pomona, he served as the President of the Legion of Mary. As a devout Catholic, Ron could always be depended upon to help those in need and assist the Church in its efforts to serve the community.

A former lifeguard, long distance cyclist, and golfer, Ron would regularly visit nursing homes to take residents out for lunch in Pomona. He could often be spotted at the deli spending time with those in need of companionship and a friend.

Ron had a great sense of humor, and was always positive. He will be deeply missed by his beloved wife Barbara, daughter Marie Royce and son-in-law Edward, son David Porter and daughter-in-law Samantha, daughter Sheila Taylor and son-in-law Daniel, and son Sean Porter. He will also be deeply missed by his grandchildren, Laurel, Charlie, and Sean.

**HONORING MAKENNA SCHWAB**

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a young girl, only 12 years old, who went above and beyond the call of duty for public service. Makenna Schwab, from East Wenatchee, Washington, set out to make a difference in her community by collecting toys and donations for kids at Seattle Children's Hospital. Last October, with the help of her friends at Wenatchee Pediatric Dentistry, she collected enough donations for 33 Radio Flyer wagons, 36 portable DVD players, and more than 1,300 toys and other goods for young boys and girls courageously battling disease at Seattle Children's.

Even more remarkable, Makenna was born with Larsen syndrome, a rare connective tissue disorder, and is a frequent patient herself at Seattle Children's Hospital. It was this experience that inspired her to want to give back to other kids going through similar experiences, and she did not let her disease stand



in her way. This is Makenna's third Make a Difference Day campaign, and she is proving that one 12 year-old girl can make a lasting impact on the lives of her friends, family, and community members. On May 6th, Makenna will be recognized in Washington, D.C., as a National Make a Difference Day award recipient. She will receive a \$10,000 grant to further enable her passion for public service and charitable work. Makenna's selfless actions and commitment to public service is an inspiration to all of us, and for that we honor her.

ETHAN CRANSTON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ethan Cranston for earning third place in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Ethan and his project, 'Marijuana in Colorado—The Road to Ruin or Reward', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Ethan on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF ERWIN GAINES

### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Erwin Gaines—father, husband, grandfather, businessman and inventor—who passed away on April 12, 2015, at the age of 79.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Erwin was a graduate of Von Steuben High School where he was a star soccer player. He went on to serve in the United States Army in Europe and after receiving an Honorable Discharge, he moved to Los Angeles, California. He was a businessman and inventor who received numerous patents for medical supply products. During his business career he worked internationally in Mexico, China and throughout Europe. Erwin volunteered in the community serving as a coach and as President of the Victory National Little League.

Erwin was an avid fisherman and a Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Knot Tying Champion. He was a devoted fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and longtime season ticket holder. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Arlene, his sons, Calabasas City Councilmember Fred Gaines and Jeffrey Gaines, his daughters-in-law, Las Virgenes Unified School District

Board Member Jill Gaines and Vivian Gaines, and his five granddaughters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Erwin Gaines.

### OUTSTANDING LEADER

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Julie Diaz for being named the new principal of Travis High School in Richmond, TX by the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD).

After completing her education at the University of Houston and the University of Iowa, Principal Diaz began her 30 year career as an elementary school teacher. She has worked with FBISD for the past 23 years. Her exemplary efforts have led to her two nominations as a campus Teacher of the Year, and also as a District Elementary Teacher of the year finalist. Our community is lucky to have outstanding educators like Principal Diaz.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Julie Diaz on being named the new principal of Travis High School. We know that you will continue to be an outstanding leader, and we wish you the best of luck at Travis High School.

### ALEXA VANSCHAARDENBURG

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexa VanSchaardenburg for earning third place in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Alexa and her project, 'Marijuana in Colorado—The Road to Ruin or Reward', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Alexa on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the vote on H.R. 373 but had I been present, I would have voted "yes." The Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act would

allow volunteer search groups faster access to public lands to conduct searches for missing persons. This legislation will help first responders as well as victims and families in difficult situations and I support its enactment.

I was absent for the vote on H.R. 1324 but had I been present, I would have voted "yes." The Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015 will adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in Colorado to incorporate additional land.

### HONORING EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board's el Día de los Niños festival.

Since 1925, Día del niño, or the Day of the Child, has been celebrated throughout Latin America. In 2001, the City of Aurora's Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board started the annual tradition of celebrating el Día de los Niños, a festival recognizing children and their importance in society.

The Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board, along with local school districts, uses the festival to promote learning among children through literacy programs, educational activities, and live entertainment. El Día de los Niños is a celebration of our community's diverse heritage, as well as a celebration of the bright future that lies ahead for these children.

I would like to thank the Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board for their commitment to promoting literacy for children and diversity in our community through el Día de los Niños.

### JAKE FETTIG

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jake Fettig on his honorable mention in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Jake and his project, 'Should Space Exploration and Travel be Publicly Funded?', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Jake on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN MATEO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 90th anniversary of San Mateo Park Elementary School, the oldest continuing elementary school in the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

Park School has educated over 20,000 students and serves a diverse student body. The school community can only be characterized as open, enriching and striving for excellence. The comprehensive curriculum aims at supporting each student to reach his or her fullest potential.

All students, those with exceptional abilities to those with exceptional needs, are prepared to become responsible, ethical citizens and leaders of the future. They are taught to develop critical and creative thinking, problem solving and good communication in a safe environment that encourages risk taking and self-reliance.

To create such an environment, Park School relies on very talented and dedicated teachers and staff. Teachers are fully credentialed and many of them bring more than 10 years of experience to the classroom. Some of them hold advanced degrees in music, special education, administration or counseling. They speak multiple languages and have interests ranging from scuba diving to gardening. Staff members are trained in CELDT, Early Literacy Training, NOYCE training, Math Lesson Study and Art. Put succinctly, the staff is as diverse and interesting as the student body, a perfect dynamic to build an environment that fosters a love of lifelong learning and a deep sense of community.

Park School has led the school district in initiatives that support literary skills for below-level readers through its Panther Reading program. The program was created by teachers and parents in 2013. It was so successful that the district quickly embraced it and rolled it out to other schools.

Park School had modest beginnings. It started out as a firehouse on the corner of Clark Drive and Crescent Avenue that was remodeled into a two-room school in 1925. The small school soon couldn't meet demands and a new school with five classrooms and an auditorium was built and opened for 150 students in April 1929. Within a year, a cafeteria was added, a playground installed, a library organized and more land was purchased for additional expansion. In 1966, plans were made for a new school to be built on Clark and Crescent, the location where Park School remains to this day. The new school had a pod arrangement with the library in the center and rooms for individual, group and total class instruction around it. It opened in 1969. Everyone at Park School will tell you that change is constant. Over the years, a computer lab, a speech therapy room and a school child care were added. A large group instruction building opened in 1999 offering students a place for performing arts, physical education and lead-

ership skills. The physical landscape of Park School continues to change and adapt, always keeping a focus on providing the most excellent education opportunities for the students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to recognize the great and lasting contributions that a small elementary school in San Mateo, California has made to the community. Park School has given thousands of children the foundation for successful careers and lives as responsible and productive citizens. Park School is a shining example of what a school can be.

IMPRESSIVE LIST OF VICTORIES

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding members of the CRYptonite Robotics Team 624 of Cinco Ranch High School on their victory at the highly-competitive Utah Regional Robotics Tournament.

The students worked together with faculty and other local mentors to design and construct a robot prototype. The machine was then tailored to accomplish specific tasks in a game during the competition. CRYptonite's robot performed flawlessly, and also won the Dallas Regional's Imagery Award, which honors outstanding visual aesthetic integration of the robot's overall engineering and the team's appearance. This exceptional team is adding yet another banner to an already impressive list of victories.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the CRYptonite Robotics Team 624 of Cinco Ranch High School on their victory at the Utah Regional Robotics Tournament. We know that you will continue to amaze us at the world championship, and we wish you the best of luck in the future.

OLIVIA BOHL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Olivia Bohl on her honorable mention in the C-SPAN StudentCam competition.

This nationwide competition is an opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the three branches of government by telling a story or demonstrating a policy or law that affected them or their community. Olivia and her project, 'Should Space Exploration and Travel be Publicly Funded?', was picked out of 2,280 entries nationwide and 5,000 participants.

Congratulations to Olivia on this tremendous accomplishment and well-deserved prize. Thank you for your interest and participation in our community, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACOB MILLER'S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to Jacob Miller, the first UMass Dartmouth student to be named as a Truman Scholar.

Founded by Congress in 1975, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding potential and who plan to pursue a career in public service.

A Fairhaven resident and a dual political science and English major, he will receive \$30,000 towards graduate school and the opportunity to prepare for a career in public service.

It comes as no surprise that Jacob has earned this distinction considering he has chosen to spend his time giving back—from helping create a cultural district in downtown New Bedford to effectively advocating for lower health care costs for students.

Known for his civic engagement and service at UMass Dartmouth, he has worked on small business creation, workforce development programs, and registering hundreds to vote. He also serves as a student representative to the UMass Board of Trustees.

As someone who got his start in the Massachusetts State House at a young age, Jacob embodies what our country needs in its future leaders.

On behalf of Massachusetts' 9th Congressional District, I congratulate Jacob Miller. I look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes and I wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 2015, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #174–175. Had I been present, on Roll Call #174, H.R. 373—Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act, I would have voted YEA, and on Roll Call #175, H.R. 1324—Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR WILLIAM GREEN MILLER

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal patriot and statesman, Ambassador William Green Miller, for his longtime

work and commitment to building a strong and resilient US-Ukraine relationship. This week, Ambassador Miller will be receiving the Alexander B. Chernyk Medal for outstanding leadership and deep commitment to US-Ukraine affairs, presented by my constituents in the Greater Philadelphia Area. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I would like to thank Ambassador Miller for his many years of service and dedication to this cause.

With an education from Williams College, Oxford and Harvard, Ambassador Miller entered the Foreign Service in 1959, serving five years in Iran before transitioning back to Washington as a line officer and in the office of the Secretary of State Dean Rusk. In the years to follow, he served as a foreign policy and defense adviser to Senator John Sherman Cooper, and held the position of Associate Dean and Professor of International Politics of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. In 1986, Ambassador Miller returned to Washington as President of the American Committee on United States-Soviet Relations, where his position admitted him to travel frequently throughout the Soviet Union, obtaining direct knowledge of the monumental changes taking place in the region.

Between 1993 and 1998, Mr. Miller served as United States Ambassador to Ukraine under President Bill Clinton. As Ambassador, he was a supporter and witness to some of the most fundamental transformations of the Ukrainian State, including the ratification of Ukraine's Constitution. To this day, Ambassador Miller still promotes peace and stability in Ukraine through his work as a Senior Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Caucus, I want to thank Ambassador William Green Miller for his lifetime of international diplomatic accomplishments, and his help in forging the steadfast US-Ukraine relationship that has lasted and will continue to last for decades to come.

DENVER REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) and the many cities around the country that participated in Stand Up 4 Transportation Day this past April 9th.

In Denver, nearly 400 people came out to support the many forms of public transportation around Colorado, ranging from buses, shuttles, vans, bicycles, cabs, car services, pedicabs, light rail and rail. More than 350 organizations in U.S. cities and towns participated in the event. Stand Up 4 Transportation Day succeeded in raising awareness about the importance of public transportation and a long-term, sustainable transportation authorization bill.

Stand up 4 Transportation Day was a brainchild of former General Manager and CEO of

RTD, Phil Washington. During his time with RTD, he always pushed for surface transportation reauthorization for the future. In Phil's own words, "It's time to do some nation building. But the funding is key to more access to transit, new buses and trains, more reliable service, less gridlock. We can't meet the demands of our growing population and economy without a long-term commitment from Washington."

I applaud Phil and Denver's RTD for their efforts in the Denver metro area. Our communities are more connected and our quality of life is better for it.

THE EARTHQUAKE OF APRIL 25,  
2015, THAT DEVASTATED NEPAL

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt condolences and full support for assistance to the people of Nepal and all of those affected by the devastating earthquake of April 25, 2015, and its aftermath. The massive magnitude-7.8 earthquake, which struck about 77 kilometers northwest of Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, was the most powerful to hit Nepal in more than 80 years. Almost 5,000 deaths have been accounted for and, as I read this line, it is possible that this number has gone up.

The United Nations estimates that the tragedy has affected more than 8 million people and left more than 1.4 million people in need of food assistance. This earthquake has also destroyed many historical and architectural structures important to the culture of Nepal.

So I ask my fellow members to join me in mourning with the people of Nepal and all communities in other countries affected by the tragic loss of life. I also want to commend the efforts of first responders, relief agencies, private citizens, Nepal's neighboring countries, and the international community.

I want to thank our administration for its quick response to help our friends in Nepal. I urge Congress and our administration to continue our efforts in helping Nepal during this tragic time.

HONORING JUSTICE LIVELY

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Lively, who on March 25, 2015, received the Washington Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award. Justice was honored for his achievements in overcoming a tumultuous childhood and serving as a leader in his community.

The Youth of the Year Award has been the highest award attainable by the national Boys & Girls Club since 1947. Justice previously received the Skagit County Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

Justice's upbringing was filled with far greater challenges than any child should face. As a young boy, with his father deployed in the U.S. Army and his mother frequently absent, Justice was cared for by his oldest brother. When his father returned, Justice was brought into a new home with an abusive stepmother. Just as his mother began to get her life back together, she was killed in a car accident when Justice was only seven years old.

When he was 10, Justice's life finally took a turn for the better. He was adopted by his aunt and uncle and was brought to Mt. Vernon, where he later joined the local Boys & Girls Club. Today, Justice is a leader at the club, focused on helping children. He frequently reads books to the club's younger children as part of a class on early childhood development.

As he prepares to graduate from high school, Justice intends to attend the Cascade Job Corps, Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University in pursuit of his goal of becoming a pediatric nurse at Seattle Children's hospital.

I want to congratulate Justice Lively on this achievement, as well as his work with the Skagit County Boys & Girls Club. I wish him the best as he pursues his dream of helping children.

HONORING EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON TOWN MARSHAL DOLAR LAPLANT

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eatonville, Washington Town Marshal Dolar LaPlant who was killed in 1925 and his daughter and great-granddaughter who fought to see him recognized for his heroic sacrifice. In 1925, Mr. LaPlant was 53 years old and a Spanish-American War veteran. While on duty as Town Marshal, just four days after stepping into that position, he confronted a drunken gunman who was firing shots and narrowly missing small children at a playground. Mr. LaPlant did not stop to think about his own life or the fact that he was unarmed. He simply did everything in his power to ensure that his town was kept safe. The gunman shot Mr. LaPlant just below his right ear before he was knocked unconscious. Mr. LaPlant achieved his mission but would later die from the wound he received.

For many years, his heroic actions went unremembered except by his family, particularly his daughter Rosa and his great-granddaughter Ronda. In 1999, Ronda succeeded in having Dolar LaPlant added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall and now her great-grandfather and his legacy will be honored posthumously with the Washington Medal of Honor on May 9th. I applaud Ronda's hard work and join with her in honoring the memory of Town Marshal Dolar LaPlant whose service ensured the safety of the residents of Eatonville, Washington.

## POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Officer Osiel De La Cruz for being recognized as the Pearland Officer of the Year by both the Texas Louisiana Gulf District and the Exchange Club of Pearland.

Officer De La Cruz was a natural choice for this award thanks to his hard work in the community, service to the public and heroic actions. Officer De La Cruz is a veteran of the department and a nightshift patrol officer. His commitment to our community is evident through his work both on and off duty. Officer De La Cruz made over 53 DWI and drug-related arrests this year, found a shooting victim and apprehended five offenders, and even managed to apprehend a robbery suspect while he was off-duty. His list of accomplishments speaks for itself. We can all sleep better at night knowing that police officers like Officer De La Cruz are on patrol.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Officer Osiel De La Cruz on being honored as the Pearland Officer of the Year. Thank you for your dedication to keeping our communities safe.

HONORING THE LUMMI NATION  
SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2014-2015 Lummi Nation School boys' basketball team. This year, Lummi put together a perfect 27-0 season, beating rival Neah Bay 54-33 in the Class 1B state championship game. I congratulate them on this exemplary achievement.

The title game was the first time two Native American teams faced off for a state championship in Washington, and the Blackhawks' victory was the first time a Native team has won the boys' 1B championship.

Along with the team's historic victory, four Lummi players also earned individual honors. Sophomore forward Trazil Lane was selected as the Associated Press (AP) Class 1B State Player of the Year after averaging 18.2 points per game. He was also selected as the Northwest League's (NWL's) Most Valuable Player.

Senior guard Austin Brockie averaged 14.2 points per game and was an AP all-state honorable mention and a first-team all-NWL selection. Senior Dino Williams was a first-team all-NWL selection, and senior Kavarez Lane was a second-team all-NWL selection. Lane was also chosen to play in the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association's (WIBCA's) all-state game. Finally, Coach Jerome Toby was selected as the WIBCA Coach of the Year.

The Blackhawks displayed a great deal of character and determination this season. Their

success resulted from their hard work and ability to play unselfishly for their teammates.

Again, I congratulate the Lummi boys' basketball team on all of their success. Their accomplishments on the court this season are hard-earned and well-deserved.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN PIERCE  
CALHOUN**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following obituary was published April 5, 2015, in The Charlotte Observer.

JOHN PIERCE CALHOUN

CHARLOTTE.—John Pierce Calhoun (Jack) of Charlotte, North Carolina, died peacefully surrounded by his children on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. He was born in Ninety-Six, South Carolina, on November 18, 1926, the son of Alleyne Griffin Calhoun and John Nathaniel Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun spent his childhood years in Greenwood and Batesburg, South Carolina, before moving to Sumter, South Carolina, where he graduated from Edmonds High School in 1944. After a year at Clemson University, he served in the US Army for 26 months, during which time he attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in the US Army specialized training program. He was discharged from the Army in June 1946, returning to Clemson University where he received a BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1948. During his business career, he graduated from the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. Mr. Calhoun married Paula Frederick Whitaker of Kinston, North Carolina, on June 26, 1954. Employed by Rexnord Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he held company positions in various locations throughout the United States. He moved to Milwaukee in 1974, serving in management, and became Chairman and CEO of Rexnord Inc. After 35 years with the company, he retired in 1990. Over his career, Mr. Calhoun served on church, bank, and civic boards and industry associations. Upon moving to Charlotte after retirement, Mr. Calhoun became a member of Myers Park United Methodist Church and an associate member of Blowing Rock Methodist Church in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. He was a member of Charlotte Country Club, Piedmont Club of Charlotte, The Alotian Club, and Blowing Rock Country Club. Mr. Calhoun enjoyed golf, fishing, travel, and was an avid reader. Mr. Calhoun cherished every opportunity to be with his family and eight grandchildren who adored their "Poppy." He was a devoted and loving husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather. His strong work ethic, integrity and faith in God were his guiding principles. He had a wonderful ability to connect with people through his contagious sense of humor, wit, and kindness. He was a consummate gentleman with a perpetual twinkle in his eye. Mr. Calhoun brought happiness to all who knew and loved him, and he will remain an example in living for his family. His greatest legacy is the love and bond his family shares with one another. He is survived by daughter Paula Calhoun Ruffin and husband Dalton Dillard Ruffin, Jr. of Charlotte; Harriet Calhoun Stephens and husband Warren Amerine Stephens of Little Rock, Arkansas; and son John Nathaniel Calhoun II and wife Ansley

Bost Calhoun of Charlotte. His grandchildren are Sarah Dickson Bourgeois and husband John Rion Bourgeois, Rebecca Stuart Dickson, Lydia Dillard Ruffin, Warren Miles Amerine Stephens, John Calhoun Stephens, Laura Whitaker Stephens, William Coulter Calhoun, and John Pierce Calhoun II. He is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews. Mr. Calhoun was predeceased by his parents, his wife and the love of his life for fifty-nine years, Paula Whitaker Calhoun, sister Miriam Cook McCrae of Rock Hill, South Carolina, and brother Charles Cooper Calhoun of Seabrook Island, South Carolina. A memorial service will be held at Myers Park United Methodist Church at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. Interment will be private. A visitation will also be held at the home of John and Ansley Calhoun, 531 Colville Road, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. The family would like to thank Steffeny Harris for her care of and devotion to Mr. Calhoun and his family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Myers Park United Methodist Church, designated for The St. Luke's Fund, 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28207; Blowing Rock Methodist Church, P.O. Box 352, Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605; The Salvation Army Center of Hope, 534 Spratt Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206; and Crises Assistance Ministries, 500 Spratt Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206. Robertson Funeral & Cremation Service is serving the family.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. JACKI  
LOWE**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional business leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Jacki Lowe, on the occasion of her retirement from Georgia Power on April 1, 2015.

Mrs. Lowe has served as West Region Vice President of Georgia Power since 2005 but her career with Southern Company, which owns and operates Georgia Power, began more than forty years ago in 1974. A familiar face and name at Southern Company, she excelled in her many roles, which included Compensation Manager at Georgia Power as well as Benefits Manager, Compensation and Benefits Manager, Land Manager, and Assistant to the President at Alabama Power. She also served as Vice President and Regional Chief Information Officer for Alabama Power, Southern Company Services and Southern Nuclear in Birmingham. Before being appointed West Region Vice President, she served as Vice President of Supply Chain Management for Southern Company and Georgia Power.

As a female executive in the fourth largest utility company in the United States, Mrs. Lowe has in many ways broken through the glass ceiling in this male-dominated industry. Not only has her leadership set an example for other women, but she has also reached out and mentored many employees in order to help them reach their goals and objectives.

Mrs. Lowe holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Georgia State

University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Samford University in Birmingham. In addition to going above and beyond in her career, Mrs. Lowe has proven to be an exceptional member of her community. She serves on the boards of the Columbus Technical College Foundation, Columbus Regional Medical Foundation, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc., Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, and the National Infantry Museum. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce and presided as the Board Chair in 2013. In 2011, she chaired the Intercity Leadership Conference and the Diversity Conference and was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award. She also is a past chair of the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority and the Columbus Economic Development Committee, as well as a past board member of the United Way of Chattahoochee Valley and the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Not only has Mrs. Lowe established a legacy for women in the workplace at Southern Company, but she has also done a tremendous job of giving back to the great city of Columbus, and I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to make the community stronger. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others is what makes these qualities truly worthy.

Mrs. Lowe has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of her two sons, Matt and Jeremy, and her grandchildren, Gaines, Libby, Samuel, Carter, and Hudson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mrs. Jacki Lowe upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career spanning over four decades with Southern Company.

HONORING DEAN JOHN CHARLES  
(JACK) BOGER

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dean Jack Boger, the 13th Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law, who will step down in June after nine years as Dean.

Dean Boger is a native of Concord, North Carolina and a graduate of Duke University, Yale University, and the UNC School of Law. After completing law school at UNC in 1974, he clerked with the Honorable Samuel Silverman of the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division and practiced for three years in the litigation department of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City.

In 1978, Boger joined the staff of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he litigated capital punishment cases for a decade, becoming the director of the

Fund's Capital Punishment Project in 1983 and a new poverty and justice program in 1987.

Boger became a member of the UNC School of Law faculty in 1990, going on to teach courses in constitutional law, education law, racial discrimination, and poverty law. In 2002, he became Deputy Director of the UNC Center for Civil Rights, working with Director Julius L. Chambers to encourage innovative civil rights research, train a new generation of civil rights attorneys, and address pressing civil rights issues in North Carolina and throughout the Southeast. In addition to his service at UNC, he has taught as a lecturer or adjunct professor at Harvard, New York Law School, and Florida State University.

In 2006, Boger became the UNC School of Law's 13th dean. His deanship has provided a steady hand and a strategic vision for the school during one of the more trying times in the history of legal education.

Dean Boger recently wrote that he has always understood the real meaning of the "Carolina Way" to be the unfaltering faith that light and truth, set free without fear or favor in a university setting, will eventually provide keys to meeting the deepest human needs. During his time as Dean, he has exemplified this understanding of the "Carolina Way" as well as the motto of the University of North Carolina: *Esse Quam Videri*, to be rather than to seem.

Thank you, Dean Boger, for your service as Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law. On behalf of my colleagues in North Carolina's congressional delegation, I wish you good luck and Godspeed in all your future endeavors.

HONORING ADAM S.J. BATTLES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam S.J. Battles. Adam is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adam has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Adam has earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became a Member of the Order of the Arrow. Adam has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Adam built eight wooden benches for parents and spectators to sit on while watching events at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center in Holt, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Adam S.J. Battles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding members of the TIRR Memorial Hermann Hotwheels team on their victory at the National Wheelchair Basketball junior championship.

The team worked together with their dedicated coach to represent Texas and the Memorial Hermann Hotwheels competitively. The hard-working members of Hotwheels have demonstrated immense dedication to their team and each other, and exemplary sportsmanship and skill in wheelchair basketball.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Hotwheels on their hard-won victory at the National Wheelchair Basketball junior championship. Your dedication and commitment are a continued inspiration to us all. Best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
THOMAS L. ROTELLA, JR.

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and retirement of Thomas L. Rotella, Jr. for his outstanding years of service in the Central Valley. Tom's 43 years of dedication and achievements deserves to be commended.

Tom's contributions to Fresno County began in his high school years while attending Roosevelt High School. During this time, Tom was elected into Youth Council of the Fresno City Economic Opportunities Commission. After a year, Mayor Ted Wills appointed him as Chairperson for the Fresno City Youth Commission; which he served as for two years from 1973 to 1975. Tom also sat on the Fresno Community Development Commission for three years from 1973 to 1976.

Tom graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1974 and began attending evening classes at Fresno City College and throughout his educational lifetime, received 900 Hours of Labor Training at the William W. Winipisinger Educations and Technology Center. In 1976, he set foot on the path of his career by becoming a lot boy for Mid-Cal Ford Truck. Shortly afterward, he was given the opportunity of the Apprenticeship Program. In 1984, Tom completed the program as a Journeyman Mechanic and obtained three Masters in National Automotive Service of Excellence for Heavy Duty, Light Duty, and Automotive. He earned the position of Union Shop Steward, and was titled Assistant Service Manager for his last three years at Mid-Cal Ford Truck. He also held a California Smog License, as well as Brake, Lamp, and Air Conditioning Licenses.

In 1976, he joined the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

(IAMAW). During his years with IAMAW, Tom's accomplishments included becoming the Recording Secretary for IAMAW Local 1309 and Vice-President of IAMAW District 87. Since 1990, Tom has served for twenty-five years as a Business Representative and President/Directing Business Representative for IAMAW Local 653 and Business Representative for IAMAW District 190, and has been the President of the California Conference of Machinists for the past fifteen years. TOM also participated as the Lead Negotiator in coordinating bargaining for the Building Trades with Fresno Unified School District as well as coordinating bargaining with Sun-Maid Growers for the International Association of Machinists, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the International Union of Operating Engineers.

In addition to his already lengthy resume, Tom has partook with the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League Planning Committee and was the past Vice President and current delegate to the Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings Counties Central Labor Council. He served on the Civil Service Commission for Fresno County for nine years as a Business Representative, and the Automotive and Machinists Joint Apprenticeship Committee for thirty years since completing his apprenticeship in 1984, serving as Chairman of the committee for the last twenty-five years. As a part of the Apprenticeship Committee, Tom was a participant and an asset to the Trade Advisory Council for Chowchilla Women's Facility, Corcoran's Men Facility and Tehachapi Prison.

Tom has been happily married for thirty-six years to his wife, Barbara, and has been the proud father of three daughters and grandfather of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exemplary career of Thomas Rotella Jr., and to wish him the best of luck and satisfaction in his retirement and future endeavors.

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#### HONORING ALEX ARGYLE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Argyle. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 125, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Argyle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM G. DRESSSEL, JR.

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of William G. Dressel, Jr. as he prepares to retire as Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities this year. Mr. Dressel has dedicated 41 years to the League and his achievements are to be celebrated.

Joining the New Jersey State League of Municipalities staff in 1974, Mr. Dressel held various positions in the organization until being selected to serve as Executive Director in 1995. As Executive Director, Mr. Dressel has overseen a twenty member staff, an operating budget of over \$3 million and five full-time lobbyists. In addition to his tenure at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Mr. Dressel served on the National League of Cities Executive Board for two years.

Mr. Dressel has been an effective voice for New Jersey's municipalities and his commitment to government is evident. He has fought on behalf of local government and helped advance their goals and meet their needs. Under his leadership, the League has grown, with all 565 New Jersey municipalities participating in the volunteer association for the past five years. Additionally, the League's Annual Conference is the largest of its kind, with nearly 20,000 attendees each year.

Mr. Dressel holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from West Virginia University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Social Science from Elon College. He has been recognized over the years for his outstanding service, receiving the John G. Stutz Award for 25 Years of State League Service by the National League of Cities, the Rutgers Award for Public Service to New Jersey for Excellence in promoting and supporting municipal government and Preservation New Jersey's Sarah P. Fiske Award for his efforts to rehabilitate the Ferdinand W. Roebbling Sr. Mansion as the League of Municipality's headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating William Dressel, Jr. on his retirement and thanking him for his service to New Jersey. Mr. Dressel's commitment to the betterment of our communities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

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#### CELEBRATING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 67th anniversary of Israeli Independence, Yom Ha'atzmaut. The story of Israel is one of a country that for 67 years has defied all odds

and a long list of existential threats not only to exist but to thrive as a powerhouse of innovation and national resilience.

Every year, the celebration of the birth of the Jewish state comes on the heels of Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Ha'zikaron. The sirens that ring throughout the country to mark the day of remembrance serve as a stark reminder of the ultimate price its citizens have paid to make the State of Israel possible.

The special relationship between our two countries spans all of Israel's 67 years, beginning the moment that President Harry Truman famously recognized the State of Israel only 11 minutes after its declaration of statehood on May 14, 1948.

Since that time, Israel has served as a bright beacon of democracy and human rights in a region scarce with both. As terrorist groups like ISIS spread their brutality, a civil war rages in Syria that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and a regime in Iran calls for the annihilation of Israel as it pursues a nuclear program, we are reminded of the importance of our alliance and shared values. On this day, we must reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the State of Israel and our shared goals of democracy, peace, security, and prosperity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the people and leaders of Israel chag sameach and a happy 67th Independence Day.

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#### HONORING SETH ARGYLE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Argyle. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 125, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Seth has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Seth Argyle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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#### NATIONAL DISTINCTION

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Meadows Place and their fire department on receiving the rare national distinction of a PPC top ranking of 1.

Out of the 48,000 other communities that were evaluated, only 80 out of the entire nation have received such an incredible ranking from the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

The ISO utilizes a classification system to rank cities on their Fire Department's ability to protect their communities from fire-related incidents. The system evaluates fire alarm facilities, fire suppression equipment, and other fire department procedures. This comprehensive evaluation method demonstrates that it takes both exemplary city leadership and a dedicated Fire Department to achieve a ranking of this superior level. The leadership and Fire Department of the City of Meadows Place have truly prioritized the safety and welfare of their citizens.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the City of Meadows Place and its Fire Department on receiving the highest rank from the ISO. We know that you will continue to set an example in excellence, and we thank you for your service.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS A. BEATON

### HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts to commemorate Thomas A. Beaton, Phillips Academy Andover Class of 1973, as he completes his service as the President of the Phillips Academy Alumni Council. I want to celebrate Tom as a role model that embodies our school's "non sibi" motto, which translates to "not for self."

An energetic volunteer and philanthropic supporter of Andover, Tom has served as a member of the Alumni Council since 2004, during which time he twice co-chaired the Non Sibi Committee and the Mentoring Committee. Mr. Beaton also cofounded the Andover and the Military Committee, among other activities.

Today, we want to celebrate the fact that, in 2007, Tom pioneered Non Sibi Day, Andover's worldwide service effort in which alumni, parents, faculty and students participate. Under Tom's leadership and steadfast support, Non Sibi Day has evolved into what is now known as the Non Sibi 365 initiative, which is the name given to the Non Sibi Committee's efforts to serve as a catalyst for year-round expressions of the Non Sibi spirit of the alumni of Phillips Academy and Abbot Academy. The initiative includes all public service acts done in the spirit of Non Sibi, from individual acts of kindness to group projects that bring the Andover alumni community together, with the express purpose of helping others.

Over the years, Tom has led Non Sibi projects at the Pine Street Inn to help end homelessness and cycled in the Pan-Mass Challenge to support cancer research, to name just two of the countless manifestations of Non Sibi in Tom's life. Tom's efforts have inspired thousands of alums to participate in hundreds of projects around the world. Thank you, Tom, for your inspiring and transformative leadership. Semper Non Sibi.

HONORING PAYTON RODGERS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Payton Rodgers. Payton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 125, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Payton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Payton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Payton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Payton Rodgers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,908,849,687.15. We've added \$7,525,031,800,774.07 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IRAN IS THE WORLD THREAT TO PEACE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran pretends like it wants peace, but it really wants to conquer the entire Middle East.

While the Supreme Leader's henchmen meet with our diplomats in Geneva, the Iranians are building up their war technology. Iranian news sources indicate that since 2014, Iran has been developing combat suicide drones. This technology uses drones as suicide weapons to destroy jet aircraft, helicopters, and even warships. The drone development includes drones that elude radar, have tracking devices, and fly for hours with a long range.

The Supreme Leader says he wants to destroy Israel and the United States and you know what? I believe him. He has used his terrorist proxy group Hezbollah to go after

Israelis around the world. Hezbollah killed a bus full of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria. It was caught trying to kill Israelis in India, Turkey, Thailand, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

I was in Israel not too long ago and I met with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

He told me the interim Iran nuclear deal was the worst deal of the century.

A year later we have a so-called final deal that is just as bad if not worse than the interim deal.

Iran gets to keep enriching uranium. It does not have to dismantle any of its nuclear infrastructure. No centrifuges will be disabled, no fissile material will be shipped out of the country, Arak will not be destroyed and Fordow will not be closed.

That means at the end of the deal it basically just has to flip a switch to get a nuclear bomb. Why would we be okay with Iran getting a nuclear bomb in 10 or 15 years but not today? To use a football analogy, this deal puts Iran on the goal line with just inches to go before it scores a touchdown.

The deal is also weak on inspections. Nowhere in any fact sheet is it clear that the IAEA will have "anytime, anywhere" inspections. In fact, an Iranian general said that military sites will be off limits.

Our one point of leverage—tough sanctions that this Congress passed—the Administration seems ready to get rid of sooner rather than later. President Rouhani said "We will not sign any agreement, unless all economic sanctions are totally lifted on the first day of the implementation of the deal." Then our President talked about giving Iran \$10 billion up front from oil revenue that is frozen in Iran's bank account. That does not sound like a tough negotiator to me.

As bad as this deal is, I'm not even sure there is a deal. Supreme Leader Khamenei said "there are no binding results." And you know what? I hope he's right.

As Netanyahu put it when he came to speak to Congress, "the alternative to a bad deal is a better deal." We can reimpose sanctions, bring even tougher sanctions, and return to our original goals of bargaining: dismantle nuclear infrastructure (including centrifuges and enrichment facilities), no enrichment, require anytime/anywhere snap inspections, stop research and development on advanced centrifuges, and no development of ICBMs.

Right now, today, Iran is trying to gobble up Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. That is four countries in the Middle East. Now imagine what Iran would do once it had a nuclear weapon? We cannot let that happen. We must stop the Iranian mullahs that threaten both the United States and Israel.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING OFFICER JACOB BALDWIN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Officer Jacob Baldwin, a police officer and hero with the



Pleasant Valley Police Department, on being awarded the Pleasant Valley Police Service Purple Heart, in recognition of his injuries in the line of duty.

After serving in the United States Air Force, Officer Baldwin continued his devotion to service by becoming a member of the Kansas Air National Guard, serving in the 284th Air Support Operation Squadron. Through his four deployments to Africa, Kuwait and Iraq and his time with the Pleasant Valley Police Department, Officer Baldwin has gone above and beyond his call of duty. On December 13th, Officer Baldwin sustained severe injuries from a gunshot wound. While wounded, Officer Baldwin exemplified selflessness and bravery by notifying proper authorities of the situation at hand so they could apprehend the suspect before he brought harm to another member of the community. Throughout his many years of meritorious service and commitment to the force, Officer Baldwin has inspired his fellow officers and many in the community which he protects.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Officer Jacob Baldwin for his admirable service to the Pleasant Valley Police Department and his selfless dedication to protecting the residents who reside in the city.

COMMITMENT TO ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Hermann Health System for being recognized as a 2015 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. This marks the third consecutive year that Memorial Hermann has received this honor.

Every year, the EPA's ENERGY STAR label is given to hospitals across the country for their energy performance management. For 2015, 20 percent of U.S. hospitals given this label were part of the Memorial Hermann Health System. I commend Memorial Hermann for their continued commitment to energy efficiency.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Memorial Hermann Health System for receiving this worthy recognition. Thank you for being a leader in our community and the health care industry.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN  
JEREMY HAYNES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true patriot and American hero, Captain Jeremy Haynes. On August 5, 2014, Captain Haynes was critically wounded while serving our country in Afghanistan. Cap-

tain Haynes will be honored for his outstanding contributions to the United States Army and to our great nation at the Third Annual Ceola Alexander Memorial Prayer Breakfast on May 2, 2015 in Arlington, Georgia.

A native of Albany, Georgia, Captain Haynes attended Calhoun County Schools and Early County Schools before graduating from Dougherty County High School. He was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corps at Georgia Military College in 2004, and graduated cum laude from Fort Valley State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Most recently, Captain Haynes earned a Master of Science degree in Management magna cum laude from the Florida Institute of Technology in 2013.

Captain Haynes has distinguished himself through a number of previous assignments, including Platoon Leader & Executive Officer, 421st Quartermaster Company (Riggers), U.S. Army Reserves in Fort Valley, Georgia; Battalion Logistics Officer, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); Commander, 623rd Quartermaster Company (Riggers), 82nd Sustainment Brigade (Airborne); Training with Industry, American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and Instructor at the United States Army Logistics University in Fort Lee, Virginia.

During his extensive military career, Captain Haynes has been honored with a multitude of awards, among them the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Freedom Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachute Rigger Badge, German Jump Wings, and the Norwegian 30K Road Mark Badge.

On August 5, 2014, Captain Haynes' life was changed forever. While acting as an Aide-de-Camp to Major General Harold Green among a delegation of Coalition and Afghan Forces, a member of the Afghan army opened fire upon the group, critically wounding Captain Haynes and more than a dozen others.

After suffering gunshot wounds so severe that they required numerous surgeries and left him in a coma, Captain Haynes woke up to find that his legs would not move. Adding even more mental anguish to his physical trauma, he also discovered that Major General Green had been killed. But despite the extremity of his injuries, both physical and emotional, Captain Haynes has not only returned to the loving arms of his wife and six children, but he also took his first steps since the attack just before last New Year's Eve.

His example reminds us all just how deeply the men and women in the Armed Forces give of themselves on our behalf, and how much they are willing to endure, both physically and mentally, to safeguard our cherished liberties. Captain Haynes sets an extraordinary standard of altruism to emulate and for his sacrifices, we shall forever be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 730,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Captain Jeremy Haynes. Captain Haynes' courageous leadership among his peers and his en-

during dedication to our country showcase an individual of truly noble character. The impact of his valor and sacrifice are deeply felt within the hearts of those whose paths he crosses, and we wish him all the best as he continues to touch the lives of those in his community. May his future endeavors reward and inspire him, as he has inspired us.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Jersey State League of Municipalities on its 100th anniversary this year. This incredible milestone and the League's efforts to support New Jersey's local governments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Born out of the need for a statewide alliance supporting and representing the common interests of local governments, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities was conceived and formally authorized by state statute Chapter 163, Laws of 1915. Trenton Mayor Frederick W. Donnelly served as the League's first president, along with three vice presidents, a 14-member executive committee (now known as the executive board) and an executive secretary (known today as the executive director). Over the years, the organization's structure has remained the same. In its 100th year, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler serves as League President.

Evidence of its success, the League has grown immensely since its formation. Begun with 51 charter member municipalities, today the voluntary association boasts a membership of all 565 of New Jersey's municipalities, representing more than 560 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials. Its headquarters, moved from Princeton to Trenton in 1921, continued to expand and was housed in several buildings before settling in its current location in 2007. For 100 years, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities has evolved and grown to meet the changing, complex needs of local government.

Through its legislative activity, the League continues to be the leading voice on municipal affairs and an effective advocate on behalf of New Jersey's communities. Its services, programs and resources, particularly its annual conference and monthly magazine, are invaluable resources to local officials, providing outlets to share issues, solutions and ideas. Throughout its history, the League has successfully fought for greater local autonomy, improved local governance and the protection of municipal rights. Its achievements and influence are immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the New Jersey State League of Municipalities as it celebrates 100 years of local government collaboration. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities continues to represent a commitment to good government.

PROVIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS WITH PERMANENT PROTECTION FROM THEIR ATTACKERS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month and call attention to legislation I reintroduced this morning that will help to ensure that victims of sexual assaults can seek and receive permanent protection from their attackers.

By way of background, Nicole Norberto, a constituent of mine from Jackson, New Jersey and for whom the bill is named, was raped at the age of 15 by an acquaintance. While seeking prosecution of the attacker and appropriate restraints to protect herself, Nicole was advised by a court clerk in her home county that she could not request a permanent restraining order from the judge because she was not in a "dating relationship" with her attacker.

As a result, Nicole's no-contact order, which offered her a significant means of protection from her attacker, ended when her attacker was released from government supervision. To remedy this situation, the New Jersey state legislature adopted legislation (Chapter 133 of the laws of 2007) to extend the right of permanent protection to all victims of sexual abuse.

In my state, Nicole's Law closed a gaping loophole and the bill I introduced today will provide victims across the country with the same protections.

Mr. Speaker, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) estimates that approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim and 38 percent are a friend or acquaintance. Nicole's Law will ensure all victims have the option of obtaining a permanent restraining order—and the peace of mind it provides.

In addition to requiring states to ensure their laws afford victims the option of seeking a permanent restraining order, my bill will allow a judge to, essentially, default to permanent protection instead of issuing protection orders which expire on a specific date or upon termination. In other words, if the offender would like the order removed, the burden is on the offender to ask for its removal, rather than on the victim to ask for its continuance.

Mr. Speaker, RAINN states that 68 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to police and 98 percent of rapists will never spend a day in jail.

By offering victims added protection and support, we can enable them to have greater confidence in the administration of justice. The more support and confidence victims have in the ability of our justice system to hold those who commit sex crimes accountable, the more likely victims will come forward—which will help ensure that more criminals are properly prosecuted, leading to fewer victims in the future.

As Nicole stated this week: "This law is a chance to help ensure victim's rights are protected and needs are met before, during and after a sexual assault. Hopefully this law will

help victims of sexual assault be more comfortable with coming forward about their incident knowing that there are laws set in place to help protect them during this difficult process."

We should do all we can to encourage victims to come forward and ensure those victims who do, are afforded permanent protection. My legislation will help this effort and I urge all members to support it.

LEGENDARY COACH

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Donna Vacek on her long and successful career as head coach of the Lady Oilers, the Pearland girls' basketball team.

With over 449 career wins and two regional tournament appearances, Ms. Vacek has coached the Lady Oilers to incredible victories over her 29 year career. While she is still in her prime in coaching, Ms. Vacek opted to retire and spend time caring for her family. She is leaving a legacy of victory and determination that will continue to motivate the team in future tournaments.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again on your exemplary career as head coach of the Lady Oilers. We know that you will continue to set an example in excellence and compassion, and we thank you for leadership.

PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT (H.R. 1560) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ADVANCEMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2015 (H.R. 1731)

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted against H.R. 1560. With two bills on the floor with the same purpose to improve public-private cybersecurity information sharing, I simply prefer the alternative legislation, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015 (H.R. 1731).

I commend the Select Committee on Intelligence for their efforts to produce quality, effective legislation to increase public-private cybersecurity information sharing. However, it made more sense to me that this information sharing would be channeled through the existing National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) already in place under the Department of Homeland Security, as provided in H.R. 1731. I am concerned that this bill would provide too many opportunities for mistakes as cybersecurity information would be shared by private entities with any civilian Government agency of their choice. With so many government entities eligible to receive this information, and then pass

it on to other government organizations, H.R. 1560 would not ensure protection of private personal information.

A coalition of 18 security researchers and 36 privacy organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have similar concerns, and while I applaud the effort to move forward to address cybersecurity issues, it's critical to get the privacy protections right.

I recognize the importance of establishing cybersecurity legislation and support the Administration's position that information sharing legislation must carefully safeguard privacy and civil liberties and provide for appropriate sharing with targeted liability protections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and support the National Cybersecurity Advancement Protection Act of 2015.

HONORING COMCAST CARES DAY

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the spirit of volunteerism demonstrated by Comcast Cares Day.

Since 2001, over 600,000 volunteers have logged over 3.7 million service hours throughout the country during Comcast Cares Day, a celebration that brings communities together to encourage service and promote volunteerism. This year in Will County, volunteers will work with the Forest Preserve District of Will County for a project at Whalon Lake.

I would like to thank the organizers and volunteers of Comcast Cares Day for the work they do in our community and for their commitment to service.

CONGRATULATING THE COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Coppell High School girls soccer team and their recent victory in the 2015 UIL 6A State Championship game. Coppell defeated then-unbeaten Highland Park High School by a score of 3-0, giving the Cowgirls their second state championship.

The Cowgirls, led by longtime coach Chris Stricker, finished the season undefeated with 28 wins, three ties, and zero losses, making them only the 9th UIL girls soccer champion to finish a season without a loss. What makes this championship victory that much more impressive is the difficult road the Cowgirls had to traverse, beating nationally ranked teams like Plano West just to get into the State tournament. Not only did Coppell finish the season as the best team in Texas, they were ranked the #1 team in the nation by Top Drawer Soccer. The achievements and accomplishments

attained this season by the Cowgirls, listed below, cannot be understated and are deserving of the highest praise.

Seniors: Rachel Johnson #00, Cami Studebaker #6, Grace Vowell #8, Liat Even #10, Christina Liu #12, Rachel Koury #18, Sarah King #21, Tara Vishnesky #22

Juniors: Kristen Racz #5, Maddie Dickson #11, Madeline Guderian #13, Kate Kaiser #16, Ashleigh Little #25, Emma Jett #27, Shay Johnson #31

Sophomores: Kelly Rohe #0, Maddie Weber #1, Erian Brown #7, Tori Teffeteller #26, Sarah Houchin #30

Freshmen: Italia Bradley #3, Tyler Runnels #9, Sydney Andrews #20, McKenzie McFarland #23

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this great achievement by the Coppell High School girls soccer team.

# TOP 10 COLLEGE WOMEN OF THE YEAR

## HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vanessa Alejandro for being named one of Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women of the Year. This prestigious recognition highlights ten young women whose actions lead to positive changes in their community.

Vanessa grew up in Pearland, Texas and was always fond of exploring nature as a child. Upon attending University of Houston, she realized many inner city children fail to have a safe environment to explore nature like she did as a child. As a result, she founded Warriors of the Wild, a nonprofit that teaches inner city kids about science and the environment. While pursuing her academic leadership, she became a cancer survivor. Two years ago, Vanessa was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She battled cancer like a champion continuing her studies at the same time. Her efforts to help bring the world of science to those with limited access and her success in overcoming cancer are an inspiration to all young women.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Vanessa Alejandro for being named Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women of the Year. We are very proud of her.

MAYOR DONNIE McMANNES

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after ten years in office, City of Humble, Texas Mayor Donnie McMannes will officially bring his stellar public career to an end next month. His tireless efforts have improved our community,

and it is with great pleasure that I express my admiration, gratitude and respect to a hometown hero and committed public servant.

Donnie was born in Houston and spent much of his childhood in the Heights area before moving with his mother to Humble in 1945 and attending Charles Bender High School, where he became a football star before graduating in 1953.

After graduating high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Georgia. He was soon drafted into the U.S. Army. His love for football continued while in the service when he played football for the Army in Germany in what was called the Rhine Conference. In 1955, his team went undefeated and won the Rhine Conference Championship.

After completing his service in the Army, Donnie returned home to Texas and to his wife, Georgia. At the age of 23, he joined the City of Houston Police Department.

For 27 years, Donnie put on the badge to protect and serve Houstonians. His long career at HPD included assignments in patrol, investigator, and narcotics. He was promoted to detective in the Burglary and Theft Division, where he served for fourteen years. After retiring from HPD, he continued his career as a Texas lawman, working ten more years for Constable Walter Rankin's Precinct One Constable Office. He is a lifetime member of what I refer to as the "Poe-leece"—a group of my friends in the Texas law enforcement community.

Donnie is the epitome of civil servant. After officially retiring from law enforcement in 1995, Donnie decided to become more actively involved in local government and ran for the position of Council Member with the City of Humble. He served on the Humble City Council for 10 years. He then decided to run for mayor in 2005 and has spent the last 10 years as its mayor.

Under his leadership, he's overseen many successful projects through the Humble City Council, including bringing the City out of debt and into a surplus. Mayor McMannes has given Humble financial flexibility and the ability to start and complete projects, noting that the projects are always "paid for by cash."

Congress could certainly stand to gain from following in Mayor McMannes' commonsense, fiscally responsible footsteps. In addition, working alongside many of his Humble-born and bred friends from the '50s, the City of Humble recently finished managing a total restoration project on the old Charles Bender High School building turning it into the new Charles Bender High School Performing Arts Center. As an alum of Charles Bender High School, this project was close to Mayor McMannes' heart, and appropriately, the new facility is immersed in important memories and milestones in Humble's rich roots.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District, I thank Mayor McMannes for his service and wish him and Georgia nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

As a resident of Humble, I can tell you that his presence in the city government will be missed. As Donnie likes to say, "I'm Texas born, Texas bred, and I'll be Texas dead right here on Main Street."

And that's just the way it is.

# FBISD ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melanie Hines of Oyster Creek Elementary on being named Fort Bend Independent School District's 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Hines has been a teacher for ten years, devoting the last two years to Oyster Creek Elementary. She prides herself on taking a special interest in each student and is dedicated to preventing achievement gaps in the classroom for all of her students. I wish Ms. Hines the best of luck in her teaching career and am thankful for teachers like her that go above and beyond for their students. Great teachers help develop future leaders.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Melanie Hines for her commitment to teaching and for earning the Fort Bend ISD 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

# RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND SERVICE OF DR. S. ALAN RAY

## HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated servant of higher education from the state of Illinois, Dr. S. Alan Ray. In June, Dr. Ray will conclude his service as President of Elmhurst College.

During his tenure as President, Dr. Ray has been an exemplary leader and servant of Elmhurst College. He created the first comprehensive strategic planning process in the school's history. The Elmhurst College Strategic Plan 2009–2014 clarified and systemized the College's core values and beliefs and charted a course for the College's institutional growth during those years. He has since created a second strategic plan, with the help of the school's trustees, to lay out the groundwork for academic and institutional growth through the year 2020. Dr. Ray's strategic vision and dedicated execution have strengthened Elmhurst College and better served countless students.

Under Dr. Ray's direction, Elmhurst College has grown significantly. It increased its full-time faculty, greatly increased its minority student population, and launched a school of professional studies, which specializes in graduate and adult education. The College has also completed construction and renovation projects, including the Elmhurst College Simulation Center at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. The simulation center is a state-of-the-art facility built to improve nurses' clinical knowledge and skills through active, hands-on clinical scenarios.

Dr. Ray's long and distinguished tenure at Elmhurst College has been a time of dynamic

growth for the institution and academic excellence for its student population. Elmhurst College has solidified its place as an integral part of our local community and an excellent place to study and receive training for a successful career.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Dr. S. Alan Ray on his seven years of service to Elmhurst College and in wishing him all the best for the new chapter on which he is about to embark.

**RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS WITH  
THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE OLDER  
CITIZENS FOSTER GRAND-  
PARENT PROGRAM**

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to recognize volunteers with the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program, which pairs people aged 60 and older with students for tutoring and mentorship purposes. The Foster Grandparent Program is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and has been operating at Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc. since 1997.

It is my honor to submit the names of Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program volunteers:

Irene Bailey, Lucille Baker, Minnie Baker, Betty Barker, Mary Dawson, Nelda Denninson, Shirley Gardner, Ruth Gibson, Bess Gillenwater, Ruth Hogue, Patsy King, Janie Marshall, Sheila Miller, Edith Moore, Sharon Mullins, Bonnie Olinger, Mary Rogers, Ruth Shawver, Marie Smith, Thelma Smith, Betty Stewart, and Thelma Welch.

Additionally, I would recognize Sarah Parsons for her 15 years of service, and note with sadness the passing of Aleatha Strong, who served for 7 years as a Foster Grandparent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my genuine thanks to folks working with and volunteering for the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these volunteers and others throughout the nation for their efforts on behalf of America's young people. Best wishes to the Foster Grandparent Program many more years of success.

**TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY PEARL**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sydney Pearl, a twelve year old author from West Des Moines, Iowa.

Sydney, a student at Stilwell Junior High School recently completed a book about holocaust survivor David Wolnerman. Mr. Wolnerman and his wife Mrs. Jennie Wolnerman are the last known living holocaust survivors in Central Iowa. I applaud Sydney's effort to preserve their story in her book A Lucky Lie.

This book is an oral history of Mr. Wolnerman during his time in Nazi concentration camps and his life afterwards. The title comes from the lie Mr. Wolnerman told long ago in 1940, about his age as he was entering the concentration camp. By claiming he was 18, when he was only 13, he narrowly avoided being sent to the gas chamber. Mr. Wolnerman believes God allowed him to make that choice and ultimately it helped him survive. Sydney, through her words, was able to pass along his message for others to hear. The tragedy of the holocaust must never be forgotten.

Sydney was encouraged to write the book by the Jewish Federation and A Book by Me, an Illinois company that taps children to tell stories of Jewish survivors. Her book passes down the oral history of David Wolnerman for other children nationwide.

I congratulate Sydney Pearl for writing this book and for preserving the history of those that survived the horrors of the Holocaust during the Second World War. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Sydney Pearl and wishing her many successes in the future.

**HONORING ALLAN LEE  
McCROSKY**

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of my friend Allan Lee McCroskey of Roanoke County, who went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Allan served our nation in the United States Air Force during Vietnam. In spite of his service-related ailments, Allan was always quick to greet you with a smile. He went on to serve as Commander for the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Virginia (2012–2013). In fact, Allan was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, and was a Disabled American Veterans National Service Officer. He also was retired from the Veterans Administration.

Not only did Allan serve our nation, he actively served the community as well. He was Assistant Scout Master and Board Member of the Blue Ridge Council of Boy Scouts of America, and received the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, and the James E. West Fellowship Award. He also was a member of the Scouting Heritage Society.

Additionally, Allan was board member for Climbing Higher Ministries of Lynchburg and Combining Chapters of the DAV. He also was a member of Living Water Christian Church and Cave Spring Masonic Lodge #230.

Allan was preceded in death by his father, Richard L. McCroskey; his stepmother, Agnes McCroskey; his mother, Virginia Johnson McCroskey; his loving wife of 37 years, Reatha Tuck McCroskey; and his second wife of eight years, Linda Perkins McCroskey; his sons, Matthew David and Stephen Paul McCroskey; and his brother, Richard F.

McCroskey. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Anne McCroskey of Goodview; his brother, Michael E. McCroskey of Mechanicsville; and his sister, Carolyn S. Wallace of Colonial Heights.

Known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the United States military, veterans, and our community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. My thoughts and prayers go out to Allan's family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 174 and 175, I could not be present to vote on the House Floor as I was in my district attending the funeral of a former member of my staff. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both roll call votes.

**CONGRATULATING MR. BEN  
TALLEY**

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to congratulate Mr. Ben Talley, a science teacher at Van Pelt Elementary School in Bristol, Virginia, on being inducted into the 2015 National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Education is important to the Ninth Congressional District and the future of our nation. Mr. Talley has 24 years of teaching experience, and has been awarded the prestigious McGlothlin Award for Teaching Excellence, the Bristol Mayors' Award of Distinction, a Rotary Outstanding Teacher, and Virginia Teacher of the Year.

In addition to teaching at Van Pelt Elementary School, Mr. Talley teaches GED courses at the Bristol Virginia Jail. He has also written several books, including his 2007 book entitled "The Game My Father Taught Me."

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Mr. Ben Talley on his remarkable accomplishments and, on behalf of many in the Ninth District, thank him for all he has done for our area. Best wishes for many more years of continued success.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BUREAU  
OF RECLAMATION SURFACE  
WATER STORAGE STREAMLINING  
ACT OF 2015**

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2015*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining

Act of 2015. This important and desperately needed legislation would streamline the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental planning and study process for new surface water storage projects. It would accomplish this by applying the same streamlined water project development process used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in order to facilitate the construction of new dams and reservoirs.

Water is the lifeblood of communities in the arid West and the current water shortage crisis devastating much of the Western United States highlights the critical need for water supply to grow with demand. A streamlined process for new water storage projects is vital to prepare effectively for drought and to provide adequate water resources for future development. This bill allows forward-thinking improvements to the Bureau of Reclamation's permitting process to create new opportunities for water storage. Put simply, this legislation will reform the current cumbersome and lengthy process so that there is a mechanism to build new surface water storage projects in the West.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation and I urge its swift passage.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LANGLEY SETTLE

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of my friend Richard Langley Settle, who passed away on April 16, 2015.

Richard served our nation in the United States Air Force Communications Service at the Pentagon. He graduated from Russell County Public Schools, and went on to attend Clinch Valley College.

He was a 31-year employee of Verizon Virginia, and had an immense knowledge of telecommunications and legislative history. Richard left the company in 2003, having started as a pole climber and worked his way up to Southwest Area Manager of External Affairs. He was President of Settle Associates, a consulting group specializing in business development, telecommunications, government relations, and economic development.

Richard is well known for his public service, having served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Russell County Board of Supervisors. He also served as a member of the Foundation Boards of both the Mountain Empire Community College and The University of Virginia—Wise. In 2003, he was the honoree of the Mountain Empire Community College Hall of Honor.

Further, Richard worked tirelessly to encourage economic development in Southwest Virginia. Appointed by three Governors, Richard served the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority as Chair and Vice-Chair. He attended the 2001 Economic Summit in Tokyo, Japan as a special envoy of Virginia, and was also appointed to the Virginia Workforce Council.

Richard was appointed by the General Assembly of Virginia as a non-legislative member of the Southwest Economic Development Commission. He also was a charter member of the Southwest Virginia Technology Council, and was honored with a lifetime membership. Additionally, Richard served as a member of the Board of Directors of Virginia Economic Bridge, and held several advisory board positions for privately held companies.

He was involved in additional public service work and charitable work, having served as a Deacon of Miller View Primitive Baptist Church in Lebanon, VA. He was also an active member of the Sandy Valley Masonic Lodge #17, the Wise County Shrine Club, and the Kazim Temple in Roanoke, VA.

Richard is survived by his wife Janet Swearingen Settle of Abingdon, VA; son Jamie Settle of Carbo, VA; daughter Sarah Rae Easter, MD and husband Nick Easter of Boston, MA; grandsons Tommy Settle and Taylor Settle; brother Billy Settle and sister-in-law Judy, daughter-in-law Jennifer Taylor Yates, and niece Sally Ketron and husband Wes all of Lebanon, VA; niece Lora Beth Settle of Denver, CO and niece Lindsay Greer and husband Joe of Damascus, VA.

Also surviving are his mother-in-law Sarah Baird Hutcheson; brother-in-law James Baird Swearingen, niece Alissa M. Swearingen MD and husband Nick Alexiou, nephew Travis B. Swearingen and wife Aftin all of Brentwood, TN; nephew Christopher J. Swearingen PhD and wife Emilee of San Marcos, CA; brother-in-law Ray Hutcheson and wife Sue of Franklin, KY; great nieces Avery Ketron, Ava Swearingen, Denbigh Swearingen; great nephews Joe Hank, Jacob and Britt Swearingen. Richard was preceded in death by his parents Richard L. and Lillian Jackson Settle, son Robert Kyle Settle, sister Mary Kay Settle, brother Fred Settle, and sister-in-law Martha Jones Swearingen.

Richard's counsel to me and others over the years was truly invaluable. His expertise and devotion had a tremendous impact on our region, and made it a better place to live. His input and dedication will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Richard's family and loved ones at this time. May God give them comfort.

#### TRIBUTE TO MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Meals From The Heartland, a non-profit organization that operates out of West Des Moines, Iowa, for receiving the USA Today Make a Difference Day Award.

Make a Difference Day is a USA Today initiative that issues an award to honor the efforts of outstanding people who lead these projects. Each year, they award \$140,000 in grants to 14 honorees chosen by a distinguished panel of judges. Award-winners can use their grant money to expand their Make a

Difference Day projects, or donate them to a charity of their choice. Make a Difference Day is the nation's largest annual day of giving.

On Make a Difference Day, October 25, 2014, Meals from the Heartland produced over seven tons of food to those in need. A small portion of the 100,008 dried meals produced go to people in Iowa, but most are sent overseas to children in countries including Haiti, South Africa, and the Philippines.

I applaud and congratulate Meals from the Heartland for receiving this award and for their service to starving people around the world, in Central Iowa and elsewhere in the United States. I am proud to represent their leaders, employees, and volunteers in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Meals from the Heartland and wishing them well and continued success in the future.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on the importance of a long term reauthorization.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wild-fire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

To hold hearings to examine the legal implications of the Clean Power Plan.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

SR-328A

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine precision medicine for patients.

SD-430

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-418

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and S. 1036, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans or the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, S. 855, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, S. 736, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, S. 655, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 468, to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer, S. 293, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements, S. 292, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, S. 112, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a

draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published, and S. 1081, to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine ensuring an informed citizenry, focusing on examining the Administration's efforts to improve open government.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

To hold hearings to examine global health problems.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on the role of consumer information in college choice.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 280, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, S. 750, to achieve border security on certain Federal lands along the Southern border, S. 282, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, S. 434, to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, S. 179, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building", S. 994, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building", an original bill entitled, "Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015", an original bill

entitled, "Truth in Settlements Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015", and the nominations of David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, and James C. Miller, III, of Virginia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of federal labor and safety laws on the U.S. seafood industry.

SR-428A

MAY 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine child nutrition programs.

SH-216

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine rural health.

SD-124

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine social media in the next evolution of terrorist recruitment.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

MAY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 883, to facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, and research capabilities in the United States.

SD-366